

Our Prospects.

Our country great as it is in comparison with almost any on earth, is yet in its infancy. Its resources, instead of being developed, are scarcely yet imagined by the majority, and dimly foreseen by the far-seeing few.

However great are the resources of the United States for commerce and manufactures, the foundation of all their prosperity, all their greatness, is agriculture; and however richly freighted American ships are and will be with the produce of manufacturing industry, yet the produce of the soil is and always will be the principal foundation of American national wealth.

The agriculture of the British Isles will not fall below its present standard, while British manufactures and commerce maintain their present rank. If the corn laws be abolished, and British ports be opened to foreign produce, the English landholder must reduce his rents; and that is all the change in English agriculture which such change of policy will produce.

Where, then, shall we find permanent markets? The answer is, in Asia and Africa. In India, China, and the western regions of Africa, in regions which, however fertile in sugar, coffee, rice, indigo, tea, and other produce of warm regions, will not furnish flour and salted provisions. The time will come when the flour, and beef and pork of the Middle and Western States will be transported to Africa, to feed the civilized millions employed in cultivating sugar and coffee.

THE TWO SOUTHERN COMETS.—The new comet seen in the Gulf of Mexico, and the Mauvais' second comet, were both observed on Sunday night last, by Professor Kendall and his assistants, at the High School Observatory. The new comet is about 10 deg. South of the constellation of the Whale. It is now moving about 3 deg. E. N. E. It is visible to the naked eye after twilight in the evening as a faint white cloud, in the S. S. W., about fifteen degrees high. It differs from all other comets on record, except that of 1823, in having two tails, one reaching from the comet towards the sun, and the other in an opposite direction. They may be seen in a good seaman's night glass.—Phila. Ledger.

A RAT.—"Dead for a Duet"—We were yesterday shown, says a Philadelphia paper, the tallest rat that we ever did see! It measured two feet from end of nose to tip of tail, nine inches around the body, and was caught by G. W. Myers, at Chas. Longstreth's Paper Printing Factory, La Grange Place. Printers have a decided aversion to rats, but the one mentioned above is at least respectable in size, and deserves a passing notice.

Progress of the West.

We are surprised that our statisticians and statisticians, have not of late years, paid more attention to the rapidly increasing progress in wealth and population, of the rich and mighty west. The census, properly analyzed, would tell the story in a clear and distinct manner. It is indeed quite plain that in the course of a few years, the west will possess in its own hands the controlling power of the whole country.

We perceive that the New York Mirror has commenced a series of articles on this subject. In one of them, it is stated that at the next census, two-thirds of the population of the United States will be found West of the meridian of Washington, and that, from that period, the controlling political power of the country will be even West of the Mountains.

In another, it is affirmed that more than one third of the Middle States, and all the Southern, except a comparative inconsiderable fraction, are West of the meridian of the National Capital. In 1840, these regions comprised five-eighths of our seventeen millions of people; which proportion will be raised to two-thirds in 1850, by the certain laws of the comparative increase of the West.

It is clear therefore, that the West must soon possess the controlling power of the country.—The subject is an interesting one, and deserves to be reflected upon.—Bick. Rep.

DOLLARS AND CENTS.—When shall we have an American currency? It is more than sixty-eight years since we declared our independence of a foreign power, and fifty-eight years since Federal money was established by Congress. We are yet, however, subject to the evils of a mixed currency, partly foreign, and partly domestic, which, for its variety of values given to particular names, is even more embarrassing in commercial transactions than the uniform currency of England. It is time that a national pride, as well as sound sense, had banished from our stores and counting-rooms such foreign and, to us, antiquated terms, as pounds, shillings, and pence, and that our simple republican nomenclature were submitted in their place. Merchants can effect this change. Let me appeal to them to begin this patriotic—this national work. When asked the price of their goods, let them give the price in dollars and cents, and not oblige their customers to translate their shillings and pence into something they can understand.

