THE PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.

PUBLISHED BY WHITE & CO

PITTSBURGH.

MONDAY MORNING, MARCH 4, 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

CORRESPONDENTS—C. W. James, No. [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.

Whig State Central Committee.

☞ The members of the Whig State Central Committee are requested to assemble at Harrisburg, on the 12th of March inst. Punctual attendance is earnestly requested.

M. McMICHAEL, Chairman.
GEO. H. HART, Sec'y.

The Great Railroad Convention, in Steubenville, is to be held on the 6th of March, next Wednesday, to promote the interests of the Indiana, Steubenville, and Pittsburgh Railroad.

The question is hourly asked, who is "Philandros?" The people seem anxious to make the acquaintance of this "Christian Citizen," who so opportunely threw the weight of his legal knowledge into the scale of the abettors of riot. It is understood that he is a lawyer, but which of the members of our respectable bar has the honor, we cannot imagine. We can think of no "Christian Citizen" and "Steadfast Whig" among them who would write such an article. We incline to the opinion that he is not a citizen of this county at all.

We trust that "Christian Citizen" and "Steadfast Whig," who signs himself "Philandros," in the Journal and Post, feels quite comfortable under the protection of the "*posse comitatus*—the Common Law power!" How beautifully it protects the rights of citizens, when their lawful pursuits and property are interfered with, and their lives are endangered. His incendiary article had its follow in the Ledger, of Saturday, in the description given of what the editor facetiously calls "a woman's frolic," in which he says, "some hundred women gave *fits* to the Yankees at work!" leaving the women in full possession of the mill to celebrate a Thermopylæ victory over *money*, MILITARY, and eastern braggarts!" "Philandros" should make the acquaintance of this editor.

NEW PACKET EXPRESS.—We understand that a new packet express line is about to be started between this city and Erie, by way of the Erie Extension Canal, and to be connected with the Express Lines of Livingston and Fargo, and Wells & Co., East and West. The gentleman, who will undertake this enterprise, is Mr. O. D. Spafford, who has a practical knowledge of the business, and can give the most undoubted references. Our citizens will find the line of great convenience for speedy communication with the Lakes, and with New York.

More Rioting.

On Saturday, another riot disgraced our city, the particulars of which will be found under our local head. The scene, this time, was the Rolling Mill of Messrs. Bailey, Brown & Co. The rioters, composed of women and boys, backed by crowds of men, rushed into the mill, and put a stop to its operations, driving the men from their work, badly injuring one of the proprietors, and for the time being, taking full possession of the premises. Thus is another added to the many deeds of lawlessness which have disgraced the annals of this city.

Mob law thus reigns triumphant among us; the rights of the citizens are daily trampled upon, their mills entered by bands of lawless desperadoes, and the proprietors, as well as workmen, driven out and injured. Under such circumstances, what is to be done? Is the strong arm of the law to be paralyzed, because a few fanatics fear to see its power properly exercised, or is the Sheriff to be deterred from doing his duty, because he thereby subjects himself to the abuse of the editor of the Post, that great aider and abettor of those who created the mob? We trust not. We believe he will not be found wanting. But is it not time to show to those who violate the laws, that there is a sufficient power in the hands of the proper authorities to maintain them, and that the rights of every citizen shall be protected? Without this is done, and done speedily, there will be a continued succession of events similar to those of Friday and Saturday last, only that each succeeding one will be productive of more aggravated results than the previous.

The editor of the Post, in his article of Wednesday, declared that the puddlers were determined not to violate the law in any manner, during their present strike, "all that they intended to do was to maintain their rights". How truly this has been carried out, we leave that worthy fraternizer with mobocracy to answer.

We are pleased to learn that health of Mr. Power, our late Canal Commissioner, is much better. He has returned to this country, and is now in Florida. We trust he will soon be restored to his family with invigorated and established health.

ANTICIPATED RIOT TO DAY.—There are rumors afloat that it is the intention of the Puddlers to attack the mills to day, and that they have boldly declared that there shall not be one mill in operation by to night. We feel it our duty to place our citizens on their guard, although we trust the rumor may prove unfounded; but from what occurred on Friday and Saturday last, we are disposed to believe that there is a desperate determination on the part of these men, to carry out their unlawful designs. Sheriff Curtis is fully apprised of their intentions, and in case of any further attempt being made to disturb the peace of the city, is prepared to see the laws fully vindicated. In this he will be sustained by the unanimous voice of the citizens.

The St. Louis Riot.

On the Monday evening succeeding the riot in St. Louis, by which Rev. Mr. Lesbey was prevented from proceeding with his lecture, and his life endangered, an immense public meeting was held in the Rotunda of the Court House, which was filled to overflowing. After the meeting was organized, and several speeches had been made in defence of the right of free speech, the following resolutions were adopted:—

Resolved, That as American freemen we are advocates of unrestricted liberty of speech in the broadest sense, and we secure this right we are ready to stake our sacred honors and our lives.

