

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

We have delayed our publication a day, in order to be able to present the President's Message in full. The document is one that will read with more than ordinary interest, alike because it is the first message of its author, and on account of the many and deeply important subjects which it was expected to discuss.

MR. BUCHANAN'S VINDICATION.

The long looked for book of Mr. Buchanan, in vindication of the acts of his administration for which he has been most severely denounced by the Abolitionists, and in defence of the charges which have been made against his patriotism and efficiency, has at length appeared, and may be found for sale at every respectable book store.

We publish in this issue of the OBSERVER the eighth chapter of the book, giving the situation of affairs at Washington upon the eve of the rebellion, and shall follow it up with the ninth and eleventh chapters, embracing nearly all the points which are most directly interesting at the present period.

We have no opportunity to make an extended comment on the work, and content ourselves with referring all who may read our paper to the chapters we copy, feeling well assured they will prove both interesting and instructive.

Gen. Sherman, while in Lawrenceburg, Ind., was asked what he thought of Gen. Palmer's course in Kentucky. He replied: "Well, I don't know. If it's monarchy or consolidation we're after, he is right; but if we want to preserve the old form of government, he's all wrong."

The Springfield Republican says the test oath will answer a good purpose as long as it is desirable to delay the admission of Southern members, but as soon as it becomes an object to admit the Southern States to their former position the oath will either be repealed or essentially modified.

A Vote for Pepper and Tar.—A clever correspondent sends us the following. We will not vouch for its correctness, but true or not, it is worth printing:

A staunch Abolitionist from Springfield township, that section where genuine Abolitionists flourish in unmingled purity, has been elected to the Legislature.

President Lincoln, during the last Presidential campaign, asked a friend if he remembered the text which had been applied to Fremont, and read it, from first Samuel, as follows:

And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him, and he became a captain over them, and there were with him about four hundred men.

The people of Minnesota have voted down negro suffrage by a majority of 2,500; Wisconsin do. by a majority of 6,000; Connecticut do. by a majority of 8,000; Colorado by a vote of ten to one. The only State which has sustained negro suffrage is Iowa. Can it be possible that there will be men in Congress base enough to insist on forcing upon the South a measure repudiated by nearly every Northern State?

Tax Legislature of North Carolina have elected Hon. Wm. A. Graham, Whig candidate for Vice President on the same ticket with Gen. Scott, a United States Senator from that Commonwealth. Mr. Graham was a member of the Confederate Congress, and has not yet received a pardon from the President.

Gov. Bradford, of Maryland, has offered a reward of \$500 for the arrest of the incendiaries who set fire to the colored Methodist church at Millington, Kent county. The Cecil Democrat wonders how large a reward the Governor would have offered had the church belonged to the white Methodists.

MEETING OF CONGRESS.

The first session of the Thirty-ninth Congress, began at 12 o'clock noon, on Monday, the larger proportion of the members of both Houses from the Northern States being in attendance.

In the Senate a protest was presented against the admission of Hon. John P. Stockton, Senator elect from New Jersey, signed by the Republican members of the State Legislature, and claiming that, on account of the absence of some of the members of that body at the time of his election he did not receive a constitutional number of votes.

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Items of Local Interest.

The Baptist congregation have resolved to procure an organ, at a cost of \$2,500.

Our thanks are due to the Dispatch office for the use of the type in which the President's Message is set.

William Huggo, a young man working at the By State Iron Works, had one of his little fingers cut off by a circular saw, on Saturday.

The Common Council on Monday evening elected B. F. H. Lynn, Esq., proprietor of the Dispatch, a member of that body, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of E. J. Pelton.

Messrs. Cronin & Greene have opened a Furniture, Auction and Commission Store, adjoining the First National Bank, where they intend carrying on the business in an extensive manner. Auction sales will be held on two evenings of every week.

Dr. J. Humphrey, of Union, has associated with him in the practice of medicine at that place, Dr. O. S. Abbey, of Watsburg, a young and skillful physician. The people of Union are to be congratulated upon having two such able medical men in their community.

