THE OBSERVER.

B. P. SLOAN, - - - - - - - EDITOR & PROPRIETOR.

ERIE, SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1859.

OUR NEW DRESS.

We think there are none of our readers who will fail to admire the new and beautiful dress in which THE OBSERVER appears to-day. We trust no one will deem us egotistical when we say that we are specially gratified in presenting our paper in so neat and tasteful attire. In typographical appearance we think it will now compare favorably with any journal in the State.—Since we assumed the ENTIRE SUPERVISION AND OWNERSHIP of the establishment we have had repeated and encouraging assurances of approval from friends in every part of the country. If our paper has been acceptable in the past it will be doubly so in the future. We hope by unceasing effort to make it in every particular equal to the best papers in the State. It is our purpose to make it a model family paper—one that can be read with profit and pleasure in every household. And hence it is that, while there will be no compromise in its political character—while it will strenuously advocate the time honored principles of the Democratic party, and defend her statesmen and measures—we confidently appeal to the members of *all* parties for support. Not exclusively a political paper, it will furnish each week to its readers a summary of passing events, *at home and abroad*, that will prove acceptable to the firesides of THE PEOPLE.

The price of the paper as heretofore will be, to single subscribers, $1 50; but in order to increase its circulation, and secure advance payments, we will send *five copies to one address for* $5 00! With this liberal offer in view, will each and every one of our present subscribers canvass among his neighbors, and in addition to his own name, send us *four* more, and have a package of five sent to his address. There is hardly one of our subscribers but what can do this. Let us hear from them!

A Collector at Last.

By a private dispatch from Senator BIGLER, we are pleased to learn that General MURRAY WHALLON has been appointed and confirmed as Collector of this Port. In making this announcement, we are free to say, that we do it with unaloyed satisfaction. He is and has been one of the wheel horses of the party in this county. He held the office under the administration of Mr. Polk, and gave universal satisfaction. He was appointed by President BUCHANAN, about a year ago one of the Commissioners to investigate the frauds in the California mint, which duty he has performed to the satisfaction of the Government; and now upon his return the President has conferred upon him this additional mark of confidence and favor. The party and the people will be satisfied—a truth we could not have said had some one of the immortal "five" succeeded in making the President believe that the shortest road to Washington was by the way of Chicago.

Failure of the Post Office Bill.

The bill making appropriations for carrying on the business of our extensive Postal system failed to become a law, in consequence of a disagreement between the Senate and the House in regard to some of its details, and consequently the Department is left perfectly helpless and almost penniless for nearly a year at least, unless the President shall deem it a cause for convening Congress in extra session. The matter upon which the two houses split, was the proposition of the Senate to increase the rates of postage and to abolish the franking privilege. Upon the latter proposition there is no division of sentiment among the people; it is a privilege which was originially conferred upon the people's servents for the benefit of the people themselves, but it has been so abused, so utterly perverted from the original design, and made so burthensome upon the postal system, that it has become obvious to every reflecting mind that cheap postage and the present franking privilege cannot exist at one and the same time. In regard to cheap postage itself, we conceive there is more bar-room demagogueism in the cry of most of its advocates than love for the "dear people's" interests. We are an advocate of cheap postage in the true acceptation of the term; but that is not cheap postage which compells the employees of the Department to wrok for nothing and find themselves What Post-Master, outside of the cities and large towns, receives, under the present system, any thing like an adequate remuneration for the labor he performs. What that labor is, no one unenitiated has any conception. We might draw a picture of it, so vivid that even the dullest might comprehend it; but that is not our purpose now. Some day when we are in the humor, we may do it. Our present article is simply to chronicle the fact that, through the disagreement alluded to, *somebody* has entailed upon the country irremidable mischief. Of course, as the Senate is Democratic, the Republican papers are loud in laying the blame upon that body,—while upon the other hand, we see papers exclusively partizan, belonging to our side of the political household, that are equally as positive that upon the House the blame should fall. Now, may not both be right? When Congress met in December it was as perfectly obvious to each and every member of both branches that there ought to be means provided for carrying on this department of the public service as it was on the night of the 3d of March. Why then should this bill have been delayed until a factious member could kill it by talking against time? Why could it not have been pressed a month ago, and the disagreement between the two branches adjusted in a satisfactory manner. Simply because faction must do its appointed work. 1860 was seen in the distance, and political intriegue is more important to a majority of our law makers than the welfare of the people. What the consequence will be to the service we are not advised sufficiently to say. One thing is evident, nothing could possibly produce more serious embarrassment to the complicated business transactions of the country than a suspension in the regular operations of our ramified postal system. Its functions are performed with such general regularity that we have never been able to comprehend what might be the consequences of temporary stoppage or derangement. Even slight irregularities are attended with the utmost inconvenience. And yet the Department cannot subsist without money. The revenues are inadequate to defray expenses. Congress having refused to appropriate money, no power exists, in the interval, to apply any portion of the public funds to this object, no matter how reasonable and necessary it may become. Rather than see the regular transmission of the mails cease, it may, as we at first intimated, become the duty of the President to convene an extra session of Congress.

