

**A Railroad to Oregon.**

We are indebted to the Hon. R. D. Owen for a copy of the Report from the Committee on Roads and Canals, in relation to a railroad to Oregon. The Committee say that they have found it impossible to give Mr. Whitney's memorial the reflection necessary to form a specific opinion as to the expediency or practicability of the project. So far, however, as their investigations have reached, the Committee have seen nothing that proves the impracticability of the plan. But with the limited information before them, the Committee are not prepared to recommend that the prayer of the memorialists for a survey should be granted; but they say that public attention is already attracted to the subject; public opinion, in regard to it, will mature in the recess; and that a project so vast can not with propriety be entered upon, even in its preparatory steps, in a manner so hasty, and with lights so imperfect, as, if now undertaken, it must be.

An extract from the memorial of Mr. Whitney is attached. He represents that the roads from New York to Lake Michigan, a distance of 810 miles, will no doubt be completed by the States through which they pass, or by private individuals. That from Lake Michigan to the mouth of the Columbia river, on the Pacific, is 2,180 miles; making from New York to the Pacific 3,000 miles, and can be performed in eight days. From Columbia river to the Sandwich islands is 2,100 miles; making from New York to the Sandwich islands 5,100 miles. From the Columbia river to Japan is 5,600 miles; making from New York to Japan 5,600 miles. From Columbia river to Amoy, in China, (the port nearest to the tea and silk provinces,) is 6,200 miles—making from New York to Amoy only 9,200 miles; which, with a railroad to the Pacific, and thence to China by steamers, can be performed in 30 days, being now a sailing distance of nearly 17,000 miles, and requiring from 100 to 150 days for its performance. Then the drill and sheeting of Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts, and other manufactures of the United States, may be transported to China in 30 days; and the teas and silks of China, in exchange, come back to New Orleans, to Charleston, to Washington, to Baltimore, to Philadelphia, to New York, and to Boston, in 30 days more.

He says that, from an estimate as near accurate as can be made, short of an actual survey, the cost of said road, to be built in a safe, good, and substantial manner, will be about \$50,000,000; and as the road cannot, from the situation of the uninhabited country through which it will pass, earn any thing, or but little, before its completion, then a further sum will be required to keep it in operation, repairs, &c., of \$15,000,000—making the total estimated cost of said road, when complete, the sum of \$65,000,000.

The project is certainly a bold one, and at some future day will doubtless arrest attention and command respectful consideration.—*Bicknell's Reporter.*

**REVOLUTION AT ICHABOE.**—Prior to the exhaustion of the guano at the Island of Ichaboe, strange as such a fact may be, they had, as we learn from our files of English papers, a revolution.

It seems that in the operations of the first six months after the island was visited, a host of agents, or supercargoes, established themselves on the island, erecting tents and temporary residences. In a short time they marked off the ground and laid claim to all the principal parts, as their own *bona fide* property, on behalf of themselves and their employers at home, erecting loading stages, and selling pits at extravagant prices.

All the revolution, no opposition was made to this mode of procedure, and the consequence was, that ultimately no ship, unless the captain submitted to these land sharks, could get a shovel's breadth of ground to land upon. When an agent had a ship loading at his stage, he purposely kept dallying with the work, until another ship from his house at home would arrive to take up the berth, although there might be three hundred other ships surrounding the little island, and waiting for access to the beach. Squabbles and small fights were of continued occurrence, and increased until a sloop of war arrived to preserve order. Her commander remained till he believed his presence was no longer necessary.

On the following day, the demurring shipmasters held a meeting, and it was very soon resolved that a general reform should be made *instanter*. There were about 300 ships at anchor, and each ship agreed to send her proportion of men ashore, with guns and bayonets, mustering altogether about 1400 men. Super-cargo Town was attacked, and its entire population put to the rout at the point of the bayonet, and driven directly into the sea, up to their chins, and the discomfited landlords were there and then made to swear that they relinquished all right and title to the soil of Ichaboe; after which declaration they were permitted to return to their respective places of abode. This summary proceeding produced an entire change in the civil affairs of the island, and ships are now loading at the rate of fifty tons a day, after laying idle for months.