Resolved, That we recommend Rev. Mr. Leahey, in whose person the aforesaid right has been grossly invaded, to deliver such lectures on such subjects as to him may appear advisable and proper; and we do hereby pledge perfect safety to his person in so doing, and guarantee to him a fair hearing without the hinderance or molestation *of any power or power on earth*.

Resolved, by a gentleman, That we, as American citizens, native and adopted, are in favor of freedom of speech, and we regard it as the sheet anchor of our liberties, and will claim the same till every link and cable gives way.

Resolved, in effect, That a committee of two be appointed to place the two books referred to before the Archbishop, and by him to be pronounced true or false translations.

Messrs. W. S. Stewart and A. W. Scharnl were appointed such committee.

Resolved, That we, the citizens of St. Louis, are determined to sustain the Rev. E. Leahey, or any other citizen of the United States that may be in, or hereafter enter our city, in the full exercise of his religious or political rights, as guaranteed him by the constitution of the United States and the State of Missouri.

The St. Louis Intelligencer says that the committee appointed under the fourth resolution, waited upon Archbishop Kenrick at his residence, to give him an opportunity (as the resolution expressed it) of endorsing or repudiating the works in question. The committee were received with marked kindness, and explained with brevity the object of their mission, to which Bishop K. returned substantially for answer, that he did not recognise the right of the meeting to appoint a committee to question him upon the subject, but regarded it as a personal insult; however, he would receive them as gentlemen, and impart any information they desired. In the conversation which followed, Bishop Kenrick endorsed the works of Bishops Kenrick and Hughes as being the same used by Mr. Leahey in his lectures; these works were not only authentic, but he approved of them morally. He furthermore stated, that they were designed for the clergy of the Catholic Church, and not for publication and distribution among the lay members.

We rejoice that the people of St. Louis have vindicated the right of public speech, which has been assailed in the person of Mr. Leahey. For himself, personally, we feel no sympathy. We question the propriety of his course, and believe than good. We also disapproved of the conduct of our late street preachers. We think that in neither case was the proper and best course taken to combat error. But when we see the rights of free speech, and of public consultation and controversy invaded, whether in the persons of Mr. Leahey or Archbishop Kenrick—of Joe Barker or Bishop O'Connor—we are ready to stand forth in their defence. The people of Pittsburgh and St. Louis have shown that the right of public speech cannot be invaded, in this country, with impunity.

Speech of Mr. Baker, of Illinois.

On Wednesday last, in the House of Representatives, Mr. Baker of Illinois, made a speech on the general question of slavery in the territories. After a few preliminary remarks, he said he was glad that, very soon, the flag of the republic would wave over the State of California, to reflect the splendor and glory of the Union forever and forever. There was not a foot of slave territory acquired that was interfered with. Here he was interrupted by questions put by Mr. McLean and Mr. Colcock. Mr. Colcock declared that if Congress passed a bill incorporating the Wilmot Proviso, or abolished slavery, he would introduce a resolution declaring that the Union ought to be dissolved; and the gentleman and his friends would be convinced that the South are in earnest.

Mr. Baker. I take this as more declaratory than preparatory, and the resolution has so often been passed in the minds of gentlemen, that it will do no great harm. Oh, ye Gods! if that should pass, would that be a dissolution of the Union? I want to know how you are going beyond the resolution. I have heard a description of gleaming swords, abounding in wit, beauty, and eloquence; but no one has said he would use the sword against the constitutional power of the government, nor how, and when. It is doubtful whether the Nashville Southern convention will assemble. I have heard that some of the States have refused to endorse it. I repeat, how are you going to dissolve the Union, if the Wilmot Proviso pass to morrow? We were not anxious at the North for more territory. I was as reluctant to see Texas come in as I am now glad to see California come in and twelve millions of freemen ought to be heard as well as five millions, let them speak as brilliantly as they may. I will go against the admission of a State which tolerates slavery. If they threaten us because we do not yield a compromise, in their own language, "Let them come!" I hold that it is demoralizing to the great American republic—in the name of Washington, under the broad shadowing wing of our eagle—in the name of freedom and constitutional liberty—to compel slavery where freedom has always existed. Slavery is against the opinion of the civilized world; and I tell gentlemen that when the day comes to cut themselves off from the North, they will array those who are now at the South—five millions of whites and three millions of slaves—against the whole civilized world. I am willing to stand by the compromises of the Constitution; but when you tell me we must lend our power to extend and increase slavery, a representation in Congress based upon it, I deny—I denounce—I won't do it. I won't fight for any such purpose. If disunion comes, it will be your fault, and not ours, and we will abide the result. It is true that Illinois would furnish nine regiments to protect the Union, if necessary. If a hundred colonels are necessary, we have got them. The gentleman from Georgia, Mr. Toombs, has thrown a sneer upon my colleague, Mr. Bissell, calling him "militia colonel." I have always understood that the militia were the bulwark of American liberty. I understand that Southern gentleman who will fight would be militia officers at last. If the gentleman leads the advance, I doubt whether any better colonel than my colleague would be found. He was on the field of Buena Vista. There never was a braver man at the head of a regiment than his colleague. First in the fight, where there was the most danger he was in the midst. They went where the boldest might hold their breath. They shouted for Illinois, the Union, and Old Zack, and they fought like men who patriotically give their energies and their lives to their country.

