hing better than constant strife, the suspension of the power of local enterprise, the exciting of vain hopes, and the disappointment of cherished expectations.

In expending the appropriations made by the last Congress, several cases have arisen in relation to works for the improvement of harbors, which involve a question as to the right of soil and jurisdiction, and have threatened conflict between the authority of the State and General Governments. The right to construct a breakwater, jetty, or dam, would seem, necessarily, to carry with it the power to protect and preserve such constructions. This can only be effectually done by giving jurisdiction over the soil. But no clause of the Constitution is found on which to rest the claim of the United States to exercise jurisdiction over the soil of a State, except that conferred by the eighth section of the first article of the Constitution. It is, then, submitted, whether, in all cases where constructions are to be erected by the General Government, the right of soil should not first be obtained, and legislative provision be made to cover all such cases.

For the progress made in the construction of roads within the territories, as provided for in the appropriations of the last Congress, I refer you to the Report of the Secretary of War.

There is one subject of a domestic nature, which, from its intrinsic importance and the many interesting questions of future policy which it involves, cannot fail to receive your early attention. I allude to the means of communication, by which different parts of wide expanse of our country are to be placed in closer connection for the purposes both of defense and commercial intercourse, and more especially such as appertain to the communication of those great divisions of the Union, which lie on the opposite sides of the Rocky Mountains.

That the Government has not been unmindful of this heretofore, is apparent from the aid it has afforded, through appropriations for mail facilities and other purposes. But the general subject will now present itself under aspects more imposing and more purely national, by reason of the surveys ordered by Congress, and now in the process of completion, for communication by railway across the continent, and wholly within the limits of the United States.

The power to declare war, to raise and support armies, to provide and maintain a navy, and to call forth the militia to execute the laws, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions, was conferred upon Congress, as a means to provide for the common defence, and to protect a territory and a population now wide spread and vastly multiplied. As incidental to and indispensible for the exercise of this power, it must sometimes be necessary to construct military roads and protect harbors of refuge. To appropriations by Congress for such objects, no sound objection can be raised. Happily for our country, its peaceful policy and rapidly increasing population impose upon us no urgent necessity for preparation, and leave but few trackless deserts between assailable points and a patriotic people ever ready and generally able to protect them.—These necessary links, the enterprise and energy of our people are steadily and boldly struggling to. All experience affirms that wherever private enterprise will avail, it is most wise for the general Government to leave to that and individual watchfulness the location and execution of means of communication.

The surveys before alluded to were designed to ascertain the most practicable and economical route for a Railroad from the Mississippi to the Pacific Ocean. Parties are now in the field in three explorations, where previous examinations had not supplied sufficient data, and where there was the best reason to hope the object sought might be found. The means and time being both limited, it is not to be expected that all the accurate knowledge desired will now be obtained, but it is hoped that much, and important information will be added to the stock previously possessed, and that partial if not full reports of the surveys ordered will be received, in time for transmission to the two Houses of Congress, on or before the first Monday in February next, as required by the act of appropriation. The magnitude of the enterprise contemplated is arousing, and will doubtless continue to excite a very general interest throughout the country. In its political, its commercial, and its military bearings, it has varied, great, and increasing claims to consideration. The heavy expense the great delay, and, at times, fatality attending travel by either of the isthmus routes, have demonstrated the advantage, which would result from interoceanic communication by such safe and rapid means as a railroad would supply.