DEATH OF HON. A. V. BROWN.

Hon. A. V. BROWN, Post Master General, died at Washington on Tuesday. Just one week previous he was at the Department attending to the duties of the station he so ably filled. The death of a man so eminent at any time is calculated to produce a deep sensation, but when, as in this case, it occurs so unexpectedly, and when too his services are so important to the country, the feeling of sorrow and regret becomes doubly intensified. Gov. BROWN has been distinguished by many marks of public confidence—as the Governor of Tennessee, as one of her representatives in Congress for many years, and finally as Post Master General, he has made a mark upon the annals of his country that will endure as long as virtue, honesty, and true patriotism are passports to the confidence of the people.

Gov. BROWN was born on the 15th of August, 1795, in the county of Burnswick, Va., and was consequently in the 64th year of his age. His father was a clergyman, and served as a soldier in our war of Independence. His early advantages of education were good, which, added to a strong mind, and a studious life of reading and observation, made him one of the ripest scholars and polished gentlemen it was ever our fortune to become acquainted with. In all the relations of life Gov. BROWN presented a model that our youth may well take for imitation; studious in his profession, and industrious in its practice; faithful to his party and honorable to his political opponents, the voice of calumny has never dared to breathe a syllable against his fame. The private character of Gov. BROWN was irreproachable. As a man and a Christian, his friends have the happiness to know that the virtues they admired on earth have not perished, but have been transplanted to a purer and more genial sphere, where they will flourish immortally. What his principles were may best be learned from his address to the Law Class of the University, delivered in 1853, describing his ideal lawyer:

I must be permitted to recommend to you those models from whom the pulpit orators have drawn all their inspiration—the models of the Bible. Study these—the Prophets—the Apostles—our Savior's great sermon on the mount. To say nothing of their moral effect, they will be found to improve, enlarge, and to exalt your forensic efforts. But remember, after all your study under the best models, the great secret of being eloquent is to feel yourself, deeply and sincerely, what you wish to impress on others. To reach the heart your language must flow from the heart. That must dissolve first, or your language will fall cold and powerless on your hearers.—Hence it is that the truly great orator must preserve his moral sensibilities pure and uncontaminated. He must love truth. He must honor virtue. He must hate vice and all its deformities. He must sympathize truly and deeply with the weak and the oppressed. He must loath despotism and tyranny in every form and shape in which they have ever oppressed mankind. In short, to be great he must be eloquent, and to be eloquent he must be good. With such elements of character he will speak as an oracle and a prophet. Like a strong man he will pull down the pillars of prejudice, and his utterance will be like the stone hurled from an engine. To the sentiments and will of such a man all hearts are surrendered in profound obedience and homage.

The Cuba Question.

The failure of the President's proposition in Congress, to place thirty millions in his hands to enable him to negotiate for the acquisition of Cuba, has not, in our opinion, defeated the ultimate acquisition of that valuable island. The more the question is discussed the more we believe will the wisdom of its purchase be apparent to the people. Public sentiment is setting strongly that way, the Democratic State Conventions of Connecticut and Michigan—the only Conventions of the kind that have been held since the proposition for its acquisition was laid before Congress—both passed strong resolutions in favor of the measure. These Conventions not only correctly represented the sentiments of the Democracy, but of a very large majority of the most sagacious citizens of those States, and, we may safely say, of every State in the Union. The President in proposing to acquire Cuba did not introduce the matter as a party measure, but as an eminently national measure—a measure that is approved and cordially endorsed by all truly national men. We risk nothing in assuming that more than three-fourths of the intelligent, far-seeing population of the country are fairly and squarely in favor of the acquisition of Cuba. Any careful observer must be fully aware of this fact who has mingled with the people, and heard them express their views.

The opponents of the Administration are endeavoring to make it appear that the measure is Southern—that it is mainly advocated by southern men and only advantageous to the South. This is a fallacy. The North has more to gain in the acquisition of Cuba than the South. This must be apparent to every one conversant with our commercial interests and necessities. Nothing is plainer than that northern capital and northern enterprise, with their advantages in labor saving machinery, could compete successfully and profitably with the southern States in the production of cotton, sugar and other commodities peculiar to the chime and soil of Cuba. The sharpest business men in the New England States boldly assert this, and their opinions are received as authority on this point by commercial men everywhere.

