

Another Great Swindle.

The *Bridgeport Bank* defrauded by Sharpers—All is gold that glitters—Swindle with California Quartz. For several weeks past two alleged individuals have been traveling through the principal places of New Jersey and Connecticut, exhibiting "new" gold mines of quartz, which they said was dug by themselves from the gold mines of China. To all outward appearance the lump contained pure gold, worth from \$20,000 to \$30,000, and therefore was considered quite a curiosity by those who saw it, enclosed in a glass case, with glowing labels attached, and several attempts were made to purchase this city with their "treasure," but failing of success, they went their way to the city of Bridgeport, where the gold in question was prominently exhibited in the show-window of a broker's office, and attracted no little attention from the citizens as they passed and repassed. One of the parties, named George H. Duncan, finally managed to become acquainted with the officers of the *Bridgeport Bank*, and succeeded in obtaining a loan of \$30,000. Subsequently, however, Duncan had an internal quarrel with the partner who had the same bank, and represented that he and partner desired to enter extensively into the manufacture of shouler braces. For this purpose, the above individual said, they would require an additional capital of \$12,000, of the amount for only a few days. The agreement was entered into by the leading officers of the bank, and a certified check was handed to Duncan, payable at the Bank of New York, with the understanding that the sharper started for his city in the express train. The following day the gold was tested, in consequence of the cashier suspecting that all was not gold that glittered. An examination was made, and, to the astonishment of the dupes, the interior of the massive lump was found to be of lead.

The exterior was very ingeniously studded with a few dollars worth of gold quartz, and the crucibles were nicely covered with gold leaf, so as to defy detection, without breaking up the lump. The instant the swindle was discovered, a telegraphic dispatch was forwarded to the Bank of New York, to anticipate the payment of the certified check. A few hours only had elapsed after the receipt of the dispatch, when an Exchange broker, doing business in Broadway, called at the Bank of New York, with a check for \$12,000, and offering it for payment, the teller immediately caused him to be arrested, until further action could be taken in the matter. The broker, having an opportunity afforded him, speedily satisfied all parties of his innocence in the affair. He asserts that he discounted the check for Duncan. Information of the affair was given to officers Devoe, Walling, and Keefe, of the Chief's office, who started in pursuit of Duncan and his confederates. They learned that Duncan had fled to the broker, he endorsed the check, referred, for evidence of character, and, to a man at the Howard Hotel, named John Chesley. Accordingly this man was arrested. Duncan was in the mean time traced to Girard House, but he fled before the officers could lay their grasp upon him. The wife and three children of Duncan had been deserted by him, and she had just packed up her baggage, to leave the city for her father's home in Virginia. It is said that she was discarded by her family, owing to her marriage with Duncan. The officers of the *Bridgeport Bank* have arrived, and the case will be further investigated.—N. Y. Times.

ERIC, PA.
SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 30, 1853.
DEMOCRATIC STATE NOMINATIONS.
FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER:
THOMAS H. FORSYTH,
OF Philadelphia.
FOR AUDITOR GENERAL:
EPHRAIM BANKS,
OF Mifflin.
FOR SURVEYOR GENERAL:
J. PORTER BRAWLEY,
OF Crawford.

It is an admitted fact, we believe, that the present revenue laws furnish an amount of revenue more than sufficient to meet all current expenses of the government, besides paying off the public debt as fast as it becomes due. This state of our finances admitted, and all data upon which to base an opinion given to prove it correct, the question naturally arises how and in what way shall we dispose of the residue? This will become a question before the next Congress, and it is well for newspapers and others to express their views freely upon it, in order that their representatives may be prepared to act understandingly in the premises.

