

New-York, Nov. 20, 1845.

M. M. Noah, Esq.:

Dear sir: While reading your very interesting illustrations of the Hebrew law and usages, published in The Tribune, I was rather surprised to meet the declaration that Baptism was a Hebrew rite; and I beg leave to say that I shall be gratified by being enabled to see the evidences of the fact, and to have your opinion of the Origin of the rite. My attention having been directed to the investigation of the Ancient Mysteries, have become satisfied that a species of Baptism was practiced therein, before the foundation of the Hebrew Commonwealth, in India, Egypt, Greece and Britain; and as those Mysteries, in the remote antiquity of their institution, were intended to preserve a pure worship of the Deity, and the transmission of the traditions of the early ages of the human family, the ritual must have had one common origin, but I was not aware that Baptism had been incorporated into the Jewish rites.

There is also another point which I wish to understand better. It is this: "If she still refused to change her faith, or become a proselyte of the gate, or to observe the seven precepts of the sons of Noah," &c. What are the seven precepts referred to, and whence were they derived? The old Constitution of the Freemasons speak of the "three Principles of Noah," and it seems probable that the three and the seven descend from the same source. Undoubtedly many of your sources of information are contained in what to me are sealed books, or I would only trouble you for the references and hope you will pardon me for thus attempting to give you additional labor.

I am, dear sir, respectfully yours,

JAMES HERRING.

Grand Sec'y Grand Lodge S. N. Y. Howard House, N. Y.

M. M. Noah's Reply.

I shall proceed cheerfully to reply to Mr. Herring's question serially.

Circumcision and Baptism were the initiatory rites for the admission of Hebrew children into the established religion; and these two rites were inseparable from the earliest periods, but they are not both of the same divine authority. The impressions I know prevail, that Baptism received its original form, and derived its observance from the apostle John, who baptized Jesus in the Jordan, but it is evident, that the Baptism by John, was the introduction to a new faith and not a new practice. Jesus, born a Jew, had received the initiatory rites in infancy, and understood them well. Maimonides—great authority always among Jews and Christians, as a wise interpreter of the law—says, (see Hah Cap. 13.) "Israel was admitted into the covenant by three things: by Circumcision, by Baptism, and by Sacrifice. Circumcision was in Egypt, as it is said, none uncircumcised shall eat the Passover. Baptism was in the wilderness, before the giving of the law, as it is said, "Thou shalt sanctify them to-day and to-morrow and let them wash their garments and sacrifice, as it is said, "and he sent the young men of the Children of Israel, and they offered burnt offerings, they offered them for all Israel."

The origin of Baptism, dates from the time of Jacob, when he received into the Church the young women of Sichen, and other heathens who lived with him. Jacob said to his family, (Gen. xxxv. 2) and to all that were with him, "put away from you the strange Gods and be ye clean, and change your garments." Eben Ezra, also great authority, applies the words "be ye clean" to the washing and purification of the body;—hence the origin of Baptism.

It is certain that heathens who become converts to the religion of the Jews, were admitted by Circumcision and Baptism, was inseparably joined to it.

"Whenever," says Maimonides, "a Heathen is willing to be joined to the covenant of Israel, and place himself under the wings of the Divine majesty, and take the yoke of the law upon him voluntarily, Circumcision, Baptism, and Ablution are required." This practice continued to the reign of Solomon, but at that period, other nations became proselytes in such vast numbers that they were received by Baptism or washing only. Some time elapsed, say thirty days between Circumcision and Baptism in order to give time for the wound to heal; the child was then brought to a running stream, called "gathering of the waters," and plunged in. If a man, the Triumvir or the Judicial Consistory charged with this duty, when placed in the water instructed him in some of the weightier obligations of the law, and plunged him in, so that every part of the body was immersed, not the tip of a finger was left exposed;—hence the difference between sprinkling and immersion in Baptism. If an Israelite, says Maimonides, finds a Heathen infant and baptizes him for a proselyte, he becomes a member of the Church, and Baptism was always administered by persons regularly ordained, an appointed for that purpose, and witnesses and written testimony were necessary to prove the fact. Proselytes however were unwillingly made at all times, for many were tenacious of their old customs, and fell again to idolatry, so that finally Baptism was gradually abandoned, and it is only now practiced when a Christian female desires to become a Jewess, and then under very considerable restrictions and ceremonies.