Considered simply as a financial measure, the acquisition of Cuba is desirable, but as a commercial question, its importance is unquestionable. It would give us complete control of the Gulf, and render us as a maritime nation superior to any other on the globe. American enterprise would be promoted. American interests would be protected, American commerce would receive a fresh incentive. The magnitude of the advantages to be derived is incalculable. Cuba is needed to perfect our confederacy, to develop our commerce, and to make us in a national sense independent. Let us have it whether it costs thirty millions or a hundred millions.

A NEW MEASURE OF DISTANCE.—A recent traveler by the sound route says Boston is exactly 24 cigars and 6 brandy cocktails from New York.

The Public Printing Frauds.

Our Republican friends are making a great ado over the exposure of the public printing frauds, which a Committee of investigation has brought out. The history of this exposure is simply this: Early in the late session a Committee of investigation was appointed, to examine and report upon charges of fraud which were current against A. D. Seaman, late Superintendent of Public Printing, and this Committee disclose a lamentable story of official dishonesty and corruption. The Committee—of which Mr. George Taylor, of New York, was Chairman—consisted of 3 Democrats, 1 American and 1 Republican, but they agreed unanimously. It is established by proof that collusion existed between the Superintendent of Printing, and the Public Printer, by which the engravers, lithographers, contractors for paper and the like, were systematically black-maled, and the government as systematically plundered through the malfeasance of the officers sworn to protect its interests. So far as the inquiry extended—for it is only imperfectly completed—Seaman pocketed about $30,000. But it is clear that this was only a fraction of ramified operations, which have not been explored for want of time. Seaman is to be turned over to the Courts for prosecution, but there are others in the combination, who have escaped direct complicity, that ought to share his fate, as they have shared his spoils. Seaman was Superintendent of the Public Printing from 1853 to 1857, when President Buchanan superseded him by the appointment of Gen. GEORGE W. BOWMAN, of this State, who, it affords us great pleasure to add, has proved himself a thoroughly honest, efficient and conscientious officer. The abuses and frauds practised under Seaman's administration, are shown, by the Report, to have ceased as soon as his successor, Gen. BOWMAN, assumed the duties of the office, and there is no ground to doubt, that the Public Printing, in all its branches, is now done, in strict compliance with the requirements of law and with a proper economy, which secures equally good work at prices from 50 to 70 per cent, less than were paid by his predecessor.

This is the state of the case, and yet, to adopt the language of the Pittsburg *Post*, this matter has been made the text by the opposition press for bitter homilies against the present administration. This is most unreasonable and unjust. The frauds alleged were committed under a former administration, and might perhaps have been continued to this day, had not Mr. Buchanan replaced a dishonest with an honest man. We have no sympathy for rascals and are rejoiced to see corruption exposed and punished whenever and wherever it occurs. A Democratic Administration, with a Democratic Congress in both branches, have discovered and exposed these frauds. Yet the opposition, in the infatuation of their bitterness, would charge this corruption upon the Democracy. They should rather thank us for the exposition which has been made The Democratic party and its administration is just. Where the people have been wronged, it spares neither friend nor foes True, Mr. Seaman was an appointee of a former Democratic administration, but in the construction of so gigantic a machine as the Federal Government, it is impossible but that here and there a dishonest agent should get into a place of trust. Mr. BUCHANAN was as fortunate in this respect as any other President, except Mr. Buchanan. He, in his earnest desire to do his duty, goes into detail to an almost incredible extent, and there are few indeed whom he appoints to responsible stations, whose personal character and antecedents he has not thoroughly investigated These frauds are not chargeable to him or to his party A defaulting cashier is not the fault of the President and directors of a Bank Men must be responsible for their own acts so far as honesty is concerned It has always been the case under Democratic Administrations that the public interests have been most jealously guarded—much more so than when our opponents have chanced to be in power. Hungry from long abstinence they generally plunge into the public treasury wholesale. Remember the gigantic Galphin swindle, in which almost an entire cabinet participated, and then let us hear no more of this matter

THE JURY SYSTEM.

At the last session of our Legislature it was provided by law that the judges of the courts and the county commissioners should meet and make out a list of men comprising the best citizen who are liable to jury duty, and that jurors should be drawn in open court from this select list The beneficial nature of the act is already apparent. A better class of men are now selected as jurors than formerly. Instead of packed juries, or juries composed of loafers who are friends of some unscrupulous official, men of intelligence and character grace the jury box. Under the management of partisan demagogues and professional jurors, the jury system was fast sinking into disrepute. The lowest specimens of pot-house loaferism were often placed on juries to decide on matters involving the rights of citizens, and were placed there, either expressly for the purpose of frustrating the administration of justice, or to give them an opportunity to sell themselves to corrupt men. Under the new system it is almost impossible for an objectionable, incompetent and worthless person to be placed on the jury list, if proper care is exercised by those having charge of the matter. This will unquestionably have a healthy effect upon the public as well as the courts. When men see that honest and respectable citizens compose the juries they will have a higher respect for the system, and fuller faith in the law. When they have no respect for jurors, law will not be respected, and lawlessness and corruption are the natural consequences.

