

By the departure of the Eastern stage last Friday about an hour earlier than usual on account of the extremely bad travelling, the bundle of papers usually carried by the Driver on that route was some ten minutes too late in reaching the stage office, and laid over till Monday.

We have received a sort of poetic effusion from an unknown source, upon a Donation Party. Although it was postage paid, it is inadmissible to poke fun at such matters anonymously through the paper. Perhaps the author did not intend it for publication, but that we should forward it to the World's Fair, as a specimen of American Literature!

The Plank Road.

In pursuance of the charter just granted by our Legislature for a Plank Road from Montrose to Harford, the Books were opened for the subscription of stock on Monday last, at Searle's hotel in this place, by the Commissioners appointed in the act, and we are enabled to congratulate our friends and the public with the highly encouraging prospects. Notwithstanding the day was one of the most unpropitious for the storm of drenching rain and the roads and streets almost impassable for a long time, there was quite a gathering of the friends of the project, and no less than \$12,500 of the stock, or more than half the sum named in the charter was subscribed on the first day, which would be alone sufficient to construct the road from this place to the Leggett's Gap Railroad, the extent of which it was at first contemplated. But since the charter has been obtained for its extension to the village of Harford, the effort to have the road continued to that place bids fair to be entirely successful.

It is hoped that the stock yet to be subscribed here will make the sum well on toward \$20,000 and in the course of a week or two they will probably be opened in Harford. The project is now certain to go ahead, vigorously and speedily, notwithstanding the predictions that it would prove like some other projects, "a flash-in-the-pan." The distance from here to the Railroad in Martin's Creek Valley will probably be about seven miles to get a good grade, and thence to Harford village it is believed that a fair grade may be got in a distance not much exceeding five miles, so that the whole distance hence to Harford will be about twelve miles.

INOX ON.—Being yesterday called into a store while passing along the street, with the information that somebody had left something there for us, we found on looking, what we took at first glance to be a good sized ham or shoulder of smoked meat, such as many of our farmers patronize were sent the printer in days past—(especially before there was so good a market demand for such articles in our county,) and we already began in imagination to sniff the savory odor of fried ham and eggs, when on closer inspection we found it to be a huge lump of brown stone richly impregnated with ore sent us from Great Bend, where it was discovered not long since on land of A. DuBois, Esq., by a stranger who has purchased some five acres of the low land containing it for \$1,000, with the design of working the mine. We are not informed of the extent of the mine, nor have we the means at hand of analyzing or determining the degree of richness of the specimen sent us; though judging from its weight we should think it rich in place of ore. We hope it may prove to be both rich and extensive, and abundantly reward the enterprise of the purchaser. Although we are unable to appropriate this present to the ordinary purpose of feeding the Printer, it is suggested that as the several States are contributing blocks of marble &c. for the Washington monument, this may be designed by some of our friends at Great Bend who are satisfied with the present location of the County seat, to be cut into a corner stone for a new Court house, whenever it shall become necessary to rebuild.

ANOTHER CALIFORNIAN AT HOME.—Alexander McCollum arrived at his residence between this place and New Milford on Monday morning last after an absence of nearly two years in California. His return greatly rejoiced his family and friends of course, who had almost begun to despair of his reaching home, on account of his prolonged voyage.

TOWNSHIP ELECTIONS were held throughout this county last Friday. It was a drenching rainy day and a small turnout. No party strife was elicited in the elections here for the Borough of Montrose and township of Bridgewaters in the latter where the vote is usually nearly two to one against the Whigs. Gilman Walker, a good Whig was chosen a Justice of the Peace almost without opposition to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of John H. Chapman, who was elected in a like manner without party strife a year or two ago. Constables Maud and Foster were re-elected in the Borough and township.

SMALL POX.—This loathsome disease having found its way to several places along the Erie Railroad has caused some stir at Lapeerboro' and Sasquehanna Depot, several cases having lately occurred at the latter place. We understand it was brought there by a Railroad hand who boarded at one of the hotels, and the nature of the disease not having been discovered by the Physicians till he was beyond help, a great many persons were exposed, some six or eight of whom broke out with the disease last week. Measures have since been taken to stop the further spread of the infection as much as possible.

