Miscellaneous, Foreign and Political News.

Turkey and Russia.—The Danubian Principalities.

According to the latest intelligence from Europe which we published yesterday, the Russians have crossed the Pruth, and proceeded to occupy two of the Danubian Principalities. Under these circumstances, the following account of the Danubian Principalities, and the relation Turkey and Russia hold towards them, cannot fail to possess considerable interest to the reader:

To the eastward of Hungary, intervening between the land of Kossuth and the land of the Czar, lies Moldavia. It constitutes, on the map, a sort of promonotory or arm, reaching up into the dangerous neighborhood of Russia, along the banks of the Pruth, from the point where that estuary discharges into the greater flood of the Danube. Many years ago, before the Russians had discovered the superior value of diplomacy as a means of aggrandizement over the old-fashioned way of big armies and positive hard knocks, Bessarabia formed a most flourishing part of Moldavia, affording it a sea-coast on the Euxine and a river-line on the Danube. In the year 1812, it was annexed, forcibly, to the dominion of the Emperor Alexander. So the Moldavia of to-day is entirely inland, touching Poland upon the north, Russia upon the east, Transylvania at the west, and Wallachia at the south; and covering a surface of about 17,000 square miles—an area about equal to that of Massachusetts and Vermont put together. Crowded together closely on this soil live considerably more than 1,419,105 people of Slavic origin; the census of 1838, which affords us these figures, being the latest of which we have information. Jassy is the capital city.

Wallachia lies at the south of Moldavia and Transylvania, reaching from Servia at the west; in Bulgaria upon the south and east. Its area is pretty nearly 25,000 square miles, not varying materially from that of South Carolina. Its inhabitants—numbering more than two millions and a half of souls—are on extremely composite body; a large body tracing their origin distinctly to the Roman Military Colonies established along the Danube by Trajan and his successors; others, remounting to the early Greeks; a vast body owning Sclavic affinities; and the rest made up of thronging, busy Turks, Jews, and Gipsies. Bucharest is the capital.

Servia, the third of the Principalities, is about equal in superficial extent to Moldavia, and contains a million of inhabitants. The principal town is Belgrade.

The religion of these three provinces is the same as that of Russia; and so are their ethonological affinities. Political events have, however, served to weaken the tie. From the earliest historical period since the fall of the Western Empire, *Moldavia, Wallachia and Servia have maintained* a condition of *quasi* independence. The inhabitants elected their own princes, and managed their own internal affairs. Fealty was always acknowledged to some neighboring power, as security in the event of war; but there was always a stern, and generally a successful contest, whenever the lord paramount stretched his authority so far as to interfere with popular privileges. Down to the period of the reformation, the crown of Hungary was the one to which the Principalities did homage. The victories of Solyman, the Magnificent, however, transferred the supremacy to the Porte, and right willingly was the transfer accepted by *the people, who found the Turkish* protectorate ample security against the Muscovites, Cossacks, and other troublesome neighbors, with scrupulous regard to religion and established privileges and usages.

For the two succeeding centuries, the Extra-Danubian provinces enjoyed their rights without molestation. Then, however, the Porte asserted his authority to appoint the "ho-podars," as the chief were called; and thenceforward these positions were sold upon a speculation to rich Greeks of Constantinople, who used their power in accumulating rapid princely fortunes. This state of things was borne very impatiently until the commencement of the present century. The internal convulsions of Turkey, and the general insurrection of the Greeks at the south, encouraged in his paternal tenderness for the Sclave race, was ready with substantial backing. He assumed the protectorate of the three provinces. He dictated the terms of accomidation finally agreed upon—namely, that the princes should be indigenious, *elected by the people*, accepted by Russia, and not excepted by the Porte, *without* sufficient cause humbly shown to the court of St. Petersburg; that Turkey should pay the expenses of the Russian occupation of the two principalities, and that Russia should remain in possession until payment was made. The supposition was, that Turkey could not procure the necessary sum, 7,000,000 of ducats, and that the Russian lien must presently be converted into entire possession. But the money was forthcoming, leaving no excuse for prolonging the occupation. All these provision were contained in the treaty of Adrianople, in 1829. The Russian protectorate was formally renounced in 1834. The renunciation was only formal. The actual authority has remained in the court of St. Petersburg. Weary of its arrogant pretentions and of the rigid despotism exercised under the guise of friendship, the Moldo-Wallachians took part in the revolutionary movement of 1848. Russia at once poured into the principalities an army of 120,000 men. England, France, Austria and Prussia, who were jointly pledged to resist any act of Russia inconsistent with the independence of Turkey, stood silent while the outrage was perpetrated. The liberal movement was promptly quelled. Turkey was obliged, by the treaty of Calta-Liman, to pay the expences of this violation of her own soil.