It has been our pleasure to notice that lately there is a very decided improvement in the character of jurors at our County Courts. Reputable farmers, thriving business men, and the better class of mechanics and citizens generally, are selected. There is also a marked improvement in the courts in requiring jurors to attend, and trivial excuses are not sufficient ground for leave of absence.

NEW HAMPSHIRE has gone Republican, as usual. The election was held last Tuesday. The three Republican Congressmen are elected. The Republican majority in the House is about the same as last year. The Republican Governor is elected by a large majority. "The Dutch have taken Holland!"

NOW AND THEN.—The Detroit *Free Press* says the diary of WASHINGTON, just published, informs us that, when he made his grand tour through the northern States in 1789, he took with him "his slave Billy, his faithful attendant through the revolutionary war." It is very fortunate that General Washington did not make his grand tour seventy years later, and that he did not take some of the northern States in his route, or he would have found himself incarcerated in the State prison for ten years because he had introduced his "slave Billy" into the land of "freedom." Nor is this all. If similar laws had prevailed in the northern States during the revolutionary war, he would have been marched off to the penitentiary for having with him his "faithful attendant." General Washington, according to the republican code, was a criminal to be punished by ten years incarceration. And that's the difference in the code of political morals *now* and *then*.

CAUGHT IN THEIR OWN TRAP.—Politicians sometimes, in attempting to play smart, get caught in a trap they little dream of—and this is the case with those of the Republican stripe in Illinois. As for example, the republican member of the legislature of that State run away from the Legislature to defeat the bill making a new apportionment of the State, as they asked last fall. It was known that Governor BISSELL would veto the bill, and it was feared that the democrats would pass it over his veto; they, therefore, cleared out and left the Legislature without the quorum required by the constitution. They, however, left too soon. As there was no quorum present, no business, of course, could be transacted, and when the Governor's veto message was sent in it could not be received. The republicans were not present to make a quorum within the ten days which the Governor is allowed to consider bills, and it therefore became a law without his consent. Thus the republicans, in attempting to be shrewd, were completely caught in their own trap, and they should now submit gracefully.

One of our Democratic exchanges calls very properly upon its party in the county in which it is printed to support the local press. This is right. No party can be sustained for any length of time without the aid of a vigorous and well-conducted press, and if the local paper is allowed to languish for the want of efficient aid and countenance, it of course can be of little use to any interest. Every consideration demands that the local Democratic press be well supported—it is the life and soul of the party.

We received a copy of the Annual Report of Adjutant General Wilson, several weeks ago, but a pressure of other matters has compelled us to defer until now to notice it. The Adjutant General regards the new Militia Law as a decided improvement, and wants it to have a fair trial. He advocates the permanent establishment of a Military Department at Harrisburg We have now in the Commonwealth thirteen thousand uniformed volunteers, and the total number of citizens capable of bearing arms is three hundred and fifty thousand. No record of the issue of arms from the department has ever been kept, though thousands of arms have been distributed to the uniformed militia, and after many fruitless efforts, the Adjutant General can only guess how many have been distributed.

The telegraph announces the appointment, on Wednesday, of Hon. Joseph Holt, Commissioner of Patents, to the position of Postmaster General, in place of Hon. Aaron V. Brown, recently deceased. His appointment has been confirmed by the Senate. Mr. Holt is a Kentuckian—a member of the legal profession, and has administered the business of the Patent Office, since he has been at its head, with distinguished ability. He is a man of great working power, intelligent and honest, and will make an excellent head of the Post Office Department.

(From the Buffalo Republic.)

Destructive Fire in Buffalo.

On Saturday evening the alarm bell struck, and in a few moments there was a rush for the vicinity of the American Hotel Block. The fire was found to proceed from the hat and cap store, No. 300 Main street, occupied by John Roth. The flames spread with great rapidity, and by the time the firemen got well to work, the whole block, consisting of three stores, was in flames from cellar to roof. Just after the flames got well on in Roth's store, an explosion took place, which blew out the entire windows of that store, breaking the glass in the store of Paul Bouyon, next to Roth's, on the north. The back buildings of wood took fire. One of them, a long wooden building known as the Jewish Synagogue, was saved with great difficulty. The American Hotel was in great danger. On the side towards the fire there were four windows protected by iron shutters. During the progress of the fire, one of these shutters was curled up by the intensity of the heat, and fell off. Everybody supposed that this large hotel was to be burned, but by well and long sustained efforts, no damage of any moment was done.