**CLERICAL VOYAGERS.**—Among the passengers in the steamship Cambria, from Boston for Liverpool, were three distinguished clergymen, of different denominations, viz: Rev. John Cushman, D. D., (Congregationalist,) Dorchester, Mass.; Rev. Francis Parkman, D. D., (Unitarian,) Boston; Rev. Daniel Sharp, D. D., (Baptist,) Boston.

**THE WEALTH OF THE NATION.**—A correspondent of the National Intelligencer, says Bicknell's Reporter, remarks that in addition to the immense space of individual property under cultivation and lying idle in the United States, we possess upwards of 1,000,000,000 acres of public lands. The value of all the products of the country for 1839, reached the sum of \$1,200,000,000. According to Mr. Ellsworth's Report for 1844, our Agricultural Products are on the increase. The correspondent alluded to says:

"I summed up only nine articles, which, being estimated at low prices, reached four hundred millions of dollars. They are—  
422 millions bushels corn 105 millions dollars  
17 do tons hay 102 do  
95 do bushels wheat 65 do  
872 do pounds cotton 52 do  
172 do bushels oats 34 do  
100 do bushels potatoes 20 do  
291 do pounds sugar 22 do  
152 do pounds tobacco 22 do  
111 do pounds rice 460 do

The value of agricultural articles not enumerated must have been large, notwithstanding the low prices of every thing during 1844. Domestic manufactures (albeit the tariff) were low throughout the year; but I have no doubt the value of the whole products of the country reached ten hundred millions of dollars."

Among the various means of attaining sudden wealth in this country, the discovery of a popular "patent" medicine has often proved singularly successful. A letter from New York, published in the Charleston Courier, cites various examples in point:

**BRANDRETH**, with his pills, has risen from a poor man to be a man of extensive fortune. He has now at Sing Sing a three story factory for grinding his medicines. Alows are carted into it by the ton, and whole cargoes of the pills are despatched to every part of the Union, and down every body's throat. He has expended thirty-five thousand dollars in a single year for advertising. **COMSTOCK** began with nothing, but by crowding his patent medicines, has been able to purchase one of the first houses in Union Place, and gives magnificent soirees, suppers, &c. **MOFFAT**, adding bitters to pills, has run up a handsome fortune of nearly \$300,000. **SHERMAN**, taking the lozenge line, has emerged from his little shop in Nassau street, into a buyer of lots and houses by the wholesale. I need not mention **SWAIM**, of Philadelphia, who, by pouring his panacea into people's stomachs, can afford to buy a single pearl head band for his daughter worth \$20,000—to prove that we are a pill-eating and bitter drinking people. Your literary men will starve in his garret, while your pill makers will emerge from his garret into a palace.

**TO MAKE DRY TREES GROW.**—In conversation in our office with a gentleman a few days since, he informed us, that if trees that had been some time dug, and had become dry, were entirely buried in the earth for twenty-four hours before being set out, they would often grow when they appeared entirely dead.

The philosophy of the matter appears to be this:—The bark and outer vessels of trees in drying up, are contracted; and the vessels of the roots upon being again buried, distend and perform their functions, there is not force enough to carry the sap, far up the trunk. By burying the whole tree in moist earth, the cells of the trunk and limbs are expanded in like manner with the roots, so that when again set out the sap is speedily carried through the whole tree. In this region where trees are often carried to so great a distance, this fact is true, is particularly valuable and should be remembered.—*Prairie Farmer.*

**RECIPE FOR ASTHMA.**—The following receipt for the Asthma has been handed to us by a gentleman of intelligence, says the *Frederick Herald*, who, as we know, has long and grievously suffered with that complaint, and has handed this recipe to us in hopes that others suffering like himself may be relieved:

"Dissolve one ounce of saltpetre in a pint of water, dip sheets of fine brown paper in the solution until they are saturated, dry the paper; when a fit of asthma comes on tear a strip or two from a sheet and burn the strips; the patient being near the smoke so long as the burning continues. The above simple remedy has given more relief to a sufferer for 27 years of the asthma than any other remedy he ever used.

