

THE REGISTER

J. W. CHAPMAN, Editor.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1850.

To Borrowers—Somebody who borrowed...

To Correspondents—The Hermit, by "Bianchi Wink"...

The last words of a dying drunkard by "H. B."...

Several pieces of poetry in manuscript, left for inspection...

The Special Message—We give this week the President's Special Message...

The last week's fire—We briefly mentioned last week, after the paper was made up...

The call for a meeting of our citizens to effect a prompt, thorough and energetic re-organization of a Fire department...

Donors of Coats—But two or three unimportant jury trials were had this week...

As frequent inquiries are made about the Bill of indictment found against T. P. St. John...

We commend attention to the notice of an examination and exhibition at the N. E. Bayville Academy...

Things at Harrisburg.

Our thanks are due to the polite attention of Hon. J. N. Conyngnam, Representative of Luzerne...

The election of State Treasurer was the main business of Monday the 31st inst. It was reported that among the numerous petitions for Bank charters...

On Tuesday the 22d inst. Mr. Streeter reported from the Judiciary Committee a supplement to the act for abolishing imprisonment for debt.

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Things at Washington.

Mr. Calhoun has been in such a critical state of health lately as to render his recovery extremely doubtful. Our latest news however says he is better, and likely to get up again.

It has been rumored that Gen. Houston would this week take occasion to define his position on the Slavery question, which is represented to be in opposition to the doctrines of the Calhoun school, and probably a sort of a middle ground between Calhoun and Benton.

Gen. Cass has been delivering himself of a long and prosy speech of two or three days length, in opposition to the Wilnot Proviso and opposed also to the sentiments of his own state. It is supposed to be a specimen of the long yarn he would have spun out in his message if he had been elected President.

Special Message of the President, on the subject of California.

To the House of Representatives of the United States.—I transmit to the House of Representatives, in answer to the resolution of that body, passed on the 21st of December last, the accompanying reports of heads of departments, which contain all the official information in the possession of the executive asked for by the resolution.

On coming into office, I found the military commandant of the department of California exercising the functions of a civil governor in that territory; and I felt as I was not under the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, without the aid of any legislative provision establishing a government in that territory, I thought best not to disturb the arrangement made under my predecessor, until Congress should take some action on that subject.

I therefore did not interfere with the powers of the military commandant, who continued to exercise the functions of civil governor as before; but I made no such appointment, conferred no such authority, and have allowed no increased compensation to the commandant for his services.

With a view to the faithful execution of the treaty, so far as laid in the power of the executive, and to enable Congress to act at the present session, with as full knowledge and as little difficulty as possible on all matters of interest in these territories, I sent the Hon. Thomas Butler King, as bearer of despatches to California, and certain officers to California and New Mexico, whose duties are particularly defined in the accompanying letters of instruction addressed to them severally by the proper departments.

I did not hesitate to express to the people of those territories my desire that each territory should, if prepared to comply with the requisitions of the constitution, and submit the same to Congress, with a proper provision for the union of the States, and the establishment of any such government, without the assent of Congress, nor did I authorize any government agent or officer to interfere with nor exercise any influence or control over the election of delegates, or over any convention, in making or modifying their domestic institutions, or in making any other local laws, or in exercising any other powers, or in originating any such government, or in originating any such government, or in originating any such government.

I am unable to give any information as to laws passed by any supposed government in California, or any assents taken in either of the territories mentioned in the resolution, as I have no information on these subjects, as already stated. I have not disturbed the arrangements which I found existing under my predecessor. In endorsing an early application of territory for admission into the Union, as stated, I was actuated principally by an earnest desire to afford to the wisdom and patriotism of Congress the opportunity of avoiding any dissensions among the people of the United States.

Under the constitution every state has the right of establishing, and from time to time altering its municipal laws and domestic institutions, independently of every other authority, and the general government is subject only to the propositions and guarantees expressly set forth in the constitution of the United States. The subject thus left exclusively to the respective states were not designed or expected to become topics of national agitation.

Still, as under the constitution, Congress has power to make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territories of the United States, every new acquisition of territory has led to discussions on the question whether the system of involuntary servitude, which prevails in many of the states, should, or should not, be prohibited in that territory? The periods of excitement from this cause, which have heretofore occurred, have been safely passed; but during the interval of whatever length which may elapse before the admission of the territories ceded by Mexico, as states, it appears probable that similar excitement will prevail to an undue extent. Under these circumstances, I thought, and still think it my duty to endeavor to put it in the power of Congress, by the admission of California and New Mexico as states, to remove all occasion for the unnecessary agitation of the public mind.