These difficulties, which have been encountered in a period of peace, would be magnified and still further increased in time of war. But while the embarrassments already encountered, and others under new contingencies to be anticipated, may serve strikingly to exhibit the importance of such a work, neither these nor all considerations combined, can have any appreciable value, when weighed against the obligation strictly to adhere to the Constitution, and faithfully to execute the power it confers. Within this limit and to the extent of the interest of the government involved, it would seem both expedient and proper, if an economical and practicable route shall be found, to aid, by all constitutional means, in the construction of a road which will unite by speedy transit, the populations of the Pacific and Atlantic States. To guard against misconception, it should be remarked that, although the power to construct, or aid in the construction of, a road within the limits of a territory is not embarrassed by that question of jurisdiction which would arise within the limits of a State, it is nevertheless held to be of doubtful power, and more than doubtful propriety, even within the limits of a territory, for the general government to undertake to administer the affairs of a railroad, a canal, or other similar construction, and therefore that its connection with a work of this character should be incidental rather than primary. I will only add, at present, that, fully appreciating the magnitude of the subject, and solicitous that the Atlantic and Pacific shores of the Republic may be bound together by inseparable ties of common interest, as well as of common fealty and attachment to the Union, I shall be disposed, so far as my action is concerned, to follow the lights of the Constitution, as expounded and illustrated by those, whose opinions and expositions constitute the standard of my political faith to regard to the powers of the government. It is, I trust, not necessary to say, that no grandeur of enterprise, and no presumptuous inducement promising popular favor will lead me to disregard those lights, or to depart from that path, which experience has proved to be safe, and which is now radiant with the glow of prosperity and legitimate constitutional progress. We can afford to wait, but we cannot afford to overlook the lack of our security.

It is no part of my purpose to give prominence to any subject, which may properly be regarded as set at rest by the deliberate judgment of the people. But while the present is bright with promise, and the future full of demand and inducement for the exercise of active intelligence, the past can never be without useful lessons of admonition and instruction.

If its dangers serve not as beacons, they will evidently fail to fulfil the object of a wise design. When the grave shall have closed over all who are now endeavoring to meet the obligations of duty, the year 1850 will be referred to as a period filled with anxious apprehension. A successful war had just terminated. Peace brought with it a just augmentation of territory. Disturbing questions arose, bearing upon the domestic institutions of one part of the confederacy, and involving the constitutional rights of the States.—But, notwithstanding differences of opinion and sentiment, which then existed in relation to details and specific provisions, the acquiesence of distinguished citizens whose devotion to the Union can not be doubted, has given renewed vigor to our institutions, and restored a sense of repose and security to the public mind throughout the confederacy. That this repose is to suffer no shock during my official term, if I have the power to avert it, those who placed me here may be assured. The wisdom of men who knew what independence cost—who had put all at stake upon the issue of the Revolutionary struggle—disposed of the subject to which I refer, in the only way consistent with the Union of these States, and with the march of power and prosperity which has made us what we are. It is a significant fact, that from the adoption of the Constitution until the officers and soldiers of the Revolution had passed to their graves, or through the infirmities of age and wounds had ceased to participate actively in public affairs, there was not merely an acquiesence in, but a prompt vindication of the constitutional rights of the States. The reserved powers were scrupulously respected. No statesmen put forth the narrow views of dasuists to justify interference and agitation, but the spirit of comnact was regarded as sacred in the eye of honor, and indispensable in the great experiment of civil liberty, which environed with inherent difficulties, was yet borne forward in apparent weakness by a power superior to all obstacles. There is no condemnation which the voice of freedom will not pronounce upon us, if we prove faithless to our trust. While men inhabiting different parts of this great continent can no more be expected to hold the same opinions, or entertain the same sentiments, than every variety of climate or soil can be expected to furnish the same agricultural products, they can unite in a common object or sustain common principles essential to the maintenance of that object. The gallant men of the North and the South could stand together during the struggle of the Revolution; they could stand together in the more trying period that succeeded the clangor of arms. As their united valor was adequate to all trials of the camp and dangers of the field, so their united wisdom proved equal to the greater task of founding, upon a deep and broad basis, institutions, which it has been our privilege to [illegible] ever be our most sacred duty to sustain. It is but the feeble expression of a faith strong and universal, to say that their sons, whose blood mingled so often upon the same field during the war of 1812, and who have more recently borne in triumph the flag of the country upon a foreign soil, will never permit alienation of feeling to weaken the power of their united efforts, nor internal dissensions to paralyze the great arm of freedom, uplifted for the vindication of self government.

I have thus briefly presented such suggestions as seem to me especially worthy of your consideration. In providing for the present, you can hardly fail to avail yourselves of the light which the experience of the past casts upon the future.

The growth of our population has now brought us, in the destined career of our national history, to a point at which it well behooves us to expand our vision over the vast perspective.

