THE OBSERVER.

B. F. SLOAN, Editor.

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SATURDAY, DEC. 15, 1860.

The President's Message.

We anticipated our publication day last week, and laid the last Message of President BUCHANAN before our readers on Thursday morning. If, in ordinary times there have been people who have been content to gather the substance of the annual message of the President in other ways than by reading it themselves, the number of such is greatly reduced at the present time. Probably no message of a President has been awaited by the whole country with so much interest as that of President BUCHANAN and none has been so universally read as has will that.

The President at once goes to the all-absorbing subject. He states correctly the causes of the lamentable condition of affairs, or the cause, rather, for there is really but one,—that is, the continuous, persistent and rapidly growing agitation in the North of the slavery question during the past quarter of a century, and the aggressive form which this agitation has assumed, producing, as its natural consequence, vague conceptions of liberty and discontent among the servile population and stimulating insurrection. The President rightly declares that [illegible] political union, however fraught with blessings and benefits in all other respects, can long continue, if the necessary consequence be to render the homes and the firesides of nearly half the parties to it habitually and hopelessly [illegible]. We know there are Republicans [illegible] responsible for [illegible] but the historian will record a different verdict. We know [illegible] they feel that the President should so plainly point [illegible] and charge home the appaling fact [illegible] through their [illegible] this Union is about to be wrecked. But we agree with a cotemporary that the people of the Northern States cannot be told too often—cannot have it too forcibly impressed upon their minds—that the present unhappy condition of the country is [illegible] sullen spirit of feeling, generated by a single event, but the ultimate result of a variety of causes, which have been in operation for many years. As a thunder-storm is produced by electrical elements drawn from many a day of calm and sunshine, so the present explosive state of the Southern people is the mere flashing and crashing of the tempest which has been long gathering. It is not the election of Mr. Lincoln, it is not the enactment of laws in obstruction of the execution of the Fugitive Slave Law—or, at least, not these things alone —which have made the trouble, but these things, in common with very many others, as representing a real or supposed state of feeling on the part of the people of the Northern States. Mr. Lincoln in himself is nothing and nobody—he is a respectable man of moderate abilities, and, we have no doubt, good intentions; but all his importance comes from what he represents, and not from what he is. He is a bit of sea-weed floating on the surface of a great popular movement, and significant only as serving to mark the direction and rapidity of the current. Sagacious observers are not in the least surprised at the present state of the country—their only wonder is, that anybody else should be surprised.

But to return to the message. The President wholly denies the constitutional right of a State to secede. If the right existed, he tells us, the Union would be a rope of sand.— Having enunciated this truth, we wish the President had rested his case, and appealed to Congress to say if, in the event of secession, the strong arm of the Government shall be used to coerce the States into submission. While we doubt the wisdom and policy and the practicability of coercion, we believe the Government has the constitutional right. We believe it, not because we are a constitutional lawyer, but because it is a necessary power to the proper enforcement of the laws. But we do not desire to discuss this question now, the question is in the hands of Congress and the Republican party—and there we are willing the responsibility shall rest.

We are glad that there is room for more general concurrence in the remedy which the President proposes for the existing disorders. This remedy is in the nature of what he calls an "explanatory amendment" of the constitution embracing three special points, viz:

"1. An express recognition of the right of property in slaves in the States where it now exists or may hereafter exist.

"2. The duty of protecting this right in all the common Territories throughout their Territorial existence, and until they shall be admitted as States into the Union, with or without slavery, as their constitutions may prescribe.

"3. A like recognition of the right of the master to have his slave, who has escaped from one State to another, restored and 'delivered up' to him, and of the validity of the fugitive slave law enacted for this purpose, together with a declaration that all State laws impairing or defeating this right are violations of the Constitution, and are consequently null and void."

We can cordially endorse these propositions with the understanding that, as to the second proposition, its meaning is that slaves are property in the common Territories, that they stand upon precisely the same footing as other property, and are entitled to the same protection as other property. We can cordially endorse the propositions with this understanding and conscientiously declare that there is nothing in them that ought not to command the approval of the whole northern people.— There is no certainty that the Union can be preserved by any action in the direction above indicated, but it is certain that it cannot be preserved without some such action. And this the North cannot understand a moment too soon. The South will not sit down in the future under the same state of things that has prevailed of late. Slavery must be let alone in the States where it exists, the fugitive slave law must be faithfully executed, and whatever rights the Supreme Court adjudges to slavery in the Territories must be insured, or separation of the South from the North, in some form, will speedily ensue. If it shall not be by mutual agreement, it will be by revolution, for it cannot be by secession. Down to this point is the issue narrowed, and it is for the northern people now to make up their minds how they will meet it.

☞ The *Gazette* says arrangements have been consummated by which large additions are made to the capital stock of the Bank of Commerce of this city, and that having reduced its circulation within $125,000, the managers are doing business on the currency basis, in imitation of the course of other Banks in the State.

☞ Hon. HOWELL COBB Secretary of the Treasury, has resigned, and returned to Georgia. He is succeeded by Ex Gov. THOMAS, of Maryland.

☞ One of the encouraging signs of returning reason at the North, is the defeat a few days ago of the Black Republican Candidate for Mayor of Boston by three thousand majority by a Democrat. The pocket nerve of New England has been touched, we reckon.