It is understood that the people of the western part of California have formed a plan of a state constitution, and will soon submit the same to the judgment of Congress, and apply for admission as a state. This course on their part, though in accordance with my wish, was not exclusively and exclusively in consequence of any expression of my opinion, inasmuch as measures tending to this end had been promoted by the officers sent there by my predecessor, and were already in active progress of execution before any communication from me reached California. If the proposed constitution of the United States, I can only recommend that it may receive the sanction of Congress.

The part of California included in the proposed state of that name, is believed to be uninhabited, except in a settlement of our countrymen in the vicinity of Salt Lake.

A claim has been advanced by the State of Texas to a very large portion of the most populous district of the territory, commonly designated by the name of New Mexico. If the people of New Mexico had formed a plan of state government for that territory, as ceded by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, and had been admitted by Congress as a state, our constitution would have afforded the means of obtaining an adjustment of the question of boundary with Texas to a judicial decision. At present, however, no judicial tribunal has the power of deciding that question, and it remains for Congress to devise some mode for its adjustment.

Meanwhile, I submit to Congress the question whether it would be expedient, before such adjustment, to establish a territorial government, which by including the district so claimed, would practically decide the question adversely to the state of Texas, including it, would decide it in her favor. In my opinion, it would be most expedient to expedite, especially as the people of this territory will enjoy the benefit and protection of their municipal laws originally derived from Mexico, and have a military force stationed there to protect them against the Indians. It is undoubtedly true that the property, lives, liberty and religion of the people of New Mexico are better protected than they ever were before the treaty of cession. Should Congress, when California presents herself for incorporation into the Union, annex a condition to her admission as a state, affecting her domestic institutions, contrary to the wishes of her people, and

For the Saquehanna Register.

Leraysville Academy.

The examination of the several classes connected with this school, will commence on Monday, the 4th of February next, at 2 o'clock P. M. On Monday evening the "Papers" composed of original compositions by the students, will be read. The examination will be continued Tuesday, and on the evening there will be a lecture on the subject of education, by Rev. George Landon, A. M., of Herrick, Bradford county. On Wednesday the examination will be concluded, and in the evening, will be held the gentlemen's exhibition. As this will be the first anniversary of this institution, it is desirable that its friends should be present. All who know, or have heard Mr. Landon, will not lose the opportunity of hearing him again; and those who have not heard him will be well paid for their pains, by listening to his eloquent appeals in favor of a general and practical education. The exercises, above named, will be held at the Methodist Chapel in Leraysville. We extend a general invitation to the friends of education to attend.

N. B. The next quarter will commence Wednesday the 13th of February, and continue eleven weeks. Scholars will find it much to their advantage to enter at or near the opening of the term.

H. J. NEWELL, Principal. Leraysville Academy, Jan. 28, 1850.

The Fire Meeting.

Pursuant to public notice, the citizens met at the Court House on Friday evening, and organized by appointing B. S. BENTLEY Chairman and Isaac L. Rod Secretary.

The object of the meeting having been stated by the chairman, it proceeded to organize a Fire Company under the following resolution:

"We, the undersigned, agree to become members of a Fire Company to be hereafter organized under a charter from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania passed the last session, subject to a Constitution and By-Laws to be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the whole number of members."

Resolved, That the Company proceed to a temporary organization by electing one Foreman and two Assistant Foremen, one Pipe-man, four Wardens, a Secretary and Treasurer.

Under this resolution the following named gentlemen were duly chosen: Samuel H. Sayre, Foreman; H. C. Simpson and I. F. Turrell, Assistant Foremen; A. L. Webster, Pipe-man; S. H. Mulford, Treasurer, and Peter Stevens, Secretary.

Resolved, That B. S. Bentley, Esq., Geo. Fuller, J. B. Salisbury and I. L. Post be a committee to draft a charter and Constitution and By-Laws.

Resolved, That the meeting recommend the passage of an Ordinance by the Town Council requiring every household (except the netting firmen) to procure and keep on hand, always in readiness, a Leather Fire Bucket.

Resolved, That the Town Council be requested to procure, speedily as possible, 8 feet additional Section Hose and 100 feet additional Leading H. C. and also procure the Charter from the State.

Resolved, That the Foreman and Assistant Foremen present the above to the Council.

Resolved, To adjourn subject to the call of the Foreman.

Resolved, That the proceedings be published. Isaac L. Post, Sec'y.

Deeply Afflicting Occurrence.

