

Democratic Banner.

CLEARFIELD, Pa. Feb 18, 1846.

More Snow—Last Saturday and Sunday night we had another fall of snow—to the depth of ten or twelve inches. This will make good sleighing again, and enable many of our lumbermen to comply with their engagements.

The Diplomatic Correspondence.

The reader will find in our columns today the last correspondence that has taken place on the Oregon question. It will be apparent to all, after its perusal, that the prospect of a peaceful settlement of this question, is still growing more dark. The present correspondence does not put a stop to negotiation—but it rejects another of the means proposed for its adjustment.

Now, after all that has taken place with regard to this controversy, we think it is high time that members of Congress, and editors of the press, should cease to cry peace—cease declaring that they see no prospect of war—that the question will yet be amicably settled, &c. &c.; and turn their attention to putting the country in a situation to be prepared for war. Even if this question should fortunately terminate peacefully, and honorably to our country, the money thus expended would not be entirely lost. We cannot expect, ways to live in peace. War will come upon us some day—and any preparations made now, if judiciously made—will be of good service then.

But we must confess that we cannot strain our desire for peace enough to create the belief that we are to escape a brush with England on this question. It is reduced to a certainty that we must either have "a fight," or "a back out." Who will back out? Not the United States as long as there is Jackson blood in Jimmy Polk's veins—There is no backing out on our side. That's a finished fact. Will England recede from her demands, and now accept what she has repeatedly refused? She may—she has done worse. If she does, then may we have peace—not otherwise.

All things considered, however, we think Congress is doing very wrong in holding out the idea to the people that there is no probability of war.—We suppose that there is upwards of one hundred speeches made on the Notice Question, and with a very few exceptions, every speaker declared it his belief that all difficulties would be settled without war. If they thought so, they done right; but we cannot see how any man, who is acquainted with the true state of the question, can believe that peace has even an equal chance—aye, that the chances are not three to one in favor of war.

Let Congress, then do as the British have done, and look to the possibility of a rupture with England, and put the country in a state of preparation for such an event.

Oregon Resolutions Passed.

On the 9th instant, in the House of Representatives, the vote was taken on the resolution giving notice to terminate the joint occupancy of the Oregon Territory, as required by the treaty of 1829 between Great Britain and the United States. The vote stood 163 to 54.

The next day they were called up in the Senate by a vote of 23 to 22. The following are the resolutions—

Resolved, That the President of the United States cause notice to be given to the Government of Great Britain, that the convention between the United States of America and Great Britain in relation to the Territory of the Northwest Coast, west of the Stony or Rocky Mountains, of the sixth day of August, 1837, signed at London, shall be annulled and abrogated twelve months after giving said notice.

Resolved, That the notice herein contained is not intended to interfere with the right and discretion of the proper authorities of the two contracting parties, to renew or pursue negotiations for an amicable settlement of the controversy respecting the Oregon territory.

Pine County.

Col. Bigler has reported a bill in the Senate erecting parts of Indiana, Cambria and Clearfield into a new county to be called Pine.

We have ever been opposed to the practice of mutilating new counties for the purpose of forming new ones. We object to it on the ground that, in a general way, it is done to the injury of the mass of the people, that a few may be profited.—That this has been the case in a great many instances, no person will pretend to deny. That it would be so in this, is not for us to say.

There are many natural advantages in the neighborhood of the Cherry Tree, for a county seat; and that it will some day shortly be the centre of a new county, there is not the least doubt. But we would rather see our up river friends hold back for a year or two, and then we will go with them heart and hand for their new county.

IMPORTANT TO WATERMEN.—Col. Warrall has reported a bill (we do not know the nature of it) in the House, relating to the obstructing of the navigation of the Susquehanna and its tributaries with fish dams, &c. A large amount of property has been lost by the citizens of this county in consequence of these obstructions; and if it is possible for the Legislature to prevent such losses in future by any act of theirs, it should be done without delay.

LEAD TRADE.

From the Galena Gazette we learn that seven hundred and ninety eight thousand pigs of lead have been shipped from that port during the past year. The weight of a pig of lead is about seventy pounds, making an aggregate in weight of 55,800,000 pounds, which at three dollars per hundred pounds, near the average quotation price, requires \$1,675,800 for its purchase.

Sprinkling gooseberry and current bushes with soap suds is recommended to prevent mildew.

The State Debt.