And the difficulty is increased in passing from one State to another. Let a New Yorker travel into Massachusetts, Pennsylvania or Georgia, and he might as well be in the German States almost, for the shilling has a different value in each of these States. In New York, North Carolina, and Ohio, there are eight shillings in a dollar, but in the New England States, Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee, there are but six. In the former a shilling is equivalent to twelve and a half cents, in the latter to sixteen and two-thirds. Each contains also a fractional number. Go into Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland, and you find that seven shillings and six pence make a dollar, while in Georgia and South Carolina, the dollar, our money unit, has the representative value of four shillings and eight pence. When shall the evils of our colonial legislation cease? The people call for a reform. Let mercantile practice and legislation, if need be, unite in efforts to accomplish this work, and let the press agitate and agitate until we obtain a uniform and purely American currency throughout the whole Union.—N. Y. Tribune.

THIN SHOES AND CONSUMPTION.—Noticing an article with this title, the Bridgeton, N. J. Chronicle says,—"Let parents look well to this matter; let them see that their daughters wear good thick shoes and stockings, during cold and damp weather. Let them compare their own thick boots, with the low, thin shoes of their daughters, and they will more fully realize the insufficiency of the latter. And let the ladies not suppose that a sensible man is more pleased with a pale and feeble woman, than with one blooming with health, vigor and beauty—with a small foot than a good judgment. For the one who is over anxious about the former, must certainly have an insufficiency of the latter."

The London Medical Gazette contains a long article from the pens of Dr. Hastings and Mr. R. Storks, surgeons, descriptive of a remarkable operation for the cure of consumption, by the perforation of the cavity of the lung through the walls of the chest. The cure is described as being complete.

TALL LADIES.—A New York paper says that tall ladies invariably prefer short men. An exchange thinks this an error, and observes that no woman objects to a Hy-men.



Saturday, Feb. 1, 1845.

V. B. FLETCHER, Esq., at his Real Estate and Coal Office, No. 59 Pine Street, Philadelphia, is authorized to act as Agent, and receipt for all moneys due this office, for subscription or advertising.

Also, at his Office No. 160 Nassau Street New York.

The editor is still absent from his post, at Harrisburg. In the next column our readers will find a letter from him, giving an account of some of the proceedings at the Capitol.

On our first page we have placed a communication of considerable length, from "Lycoming," purporting to give a history of the difficulties that have for the last ten years distracted the democratic party of Lycoming county, and, as one of the consequences, the late defeat of Gen. Petrikin for Congress. Without expressing any opinion of our own, in regard to the correctness of the views of the writer, we have only to say that the communication is from a highly respectable source, and is therefore entitled to a place in our columns. We shall, of course, accord to Gen. Petrikin, or his friends, the same privilege. Personally, we know nothing of these difficulties, or to whom we should attribute our late disastrous defeat in the thirtieth congressional district. Certain it is, that Lycoming county did not perform what we had a right to expect from her; but whose the fault, or what were the causes, is not for us to settle.

On Wednesday, the Message of Gov. Shunk in relation to the payment of the interest, was sent to the Legislature. It was immediately read. The Governor, after giving the details of our receipts and expenditures, comes to the conclusion that if the interest that falls due to-day be paid now, there will not be enough to meet the interest due in August, and although he does not say so, he seems to think the permanent payment of interest cannot yet be resumed.

The "Luzerne Democrat" is the title of a new paper, published at Wilkesbarre, by Levi Tate, Esq. Mr. Tate will, from his experience in conducting a paper, make the "Democrat" a valuable sheet.

CANAL COMMISSIONER.—The last Harrisburg Argus contains a communication recommending EDWARD Y. BRIGHT, Esq., as a candidate for the office of Canal Commissioner. Mr. Bright has great experience in the construction and management of our public improvements, and his experience and ability, joined to his indefatigable industry and perseverance, admirably fit him for the office. We are not aware when or how the nomination of a candidate for this office will be made, but when it is made, Northern Pennsylvania will claim to be represented in the Board of Canal Commissioners, and she cannot put forward a candidate more experienced and better qualified than Mr. Bright.