You will thus perceive that the rite of Baptism dates from the time of Jacob, and by the wisest interpreters of the law, was pronounced a Jewish rite and followed Circumcision.

"A Proselyte of the Gate," is the next point about which you ask for information. There were two kinds of Proselytes—the first of the Covenant—the second of the Gate. The first

though of Gentile birth, were admitted to all the privileges of the Jews; they worshipped in the same Court of the Temple with the Hebrews, while others were prohibited, and were partakers of all privileges, Divine and human. The proselytes of the Gate were Gentiles, who were admitted to the worship of God of Israel, and the hopes of a future life, but who were not Circumcised. These Proselytes although permitted to worship in the Temple, could not enter the same Court with the Proselytes of the Covenant, but were deemed unclean and a special Court assigned to them, called the "Court of the Gentiles"—they had a distinct place where the law was expounded to them, they were not denizens of Jerusalem. In the New Testament, Proselytes of the Covenant are called merely Proselytes, and Proselytes of the Gate are called worshippers; and it is a curious fact, and but little known, that the first proselytes to Christianity were the Proselytes of the Gate. Their condition being free and unconstrained, merely semi Jews, the transition to another faith was easy and natural, and as they were most numerous in the Roman State, they were the first cause of the spreading of the Gospel; although Jesus of Nazareth never addressed himself to them, but always to his brethren who, like himself, were born Jews, and were not so by adoption.

The seven precepts of the sons of Noah, of which as you say, Masoury knows only of three commonly called the Noachides, are as follows:

- I. A renunciation of all idols;
- II. The worship of the true and only God;
- III. To commit no murder;
- IV. Not to be defiled by incest;
- V. To avoid rapine, theft and robbery;
- VI. To administer justice;
- VII. Not to eat flesh with blood in it.

This was the Common Law that prevailed from the time that Noah left the ark until the arrival of the Jews at the foot of Mount Sinai. The law of Moses is the codification of the Common Law, as given by the sons of Noah, amplified, extended and made to apply in justice and in mercy, in good faith and principle, to the whole civilized world which now live under those laws, with some immaterial local amendments. I am dear sir, Yours, &c. &c.

M. M. N.

THE MISSING MEXICAN INSTALMENT—MORE MYSTERY.—A letter from Gen. Santa Anna, to Chas. Chalmers, a merchant of New York, is published in the New York Tribune of the 16th inst., from which we make an extract, touching the long missing indemnity. After mentioning that the money was raised in cash, and the first instalments paid in that medium, he then says in reference to the instalment of July 30:

"I dictated all the necessary measures, and positively ordered the Secretary of the Treasury to make the payment in specie according to my anterior provisions; so that, if, in defiance of my orders, the payment was made in bills or drafts, that functionary violated his duties by disobeying my commands, and the agent Don Emilio Voss was not less guilty in receiving, as he received, according to what you say, the amount in paper. At that same period I dictated, in advance, other orders for the successive instalments with all exactitude, and in ready cash; for, the people having contributed it in cash, I resolved and ordered that the money should not be employed for any other purpose; and my conversation with the Minister Shannon, which you mention, alludes to this.

"In short, in my opinion, the instalments to which you refer, were paid in ready cash; but, if it is not so, the Minister and the agent Voss, are responsible: the former for having disobeyed my positive orders, and the latter for not having fulfilled the orders of his constituents."

What says the Minister Shannon?

THE CANADIAN OPINION OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.—The Montreal Herald, which may be presumed to foreshadow the British comments on the message, holds the following strong language:

"We regret to see that the tone of the Message is decidedly unfriendly, and that there appears in it a studied determination to make no compromise whatever of the conflicting claims of the two countries.