There were some demonstrations of applause at the conclusion of the speech, of which the above is a mere outline.

GEN. TAYLOR AT FREDERICKSBURG.—On reaching Fredericksburg, on his return from Richmond, the President was received at the depot, amid an immense concourse of citizens, by a fine soldierly body of military, and the committee, headed by its chairman, Honorable R. B. Semple, and addressed by one of its number, J. M. Forbes, Esq.

The President (we quote from the National Intelligencer) briefly replied, tendering his thanks for the welcome given him, and the eloquent and kindly expressions accompanying it; remarking that in all his wanderings and amidst all the toils of his long period of public service, he had ever remembered with pride that Virginia was his native State, and had never ceased to regard her with the liveliest filial feelings; that of the military achievements to which allusion had been made, the glory belonged in a large degree to the brave men whom he had had the honor to command, and amongst whom Virginians had ever been conspicuous; and responding to the allusions of the address, in respect to the Union of the States, thus:

"In the sentiments respecting the inestimable value of our National Union, just now so eloquently uttered, I fully concur. In regard to my duty and determination to employ my best efforts to preserve it, it ought to be sufficient to say that I have taken before the world an oath that I will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States. This requires me to do all that I am empowered to do to guard and maintain the Union: for the Union and Constitution exist and fall together. In order, therefore, a necessity—which I trust never to experience—shall require me to act, I cannot neglect to employ, for the preservation of the Union, all the powers entrusted to me without committing perjury; and that I assure you, fellow citizens, I have not the slightest intention of doing."

THE MEXICAN INVADING ARMY.—The aggregate force employed in the war with Mexico, was 100,454 men, as follows:

Aggregate of regular army,	26,922
Volunteer Force—General staff,	272
Regiments and corps,	73,260
Total regulars and volunteers,	100,454

Of the 15,736 men of the old line, 800 were either killed or mortally wounded. Of the 73,260 volunteers 607 only were killed or mortally wounded, showing a difference of five to one. At *Malino del Rey*, in two hours, 706 men were killed and wounded. At Buena Vista, which lasted two days, Gen. Taylor's loss was 673. The former was by far the most sharply contested fight of the war.

The following is a condensed view of the condition of the volunteer forces.

THREE MONTH'S MEN.—The strength, when mustered into service, was 1,390, and when discharged, 1,269—being a loss of 121. Discharged before the expiration of the term, 82; of which 3 were killed in battle and died of wounds 10. Desertions 22.

SIX MONTHS' MEN, (but held only for three months, the legal term.—Strength when mustered into service, 11,211; and when discharged, 9,620, loss, 1,591. Discharged before the expiration of the term, 915, of which 370 were for disability. Deaths, 127—ordinary, 107, killed in battle and died of wounds, 6; accidental, 14. Desertions, 204.

TWELVE MONTHS' MEN.—Strength when mustered into service 27,053; and when discharged, 18,201; loss 8,852.—Discharged before the expiration of the term, 4,520, of which 4,004 were for disability. Deaths, 2,298—ordinary, 1,792, killed in battle and died of wounds, 439; accidental 67. Desertions 600.

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WAR.—Strength when mustered into service, 33,596; and when discharged, 21,474; loss 12,122. Discharges before the expiration of the term, 3,732, of which 2,763 were for disability. Deaths, 4,572—ordinary, 4,309, killed in battle, and died of wounds, 152; accidental, 111. Desertions, 2,730.

Recapitulation of the casualties incident to the whole number of volunteers, under various periods of service, is as follows:

Discharges before the expiration of the term, 9,169, of which 7,209 were for disability.

Deaths, 7,015, to wit:—Ordinary, 6,216; killed in battle and died of wounds, 607, accidental, 192.

Resignations, 279.

Desertions, 3,876.