By an examination of the State map, it may be seen that there are some 29 counties in this State where the County Seats are as far from the geographical centre as New Milford would be in this. But there are full 20 in which they are not so central as Montrose, while there are from six to ten others that are not any more so. Probably not more than 20 counties in the State have County Seats absolutely any nearer the centre than this is now.

The Providence Journal says:—We are informed by a gentleman of unimpeachable veracity that he has seen a letter in which Gen. James pledges himself, in case of his election to the Senate, to support the principles of the Whig party.

U. S. Senator.—No Senator has yet been elected in Massachusetts yet, nor is there much prospect of this session. In New Jersey, however, where they have also had several unsuccessful trials, enough of the locos have united on Com. Stockton to elect him with the help of a few Whigs and independents who either voted for him or absented themselves.

Mysterious rappings, Spiritual disclosures, and Clairvoyant revelations keep making a noise about the country, and by some reports, appear to be spreading their manifestations, having appeared as near us as Elmira, Binghamton, and some say, in New Milford recently. Some of the papers contain astounding performances of this kind, like some clairvoyant revelations we copy this week, while others contain late announcements of the discovery of these performances to be sheer humbug and imposture. Among these the N. Y. Tribune lately stated that a Clairvoyant out in Michigan somewhere undertook to discover, and actually revealed to the people in that region the sad particulars of the loss of the Steamer Atlantic, detailing minutely the terrible disaster by which all on board had found a watery grave, just before the joyful news was received of her safe arrival at Cork with every soul alive! The Tribune concludes that the spirit that made this revelation must have been one of the bogus kind. A late Tribune also contains a long communication from Buffalo announcing the exposure of the mystery of the Rochester Rappings.

The Legislature of Iowa has passed a law prohibiting the immigration of negroes, and requiring them to leave the State upon three days' notice of the law, under certain penalties.

THE WORLD'S FAIR.—We have hitherto neglected to mention that among the appointments made by Gov. Johnston, of persons to serve on a committee for this State to facilitate the forwarding of specimens of American Art and Industry to the World's Fair at London, there have been two appointed in this county. Hon. WILLIAM JASPER and the editor of this paper have received commissions from the Governor for that purpose some days since; but presuming there would be no call for our services in that capacity in this region, especially at this late day, a public notice of these appointments was omitted. We would now state, however, that if any persons in this 'quarter' have anything they wish to have exhibited at that Fair, they will please command our services forthwith.

We expect to have a means of communication with the Fair directly from our printing office, as a Brother Typo now with us intends to take passage about the first of April, whereby the Craft will be represented there; and if a live Printer from the back country can command a premium among the World's curiosities he may bid well for the prize.

Although there is plenty of talking in Congress reported as usual, we apprehend that all the action of importance is likely to be crowded into the last days of the session, of which Monday next is to be the very last. It will be seen by the subjoined extracts from the summary given by the Sussex Register for last week, that the Cheap Postage bill, the River and Harbor bill, and other matters of really deep interest to the people, were still dragging slowly along, and later news, renders it quite doubtful whether any of them but the appropriation bills (by which the Congressional Salaries will manage to get their own pay) will finally be got through this session.

A great portion of the time seems to have been taken up in discussing the late outrage in Boston—the sudden rescue of a fugitive slave by a collection of negroes who thus violated the law of the United States while a legal examination was going on, and the message of the President detailing the circumstances drawn out by resolutions of the Senate. The proclamation of the President on this subject will be seen in another part of this paper. Every law-abiding citizen will of course recognize the duty of the President whenever necessary, to see that the laws are duly enforced by every means in his power, though many cannot help inquiring why other frequent violations of the laws by mob violence in our cities, and the outrages sometimes committed in the Southern States on the rights of northern citizens do not equally call for a grave proclamation from the President.

The Senate on Monday, spent most of the day unprofitably in depreciating "agitation" on the subject of Slavery, but finally got up the Postage Reduction bill and commenced its discussion. We trust they will soon pass it in some shape. The House on Monday were upon Rivers and Harbors, as usual, and actually finished the discussion of their "Democracy." That is something. Various amendments were then voted upon them with an indifferent success, and the committee rose late in the evening without coming to any result.