"The successful villany practised upon Mexico in Texas, is now recommended to be adopted towards Great Britain in Oregon. Grants of land are promised to all who choose to go and settle there, and the certainty of their title to possession being confirmed by the United States Government distinctly held out. Mr. Polk will find that England is not Mexico.

"The style of impudent bravado adopted towards the European governments, and the threats against them if they dare to establish any new Colonies in North America, although peculiarly silly, are intended no doubt to irritate; they shew clearly that if Mr. Polk can possibly excite a war during his administration he will certainly do it.

"We much fear that the control of public affairs in the United States has fallen into the hands of bad men."

This is from an English press in Canada, and though the tone is as flippant as impudent, it will doubtless find a responsive echo in the mother country.

FIFTEEN FEET OF SNOW.—The Quebec Gazette of the 5th says that the thermometer at that place was down to ten degrees below zero, and the snow lies in heaps more than fifteen feet, and then falling so thick that it was impossible to see at a distance of a few feet. The St. Lawrence was piled up with floating ice. This degree of cold is more severe than the frightful climate of Moscow in 1812.



THE AMERICAN.

Saturday, December 20, 1845.

V. B. PAUL-WEIR, Esq., at his Real Estate and Coal Office, corner of 3d and Chestnut Streets, 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 S. E. Corner of Baltimore and Calvert sts., Baltimore.

A few loads of pine and hickory wood are wanted on subscription, at this office. Grain of all kinds will also be received.

A few 20 lb. kegs of printing ink can be had at this office, at Philadelphia prices, for cash.

It will be seen, by reference to our Congressional news, that Gen. Cameron's standing as a democrat has not suffered very much from the vituperations and slanders of a few papers professing peculiar democratic views, who vainly imagined that they had entirely demolished the General. Dr. Sturgeon, the cautious Senator, has been placed at the head of one committee, while Gen. Cameron has been placed at the head of two. This certainly argues well for the standing of the new Senator among his brother democrats in the U. S. Senate.

A condensed statement of the correspondence between the British and our own government on the Oregon question, will be found on our first page. It is a brief summary of the whole question.

The Misses Pike have been delivering lectures on Mnemonics or the art of Memory, in this place and Northumberland.

SLEIGHING.—The snow which fell on the 1st inst., still affords most excellent sleighing, notwithstanding the predictions of its sudden disappearance, on account of lunar influence. The moon is certainly at fault this time. How will our old friend, Capt. Jas. Lee, of Northumberland, account for the waning influence of the lunar orb on this all-important subject.

HARRISBURG PAPERS.—The Harrisburg Argus proposes to publish a daily and weekly paper, during the session of the legislature. We trust the editors will be fully rewarded for their enterprise. Terms for the daily, during the session, \$2; weekly, \$1.

The Democratic Union will be published twice a week during the session, at \$2. The Union is a well conducted paper. The Reporter is published on the same terms.

PRICE OF COAL, AND THE RAIL ROAD TO POTTSVILLE.—The Pottsville papers complain of the scarcity of coal in that town, and the difficulty in getting it. Coal is now worth \$2 40 in Pottsville, and is, we believe, never less than \$2 25. If our Pottsville friends will only assist us in completing the rail road between Shamokin and Pottsville, our operators will agree to deliver them coal from the Shamokin and intermediate mines, ten per cent. less than the Pottsville prices. The average cash price for coal, at this place, is about \$1 75 per ton—hauled about 20 miles from Shamokin, by horse power, on a wooden rail road. With a T rail track and motive power, it could be delivered here at \$1 50 per ton. The mines that will be opened on the route of the contemplated road, will have from 15 to 30 miles to the Pottsville market. Many of these mines have a breast of 500 feet above low water level, while the quantity of coal per acre is said to be from three to five times greater than that of the Schuylkill county region. The facilities for mining are therefore greater and would enable our operators to compete successfully with any other region, for the Philadelphia market. The new road would be a profitable concern from the coal trade alone, independent of the great Susquehanna trade that would pass over it.