**SIR ROBERT PEEL.**—The Dublin Evening Mail asserts that Sir Robert Peel has a million sterling embarked in trade, and thus accounts for his free trade movements.

**REMARKABLE.**—An old lady in Baltimore, named Foss, said to be 99 years of age, dreamt nine years ago that she would die on the 5th of April, 1845, and sure enough she did die on last Saturday, probably to fulfill her dream, and prove to the younger portion of the world that dreams have something in them.

**EARLY.**—We notice the conubialization of Ezra T. Jones with Miss Sally Ladd, in Chillicothe, Ohio. Ezra has supplied his table with *Sol Ladd* at a very early day in the season.

**POLK AND DALLAS.**—Mrs. Story, of Greenville, S. C., gave birth to three children recently. She named the son James Knox, and the daughters Elizabeth Polk and Rebecca Dallas.

**INSTINCT OF CATS.**—It is said that an English cat, when she loses her kittens, spends her period of mourning around the mutton pie shops



Saturday, April 12, 1845.

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

**Also at his Office No. 160 Nassau Street, New York, and 8 E. Corner of Baltimore and Calvert sts., Baltimore.**

**THE WEATHER**, on Monday and Tuesday last, was extremely cold and unpleasant. We were fearful that the peach and other fruit trees, now in blossom, would be entirely destroyed. The dryness of the atmosphere and the high winds, have probably saved them.

**OUR COURT** commenced on Monday last, and we regret to say, was adjourned over until next Monday, as none of the causes on the list (which was called over on Tuesday evening) were then ready. On Wednesday several of the parties having causes appeared. The trial list is a long one, and it will be impossible to try more than half of the causes for trial, on the list, next week.

We regret that our contemporary, of the Danville Intelligencer, received so poor a copy of the American containing the report of Mr. Clover's survey of the Shamokin, Mahoning and Schuylkill Rail Road. Friend Cook, however, of the Danville Democrat, and our neighbor of the Sunbury Gazette, we presume, both received fair copies, as they do not only not complain, but appeared so well satisfied that they did not deem it necessary to trouble us with the usual credit.

**PERILS OF THE RIVER.**—On Friday last, during a heavy gale, a number of rafts, opposite this place, were blown into the stream and were only saved with considerable difficulty from going over the Shamokin Dam. Several of the rafts were blown entirely across the river, and reached the shore on this side but a few rods above the abutment of the dam. Two more were lodged broadside on the dam, about the middle of the river. The hands were taken off by boats before they struck. On one of the rafts the cabin was blown over, and the fire communicating with the straw, soon reached the timber, destroying a considerable portion of the raft, which was made of valuable white pine plank and board. Several other rafts barely saved themselves by dint of hard labor, by striking the abutment on the opposite side, as they approached the shore. Had they been a few yards further out they must inevitably have gone over the dam. As it is some of the owners have sustained considerable loss.

If the contemplated Railroad between Shamokin and Pottsville was completed, which would form a continuous Railroad communication between Philadelphia and the Susquehanna, millions of feet of most valuable timber would be transported over it, from this place, to Philadelphia, instead of passing down the river, the navigation of which, below this place, is always attended with difficulty and often obstructed by low water. The bituminous coal, the iron, the lumber and grain, of the West Branch—the immense products of the large and rapidly increasing Anthracite Iron Works of the North Branch, together with the grain and valuable lumber of that noble stream, all, or very nearly all, would seek this channel for a market at Philadelphia. All that is necessary to acquire this immense trade, is only a link of Railroad communication of about thirty miles, now proved to be practicable without planes, between Shamokin and the Schuylkill.

We are pleased that the Legislature has passed a law providing for a Reporter to report the decisions of the Supreme Court.

**SUGAR, COFFEE AND MOLASSES** has taken a considerable rise within the last week in the cities. Cause—said to be the failure of crops.

**WE WERE** pleased to find the following communication, in the Democratic Union, of the 5th inst., recommending our old friend and neighbor, LEWIS DEWART, Esq., for the office of Canal Commissioner. The writer speaks in high terms of Mr. Dewart's practical talent, integrity of character and business qualifications. We have always believed that if the Board had always been constituted of just such men as Lewis Dewart, entirely different results would have been produced in our public works. Those who know Mr. Dewart will, without distinction of party, accord to him all that is said in his behalf by the writer.