The successive decennial returns of the census since the adoption of the constitution have revealed a law of steady progressive developement, which may be stated, in general terms, as a duplication every quarter century. Carried forward, from the point already reached, for only a short period of time as applicable to the existence of a nation, this law of progress, if unchecked, will bring us to almost incredible results. A large allowance for a diminished proportional effect of emigration would not very materially reduce the estimate, while the increased average duration of human life known to have already resulted from the scientific and hygienic improvements of the past fifty years, will tend to keep up through the next fifty, or perhaps one hundred, the same ratio of growth which has been thus revealed in our past progress; and to the influence of these causes may be added the influx of the laboring masses from eastern Asia to the Pacific side of our possessions, together with the probable accession of the populations already existing in other parts of our hemisphere, which, within the period in question, will feel, with yearly increasing force, the natural attraction of so vast powerful and prosperous a confederation of self governing republics, and seek the privilege of being admitted within its safe and happy bosom, transferring with themselves, by a peaceful and healthy process of incorporation, spacious regions of virgin and exuberant soil, which are destined to swarm with the fast growing and fast spreading millions of our race.

These considerations seem fully to justify the presumption, that the law of population above stated, will continue to act with undiminished effect, through at least the next half century; and that thousands of persons who have already arrived at maturity, and are now exercising the rights of freemen, will close their eyes on the spectacle of more than one hundred millions of population embraced within the majestic proportions of the American Union. It is not merely as an interesting topic of speculation that I present these views for your consideration. They have important practical bearings upon all the political duties we are called upon to perform.—Heretofore our system of government has worked upon a miniature scale, in comparison with the development, which it must thus assume, within a future no fear at hand, as scarcely to be beyond the present of the existing generation.

It is evident that a consideration so vast and so varied, both in numbers and in territorial extent, in habits and in interests, could only be kept in national cohesion by the strictest fidelity to the principles of the constitution, as understood by those who have adhered to the most restricted construction of the powers granted by to the people and the States; interpreted and applied according to those principles, the great compact adapts itself with healthy ease and freedom to an unlimited extension of that benign system of federative self government, of which it is our glorious and, I trust, immortal charter. Let us, then, with redoubled vigilance, be on our guard against yielding to the temptation of the exercise of doubtful powers, even under the pressure of the motives of conceded temporary expediency.

The minimum of Federal Government, compatible with the maintenance of national unity and efficient action in our relations with the rest of the world, should afford the rule and measure of construction of our powers under the general clauses of the Constitution. A spirit of strict deference to the sovereign rights and dignity of every State, rather than a disposition to subordinate the States into a provincial relation to the authority, should characterize all our exercise of the respective powers temporarily vested in us as a sacred trust from the generous confidence of our constituents.

In like manner, as a manifestly indispensable condition of the perpetuation of Union, and of the realization of that magnificent national future adverted to, does the duty become yearly stronger and clearer upon us, as citizens of the several States, to cultivate a fraternal and affectionate spirit, language, and conduct, in regard to other States, and in relation to the varied interests, institutions, and habits of sentiment and opinion, which may respectively characterize them. Mutual forbearance, respect, and noninterference in our personal action as citizens, and an enlarged exercise of the most liberal principles of comity in the public dealing of State with State, whether in legislation or in the execution of laws, are the means to perpetuate that confidence and fraternity, the decay of which a mere political union, on so vast a scale, could not long survive.

In still another point of view, is an important practical duty suggested by this consideration of magnitude of dimensions, to which our political system, with its corresponding machinery of government, is so rapidly expanding. With increased vigilance does it require us to cultivate the cardinal virtues of public frugality and official integrity and purity. Public affairs ought to be so conducted that a settled conviction should pervade the entire Union that nothing short of the highest standard of public morality marks every part of the administration and legislation of the General Government. Thus will the federal system, whatever expansion time and progress may give it, continue more and more deeply rooted in the love and confidence of the people.

That wise economy, which is as far removed from parsimony as from corrupt and corrupting extravagance—that single regard for the public good, which will frown upon all attempts to approach the treasury with insidious projects of private interest cloaked under public pretexts—that sound fiscal administration, which, in the legislative department, guards against the dangerous temptations incident to overflowing revenue, and, in the Executive, maintains an unsleeping watchfulness against the tendency of all national expenditure to extravagance—while they are admitted elementary political duties, may I trust, be deemed as properly adverted to and urged, in view of the more impressive sense of that necessity, which is directly suggested by the consideration now presented.