The Senate on Tuesday, took up Mr. Clay's Resolution calling on the President for immediate information in regard to the rescue of the alleged slave in Boston, and after spending most of the session in discussing this affair in connection with the Shay Rebellion, the invasion of Cuba, &c., the resolution was unanimously adopted. Mr. Walker offered a Resolution in favor of reducing the expenses of the Army and Navy, which was laid over. The House Postage bill was taken up, and Mr. Seward's amendment in favor of a uniform two cent rate of letter postage was rejected. An amendment to allow newspapers of not over 300 square inches to pass through the mails at one fourth the rates fixed for large papers was adopted and the Senate adjourned.

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DR. BACON ON THE FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW.—The Independent contains a powerful article from this distinguished divine on the Fugitive Slave Law, dated at Rome. We quote a few sentences:—

"1. By the law of nature and of nations, a slave whenever he has the opportunity of putting himself beyond the reach of the laws that enslave him, has a right to do so, and by so doing becomes legally free.

"Our own Government not only acknowledges the right of every man to improve his social condition by expatriating himself and seeking a way home under other institutions, but it incorporates that right into its laws. It naturalizes all comers who are willing to abjure the allegiance in which they were born; and having naturalized them, it undertakes to defend them against all the claims of other sovereignities and other laws. Not only so, but our Government, and even our existence as a people, is founded on that right. We have asserted and maintained that right, by arms, not only in our war for Independence, but in our second war with the foremost Empire in the world. Who will tell us that a native of Virginia has not as good a right to expatriate himself as a Hungarian or an Italian, a Russian or an Irishman? By the laws then, and as understood and accepted throughout the civilized world, and especially as acted upon by our own Government, the slave, when he escapes from the reach of the laws which enslave him, becomes free by a natural and inalienable right.

"The constitution does not forbid me, as a citizen of a free State, to exercise hospitality towards any man, of whatever complexion, who calls at my door and asks for food or raiment, or shelter. It does not require me to presume that the poor wanderer is a fugitive from slavery in a Southern State; or if I know he is a fugitive, it does not require me to presume that his master has any purpose or even a wish to reclaim him; or if I know that his master is in pursuit of him, and that the bounds of oppression are close upon his track, the constitution does not compel me even then to betray the trembling outcast. Nor would I betray him, God helping me, though every human power commanded me to perpetrate the baseness, and Nebuchadnezzar's fiery furnace were the penalty.

Things at Harrisburg.

We find very little of peculiar interest to our readers in the late doings of our Legislature. Petitions and memorials for and against a removal of the county seat are occasionally presented, but no action is had on them thus far. The bill to re-annex Montour to Columbia county finally passed the House on Wednesday the 19th, by a vote of 48 to 47.

Petitions in favor of a free Banking law based upon the State Stocks, continue to pour into the Legislature, and although no decisive action is yet had upon it, several prominent men of both parties favor the plan, who have observed its successful working in other States, and it is thought it will finally pass notwithstanding the clamor raised by some who have always clamored against every other system of banking security, and who oppose this apparently to continue the present miserable one in operation, fearful that a whig administration will gain some credit if a successful reform in Banking is introduced by it.

Things at Washington.

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New Motives for Legislation.

A Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Daily News writes as follows:

Information reached here to-day, by telegraph, that your State Senate has passed the bill repealing the act of 1847, which closes your jails to the slave holding States, and forbids jailors to admit in your jails fugitive slaves. This information has given great satisfaction here, and will have a salutary effect upon Congress. Let but this action be promptly followed by the adoption of resolutions expressive of a determination, on the part of Pennsylvania, to adhere to the adjustment measures of the last Congress, and the prospect of something being done by Congress to revive and sustain the suffering industrial interests of your State will be increased tenfold. The repeal of so much of the act of 1847 as is so offensive to the South, and the passage of compromise resolutions, by our Legislature, will do more to promote the success of the efforts now being made here to revise or modify the Tariff, than all the resolutions of instructions in favor of an increased duty on coal and iron that can pass. Why then not have prompt action on these subjects in the lower branch of your Legislature. Had the act of 1847 been repealed, and adjustment measures approved, during the first or second week of the session of the Legislature, there remains little doubt in my mind that some favorable legislation would have been had here on the subject of Pennsylvania interests before this time; and this, I believe, is the prevailing sentiment of all those now here from your State, for the purpose of procuring a modification of the present Tariff. Many of your people may have difficulty in bringing themselves to believe that non-action on the part of your Legislature upon the subjects referred to, have operated against their efforts to have their interests protected; but let those who doubt come here to urge action upon the subject of the Tariff, and they will soon discover the difficulties in their way, and I doubt not, arrive at the same conclusion which those here who are now here, many of whom entertained different views when they left home. The information from Harrisburg as to the action of the Senate has revived the spirits of those attending here to urge action upon the subject of the Tariff, and they now feel as if they could walk with some propriety with heads erect, and make bold in demanding corresponding legislation from Southern members favorable to Pennsylvania interests.