**GENTLEMEN:**—An old friend and admirer of LEWIS DEWART, of Northumberland county, desires the favor of presenting his name through your paper, for the important office of Canal Commissioner of Pennsylvania. Few men in the State have more practical talent than Mr. Dewart—a gentleman of great integrity of personal character, with business qualifications of the first grade—with a long experience in public life renders Mr. Dewart a desirable candidate for Canal Commissioner with the whole people, and especially with the Democracy of the State.

The republican party of Pennsylvania know Lewis Dewart; firmly he has stood by them under all circumstances, through good and evil report.—We hope, therefore, that the democracy of Pennsylvania will not pass by the claims of a man whose experience, services and personal popularity would secure his triumphant election, and thereby place in the responsible station of Canal Commissioner, a gentleman who would do credit to the State.

A DEMOCRAT.

**THE CANAL COMMISSIONERS AND DISCRIMINATING TOLLS.**—We regret to say that the Canal Commissioners have seen fit to alter the rates of toll, so as to discriminate in favor of one Coal region at the expense of another. The tolls, last year, were fixed at 2 mills per mile, for every 1000 lbs., or 4 mills per ton, neat, allowing a drawback of 1 mill per ton on all Coal shipped as far as Columbia. This kind of discrimination operated equally and justly upon all. But the Board have concluded to discriminate only in favor of a certain few, from what motives we do not pretend to say. They have, therefore, allowed no drawback for coal intended for shipment beyond Columbia, but have fixed a maximum rate of toll, viz: that no toll, exceeding twenty-two cts. per 1000 lbs., on coal shall be charged for any distance, which, in fact, fixes the toll for the coal of our Wilkesbarre friends at nearly the old rates, of 3 mills per ton, while the rates of toll on coal from the Shamokin region, is raised nearly thirty per cent., viz: to four instead of three mills per ton. From this place to Columbia the distance is about 82 miles—the toll being 33 cts. per ton. From Wilkesbarre to Columbia the distance is about 110 miles—the toll at the maximum rate, is 44 cts., which would be giving to the Wyoming region thirty miles of Canal navigation free of toll, to enable them to undersell the Shamokin Coal region. Discriminating duties are sometimes made in favor of Governments and whole States, but it has been left for the present Board to make discriminations in favor of certain regions in the same State. Chancellor Kent has recently decided that one State has no right to impose discriminating duties at the expense of another, much less then has the Board a right to discriminate in favor of certain localities. The mines of the Wyoming region are near the Canal, while the mines of Shamokin are from 18 to 20 miles from the Canal, the Coal of which must be transported by Rail Road that distance, and yet with all these disadvantages we must have discriminations against us. We have no desire to raise the toll of our Wyoming neighbors, as they are high enough, but we should like to see something like common justice done to ourselves.

**WHEAT**, we see, is advancing gradually in the market. We are pleased to see this on account of our farmers, in fact the whole community is benefited by it. The best white wheat has been selling at \$1 18. Good reds at 95 to 105.

**LOWELL**, the great manufacturing city of Massachusetts, consumed last year 40,000 barrels of flour. This is the way that manufacturers injure the farmers!

**BAD WRITING.**—The writing of Senator Choate, of Massachusetts, is so bad that none of it gets into print. A Connecticut paper states that the first deed he ever wrote, was as unintelligible to the Recorder, as if it had been written in Chinese characters, and was sent back to be re-written.

**RHODE ISLAND.**—Jackson's majority for Governor, in all the towns but one, Little Compton, is 113. It will be diminished somewhat when the returns are completed, but he is probably elected. The Legislature will stand—Senate, Law and Order 21, Dorrite 10; House, Law and Order 43, Dorrite 21—showing a Law and Order majority of 11 in the Senate, and 19 in the House.