Since the adjournment of Congress, the Vice President of the United States has passed from the scenes of earth, without having entered upon the duties of the station, to which he had been called by the voice of his countrymen. Having occupied, almost continuously, for more than thirty years, a seat in one or the other of the two houses of Congress, and having, by his singular purity and wisdom, secured unbounded confidence and universal respect, his failing health was watched by the nation with painful solicitude. His loss to the country, under all the circumstances, has been justly regarded as irreparable.

In compliance with the act of Congress of March 2, 1853, the oath of office was administered to him on 24th of that month, at Ariedne estate, near Matanzas in the island of Cuba; but, his strength gradually declined, and was hardly sufficient to enable him to return to his home in Alabama, where, on the eighteenth day of April, in the most calm and peaceful way, his long and eminently useful career was terminated.

Entertaining unlimited confidence in your intelligent and patriotic devotion to the public interest, and being conscious of no motives on my part which are not inseparable from the honor and advancement of my country, I hope it may be my privilege to deserve and secure, not only your cordial cooperation in great public measures, but also those relations of mutual confidence and regard which it is always so desirable to cultivate between members of coordinate branches of the Government.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 5, 1853.

SERVILE.—Capt. McClue while making the North West Passage, had an interview, at Point Warren, with a wild tribe of Arctic Indians, the Chief of whom being asked why he went a great distance to trade with the Esquimaux, instead of trading with the posts on Mackenzies river, said the reason was that the white men there had given the Indians very bad water, which killed many, and made others foolish, and that they would not have any such water! Think of that, ye hardy men of the 40th latitude, who think bad water essential to keep off the cold! This fretotal bearskin chief, with brass buttons for earrings, sitting on an iceberg in the polar sea, should be forthwith installed Great Grand father of the Sons of Temperance for both hemispheres.

The Susquehanna Register.

H. H. FRAZIER, EDITOR.

MONTROSE, PENN'A.

Thursday Morning, Dec. 15, 1853.

TERMS.

One Dollar and fifty cents per annum cash actually in advance.

Two Dollars if paid within the year.

Two Dollars and fifty cents if not paid until after the expiration of the year.

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Congress.

But little has yet been done in Congress, besides organizing the two Houses.

In the Senate, on Monday last, Mr. Seward gave notice of a bill to aid the State of New York in constructing a Ship Canal around the Falls of Niagara. Several petitions for cheap postage were presented. Mr. Cass, offered a resolution, calling upon the President to transmit to the Senate the correspondence relative to certain treaties made at Washington between the British Government and the United States, which was amended by Mr. Clayton, and adopted. Bills were introduced for granting lands to Louisiana, California, and Iowa, in aid of railroads in those States.

In the House of Representatives, Mr. Gerrit Smith presented a petition from the New York Temperance Alliance, asking Congress to take action for the suppression of intoxicating drinks in the District of Columbia—laid over. Mr. Cobb introduced the Homestead Bill—referred to committee on Public Lands. Mr. Wentworth and Mr. Washburn, of Illinois, offered resolutions affirming the power of Congress to construct railroads through the territories of the United States for facilitating transportation of troops &c., Mr. Jones of Tenn., moved to lay the resolutions on the table, pending which the House adjourned.

The Late Collision.

On Thursday evening of last week, an Erie Railroad emigrant train going west and an express train going East, were driven into each other at a curve about three miles from Jersey City. The Engineers seeing the imminence of the crash, jumped off in season, and escaped unhurt but the conductor of the express train was somewhat injured, a brakeman had his ankle cut off, and has since died; two of the passengers were so seriously injured that their recovery is doubtful, and two other persons were hurt but not dangerously. The violence of the shock was such that the locomotives were broken and the forward cars forced into each other and crushed to pieces.

The accident arose from the recklessness of Mr. Brewer, the Conductor of the emigrant train, who, after being delayed, ventured forward when the express train was due.

New Publications.

Mechanics: their Principles and Applications. Edited by OLIVER BYRNE.—The progress of Mechanical arts in this country, of late years, has attained a degree of perfection and practical application, which renders it necessary for almost every man, no matter what his profession or calling, to have, at least, an elementary knowledge of Mechanics, and their Practical Applications. The Books previously in use on this subject, from their abstruse mathematical and technical terms are rendered difficult to be understood, and have became as it were, sealed books to the working man, and those who, being denied in early life, the benefits of a classical and mathematical education, may wish to remedy the defect.

