

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 1846

FRANCIS P. FALLON, Esq., at his Newport Agency Office, North-west corner of Third and Chestnut streets, Philadelphia, is authorized to receive subscriptions and advertisements for the Herald & Express, and to give receipts for the same.

It is a fact that we have had no mails since Saturday last, until late last evening, owing to the closing of the rail roads by the deep snow and intense cold of last week.

The poem by "Susannah," has an air of personality, and unless the author will give his name with proper explanations of cannot be published.

A beautiful poem by Dr. DeBenedictis, and a most amusing story will be found on our first page; although the latter contains several sentimental expressions, over which it will not be liable. On the fourth page will be found two of "Oliver Oldschool's" letters, to which attention is directed.

The weather for the last week has been intensely cold, causing without doubt a vast amount of suffering among the poor. There are slight indications now, however, that the benignity of Spring is actually, as well as nominally, about to be resumed. This winter will be remembered, as the severest we have experienced for years.

We are pained to learn that a man by the name of Peter Werner, of North Middletown township, perished in the severe snow storm of Saturday night last. He had been drinking through the day, and in the afternoon left the tavern at Sorell's Gap to return to his home. On Sunday morning he was found lying in the road, on the mountain side, a frozen corpse.

Our neighbor Gilt is worried by the non appearance of that original tale, which we rather too hastily promised our readers some weeks since. We will relieve him by the information that the tale will not appear. When the manuscript was first handed to us, we gave it a hurried perusal and thought we should publish it for the sake of its originality if nothing else—the same principle upon which we presume the Statesman has given place to several similar productions. But on second reading, we found the tale a little too hard an affair for either gods or men to tolerate, and we do not choose to lumber our columns with poetry or prose merely because it claims to be original, when such rich stores of literary productions are ever at our hand from which to make sound and useful selections. The young gentleman who so kindly furnished us this specimen of his literary taste gives indication by it that he possesses talents which may some day, make him known to fame; but he must learn to labor and to wait.

What a refreshing paragraph, to read in this quarter just now, is the following: "The Wilmington (N.C.) Chronicle of Wednesday says: 'Spring is fast opening upon us. The trees are putting out their foliage, flowers in gardens (several kinds) are in bloom, and everything betokens that the reign of Winter is closing rapidly!'

NATIVE AMERICAN CONVENTION.—A Native American State Convention, on a small scale was held in Harrisburg on Wednesday last. FRANCIS KARRS of Allegheny presided. A resolution was unanimously adopted nominating Capt. ROBERT H. MORTON, of Des Moines as the Native American Candidate for Canal Commissioner at the ensuing election.

LEAVE.—Bishop Wheatley on the Common Prayer, says Lent is so called because of the season in which it is observed. Lent in the Saxon language signifies Spring, is now used to signify the Spring Fast, which always begins so that it may end in Easter, or the first of our Saviour's sufferings, which ended in his resurrection.

CONTRACTS WITH DR. McLANE.—The New York Express says it is informed, that a source entitled to credit, that Mr. Irving, our Minister at Madrid, and Mr. King, our Minister at Paris, are both ordered to repair to London, to confer with Dr. McLANE. It is supposed that the Oregon and Tariff question will occupy their attention.

An Annapolis correspondent of the Baltimore Patriot writes that a few days ago a duel was fought between Mr. J. Swan, a delegate from Allegheny county, and Mr. Thomas McClellan, a resident of that county. The preliminaries had all been arranged, and the presence about to be made for Bladensburg, when the courage of the principals cooled away sufficiently to permit of the matter being amicably settled.

The work of slaughtering among the Hogs at Columbia, during the present season, has resulted in the introduction of 250,000 grubs, which will be a great pest to the farmers of the State, and will be a great source of annoyance to the people.

It seems to be the unhappy disposition of the people of Philadelphia just now to believe that the advocacy of the "right of way" cannot be anything else than a manœuvre and a deadly snare to the interests of that city. Now without entering into a general discussion of the subject, to show how erroneous is this view, it is only necessary to point to the fact that the bill for the incorporation of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, which was passed by the General Assembly on the 11th of January, 1846, and which was the result of the efforts of the friends of the "right of way," has not only been passed, but has already been put into operation.

THE RIGHT OF WAY

ION CHARLES GIBBONS, Esq., of Philadelphia, has been appointed to represent the city of Philadelphia in the General Assembly, on the subject of the proposed grant of a right of way to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, which was passed by the General Assembly on the 11th of January, 1846.

Strong resolutions were adopted by the meeting, calling upon their Representatives in the Legislature to oppose the bill, step by step, with all their power and ability. A resolution was also adopted requesting the Hon. CHARLES GIBBONS to resign his seat in the Senate, provided he did not comply with the wishes of his constituents, and a committee was appointed to visit upon Mr. Gibbons, to make known to him the views of the meeting upon this important subject. The same committee is instructed to take into consideration the propriety of asking to be heard by counsel before the bar of each House of the General Assembly, on the subject of the proposed grant.

We have not figured any one speak of this proposition, who did not regard it as a mere matter of expediency, while its glaring impolicy must be manifest to all. The representatives of the city must feel highly complimented by Mr. Gibbons. The course taken by the meeting towards Mr. Gibbons, however, seems to us to be little less than persecution. It is, besides, most inconsistent. We believe that the project of granting the "right of way" was first introduced in our Legislature last winter. Will it be believed, that the only instructions Mr. Gibbons received from his constituency at that time, were a petition from the Board of Trade of Philadelphia, IN FAVOR of the right of way? Yes, it is even so. The very grant which these Philadelphians now so vehemently denounce as dangerous, as suicidal, and as destructive, was no later than last winter, petitioned for by the Board of Trade of that city, composed of its most experienced and sagacious merchants!