The Attorney General on Secession

Hon. J. S. BLACK, the Attorney General of the United States, has furnished the President with his official opinion upon the questions of law involved in the present state of affairs in the South, and the course of action to be pursued by the President in the event of a collision on the part of the General Government with the authorities of South Carolina or any other State. The opinion is elaborate, and altogether too long for our columns at present. The Attorney General does not think that the will of a State can absolve its people from allegiance to the just and constitutional requirements of a General Government, nor can any act of the Central Government displace the jurisdiction of a State. Its laws are supreme and binding only so far as they are passed in pursuance of the Constitution. The duty of the President is only to execute the law to the letter as is written. We have no common law to fall back upon when the written law is defective. In the collection of customs or revenues he has a particular method pointed out for him to adopt, and if the machinery furnished by Congress for the collection of duties should become so deranged or broken up that it could not be used, there would be no legal reason for substituting a different kind of machinery in its place. The Government is the owner of the public lands and national property, and the Attorney General thinks the President will be justified in taking such measures as he may deem to be necessary for their protection. It had the right of keeping exclusive possession and repelling intrusion, and could retake its property from any power by force, as was the case at Harper's Ferry, in 1859, when the United States forces took the arsenal from John Brown. By the act of 1807 the President is empowered to employ such parts of the land and naval force as he shall judge necessary for the purpose of causing the laws to be duly executed. On the President alone devolves the responsibility of deciding whether the exigency demands the use of military force, and in the exercise of this power he should be careful not to overstep his authority. A military force can only be called into the field when other means are found to be useless. Even then its operations must be purely defensive, and can only be used to repel an assault on the public property, and aid the courts in the performance of their duty. In the event of the retirement of a State from the Union, the action of the President must not depend upon the rightfulness of the cause upon which such declaration is based. He cannot recognize her independence or absolve her from her Federal obligations. This is a matter for Congress or a Convention of the States. He must see that the laws are only executed, acting generally upon the assumption that the present constitutional relations between the States and the Federal Government still exist. War, therefore, is only necessary to execute the laws, suppress insurrections, against the States, and to repel the invasion of a State by enemies. It was never calculated "to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity." Military force would be pernicious as a means of holding the States together. The right of the Government to protect its property does not warrant it in punishing the political misdeeds of a people. The States are colleagues, and to conquor or subjugate one of them would be to destroy the theory of our Union. The Attorney General thinks that the Union must utterly perish at the moment when Congress shall arm one part of the people against another for any purpose beyond that of merely protecting the General Government in the exercise of its proper constitutional functions.— He, however, says, in his emphatic way, "The "right of the General Government to preserve "itself in its whole constitutional vigor, by re- "pelling a direct and positive aggression upon "its property or its officers, cannot be denied."

☞ The uncle of the Vice President, the Hon. Robert J. Breckenridge, of Kentucky, has written a letter on the political condition of the country, which is worthy of attention. He hits the cause of the existing trouble with a good deal of accuracy when he says that "if the North insists on using the National Governmen to *put down* Slavery, or, if the South insists on using it to *perpetuate and extend* Slavery, the Union cannot last.—*Exchange.*

The position of Mr. B. is undoubtedly correct. There is a class of persons South, who, no doubt, desire to use the National Government for the purpose of perpetuating slavery; but if they were let alone, if they were not constantly furnished fuel to inflame the Southern mind by the Abolition, or Republican party of the North, they would be powerless for evil. Their arguments against the Union now, and their fulminations in support of the "divine origin" of their favorite institution heretofore, have been and are furnished and strengthened by the party represented by Abraham Lincoln. Take for example the present position and aims of this party. No fair minded man will deny that its objects and aims is "to put down slavery." That alternative has been proclaimed from the rostrum, from the pulpit, from the lecture room, from the halls of Congress, and from the press. It is useless to say the Republican party has no intention of making war upon slavery in the States, the Helper Book, endorsed by over one hundred leading Republicans—the very men, in fact, who made the Republican party—brands the assertion as a subterfuge and a falsehood. A war upon the institution every where is the corner stone of the Republican party. Divested of that issue it would be as powerless to distract the country as a last year's almanac, or a New England primer. It is true many well meaning and conservative citizens in the North are enlisted under the Republican banner by the specious plea of hostility to the extension of slavery into the territories! But why this should be so was never clear to us. If we do not intend to emigrate to a territory why should we care whether a man has a right to settle there with his slave any more than the right to settle there with his horse. Both are property, and both are entitled to the same meed of protection. Besides, by whose treasure and blood were the territories acquired? By that of New England exclusively? By that of the Middle States? By no means! The North, the South, the East, and the West, contributed their full share, and hence are equal partners; and equality, and justice, and honor, all proclaim that all sections, and the citizens thereof, are entitled to equal immunities and equal privileges therein. To deny this is to deny the first principle upon which this government was founded! But, it is said, slavery is a curse to a State, and therefore we should exercise all our influence to curtail its extent. Should we?— Then why stop at State lines; why not war upon it in Louisiana as well as Kansas; in Kentucky as well as New Mexico. Why plant ourselves upon non-extension instead of total extermination? These questions we put to those conservative Republicans who while denying sympathy with Abolitionism, entrench themselves behind the plea of opposition to slavery in the territories. If slavery is [illegible] it is an evil in Georgia as well as in a territory corresponding in climate and soil. In a word, the question of slavery in the territories will regulate itself just as it has in the States. In the States where it did not prove profitable it was decided, like any other question of political economy, by the unerring rule of profit and loss. And so it will be in the territories. If we have territories where the soil and climate makes it profitable to raise sugar, and cotton, and rice, there slavery will plant itself and thrive in spite of Congressional enactments. Where those products cannot be raised, it will die out as it is dying out in Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, Kentucky and Missouri. This being so what a stupendous piece of folly have the North to answer for in the present crisis. In the pursuit of an abstraction they have conferred power, and place, and plunder, upon a set of fanatical humanitarians, and the result is the best government the world ever saw is about to be broken up. And all to confer imaginary benefits upon a few miserable negroes!