DREADFUL AND FATAL ACCIDENT.—On Thursday last the feelings of our whole community were shocked by a report that Mr. George Byers, a citizen of our borough, had been accidentally killed by the discharge of a gun, a mile or two from town. His friends, on repairing to the spot, found the report but too true. It appears that Mr. B. was on his way to Monticello Mills, with a small wagon, accompanied by his little son and another person, and had taken his gun with him in expectation of shooting some game. A pheasant was started, and, in attempting to take the gun from the wagon, it was, by some accident, discharged, and the whole load lodged in his right breast, causing almost instant death. Mr. B. was in the prime of life, and leaves a wife and five or six children to mourn his sudden death.—*Kittanning Free Press.*

THE SUGAR TRADE OF LOUISIANA.—The sugar culture has increased very rapidly in Louisiana. The quantity raised in 1849, was 220,000 hhds. and 14,000,000 of gallons of molasses. The growth in this branch of business within the last 20 years may be seen in the fact, that in 1829 there were but 83,000 hhds made, and in 1829 only 48,000. They begin to plant the cane by the middle of February, and to manufacture the sugar in October, although in average situations the cane does not ripen until November.

A Convention of Ministers recently assembled at Syracuse, formally denounced the honorary degree of D. D., as a mark of distinction, and resolved that the title belongs to all teachers of christianity. They recommend, therefore, that *all* min- [illegible]

FROM WASHINGTON

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26, 1850.

Supreme Court—A short shrift for the Union—Fights talked of—Important Movement—Mr. Webster's Plan—Capt. Schaumburg's Case.

The Supreme Court was engaged to day, till a late hour, in delivering opinions, so that no great progress was made in the bridge case. Hon. R. J. Walker will close the case, on the part of the State, to morrow. I learn from the distinguished Counsel on that side, that the chief point against which the opposing lawyers will direct their batteries, is, that Pennsylvania is not the party which can properly be considered the plaintiff. But even on this ground the weight of authority, and the precedents, are believed to be against them.—However, this fact indicates that the bridge company prefer to rest their defence upon a question as to the form of action, rather than upon that of nuisance or no nuisance, an indication of their fears as to the result of an argument upon the merits.

Owing to the death of the distinguished and lamented soldier, Gen. McNeill, both Houses adjourned to day, at an early hour. This mark of respect to his memory is highly appreciated, by the friends of the deceased. His funeral was celebrated with military honors, to day, at three o'clock. His remains will be conveyed from the Congressional burying ground to his late residence.

It was well that both Houses should adjourn over, even for a few hours, for the excitement and hostility of feeling, between members from opposite divisions, seem to become more marked every day. It may be hoped that the solemnities of such a melancholy occasion will have a tendency to allay the bitterness which seems to prevail, and to increase among our grave and peaceful legislators with each hour's prolongation of the controversy between them. To hear the words of Foote and Clemens, predicting violence and disunion, the first within a week, and the last allowing only three weeks, for the operations of compromising and adjustment, seemed like standing over a den of "goblins damned," so fearful were the intimations they gave out of approaching disaster and crime. Foote gave his word of honor that, unless something decisive were done, this very week, towards a settlement of the existing difficulties, the time for peaceful action would have passed. His reason was that, at the beginning of next week, some horrible occurrence was to take place which would produce so great a shock upon the public mind that nothing further would be listened to on either side. Mr. Foote was supposed to hold out, by way of warning and premonition, that, on Monday next, Doty's resolutions, which produced such a crisis on Monday, the 19th, would come up again, and that the attempt, on the part of the majority, to pass them, would lead to a general fight upon the floor. In fact, the thing is quite boldly and openly threatened, out of doors, by southern men, and, among them, at least, the expectation of a collision seems quite decided.—The extent of the proposed phlebotomy may be judged of from Clingman's semi-official declaration that the conflict would not leave on the floor a quorum to do business. "Your readers are invited to ponder on there things, and to reflect that it is no representative of a free State who throws out such inhumane and bloody allusions to anarchy, disorder, and massacre. "Barking dogs don't bite," is an old saying, and "threatened men live long," is another, of extensive acceptation.

You will see and hear a great deal of Mr. Webster's intended movement for a compromise. That he will prepare one, and support it by a great speech, is asserted by all his friends, and is, no doubt, true, but, in respect to the details, I do not lie to speak, because, in truth, I know nothing of them, and cannot believe the rumors I hear relative to the contemplated proceedings of the great New England Senator. He does not intend to speak until Mr. Calhoun shall have done so, in person or by proxy. For he intends to answer him, as well as all the other southern leaders.

The Senate had an Executive Session of an hour and a half, to day, which was consumed in considering a resolution for restoring Capt. Schaumburg, formerly, I believe, of the second dragoons, to the same rank and position he would have held had he not resigned. It is a curious case, and has been pending eight or ten years. I will, in some future letter, give an abstract of it. Capt. S. will eventually be restored.

JUNIUS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.

I believe I referred yesterday to the "awful disclosure" of Foote, in regard to the horrible catastrophe which was to take place certainly as early as Monday next, and beside other painful consequences which were to follow, was to snap the Union asunder like pack thread. It was given out that this fearful event would come upon us about "early candle lighting," on that day of all others in the year, only in case the wicked northern members of both Houses did not magnanimously come in to an arrangement proposed by himself, in the meantime.