Never perhaps did we sit down to record a more painful, a more deeply distressing, and in this community, a more generally and heartily deplored accident, than occurred on Saturday last, in Plymouth Township. Miss Ellen aged 13 years, eldest daughter of Hon. George W. Woodward, Miss Ann aged 20 years, daughter of William B. Butler, and who from her childhood had resided in the family of Judge Woodward, and Miss Benner aged about 17 years, a young lady from Centre County, a visitor at Judge Woodward's, went out for recreation, and while amusing themselves by sliding on ice, formed upon a pool on the ice near Judge Woodward's residence, the ice breaking—they were all drowned. A child who witnessed the sad catastrophe, gave the alarm, and persons hastening to the spot, found and took from the water the dead bodies, all having sunk through one aperture in the ice. Judge W. was in Wilkesbarre at the time, and on receiving the sad intelligence, hastened to the place, where the sorrowful evidence of the deed reality only increased, if possible, the agony of his bosom.

What a heartrending catastrophe!—what a melancholy spectacle! The bodies of three amiable young females, who had just before left the same house—all bright and cheerful—and who were innocently amusing themselves—now all taken from the watery element, lifeless and inanimate. How strongly illustrative of the Scripture truth, that in the midst of our joys, we are in death. And Oh! how keen the pang of bereavement! We repeat our most commiserate sympathies to the bereaved, and would they gladly rush to the pleasant task.

After perceiving the foregoing, we were informed that the young ladies were accompanied in their excursion by a Miss Totten, and two younger daughters of Judge Woodward. Miss Benner first broke through the ice, and was instantly out of sight. Miss Totten hastened to her rescue, and breaking in, where the water was not so deep, was instantly gone. Miss Woodward succeeded in getting hold of one of the bodies, but sinking to her shoulders. In this situation and holding on to the body, with great presence of mind, she directed those on land to run for help, saying she thought she could endure her position 15 or 20 minutes. Soon however she sunk. The younger sisters under the excitement and consternation of the moment, begged to go and help Ellen; but were restrained by Miss Totten. Fortunately there was one present to deter them, or still more sad might have been the catastrophe. Her safety, having been so exposed to the danger, relatives have much to console them in their deep affliction.

Miss Butler and Miss Woodward had some time previous sought salvation through their Savior, and united with the Church of God on earth. Miss Benner is represented like the others, as having been amiable and conscientious and of exemplary deportment, and probably was also a pious member of the Church Militant. A comforting hope in the death must be some of great comfort to their afflicted relatives.

The remains of Miss Benner were sent to her widowed and now deeply bereaved mother, in Bellefonte, Centre County.

On Monday the remains of Miss Butler and Miss Woodward were carried to the old burying ground in this Borough, followed by an immense sorrowing multitude. Their bodies were not while doubtless their spirits are mingling with those of a pure and peaceful abode, enjoying the gain of departed saints.

Old Buck's Letter.

We have heard nothing for some weeks, of the letter from the Hon. James Buchanan, on the subject of Slavery, which it was some time since announced, he had prepared, proposing a method for the final and satisfactory adjustment of that exciting question, and which was to be published immediately after the organization of Congress. It is barely possible that Mr. Cass has taken the wind out of Buck's sails, and that the letter may never appear. The most likely plan for Mr. Buchanan's proposal would be, to let the south select give him their votes in 1852, and have their own way in all things.—Daily News.

Court of Conciliation.

Governor Fish has established the Legislature of New York has established a Court of Conciliation, by means of which parties disposed to a just settlement of their differences, can do so amicably, promptly and without the expense of lengthy and tedious suits at law.

Act of Assembly of 1849 for working and repairing Highways.

Section 6, No. 347.—That the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth sections of an Act, entitled "An Act to alter the road laws, and for other purposes," passed the third day of March, one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven, be and the same be hereby extended to the townships of Brooklyn and Jessup, in the county of Susquehanna.

Act No. 150.—A. D. 1847. Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly, that it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That from and after the passage of this act, the supervisors of the township of Lenox, in the county of Susquehanna, are authorized and required, before the first day of April in each year, to divide said township into convenient number of road districts, not to exceed fourteen, in such manner as to assign to each district a fair proportion of public roads, according to the amount of road-tax assessed in the respective district, and to furnish the road-master in each district with the boundaries of his district, and a list of the taxables therein; together with the amount of tax to be paid by each.

Sec. 2. From and after the passage of this act, the qualified voters of said township may, at the election of township officers, elect by ballot, one person for road-master in each road district in said township; and the road-master so elected shall hold the office for one year, from the first day of April in each year, to divide said township into convenient number of road districts, not to exceed fourteen, in such manner as to assign to each district a fair proportion of public roads, according to the amount of road-tax assessed in the respective district, and to furnish the road-master in each district with the boundaries of his district, and a list of the taxables therein; together with the amount of tax to be paid by each.