STAY LAW.—We observe that a bill has been reported in the Senate for the repeal of the law of 1812, relative to executions, commonly called "the stay law." We are glad to see this move, for the law in question has produced more mischief, than the temporary evil that it was intended to remedy. Gov. Shunk, in his Inaugural Address, remarks that "that particular mischief should be corrected by general, rather than by special laws." This is a maxim, as true in fact as it is sound in political economy, and we hope our Legislature will in future be guided by it, for, we verily believe, that no State in the Union is more injured by special legislation than Pennsylvania. This everlasting legislating for particular cases, instead of the State at large, is selfish, narrow-minded and short-sighted. This law making for a particular case, or for the benefit of one class of our citizens, very often at the expense of another, has induced the people to think "the law is governed too much," and very generally eventuates in irremediable mischief and injustice. All kinds of quacks are a nuisance, but none of them do so much mischief as quack Legislators, for their nostrums operate upon a whole community.

ARREST OF BERGELARS IN POTTSVILLE.—Two burglars, one an old prison bird, were arrested last week at Pottsville, in an abandoned coal drift, where they had taken up quarters and deposited the fruits of their depredations.

A CONVENT AT POTTSVILLE.—The Anthracite Gazette says it is rumored, upon positive and secure foundation, that the Roman Catholic Church at that place has been endeavoring to establish a Convent there.

EARLY COMMENCEMENT OF FARMING OPERATIONS.—In Lancaster the farmers have commenced ploughing their corn ground, the weather having all the mildness of the opening spring.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.—There are 48 farmers in our State Legislature, 21 attorneys, 8 merchants, 6 mechanics, 5 physicians, 3 teachers. The remainder are of various professions. In the House, composed as it is of one hundred persons, there is the extraordinary number of twenty-two bachelors, the greater portion of whom are gray headed.

BRINGING OUT THE BIG GUNS.—One hundred guns were to be fired on the 27th ult., in the Park, New York, in honor of the passage of the annexation resolution by the House.

Extract of a Letter from the Editor, dated HARRISBURG, Jan. 28.

The great course of strangers brought together here by the Inauguration, has thinned down to the ordinary number of spectators, bidders, and office hunters, whose claims have not yet been acted on. On Saturday last, the nomination of Judge Burnside to the Supreme Bench was acted on in the Senate. Mr. Champneys, of Lancaster, and Mr. Steriger, of Montgomery, indirectly opposed the confirmation, by recommending the passage of an act to reduce the number of Judges to three. Some of the friends of the Judge recommended another important measure of reform, the abolition of the District Court of Lancaster. This seemed to reconcile these gentlemen, in some degree, to the appointment, and the nomination was confirmed by a vote of 31 to 1. Mr. Cornman (Native) voting against the Judge, because he was not a native of the soil. Judge Burnside is of Irish birth, and came to this country when about 10 years of age. He has the reputation of being an able Judge and an honest man.

The bill to suspend the payment of the principal of the domestic creditors, for the purpose of paying the interest on the State debt, passed both houses and has become a law. There was a considerable flare up in the Senate on Monday, in consequence of the appointment of Dr. Seth Salisbury, as State Librarian, by the joint committee, on Saturday last. The appointment was received with some surprise, and has given but little satisfaction. In the Senate a motion was made, on Monday, to elect the Librarian for 3 years. One of the Senators also stated that when the Doctor was removed from the office of Librarian, a few years since, he retained violent possession of the keys, and refused to give them up until a bonus of \$300 was voted him by the Legislature.

There was great excitement in consequence of the arrest of a negro, in this place, on Friday night last, by two men, who attempted to carry him to Maryland. He has resided here during the last six or seven years past, and was a kind of preacher among them. He was caught near the Capitol about dark, dragged to a livery stable and gagged. They were about starting with him when some people of color gave the alarm. A crowd soon collected and he was put to jail, on the charge of being a slave as well as on a charge of larceny, for stealing a horse and gig in Maryland. The jail was besieged all next day. But on a hearing, the negro was discharged.