☞ It is astonishing with what complacency some of the Republicans contemplate a dissolution of the Union. They say it may as well come now as at any time; that the North can get along quite as well without the South as with it and that a few years will find the "United States" (?) quite as strong without the Cotton States as it is now with them. These political philosophers seem to imagine that if the Southern States withdraw, peace is going to reign at the North, and trade, commerce, and the arts go on as usual. Never were men more mistaken. Dissolution is nothing but revolution under another name.— The compact that binds these States together cannot be broken, by the withdrawal of the Southern States, without inflicting upon the country evils the mind can hardly comprehend. To suppose that the Government would remain as it is, after the withdrawal of the South, is to suppose an absurdity. As it was previous to the adoption of the Constitution, so it would be after that instrument is destroyed. New York would look out for herself; and so would Pennsylvania. New England, would be left "out in the cold," and, no longer supported by the trade of the South, the Middle States, and the West, her spindles would stop, and her manufacturing establishments rot. This point is well illustrated by the Albany *Argus* in the following paragraphs:

"Separation is dissolution. There can be no such thing as a Northern and Southern Confederacy. The Southern States could not hold together, the Nothern States would not. Once establish a separation, and New York would look out for itself. It would no longer consent to a system of political inequality which reduces it to the level of the smallest New England States. It would throw off the commercial restrictions which now hamper its commerce, and terminate, not only for itself, but for all the producing States of the west, the present protective system, which was devised for the benefit of New England and Pennsylvania.

"New York would at once be the head of a confederation reaching from the Atlantic to the Rocky Mountains, embracing, besides its own State, Michigan Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Indiana, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska, besides other States to be formed out of the Western territory, with half of the population of the present Union. These producing States would need a free port of entry for their imports and exports, and New York alone could furnish it. In the crash of interests, caused by the dissolution of the Confederacy, she would be the first to regain her ascendency.

"Pennsylvania would lose much, New England all, by such a breaking up. Their protective system would be worthless to them, unless they linked in them a body of consumers in other States, and realizing this, they would ultimately reach free trade, through the dreadful ordeal of public and private bankruptcy.

"What the South would suffer under such a state of affairs we need not speculate upon. It cannot afford to live in a state of agitation or uncertainty; nor its people, purely agricultural, afford to pay the taxes which existing debts and prospective burdens would impose."

☞ Chambers and Crouch, at their Ambrotype Rooms, between Brown's Hotel and the Reed House, are turning out any quantity of excellent Photographs, Ambrotypes, &c. Pictures taken in cloudy as well as pleasant weather.

☞ Before noticing a patent medicine we have to be convinced that it will prove itself to be all that it is recommended. And we would say that the Restorative Cordial and Blood Renovator of Prof. Wood will stand the test fully, and in fact it is without any doubt the first article in market for Purifying the Blood and strengthening the system. We have no hesitation in recommending its use to all. Read the advertisement in another column.

"TRUTH IS THE HIDDEN GEM WE SHOULD DIG FOR."—It is true that no discovery in medicine for the last hundred years, will compare with MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP, in its benefits to the human race. It is equally true that tens of thousands of children die annually during the process of cutting teeth, and hundreds of thousands barely escape death, to pass a life of suffering, disease in body and enfeebled in mind, all of which results from a disorganization of the system during the process of teething. It is also true that Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup is just the medicine to meet the case. It certainly does—as the name implies—SOOTHE the little sufferer into a quiet, natural sleep, from which it awakes invigorated and refreshed, and for the of diseases incident to the period of teething, such as dysentery, diarrhœa, wind-colic, &c., its equal has never been known.

—The meeting of Abolitionists at Boston, on Monday last, (to which, it will be remembered, Governor Packer, of this State, was invited for the purpose of commemorating the anniversary of the execution of John Brown, the Harper's Ferry insurgent, by inaugurating some new plan for the forcible liberation of slaves, was called to order in Tremont Temple, by the notorious James Redpath. The hall was immediately taken possession of by a body of Union men, who chose Richard Sullivan Fay as chairman. The meeting, as newly organized, passed resolutions denouncing John Brown, justifying his execution, and lauding the State of Virginia. Fred. Douglass, Redpath, Frank Sanborn and other well known abolitionists, vainly endeavored to be heard.— Much confusion ensued, the police were called in, the hall was cleared, and the Temple closed by order of the Mayor. This may be regarded as a significant sign of returning reason in the Boston folks.

☞ It is many months since we have seen anything in the letters of "*Occasional*," the Washington [illegible] of Forney's *Press*, that we could [illegible] to our readers but the following [illegible] letter of the 7th, discusses the [illegible] question now before the country so candidly and fairly that we have deemed its reproduction in our columns important, as going to show the imminent danger threatening the Union. It will be seen that this writer, daily in converse with the representatives and senators from all parts of the Union, gives it as his decided opinion that the question, whither "Lincoln shall preside over the whole country or a part of it," is to be decided by the present Congress. This opinion is concurred in by every flash of the wires from Washington—it is strengthened by every report from the South—it is proved by the constant depreciation of Stocks and other securities—it is shown by the debates on the flour of the Senate and House—and finally, it is officially announced by the President of the United States. And yet, because we warned the people previous to the election of the result which has followed—because we inform our readers now, as in duty bound, of the exact state of the country, such mole-eyed papers as the *Gazette* sneer at the dangers that surround us, and stigmatize our articles as "calculated to give unsophisticated readers the blues." It strikes us that there is quite enough in the aspect of the country to give, not only "unsophisticated readers," but even as highly intelligent readers as the editors of the *Gazette*, "the blues." The election of Lincoln has brought the country to the very brink of ruin—and it matters not whether that election was consummated "in accordance with the Constitution" or not—the fact is as we state it; and, as is well said by the writer quoted below, it remains for the Republican party and Mr. Lincoln to say whether the country shall be pushed over that brink or saved by the strong arm of conciliation and compromise. What are party platforms!— what is the everlasting "negro"!—what are post offices, and collectorships, and route agencies, and the miserable and petty spoils of office, to be compared with this glorious Union. Put them all in the balance, and on top of them your Sumner's, and Greeley's, and Seward's, and Lincoln's, and all the other advocates of the "irrepressible conflict," and they are not as a feather's weight in comparison. But to the paragraphs alluded to:

"This is no occasion for mincing words, or hiding facts, or postponing imperative duties. During the present session of Congress *the question is to be decided whether Mr. Lincoln shall preside over the whole country or only a part of it.* The Republican members of the House Committee of Thirty-three have, therefore, a most delicate and novel duty to perform. They are called upon to act not as partisans, but as patriots. They will have some sacrafices to submit to, and some concessions to make. They will be met in the kindliest spirit by the Southern conservative members on that committee. On the other hand, they will be appealed to by the extreme organs and leaders of their own party to yield nothing, to adhere stubbornly to what is called the Chicago platform, and, above all, to stand unshaken before what is flippantly denominated the threats of the fire-eaters.

Should these counsels influence and control them, nothing can arrest the downward tendency of things, and prevent the sundering of those bonds which have so long held our political family together. A leading Republican, whose name I am not permitted to mention, but to whom I confidently look for such an example as will teach others how to lose sight of self for good of all, remarked to me yesterday:— "This is no time for parties, no time for platforms, no time for crimination and recrimination, we must join hands to save the fabric of our freedom, or basely yield it to the spoilers." I recognize among the Republican members of the committee only three or four who may refuse to act in the spirit of this distinguished statesman. But why should any Republican hesitate in such an hour as this? Shall the fear of not being re-elected stifle independent thought, and fetter patriotic effort? Let those who tolerate such a fear remember that the Union sentiment of this nation once roused will dissolve all organizations that oppose it, and revolutionise majorities heretofore believed to be impregnable.— Shall the apprehension of disaster to Mr. Lincoln's Administration be held up to intimidate men who desire to do right?— Let the answer be, that the only way to make that administration strong is to make those strong who are fighting the foes of the country. Shall the idea of submission to the pro-slavery leaders be made the text of appeals against a righteous adjustment? Let the answer be, that in such an adjustment we put weapons in the hands of our friends in the South to fight down these leaders, and to destroy their plans. Shall the belief that the Gulf or Cotton States are gone past redemption induce the Republican members of the committee to stand upon their own party creed, and to refuse all favorable answers to the cries of the people? Let the answer be, that we owe a first duty to ourselves, and that this duty is better discharged by honestly laboring to keep the border States in the Union. And, believe me, that there is among the Republicans in the present Congress an increasing conservative sentiment. Many Republicans are intimidated by the allegation that, if they exhibit moderation, they will exhibit cowardice. "Your are scared" is the patent parrot cry of those who stand in the way of tranquility, and this argument, if so it may be called, from its constant iteration, works incalculable harm. It belongs to the class of reasoning that has for its motto, "No more compromises." Pray where is the American who does not tremble when the American Union is paralyzed? Where is the republicans or the Democrat whose heart does not bleed when his country is suffering? There is one thing that I am not ashamed to confess, one thing I fear, one thing that would make me a coward and, that is to assume the fearful responsibility of refusing to give up everything to prevent this Union from falling to pieces. Yes, I freely admit that I have not sternness enough to stand by and assist to drive the dagger to her heart. Had I the nerve of the Nemean Lion I do not think I should be strong enough to participate in her overthrow. Surrender! What is there that the patriot would not surrender to save his country? Platform! What platform does not sink into utter insignificance when compared with the solid Union, and an unbroken Constitution? Cowards are made by threats and taunts, and men frequently decline to do right, lest they may be rated for leaving their party; but I would rather leave my party than my country—rather bear the taunts and sneers of the fire-eaters on the one hand, and the ultra anti-slavery humanitarians on the other, than stand accursed by posterity, and wither and die under the reproaches of a betrayed, divided and infuriated people."

☞ See advertisement in to-day's paper of Prof. Wood.

☞ The following receipt for cleaning paint, may be of some use to our lady readers during house-cleaning:—Pour a bucket-full of hot water on a quart of Bran, stir a while, then strain out the Bran, and use the water with a rag. It will remove all dirt, and is cheaper than soap.

General News.

The State of Rhode Island shook with what has been called an earthquake a day or two since. It don't take much of a shake to shake that Commonwealth.

— The height of five of the seven resident and ministering clergymen of the town of Millersburg Ky., ranges from six feet to six feet four inches. Tall ministry.

— "Has the Republican party fulfilled its mission?" asks a republican paper. Pretty nearly; according to present signs the Union will be dissolved within a few days.

— A human skeleton was found in the woods, near Essex, Mass, on Sunday last. It is supposed to be that of Benjamin Andrews, shoemaker, who disappeared from Essex seven years ago.

— Professor Edward North, of Hamilton College, has written a new lecture, the subject of which is, "Who are the Dead Heads?" Is this a drive at the editorial fraternity, or at Charon's passengers?

— An eloping girl ran back to the house, at Jacksonville, Illinois, a few nights since, to get her shawl, which she had forgotten when her mother caught her and tied her to the bed post for twelve hours.

— A romantic French chemist having burned the body of his friend, extracted from it the iron that was contained in the blood and had it made into a finger ring, which he wears in memory of his friend.