Sec. 3. The said road-masters shall notify, by at least ten days' notice, each person named in his duplicate, of the time and place he intends to work on said roads; and if the person so notified, neglects or refuses to work as directed, such delinquent shall be returned, as soon as the road-master may think proper, to said supervisors, who shall issue their warrant for the collection of the tax of said delinquent, as they are required to do under the existing laws.

Sec. 4. The said road-masters are hereby required to have the road tax in their respective districts worked out, as soon as may be after they receive their duplicates from the supervisors, but not later than the first day of September, except in case of unusual or unexpected circumstances, which may require the repair or rutting out of new roads; and they shall annually, in the month of January in each year, meet with the said supervisors, and settle their respective accounts; and any failure on the part of said road-masters to settle or to work out their taxes, as above stated, shall subject those neglecting to a fine of fifteen dollars, to be recovered as other fines of equal amount are by law recoverable, before a Justice of the peace, if the suit of the proper treasurer of the township, or a complaint made by the supervisors to said treasurer.

Sec. 5. The taxables of any road district shall not be required to go out of their respective districts for the purpose of making or improving any road in said township; but in case of damage or destruction of any bridge in said township, the expense of repairing, or re-building, which would be too heavy and burthenous upon the inhabitants of the district in which the same may be situated, then the inhabitants of the district nearest thereto shall aid in rebuilding said bridge.

Sec. 6. The compensation of said supervisors shall not exceed one dollar per day; and the said supervisors shall not be paid for more than five days each year, for services rendered in and about the business of said roads in said township; and the road-masters of the several districts shall, to the amount of their respective road tax, be allowed the same daily pay as laboring hands receive on the highways; but the road-masters shall receive no other compensation than their respective road taxes.

Sec. 7. It shall be the duty of the officers of election in said township, to provide a separate box for each district, for the electors of each district of said township, to deposit their votes therein; but no elector shall vote more than one person for road-master. When election is closed, the officers thereof shall make return of the election of said road-masters to the clerk of said township, who shall truly enter said return in the records of said township.

Sec. 8. The existing road laws, so far as they are supplied or altered by this act, are thereby repealed in the aforesaid township of Lenox.

The above laws have been copied from the acts of Assembly; as are above quoted, for the benefit of the townships of Brooklyn and Jessup, to which the attention of the supervisors of said townships are particularly and respectfully solicited.

Canning a British Charge d'Affairs.

News has been received by the State Department at Washington of a personal encounter between Mr. Z. W. Potter, the new American Consul at Valparaiso, and Henry Stephen Sullivan, nephew of Lord Palmerston, the British Charge d'Affairs at Chili. We opine Mr. Sullivan will know how to treat Brother Jonathan after this following account of the affair is given in the Baltimore American:

"On the 9th of December last it seems that Col. Potter, with his family, being en route for Valparaiso, stopped at Lima. It being necessary that the steamer should be left by a certain day at Callao, in order to take in a supply of coal, Col. Potter took lodgings for himself and family at the French hotel. After having taken his rooms in the hotel, in which he was shown by the landlady in person, and as he supposed, comfortably lodged his family during the stay of the steamer at Callao, he walked out in company with a 'companion de voyage' to take a view of Lima and its novelties and curiosities.

"Col. Potter had not long left his lodgings, before the Honorable Henry Stephen Sullivan, with his family, stopped at the hotel, and deliberately walked up to the rooms, which had been assigned to Col. Potter, and family, took forcible possession of them, and turned Mrs. Potter and her infant child out of doors. Mrs. Potter besought him, with tears in her eyes, to await the return of her husband, who would only be absent for a few minutes, but it was all in vain. His British nobility told her that she was a common American cook, and ordered her out, with her child in her arms, directing a servant to find another apartment for her. Gen. Herrera, who occupied rooms near those taken by Col. Potter, was appealed to by Mrs. P., and he and his daughter, Mrs. Mickle, went with her to the Charge and besought him to await the return of Col. Potter; but this appeal was also without effect.

"Some time after the brutal occurrence, Colonel Potter returned to the hotel, when he was informed of what had occurred, and as soon as he could hear the story he called upon Mr. Sullivan, who had just gone out. After a short time he called again, and was again told that the gentleman was not in. Col. Potter declined to disturb the family of the offender, or in the least to take advantage of his absence, but went immediately to a hotel in the Plaza, and procured other lodgings, it being nearly night. Early the next morning he repaired to the rooms of the Charge, and very politely to accompany him to the apartments of Gen. Herrera, in order to have an explanation of the disgraceful conduct towards Mrs. Potter; the previous evening, Mr. Sullivan coolly declined the request, and told Col. Potter that it was he (Col. P.) who must make the apology. Upon this, Col. Potter administered to him a well merited and well applied chastisement, causing him until they were completely exhausted with the effect—the one in the passive, the other in the active pose.