That interminable question of the removal of the seat of Justice from Danville to Bloomsburg, brought down, on Saturday, a delegation from Danville. The war will soon commence. Our Danville friends think that the justice of their cause will again enable them to triumph.

The Canal Commissioners have made nearly all their appointments. The greatest case of difficulty before them was the appointment of Supervisor of the West Branch Division and Collector at Williamsport. The two divisions of the democratic party of Lycoming, had a hearing before the Canal Board, on Friday the 24th inst. The room was crowded and three speeches on each side were made. The history of the political quarrels of the county, for the last ten years was gone into, and on Tuesday last, the old incumbents, Thos. Bennet and John B. Beck, were re-appointed.

We are pleased to hear of the re-appointment of our friend, Mr. John Youngman, as Collector at Northumberland. Not the least of Mr. Youngman's recommendations was his obliging disposition, and the faithful discharge of his duties. Mr. Warner, the present Weigh Master, was also re-appointed without opposition. An evidence that the people are well satisfied with him.

The question of our next Canal Commissioner is already being agitated. There seems to be a general disposition to select, as our next candidate, a gentleman of acknowledged integrity of character and confirmed business habits, and from what I can learn from all quarters, the opinion is almost unanimous in favor of Col. Henry C. Eyer, the present Senator from Union, Juniata and Perry.

In the Senate, to-day, there was an animated debate upon the question of resuming the Beaver division of the Erie extension canal. The Legislature of 1813, very unwisely granted a charter to the Erie Canal Company, and gave up to the Company unfinished works that had cost the State upwards of four millions, when it would require less than half a million to finish the Canal.

The weather on Monday and Tuesday last was as mild and pleasant as the palmiest days of September or October.

A NATIONAL FOUNDRY AT READING.—The Phila. Ledger says a public meeting was held at Reading, Berks county, last week, to adopt measures for urging upon the immediate attention of Congress the decided advantages which Reading possesses as a site for the location of a National Foundry. Congress has determined upon the establishment of two National Foundries, one in the South and another in the North, and the Committee appointed for the purpose has already reported in favor of Easton as the place for locating the latter. A committee was appointed at the meeting to go to Washington and show the superior advantages that Reading possesses for the location of such an establishment.

THE CABINET.—A correspondent of the Charleston Courier disposes of the Cabinet as follows:—Mr. Buchanan, Secretary of State; Mr. Ellmore, of South Carolina, Secretary of the Treasury; Mr. Saunders, of North Carolina, Postmaster General; Mr. Walker, his choice to anything left. A New Yorker and a New Englander to have the other Secretaryships.

THAT COACH.—The coach that was built to carry Henry Clay to the White House, has had its name changed to the "President," and is on its way to take Mr. Polk to that establishment.

MILTON BROWN'S BILL FOR THE ANNEXATION OF TEXAS PASSED ON SATURDAY BY THE HOUSE.—The following bill for annexing Texas to the Union, passed the House of Congress on Saturday last, by a small majority. What action the Senate will take on it, is not yet known. It is as follows:—

Joint Resolution declaring the terms on which Congress will admit Texas into the Union as a State.

Sec. 1. Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That Congress doth consent that the territory properly included within, and rightfully belonging to the republic of Texas, may be erected into a new State, to be called the State of Texas, with a republican form of government, to be adopted by the people of said republic, by deputies in convention assembled, with the consent of the existing government, in order that the same may be admitted as one of the States of this Union.

Sec. 2. And be it further resolved, That the foregoing consent of Congress is given upon the following conditions, and with the following guarantees, to wit:

First. Said State to be formed, subject to the adjustment by this government of all questions of boundary that may arise with other governments; and the constitution thereof, with the proper evidence of its adoption by the people of said republic of Texas, shall be transmitted to the President of the United States, to be laid before Congress for its final action, on or before the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and forty-six.