Those burned out are as follows:

No. 300 Main street, Martin Roth, hat store; loss between $4000 and $5000; fully insured. No. 302, Mrs. Rose, millinery store; loss $3,600; insurance $2,800. No. 304, Henry Diehl, tobacco and cigar store; loss $800; no insurance; he has since removed to No. 402 Main street. George Reinhardt, restaurant in the basement of 304; loss about $600; no insurance. Above these stores were various rooms and offices.

Talcott & Thompson, lawyers and solicitors, loss on library $5,000; the papers of all their clients, and their own, all of the most valuable description, were entirely destroyed; the loss is of course inestimable. Dr. C. C. Gay lost everything in his office, comprehended in which was a very valuable library, medical and scientific instruments &c.; on his library there was an insurance of $1000 with Hall & Brewster.—Mr. Coons, photographer, lost his entire stock of everything; no insurance; his loss will not reach $600. Dr. Strong and Dr. Treat, whose offices were in the building, lost everything.

Mrs. Wallace, milliner, who had her place of business over No. 304, lost everything she had in the world, except a sewing machine. Mrs. W. was under the impression that the fire would be confined to the store in which it originated; and her rooms being two stores from the one in which the fire was raging; with another lady she stood her ground, until to their horror and astonishment, they discovered that the stairway, their only apparent means of escape, was in flames. They were finally rescued by Mr. John B. Smith, who obtained a ladder, and, mounting it, took the frightened pair through a window and conveyed them safely to the ground.

At the time the fire broke out, the opera of the "Two Pompeys," by the Buckley's, was going off at St. James's Hall, to the great delight of a large audience. As soon as the alarm bell struck, some twenty or thirty unthinking individuals started out of the hall on a run. The effect was to make many of the audience believe that the hall was on fire. It was a critical time for a panic, and only failed from some sensible people explaining the matter immediately.

Local and Literary.

A new and very excellent organ has been procured for Park Presbyterian Church.

The New York Mail is the title of a neat little paper just started in New York.

Every editor in the State is requested to send one copy of his paper to Fitzgerald's City Item, Philadelphia. Here's the OBSERVER—what d'ye think of us when we're "dressed up?"

We notice that the Crawford Democrat is very much exercised about "intermeddlers" in the railroad bond controversy. If we are not mistaken that paper was not so chary of intermeddling when we had our fight up here.

The Crawford Journal says the trade in skunk skins in Meadville is very brisk.—Some of the editors there had better keep "holed up" or their hides are "goners."

It is now settled that there will be two lines of steamboats between Buffalo and Cleveland during the coming season. Low fares are predicted.

The Venango papers chronicle the death of THOMPSON ALLISON, a worthy member of the bar of Franklin. He was District Attorney at the time of his death.

Two or three vessels arrived at this port during the past week. Navigation on the Lakes may now be said to be fairly open, and the prospects are fair for a good business during the season.

The Express came out in a new dress this week and is as saucy as a school boy with a new suit of store clothes. It claims to be the "best paper in Western Pennsylvania."—Well, we are content that the Express should enjoy the distinction so long as the OBSERVER is the best paper in the whole State

JOHN N. MCGUFFIN, Esq., died at his residence in New Castle on Wednesday last—Mr. McGuffin was a member of the Lawrence county bar, and was last fall the Democratic candidate for Congress in that district. He was highly respected and esteemed by all who knew him, and his place in the circle of his friends will not soon be filled

We understand that our friend PLAHA ELLIOTT, of the National, has leased the Reed House for five years from the first of April.—We may reasonably expect that he will make it a popular hotel. He has the experience, the enterprise, and the means, and it is a fortunate circumstance both for the place and this extensive hotel that he is the future proprietor

"Matrimonial Brokerage in the Metropolis," the chapters of which have been published in the New York Evening Post is just published in book form by Thatcher & Hutchinson It will have a great run, as it combines all the fascination of romance with well substantiated facts, and is well written

The new type on which the OBSERVER is printed was manufactured at the Type Foundry of L. JOHNSON & Co., Philadelphia the oldest and best establishment of the kind in America—and the best in the world

GLAZIER, at the News Depot in the P O, has Harper's Weekly and Frank Leslie's Illustrated with Pictures of the Washington Tragedy All the best Weeklies are let out at Glazier's

ETNA INSURANCE COMPANY.—We would call the attention of our merchants, business men, and citizens generally, to the card of the Aetna Insurance Company in another column—This Company stands at the head of the fire and inland underwriters of this country, and is worthy of the position which it holds We understand that Mr. DOWNING, the Agent for this city and vicinity, is prepared for the coming season of Lake Navigation, in addition to the usual fire business, to issue Hull and Cargo Policies, on as liberal terms as the Buffalo Mutual, or other first class Lake Companies In this department he will receive the valuable assistance and co-operation of Capt E P Dorr, of Buffalo, whose valuable services have been secured, by the Company, as Marine Adjuster, and Supervising Lake Agent

The session of Congress just closed, has done at least one creditable act, in passing the joint resolution authorizing the President, by and with the advice of the Senate, to confer on Commodore Charles Stewart a commission as Senior Flag Officer of the Navy on the active list, in recognition of his distinguished and meritorious services We beg leave to congratulate the patriotic and gallant veteran on this tardy, but richly earned honor. The National Legislature have in this matter, only responded to the general wish of the nation.

