

ness. The virtue and courage of my son, who justly this act of clemency. His honor, sir, led him to America; he was born to abundance, to independence, and to the happiest prospects. Permit me once more to intreat the intercession of your high influence in favor of innocence, and in the cause of justice and humanity. Dispatch, sir, a letter from France to Gen. Washington, and favor me with a copy of it that it may be transmitted from hence. I feel the whole weight of the liberty taken in presenting this request. But I feel confident, whether granted or not, that you will pity the distress by which it is suggested; your humanity will drop a tear upon my fault and blot it out forever.

"May that heaven which I implore, grant that you may never need the consolation which you have it in your power to bestow on.

Theresa Asgill.

It was to this letter that young Asgill owed his life and liberty. His mother was informed almost at the same instant, that the minister of the King of France had written to General Washington to procure the pardon of her son, and that his request had been granted. If any thing can convey an idea of the mournful sentiments, to which this parent was a prey during eight months it is that sentiment which her gratitude inspires in the letter addressed to the Count de Vergennes, on hearing that she owes the restoration of her son to his interference; the greatest talents never produced any thing more noble or equally affecting

SECOND LETTER

Of Lady Asgill to the Count de Vergennes.

"Exhausted by long suffering, overpowered by an excess of unexpected happiness confined to my bed by weakness and languor, bent to the earth by what I have undergone, my sensibility alone could supply me with strength sufficient to address you.

"Condescend, Sir, to except this feeble effort of my gratitude. It has been laid at the feet of the Almighty, and believe me it has been presented with the same sincerity to you, Sir, and to your illustrious sovereign by their august and salutary intervention, as by your own, a son is restored to me to whom my life was attached. I have the sweet assurance that my vows for my protectors are heard by Heaven to whom they are ardently offered. Yes, sir, they will produce their effect before the dreadful and last tribunal, where I indulge in the hope that we shall both appear together you to receive the recompense of your virtues: myself, that of my sufferings. I will raise my voice before that imposing tribunal. I will call for those sacred registers, in which your humanity will be found recorded. I will pray that blessings may be showered on your head, upon him who availing himself of the noblest privilege received from God, a privilege no other than divine, has changed misery into happiness, has withdrawn the sword from the innocent head, and restored the worthiest of sons to the most tender and unfortunate of mothers.

"Condescend, Sir, to accept this just tribute of gratitude due to our virtuous sentiments. Preserve this tribute, and may it go down to your posterity as a testimony of your sublime and exemplary beneficence to a stranger whose nation was at war with your own, but whose tender affections had not been destroyed by war. May this tribute bear testimony to my gratitude long after the hand that expresses it, with the heart, which at this moment only vibrates with the vivacity of grateful sentiments, shall be reduced to dust; even to the last day of my existence, it shall beat but to offer you all the respect and all the gratitude with which it is penetrated.

"Theresa Asgill."

Selection from late London Papers.

Hoax at Chester.

A Correspondent arrived in this neighborhood from Chester, has stated to us the following account of a curious trick lately played off in that town. A short time ago a respectable looking man caused a number of handbills to be distributed through Ches-

ter, in which he informed the public, that a great number of genteel families had embarked at Plymouth, and would certainly proceed with the British regiment appointed to accompany Bonaparte to St. Helena. He added further, that the island being dreadfully infested with rats his majesty's minister had determined that it should be forthwith effectually cleared of these noxious animals. To facilitate this important purpose he had been deputed to purchase in the course of a week, as many cats and thriving kittens as could possibly be procured for money in that short space of time, and therefore, he publicly offered in his handbills, 16s for every athletic full grown tom cat, 10s for every adult female puss, and half a crown for every thriving vigorous kitten that could swill milk, pursue a ball of thread, or fasten its young fangs in a dying mouse. On the evening of the third day after his advertisement had been distributed, the people of Chester were astonished with an irruption of multitudes of old women, boys and girls into their streets, every one of whom carried on their shoulders either a bag or a cask, which appeared pregnant with some restless animal, that seemed labouring into birth. Every road, every lane was thronged with this comical procession; and the wandering spectators of the scene involuntarily compelled to remember the old riddle about St. Ives—

"As I was going to St. Ives,
I met fifty old wives,
Every wife had fifty sacks,
Every sack had fifty cats,
Every cat had fifty kittens.
Kittens, cats, sacks and wives.
How many were going to St. Ives?"