So it seems if the representatives of the Free and Freedom loving people of Pennsylvania will go on and repeal such State laws now in existence relative to the use of our county prisons, &c., as are displeasing to the South, and will also pass resolutions glorifying those compromise measures which include the Fugitive Slave law, requiring the people here to help the slave hunters catch their niggers, the members of Congress from the South may graciously permit justice to be done us by such modifications of the Tariff as are asked for. Now we would respectfully suggest whether it would not be full as wise and proper to first consider calmly and dispassionately the merits and demerits of the act of 1847 itself, and if it is really wrong or unjust in its provisions, to amend or repeal the law, whether the South clamors for it or not! It was passed we believe by our Legislature without any existing excitement at the time, as part of an act to prevent kidnaping, and was deliberately approved by the late Governor Shunk. If there is any thing radically wrong about it however, let it be repealed forthwith by all means, for the sake of right; but never because certain hot-spurs in Congress demand it as a condition of allowing proper legislation in that body. Let a modification of the Tariff be obtained if possible on its own merits; but before we would submit to purchase it at the expense of right and justice we will be compelled to resolve that *white is black or black white*, in relation to the Fugitive Slave law. We would "grin and bear it" under almost any kind of a Tariff for a while at any rate.

The correspondent of the N. Y. Express says:—The Father of the President of the United States arrived at the White House last evening, while the President was holding his usual Friday's levee. The old man of 80 is thus gratified in seeing a favorite son in the highest place mortal man can fill, a place which he has won by industry, by ability and character, and which he fills to the satisfaction of all his countrymen, without distinction of party.

Messrs. Stanley and Inge, of the House of Representatives, have been held to bail to prevent them from fighting a duel. Mr. Stanley, who is from North Carolina, is supposed to be the challenger for words spoken in debate.

There are no less than nine editors in the two branches of the Wisconsin Legislature. It may, therefore, be safely presumed that what is done during this session will be sensible practicable and speedy.

The population of the State of New Hampshire is less, by about two hundred thousand than that of the city of New York.

The Fall River Monitor, says: We are sorry to learn that our white brethren of Springfield have been taking lessons of their colored brethren of Boston in the promotion of disorder, the present week by burning George Thompson and Edmund Quincy in effigy and pelting them with rotten eggs. We do things in better shape in Fall River, allowing every man or woman, free use of their tongues; and if what they advance is not palatable, dissolve company. If the Springfielders expect to retain the good opinion of their neighbors, they better follow our example.

COST OF THE ARMY AND NAVY.—In the last 65 years, it is estimated, on the authority of official documents, that our military establishments have subjected us to an expense of at least \$950,000,000. The navy has cost about \$80,000,000 more, and yet the talk at Washington is that we should still further increase the Army and Navy establishments with the increase of territory and growth of country.

Constitutional Rights—North and South.

The citizens of each State shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States.

No person held to service in labor in one State, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such labor may be due.—[U. S. Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 2.]