— The price of wool in Vermont has fallen from ten to fifteen cents per pound. As this is her chief staple, the State will lose about fifty thousand dollars. She might better repeal her personal liberty bill.

— The Senators from California assert that under no circumstances will she leave the Union. The Pacific Railroad is a great conservative element on the Pacific border.

— Wendell Phillips says the "spectre hand of John Brown lifted Abraham Lincoln, to the Presidency." And that "John Brown was behind the curtain at Chicago when Lincoln stepped out in front."

— The people of Cincinnati were dissatisfied with the result of the census of that city as taken by the United States Marshal, and the Common Council had the work done over at the expense of the city. The return has just been made, showing a total population of 171,293, which is about ten thousand more than returned by the United States Marshal.

— The whole electoral vote of Virginia was cast for Bell and Everett. Six Breckenridge electors had been formally declared elected by the Governor, but, as their election was obtained by a mere technicality, which legally invalidated a number of votes given for the Bell electors, they declined to serve, permitting the Bell and Everett electors to fill the vacancies, and throw the whole vote for that ticket.

— A Jersey paper—the Bridgeton Chronicle —notices an organization of young men in that town styled "Zouave Oddities," who have banded together for the purpose of sawing and splitting wood for destitute families the ensuing winter. With wood-saw astride of horse, and axe in hand, they proceed to the premises, and reduce the wood to stove size with an alacrity unknown to those who labor for pelf.

— Two of the shoe manufacturers in Natick, Massachusetts, have recently failed, with liabilities estimated at $125,000. Between two and three hundred shoemakers are out of employment, with little prospect of improvement in the business. The shoe business at Haverhill is about at a stand-still. A large number of mechanics are out of employment, and those who are at work receive but a small compensation.

— The National Intelligencer denies that it is for sale, declaring that the paper "will never pass from the control of its present proprietors into any other hands while life and health last —unless, indeed, sharing in the common ruin in which unhappily political events now threaten to involve all the interests of this great country. The Intelligencer shall sink with the rest."

— Mr. Buchanan has announced that he will collect the revenues at all hazards if any Southern State attempt to assume the power of the Federal Goverment in this respect.— When asked if he would use force, he answered, "I will obey the laws. I am no warrior— I am a man of peace—but I will obey the laws!"

— The Washington Evening Star says that the composition of the House Special Committee on Secession is the subject of much discussion in and out of Congress, and that altho' extreme men of both sections find fault with it, it candidly confesses that the Speaker could not have selected a better one, take it as a whole, from the materials out of which he had to make it. It embraces every shade of Congressional opinion upon the question of the times, and a majority of it are well disposed toward an amicable settlement of matters.

— A little incident which occurred to a correspondent of the New York Sun in North Wales, indicates the amusing ignorance of some of our transatlantic cousins respecting America and Americans. "In the cars to Holyhead (he says) I fell into conversation with a plump and comfortable looking Welsh woman, who, on learning that I was an American, inquired, with considerable curiosity, "what tribe do you belong to?" "To the tribe of Yankees," was my instant rejoinder. She nodded in a satisfied manner, and said "she had heard of them."

— At Rindge, N. H., on Thanksgiving Day, Granville B., aged 14, and Sabin P., aged 11 years, sons of Mr. Austin A. Bradford, had permission of their parents to skate round the meadow and edge of the pond. Granville ventured out too far, and broke through the ice. His little brother, being anxious for his safety, rushed to his rescue and succeeded in getting hold of his clothing, but the ice being only half an inch thick, it broke under him.— It was 26 minutes before they succeeded in drawing Granville from the water. Two physicians were called who did all human aid possibly could to resuscitate him, but it was too late. Nearly an hour passed before the lifeless body of the youngest brother was found.

— At Troy, the day before, two sons of Stephen B. Farrar—Johnnie S., aged 12 years, and Charlie Dan., aged 10 years, were missing. The father heard they had gone to a small pond to skate—an artificial pond made by blasting and excavating rocks, some [illegible] feet only, but the water some six feet deep. As the father approached the pond, he saw the boys' caps on the ice, when he rushed forward, and before he was aware of it, had stepped into the hole where the sons had fallen in, and was himself nearly half an hour in the water, whence he extricated himself with much difficulty. He went to the village, procured help, and the dead bodies of his two sons were hooked out from the bottom of the pond, where they had been some four hours.

☞ See advertisement of Chambers & Crouch in another column. The Holidays are coming and we advise everbody to go and get their pictures taken and get one of those superb gifts *for nothing.*

MARRIAGES

On the 28th ult., by the Rev. W. M. Blackburn, at the residence of the brides father Mr. JOHN ABELL, of this city, to Miss JOSEPHINE APPLEBY, of Harborcreek.

In this city, on the 6th inst., by the same, Dr. W. V. E. BLEGHTON, of Warsaw, N. Y., to Miss MARY E. ABELL, of this city.

On the 6th inst., at the residence of the brides father, by the Rev. J. G. Fisher, Mr. D. H. FAIRCHILD to Miss MARY M. BRADY, all of North East.

DEATHS.

In this city, of consumption, on Wednesday the 5th inst., Mrs. LUCINDA LAW, consort of John Law, Esq., aged 53 years 10 months and 18 days.

In Greenfield, Nov. 19th, Mrs. JUDITH EMERSON, wife of Thomas King, aged 84 years.

On Saturday, Dec. 1st, Mr. THOMAS KING, aged 80 years. Mr. King was a native of Palmer, Mass., and Mrs. King of Croydon, N. H.

To-Day's Advertisements.