☞ Under these circumstances, the country will be delighted to hear that a means has been providentially hit upon of preventing so "prodigious an explosion. Foote did not distinctly specify the particular item in the catalogue of contingent horrors he referred to, but it seems agreed that the idea which harrowed up his amiable soul, was that on Monday next there would be an internecine conflict in the House of Representatives over Doty's resolution concerning the admission of California, a struggle so deadly "as not to leave a quorum of the House to do business." In the disturbed fancy of the mercurial little Mississippian, there was to be a game of general knock down and drag out played off upon that day, with a running accompaniment of pistoling, bowie knifing, gouging, &c., &c., which would finish the Union, as well as the lives of some of those engaged in it.

I am happy to say that this timely warning has had its effect. The provocation to the row will be removed. The South have given way so far as to permit Mr. Doty to introduce a bill of the same character which his resolution directed the committee on Territories to prepare. This was done this morning. Of course there will be no further occasion for the resolution. Next Monday will pass off quietly, and the Union will stand as heretofore, after terrible shocks.

The city is full of rumors of an intended duel between Senator Jeff. Davis, and Col. Bissell of Illinois, growing out of the famous speech of the latter, in which he vindicated so eloquently and powerfully the northern volunteers from the arrogant aspersions of Seddon and others, and denied the claims of the Mississippi regiment to a monopoly of praise for the events of that day. It is reported that the parties will meet to morrow morning. If they do, you will hear of it, and the result by telegraph. Col. Bissell fights in this quarrel of Davis's seeking. I have only to say that he has been badly aggrieved. In vindicating, as he has done, the truth of history, he has given Davis no just cause of offence, and as to his own reputation for bravery, that is too well established by deeds performed in his country's service, to need confirmation.

We have had a speech from Mr. Toombs to day. That notorious agitator, and apparent leader of the disunion faction in the House, astonished all by his moderation. His argument was respectably but nothing remarkable. He took the very extremest ground, but indulged in no rant nor fustian, no menace nor gasconade.

Col. Baker, of Illinois, made a very radicale, bold, and able speech on the other side; one of the best, indeed, of the session, exposing with a relentless hand, and opposing with powerful argument, the inconsistencies and pretensions of the slave States in the present emergency.

I believe the whole talk about Webster's compromise, to be sheer flummery. That he has prepared himself to make a speech upon the sixty question, I have good reason to believe. But he intends to bring in no such compromise as has been attributed to him.

A most remarkable and deplorable accident has happened to the building of the Smithsonian Institute. Last night, Professor Aggassiz lectured there, before a crowded audience. Hardly a quarter of an hour had elapsed after their departure, when the foundation of a considerable portion of the central division of the edifice gave way, owing to the sinking of the ground, and it fell in, making a total wreck of the beautiful interior.

Mr. Calhoun continues very much indisposed, and it is believed that his active political life has closed.

JUNIUS.

Colonel Lewis V. Bogy, of St Genevieve, Missouri, proposes to furnish, in lieu of a block of marble for the National Washington Monument, a solid piece of iron ore from the Pilot Knob, one of the iron mountains of Missouri. Its dimensions are to be six feet long, two feet wide, and two feet thick.

Admission of California.

On Wednesday last, in the House of Representatives, Mr. Doty, by general consent, introduced the following bill, which was referred to Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union:—

Whereas, the people of California have formed for themselves a constitution and State government, and applied for admission into the Union as a State: and whereas, the said constitution has been officially communicated to Congress, and is republican; therefore,

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the State of California, with the boundaries described in said constitution, shall be one, is hereby declared to be one of the United States of America, and admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original States in all respects whatsoever.

SEC. 3. That the said State of California is never to interfere with the pre-emptory disposition of the soil within the same by the United States, nor with any regulation Congress may make for a secure title in the soil to *bona fide* purchasers, nor shall and no tax shall be imposed on lands the property of the United States; which said provisions are declared to be the fundamental conditions upon which the said State is admitted into the Union.

The *Republic* sees in this a cheering sign of a better state of feeling. That paper says:—

"This course was adopted to avoid a recurrence of the strife and confusion which prevailed in the House last Monday week, when a peremptory resolution, instructing the Committee on Territories to bring in such a bill, was sought to be forced through by means of the previous question. That there was no objection urged to the introduction of bill yesterday, betokens a dawning desire, on all sides, to avoid conflict and collision. In its present shape, the bill is subject to debate and amendment, and it is to be hoped no effort will be made to take it out of the committee, and put it under the operation of the previous question, before it has been debated to the satisfaction of all. This was the understanding of the parties who permitted the bill to be presented at all, and it is a cheering sign that the House can come to any understanding in regard to this question, or any preliminary step towards its settlement."