REV. D. C. WRIGHT will deliver a lecture on Odd Fellowship, in the Universalist Church, on Wednesday evening 16th inst, by request of the two Lodges of I O of O F of this city.

We are indebted to our friend, BENNETT, of East Greene, for a present of some of the finest maple molasses we ever tasted.

The City Treasury appears to be in a healthy condition. The Gazette says We learn from a statement of the City Treasurer, G. A. Bennett, Esq., made to the Councils at their last meeting, that the amount of cash now in our City Treasury is upwards of fifteen hundred dollars, and that there is still outstanding, of the City tax, for the last year, about four thousand dollars We further learn that the surplus, amounting altogether to about five thousand dollars, will be invested in the redemption of Plank Road Bonds, which mature in 1861 and thereafter.

An accident occurred on the Buffalo & Erie Railroad last Saturday evening. The Buffalo Express says the hind car of the Mail train, due at that place at 9 P.M. was thrown from the track between Silver Creek and Irving, by some means or other, at present unknown, and plunged down the embankment, which at that point is not very high Several of the passengers were injured, but none severely, except a little girl whose head was badly cut, and whose name we were unable to ascertain. The brakeman of the car had his hands considerably burned in his efforts to extinguish the flames which proceeded from the stove, which were finally successful. The train proceeded some distance before the accident was discovered, and then returned and took those on board belonging to the car, and reached this city not having been long delayed.

Look at the advertisements in to-day's paper. Griswold holds forth in a column on Dry Goods; Ormsby & Booth, tell us of the quality of their Groceries: McConkey & Shannon, have a word to say on Hardware: Barr puts his "best foot foremost" in the way of Boots and Shoes; one Baldwin deals in Drugs, and the other in Bang-up pies; Selden mixes wall-paper and hardware together; Austin has a word to say on rich Jewelry and fancy goods; while Baker & Grover preach upon Sewing Machines. We say again, look at the advertisements.

One of our exchanges says, "March came in on Tuesday like a lamb." We have heard this expression often—and we would really like to know of some one who uses it, how "a lamb comes in."

EMPIRE has all the late Magazines and Newspapers, and the best assortment of Books in town. If you want to purchase your Literature from a gentlemanly dealer give him a call.

CARTER'S NEW DRUG AND MEDICINE HOUSE.—One of the finest buildings erected in the city for business purposes is that of CARTER AND BROTHER, fronting on the North side of the West Park. The block is four stories high, 81 feet deep, and has the finest cellar in town. The first floor is used as the salesroom, and has a spacious and handsome counting room in the rear. No expense has been spared in fitting this room up in the most splendid style.—In all its arrangements and appointments it is perfect. The front is lighted with large plate glass 7 by 5 feet in size. The entire length of this room is lined with some 500 drawers, all of Rosewood, with porcelain knobs, and lettered in gold leaf. As this room is designed for retailing medicines and fancy articles and the prescription business, drawers, bottles, shelves and show cases are all just the size and kind required.

The second floor is set apart for compounding, bottling and labeling, and all the purposes of a working room. All orders from country stores and physicians are filled in this room.—Here all the Patent Medicines of the firm, prepared in the Laboratory in fourth story, are brought to be bottled and packed, ready for shipping, or sending into the retail room below.

The third story room is reserved for storing the various sizes of English, French, and American glass, drugs, dye-stuffs, dry paints, and all articles pertaining to this part of the drug and paint business.

The fourth story is used as a Laboratory for preparing, filtering, extracting, and compounding all the preparations of this extensive house

The cellar is so arranged as to accommodate their large paint and oil trade, one side of it being exclusively devoted to that branch of business. Here we have the novel arrangements of large Oil Cans and pump attached—the cans being sufficiently large to admit the pump on the inside, with places to rest the measures, which can be filled to overflowing, thus securing good measure to the purchaser and no waste to the dealer. As this house has long been famous for its superior boiled oil, the curious can have an opportunity of witnessing the most extensive, and perfect arrangements for the purpose in the State.