TEXAS AS A STATE.—The House, on Tuesday, passed the resolutions admitting Texas as a State, without debate, by application of the previous question moved by Mr. McConnel. There was considerable confusion in the House. Some members asked to be excused from voting. The vote was finally taken and stood 141 to 56.

The resolutions for the defence of Oregon, passed the Senate the same day by a unanimous vote.

PURSEYISM IN BOSTON.—Right Rev. Bishop Eastburn, prelate of the diocese of Massachusetts, has issued a public declaration expressive of his disapprobation of certain Romish ceremonies, or "outward signs" of Catholicism introduced into that new church for free sittings, known as the "Church of the Advent," in Boston. These innovations of golden candlesticks, and of a large wooden cross by which the table is surmounted, the posture of facing the altar observed by the officiating clergy.

The Baptist Board of Foreign Missions have officially announced that the subscriptions necessary to extinguish the debt of \$40,000 have been completed.

The New York Morning News, of the 12th inst., says—"The Flour market is firm, but it is in rather a precarious state. The large amount of flour held here—amounting to over \$4,000,000—creates some demand for money, but the rate is not over six per cent., and within three days large amounts have been taken at 5 per cent.

OHIO PENITENTIARY.—Last year the Ohio Penitentiary yielded a revenue of \$18,925.

CALIFORNIA AND MEXICO.—The President in his message, states that negotiations will again be resumed with Mexico. Mr. Slidell, of Louisiana, has already been sent as Minister to that country. From the amicable tone of the Mexican papers in favor of President Herera, it is evident that all our difficulties will be amicably adjusted by treaty, and it is more than probable, that that delightful province, upper California, will be ceded to us for a valuable consideration. It is rumored that our Minister is authorized to offer ten millions or more, for the acquisition of this valuable territory. The climate and country is described as a perfect paradise, and in an agricultural point of view, is worth ten times as much as Oregon. We trust our minister will be successful in his negotiations. These operations will, besides, have a favorable effect upon the tariff in the way of raising additional revenue.

The following extracts will throw some light upon this subject:

From the N. O. Tropic of the 3d inst. UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.—From our files of Havana papers received yesterday by the Titi, we gather some particulars not before given, we believe, which, if at all to be relied on, throw new light upon our present relations with Mexico. We find them in the Diario de la Marina of the 14th ult. That paper, after alluding to its previous notices of the intelligence received by the steam packet from Vera Cruz, goes on to state that persons well acquainted with the secrets of the Mexican Government say that propositions to that Government have been made by our Consul at the city of Mexico, to settle the boundaries of the two countries (the annexation question being considered settled,) in the following manner. The United States to pay an indemnification of 4 or \$5,000,000; their boundary to be the Rio Bravo del Norte, including part of the States of Tamaulipas, Coahuila, Chihuahua, and New Mexico, with the city of Santa Fe.—The Vera Cruzano gives the following statement of the loss of territory by Mexico under such an arrangement. The whole of Texas—21,000 sq. leagues; Chihuahua—out of 21,526 sq. leagues, she will lose 3,600; New Mexico—out of 11,000 do. she will lose 6,600; Coahuila—out of 6,500 do. she will lose 1,175; Tamaulipas—out of 6,400 do. she will lose 2,300. Total loss, 34,675 sq. leagues.

The writer of the letters from Vera Cruz does not believe that the Mexican Government will accede to such a proposition at least, not for so small an indemnification as 4 or \$5,000,000. It is also stated by the same authority, that propositions have also been made for the acquisition of New California. The boundaries would be in that case—the River Gili, which unites with the Colorado near its mouth, and empties into the Gulf of California. This stream runs almost due West from the Rocky Mountains, through the State of Sonora. This acquisition of territory would give us the harbors of San Francisco, Monterey, and San Pedro.