Before night fall, a congregation of nearly 3000 cats were collected in Chester. The happy bearers of these sweet voiced creatures, proceeded all (as directed by the advertisement) towards one street, with their delectable burdens. Here they became closely wedged together.—A vocal concert soon ensued. The women screamed—the cats squealed—the boys and girls shrieked treble, and the dogs of the street howled bass, so that it soon became difficult for the nicest ear to ascertain whether canine—feline—or the human tones were predominant. Some of the cat bearing ladies, whose dispositions were not of the most placid nature, finding themselves annoyed by the pressure of their neighbors, soon cast down their burdens, and began to box. A battle royal ensued. The cats sounded the war-hoop with might and main. Meanwhile the boys of the town, who seemed mightily to relish the sport, were actively employed in opening the mouths of the deserted sacks, and liberating the cats from their forlorn situation.

The enraged animals bounded immediately on the shoulders and heads of the combatants, and ran spitting, squalling and clawing along the undulating sea of skulls, towards the walls of the houses of the good people of Chester. The citizens, attracted by the noise, had opened their windows to gaze at the fun. Into these windows the cats instantaneously sprang, taking possession of the rooms by a novel kind of storm or escalade. The cats, in their sudden assault on the drawing rooms and other apartments of the Chesterites, rushed with the rapidity of lightning up the pillars, and then across the balustrades and galleries, for which the town is so famous, and so slapdash through the open windows into the apartments. Never since the days of the celebrated Hugh Lupus, were the drawing rooms of Chester filled with such a crowd of unwelcome guests. Now were heard the crash of broken china—the howlings of affrighted lap dogs—the cries of distressed damsels, who wept their torn faces and dishevelled charms—and the groans of fat old citizens, rushing and tumbling forward towards the balconies, bald, bare and bleeding. All Chester was soon in arms, and dire were the deeds of vengeance executed on the feline race. It is needless to recite the various combats that took place between the cats and the men. Suffice it that

our correspondent counted 500 dead bodies floating the next day on the river Dec, where they had been ignominiously thrown by the two legged victors. The rest of the availing host having evacuated the town, dispersed in utter confusion, carrying with them, however, their arms from the field of battle.

From the Harrisburg Pa. Republican.
Legislature of Pennsylvania, 1815-16.

The Senate consists of 31 members, 20 of whom are democrats, and 11 federalists; making an increase of 1 federal member since last year.

The House of Representatives consists of 97 members, 71 democrats and 26 federalists; making an increase of 3 federalists in that body since last year. If a new election be held in Berks county to decide the dispute between Messrs. Heister and Biddle, there can be no doubt of the election of the former; which will make the democratic majority 46.

Democratic majority in the Legislature in joint meeting, 55.

New members in the Senate 9; in the House of Representatives 51.

In the subjoined list, we have given the federalists all the representatives they have any pretensions to, it being doubtful whether Mr. Lewis and Mr. Brobst are federalists or not.

SENATE.

- 1st. District, viz. the city and county of Philadelphia—Jacob Shearer, Wm. Maghee, Nicholas Biddle, Benj. R. Morgan †
- 2d. Chester and Delaware—Abraham Baily, Maskell Ewing.
- 3d. Bucks—William Irwin.
- 4th. Lancaster—John Hopkins, Charles Smith †
- 5th. Berks and Schuylkill—Charles Shoemaker, Peter Frailey.
- 6th. Dauphin & Lebanon—John Forster
- 7th. Montgomery—Geo. Weaver †
- 8th. Northampton, Wayne, Lehigh & Pike—Thomas J. Rogers, † Henry Jarret.
- 9th. Northumberland, Columbia, Union, Luzerne and Susquehanna—Thomas Murray, William Ross.
- 10th. Lycoming, Centre, Clearfield, M'Kean, Potter, Bradford and Tioga—Henry Welles †
- 11th. York and Adams—Charles Augustus Barnitz, † James M' Sherry.
- 12th. Mifflin and Huntingdon—Wm. Beale.
- 13th. Cumberland—Isaiah Graham.
- 14th. Bedford, Somerset and Cambria—John Tod.
- 15th. Franklin—James Poe. †
- 16th. Westmoreland, Indiana and Jefferson—John Reed. †
- 17th. Fayette—Presley Carr Lane.
- 18th. Washington and Greene—Abel M'Farland, Isaac Weaver.
- 19th. Allegheny Armstrong, Beaver and Butler—Samuel Power, † Walter Lowrie.
- 20th. Mercer, Erie, Venango, Crawford and Warren—Joseph Shannon.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