Possession was retained until the payment was actually made, and it was only withdrew from Moldavia. These events have almost completely annihilated the old popular liking of the Principalities for the Czar. They have penetrated his selfish aims. They have had a taste of the quality of rule they are to expect when transferred from one government to the other. They foresee the termination of their present elective privileges. They look back with regret to the comparitively happy condition of things before Russia had ever interposed, and recognized in the generous and progressive policy of the Sultan guarantees of a future which Russia cannot offer them for centuries at least. Of course, where a people is so disposed, the occupation of their territory is equivalent to an act of conquest.

That the Czar hungers for the opportunity to make the Danube the line of his territory Turkey-wards there can be no doubt. His relations with these people for the earlier portion of the century were those of a fellow whistling off a neighbor's dog. Every effort was made to conciliate the masses and fasten the boyards. It was only when the popular temper disclosed itself five years ago, as decidedly averse to autocracy, that the real purposes of Russia stood confessed. The present invasion is very far from welcome. It was one of the Russians schemes to release the Moldo-Wallachians from all obligations to Military service or contribution on behalf of the Sultan, thus in effect disarming the people in such emergencies as the present. But the Porte is at least assured of entire neutrality! and what with his regular forces, and the *levee en masse*, can set a half-million of well-drilled fighting men in the field. These, if the occupation Moldavia be viewed as a *casus belli*, will be amply able to drive the Russians beyond the Pruth. Having no contest with the population, there will be none of that murderous guerilla warfare to be anticipated, from which the Turks suffered so severely throughout the Greek Revolution.—*Baltimore Sun.*

☞ A man died of apoplexy the other day in Michigan. The next morning the coroner held an inquest, when the following verdict was returned: "Died from a visitation of one beef-steak, eight cold potatoes, and a fried pie." Sensible jury that.

THANKSGIVING.—The Governor and Council of New Hampshire, have taken time by the forelock, and appointed Thursday, the 24th of November as a day of thankagiving and praise.

Proceedings of the Democratic State Convention.

Harrisburg, July 28, 1853.

The Democratic State Convention met this day at the call of the State Central Committee, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for Judge of the Supreme Court in place of Judge Gibson, deceased, Mr. Wm. L. Hirst in the chair, who, in a feeling and appropriate speech, informed the Convention of the object of its meeting.

The names of the Delegates were called over, and several substitutions were made. When the delegates from Erie were called, Mr. Laird stated that his colleague was absent and he asked permission to substitute a gentleman who was not, a resident of Erie County, to represent him. The following resolution was offered:

Resolved, That the Delegates from Erie, Franklin, Mercer and Warren be allowed to substitute persons who are not residents of those counties, to act as their representatives.

After much discussion, the resolution was decided in the negative.

Mr. Fraley offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That we now proceed to the election of a temporary Chairman of this Convention, under and by authority of a resolution adopted by the late Democratic State Convention assembled in this place on the 1st day of March last, viz:

Resolved, Upon the assembling of any Democratic State Convention, the Chairman of the State Committee, or, in his absence, any member of said committee whom he shall designate for that purpose, shall call said Convention to order, and shall preside for the purpose of enabling such Convention to elect a chairman.

Mr Fulton moved to amend the resolution by striking out out all after the word Resolved and insert, "That the Convention proceed to a nomination for a Judge of the Supreme Court."

Mr Barrett moved to amend the amendment as follows, by striking out all after the word Resolved, and insert as follows:—"That this Convention proceed to business under its previous organization, and that the Vice Presidents and Secretaries elected on the first day of March last, take their seats." Upon this question some discussion arose, and the yeas and nays being required, appeared as follows—Yeas 77, nays 37.

On motion of Mr. Fulton, it was resolved, that the Convention proceed to nominate a candidate for Judge of the Supreme Court.

Mr. Guernsey nominated the Hon. John C. Knox. No other nomination being made, Mr. Dana moved that the Hon. John C. Knox be unanimously nominated by acclamation, which was agreed to.