We give the above speculations for what they are worth. Correspondence of the N. Y. Herald. WASHINGTON, Dec. 12, 1845. Negotiations are open for the purchase of California, and in less than sixty days it will be ours. This is all I can tell you now, but you may rely on this information. What I said thirty days ago, is true now, and will be history in a few weeks—that by bold and unwavering firmness in insisting upon our claims where our right is unquestionable, and by wise and consummate diplomacy where we can win power and territory, James K. Polk and James Buchanan will extend the sway of our eagle, and plant the pillars of our Empire deep over the continent. The acquisition of California is the most important operation of our government since its foundation. Another letter about this matter in a day or two.

WELLS, in his last letter from the Continent, dated at Frankfurt, thus speaks of a fine painting of Huss, the celebrated martyr and reformer, which he saw in one of the galleries of that city:

"I feel urged to record my impressions of a painting by Lessing of Dusseldorf, representing Huss pleading before the Council of Constance—utterly impossible as it would be to convey to you the force and beauty of the story as told on canvass. Of some eight or ten ecclesiastics sitting in council, (figures of the size of life, and painted with wonderful reality,) each one has expression enough in his features to make a biography unnecessary. The principal person in the council is a fat voluptuary of a pontiff, who holds the accusation in his hand is listening carelessly to a crafty looking monk who is commenting on the martyr's argument. Three stony-hearted looking cardinals sit listening with cold and grave attention. One old monk seems dismayed with the force of the heretical reasoning, and a younger bishop, seated behind the cardinals, has given way, evidently, to conviction. In the background is an old man gazing on Huss with a pity quite separate from the argument, and so life-like are all these representations of men, that a sudden introduction into the presence of a human assembly could hardly be more startling. But the countenance of Huss himself contains the lesson. It is the embodiment of a spirit far beyond warping by fear, death or torture, calm, clear, and fearless, yet full of beautiful humility. That face, pallid with confinement and emaciated with thought and self denial, has in it a rebuke for selfish and unexampled enjoyment of life, which it would be hard, I should suppose, for even the most casual observer to evade; and so free from exaggeration is the depicted wildness of the other characters of the picture, that it is from oneself, as well as from the Council of Constance, that the martyr's character seems to separate him so prominently. The picture is a sermon. It is a pity that there were not more such perpetual sermons, to send instruction in at the eye which would be refused at the ear."

Correspondence of the Public Ledger.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday evening, Dec. 9, 1845.

Messrs. Editors:—It is no easy task to depict the excitement and chagrin that prevails this evening, in consequence of the elections held today, in the Senate. Disappointment seems to exist all around—to some an agreeable one, but to many exceedingly mortifying. The elections being the order of the day, at an early hour they were taken up. On the first ballot for Secretary, the vote stood for Mr. Dickens, 25; Mr. Sturgiss 24—Messrs. Benton, Bailey and Haywood voting with the Whigs. So Mr. Dickens was declared to be elected. The vote for Sergeant-at-Arms was nearly unanimous—Mr. Beale (who was nominated by both parties,) having received 40 out of 45 votes. For Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, four balloting were had before an election could be effected. As there is something of an anomaly in these, I add them entire.

First Ballot—Dr. Salisbury 24, Mr. Young 19, Mr. Randolph 3, Mr. Holland 1, Mr. Stettinius 1, Mr. Chubb 1.

Second Ballot—Salisbury 24, Young 22, Holland 3.

Third Ballot—Salisbury 23, Holland 23, Young 3.

Fourth Ballot—Holland 25, Salisbury 22, seattering 2.

