PITTSBURGH POST.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.....JANUARY 23

PRICE-CURRENT.

Those intending to advertise in the *Price Current* this week are invited to send in their advertisements as soon as possible. THE EDITOR.

We published yesterday the *entire bill* introduced by Judge Wilkins in the Senate, to regulate the sale of liquors. We published an extra number to supply all who wished to see the bill. There are a few left, and can be had at our counting room.

PITTSBURGH AND CONNELLSVILLE RAILROAD.

The annual Report of the President and Directors of this company to the stockholders is before us, and it shows the condition of the company to be such that the work can be urged forward rapidly. Liberal subscriptions have been made to its stock, and there is no doubt that the means to complete it in reasonable time will not fail to be found. The company hopes to complete the road from Pittsburgh to Connellsville, a distance of sixty miles, in the coming spring. Between Connellsville and Cumberland the work is progressing, and we shall have, in perhaps two years, a direct route through to Baltimore.

The Metropolitan railroad connects with the Baltimore and Ohio road and extends to Washington, and when that and the Pittsburgh and Steubenville road are completed there will be a direct railroad route from this city to Washington, sixty miles shorter than the present nearest route.

Notwithstanding the loss of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Company by Gen. Larimer's failure—near two hundred thousand dollars—its affairs have been so managed that it has ample assets for continuing the work; and its early completion is no longer a matter of doubt. The management of it, all urs has for the last year been excellent. The right of way has been procured on reasonable terms, the floating debt has been kept down, its earnings on the parts completed and in use have already exceeded the running expenses, and a favorable contract has been made by which for some years the cars can be run over the Central road from Turtle Creek to this city, and thus the cost of building that twelve mile of road is saved for some time to come.

Fayette county has subscribed $ 300,000 to the road, the borough of Connellsville $ 80,000, and the borough of M'Keesport $ 100,000. The city of Baltimore guarantees the bonds of the Company for $ 4,000,000 as the company has yet $ 1,000,000 of the bonds to sell. A considerable amount of labor in unfinished subscriptions and a small local money stock can yet be depended on for contract and construction. The present financial condition and prospects of the company fully justifies the confidence which the public is slowly extending toward that enterprise; and when the entire road is completed we believe the earnings will prove very extraordinary to the stockholders. It may not be one of the first of the Pittsburgh and Cumberland roads, but it route to Baltimore and Washington and it is certainly, Baltimore being on the route to the Lake region and to the whole Northwest of the Union.

We subjoin the following remarks of the President, in his able report:

"The coal fields above the rivers in the Youghiogheny Valley are of vast extent, and their product is believed to be superior to any other bituminous coal in this country, yielding more gas and coke of superior quality and by culm less of fine former to the pound of coal. It has recently been introduced into use at the gas Works in New York and Philadelphia, and by long been preferred in all western cities. By means of this portion of our road coal can be transported not only to Pittsburgh, but to the eastern cities, and will afford to this division a large and profitable tonnage. Two joint stock companies have been formed, with large capital, for the purpose of mining and transporting this coal to market, and will, it is believed, commence operations extensively as soon as our road is ready for use. The importance of this trade to the company cannot be over-estimated and should receive all proper encouragement. The work on the Sand Patch Tunnel has been steadily progressing during the past year, and at this time twenty-nine hundred feet, being one half of the entire length of the headings, are completed. The approaches, also, are about half finished. The total estimate of work done, up to this time, is seventy five thousand dollars, and the *current expenses* of the company will enable us to prosecute it forward more rapidly during the coming year. The *made ore specie* and other advantageous characteristics of our route must demonstrate to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company the wisdom and practical economy of encouraging to the fullest extent of their ability, our extension of their road from the city of Cumberland to the Lakes and western river and railroads. Any and contributed by that company would be rapidly repaid by the heavy trade and travel thrown upon their road from this city, the great distributing point of the business of the west and northwest, and would secure to that division of their road between Cumberland and Baltimore an immense trade which is now entirely lost to it, and which is forced into less direct avenues to market.

THE PARDONING POWER.