- City of Philadelphia—Thos. M'Euen, John Hallowell, † John Read, † Thomas Kittera, † John M. Scott. †
- County of Philadelphia—Jacob Holgate, Jacob G. Tryon, † Jos. B. Norbury, † Joep B. Sutherland, George Morton, John Holmes.
- Bucks—Dr. Phineas Jenks, † Samuel Sellers, † David Wyncooff, † Wm. H. Rowland.
- Chester—John Menough, Jacob Humphrey, John Jones, † James Roberts, John Sharp. †
- Lancaster—Henry Hibshman, † Jeremiah Mosher, † James Buchanan, Joel Lightner, † Joel Carpenter, Emanuel Reigart.
- York—Frederick Fischelberger, † Peter Storm, John Levingston, † John Stroman. †
- Cumberland—Jacob Alter, Wm Anderson, James Wallace. †
- Berks & Schuylkill—Christain Halde-man, † Jacob Epler, † Daniel Roads, David Hottenstine, †
- Northampton Wayne and Pike—Peter Hilliard, James Ralston, † John Brodhead. †
- Lehigh—Abraham Rinker, Philip Wind.
- Northumberland—Henry Shaffer, Joseph Hutchinson.
- Union—Nerr Middlesworth, † Jacob Brobst. †
- Columbia—James M'Clure. †
- Washington—James Stevenson, Thomas Morgan, William Vance, † John Hamilton. †
- Westmoreland—Geo. Plunzer, Henry

- Ais.ouse, Peter Wallace
- Armstrong, Indiana and Jefferson—
- James M. Kelly, † Joshua Lewis. †
- Fayette—Thomas Boyd, Andrew Stewart, † Thomas M'Kibben.
- Bedford—Abraham Martin, † Jacob Hart.
- Franklin—Robert Smith, † Jacob Dechart, † David Macley †
- Montgomery—Wm. Powell, Wm. M. White, † Dr. Tobias Sellers, † Dr. James Anderson †
- Dauphin—Jacob Bucher, James Reily. †
- Lebanon—Jacob Goodhart, John Sawyer †
- Luzerne and Susquehanna—Redmond Conygham, † George Denison, †
- Bradford and Tioga—Samuel M'Kean, †
- Huntingdon—Alex'r Dysart, † Conrad Bucher. †
- Beaver—John Clark †
- Allegheny & Butler—William Cochran, Wm Courtney, Archibald Coon, † Andrew Christy. †
- Mifflin—Jonathan Rothrock, James Miliken.
- Delaware—Dr. Samuel Anderson, † Samuel Adwards
- Somerset and Cambria—Thomas King Henry Black. †
- Lycoming, Potter and M'Kean—Joseph J. Wallis. †
- Green—Rees Hill.
- Adams—James Robinette, William Miller.
- Centre and Clearfield—Jacob Kryder.
- Erie, Crawford, Warren Mercer and Venango—Jacob Herrington, James Weston, Ralph Morlin †
- *Isaac Heister and Marks J. Biddle, had an equal number of votes.
- Note—Those marked with a dagger (†) are new members—those in *italic* are Federalists.

The Influenza.

Like most sublimary things, this Epidemic has its ludicrous aspect. Ours is a coughing population. The orator was winding up a most sublime climax—He is suddenly arrested in his brilliant career and coughs for about ten minutes—His audience catch the infection—nd cough in chorus with him.—The Auctioneer was just going to knock down to you a favorite object—once twice three—you burn with impatience—well! on comes the fit—& he coughs twenty times at least—The merchant, while eulogising his goods is interrupted in the like way. The shopping Belle cannot with her wonted fluency enumerate the fine articles she has bought or seen—and the enamoured youth who writes love-verses, and protests he is dying with hopeless affection, seems in great danger exhaled his soul in a fit of coughing. We therefore, say, "From the influenza and from universal coughing may a propitious change of weather, or physicians speedily deliver us!"

[Richm. Compiler.

CREEK INDIANS.

Nashville, Ten. Nov. 7.

We have a report in town, that the Creek Indians have taken Fort Jackson, by surprise. The report is considered very probable, from the garrison being nearly all sick and unfit for duty, and the Indians being known to be near the Fort in number.

COMMUNICATION.

Commodore DECATUR.

The Algerines Tunisians, and Tripolitanians have been reduced to humiliating terms by this chivalric commander. He has given them such an electric shock, as was never before discharged from a Christian Battery. DECATUR may well be termed the "Champion of Christendom"—The terms which he has obtained for the vindication his country's honor, are, "indemnity for the past and security for the future;" but he did not pause here. He demanded from these barbarians, (who exist only, as the monuments of European disgrace) as a member of the christain family, a release from Slavery, "of all christian prisoners," and obtained it. This is a Glory, which never encircled the brows of a Roman Pontiff; nor blazed from an immortal diadem.

[Boston Gazette.