The Ledger says the election of Jackson, who distinctly announced himself in favor of liberating Dorr from prison, proves that a majority of the people of that State are opposed to his present confinement. Policy alone, we should suppose, would suggest the propriety of such a step, for as long as he remains in prison there will be agitation and exertion that will eventually destroy the ruling party. Dorr once liberated would probably sink into insignificance, for many of his own party do not like his course and utterly distrust his judgment. The Legislature with whom the pardoning power rests, we believe, will probably open the doors to his freedom, since there has been so unequivocal an expression of opinion in favor of it by the people.

**JUDGE PETTIT** has tendered to Governor Shunk his resignation of the office of President Judge of the District Court. Cause—inequality of salary. Judges Jones and Findlay of the same Court have received their commissions and were qualified yesterday.

**NEW TARIFF OF CANADA.**—The new tariff of Canada has become a law, and took effect April 6th. It increases the duties on all articles that come in competition with those imported into the province from England, from two to three hundred per cent. Its effect will be to benefit the smuggling trade both ways instead of one.

**OPPOSITION TO ALBANY.**—Already a brisk competition has sprung up on the North River, and the fares have been reduced to the lowest point of the last year.—50 cents is now charged in boats of good character, less than half a cent a mile.

**LOUISIANA.**—The Constitutional Convention have resolved, that from and after the year 1848, the seat of legislation shall be removed to some point of the State not less than 60 miles from New Orleans.

**THE SEASON.**—Strawberries were for sale in the Charleston market as early as the 22d of March.

**STRAWBERRIES.**—The New Orleans Picayune crows over strawberries on the 21st ult. The Boston Post considers that nothing marvellous, as they had them there nine months ago.

**HEMP** is beginning to be exported to England, but it is prepared so carelessly in Ohio, that fifteen per cent of its value is lost.

**A LARGE NEWSPAPER.**—The New York Courier and Enquirer on Saturday published a double sheet, comprising seventy-two columns of matter.

**A SHIP AND CARGO** insured for \$400,000 arrived at Boston in 88 days from Liverpool, the vessel leaking at the rate of 1000 strokes per hour.

**COAL ON RAILROADS.**—A statement made by the Reading Railroad Company sets forth the fact that the locomotive engine "Maxatany," weighing about 13 1/2 tons, from 1st July to 1st of December, 1844, five months, made 81 trips on the road, transporting 16,120 tons of coal. The "United States," weighing about 18 tons, during the same time, 58 trips, with 21,205 tons of coal.—*Read. Dem. Press.*

**LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.**

Correspondence of the Phila. Ledger.

HARRISBURG, April 3.

A bill to incorporate a "Saw-mill, Railroad and Coal Company," was read in place by Mr. Bright, of Northumberland.

The bill "for the regulation and continuance of a system of education, by common schools," was resumed on second reading, and all to the 23d section passed without opposition. The 23d section reads as follows:

Section 23. When a free school, of the common grade, in any accepting district, shall be under the care and direction of any religious society, it shall be lawful for the directors of such district to cause to be paid to the proper person or persons, for the support of such school, any portion of the school funds of the district which they may deem just and reasonable, not exceeding the rateable share of the taxable inhabitants whose children, wards or apprentices shall be taught in such school. *Provided*, That said director shall be satisfied that such payment is not injurious to the common schools of such district, and that such free schools shall be open to the visits of the directors, and conducted in conformity to the common school system.

Mr. Hollingshead moved to strike out the words "under the care and direction of any religious society," and to insert "any two or more persons," and to add at the end these words, "And provided further, that the said free school shall not be under the care and direction of any religious society."

Mr. Hollingshead made a few remarks in favor of his amendment, and so did Mr. Banning, Messrs. J. S. Brewster and M. Borrel opposed the amendment; and a vote being taken, it was negatived, yeas 21, nays 56.

The section then passed—62 to 18.

**SENATE.**—Amendments made by the House to the bill providing for a Reporter of the Decisions of the Supreme Court were concurred in; so the bill is now passed.

The negatived bill to erect a new county out of Lycoming and Bradford, to be called "Sullivan," was re-considered and passed.