Some time ago three Philadelphia policemen named Gregory, Barr and Fearkeller, were convicted of cruelly assaulting several men at the polls on last election day, and sentenced to the Penitentiary by Judge Kelly, of the Court of Quarter Sessions. Hon. Robert M. Foust, Hon. Wm. Milward, Hon. Isaac Hazlehurst and John P. Verree, Esq., prominent American politicians in the Quaker City, represented by letter to Gov. Pollock that Gregory and Barr were unjustly convicted, when his Excellency pardoned them, but allowed Fearkeller to remain in limbo. The two former are young men without families, and are said to have been the least guilty, while the latter has a wife and several small children dependent upon him for support.

In view of these facts the council who procured their conviction on Saturday let made a motion that Judge Kelly should reconsider his sentence of Fearkeller, but his Honor declined, alleging that two wrongs never made a right. He, however, commented in severe terms on the action of those "honorable men" who wrote a letter stating the conviction to be unjust and illegal, when in reality they had not been in the Court room during the entire time of the trial. The Governor in these cases, as in the pardon of Dr. Beale, gave as a reason for the exercise of his clemency that it had been represented (and he was satisfied of its truth) that the prisoner had been wrongly convicted.

Such imputations on the justice of judges and juries will have a tendency to impair confidence in the administration of the laws; for will not every whipster debate the fairness of this or that judge whose action has been held up to reproach by the highest official in the Commonwealth? It is right enough to exercise the Executive clemency sometimes; but the propriety of the Governor declaring a party to be unjustly convicted is very doubtful.

THE ANNUAL STATEMENT of the Ætna Insurance Company of Hartford, Conn., is published in our advertising columns this morning. The Ætna is one of the oldest and safest companies in the Union, and this exhibit, it will be observed, presents a highly favorable condition of affairs. The assets, compared with last year, show an increase of nearly two hundred thousand dollars, while the liabilities, if anything, are reduced. H. B. Ten-Eyck, corner Fifth and Wood street, is the agent in this city.

LECTURE POSTPONED.—The lecture of Mr. Saxe, which was to have taken place next Thursday evening, has been indefinitely postponed, on account of a severe attack of sickness. Mr. Saxe will be unable to fulfil his engagements for some time to come.

THE NEWS.

Friday, the 25th inst., is the birthday of Robert Burns.

The amount of taxes paid into the State Treasury last year, by the Receiver of Taxes of Philadelphia, was $ 1,784,543.

It is published, as a notable fact, in the newspapers, that Mayor Wood was absent from his office last Friday, for the first time since his accession to office. The cause, too, is noted—namely, the birth of a daughter.

The total amount of tax levied on Jefferson county, Ohio, for the year 1856, for all purposes, is *one hundred and twenty-three thousand six hundred and seventy-one dollars and sixty cents and six mills.* Of this sum $14,366,37.2 has been assessed upon the Jefferson Branch Bank, Steubenville, and upon the Mt. Pleasant Bank, not paid.

Mr. Mitchell, of London, has engaged Madame Goldschmidt and her husband for twenty weeks, and for that period they are to receive £20,000.

On the condition that they perform at three concerts in each week. It is stated that an eminent musical firm offered to give Mr. Mitchell $5,000 for the engagement.

Capt. Robert Ritchie, of the U. S. Navy, is undergoing a court martial at Philadelphia, on the charge of "Scandalous conduct, tending to the destruction of good morals." This charge arose from Capt. Ritchie applying the epithets liar, scoundrel and coward to Capt. S. F. Dupont, one of the Naval Board, at whose action Ritchie felt aggrieved.

We learn from our exchanges that Park Godwin, Esq., of New York, is to deliver the address at the Second Annual Meeting of the *Cosmopolitan Art Association*, on Thursday evening, January 31st, at which time the magnificent Works of Art, collected during the past year, will be distributed gratuitously among the subscribers. Reports of the transactions, &c., will be published in due time.

The London Times is startled at finding that the two new volumes of Macaulay of sixteen hundred pages, only give the history of eight or nine years. After citing the author's announcement that he intends to write his history "down to the time within the memory of men still living," the Times asks whether he can fulfil his promise or whether he will leave "a facetious fragment, a splendid but convincing proof that his species is extinct."