Mr. Lowry moved that the Convention do now adjourn *sine die*. The yeas and nays being called, appeared as follows—yeas 29, nays 87.

On motion of Mr. McDowell, it was resolved that a committee of three be appointed to wait upon the Hon. John C. Knox and inform him of his nomination.

The Chair appointed Messrs. McDowell, of Blair, Lowry, of Erie, and Guernsey, of Tioga counties, said committee.

It was, on motion.

Resolved, That the President fill up the vacancies in the Committee on Resolutions, appointed in March last.

The Convention assembled pursuant to adjournment, Wm. L. Hirst, Esq., in the chair.

Col. Samuel Black, from the Committee on Resolutions, submitted the following, viz:

Resolved, That in the election of Franklin Pierce the people have received an able, fearless, and faithful exponent of Democratic principles, and a Chief Magistrate of whom the Union may well feel proud. His administration has thus far proved eminently successful, and given sure earnest of future usefulness.

Resolved, That we approve of the administration of Gov. Wm. Bigler, having the fullest confidence in his patriotism, integrity and devotion to the principles of the Democratic party.

Resolved, That this Convention cordially and unanimously approve the nomination of the Hon. John C. Knox, this day made for Judge of the Supreme Court, and pledge him our undivided support.

Resolved, That this Convention recommend to the Democratic party of Pennsylvania, the whole State ticket, as now presented, and relying upon the same party who have ever proved true to their professions, look forward to its triumphant election on the second Tuesday of October next.

Resolved, That in the death of the Hon. John B. Gibson, formerly Chief Justice, and late a Judge of Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the community has left an able and profound Jurist, a useful citizen, and an honest man. To his family, in his death most deeply bereaved, we offer sincerely this expression of our sympathy and distress.

Resolved, That we feel sensibly the serious and general loss our country has suffered in the death of Vice-President King. As his life was upright, useful and patriotic, without spot or blemish his death has produced in all hearts a lasting sorow. To his friends and relatives we desire to express our sympathies.

On a motion the resolutions were unanimously adopted.

After the passage of the Committee resolutions, Mr. Tyler offered the following:

Resolved, That we believe the safety and integrity of the Union can only be maintained, and the purity of the Government can only be preserved by a strict construction of the Constitution, that shall strictly respect the rights of the States, and may by a wise economy in every department of the government.

Resolved, That we are in favor of the construction of a National Railroad or Highway, connecting the Pacific with the Atlantic portion of the Union, that shall pass in its entire length through our own territories, and be in no way subject to any foreign power.

Mr. Grow offered the following resolution, which was adopted, viz:

Resolved, That a grant of 160 acres of land by the general government to every actual settler on the public domain is a measure eminently calculated to promote the best interest of labor and the welfare of the whole country, and that Congress, at its next session, should pass a law giving to the soldiers of the war of 1812, and all subsequent wars, 160 acres of land without regard to rank or duration of service.

Mr. Nill offered the following resolution, which was adopted, viz:

Resolved, That hereafter, on the assembling of any Democratic State Convention, the chairman of the State Central Committee, or some member of said committee designated by him, shall be ex-officio chairman until a President be elected, and that on the re-assembling of any such convention the former officers shall preside over the same. All vacancies which may occur by death, resignation, or otherwise, in such offices, shall be filled by the delegates present.

On motion, the Convention adjourned, sine die.

WM. CURTIS, } *Secr'ys*
R. J. NEVIN, }

SINGULAR ACCIDENT.—A girl at Newbury, 14 years of age, recently broke her arm trying to kill a musquito. This extnordinary feat was accomplished as follows: The musquito aforesaid had been making himself "very familliar on short acquaintance," so much so that her slumbers were anything but sweet, sound, or refreshing. At length, being fully awakened to the necessity of doing *something to relieve herself* from the annoyance, she made a desperate grasp in the dark at her little tormenter, and being very near the edge of the bed, the sudden movement destroyed her balance, and she fell upon the floor breaking her arm in two places.—Whether the bloodthirsty cause of this misfortune suffered any damage in the encounter, remains vexatiously uncertain.—*St. Johnsbury, (Vt.) Caledonian.*

☞ The N. Y. *Tribune* has been publishing articles on the character of the beef and veal sold in that city—discribing how the cattle and calves are treated before slaughtered—which are hardly calculated to sharpen the carnivorous propensities of the dwellers in Gotham.

Erie Weekly Observer.

ERIE, PA.

SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 6, 1853.