Those who Observe the Kind Old Custom

OF Remembering their Friends on Christmas should not fail to look at the Variety of Articles both Beautiful and Suitable for the Occasion at the store of CARTER & BRO. dec15—28

LADIES' AND GENTLEMEN, GILS AND BOYS, GO TO WILLING'S

AND try your luck at the immense GRAB BAGS, filled with every thing Rich, Nice and Good in the line of

Presents, Toys and Fancy Things.

Only 5 Cents a Grab for Children and 10 Cents for Adults. This will be great Fun!

☞ Open from now until the first of January, 1861. I am determined to sell out whatever I have except Music and Instruments, and have a new Stock of Goods, surpassing every thing I have had before, so buy your Presents of me and be sure of getting BARGAINS.

Stewart's best Candies in large quantity, on hand and for sale cheap. Oblige with a call.

dec15—28 WILLIAM WILLING

NOTICE

IS hereby given to the Stockholders of the Erie and North East Railroad Company, that the Annual Meeting for the Election of Officers will be held at their office in the City of Erie, on Monday the 14th day of January next, between the hours of 2 and 4 o'clock.

Office of E. & N. E. R. R. Co., J. C. SPENCER, Erie, Pa., Dec. 11, 1860. Secretary.

NOTICE

IS hereby given to the Stockholders of the Erie City Railroad Company, that the Annual Meeting for the election of Officers will be held at their office in the City of Erie, on Monday the 14th day of January next, between the hours of 2 and 4 o'clock.

Office Erie City R. R. Co., J. C. SPENCER, Sec'y. Erie, Pa., Dec. 11, 1860.

Sick Headache!

SPALDING'S Cephalic or Sick Headach Pills can be had at the store of CARTER & BRO and O. A. LANDON & CO. dec15—28.

FRENCH'S HOTEL

ON THE EUROPEAN PLAN,

CITY OF NEW YORK

Single Rooms Fifty Cents per Day,

City Hall Square, corner of Frankfort st., (Opposite City Hall.)

Meals, as they may be ordered, in the spacious Refectory. There is a Barber's Shop and Bath Rooms attached to the Hotel.

N. B.—BEWARE OF RUNNERS and HACKMEN who say we are full.

dec15—1y R. FRENCH, Proprietor.

Something New in Erie!

GIFTS! GIFTS! GIFTS!

FOR

THE HOLIDAYS.

JEWELRY GIVEN AWAY!

CHAMBERS & CROUCH,

AMBROTYPE

AND

PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTISTS,

At the Old Stand of Rawson & Chambers, Park Row, between Brown's Hotel and the Reed House, being desirous of affording the public an opportunity of procuring Cheap Gifts for the Holidays, and also to line their own pockets at the same time have determined that for the next thirty days they will sell their ambrotypes, Photographs, and all other kinds of

Pictures at the Regular Rates!

And in addition thereto to present each purchaser of one dollars' worth or over, with one of the following Gifts, viz:

Gents Gold Watch Chains worth from	$5 to 10 00
Gents Sleeve Buttons,	1 to 2 25
Gold Pen and Pencil (with Silver Holder	
Ladies Breastpins and Ear Drops (Carbuncle) per sett	6 00
Ladies Breastpins & Ear drops Floretine per sett	6 00
" " " " Mosaic	5 00
" " " " Cameo	5 25
" " " " Plain	3 75
" " " " Gold Stone	1 50
Gents Finger rings worth from	75c to 1 50
" Bosom Pins	$1 to 2 25
" Studs per set	1 00
" Slides	75c to 1 50
Ladies Slides	50c to 75
" Shawl Pins	25c to 50
Gents Scarf Pins	75
Portmonnies	50

Together with Pocket Knives, Pen Knives, Gold Crosses, Lockets and various others too numerous to mention.

PHOTOGRAPHS.

To every purchaser of $3 00 worth or over of Photographs, we will present an oval gilt frame worth from $1 00 to $5 00. Photographs taken LIVE SIZE if required, and from that down to any required size. We also copy from Daguerreotypes, and

ENLARGE TO ANY SIZE

☞ The undersigned beg leave to assure the public that there is no HUMBUG about this.

Our Pictures will be sold at the same rates as for the past six months, and the Gifts will be

GIVEN AWAY.

CHAMBERS & CROUCH

dec15—28

Steam to Londonderry, Glasgow and Liverpool.

THE MONTREAL OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY'S FIRST CLASS full-powered, Clyde built steamers—

NOVA SCOTIAN, Capt	McMaster
BOHEMIAN, "	Grange
NORTH BRITON, "	Borland
CANADIAN, "	Graham
N. AMERICAN, "	Alton
ANGLO SAXON, "	Ballantine
HIBERNIAN, "	Now Building
NORWEGIAN, "	" "

Carrying the Canadian and United States Mails.

One of the steamers of the line will sail from Liverpool every Thursday, and from Portland every Saturday, calling at Londonderry to receive on board and land mails and passengers to and from Ireland and Scotland. Glasgow passengers are furnished with free passage tickets to and from Londonderry.

Rates of passage from Portland to Londonderry, Glasgow, or Liverpool.—

First Class, (according to accommodation,) $66 & $80

Steerage, (found with cooked provisions,) $30

An experienced Surgeon attached to each steamer.

Return Tickets issued at reduced rates.

Certificates issued for bringing out passengers from all the principal towns of Great Britain and Ireland at the following low rates:—

Londonderry to New York	$30 00
Glasgow " "	32 50
Liverpool " "	35 00
From any R. R. station in England...	40 00
From " " " Ireland...	32 50
From Antwerp, Bremen, Hamburg and Rotterdam to New York...	45 00

Tickets issued at reduced rates, per WASHINGTON LINE OF SAILING PACKETS, leaving Liverpool for New York weekly.