The building reflects great credit upon the taste and business capacity of the enterprising proprietors, and is an ornament to the city.—It is seldom that we notice so minutely any business establishment, but this imposing structure demands something more than a mere passing notice, on account of its extent and elegance

In conclusion we have only to add that the architectural design of the fitting up of this elegant establishment, is by Mr JOHN HILL, Architect and Builder of this City, and the painting and lettering which, as a piece of work in all its parts, is not excelled any where, is by Messrs SHERWOOD and CADY

THE CHARTER ELECTION.—One week hence our citizens will be called upon to select city officers for the ensuing year. The importance of the duty devolving upon voters in this matter cannot be too highly estimated. It remains to be seen whether they will fully appreciate and properly discharge that duty in a manner creditable to themselves and for the best interests of the city. If wise counsels prevail, if the people are allowed to make their choice free from partisan dictation or factional prejudice, unbiassed by petty jealousies and animosities, and with sole reference to fitness of candidates, we may expect an auspicious result, but if the bad passions of men are appealed to, if low demagogues are to have complete control at the polls, if personal malice is to be gratified at the expense of the interests of the city, then we may look for a year of misrule and neglect.

Shall we have wise rulers, men actuated by an honest, earnest desire to promote the public good, or shall we entrust the government of the city to incompetent and unworthy hands? This is a question that demands serious consideration. We ought to secure the best men in community, men of integrity, liberal views and enlarged ideas to manage the affairs of the city We rarely do this; or, rather, when we do elect one worthy man we are pretty certain to counteract his influence by electing two or three incompetent men to work against any measure of reform which he may propose.—Shall we continue a policy so ruinous to our prosperity and advancement? We hope voters will look at this in a rational light, and be prepared to act with decision in bringing about a better order of things.

Our city is in population, wealth, and commerce, fast assuming an importance among its larger sister cities of this and other states—It ought to keep equal pace with them in the improvements which are essential to the business, interests, the beauty and safety of every city Our streets are in a sad condition and ought to be improved in a substantial and durable manner They ought to be lighted. The improvement and lighting of the streets is of the utmost importance. Councilmen should be elected with reference to this matter.

There is another question, too, that ought to be considered in choosing city officers. Rowdyism has too free a sway and ought to be checked. The crowds of rude and vulgar boys who infest our streets every evening, often till a late hour, ought to be restrained. From the multitude of these young ruffians among us, one would naturally infer that a great many parents care very little whether their boys are trained for the penitentiary or gallows, or for a life of usefulness. When parents are so neglectful there is so much greater necessity for better police regulations. Especially are these young rowdies annoying in the neighborhood of the Post Office, where nightly they congregate to jostle peacable citizens, to indulge in profanity and concoct mischief. Many people think this latter could be prevented by those about the Post Office. But without a policeman to enforce the law it is out of the power of those around that building to keep them away. This must be apparent to every intelligent citizen.

So far as we are concerned, individually, we are not interested in the election of any particular candidate. We want good men put in nomination for municipal officers and we shall support them without reference to their political views. Indeed, we think politics should have nothing to do in the choice of city officials.—The interests of the city should be held paramount to the ascendancy of any party, in local matters.

The Lancaster Examiner says that some talk has been occasioned in that city lately, by the discovery (as is alleged) that a woman who had been imprisoned in the county jail had become pregnant while an inmate of that institution, and that the paternity of the child has been laid to the Keeper of the Prison.

BOOK NOTICES.

To PUBLISHERS.—As we have engaged a competent Reviewer, and intend to make the Literary Department a prominent feature of our paper, Publishers will find it to their advantage to forward us their new publications. Books will be reviewed carefully and fairly—not "puffed" indiscriminately. Publishers will also find our columns a profitable medium to advertise in, as THE OBSERVER has the best circulation of any journal in Northern Pennsylvania.

LA PLATA, THE ARGENTINE CONFEDERATION AND PARAGUAY. Being a narrative of the Exploration of the Tributaries of the River La Plata and adjacent countries during 1853, '54, '55, and '56, under the orders of the United States Government. By THOMAS J. PAGE, U. S. N., Commander of the Expedition. With Map and numerous engravings. New York: HARPER & BROTHERS, Franklin Square.

At the present moment whatever relates to Paraguay and the adjacent country is read with eagerness, and it is a fortunate circumstance that an authentic publication from a highly competent writer should appear so opportunely. Capt. Page has not only done himself great honor in the work before us, but he has conferred an inestimable favor on the public. Heretofore reliable information concerning the region of the La Plata has been accustomed to look upon it as a wild, sparsely inhabited and half civilized country. It is this in a great measure, but it has assumek a magnitude in the past few months which in more peaceful times it could not have obtained.—That a small, semi-barbarous province like Paraguay should do anything to provoke a great nation like ours to visit her shores with a powerful naval force is something nobody would have dreamed of prior to the intelligence of the attack upon the Water Witch. The Water Witch was the vessel which Lieut. Page had the honor to command, and was on a voyage of exploration to the La Plata basin.