The following letter from our Senator, Col Bigler, was addressed to a gentleman in Philadelphia, and published in the United States Gazette. It is an able production, and from it we can clearly perceive that the Colonel did not offer his bill without having first thoroughly studied it in all its bearings. So far as we have heard, the proposition has been generally approved as its author could have anticipated—and we believe that all that is necessary to render it universally approved is for the people to give it that thorough and careful investigation which the importance of the subject demands:—

HARRISBURG, Feb 6, 1846.

DEAR SIR:—Your letter of the 2d inst., came to hand by due course of mail. I regret that the principles contained in the bill which I had the honor to present to the Senate, some days since, should be objectionable to a gentleman of your acknowledged intelligence. But I am not disappointed in finding the bill objectionable. I have long since come to the conclusion, that a system of taxation, for the gradual payment of the State Debt, or for the punctual payment of the interest, that would be free from "reasonable objection and acceptable to all," can never be devised. The man who undertakes this task will fail to accomplish it. I am well aware that the present taxes are onerous, and I regret as much as you, the necessity for their continuance, or that it should be the duty of any one to inquire into the expediency of adding new ones. Certainly it is no very agreeable task for a public servant to propose or advocate taxation of any kind. It makes up more than a full proportion of bitterness for all the sweets of legislation.

You say you would like to see a system of taxation that would bear equally upon all the wealth of the country and at the same time be efficient and satisfactory. I should rejoice with you to see a system of this kind in operation. These phrases sound harmonious, but they are mere words of promise to the ear to be broken to the hope. A satisfactory tax will never be devised. The regulation of the mere machinery of tax laws is a most difficult task, and such equity and care regard for individual rights, as you desire, is more than human ingenuity can attain.

But I hope to convince you that at least some of the positions which you have assumed against a tax on final descents, are unsound. You say it is "taxing the dead" and wronging the "widow and orphan." The same remark will apply with equal force to all the estates now taxable in the Commonwealth. The original owners are now all dead and yet these estates are taxed. The present inheritors were at one time looked upon as "widows and orphans;" but yet their property is not exempt from taxation. If your position be correct, every estate passing from first hands ought to be taxed from taxation, because it had been taxed in the name of the original owner, and having passed into the hands of his heirs ought not to be again taxed. This principle would, in the space of thirty years, exempt all the wealth of the State from taxation, and leave the Government no means of paying the expenses of protecting this property, or these descendants in its enjoyment. This tax is intended, and will apply to all the wealth of the State, without disturbing the present tax laws; and the whole proceeds is to be applied toward the payment of the principal of the State debt, and I would not agree to assess it for any other purpose.

Again you say it is "taxing the estates twice." This is very true. But you might say, with the same propriety, that when the legislature in 1841 raised the tax upon real estate from two to three mills, that it was taxing the same property twice. In both cases there is merely an increase of taxation. The object in the one instance being to pay the interest, and in the other the principal of the State debt; this tax would reach all estates, real and personal, the same as our laws now in force. It may be said that one estate will pass sooner than another, and hence a time will be when such estate will have paid more of the public debt than another of equal value. But it is estimated that in thirty years all the property of the commonwealth would be taxed under the provisions of this act, and it will then have borne an equal proportion of the debt. I hold the right of an individual to the property which he has acquired by his own labor to be very sacred, and would not agree to any encroachment upon such right that was not demanded by necessity.

As to the mere machinery of the proposed law, I do not look upon the features of the bill as being the best that can be adopted. Some more certain and more efficient means of securing its execution will, I have no doubt, be discovered. You complain of the gradual increase of the rate of taxation as the estate becomes larger. I am not certain that an uniform rate of two or three per cent. upon all estates without reference to their value, would not bear scrutiny better than any other principle. I find that in England the rate of taxation upon final descents is regulated in reference to the ties of consanguinity. The closer those ties draw the inheritor to the donor, the lower the rate of tax on estates descending to any ancestor or descendant of the legator, one per cent; to brother, sister, or their descendants, three per cent; to uncle or aunt, or their descendants, five per cent; to great uncles or great aunts or their descendants six per cent; and to any other collateral or stranger in blood, 10 per cent. I hold the doctrine that a Government in exacting from its people the necessary means to sustain the expenses of its administration, or to meet any obligations which it may have incurred, has not only