From these several results, it would seem that the three Democratic Senators above named and the twenty-two Whigs changed sides on the third balloting, each party aiming to secure the election of the candidate of the other. Prior to the fourth ballot, it is probable an understanding was had which secured the election of the Benton candidate. Mr. Holland, I understand, was formerly book-keeper in the office of the Globe, and refused to be transferred with that establishment to the new editors of the Union. This may account for the fact of his being taken up by those Senators and may show how the wind blows in that quarter. There are twenty-eight Democratic Senators in the city, yet, owing to the sickness of Mr. McDuffie, but twenty-seven were present. These, had they voted the caucus ticket, would have secured its success by a majority of five. The result, however, being as it is, you can readily imagine the amount of wrath it has engendered among the Democrats, especially those looking for places in the event of a change of Secretary, and those who expected the example of a Democratic Congress to have an influence on the Executive and Cabinet in favor of the removal of some of the numerous Whigs in the several departments. The three Senators are cursed without stint or mercy. It is not a little singular that these men, some of whom, at least, owe much to caucus, should bolt the course, while Mr. Cameron and Mr. Turney adhered throughout to the nominees, and thus far have stuck close to their party.

After the election of Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, the Senate proceeded to the election of Chairmen for the Standing Committees, which was partially progressed with when the hour of adjournment arrived.

Among the other proceedings in the Senate, was the presentation of a message from the President, with the Constitution of the State of Texas; and a communication from the proprietors of the U. S. Journal, offering to do the printing for the Senate at a price 20 per cent. less than paid at the last session. Mr. Cass submitted two resolutions, directing inquiries by the appropriate committees relative to reforms in the management of the Army and Navy.

In the House of Representatives, to-day, little transpired that would be of interest to your readers; and indeed but little can be expected of an important character until the holidays are over. Mr. Schenck called up a resolution, offered by him on yesterday, asking whether some of the members of the House had not been elected contrary to law, (by general ticket,) which was laid on the table by a vote of 112 yeas to 72 nays. Mr. McKay introduced a bill fixing the prices of public printing in certain cases. A motion yesterday, to print an extra number of copies of the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, was rejected. A series of resolutions was offered by Mr. McKay, to refer the several portions of the President's message to appropriate committees. When that portion relating to the tariff came up, Mr. Stewart, of Penn., moved that the Committee of Ways and Means be instructed not to report any bill which may interfere with the provisions and policy of the tariff bill of 1842. An interesting and animated debate ensued on this, pending which I left the House.

Official information has been received at the State Department, of a decree by the Haytian Government, prohibiting all intercourse with the insurgents of the Eastern part of the Island of Hayti; and closing the ports and coast of that part against foreign commerce.

MONDAY EVENING, Dec. 15, 1845.

The Senate, to-day has been the theatre of an eloquent and very interesting debate, mainly touching our relations, at this time, with Great Britain. It arose on a call from Mr. Cass for the consideration of resolutions offered by him, in the early part of last week, directing inquiry by the appropriate committees into the state of our means for national defence—fortifications, shipping, ordnance, strength and condition of the army, navy and militia, and also what additions to each are necessary.

On making the motion, the Senator from Michigan addressed the Senate for a full hour, chaining his audience on the floor and the gallery in admiration of his eloquence and interest in the subject, and manner in which he handled it. He reviewed the whole ground of the Oregon question—the grounds assumed and maintained by the President, which he sustained in the most unqualified terms, and urged upon Senators the importance of prompt preparations for any emergency that may arise. He showed clearly the impolicy of standing with our arms folded while a nation, powerful and jealous of every advancement we make towards prosperity, and in extending the blessings of our institutions over the hu-

man race, is fortifying herself on our frontiers, and arming herself to the teeth, and that our country could not be too soon prepared for a crisis with those who have watched the indications in England and other countries had for some time been predicting.

He showed that the negotiations in the Oregon controversy had gone to their full extent, and that the question could be settled without an appeal to arms, only by England receding from her high demands to the territory which we claim, or on surrendering to her what we believe to be our right—that the question could not be settled by the arbitration of a third power—that the bias of European governments was against our institutions, and we could not again trust our rights to their decision. He deprecated a war as a great calamity; but, said he, there is a greater, the loss of national honor. He denounced the idea of yielding a known right to the arrogant demands of any power, and from a dread of what that power might do, in case of a refusal: showed that a people who would yield a right to purchase a temporary exemption from injuries or wars that may be threatened by any arrogant or grasping nation, will inevitably sink beneath the oppression which weakness and timidity invite, and repeated what he had said on a former occasion, that "it is better to fight for the first of a territory than for the last." Yours, &c.