This book will enable the working man and those deprived of the above advantages, to acquire the principles of mechanics, and how to apply them to practical purposes, even with a moderate English education. To this end, the Publishers have induced the celebrated Oliver Byrne, who, in addition to the reputation acquired in Europe, by his skill as an Engineer, and the production of numerous and celebrated mathematical and mechanical works, has, also, in this country, become widely known by his great works, 'The Dictionary of Machines, Mechanics, Engine-work, and Engineering, and his Pocket Companion for Machinists, Mechanics, and Engineers,' to write and edit the work, in his well known plain and practical style. The work is beautifully got up, on good paper, handsomely printed, and contains numerous illustrations. Price 75 cents. [New York, De Witt & Davenport, 160 and 162 Nassau Street.

Godey's Lady's Book.—Godey leads the column. The January number, dressed in beautiful new type, and filled with superb embellishments and choice reading matter, is already on hand. No more appropriate or beautiful ornament for a Lady's table can be found in Magazinedom. Great improvements are promised for the coming year, and Godey always keeps his promises. Terms, $3 per annum.—We will furnish one copy of the Lady's Book, and one copy of the Register, one year, for $3,50.

The Ladies' Wreath, for December, contains a variety of choice reading, and some very pretty colored engravings.—$1,00 a year; Burdick & Reed, No. 8. Spruce St. New York.

The Plough, the Loom, and the Anvil. The pleasure with which we greeted the re-appearance of this excellent monthly on our table, we can only account for on the supposition that

'Absent, our friends become more dear,'
'And prized more highly than when near;'

for two long months we had watched for its coming, in vain. The December number presents the same honest face as of old, and quite disarms us of our suspicions of wilful neglect, inducing the belief that the non-receipt of the October and November numbers was accidental.—Should the missing numbers yet come to hand we shall restore the work to its former high place in our regrads. Terms per annum. One copy $3, two copies $5, five copies $10; ten copies, $15. Myron Finch, Publisher, No. 9, Spruce St. New York.

Knickerbocker Magazine.—The number for January, 1854, begins the forty third volume of this delectable Magazine. The price of the Knickerbocker has been lowered from $5 to $3, and its size increased by the addition of 16 pages in each number, while its quality at least suffers no deterioration. A new story by the author of the 'Attorney,' commences, in the December number Fitz Green Hallick, Rev. F. W. Shelton, Ik Marvel, and a host of celebrities besides, will continue to adorn its pages with their productions. The Editor's Table continues to be richly and abundantly supplied. $3 a year, two copies for $5. five copies and upwards, $2, each. Samuel Hueston, Publisher, 139 Nassau St. New York.

News and Notions.

—It is reported that Governor Foote, of Mississippi, has resolved to emigrate to California.

—General Armstrong, of the *Washington Union*, has been elected printer to the House of Representatives.

—The Cincinnati Nonpareil asks, "Why is the Penetentiary like the Kingdom of Heaven? Because few rich men enter therein.

—A large majority of Congress is understood to be distinctly and resolutely opposed to the appropriation of public money in aid of steam-ship lines.

—'In all Labor there is profit.' True, but who reaps it? Verily the printing business was unknown, when that idea was started.

—In Aarau, a town of 3,000 or 8,000 inhabitants, Swizerland, the Protestants and Catholics have but one Church. They share it peaceably together.

—Harsh words are like hailstones in summer, which if melted, would fertilize the tender plants they batter down.

—New Albany, Indiana, is a fast city.—sixteen hundred and forty buildings have been erected there within the past year.

Dr. Rahbeg, in his lectures on lectures, recommended to his hearers never to dispute with a women; never challenge a hotel keeper's charges; and never to quarrel with an editor.

—G. P. R. James is making a tour in the far West, probably to collect material for future romances. It is supposed that his next "two horsemen" will be of the Sioux tribe.

—A volcanic eruption of fire and lava from Mount Barker, one of the cascade range of Mountains in Oregon, took place last winter. Think of having a live volcano—a regular 'Vesuvius' growing up out West.

