



THE STEAMSHIP "STAR" AT SEA.

The Editor was absent from home at last week—in attendance as a Juror at the United States District Court, held at Philadelphia. The reader will please excuse short-comings in this issue.

Letter from the Editor.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 28, '60. I reached this city on Monday evening, and took quarters at the Merchant's Hotel. The farther east from home I came the less snow I found, the scene gradually changing from the white mantle which covered the soil of Adams to the alsh and mud which was so uninvitingly spread over the streets and sidewalks of this otherwise pleasant sojourning place.

There is no city news of prominent importance. Yesterday, the 22d, was passed in by the ringing of bells, and during the day I noticed several military companies on parade. Beyond this there was nothing to distinguish the day from any other.

The number of strangers here is gradually increasing. Although early in the season, Southern and Western merchants are coming in, and trade, it is thought, will soon become brisk. The mercantile houses are prepared to meet any demands upon them for goods, let them be ever so large.

The meeting of the Opposition (Black Republican and Know Nothing) State Convention at Harrisburg yesterday, was the subject of no little speculation here. A heated "snarl" was anticipated, and that anticipation has been realized. It was known that Simon Cameron was playing "high" at the game of "thumbs up"; and he has come off winner, but only after a battle contested inch by inch by those unwilling to dance to his bidding. The Convention endorsed him for President at the Chicago Convention, and nominated his favorite, Curtin, for Governor.

There were threats of bolting and other demonstrations of a stormy character. Whether peace can be brought to the troubled waters between this time and the election remains to be seen. The nominations were not confirmed by unanimous votes, as in the general custom.

The leading spirits in this assemblage of "Black spirits and white—Blue spirits and grey," were M. B. Loric, Charles Frailey, and a few others of the same stamp, who, a few years ago, when in the Democratic party, were only noted for their treacherous dispositions.

Unless the "course of events" promised to tumble honors and spoils into their laps, their "craves were loud and deep," and they happened upon the occurrence of nearly every Democratic State Convention. Although in new company, they do not appear to have mended their manners any. The Opposition will yet discover that they will have a worse job to get along with them than they will without them.

The Democratic State Convention, to take place at Reading on Wednesday next, is also a subject of conversation, and the prevailing preference seems to be for—the best man. I am glad to notice this praiseworthy spirit. It augurs well for the success of the Union-loving and non-sectarian Democracy of the old Keystone in the great battle of 1860.

Let wise councils prevail at Reading, and Helperism will be routed, "horse, foot and dragoon." This city has long been justly celebrated for its excellent hotel accommodations, and now there is another candidate for public favor in that line—the "Continental" on Chestnut street, at Ninth. It is really a magnificent establishment, and, of course, has a large run. But for me, the "Merchant's" in Fourth street, near Market, is just the place. The Messrs. McKean cannot be excused for unremittent attention to the comfort of their guests, no effort being spared to make every one feel perfectly at home. Their tables are all that could be desired, and their chambers dainty. Always command us to such a house as their's, and such clever, whole-souled fellows. S.

For the information of farmers and others we would state that the Patent Office, from the limited appropriations of last year, has been circumscribed in its operations, and therefore unable to purchase seeds for distribution, as heretofore.

Fires in Reading.—The upper story of the book building of the City Hotel was destroyed by fire on Monday evening week. How about the fire fully insured. On Tuesday evening another building, the employment of John Jones, was destroyed by fire. There were several houses in the vicinity, one of which had burnt to death, and another was being burned up by the fire on the next day.

Tom M'yer's death.—Tom M'yer, a young man of about twenty-one years of age, is traveling through eastern Pennsylvania, representing himself as agent of the American Tract Society. Recent developments prove that he is an impostor. We call attention to the fact that he is now in the city of Philadelphia, visiting his family.

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The Dawn of Democracy.—The Democratic stock is rising in New York State. The first gain of the election campaign of 1860 was held from Binghamton a short time since, and since a Democratic victory and a gain—Several town elections were held in that State last week, the results of which are most encouraging. In Canajoharie, Montgomery county, on Tuesday, the Democrats elected their Supervisor for the first time in five years, and the rest of their ticket, with the exception of two or three minor officers. In Yates county, the Democratic candidates were elected by majorities ranging from 49 to 81. In Broadbent, Fulton county, on Tuesday, the entire Democratic ticket was elected by an average majority of 50. This town has given for years past. In Franklin county, the Democrats have carried ten towns, and the Republicans four, with two towns to hear from. This is a Democratic gain, the Board of Supervisors being a tie last year. This is very well for a beginning.

The Ultimate of Secularism.—The N. Y. Courier and Enquirer indignantly denies the recent story from Washington, that there is an arrangement for Mr. Seward to retire from the contest and leave the course free to Mr. Bates, to run as the Republican nominee. On the contrary, it very distinctly states, that while Mr. Seward's friends will acquiesce, if he is beat at the Chicago Convention, by a genuine Republican of 1856, they will not submit to have him overruled by Bell, Crittenden, Bates, or any other candidate who was not a Republican, and did not support Fremont in 1856, but in the event of such a nomination will bolt. We quote: "But if on the contrary, the Republican Convention should so far forget what is due to their constituents, as to place in nomination for the Presidency, and proclaim as our standard bearer in 1860, Mr. Bates, or any other person who labored successfully to defeat us in 1856, and thus secured the election of James Buchanan, we repeat what we have heretofore said, no earthly consideration will induce us to support such a nominee.

"When either of them asks to become our standard bearer, and modestly requires us to fall into their ranks, in the name of the Republican party, we must respectfully, but decidedly, decline the honor intended to be conferred upon us, in other words, we bolt in advance."

The Courier further announces that it is "neither or nothing" with Mr. Seward now. If not nominated he will retire from public life: "We will say, for the information of Mr. Seward's friends, that we have the best reason for believing, that if not elected to the Presidency next November, his public life may be considered as terminated, as he would not even consent to a re-election to the Senate."

Removal of the Seat of Government.—The bill now under consideration in the State Senate for the removal of the Seat of Government from Harrisburg to Philadelphia, provides that "if the city of Philadelphia shall, within two years from the date hereof, provide ample buildings and accommodations for the legislative halls and offices of Government, including a mansion for the residence of the Governor, the faith of this Commonwealth is hereby pledged that the Seat of Government shall be removed to the City of Philadelphia, and provision be made by law for carrying the purposes of this act into effect without delay."

The postage bill of our State Legislature from January 1st to February 1st, 1860, was \$2,400. Some of the members felt disposed to question its correctness, until they found it was all right. Sending off cartloads of documents is an expensive business.

The Franking Privilege.—Those who have closely scrutinized the subject, say the House is nearly equally divided on the question of the franking privilege, but the preponderance of feeling is against its abolition. The committee to whom the subject has been referred, consists of Messrs. Vallandigham, Kellogg of Illinois, Barnett, Adams of Kentucky, and Stokes.

Small Pox.—Is This a Fact?—A gentleman of intelligence and observation informs us, from all the information he can obtain from medical men, now having many cases of small-pox, under treatment, that there is no home in the city where gas is burned, of the earth's consumption, in which the disease has yet found lodgment. The gas, it is supposed, is a powerful disinfectant, and hence there is no contagion within the circle of its influence. He says that a person burning gas may contract the disease abroad and take it home with him, but it will not be communicated to any other member of his family.—St. John's Morning News.

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