A HOAX THREAT.—A great deal of interesting discussion has taken place in the U. S. Senate within the last ten days. We have found it utterly impossible to keep pace with it. But we propose as soon as, we can to give, such portions of it as will convey to our readers a fair view of the more important points. On last Wednesday a very exciting debate on the one great topic, took place. In the course of it, Mr. Dodge, of Iowa, is reported in the Union to have said as follows:

"The mission to California of the Hon. T. Butler King, of Georgia, figures largely in this discussion; and other motives are hinted at, to show that the people of California have formed their government under some sort of military duresse. Sir, it is a grave accusation; and those who make or hint it, if they believe it to be true, owe it to themselves to move an impeachment of Zachary Taylor, in the House of Representatives; and, as a majority of that body and of this are opposed to him politically, there would be no reason to apprehend that he would be treated with undue tenderness. The charge is a criminal one, and, if made, should be boldly made, and accompanied by action in the right quarter.

I do not believe it. I do not think that any power short of God could influence by dictation such a community as that constituting a majority of the people of California. I have not a shadow of doubt that the constitution which they have presented to us is their own spontaneous work—the embodiment of their own sovereign will.

Sir, as a friend to the whole Union, and the constitution in all its parts, I deeply regret the course taken by the South in relation to the admission of California. Now that the question of slavery has been decided within her limits, by that tribunal from which, under our form of government, there is no appeal, every section of the Union ought, in my humble judgment, to acquiesce."

This is a blow by a Democratic arm, heavy enough to stagger the whole Democracy. We defy any man of that party to resist it. If there be any truth in the charge so often made of illegal action by General Taylor, in relation to California, why don't they impeach him? If the charge is true it is susceptible of proof—if it be false, let the fact be proclaimed—That it is false, no man who looks at the circumstances can doubt. Force fourths of the population in California are said, by Democrats, to be Locofocos. That of itself should be sufficient to acquit the Administration of the calumnious imputation.—*Richmond Whig.*

Plank Roads.

So great is the interest now taken in this and other States, in the construction of plank, as well as rail roads, that we are pleased to be able to publish a full description of plank roads, their duration, cost, &c. This is furnished in an official communication from the office of the Board of Improvement of Kentucky, by O. G. Cates. It embodies every thing necessary to be known on this important subject; and any one can, after reading it be prepared to judge of the propriety of the construction of a road in any direction, and the probable dividends.

1. The system of plank roads originated in Russia, has since been adopted in Canada and in many of our northern States entirely superceded the McAdam and Telford rock, or gravel roads. The great success and value of the plank road consists in the cheapness, in ease of draft, in speed, and in comfort to passengers

2. The approved mode of construction thereof, is as follows: For a single track the planks (of pine, hemlock, oak, red elm, black walnut or sweet gum) should be eight feet long and from three to four inches thick—they should be laid across the road at right angles to its line. These planks are laid on two longitudinal sills or sleepers, each four inches square, bedded in the earth to their full thickness. The earth should be fully kept up to the planks at any point, in order to prevent our fixed air resting in any vacant space beneath the planks—no pin nor spike is needed to confine the plank to the sleepers, their weight being sufficient to keep them firm. There should be placed on the upper surface a coating of sand an inch thick. Turnouts should be provided for a single track turn out places—and to effect this an earthen road must be banked up ten or twelve feet wide on one side and two or three on the other—each embankment should be made flush with the ends of the plank, and thence sloping outwards so as to carry off the water, as perfect drainage is the great secret in the construction of any kind of road. The plank should be laid even with part thereof projecting two or three inches beyond the general line of the road, in order to prevent ruts made by wheels at the junction of the plank and each turn out. And if the bed on which the planks are to be laid is a new one, it would be better to be traveled one season before they are laid down. One track with the supplementary road thus formed, will be sufficient for all ordinary travel. And if the tolls so transported on the road be chiefly in one direction, the track should be laid on that side of the road which will enable the loaded teams to keep it, and thereby force the unloaded ones to do all the turning out.

3. To make a double track, all that is needed will be to make two tracks, each eight feet wide, or one sixteen feet wide. The former is preferred. For the sixteen feet track three or five longitudinal sills are required, each to be four by six inches, and laid edgewise and embedded in the earth as before stated. Those timbers should be from fifteen to twenty feet long. Great advantage is obtained in the construction of the double track with long plank, by giving the road bed a slight convexity of two or three inches in the centre, and springing the plank down to the outside sills, and attaching them thereto by half inch spikes, or nails three inches long.

4. The duration of plank roads is from eight to twelve years; this period, however, depends entirely upon decay from rot, and not by the surface wear of the plank—the sand which is spread upon the track when finished, protects the wood from the shoe corks of the horses, (which cause most of the wear) and keeps preserves the grain of the plank, until with the woody fibres and the deposites on the road, a tough elastic covering is formed, whereby the plank is saved from further wear. Experience teaches that one half the wear and tear of the road occurs in the first year.—Therefore, it is a matter of great importance on these roads to have small tollage in order to invite such an amount of travel as will promote their wearing out instead of rotting.