—The Newburyport Herald estimates that the number of strong minded women is on the increase in Boston. Its opinion is founded upon some dozen cases lately before the Police Court, where wives gave their husbands sound thrashings.

—The following statistics show the strength of the Universalist denomination in the United States at the present time:—4097 societies; 937 houses of worship; 652 preachers, 20 periodicals; 10 academies or schools; 119 ecclesiastical societies; 1 college.

—President Pierce recently wrote to John Van Buren for an explanation of the defeat of the Softs in N.Y. State. John replied that the defeat was attributable to the fact that the hards got a majority of the votes. John is truthful for once.

—The following is supposed to be the number of newspapers in the world: 10 in Austria, 14 in Africa, 24 in Spain, 20 in Portugal, 39 in Asia, 65 in Belgium, 85 in other Germanic States, 500 in Great Britain and Ireland, and 1,800 in the United States.

—A woman has been tried in Virginia for teaching negro children to read, in violation of the statute and against the peace of the commonwealth. She was fined one dollar, and sentenced to six months imprisonment! It is hoped that the Mother of Presidents, the Constitution, and the glorious Union, are all safe.

—Of the Irish exiles, three, Messrs. Meagher O'Donohue and Mitchell—have made their escape, and are now on American soil; three remain in Van Dieman's Land, viz: William Smith O'Brien, John Martin, Kervin Lizd O Doherty. Of O'Brien, Mr. Mitchel said he would not try to escape, but if he wished to do so, there was not English force enough on the Island to prevent it.

—Some people value country papers only in proportion to the attention they pay to local matters. For this reason we frequently see trivial affairs blazoned forth with great 'pomp and circumstance.' Thus, one of our contemporaries notices the arrival in that town, of a pair of Shanghai fowls, and adds, 'We understand that Mr. L———— is building a new *hen coop*, which when completed, will be a great *ornament to our borough*.'

—It is stated, on the authority of a letter from George N. Sanders, our consul at London, that Kossuth's agent was openly received at Constantinople, and that unless Austria withdraws her armies from his frontier, or that England and France shall accede to his demand for a guarantee of the neutrality of Austria, the Porte intends to arrest the fact, that Kossuth will be invited to Constantinople and placed at the head of a strong division to march on Hungary.

—It is now settled beyond a doubt, that Western Pennsylvania possesses inexhaustible quantities of cannel coal of excellent qualities. It is found in Beaver, Armstrong and Indiana counties, and no doubt exists in Butler, Jefferson and Clearfield counties. The quantities already discovered are immense. Western Pennsylvania posseses fine water power, inexhaustible supplies of coal and iron ore, a fertile soil, a salubrious climate, magnificent scenery, and a central position.—*Pittsburg Gazette.*

—We perceive by the foreign papers, that the Council of the Canton of Ticino has decided by a majority of 90 to 11, to give out the making of a tunnel through the Alps, from Lake Maggiore, to Lake Constance, to unite the Piedmontese line with that of Central Germany.

This tunnel will be sixteen English miles—25,000 metres—in length, and is to be lighted and ventilated by fifty shafts of enormous depth.

—The Louisville Times says: The douceto wire sub-marine cable has been successfully laid down across the Ohio river, at Maysville. This is the only insulated two-wire cable yet laid. The New Orleans and Ohio and New Orleans and St. Louis lines, have now new cables accross the Tennessee and Ohio, at Paducah, and across the Mississippi, at Cape Girardeau and Merrimac, eighteen miles below St. Louis, besides the crossing at Maysville. These crossings are improvements upon the plan adopted in crossing the British channel, and will greatly facilitate the transmission of messages, and prevent interruption.

—Harrisburg is growing very rapidly, and if it continues to increase in population a few years longer, it will, we suppose contend with Reading and Lancaster for the largest number of inhabitants. It has now, it is said, a population of more than 11,000, and during the last summer and fall there were about two hundred substantial dwellings erected there. Some gentlemen are now erecting a large manufactory for railroad cars, and a furnace is also about being erected.

Destructive Conflagration.