the right, but is in duty bound to consult the moral welfare of its subjects, and that these exactions should be made with reference first to equity and individual rights and next to the general welfare of all. At what period then can you make an exaction from an estate that will cause less complaint, do less injury or less infringement upon personal rights, than at a time when by virtue of the same Government, under whose fostering care it was acquired, it passes into the possession and enjoyment of a subject of that Government, free of cost. It is a gratuity; the products of the labor of another, and descends to the inheritor by virtue of the laws of his Government, and he should not complain, if he be called upon to contribute a small item of the donation, thus acquired towards sustaining that Government. Besides, the debt of forty millions which we now owe is a lien upon all the wealth of the State, and all that is to be expected under the proposed law is to be applied towards the payment of this lien. Hence you will perceive that this "feared principle" is nothing more nor less than paying a debt, from which there is no escape. You say five per cent. upon estates of one hundred thousand dollars is too much; perhaps it may be so, but I will leave you to decide whether the individual who receives a gratuity of ninety five thousand dollars, is not as good a man for earthly purposes, as he would be if he were to receive one hundred thousand. As a general rule, is not the man who receives a bounty of ten thousand dollars as happy and as useful to society and to his country, as the man who receives twenty thousand? Where do you find the most active, successful business men amongst those who have been left large fortunes by their ancestors, or in the ranks of those who have commenced the world without any of the advantages of wealth? I need not answer these questions; they admit of but one reply. I do not present these ideas as constituting any plan for the Government to make exactions as proposed in the bill, but they ought to have some influence in allaying complaints against the proposed tax.

Calculating from the best data that I can obtain, I am led to believe that the proposed law would produce from three to four hundred thousand dollars annually, and the "sinking fund" thus created, so long as State Stock remains below par, would cancel a still larger amount of the debt. This amount will gradually enlarge with the increasing wealth of the State, and as the amount of the annual interest becomes smaller, we will be able to bring other revenues to the aid of this fund. I believe that if the interest upon our funded debt be punctually paid for three or four years, with a small annual reduction of the principal, that our State credit will go up to par, and that when it is so restored, she can go into the market and borrow money at a much less rate of interest than she is now paying, say at 3 1/2 or 4 per cent, and take up her 5 and 6 per cent. bonds, and thus greatly reduce the amount of her actual liabilities. I incline to the opinion that if the proposed measure be adopted and kept in efficient operation for ten years, that it will bring the annual interest of our debt within the receipts from the canal and other sources, and thus relieve the real estate of the Commonwealth from the present three mill tax. The only burden then remaining upon the people will be the proposed tax for the total extinguishment of the debt.

If other and better means for the redemption of the credit of the State can be discovered, they shall receive my hearty support.

I am very truly your friend,

WILLIAM BIGLER

SENATOR LEVY—now YULEE.—The Washington correspondent of the Richmond Enquirer, who appears to be at home about transactions at Washington, thus speaks of the change in name of the Senator from Florida:—

"I have lately had the curiosity to ascertain from a friend, the cause of the recent change of Senator Levy's name to Yulee; which, as it embraces the history of a family who have, in a comparatively short time, passed through more singular vicissitudes than that of any other public man in the United States, I feel so strongly tempted to lay it before your readers, as to overcome my scruples in such cases. So, here it is: His grandfather, whose name was Yulee, was the first Councilor, or Grand Vizier, of the Emperor of Morocco of those days. The son of the Emperor engaged in a conspiracy against his father's life and authority, which it became the duty of the ancestor of Mr. Yulee to check and punish; and in so doing, he was compelled to throw the Prince into prison. Shortly afterwards, and while the latter was in confinement, the old Emperor died, and the son went from the prison to the throne. His first acts were to cast his father's friend and adviser into the same dungeon, where he died shortly afterwards, and to order the confiscation of his estate. As the sovereign's will was the only law known in Morocco in such cases, the family, to save their lives, were forced to fly somewhere beyond the authority of the new Emperor, and chance favored them with an escape to Gibraltar. Soon afterwards, the father of Senator Yulee, then a young man, went to Cuba, and, changing his name to Levy, entered into commercial business. Mr. Y. was born in that Island, and came with his parent to this country about the time of the cession of Florida to the United States, as the world knows. He is, perhaps, the youngest man in the U. States Senate, of which he is a most useful and promising member—notwithstanding the fact, that his grandshure was as staunch and phleg-

matic an old Turk as ever sat cross-legged or whiffed the hook."

ITEMS.