DEMOCRATIC STATE NOMINATIONS.

JUDGE OF SUPREME COURT,
JOHN C. KNOX,
Of Tioga County.

FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER;
THOMAS H. FORSYTH,
Of Philadelphia.

FOR AUDITOR GENERAL;
EPHRAIM BANKS,
Of Mifflin.

FOR SURVEYOR GENERAL;
J. PORTER BRAWLEY,
Of Crawford.

Hon. John C. Knox.

As was anticipated, the Democratic State Convention, which re-assembled in Harrisburg last week, nominated Hon. JOHN C. KNOX, for Judge of the Supreme Court, vice Judge GIBSON, deceased, by *acclamation*. We therefore raise his name to the Editorial head of the *Observer*, feeling doubly assured that it will meet the entire approbation of the Democracy. Judge KNOX is not unknown to our people, and he has many warm friends and admirers here. Occasionally, during the last year or so, he has presided over our Courts, and all bear witness to the courtesy and ability with which he discharged his duty. True, he is a young man—much the youngest man upon the Supreme Bench—but that, in our estimation, is a recommendation.—We reverence *age*—we give all due deference to gray hairs—but we never yet could understand or conceive it possible that such constituted evidence of superior learning or wisdom. No, show us the fresh and vigorous man, and we will show you, if opportunity has been offered him, one who can and will perform the duties of any station to which he may be called. Judge KNOX is such an one. He has had the opportunity to fit himself for the station to which he has been called and he has improved it. We have no doubt of his election.

News of the Week.

Two arrivals from Europe this week—the Washington with London dates to the 20th, and the Niagara with Liverpool dates to the 23d.—The news by the latter, however, we have not received; the mere fact of her arrival only at Halifax being telegraph. By the Washington we learn that the maintenance of the peace of Europe was confidently relied upon in London and Paris. The latest intelligence from Petersburg was to July 9th, which state that one of the propositions for a compromise had reached the Russian Cabinet, which indicates a desire to negotiate. Telegraphic accounts from Constantinople states that a ministerial crisis was feared in consequence of the Russian invasion of the principalities, a pacific solution was however expected, but there was no cessation of arrangements. The formidable conspiracy against the life the Sultan got up by the Imaums or fanatical party had been discovered and fifteen of the leaders arrested and bow-stringed. Their object was to depose the Sultan in favor of his brother, who is decidedly wai with Russia. Paris dates to July 19, says that a despatch from Constantinople states that England, France and Germany had agreed to the basis of the arrangement which had been made to Turkey. If this is true, then the probabilities of war are certainly at an end.

The Washington brings later advices from China, but of so singular a character that they are hardly creditable. According to this news the rebels had raised the banner of christianity.—The Bible had been translated, and they were bent under the impulse of fanaticism on the extermination of the whole Tartar race. Nankin was still held by them and reported to be in a state of ruin. The rebels were fortifying the city and intended to march upon Pekin as soon as they received expected reinforcements. The commander of the war steamer Hermes had returned from an expedition to the scene of action of the rebels to whom he explained the position of foreign powers. He states that the insurgents had adopted the Protestant form of worship.

The Southern and Western elections have resented in the continued success of Democratic men and principlds. The delegation from Kentucky in the next Congress will stand about as it did last year; the whigs may have gained one, but this is nothing when we have the gratification of announcing the re-election of Maj. Breckenridge in the Lexington district.

It is said that the War Department will soon order twelve or fifteen hundred additional troops to garrisons on the Rio Grande. They will be drawn gradually from Texas and the Atlantic seaboard, as the exigencies of the service will permit. In fact, all the disposable force of the Army will be ordered there. It is probable that this is the first move to more negotiations for another slice of Mexico such as Jefferson Davis wisely contended for when the Mexican Treaty was under discussion in the Senate.

IT IS GAINING FRIENDS.—The Pacific Railroad scheme is steadily gaining friends. North and South, East and West, all political parties concur in giving this *Great Idea* of the Age "aid and comfort." As a significant sign, the action of the recent Democratic State Convention, which met at Harrisburg last week, may be justly cited. With great unanimity a resolution was passed by that body favorable to the project. In addition to which, we notice with pleasure that various influential presses, of the straightest sect of strict constructionists, have endorsed it. The Charleston *Mercury*, for instance, says it advocates the measure as one of plain necessity, to the protection of the Pacific region, and its construction by the Government as the constitutional and proper mode of realising the object. It rejoices to see that the Administration has taken this view of a question likely to have so great a place in the practical politics of the next four years. Col. Davis' views are so exactly its own, so well expressed, and so significant of a settled policy, that it quotes them at some length."