5. The cost of a plank road greatly depends on its locality. But it will be found the following estimate will approximate to an average valuation, to wit:

For one mile of road with a single track, (made with plank eight feet wide and three inches thick,) will require 126,720 feet, board measure of plank, and of sills 4 by 4, 14,080, making in all of lumber 140,800 feet, and costing say $5 per thousand, would equal the sum of $704. The laying and grading will cost from 30 cents to $1 per rod, or from $96 to $320 per mile. The earth work, sluices, bridges, and contingencies, admit of no average estimate. Therefore without them, and adding $100 per mile for engineering, superintendence, and $100 for gate houses, we have the total cost per mile from $1000 to $1224.

The Rev. Henry M. Denison, of Williamsburg, Va., has been elected assistant minister of Christ Church, Brooklyn. The Rev. Dr. Stone, the rector of that parish, having been long and urgently pressed to accept the place of general secretary in the Protestant Episcopal Society for the Promotion of Evangelical Knowledge, has yielded to the call; and, although he continues to hold his rectorship, will henceforward devote his time and labors, mainly, to the interests of that society. The Rev. Mr. Denison has accepted the call, and may be expected to enter on his labors about the middle of April.—*N. Y. Com. Adv.*

A RIGHTEOUS VERDICT.—A young girl named Susan Davis has recovered a verdict of $5,400 against her former employer, a Mr. Smedley, a manufacturer of worsted shawls, &c., in Kensington, Philadelphia county. It appears that after she left his employ, he commenced a series of perse cutions, and on three occasions had her arrested on the charge of stealing, she being in each instance honorably discharged by the magistrate

Mr. Benton on Slavery in the New Territories.

In the Senate, on Wednesday last, Mr. Clay's compromise resolutions being under discussion, Mr. Rusk being entitled to the floor, Mr. Benton rose and made the following remarks:—

Mr Benton said that before the Senator from Texas proceeded with the discussion, he desired to read the Spanish law upon the subject of slavery. The resolutions contained a point which had been controverted by several Senators; it was that slavery was abolished in Mexico. He was one of those who believed that slavery was abolished in Mexico. The Mexican laws had been collected for him, and he desired to read all of them bearing on the point.

Mr. B. then read the acts of the extraordinary government in existence in Mexico in 1829, including the decrees of Guerrero, the acts of Congress of the year 1831, and of 1837 which recognised and affirmed the decree of Guerrero abolishing slavery in Mexico. He also read from an authentic copy of the Mexican Constitution, published in 1843, that "no one is a slave in the territories of the Republic." This clause does not abolish slavery, but recognises as a settled fact that no one is in the territories at that time was a slave. He also read, as confirmatory of this view, from a Spanish and a Mexican edition of a law dictionary.

He also read authorities to show that, even if the laws of Mexico recognising slavery were in full force and operation in California and New Mexico, no man residing in the United States would carry his slaves there. One of the authorities stated that in Mexico the condition of the slave was very different from any other country. A slave, under the laws there, could compel his master to liberate him on the payment of a sum equal to three or four hundred dollars. The policy of the Spanish laws was in favor of emancipation, the policy of the laws of the United States the reverse. He also read that, under the laws of Spain, a slave was entitled to his freedom in the four following cases: First, if he inform upon a counterfeiter; second, if he inform upon a military chieftain who shall abandon his post; third, if he shall convict the murderer of his master; and, fourth, if he shall discover treason against the King or Queen. In all those cases, the master loses all claim, or right to the slave. He read these extracts with the sole purpose to show, first, that slavery was abolished in Mexico; but, if not abolished, slavery was recognised there by such laws that no man could carry his slaves there, and that in either case there was nothing to be gained or lost by pressing the Wilmot Proviso.

He read, also, the Spanish legal definition of the term slavery. "Slavery is the state of man, held as the property of another, against natural right." He said that he read the definition for the purpose of showing that, as far as the Spanish law was concerned, there was nothing to be gained or lost by pressing the existence of a law abolishing or re-organizing slavery in the territories.

Admission of States.

The modes by which States have been admitted into the Union have been so various that there seems to be no specific rule upon the subject. The Constitution prescribes no formula. It simply says that "new States may be admitted by Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State to be formed by the junction of two or more States or parts of States, without the consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned, as well as of the Congress." There is an implied condition that the form of government of every State shall be republican—an implication which grows out of the provision of the fourth section of Article Fourth, which declares that "The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a republican form of government."

We find in the New Orleans Picayune a particular account of the admission of each new State, since the establishment of our national independence—Vermont was the first. She was received in 1791. No constitution was submitted to Congress or inquired for by that body. In fact the permanent constitution of the new State was not made until 1793. Kentucky came next. Her territory once belonged to Virginia, but was detached by act of the Legislature of Virginia in 1789 in 1791 an act of Congress directed that Kentucky should on the first day of June, 1792, "be received and admitted into the Union as a new and entire member of the United States of America." The State constitution was not framed when the act of admission was passed.