Mr. Joseph Brady, Principal of one of the Public Schools in Lexington, Ky., was turned out and otherwise maltreated by a mob last week. The cause of the proceeding was his writing a letter to an Oxford, Ohio, paper, giving an account of a case of cholera on the Ohio boat, and in which he indulged in some strictures on the mismanagement of the case. There was nothing in the letter, however, to justify or excuse the treatment he did receive.

The Cincinnati make an earnest complaint against Judge Wilkins now in session, because it gives the lowest grade of licenses at $250. It is said that one of the great aims of the bill is to prevent selling cellars any liquor at all, and another aim is to forbid mere drinking houses. Those who under this bill can get a license for $250 may keep taverns and boarding houses, but the bill has no more provisions for the encouragement of taverns than it will encourage the establishment of first class hotels. Let us have some thing of the kind soon and something calculated to be permanent.

Election of State Treasurer.

Both branches of the Pennsylvania Legislature met in joint convention at 12 M. on Monday, to elect a State Treasurer in place of Cyrus Shriner. On the first ballot the vote stood: Henry S. Magraw, of Lancaster, 70; Eli Slifer, of Union, 42. Mr. Magraw was therefore declared elected for the year commencing from the first of May next.

IN THREE A WEEK.—The Light House Board has advertised in Washington, Baltimore, Boston and New York, for the annual supply of oil for Light Houses on these Western Lakes. Not a single Western paper, where the oil is made and these Light Houses are supplied, are ever allowed to publish such an advertisement. There is no West.

THE Bachelors of Cleveland are an ungallant set of fellows. At their annual supper a few nights ago, the following was the seventh regular toast:

Our future Wives—Distance lends enchantment to the view

[From the Tree Daily Banner.]

The Majority Rule and the Presidential Election.

The protracted struggles at Albany and Washington, consequent upon the organization of the new third or Know Nothing party, suggests the possibility of a failure of any Presidential candidate to receive a majority of all the votes given in the Electoral Colleges, and, therefore, as a matter of course, of an exciting and corrupt struggle and judging from what we have already seen of the present struggle on the Speakership—probably unsuccessful contest in the House of Representatives. According to present appearances, Democrats must be elected President by the people, or there will be no election of that officer at all until the Constitution has been put to a test much beyond what has been required by any previous contest, unless some combination should be formed in Congress of a much stronger character than is now any where anticipated.

For the purpose of showing where this triangular fight may ultimately lead, we will suppose that the "Republican" and "Know Nothing" electoral votes together in numbers exceed the Democratic, and in consequence, under the 12th article of the Constitution, the election is sent to the House of Representatives. The article referred to provides that in the event of a failure to effect a choice by a majority of the electors:

"Then from the persons having the highest numbers, not exceeding three, on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President the votes shall be taken by States, the representation from each State having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the States, and a majority of all the States shall be necessary to a choice."

Now the present House of Representatives upon which, in the contingency referred to, will devolve the election, is, according to the most careful classification, constituted so as to render a vote by States under this provision nearly as follows:

Democratic.	*Republican.*	*Know Nothing.*
Arkansas.	Connecticut.	New Jersey.
Alabama.	Indiana.	Rhode Island.
California.	Maine.	Maryland.
Florida.	Michigan.	Kentucky.
Georgia.	New Hampshire.	Delaware.
Louisiana.	New York.	Missouri.
Mississippi.	Ohio.	Tennessee—7.
North Carolina.	Pennsylvania.	*Tie.*
South Carolina.	Vermont.	Illinois.
Virginia.	Wisconsin.	Iowa—2.
Texas—11.	Massachusetts—11.	

This result gives, as it will have been seen, no candidate more than eleven States, when under the provision of the Constitution quoted, sixteen will be required. In reference to the event of a failure to elect—and with a House constituted as the present one is, a failure would be more than probable—the article of the Constitution further provides:

"And if the House of Representatives shall not obtain a President—whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them before the fourth day of March next following, *then the Vice President shall act President*, as in the case of the death or other constitutional debility of the President."