After the defeat of Rosas, and the subsequent election of Urquiza as Provisional Director of the Argentine Confederation, the latter shortly after his inauguration issued a decree declaring the navigation of all rivers of the Confederation free to the flags of all nations after Oct. 1, 1852. Our government was the first to avail itself of this privilege, and Lieut Page was charged with the important duty of exploring the La Plata and its tributaries. The expedition was commenced in February 1853 It received every encouragement from Urquiza and also from the Emperor of Brazil. In September the Water Witch arrived in the La Plata, and commenced the arduous duties of exploration.

The Parana and Uruguay are the main rivers which drain the basin of La Plata. The former is the larger. It has an immense delta made up of a labyrinth of islands separated from each other by winding streams. The vegetation of these islands is tropical in its luxuriance and gorgeous in its hues. Peach trees abound and are cultivated both for fruit and fuel. During the fruit season the fruiterers lay their boats against the banks, pushing through the long drooping branches of the willow and the aquatic plants which fringe the water, and load from the overhanging peach and orange trees. Some of these islands are high and well-wooded, others often submerged and covered only with thick grass and the shrubbery Innumerable water-fowl enliven this wilderness of foliage and flora. The main channel often changes its course. Rosario, 200 miles from Buenos Ayres, and 400 from the ocean, is the first city of any size on the Parana. After the opening of trade by the decree of Urquiza its population increased in two years from four to twelve thousand PARANA, the capital of the Argentine Confederation, on the east side of the river, has trebled its population in two years. It would seem therefore, that the wonderful growth of cities in this prosperous South American confederacy, is similar to that experienced in our own North American Union, and the rapidly increasing commerce of the La Plata region is destined to work marvelous changes in the growth and prosperity of the States along its waters. The Parana is navigable for over one thousand miles.

Corrientes, on the east bank of the Parana, about 1,000 miles from the Atlantic, is a city of 12,000 inhabitants It is at this place that our squadron will make its depot of coal and naval stores should actual hostilities be unavoidable The lowest depth of water in the channel for some distance above Corrientes is about nine feet, and it is free from rocks and snags. Twenty miles above this place is the junction of the Paraguay and Parana The Paraguay is described as having "few islands, a tortuous course, a more open channel, and a current of two to two and a half miles an hour

"ASUNCION, the capital of Paraguay and the residence of President Lopez, is the only city of importance on the Paraguay It is situated just above the mouth of the Pilcomayo, which flows from the north-eastern provinces of Bolivia, and may yet become, instead of the passes of the Andes, the route by which that state will send its valuable products to the world Asuncion has about 12,000 inhabitants, and with a few improvements might be made accessible for commercial purposes. Vessels are now loaded and discharged by canoes The houses are all of one story, the streets regular and frontings even. The better houses are tiled the roofs projecting three or four feet. Beef chickens, mandioca, (a delicious vegetable) oranges, and in their season, grapes and figs supply the table. The people are simple in their habits, the furniture of the planter kind, and the neatness of all their domestic arrangements is remarkable. Here, as everywhere throughout South America, dancing is the principle social amusement. Mammas and daughters are all extravagantly fond of it, and many of the fair Paraguayans dance with a grace and spirit not equalled out of Spain—Their manners are easy, and they are quite free from conventionalities. The Paraguayan ladies are accustomed to present their visitors with little bouquets, of which it will be wise of him never to have two of them in his possession.

Mate, the tea-plant of the region, affords the universal beverage. Every one smokes, from old men to little girls. Business is done in the cool of the morning; the invariable siesta makes noon as silent as night, and the afternoon and evening are devoted to unfinished business, rides, walks and visits. There are no physicians in Paraguay, for none are needed. Of this inland Utopia Lopez is the absolute dictator He holds three-fourths of the land, exacts a tenth of the products of the soil, regulates or stops trade, and perpetuates despotically the monopolies if not the cruelties of Francia."

The account of the expedition up the other branches of the Parana and the Uruguay would make our article too lengthy, and we must refer the reader to the book itself.

On the first of February, 1856, the offence was committed by the Paraguayan government for which our government seeks redress.—At Fort Itapiru, just above the junction of the Parana and Paraguay, the Water Witch was fired into, her hull damaged and one man killed. Our fleet is far on its way to demand satisfaction for this insult, and ere many weeks shall have passed we will know whether peaceful measures or grim war shall decide the matter.

To all who wish to inform themselves thoroughly in regard to the condition of Paraguay and the countries of the La Plata, their customs and people, the productions of the clime and soil, we commend this work. It is admirably written and possesses absorbing interest.