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**COFFER—GREAT DISCOVERY.**—A mine of copper has been discovered near Fort Wilkins, Copper Harbor, Lake Superior, which is supposed to be richer than any other in the United States. At the surface it is about twenty inches wide, spreading out as it deepens, and is supposed to be at least three miles in length. Specimens of the ore have been raised, which warrant the belief that the mine averages seventy-five per cent. pure copper. Particles of silver and gold have been found intermixed with the copper; and it is calculated that the mine will easily yield \$6,000,000 annually. Our information is from a source that we cannot doubt its correctness.—*Green Bay Republican.*

The New York letter of the National Intelligencer says—  
The musical world here is at present divided between the merits of the two newly invented attachments for the piano forte—COLEMAN'S and WALKER'S. Many give the preference to Mr. Walker's, as producing greater variety in the tones, and adding more to the capacity of the instrument. It is believed that Mr. Walker's "attachment" is the one most likely to be introduced into general use. A combination of the two inventions would render the piano the most comprehensive of all musical instruments.

**DEATH OF MR. COLEMAN THE MUSICAL ARTIST.**—The death of Mr. Coleman, the inventor of the celebrated "Eldon Attachment" to the Piano Forte, is announced in New York. He died suddenly at his residence in Saratoga, on Saturday evening of the month.

**THE MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.**—Professor Morse is to get a salary from the government of \$2000 a year; his two assistants, Messrs. Vail and Rogers get the one \$1100, and the other \$1000 a year; two keepers of the laboratory get \$300 a year each.

The Woods in the neighborhood of Woolbury, N. J., have been burning for several days, and an immense amount of timber have been destroyed.

**SINGULAR ACCIDENT.**—A young man walking through a newly opened field at New Orleans when not a breath of air was stirring, a tree fell upon him, and crushed him to death.

**THE JESUITS AND EUGENE SUE.**—The last number of the *Wandering Jew* attacks the order of the Jesuit with great vigor.

**THE AMERICAN MUSKET** costs the Government nine dollars apiece; the English musket costs four dollars and a half. That in use in America is too heavy—its weight is much greater than the French and German.

**"THE LONDON TIMES"** circulation reaches over 20,000 copies daily. One of them contained 1140 advertisements, the duty on which to government amount to \$400, and the price to the proprietors \$3500.

**GALVANISM APPLIED TO VEGETATION.**—At a meeting of the American Agricultural Association of New York, a few evenings ago, several tomatoes and other plants were exhibited, which had been made to bear fruit by the aid of Galvanism—the seed having been sown on the 12th of last month.

**DEATH OF TAVERNS.**—A summary mode of settling the license question has been adopted by the Corporation of Huntsville, Ala., who have fixed the license for retailing spirituous liquors within one mile of the Court House at \$2,500.

**SANTA ANA.**—By the rumors lately from Mexico, there is a strong probability that Santa Ana has escaped. If her gold has bought him freedom, or the new government has winked at his flight, rather than assume the responsibility of a decision on his case.

**MILLERITE VAGRANTS.**—The authorities of Bangor, Maine, have sent four Millerites, two men and two women, to the house of correction, as vagrants.

**GENERAL WASHINGTON.**—A writer in an exchange, urging the advantages of introducing Indian corn meal to the laborers in Europe, says:—"General Washington, even on the most stable occasions, at Mount Vernon, could not be prevailed upon to forego his 'wash-cake' for dinner, made of the dough of Indian meal, placed between cabbage-leaves, and baked in the ashes on the kitchen hearth."

There is in the possession of one of the old Dutch families of Albany, a parrot, known to be eighty-two years old. The bird is now blind, but notwithstanding that, it can walk to any part of the house without difficulty, and recognizes the different members of the family by their footsteps.

**A SHOPKEEPER**, the other day, stuck upon his door the following laconic advertisement—"A boy wanted." On going to his shop the next morning he beheld a smiling little urchin in a basket, with the following pithy label—"Here he is."

**A YOUNG MAN** applied for the benefit of the bankrupt act, and upon being asked how much he owed, he said he saw they charged a man \$10 for kissing a married woman in Ohio, and if the price was as high here for kissing girls, he must be in debt about a half a million.

**A GREEK WOMAN** wears her whole fortune upon her person, in the shape of jewels, or gold coins. We believe that this mode of investment is adopted in a great measure for safety's sake. It has the advantage of enabling a suitor to reckon, as well as to admire the object of his affection.