In reference to the election of Vice President, when there has been no choice by the people, the succeeding section of the same article of the Constitution says:

"If no person have majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice."

In the Senate, as it stands now, the Democrats number 28 members, and all shades of the opposition combined, 25—there being four vacancies—which renders tolerably certain under any circumstance, the election of a Democratic Vice President by the failure of both the College of Electors and the House of Representatives, to effect a choice.

The majority requirement has done nothing worse so far than to prevent the organization of Congress and the Legislature. Whether it will be voted a nuisance or a blessing, when it shall have filled the Presidential chair with a person selected by the Senate, and not supported for the office by the People at all, remains to be seen. Admitting the axiom—"The World is governed too much"—it may be considered that its operation thus far has been wholesome, by serving as a brake on locomotive legislation.

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

THIRTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, January 22.—*House*—Mr. Boyce moved the following preamble and resolution: Whereas, Our relations with Great Britain are of a most threatening character, indicating that we may be upon the eve of the most startling events; and whereas it is the imperative duty of the House at this juncture of imminent peril not to abdicate its great mission, but to fulfil it by organizing, if possible, on such basis as will give peace to our distracted country and enable it to present an undivided front to the common enemy. Therefore be it

Resolved, That the conservative elements of the House should unite in a sincere effort to elect a Speaker who will represent the great ideas of peace for ourselves and the sword for the stranger.

Mr. Stephens hoped the gentleman would be permitted to state the facts on which he made the announcement that we were on the eve of a war. If it were so, he knew nothing about it.

Objection was made to explanation, and on motion Mr. Morgan's resolution was laid on the table.

Mr. McMullen made an ineffectual effort for a new call of resolutions which preclude debate.

Mr. Tyson offered a resolution that any can is date for Speaker who shall at any time hereafter receive the highest number of votes from a quorum of members, though less than a majority of all the votes polled, shall be declared elected. It recited that the Speaker is chosen, and each of the other candidates that have the opportunities of the Standing Committees, in pursuance of the manner in vote is directed by each, but that no one of whose vote shall be less than twenty-five shall be entitled to any of the appointments under the law which

The resolution was laid on the table and the House took a recess until 7 P. M. The Speaker, the ballot resulting as follows: Banks 91, Richardson 79, Harlan 2, Campbell, Orr, Fuller, and Pennington each 1, and Boyce and Potter each one.

More unsuccessful ballots were then had the last receiving the votes as the day. The House then took a recess, and until

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Washington Gossip.

WASHINGTON, January 22d.—The correspondent of the New York *Times* telegraphs that Mr. Washburn says it has been ascertained at Paris in confidence since that the conference called at the instance between Spain, Great Britain, and France has been formally dissolved, and that further funding forbear to send into the field from 10,000 to 12,000 men on the spring, while her resources, particularly in cotton, are to be protected by Great Britain and England.

The *Times*' Washington telegraphs to-night says that the official advices by the American Minister in my own country are friendly, and that England will not interfere with the Central American matters. Mr. Buchanan is entertained by the Ministry, and the Cabinet is preparing the largest fleet that ever floated for operations against Russia in the spring. Lord Napoleon is still anxious to excite trouble between this country and England, but Great Britain is preparing for peace in the great Congress of Ministers in the Tuileries for Thursday, probably.

Mr. C. E. Lester, the author of the last chapter from Mr. Kossuth, has been engaged by the Committee on Foreign Affairs to write a history of the Hungarian struggle, and Mr. Ewing, of Kentucky, is to write a history of the Mexican war.

The President nominations to the Senate to-day are unexceptionable. Lieut. Ives has still to be confirmed January 29th, Lieut. M'Campbell, who is also to be made Commander. Commodore Stringham, Secretary of the Navy, is anxious that the Pacific Railroad Bill should pass this session, and will exert his influence to that end.

The Senate to-day confirmed Ives to the Senate to-day confirmed Lieut. Ives to the Senate to-day confirmed Lieut. Ives to the Senate to-day confirmed Lieut.