Two bankers of Warsaw, Messrs. Steinkeller and Fraenkel, have just obtained from the government authority to work the silver mines which are situated near the village of Ollkourz. These mines, which are the richest in Poland, made formerly a part of the domain of the Kings of that country, and at the epoch of the second partition of Poland (1793) when the Austrian troops were compelled to evacuate the Polish territory, their rear guard, to prevent the mines in question from being worked, filled them with water, in which state, for the most part they now remain. The gentlemen engaged in this work, have sent to the spot powerful steam engines, for the purpose of drawing the water from the Ollkourz mines.

The only surviving sister of Mrs. Madison, died in Jefferson county, Va. on Friday week. This amiable and excellent lady had in early life married George S. Washington, nephew and one of the heirs of General Washington. After the death of Mr. Washington, she became united in marriage with the Hon. Thomas Todd, of Kentucky, one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of the United States, whom she survived for many years.

The Germans are famous for novelness; the last one is a musical bed, which receives the weary body and immediately laps in Elysium to a soft and gentle air. Auber, played long enough to lull the most wakeful to sleep. When he wishes to rise, the bed plays a march of Spontini, with drums and cymbals, and, in short with noise enough to arouse the seven sleepers.

The U. S. Schooner Firit arrived at Norfolk on Friday afternoon week, from Havana. She brings no news. Santa Anna was still at Havana, and engaged in the gentlemanly amusement of cock fighting, at which, we are informed, he lately won \$18,000.

A Millerite stole a horse and carriage in Lancaster, Mass. On his trial the defence set up was the generally admitted lunacy of the Millerites; the jury refusing to entertain the defence, he was sent to the State Prison for two years.

Captain Wm. Smith died recently in the poor house at Northampton, Mass. He had a claim against the French Government for spoils prior to 1800, of \$40,000; the claim will go to the U. States as he has no heirs.

The new constitution of Missouri, not yet ratified by the people, appropriates in perpetuity the proceeds of the 500,000 acres of land granted to the State by the act of 1841, to the purposes of Education.

The Legislature of Indiana has passed an act authorizing the purchase of a site for a Deaf and Dumb Asylum, and another for the erection of a Hospital for the Insane.

The Legislature of Iowa has determined to make another effort to form that Territory into a State. Delegates to a Convention are to be chosen next April, and the Convention is to meet in May following.

It is said that there are no less than 1500 applicants for the offices in the two mounted regiments Congress has decided to raise.

ATROCIOUS ACT.

The late assassination of Mr. Horner at Lexington, Ky. was one of the most aggravated that has taken place in Kentucky since that of Col. Sharpe, many years ago. The killing of young Horner, has no parallel. The provocation was merely talking the seat generally assigned to Shelby at the dinner table, and gazing occasionally at the latter during the meal. Arriving, Shelby demanded of the deceased an explanation, when, according to a correspondent of the Cleveland Herald, "A few other words were uttered by Shelby, when he, standing before Horner with both hands in his pockets, drew his left hand from his pocket, and stepped Horner over the head, to find out whether he would fight with fist or pistols." Horner stepped back as soon as struck, and was in the act of throwing back his cloak, when the wretch, Shelby, drew a pistol from his pocket and shot Horner dead. He fell as soon as the pistol was fired, and never spoke again—when lifted up he was dead. Thus was a young man of good moral and religious standing in society, vent in a moment when he least expected it, to the bar of God. Shelby's friends offered \$100,000 to buy him out but it was decided not to be a bargain case. His trial will be one of interest and deep excitement.

CARBONDALE ACCIDENT.

Five of the unfortunate men, buried alive at the Carbondale mines, have been reached, all of them being dead; however, one man was found with his legs broken, but otherwise uninjured, and is supposed to have died of suffering and starvation. The bodies of the rest were so shockingly mangled as to be scarcely recognizable. There are yet nine missing.

VALUABLE DISCOVERY.

In the Farmers' Library for January, conducted by John S. Skinner, and published in New York at the Tribune Office, is the announcement of an extraordinary discovery. The discovery is said to have been made in France, and is as follows:—(that the quality and quantity of milk which cows will give, can be unerringly ascertained by external marks and appearances on the animal. This discovery is said to have made much noise in France

—and the translation of a treatise on the subject will be published in the next number of the Library. The originality of the discovery may be disputed, however, with the French, since Col. Jacques, with Ten Hills Farm, near Boston, Mass. 110 for years, known the secret.