The editor of the Tidone Chronicle evidently has not the fear of railroad companies before his eyes, as witness the following: "A man with at least as much brains as an ordinary ass, as Freight Agent at Irvine, Apply to the Superintendent of the P. & E. railroad, with certificates of good moral character."

The Times is the title of a new paper established at Beno, Venango county, of which S. D. Page, Esq., is the editor. Its typographical appearance is more than ordinarily attractive, and it is edited with a vigor that is not often met with in journals outside of the largest cities.

The Crawford Journal says Artemus Ward was "greeted by a very full house" in that place—"much larger than would be the case again." Artemus may be a 'big injun' in some places, but the people of Meadville are so unaccountably stupid that his wonderful wit is not more than half appreciated.

Judge Barrett, we are gratified to announce, has recovered from his late protracted illness, and resumed his duties as city postmaster. The Judges' politics are of the very blackest and worst sort, but his amiability and accommodating official spirit render him universally popular among our citizens.

The fence around the East Park has been completed, and the grounds present as tasty an appearance as can be met with anywhere. The West Park will have a similar fence placed around it next spring, when the market-house will also be removed.

The Buffalo Courier learns that Mr. Bateman says Paraps, the famous lady vocalist who sung here last Monday evening, \$4,000 a month, and Levy, the cornet player, \$2,000 a month. His expenses, it says, are about \$500 per night, and yet he is making money. We guess, though, the Courier's figures are a little too big.

Our readers will perceive by the advertisement elsewhere, that the celebrated actor, McKean Buchanan, accompanied by his talented daughter, Virginia, will appear with the dramatic company to perform in Farrah Hall next week. The Troupe, we are assured, consist of performers who are throughout much superior to the class which usually appears in places of this size. The reputation of the Buchanan's will assure them crowded houses during the whole time of their stay in Erie.

Capt. M. J. Cronin has retired from the naval service, and is about to establish a sewing machine agency in our city. Capt. J. H. Welsh will also have the service in a short time.

A man named Nathan Todd, residing near Middlesex, was killed near Sharon on Monday evening of last week, by the train from Pittsburg. He was stupefied by liquor, and lay across on the track. His body was literally cut in pieces, so that it was almost an impossibility to identify it.

On Sunday evening we had a rarity for this season of the year, in the shape of a regular midsummer thunder storm. The rain fell in torrents, and the way the thunder rolled and the lightning flashed was thoroughly amazing.

The Crawford Democrat is of the opinion that the late destructive fire in Meadville was the work of incendiaries. It says there are cretures about that town "who are capable of perpetrating any act of fiendish malignity."

The numerous friends of Dr. Robert Faulkner will be gratified to learn that he is recovering from the spell of sickness which has confined him to his bed for a long time.

A New York correspondent writes to the Indianapolis Journal that: "A report is in circulation that Anna E. Dickinson is to be married this winter to a journalist of this city, a young widower, who first advised her to ascend the rostrum, and to whom she ascribes all her success. They have been engaged privately for four years, rumor says, and inasmuch as he loved her when she was a poor, laboring girl in the Philadelphia mint, she no doubt feels assured that his affection for her is none the less genuine since she has grown wealthy and famous." Happy man! how he is to be envied!

We have now completed, or in course of building, a series of railroad improvements at this city that would be creditable to any locality in the Union. The Philadelphia & Erie buildings, at the junction, are on an extensive scale, and calculated to cost upwards of \$200,000. The Round House of the Buffalo & Erie railroad is acknowledged to be one of the very best edifices for its purpose ever erected. It is built in the most solid manner possible, and is a model of substantiality, convenience, and architectural ability.