New question as it was, Mr. Gibbons was then undecided in his course, but professed himself at first right rather than wrong to the project. Subsequent and deeper investigation has, it appears, determined his mind in favor of the "right of way"—The Board of Trade and people of Philadelphia, however, have since changed their minds; (under some new light) and now oppose the right of way. It will thus be seen that the question is one upon which the best minds may differ in opinion. It is, in fact, a question calling for the strongest exercise of cool and collected reason.

If we may judge from the recent conduct of Philadelphians, however, it seems to be regarded there as a question to be determined by violence and passion. In vain does Mr. Gibbons assure before them his reasons for the course he pursues, which are set forth elaborately and with irresistible force in his recent speech. His speech has been published, but one Philadelphia paper, in vain does he protest that his course is dictated by the firm and conscientious conviction that he is "right." "Obey or resign!" is the rude reply which comes from his infuriated dictators.

Truly these are strange proceedings to come from Philadelphia! They appear to us to be totally unworthy of her, and deeply discreditable to her high character. It is such proceedings as these which are year by year weakening her bond of friendship with the country, and daily alienating from her interests the feelings of the people of the interior of the State. The course pursued toward Mr. Gibbons is neither generous, high minded, nor magnanimous, and has been looked upon with humiliating reflections by all who have a feeling of pride for the beautiful metropolis of our State. The people of Philadelphia cannot have the sympathy of the interior in this vindictive and ruthless crusade against their young but manly, eloquent and independent Representative. The people of the interior have not been indifferent spectators of his brilliant career, and they long him to be honest, devoted and true. If he is stricken down by this gust of passion in Philadelphia, the people of the country will raise him up again, and be the wall of the around him to shield him from his enemies. If he is to be banished from the city of his adoption, the warm hearts of another community will receive and cherish him. The people of Philadelphia may rest assured that it could selfishness has shut out from their hearts every warm and generous feeling, a better spirit it still breathes in the air of the country—a spirit from which they might learn moderation and wisdom and justice, but a spirit that will not stand idly by and see a noble soul thus trampled down to earth and spit upon. Without making him the subject of fulsomeattery, we may say, that Mr. Gibbons has proved himself too valuable a man to be thus made the sport of every wild caprice and blind passion.

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THE MAIN QUESTION UPON WHICH THE RIGHT OF WAY IS OPPOSED BY PHILADELPHIA, is that the company cannot get the same grant from Virginia, and therefore ought not to have it from Pennsylvania. The following proceedings of the Virginia Legislature change this aspect of the question very much.

ROBERT OF WAX.—In the Virginia House of Delegates, on Tuesday, the following proposition took place—as noted in the Richmond Whig—"The whole evening Session was taken up in discussing the substitute offered by Mr. Edgerton, (and the amendments thereto) to the bill supplementary to the act authorizing the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company to complete their road to the Ohio River, and for other purposes, passed Feb. 19th, 1845. The various amendments offered to the substitute were rejected, and the substitute finally adopted. The bill was then ordered to its engrossment. We learn that the bill here referred to, which it requires a vote of 15 to pass, was passed by a vote of 15 to 10, on the 25th ult.

DESPERATE RECKONING.—The Southern mail of Friday morning, brought the report of a desperate fight, which took place, on Wednesday morning, on the James river, opposite Richmond Va., between Mr. John H. Pleasant, late of the Richmond Whig, and recently of the new paper established at that city, and Mr. Thomas Ritchie, Jr., son of the editor of the Washington Union. It appears from the following account of the affair, furnished by the Washington correspondent of the Baltimore American, that it was one of the most desperate encounters that has ever taken place in Virginia, and a disgrace to the age. The parties went to the field by agreement, armed with two pistols each, and with swords. They took their distance and commenced firing—the one firing four and the other six shots, each nearing the other as they fired. The parties soon came in close contact, one of the pistols taking effect upon Mr. P.

PLEASANT struck a blow which injured Mr. Ritchie slightly, as is said, and which is probably true, as he was in the Richmond Capitol this morning, during the session of the House. Mr. Ritchie indicated a heavy blow with a small sword which made a deep gash upon the forehead of Mr. Pleasant. His friends think he will not recover, and it is probable that he may not, from the character of his wounds. Mr. Ritchie came to Washington on Wednesday night, and is now the guest of his father. Mr. Pleasant, it is said, was able to leave on some of his bloody attire, in his own carriage. The immediate cause of this fight, it is said, was a card in the Richmond Enquirer, pronouncing Pleasant a rank coward. The fight took place in the presence of several friends of each party. Mr. Pleasant is fifty years of age and Mr. Ritchie is thirty six.

NEZME REVOLUT, AND LOSS OF LIFE.—We learn from the New Orleans Delta, that a serious revolt took place on the plantation of Messrs. Hewitt, Heian & Co., about ten miles below that city, on the line of the Mexican Gulf Railway, on the 19th inst., on the part of the slaves—70 in number. They collected together, and refused to work, and when commanded by the overseers, they shouted "Liberty or Death!" and fell on the whites, three of whom were wounded by the heads of the negroes, and one of them had some half dozen hunters with guns just at that moment made their appearance, and fired upon the negroes. One of the negroes was shot down, several wounded, a number escaped to the woods, and the rest was severely flogged.

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