Second. Said State, when admitted into the Union, after ceding to the United States all mines, minerals, salt lakes and springs, and also all public edifices, fortifications, barracks, ports and harbors, navy and navy yards, docks, magazines, arms armaments, and all other property and means pertaining to the public defence, belonging to said republic of Texas, shall retain all the public funds, debts, taxes, and dues of every kind which may belong to, or be due and owing said republic; and shall also retain all the vacant and unappropriated lands lying within its limits, to be applied to the payment of the debts and liabilities of said republic of Texas; and the residue of said lands, after discharging said debts and liabilities, to be disposed of as said State may direct; but in no event are said debts and liabilities to become a charge upon the government of the United States.

Third. New States of convenient size, and having sufficient population, may hereafter, by the consent of said State, be formed out of the territory thereof, which shall be entitled to admission under the provisions of the federal constitution. And such States as may be formed out of that portion of territory lying south of 36 degrees 30 minutes north latitude, commonly known as the Missouri compromise line, shall be admitted into the Union, with or without slavery, as the people of each State asking may desire.

THE TEXAS QUESTION.—The vote in the House, on Saturday, on the Texas question, gives, we see, the following result, viz: 8 northern states, a majority of 31 against the measure; 8 middle states, a majority of 5 in favor of it; 5 southern states, a majority of 30 in favor, and 5 western states, a majority of 16 in favor of it. The whole then stands thus:—118 for Texas, 98 against it, and 4 members absent. Only the north is opposed to annexation, or rather, only Maine, Vermont, Rhode Island, New York, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, six States out of the twenty-six!

STATISTICS OF THE SCHUYLKILL COAL REGION.—The Miners' Journal furnishes some interesting facts in connection with the coal operations in that county. It says, few persons out of that region are acquainted with the necessity which exists in many instances, for mining below the water level, and the consequently enormous outlays for steam engines and machinery, and the heavy expenses constantly accruing for raising the coal and draining the mines. There are already 22 Collieries below the water level, and 41 engines employed in pumping, raising and breaking coal, with an aggregate horse power of 1278. A horse power is calculated as equivalent to the strength of eight able-bodied men—a man ordinarily labors but 10 hours in the 24; but the engines can, and some of them do, run day and night; consequently they can perform, for each horse power, an amount of work equal to the labor of 16 men, and an aggregate of work equal to the labor of 20,448 men every 24 hours. The cost of these engines, pumps, and the necessary machinery will not fall much short of \$250,000, and the consumption of coal will amount to 40,000 tons per annum. The whole consumption of coal in this region, during the last year, is estimated at 100,000 tons.

BOSTON POST-OFFICE.—The New Royal Mail Steamship Cambria arrived at Boston on Friday morning, about 7 o'clock, and her mails were received at the post-office twenty minutes past nine. She brought despatches from the Secretary of Legation, 35,000 letters, and 125 bushels of newspapers, being the largest English mail ever received, excepting by the Acadia in 1810. This vast amount of mail matter was assorted, distributed, re-mailed, and delivered in the short time of three hours and a half.

GAMBLING.—It seems strange, says the Ledger, after the exposures of the tricks and devices of gamblers for winning the money of their dupes, that so many persons will allow themselves to be seduced into play. A late number of the Liverpool Mercury says that in the gaming-houses in that town, recently broken into by the police, false dice were found among the gaming implements seized, and the brass divisions of the roulette tables were found to be so contrived as to obstruct the ball at the will of the manager. It has been repeatedly shown that the cards are so marked that a professed gambler can tell them at a glance.