For Passage, at the Office of the Company, 23 Broadway New York, SABEL & SEARLE, General Agents, or G. A. BENNETT, Empire Block, Erie. dec15—1y28

OLD SACHEM BITTERS

AND

WIGWAM TONIC.

THESE delicious and far-famed Bitters are recommended by the first Physicians of the country, on account of their PURITY AND GREAT MEDICAL VIRTUE.

They are pleasant as nectar to the taste, and are pronounced the BEST TONIC AND STIMULANT EVER OFFERED TO THE PUBLIC.

Their curative powers in cases of GENERAL DEBILITY, LOSS OF APPETITE, CONSTIPATION, etc., are unparalleled, and as a guarantee that we feel warranted in claiming what we do, we beg leave to state that our assertions are endorsed by

Prof. SILLIMAN, of Yale College.

Prof. HAYES, of Massachusetts.

and hundreds of others.

For Sale by CARTER & BRO., and by Grocers, Wine Merchants, and Druggists generally.

nov.12—1y24.

Special Notices.

☞ **PRINTING INK.**—PRINTERS will please remember that they can buy the best article of News Ink ever used, manufactured by H. KEELER & Son, New Haven, Conn., at the *Observer* office, for 22 cts per pound, and cheaper than that even, if there is any other establishment West of Buffalo that will furnish as good an article for less!

This ink is used in printing the *Observer*, *Gazette*, *Free Press* and *Spectator*, Erie; *Record*, Conneautville, and *Journal* and *Republican*, Meadville. aug 4

☞ **DR. VALPEAU'S CANKERINE.** The Greatest Discovery of the Age!—For the almost instantaneous cure of canker in the mouth, throat or stomach, resulting from Scarlatina or Typhus Fevers, or any other cause; sore nipples, ulcerated gums, burns, sores of all kinds, impure breath, &c.

It is the best purifier for the breath of anything ever offered to the public.

To whiten and preserve the teeth, apply with a brush it will instantly remove all tartar and other foreign substances, and leave the teeth as white and clear as pearls.

It is entirely free from all poisonous substances, and can be given to an infant with perfect safety.

It is a valuable article for every family to have in the house, as it will remove pain from cuts and burns quicker than anything known. We will warrant it to give satisfaction in every case. Price 25 cents per bottle.

J. BURRILL & Co., Proprietors, 102 Nassau street, New York. april28—47

Sold in Erie, by L. I. Baldwin, No. 6, Reed House and Carter & Bro., Park Row.

☞ **BURRILL'S TURKISH LINIMENT.** The recipe for making this celebrated Liniment was obtained by a gentleman while visiting the Turkish Empire, a few years since. While there he witnessed its use upon horses, and so remarkable were the cures, he concluded to purchase the recipe for making it for his own use, if nothing more. After returning to this country, he made some, and tried it in several cases of swellings, rheumatism, bruises, etc., and found it to cure more speedily than any article ever discovered. Becoming acquainted with the gentleman, I purchased the recipe, and have made and used it with great success, and found one half had never been told of its intrinsic value. For Rheumatism, Sprains, Chilblains, Pains in the Back or Chest, Cramps, Swelled Face, Sore Throat, Neuralgia, Toothache, or Swellings of every kind—It is warranted to cure. For Horses Sprained, Chafed, Wind-Galled, Cracked Heels, etc., it is the most valuable medicine in vogue. The proprietor, knowing full well its merits, will authorize every agent to refund the money where perfect satisfaction is not given. A large number of certificates could be given if necessary, but one trial will satisfy the most skeptical. It is perfectly safe to take inwardly in case of Colic or Cramp. The Liniment is for sale by all Druggists.

J. BURRILL & CO., Proprietors, No. 102 Nassau-st., New-York. Sold in Erie, by L. I. Baldwin, No. 6, Reed House, and Carter & Bro., Park Row. april28—47

☞ **THE GREAT ENGLISH REMEDY. SIR JAMES CLARKE'S Celebrated Female Pills.** PROTECTED LETTERS BY ROYAL PATENT. *Prepared from a prescription of Sir J. Clarke, M. D. Physician Extraordinary to the Queen.*

This invaluable medicine is unfailing in the cure of all those painful and dangerous diseases to which the female constitution is subject. It moderates all excess and removes all obstructions, and a speedy cure may be relied on.

TO MARRIED LADIES

it is peculiarly suited. It will, in a short time, bring on the monthly period with regularity.

Each bottle, price One Dollar, bears the Government Stamp of Great Britain, to prevent counterfeits.

CAUTION.

These Pills should not be taken by females during the FIRST THREE MONTHS of Pregnancy, as they are sure to bring on Miscarriage, but at any other time they are safe.

In all cases of Nervous and Spinal Affections, Pain in the Back and Limbs, Fatigue on slight exertion, Palpitation of the Heart, Hysterics and Whites, these Pills will effect a cure when all other means have failed, and although a powerful remedy, do not contain iron, calomel, antimony, or anything hurtful to the constitution.

Full directions in the pamphlet around each package which should be carefully preserved.

Sole Agent for the United States and Canada, JOB MOSES, (Late I. C. Baldwin & Co.,) Rochester, N. Y.

N. B.—$1,00 and 6 postage stamps enclosed to any authorized Agent, will insure a bottle, containing 50 pills by return mail.

For sale by Carter & Bro., and L. I. Baldwin, Erie, Pa. aug 4—1y9.