☞ The Whig State Convention held a meeting in Philadelphia, on Tuesday the 19th inst., and fixed upon Thursday the 25th day of August as the time, and *Huntingdon* as the place, for holding the Whig State Convention to nominate a candidate for the Supreme Bench. A useless waste of time, or we're mistaken in the running qualities of Judge KNOX, the Democratic nominee!

A Few Words Political.

As the ides of October approach, and the time for the nomination of county officers draws near, our friends, the Whigs, through their organ, the *Gazette*, appear to be waking somewhat from the stunning blow of last Falls contest. They show vitality; now one muscle draws up, now a quiver in this limb, and now a gasp and a sigh; anon an eye opens, then an arm is raised, and then, half-recumbent, the leaders look carefully around for some nook or corner to rally in. It is true Greeley has pronounced the body dead, and if he could have had his way, the *name*, not the *reality*, would have been consigned to the tomb ere this. But other council prevailed, and it still claims an existence in *name* as well as *reality*. Now what object it can have in living, despite the advice of its physicians, is more than we can see. It should, in view of *all* its antecedents and proclivities, have acknowledged itself dead—have been "born again," and in a new form, under new auspices, with new objects, and a new name, entered the list for power and—*pelf!*. Under such circumstances there would have been some phylosophy in its prophesies, (as per last *Gazette*) of the speedy disolution and discomfiture of the Democracy. It is true, men have frequently died at the very moment of attaining the highest point of their ambition; but it is about as absurd to anticipate the sudden demise of a *party* at a time when its principles have received almost universal sanction, as it is to expect an engine to burst immediately after the proper inspectors had declared it perfect.

Perhaps, however, the *Gazette* reasons that a dissolution of the Democratic party will take place, and its principles be obliterated, because the Whig party has never yet survived success a year. A short review of the whig party, past and present, will show at a glance how fallacious this reasoning is. It attempted in early life, when distinguished by the title of Federal, to establish our government upon the principle of a centralization of power in the hands of the General Government, creating a subserviency instead of an independence of State rights. In this it was defeated by the permanent embodiment in the Constitution of, the disintegrating principle whereby all rights and powers not *expressly granted* to the General Government were reserved by the States and the people.

The Whig party, at a latter day, (and in fact on sundry opportune occasions at intervals ever since) has attempted to thrust its Galphin fingers into the flesh-pots by means of an enormous and adroit bribe in the shape of a gigantic scheme of improvements, by which every duck-pond and cess-pool was to be renovated at the expense of the national treasury. This prop was knocked from under it by the veto of the Maysville Road Bill; and ever since, through the influence of the Democracy, backed by the good sense of the people, internal improvements have been such as were for national benefit, and restrained within constitutional limits.

The next adventure of this power-grasping faction, was in upholding the great monied monopoly of a national bank, with the ostensible purpose of controlling the finances of the government; but the fiat of Andrew Jackson, re-echoed by the approval of the people, shattered the marble tomb and crushed the band of harpies prepared to prey upon our vitals. Besides, we all remember how the later veto of JOHN TYLER saved us from wearing a fifty-million yoke for fifty years.

This same party, ever clutching for clap-trap, afterwards bent its whole energies to fasten upon us an aristocratic system of protection to manufacturing capitalists, at the expense of all other interests. Although deceived at first by specious arguments and ingeniously-contrived statistics, the "sober second thought" of the people, aided by Mr. WALKER's able and unanswerable investigation, rebuked the visionary and selfish plotters, and, by the establishment of the Tariff of 1846, settled forever, upon a just and liberal basis, the future commercial policy of this mighty nation.

Frustrated in every scheme of personal aggrandizement and party power, from its earliest organization, but true to its natural selfish instincts, this well-termed Whig (*sour*) party, at last determined to attempt a grand manœuver, which, if successful, would cap the climax of its dearest hopes, by rending asunder this glorious Union. To accomplish this object, it first opposed an extension of our territory, and then endeavored to array the North against the South, upon sectional and fantic prejudices, hoping in the event of a total disunion, to establish a separate and distinct government upon their darling notion of a centralization of power—or, in other words, upon an irresponsible basis, above and beyond the control of the people—a moderuized aristocracy. Every passion was appealed to; every species of fanaticism was arrayed in their ranks; but the overwhelming result of the last Presidential election scattered their confederated hosts and vindicated the integrity of the Democracy and the patriotism of the people.