THE TEXAS QUESTION has assumed a shape by the recent vote for annexation, which renders a little speculation as to the probable result not inopportune. The question is now will Texas herself come in! Her assent has not been expressed formally to that effect pending the incipient measure of annexation by Congress. But we think she will come into the confederacy, if the final assent depends upon her. Gen. Almonte, the Mexican Minister, when it was officially declared that there would be no war with Mexico if Texas were annexed, left New York, (to which place he has withdrawn since the meditated act of annexation,) and proceeded to Washington, to state that there would be war if the measure were consummated. According to him, Mexico will positively declare war against the United States if Texas be brought into the Union. We doubt it, however. Mexico cannot afford to go to war with the United States. It is, in our view, a vain hope for her to expect an alliance with England or France. Each of those countries knows too well her own interest to declare hostilities against the United States for the sake and interests of a foreign State like Mexico. The latter country would have to contest single handed with the United States, and the result would probably be the landing at Vera Cruz of a large American force, (which could be easily raised,) and a descent thence to the city of Mexico. We have no particular fears of a war with Mexico, and if there should be any, it must, in the nature of events, be brought to a speedy termination.—Ledger.

REMOVAL IN TEXAS.—The Clarksville (Texas) Northern Standard, of the 20th ult., says:—"We have seen a letter, dated the 11th inst., from the Hon. Wm. H. Bourland, in which he states that propositions are before Congress from the Governments of France and England to have our independence immediately acknowledged by Mexico, if we will withdraw our application for annexation to the United States, and pledge ourselves not to renew it."

ILLINOIS.—The legislature of Illinois has been a good deal disturbed by petitions, praying that the blacks may be denied the right of voting, and of intermarriage with whites. A committee reported in favor of such a petition, and the House of Representatives approved of it, with only few dissentients. These four the next day repented and asked to change their votes. In order to do them a resolution was introduced, as follows:—"Resolved, That we think the laws prohibiting the intermarriage of whites and blacks ought not to be repealed, and that free negroes ought not to be allowed to vote."

UPON the adoption of this resolution the yeas and nays were demanded, and every member present, including the four who had voted contrary recorded his vote in favor of its passage.

INTEREST OF THE STATE DEBT OF ILLINOIS.—In the Illinois Legislature the Committee on Finance have made a report, and introduced bill for the purpose of paying the interest on the State debt. The present State tax is 15 cents on every hundred dollars worth of property, and the committee propose to double that tax immediately, and gradually to increase it every year till it becomes ten times as great as it now is.

REGULATED HIS PETITION.—The Rhode Island Legislature has refused to grant the petition of Sullivan Dorr, for leave to visit his son. The report of the committee to which the petition was referred was accompanied by letters from the Warden and Physician of the Prison, contradicting the old gentlemen's statement as to his son's health.

ADJOURNED.—The General Assembly of Rhode Island adjourned last Saturday, after a session of three weeks. A committee was appointed to prepare a full and accurate history of the late revolution, and to report to the General Assembly.

CHANGING HER NAME.—In the Missouri Legislature a petition was presented from certain parents in St. Louis to change the name of their daughter from Georgiana Frelinghuysen to Martha Jane Dallas.

MR. CLINGMAN, who fought Mr. Yancey, is expected to have plenty of that kind of business on hand—probably will have to fight the whole "Empire Club," at least so Washington letter writers in some of the papers say. One paper says Mr. C. left Washington city on Saturday for Baltimore to fulfil one engagement of the kind.

STATE PAUPERS.—The Boston Mercantile Journal states that, according to the returns collected and digested by Mr. Palfrey, the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, of the 6,000 State paupers for the year ending 1st November, 1844, 2,668 are foreigners.

PROGRESS OF TEMPERANCE.—There are, at the present time, one hundred and twenty towns in Massachusetts destitute of a grog shop. The inhabitants have probably discovered that there is nothing that can so well dispense with such establishments.

BISHOP UNDERDONK, says the Times, has published a long statement in defence of himself, against the charges upon which he was tried before the convention of Bishops. We have read it over, but with all our kindly feelings towards him, we are compelled to confess it an impotent paper. It is vague and unsatisfactory, though it certainly places the matter in a different light. He relies upon the proof that his accusers remained upon friendly terms with him, after the commission of the alleged improprieties, to shew the improbability that such things ever occurred. Still, the Bishop may be innocent. The book of the trial will determine the public judgment.