—These two clauses from the same instrument, the same article, are respectfully commended to the attention of President Fillmore and his Constitutional advisers. They are by right of equal validity and equally binding on Government and People. If there be any obligation resting on the Federal Executive to enforce the one, that obligation extends equally to the other. Yet for a lifetime the former requisition has been steadily, systematically, ostentatiously defied. Citizens of Free States, trading to or visiting Slave States, are habitually dealt with in those States in glaring violation of its express injunction. White freemen from the North are subjected to imprisonment, indignities and outrage in South Carolina and other rabid lower law States on vague suspicion that they are Abolitionists, and punished with whipping and banishment because of the finding of a newspaper in their trunks unfavorable to Slavery. Colored citizens of Massachusetts or Rhode Island, whose rights before the law of their own States are equal to those of any other citizens, are regularly dragged from the vessels in which they are serving as seamen or stewards, on the arrival of said vessels at Charleston, S. C., or other Southern ports, thrown into prison, there confined till their vessel is ready to sail, and then compelled to pay heavily for the cost and charges of such arrest and detention, under penalty of being sold into perpetual Slavery.

This has proceeded for years without opposition or remonstrance from the Federal Executive. But the first case of successful evasion, by a few poor ignorant citizens of a Free State, of the provisions intended to favor Slavery, is the signal for general commotion. The President is summoned to the defense of the violated Constitution. Proclamations and threats of military coercion fill the public ear. Whether the whole State of Massachusetts is to be put under martial law or only the City of Boston subjected to a state of siege, we do not hear at this present writing, but it is plain that something terrible is meditated.

All we ask is, that the Constitution be dealt with fairly, and its provisions in favor of Freedom be enforced as promptly, earnestly and fully as those which are held to favor Slavery. The Federal Government was not created only nor mainly to uphold Slavery; it was intended primarily to subserve the cause of Freedom. Let us have no re-entrenchment of the Boston Port Bill while the Constitution is defied in Charleston with the audacity of law and the impunity induced by Federal acquiescence. Give us Executive enforcement as well of the clause which guarantees to all citizens of Free States the unimpaird rights of citizens in Slave States, so of that which favors re-enslavement, and we have nothing more to ask.—New York Tribune.

Gambling.

A taste for Gambling is easily excited, but when fully aroused, is too strong to be readily allayed. Nor is it alone in dram shops and raffling houses, that this accursed passion is first stimulated to action. The following facts, given by a correspondent of the Western Recorder, show that customs and practices have been introduced within the vestibule of the Christian church, which are directly calculated to inspire the novice with a taste for games of hazard:

"A father, in the time of a revival, called on a minister to converse with his son, who had formerly a habit of gambling, and for whose spiritual interest they were under much concern. The pastor did so, and was treated by the young man with much courtesy, and he had hopes he had secured his object of convincing him of the injurious course he was pursuing, and that a reformation would be the result. When about to leave, the young man requested to be heard a moment, and addressed the pastor as follows: "Three years ago the II— church held a fair and festival. Those splendidly bound books you see on the table were set up at lottery. After much persuasion on the part of a young female friend, I consented against my inclination to purchase two tickets. The prize fell to me, and I embraced the first opportunity of gambling on a larger scale, and since then have lost hundreds of dollars. But for that lottery, under the patronage of a Christian church, I never should have become a gambler."

CONNECTICUT TOWN ELECTIONS.—The Hartford Courant gives the result of the Town Elections in Connecticut, showing that the Whigs have made large gains, they having carried 73 towns entitled to 118 representatives in the Legislature, the Locos 63 towns entitled to 89 representatives, and 11 towns entitled to 16 representatives, are divided. The previous year the Whigs were successful in only 57 towns, entitled to 92 representatives, (and this was about their strength in the last Legislature) the Locos in 83 towns entitled to 122 representatives, and 7 towns entitled to 9, were divided.

"RUNNING UP" PROPERTY.—IMPORTANT DECISION.—In a case brought before the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, from Delaware county, it was decided last week, that in a public sale, where a person is employed to "run up" the property, and make the purchaser pay more than if none, but bona fide bidders bid for it, the sale is fraudulent and void, so far that the purchaser is not obliged to take the property struck off to him.

A destructive fire occurred at Utica on the night of the 15th, another at Buffalo, on the evening of the 21st inst.

Latest from California.

The steamer Merino, with fifteen day later news from California, over 200 passengers and a large amount of gold dust arrived at New Orleans on the 14th inst. She left San Francisco on the 7th, and the Creoma City on the same day left for New York. The trip of the Promethius is the quickest ever made between the two ports.