At 1 o'clock in the afternoon the City Hall and other bells throughout the City rang forth an alarm for the Seventh District, and in a few moments thereafter a douse smoke might have been seen rising up from the eastern section of the City apparently near the river, between Beekman and Frankfort sts. With the first round of the Hall bell the firemen were on the alert, and the various companies, with their apparatus, appeared in every street in the lower part of the City, moving rapidly toward the scene of conflagration, in the extensive publication establishment of Harper & Brothers, located in Cliff and Pearl-sts, near Ferry-st. The news spread with unusual rapidity throughout the City that Harpers' publishing house was on fire, calling together almost instantaneously an immense crowd of excited people. Cliff st., from Frankfort st. on the north to Beekman on the south, and Franklin-square, were filled with the most compact mass of excited and swaying spectators ever collected at so short a notice.

The fire was first discovered on the Cliff-st. portion of the establishment. The origin of the fire was the subject of an unusual number of rumors, including the explosion of one of the steam-boilers used in the establishment, but is stated by one of the proprietors of the concern to have been caused by camphene.

It seems that a plumber, who was at work in the lower part of the building, arranging some water pipes, lighted a piece of paper for the purpose of lighting his cigar or pipe, which having done, he carelessly threw the burning paper into a vessel containing camphene, the man supposing it was water. In an instant the liquid was in a blaze; the flames communicated to a thin partition, burning thro' into a small apartment, where was kept a considerable quantity of camphene, for the purpose of cleaning the rollers of the printing presses. The fluid in this room was instantaneously in a blaze, and the flames were carried by the strong draught through the hatchways, and opening for the dumb-waiters, into every story of the building. The flames burst through the partitions with great fury, and swept in all directions of the rooms, from building to building, until five of them were entirely enveloped in flames. The spread of the fire thus started in an establishment filled with such combustible material, as not only bound but unbound books in immense quantities in the drying-rooms and binderies, may be better imagined than described. There was a large number of employees engaged in the establishment, including about four hundred females employed in the extensive binderies, &c. The panic among the latter class was terrible, and the escape of many of them from the prison-house of flame, would without aid, have been impossible.

The first and most important work done was the rescuing of the male and female operatives by the Hook and Ladder Companies, assisted by their brother firemen, Police and citizens.

The long ladders were quickly hoisted to the windows on both streets, and by careful and judicious management the vast number were carefully landed in the street within the short space of 20 minutes from the time the alarm was first sounded by the Hall bell. Several of the girls were very nervous, and while descending the ladder with firemen and others, two or three of them fainted, but were speedily resuscitated at a drug store in the immediate vicinity.

In little more than an hour after the alarm was given, the spectacle was awfully grand. By this time the flames had swept through from Cliff to Pearl-st., scarce anything remaining of this immense publishing house but the bare walls; within these the flames were furiously raging, having the appearance of a great lake of fire. Adjoining the Harpers establishment on the south side of Pearl-st., was the large six story buildings Nos. 321 and 323, occupied by Messrs. George F. Coolidge & Brothers, extensive school book publishers and dealers. The fire communicated with this establishment at the attic stories, and all efforts to subdue the flames were of no avail. From floor to floor the fire made its way to the basement, and destroyed the entire buildings together with the vast quantities of property inside.

About 2 o'clock a portion of the walls of the Harpers' and Coolidge buildings on Cliff and Pearl-sts., fell with a tremendous crash. The appearance of the spectators was truly horrible, as the destruction of many blocks of buildings in the vicinity seemed inevitable. The wind was blowing fresh for a part of the time, and large coals of fire were carried into Beekman and other streets, falling thick and fast upon the roofs of buildings, and the heads of the assembled spectators.

LOSSES AND INSURANCE.

	Loss.	Insured.
Harper & Brothers,	$1,400,000	$200,000
Coolidge & Brother	100,000	100,000
A. Howell,	2,000	2,000
A. Dougherty	12,000	12,000
J. Shultz,	1,500	1,500
J. K. Rupper,	4,000	8,000
Mr. Dinsmore,	1,500	1,500
Wm. W. Thayer,	6,000	
J. Bradley,	3,000	2,000
J. Kelly,	6,000	1,500
J. Ruckstle,	2,000	2,000
Wm. Bloodgood,	3,000	3,000
J. Brown,	2,500	
Noyland & Williams,	8,000	4,500
Frederick Hemmell,	1,000	
Losses of others,	10,000	
Total,	$1,560,500	$338,000