SENATE.

United States Senate.

The democratic members of the United States Senate went into caucus and nominated their candidates for offices, among whom we were very glad to see Dr. SETH SALISBURY, our worthy State Librarian, as Door Keeper; and we supposed, of course, the democrats having a clear majority, that the proceedings of the caucus would be confirmed by an election. But it seems that Messrs. BENTON, HAYWOOD and BAILEY, democrats, followed the example of Messrs. Wilcox, Dimmick, Ebaugh, Horton, Rahn and Ross, of our last Senate, with some of the members of the House of Representatives, did not attend the caucus, and refused to be bound by its nominations. On the election they voted with the whigs and defeated the caucus nominations. We are glad to see that Messrs. CAMERON and STURGEON, supported the party candidates. This movement produced, as might be supposed, considerable excitement against Mr. Benton, and his colleagues. The correspondent of the New York Globe says: "I hesitate not to pronounce the conduct of Col. Benton upon this occasion as a most flagrant outrage upon the party, and as a dangerous precedent to be set by one who pretends to so much regard for party usages."

We presume, however, that it had not much effect in the Senate, as we see Messrs. Benton and Haywood, were afterwards placed at the head of important committees.

The following are the chairmen of the several committees as elected by the Senate. We observe that Pennsylvania has been duly honored. Mr. STURGEON is at the head of one and Mr. CAMERON two committees. Foreign Relations—Mr. Allen, of Ohio. Finance—Mr. Calhoun, of N. C. Commerce—Mr. Haywood, do. Manufactures—Mr. Dickinson, of N. Y. Agriculture—Mr. Sturgeon, of Pa. Military Affairs—Mr. Benton, of Mo. Military—Mr. Atchison, do. Naval Affairs—Mr. Fairfield, of Me. Public Lands—Mr. Breese, of Ill. Private Land Claims—Mr. Levy, of Pa. Indian Affairs—Mr. Sevier, of Ark. Claims—Mr. Bagley, of Ala. Revolutionary Claims—Mr. Simple, of Ill. Judiciary—Mr. Ashley, of Ark. Post Offices and Post Roads—Mr. Niles. Roads and Canals—Mr. Hannegan. Pensions—Mr. Upham. District of Columbia—Mr. Haywood. Patents and the Patent Office—Mr. Cameron. Retrenchment—Mr. Lewis. Territories—Mr. Westcott. Public Buildings—Mr. Cameron. Contingent Expenses of the Senate—Mr. Niles. Public Printing—Mr. Atherton.

Harrisburg Argus.

Some of the Philadelphia papers appear to think it strange that Coal should be scarce in Pottsville. Strange though it may seem, it is nevertheless true. Owing to the demand abroad for Coal, the price has risen in this borough until it now costs three dollars per ton by the time it is put in the cellars, while it only costs \$4 50 per ton in Philadelphia, and many of our citizens have thus far been unable to get their winter supplies. We learn that complaints are made throughout the Coal Region, that it is almost impossible to get good Coal for family use.—Mines' Journal.

POPULATION IN OREGON.—There are from six to seven thousand emigrants from the United States in Oregon, and from preparations now in progress in forming emigrating companies, there is no doubt but this population will be next year double at least, what it is now.

The price of Coal in Wheeling, is three and a half cents a bushel, while at Cincinnati and Louisville it is thirty cents a bushel, and supplies extremely limited.

A BULL.—A gentleman in Massachusetts has invented what he denominates an "invisible door spring," which one of our editorial brethren says may be seen at his office.

THE CLERGY OF ALABAMA have called a Sabbath Convention, to be held in Mobile on the 28th of February, 1845.

NEWSPAPERS.—There are 1,555 newspapers and periodicals in the United States, and but 1,801 in all the world beside.