It has been decided, we believe, in *Pittsburgh's Magazine*, that we are a good looking people; but the Philadelphia Bulletin, in order, perhaps, to keep us from the sin of pride and vanity, decides with equal point that we are not a well-bred people. It admits that in our own houses, and when playing the host, we are courteous enough; that in our intercourse with ladies, we are passible, but in public places, except where the sex is concerned, and not even then, we are often absolutely boorish. Perhaps there is some truth in this; for, from the array of facts adduced by the writer, we admit there is a great deal of truth in it. But we have traveled long in our time, and we have always kept an eye open to the habits and traits of those with whom we came in contact, and we can say with truth we have never more ill-breeding, more down-right boorishness, among the well-bred gentlemen of cities than we have encountered in the country. Go to a place of public resort, and the man that "puffs cigar smoke in the faces of other promenaders," is sure to be one who sports his kinks and moustache, and talks about the pleasures of Saratoga; he thinks of no branch of good-breeding to puff the fumes of his Havana in the face of the "ruler herd," he, it is, that upon railroad cars appropriates a whole seat, and sometimes two, because he is fearful some "vulgar laboring man" might wish to sit beside him; he it is that is first at the table in hotels or restaurants; and he it is that is sure to pile all the delicacies upon the table upon his own plate, regardless of the claims of others for a share. No, Mr. Bulletin, for genuine ill-breeding, commend us to an escaped spring of refined gentility from Chestnut street or "above Blocker" when traveling. Masculine or feminine, it's all the same; they think railroads, steamboats, and hotels, were all made for their exclusive use—that every body else are intruders, and they act accordingly.

Pledge or No Pledge.

A communication appears in the *Gazette*, over the signature of "M. Courtright," denying, "as a Director" of the Erie and North East Road, "living in the city of Erie" that he, "either directly or indirectly" ever gave a "pledge" to retain the present gauge of the Erie and North East Road. Of course Mr. Courtright knows best whether he ever gave such a "pledge" or not, and we are willing to give him the benefit of his "pledge"; the more so because this communication now comes just when we are about to be so generous as to say that this community did not pledge before, but we will say that the first man that ever covered with an upon the subject of procuring the passage of the gauge law, which by some influence has been repealed, was one *William Courtright*. And ever since that time, before and since the passage of that act—though not since his death—has been uniformly so, as far as the Erie and North East Road is concerned, under all circumstances. Now a man can be "pledged" to a certain course of conduct without getting up in public meetings and calling upon the crowd to witness his "pledge." He can "pledge" himself by his previous conduct—his daily walk and conversation—his position—his good name and fame—his home, his property, and the respectability of his name. By all these means, a man can be "pledged" to a certain course of conduct, and he is "pledged," when he is elected a Director in that road, to maintain the gauge at all hazards; if he does not, we understand him to be with Erie, for Erie and her interests, first and last! But it appears we were mistaken—that we have misinterpreted him; that he never made any such pledge either directly or indirectly. Very well; as an old lawyer we give him the benefit of his denial, and ask his pardon; assuming him at the same time that we did not intend to either misrepresent him or his colleagues. We stop the subject!

Our White List.

We acknowledge the receipt of the following names for the *Observer*. As next week is Court, we hope to see many of our friends at our office, and have the pleasure of bestowing of inserting their names among the following:

Robert Adams	10
Joseph Patton	10
Joseph Law	10
John W. G. Miller	10
W. P. Gillet	10
H. M. Curtis	10
Ed. Jameson	10
James Barnes	10
G. A. Goodwin	10
H. F. Parson	10
G. F. Libbey, Ky.	10
A. J. Adley	10

The statistics of the celebrated Prattville tanneries, founded and still sustained by the Hon. Zado Pratt, gives some interesting data on the productive value of the hemlock tree. Since 1824, 200,000 cords of hemlock bark; for which was paid fully half a million of dollars, and the greater part of this money went to support the families of the working men of this community. The 10,000 acres of land which were cleared in this process, after giving a further profit in lumber out of the body of the trees equal to that made by their bark, were converted into fine farms. Of stock and agricultural returns the tanneries have employed 500 horses and 1,000 oxen, who used up 200,000 bushels of oats and 120,000 tons of hay. The workmen, whose united labor would count up 15,000 years of regular well paid industry, have received near three millions of dollars, and consumed, among other items, 30,000 barrels of meat and 100,000 barrels of flour.