The third State was Tennessee, formed out of territory ceded by North Carolina to the United States, on condition that it should become a State. The people of the Territory framed a constitution in 1796, submitted it to Congress, and the State was admitted. This was the first State constitution ever submitted to Congress with an application for admission.

Ohio was the fourth of the new States—"the first" say the Picayune, "formed of territory to which boundaries were affixed and previous governments assigned by the exclusive authority of the United States." It comprehended the Eastern District of the North Western Territory, to all of which the ordinance of 1787 applied. The act of admission, which was passed in 1803, recites that the people of the Eastern District of the North West Territory had formed for themselves a Constitution and State Government, "conformably to the said State has become one of the United States." The phraseology is noted as premature.

Louisiana, Indiana, Mississippi, Illinois, and Alabama, were admitted severally in the order named, and in the case of each, there was a previous act of Congress, authorizing the calling of a convention to organize a State government.

Maine, originally a part of Massachusetts, came in as the tenth new State. It appears that there was no action of Congress previous to her case, but the Legislature of Massachusetts gave consent in 1819 that the people of the District of Maine should form a State Constitution. This was done and the State of Maine was admitted on the 15th of March, 1820.

Missouri, the 11th in order, formed out of the Louisiana territory, applied for leave to form a State Constitution, and it was upon this application that the restrictive clause concerning slavery was attempted to be applied. An agreement to the Missouri compromise, and upon that adjustment of all conflicting matters, the State was declared a State of the Union in 1821 by the President's proclamation.

Arkansas and Michigan were admitted by one act of Congress in 1836—the former without condition, the latter prospectively—there being some questions of boundary involved. The constitutions of both States were made by conventions of the people, without any previous act of Congress. The same was the case with Florida, which was admitted along with Iowa in 1845. There was a condition relative to boundary applied to Iowa which she did not comply with at first, but did substantially, by presenting a new Constitution, which being accepted by Congress she came into the Union in 1846. The mode of the admission of Texas is familiarly known. Wisconsin, the last of the new States, went through the regular form of Territorial organization and formed its State Constitution under authority of an act of Congress.

We have condensed these particulars from the Picayune and have no doubt of their accuracy.—It will be seen that the application of California, under the circumstances of her case, is not without precedents. Congress has generally been very liberally disposed towards the new States applying for admission, showing a willingness to recognize and ratify the doings of the people in the territories.—*Baltimore American.*

The Slavery Question.

This question seems to be exciting more interest than any question has since the organization of our Government; and no patriot, no friend of liberty, can look for a moment upon the present state of affairs without trembling for the fate of our glorious country. Northern fanatics, fanatics of the South, seem to design and contemplate with perfect composure the dissolution of this Union, cemented by the blood of the bravest men that ever died in defence of the rights of man. They seem to have forgotten the cost at which it was erected—to have forgotten the struggle that our fathers made to achieve it. It seems to us, unless they are dead to every noble impulse of the human heart, if the world survey the history of their country, and bring to their minds the scenes of the revolution—see their fathers march through sleepless nights and anxious days, through blood and death, from battle field to battle field, with nothing to animate them but the love of liberty and the love of their children might be free—it would force them to pause in their wild and heedless course of ruin and destruction, and shrink back aghast at the idea of laying their sacrilegious hands on the bonds of this Union, the pride and glory of every true American citizen.

They may talk of a northern republic, a southern republic, but, whenever the Union is dissolved, the lamps of men is gone. The blood-stained crosses of Spain and Rome will be free no more. Anarchy will sit upon the tomb of American greatness and sing the requiem of human liberty. The deeds of our fathers will be blotted from the annals of history by the crimes of their sons—the patriot's blood will cease to be cherished in their veins—the tears that have been shed in their memory will be turn down and mutilated. The goddess of liberty will depart in mourning, with tears in her eyes, for her home at which she rested during the middle ages, and her sacred halls will be desecrated by the hellish orgies of the fields of anarchy and despotism. Does it not make the blood course rapidly through the veins of every true Tennessean, to reflect that his own gallant State is the place appointed by the enemies of his country, at which to meet for the purpose of carrying out their wicked designs against this Union? Yes, the fell disorganizers of the South, in the fullness of their profanity, have selected the graves of Waite and Jackson as the most suitable place to commence a crusade against the only hope of man. And may they, as they approach the borders of our State, read upon the tombstones of our heroes and patriots a language more terrific than that which appeared on the wall before the eyes of the trembling Belshazzar. We have but one hope; it is the hope that the God who stood by our fathers in the days of the Revolution will not desert us at this hour. We believe that he is using the same great instrument in 1850 to rebuke a divided people, that he used in 1820 and in 1832. We believe that he has sent