Last week, a gentleman in Albany returning home near midnight through an obscure street was attracted by groans and a faint cry of one in distress, which came from the opposite side of the street. Crossing over, he found an old man lying on the walk, apparently in great pain.—He raised him up, gave him his crutch, and kindly offered to see him safe home. He hobbled on, apparently in great distress, leaning heavily against the good Samaritan, whom he suddenly struck a violent blow on the back of his head, and ran off nimbly as a fawn. When the benevolent gentleman recovered from the stunning effects, he found himself minus a watch worth one hundred and sixty dollars, and a well filled wallet.

The St. Louis New Era states that one day during the recent cold weather, a Mr. Warren, who lives four miles in the country, near the Prairie House, intending to come into the city, accompanied by a Mr. Clark, who lived with him, went together to the barn, some distance from the house, and harnessed the horse in the sleigh. Mr. W. then walked to the house leaving Mr. C. to drive round to the gate in front. After waiting some time, he noticed Mr. Clark drive up to the gate and stop, expecting him to leave the sleigh and come into the house, previous to starting, the day being very cold—it was with some surprise he observed him remain still in the sleigh. After waiting some time, Mr. W. went to the gate and found Mr. C. sitting upright with the reins in his hands, dead.

RE ANNEXATION.—The city of Alexandria, D. C. has petitioned the Legislature of Virginia to extend the limits of the "old Dominion" once more over her; and that State is only waiting the action of Congress to resume her protection over the city. Alexandria has suffered much by the change, and is anxious to resume her old position in Virginia.

MARRIED.—On Monday evening last, by the Rev. E. Welch, Capt. H. B. Bessell to Miss Mary Irwin—all of the place.

On the 31 inst by the same, Mr. William Gibbs to Miss Jane Kincaid, both of Beccart's township.

CAUTION.

The public are hereby cautioned against interfering in any way with the following property, now in the possession of Peter Lamm, of Girard township, as said property was sold at Constable's sale and purchased by us on the 9th Feb. 1846, and is in his possession on loan, viz:

A lot of shingles, a lot of square timber, a lot of scantling, one oak log, a lot of boards, a lot of oak plank, 1 plough and harrow, one sleigh, 1 grind-stone, 1 sledge, 1 bar, 1 pick, 1 mason hammer, four chairs, 2 wash-tubs, 1 spade, one shovel, 1 set of blacksmith tools, 1 timber sled, 1 two horse sled, two set of harness, 2 set do. one brown mare, 1 cutting box, 1 buggy, two buffalo robes, 1 iron kettle, 1 cook stove, 2 beds, 1 saddle and bridle, 1 boy's saddle, 2 trunks, 1 work bench, and 10 bushel potatoes.

JACOB MAURER, SOLOMON MAURER, WILLIAM SCHMIDT.

Feb. 19, 1846.

Popular Remedies.

The most popular remedies of the present day are those which cleanse and purify the blood, and which are known to be innocent in their qualities. Such remedies as Antimony, Mercury, Zinc, and having recourse to bleeding in disease, are now, it is hoped, going out of fashion, and Vegetable remedies will be soon the popular medicine. Then Bragg's Vegetable Universal Pills will be used and appreciated. They are known to act beneficially on every part of the body; being taken up by the chyle they pass into the blood, which they purify, and it should be remembered that they only remove those parts from the blood which were the cause of inflammation or disease of any kind. Nothing is equal to ridding the vitiated humors with a vegetable medicine of this kind, which eighty-four years have proved never to do injury, but always good. Sold by the following Agents in Clearfield co. E. & W. F. Irwin, Clearfield. John Irwin, Curwensville. David Irwin, Lethersburg. James McGirk, Philipsburg, Centre county. OFFICE—No. 241 Broadway New York. B. BRANDRETH M. D. June 1, 1845.—1 jr.

NOTICE.

All persons having claims or demands against the estate of Archibald Campbell, sen. dec'd, are requested to make known the same to the subscribers without delay, and also all persons indebted to said estate are required to come forward and make payment immediately.

ARCH'D CAMPBELL, JOHN SHIREY, Administrators.

Bradford tp. Jan. 24, 1846.

Caution.

All persons are hereby cautioned against buying or selling or in any way meddling with the following property, now in the possession of Wm. Treats, viz.—One Dark Bay Horse & one Brown Horse, as we have only loaned them to him during our pleasure.

WATSON & BRENNER.

Kathtaus, Jan. 12, 1846.