The two leading events of the week are the arrival of the ARCTIC, from Europe, with four days later news, and the NORTHERN LIGHT, from San Juan, with California dates to the 30th ult. The intelligence from Europe may be briefly summed up in a few words. There is no war yet, but the Russia-Turkish question is still as threatening as ever. Russia is still arrogant; the Porte still firm, and England and France, either weak and undecided, or secretly preparing to throw all their might and influence against the Czar! Russia, it appears, has abandoned all political grounds of complaint against Turkey, and relies for justification solely on her right as a defender of the faith for the Greek Church in the dominions of the Porte. We do not believe there is much chance left for the preservation of the peace of Europe, nor do we deem it desirable, under the circumstances. Count Nesselrode has issued a second circular dispatch explaining the Emperor's views and intentions towards Turkey. The language of this document is even more arrogant than the former one, and the pretence is made that the occupation of the Danubian principalities is "because the Porte, in persisting to refuse the moral guarantee which we had the right to expect, obliges us to substitute in its place provisionally a material guarantee;" and because of the "advantage of the combined fleets of England and France to the mouth of the Dardanelles." This last is very absurd pleading, for no infringement of the rights of nations, or of existing treaties has yet been made; nor would there appear any intention to infringe, as the sole object of two powers is to prevent any sudden attack on Constantinople, and not to enter the Dardanelles. The whole tone of the Circular is that the Porte must do the Czar's bidding. It disclaims any intention of waging an offensive war against the Ottoman Empire, but it appears to take the side of Russia, and her troops have been advanced into Bosnia—some secret design at the bottom of the movement. The Turk will publish a manifesto replying to the Russian proclamation, in which it is said, he will make a statement of all the acts of injustice which Turkey has suffered at the hands of the Emperors of the North for above a century. Great allowances must be made in the various reports respecting Eastern affairs, as most of the reports have the appearance of exaggeration about them, and hence we have not deemed it necessary to lumber our columns with details.

THE RUSSIAN HAVE ENTERED JASSY.—The Russian army has entered Jassy, where and what is Jassy? Well, where and what is Europe, and snugly ensconced among a range of Mountains, a little to the westward of the river Pruth, in the northernmost province of Turkey, the city in question may be found. Jassy is the capital of the Turkish province of Moldavia. It contains from 30,000 to 40,000 inhabitants, but is not a place of much trade.

Fact vs Theory.

Here is one fact from the *Tribune*, demonstrating the fallacy of protection, worth more than a thousand arguments from the *Tribune* demonstrating its necessity. Four years ago, the *Tribune* told us the iron business was upon the brink of ruin, and all because of the Tariff of '46. Four years ago it told us nothing could save the country but a return of the duties levied by the bill of '42. It now tells us that "four years ago" the village of Ironton was not in existence, but now contains 2,500 inhabitants, and "has had and is having the most rapid growth of any town in the United States, except Lawrence, Mass.;" all of which, it quietly adds, "is a specimen of the fruits of American enterprise, American manufactures and the prohibition of the Liquor Traffic." Might the *Tribune* not have added, "and without the aid of a protective tariff?"

IRON VILLAGE.—Ironton, on the Ohio River, the capital of Lawrence county, Ohio, was begun four years ago next month, by a company of associated capitalists, who bought 350 acres of river bottom and 4,500 acres of hill land for the site, inserting in all their conveyances or leases an express condition that no intoxicating liquors should ever be sold on the land so conveyed. The condition has been enforced and respected, so that there is not a rum-bottle for a loofer to lean against in the place, though it has now 2,500 inhabitants, with four Churches built or being built, a Railroad extending fifteen miles into the Iron region, and soon to be pushed through to the Hillsborough and Parkersburg Road, 44 miles, bringing it into connection with Philadelphia and Baltimore. Unfinished as it is, and with little business beside the freighting of Coal and Iron ore, this Road is now paying *eighteen per cent* on its cost; its June receipts being \$2,800; running expenses, \$1,000; net earnings \$1,800. It is now bringing into Ironton, the product of ten Blast Furnaces, estimated at 90,000 tons per annum, and a manufacturing town of 2,500 inhabitants, with a population of Railroad Iron, with two more in progress—one of them capable of turning out fifty tons per day, beside two large foundries, a machine-shop, &c. &c. Coal is delivered at these works for \$1 per ton. A Court-House, Jail and Union School-House, the latter beside a public Grove of twenty acres of original forest, are among the public edifices. Ironton has had and is having the most rapid growth of any town in the United States, except Lawrence, Mass., and its population can hardly be exceeded in general morality and intelligence. Such is a specimen of the fruits of American enterprise, American manufactures and the prohibition of the Liquor Traffic.