—*N. Y. Tribune.*

SHUN THE GAMING TABLE.—Judge Forsyth lately occupied a prominent position in the State of New York. He possessed a large amount of property, which he lost by gambling, and endeavored to redeem by forgery. He recently fled to England after involving his friends to a large amount for endorsements. Commenting upon his institution, the Albany Express contains some excellent remarks, from which we extract what follows:

'By a strange perversion of human nature, the gambler's debts are always debts of honor. They cannot be collected in a court of law, and therefore the gambler feels himself honorably bound to pay them. We have no doubt Judge Forsyth paid all these debts at the expense of his integrity as a man and his reputation for life! Verily, this is a world of inconsistencies. The celebrated Fox is said to have refused the payment of a small and just debt, because he owed a debt of honor, and had not money enough to pay them both. Injustice and forgery, and breach of trust, are all committed under the infatuation of a reckless and gambling humor. The frenzy of the game rises over the mind with the spirit of insanity, binding reason and judgment and conscience, to the very wheel of fortune.—Let no man think himself safe at the game of hazard; he does not play for money alone but he hazards the possession of a sound mind.'

☞ The Philadelphia *Register*, an independent paper, thus closes a review of President Pierce's Administration, as far as it has gone:

Thus far the Administration of President Pierce, which began with a promise of great things, has been an unqualified failure. Little measures and little men have played pranks before high Heaven, but nothing great has been accomplished. Serious business has been scandalously neglected, and the President and Cabinet have lent their whole minds to the task of distributing office and compromising local disputes. Nor can we see when this will cease, for no sooner is an office filled than it is vacated on account of the disreputable demands of these party hacks, to which no honest man will submit. It is absurd to suppose that they who acknowledge themselves, the slaves of faction, and glory in wearing its livery, will rise to the performance of gigantic national purposes as long as any political drudgery remains for them to do. The coming Session of Congress will force to their notice the business they have so far evaded. Important projects lie close before us, which will not bide the time of these expensive triflers who weakly guide the Ship of State.

A SEASONABLE RECEIPT.—The following from the Germantown Telegraph, may be of value:

Rendering Lard.—One of the best House-keepers in the county of Philadelphia, has communicated to us the following receipt for rendering lard, which was obtained from Charleston, and which possesses many important advantages over the common mode. It is simply to put in the kettle before the lard—say 3 pints of lye made of hickory ashes, to a common barrel kettle, (generally holding less than a barrel).

The advantages of this are, that the lard renders easier, becomes much whiter, is sweeter, and will keep longer. This method has been pursued for several year with the highest satisfaction.

Col. Benton's history, of thirty years operation of the United States Government, will be issued from the press of Appleton & Co., about the first of April next. The work will be completed in two volumes octavo, of 700 pages each.

Notices.

Agricultural Notice.

Those intending to compete for premiums on grain of whatever kind, are hereby notified to leave specimens of their respective crops with Mr. Geo. Fuller of Montrose, on or before the third Wednesday of January next at 12 o'clock, (noon,) after which time none will be admitted to competition. They will also give statistics of their crops in writing, stating the number of bushels and the weight per bushel, with the certificate of those who assisted in measuring the ground and crop; also the kind of ground, whether sod or otherwise, the quantity of manure or plaster, &c., used, and how applied, together with the general treatment of the soil and crop. Each proprietor will not sign his statement, but will leave his name with Mr. Fuller in confidence, only to be known by the judges after they have made their decision.

The Judges, S. A. Newton, P. Wells and Sam'l. Taggart, will meet at Mr. Fuller's store the third Wednesday of January next, at 12 o'clock, to examine the specimens of grain and make their decision.

HENRY DEARING, } Ex.
M. L. CURTIS, } Com.
JOHN P. DEAN, }

Donation Visit.

The friends of E. E. Gurle are hereby notified that a Donation Visit will be made at his residence in Gibson, on Wednesday afternoon and evening, the 21st inst. All are respectfully invited to attend without further notice.

The undersigned gratefully acknowledges the kind liberality of his friends at the late Donation Visit on the 30th ult.

DANIEL C. BULLIARD.

Notice.

The Montrose Lyceum will meet at the Court House on Friday Eve. next at 7 o'clock. Persons interested are invited to attend.

Dec. 15th, 1853.