On Friday night the old divine died from one of the most singular circumstances in our local history. An old lady in Pennsylvania, married in 1701, declares that during her life she must be published in public meetings and played on the meeting house one month before the ceremony can be legally performed. For years the statute has been null. It filled a place in the records of commonwealth law, but its terms were never deemed. Mr. Barnes joined in lawful holy wedlock two lovers who blushing came to the altar, and the sacred fulfillment of their heart's desire. The bride was the daughter of a resident of this city. He objected strenuously to the union, but his anger toward the children was impotent. They were united in marriage, and he could not do his duty. His daughter was of full age, but he himself was not twenty-one. Powerless to separate them, the father pursued the gray-haired clericman for violation of the antiquated act of 1701. The fourth of a father allowed the vengeance of the foe of the law. Mr. Barnes was brought before the District Court, with Judge Sharswood on the bench.

The defendant's counsel contended that proof of the non-performance of the vows of matrimony was not required by the statute, but that the plaintiff should prove the fulfillment of the act would lead to many divorces, to the breaking of many family ties, and that the father (the plaintiff) had done wrong in casting a doubt upon the legality of the marriage of his daughter, united in holy matrimony by a power recognized by ecclesiastical law. The plaintiff's counsel urged the enforcement of the statute. Judge Sharswood instructed the jury that the law was still in force; that no one could join in marriage a minor without the consent of the parents and publication of the banns; and he instructed the jury that if they found such consent had not been obtained and such publication made, the plaintiff was entitled to recover. The case was argued on the opening of the court on Saturday morning, the melancholy verdict was announced by the Judge, in discharging the jury, that Mr. Barnes had died a few hours after leaving the court house.

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News of the Week.

A fund for the relief of John R. Davis is to be raised in the South by one-dollar subscriptions.

A shocking railway accident occurred near Warrenton, Va., on the Orange and Alexandria railway, last week. By the breaking of a rail, a coach filled with troops was precipitated down an embankment, ground to powder, and two soldiers and a brakeman instantly killed, while a lady and twenty-seven soldiers were severely wounded.

Robert Tombs has escaped from Georgia and sailed for Erie. It will be remembered that the Government officers attempted to arrest him at the same time Stephens and C. C. Clay were nabbed. They proceeded to Tombs' house, but he disappeared out of one door as they entered at another.

In northeast Nevada, on the 17th November, which took place between a party of California volunteers and a band of Indians. 120 of the Indians were killed. Of the volunteers one was killed and two wounded.

Great suffering for want of food is anticipated in Alabama during the winter. It is estimated that 200,000 thousand persons in that State are destitute.

The railroad depot at Milford, Mass., was broken into one night last week, and the safe blown open and robbed of \$100. One of the burglars was found on the floor with his feet crushed by a piece blown from the safe. The man has not been identified, nor have any traces of his accomplices been discovered.

A family of three persons were murdered at Manheim, Herkimer county, N. Y., on Monday night of last week. No clue to the murderers has been discovered.

President Johnson has issued a proclamation restoring the writ of habeas corpus in all the Northern States and Territories. The writ is not restored in the District of Columbia.

The Republican majority in Minnesota is officially stated at 1,400, a loss of 5,000 since last year. Negro suffrage is defeated by 2,500.

Evans A. Van Amburg, the famous locomotive engineer, died last week in Philadelphia suddenly and unexpectedly. He was a native of Fishkill, N. Y.

A party of 200 Cayenne and Apache Indians, on the 26th ult., attacked one of the whites upon the California Overland Route, near a place called Downer's Spring, killed seven persons, burned all the buildings in that vicinity, with the stocks of goods they contained, and committed other outrages.

A party of armed negroes from a plantation near Mobile, Ala., recently attacked the whites upon a neighboring plantation. The negroes were driven off with the loss of their weapons and their leader, who was killed.

The public debt, on November 30th, amounted to \$2,740,847,558 80, a decrease of \$7,419,173 since the previous statement.

Baptist Church.—The ceremonies connected with the dedication of the Baptist Church and the ordination of the pastor, Rev. Mr. Bainbridge, will take place on Thursday and Friday of next week, and promise to be very interesting.

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THE GREAT STRENGTHENING.

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