☞ **THE AMERICAN MEDICAL AND TOILET RECEIPT BOOK.** This book contains *Receipts* and *Directions* for making all the most valuable Medical preparations in use, also Receipts and full and explicit directions for making all the most popular and useful Cosmetics, Perfumes, Unguents, Hair Restoratives and all Toilet Articles. If you are suffering with any chronic disease—if you wish a beautiful complexion, a fine head of hair, a smooth face, a clear skin, a luxuriant beard or moustache—or if you which to know anything and every thing in the Medical and Toilet line, you should, by all means, peruse a copy of this book. For full particulars, and a sample of the work for perusal, free, address the publisher,

nov 3—3m22 T. F. CHAPMAN, No. 831 Broadway, New York.

☞ **MOTHERS, READ THIS.**—The following extract from a letter written by the pastor of a Baptist church to the "Journal and Messenger," Cincinnati, Ohio, and speaks volumes in favor of that world renowned medicine—MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP FOR CHILDREN TEETHING:

"We see an advertisement in your columns of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. Now we never said a word in favor of a patent medicine before in our life, but we feel compelled to say to your readers that this is no humbug—WE HAVE TRIED IT, AND KNOW IT TO BE ALL IT CLAIMS. It is probably one of the most successful medicines of the day, because it is one of the best. And those of your readers who have babies can't do better than to lay in a supply." See advertisement in another column.

☞ **TO CONSUMPTIVES.**—The Advertiser, having been restored to health in a few weeks by a very simple remedy, after having suffered several years with a severe lung affection, and that dread disease, Consumption—is anxious to make known to his fellow sufferers the means of cure.

To all who desire it, he will send a copy of the prescription used (free of charge), with the directions for preparing and using the same, which they will find a SURE CURE FOR CONSUMPTION, ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS, &c. The only object of the advertiser in sending the prescription is to benefit the afflicted, and spread information which he conceives to be invaluable, and he hopes every sufferer will try his remedy, as it will cost them nothing, and may prove a blessing.

Parties wishing the prescription will please address REV. EDWARD A. WILSON, Williamsburgh, Kings county, N. Y.

oct6 13—1y

☞ **COUGHS.** The sudden changes of our climate are sources of PULMONARY, BRONCHIAL and ASTHMATIC AFFECTIONS. Experience having proved, that simple remedies often act speedily and certainly when taken in the early stages of the disease, recourse should at once be had to "*Brown's Bronchial Troches*," or Lozenges, let the Cold, Cough, or Irritation of the Throat be ever so slight, as by this precaution a more serious attack may be effectually warded off. PUBLIC SPEAKERS and SINGERS will find them effectual for clearing and strengthening the voice. See advertisement. dec1—6m26.

Machine Oil.

A VERY SUPERIOR ARTICLE that will neither chill or cold nor Gum by friction, can be had of nov.4—25 CARTER & BRO.

Printed French Merinos.

SMALL FIGURES High Colors, just received, 3 Cartons, *Cheap*, at HAYES & JORDAN'S

Information for the People.

ALMANACS for 1861—English and German—a full supply for everybody, to be had by asking for them at the Drug Store of CARTER & BRO. and O. A. LANDON & CO. nov24—25

NOTICE.

ALL those having unsettled accounts with us will please call and *look up* without delay as our books are *closed* and *MUST be settled.*

oct 3—22 ORMSBY & BOOTH

1 CASE, 2,000 yards, CHINTS PRINTS, perfect colors, latest style of patterns, for 10 cts. per yard, real value 12½ cts.

may5 VINCENT, TIBBALS, SHIRK & CO

DE FOREST, ARMSTRONG, & CO.

DRY GOODS MERCHANTS

75, 77, 79, 81, 83 & 85 Duane St., N. Y.

WOULD notify the Trade that they are opening Weekly, in new and beautiful patterns, the

WAMSUTTA PRINTS!

ALSO THE

AMOSKEAG!

A New Print, which exceeds every Print in the Country for perfection of execution and design in full Madder Colors. Our Prints are cheaper than any in market, and meeting with extensive sale.

☞ Orders promptly attended to. feb4—1y36

Winter Gloves and Hosiery.

LADIES Cloth Silk and Lisle, and all Silk Fleece Lined Gloves, fine assortment, now opening. Also Ladies, Misses and Childrens, all Wool and Merino Hose, of every quality, *Cheap*, at the BEE HIVE STORE

Painting, Paper Hanging, Glazing, &c., &c.

THE Subscriber begs leave to inform the public that he has purchased the business of the late firm of GRAY & GRIFFIN, and is prepared to execute all jobs of Painting, Paper Hanging, and Glazing with which the public may favor him in such manner and at such prices as cannot fail to please. He also desires to return thanks for the very liberal patronage extended to the late firm and respectfully solicits a continuance of the same. All the book accounts and business of the late firm will be settled by the undersigned.

aug18—11 EDWARD GRIFFIN

CABINET WARE, Office Furniture and Household Furniture, Bedsteads, &c., &c., of good material and workmanship, at low prices for Cash, Store Pay, Lumber, Lath and other trade by G. W. ELLSEY

Next to Baldwins Grocery on State street, north of 8th street, Erie, Pa. nov 10—23

GRIND STONES!

10 Tuns Berea Grind Stones and Grind Stone Hanging for sale by my28.51 J. C. SELDEN

SUGARS!

25 Bbls. Coffee, Crushed, Granulated and Powdered Sugars, cheaper than elsewhere, at June9—58 RINDERNECHT & BECKMAN'S

CLOAKS & MANTILLAS.

HAYES & JORDAN will open this day The Latest Paris Novelties in Black and Drab Cloth and Beaver, Shawletts, Rumons, Arabs, Japanese, &c., one third cheaper than regular prices.

HAMS AND HOMINY

J. HANSON is now receiving from Cincinnati a choice lot of Sugar Cured Hams, and some of the genuine *White Flint* Hominy. Call at the

June 11, 1859—1. GROCERY DEPOT, CHEPSIDE