Between the Fact and Fiction.

The recent copies of the *Observer* have been kindly forwarded to the country, where they have been read with interest. The countryman has been glad to see the name of a *BREVET MARSHALL* of the Louisville *Tribune*. If he had known he was coming we certainly should have joined the excursion, (only to have seen him).

Our White List.

What is the wind? The President's message of the 10th inst. has been lately dispatched to the shop of the N. Y. Herald, and we are glad to see that the *Observer* has been among the first to receive it. What is the wind? The President's message of the 10th inst. has been lately dispatched to the shop of the N. Y. Herald, and we are glad to see that the *Observer* has been among the first to receive it.

THE BEAVER ISLAND DIFFICULTY.—A Machine correspondent of the *Cleveland Plaindealer* gives the "Genial" aid of the late difficulty between the Mormons on Beaver Island and the fishermen on the main land. It is alleged that the Mormons have constantly pilfered from their Gentile neighbors, and that they have used the same, but concealment of property, and the use of the Saints. At length a thousand and more were burned, each party charging the other with the guilt. The party which landed at Pine River, for the purpose, as they alleged, of summoning jurors, were fifteen in number and had four guns. Instead of summoning jurors, the Mormons spent the morning in quarrelling with three men, one of whom, William Savage, is particularly obnoxious to the Mormons in general, abandoned their communion. The Sheriff's party were resisted, and as they left with threat of coming with a force that would exterminate the fishermen, they fled, scowling a woe in the eye. Whereupon (proceeds the writer), the fishermen, who were armed; fired upon the Mormons, wounding six as the Mormon account states. The fishermen contend that they had only about twenty guns in all, a part of them being in the hands of the Sheriff's party, and that they followed their fifteen miles instead of fifty, and that there were only thirty-five men instead of fifty. The Pine river people are receiving considerable aid from the people of Mackinac. I have been in the proximity. They have some ten or twelve rifles which they have bought and have been contributed, and some quite a number of revolvers, ammunition, &c. The fishermen appealed to the court, and the case, determined and resolved men. I think present appearances indicate warm times, and I should not be surprised if it ended in the extermination of the Mormons from Beaver Island.

THE SUICIDE OF MR. GRAY.—We published, a few days since, the fact that a Mr. Gray, a returned California miner, having an income of \$36,000 per annum, for some unknown cause, threw himself beneath the wheels of a passing locomotive, at New Rochelle, and was killed. The account stated that Mr. G. had just married a daughter of S. B. French, of Virginia; and that no reason could be assigned for his act of self destruction. It now appears that a reason has been found. It seems he had a wife, which he abandoned, in California. She, however, pursued him, and on "siding him" in New York; and on threatening him with the divorce for bigamy, he threw himself under the wheels of a passing locomotive. He killed his legal wife, leaving his illegitimate one, and without any provision whatever.

THE LAKE SUPERIOR NEWS. is advocating the construction of a railroad to connect St. Paul and Pon Du Lac—distance less than 100 miles. It opens an outlet for the trade of the whole upper Mississippi region and will bring into market a vast and fertile tract of land, now almost wholly out of the world.

THE LAST SHANSHAT STORY.—The editor of the *Douglas Intelligencer* has been presented with an egg, which is entirely covered with Chinese characters. The characters are plainly visible when the shell is held up to the light, like the water mark in writing paper. What'll you say to that!

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THE COST OF A PASSENGER CAR.—The cost of one of the long railway passenger cars is on an average about \$20,000. There are in the United States upwards of eight private car manufacturers, exclusive of those of the Government, and each for their own use; and it is calculated that a capital of \$6,000,000 is invested in this branch of industry, producing about \$1,000,000 annually, and employing about six thousand men.

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