The California Legislature assembled on the 6th of January. Governor Burnett had resigned and Mr. McDougal, (the late Acting Governor, who had been inaugurated in his stead) David Broderick was elected President of the Senate.

The Governor's message is a straightforward and sensible document.

The election for U. S. Senator has taken place, and the matter was a subject of much speculation. It is asserted that the Democrats will elect their candidate, but that it will not be Col. Fremont.

Political affairs present no material change. Every thing was quiet, and the health of the country good. Business was more prosperous, and all kinds of produce were abundant. Thomas Butler King, has arrived at San Francisco.

Mining operations continued successful. There was great excitement on account of new discoveries of gold in the beach sand on the coast, of wonderful richness, other rich discoveries have also recently been made, and the miners generally are doing well. American Flour is selling at \$12 1/2 per bushel. The city of Concepcion at Chill, has been destroyed by an earthquake.

All California is excited with the rumor of a new discovery, far surpassing anything yet heard of. The Alta California has the following account:

"Twenty-seven miles beyond the Trinity, there is a beach several miles in extent, and bounded by a high bluff. The sands of this beach are mixed with gold to an extent almost beyond belief. The sand is of two kinds, a fine black and a grey sand. The grey sand can be separated very easily from the black sand, and this seems to be a desirable object. The gold is mixed with the black sand in proportions, of from ten cents to ten dollars per pound. At times when the surf is high, the gold is not easily discovered, but in the spray of the year, after a succession of calm, the entire beach is covered with bright and yellow gold.

Mr. Collins, the Secretary of the Pacific Mining Company, measured a patch of gold and sand, and estimates it will yield to each member of the Company the sum of \$43,000,000—and this estimate is based upon a calculation that the sand holds out to be one-tenth as rich as observation warrants them in supposing. Gen. Wilson says that thousands of men cannot exhaust this gold in thousands of years, and he gives all who doubt his statements the liberty of going and ascertaining these facts for themselves."

A Proclamation.

By the President of the United States.

REPUBLIC OF CALIFORNIA.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18, 1851.

Whereas, information has been received that sundry lawless persons, principally persons of color, combined and confederated together, for the purpose of opposing, by force, the execution of the laws of the United States, did at Boston, Mass., on the 15th of this month, make a violent assault on the Marshal or deputy Marshal of the United States for the district of Massachusetts, in the Court House, and did overcome the said officer, and did, by force, rescue from their custody a person arrested—a fugitive slave, and then and there a prisoner, lawfully held by the said Marshal or Deputy Marshals of the United States—and other scandalous outrages did commit, in violation of law: Now, therefore, to the end that the authority of the laws may be maintained, and those concerned in violating them brought to immediate and condign punishment, I have issued this my proclamation, calling on all well disposed citizens, to rally to the support of the laws of their country, and requiring and commanding all officers, civil and military, who shall be found within the vicinity of the said outrage, to be aiding and assisting by all means in their power, in quelling this and other such combinations, assisting the Marshal and his deputies in recapturing the above mentioned prisoner; and I do especially direct that prosecutions be commenced against all persons who shall have been seen, against aiders and abettors in or to this flagrant offense; and I do further command that the District Attorney of the said State, and all other persons concerned in the administration or execution of the laws of the United States, cause the foregoing orders—such as aided, abetted, or assisted them, or shall be found to have harbored or concealed such fugitive, contrary to law—to be immediately arrested and proceeded with according to law.

Given under my hand and the seal of the United States, this 18th day of February, eighteen hundred and fifty one.

MILLARD FILMORE.

President of the United States.

By DANIEL WEBSTER, Sec'y of State.

CONSPIRACY TO ROB AND MURDER.—A conspiracy to rob and murder an old man and his daughter, residing in the county, about a mile and a half from Harrisburg, has been detected in time to prevent the outrage. The conspirators were three negroes and an abandoned white man, of Harrisburg. One of the party disclosed the plot to Constable Snyder, who arrested the whole party. The object of the men was money, a large amount of which they supposed the old man to possess.—North American.

Mr. Cowen, in his report as Secretary of the Treasury, shows the cost of the Mexican War direct and indirect, to be two hundred and seven millions of dollars up to this time, with an amount of an indefinite amount by time to come.