And now, while some of the leaders and soothsayers of whigery declare the party dead, others less cunning and acute, hold up its putrid carcass, and swear that it is still in a good state of preservation. The later are right, for so long as there are men who doubt the capacity of the people for self-government, so long will the spawn of Whigery have existence, although, possibly, under another *name*. The Democracy, on the contrary, have ever pursued an undeviating course, intent only on preserving the rights and interests of the people, and the perpetuity of the Union, as the bulwark of a world's freedom.—Therefore, it must live forever, and *triumph!*—As every doctrine, scheme, and measure of whiggery originates in a deep-seated abhorrence of popular power, so every principle and action of the Democracy emanates in a fervent zeal for human rights, and a well-grounded faith in the honesty and intelligence of the people.

☞ A writer in the Washington *Republic* says, that an improved plan of railroad is in progress, and will soon be announced, which will secure the passenger from injury, and accomplish his most ardent wish for speed without danger of running off the rail, or coming in collision with an opposing train—a plan of railroad that will enable the passenger or the mail to reach the Pacific ocean in as many minutes as there are miles to overcome.

NO ANNEXATION.—The Supreme power of Mexico has lately sent an official order of a singular character to the Governors of the several States, and to the commanding officers of districts. It directs the establishment of a police for the arrest and military trial and punishment of every person who may be discovered advocating the annexation of that republic to the United States. That's decidedly "old fogyish!"

BEDFORD SPRINGS.—Bedfor Springs, in this State, which in all the natural elements of a fashionable summer resort, is far ahead of Saratoga, but for the lack of capital to fit it up, has remained comparatively unknown, has been sold lately to a company composed of Gen. Cameron, Geo. Lauman, Col. J. W. Garey, and Chambers McKibben, Esq. The Pittsburgh *Union* says they pay one hundred and seven thousand dollars for all Mr. Anderson's interest in the premises, the Springs, Hotel, furniture and lands around, amounting to about fourteen hundred acres.—They purpose to have surveys at once made of the grounds, to commence the erection of several magnificent hotels, many cotages, and other buildings; to ornament, embellish and beautify the vicinity, in order to be able to accommodate two or three thousand visitors, who, no one now doubts, would come there, if only sufficient accommodations were provided for them. The people of Bedford and its neighborhood, and the many strangers who delight to return there annually, are in great exultation at the new arrangements. The old proprietor will still keep the establishment, and reap the profits till the end of this season, though the new owners will probably go to work, without delay, in preparing for the future. They are all well know throughout Pennsylvania as men of liberality, energy, enterprise, and abundant capital. Of some importance, too, is the fact that they are all prominent Democrats, taking an active part in the politics of the State. They can, and no doubt they will make this the most popular summer resort in the United States, a source of pride, pleasure and profit to the good old Commonwealth. May every success await them."

WOMAN'S RIGHTS.—Massachusetts, so full of "isms," is still indisposed to engraft upon its constitution the new fangled "ism" of Woman's rights. The other day, the constitutional convention of that State had the subject before it, in the shape of a proposition to allow women to vote at elections. It seems that a petition, signed by about two thousand females, was presented to that body, asking that the elective franchise should be extended to the sex. In this petition a quotation was made from the Declaration of Independence; that "all governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed;" and the phrase was employed by their fair petitioners, as their chief argument why the right of voting should be conferred on woman. The petition was referred to a committee, who appear not to have yet reached that stage of development, when the presence of females at the polls appears a desirable thing, and accordingly, like dishonest "old fogies," as we presume they are, these legislators turned the argument of the ladies against themselves. In their report, rejecting the prayer of the petitioners, they say, for example:

"By the consent of the governed, the committee understand the consent, either express or implied of the persons concerned. At the present time, there are within the State of Massachusetts not far from 200,000 women, over 21 years of age. Of these, less than 2,000 have asked to be admitted to the right of suffrage. From this fact the committee have a right to infer, and also from their personal knowledge of the views and feelings of the class of persons referred to, that a great majority of the women in Massachusetts do willingly consent that the government of the State should be, as it hitherto has been, in the hands of their fathers, husbands, and sons. Of the correctness of this conclusion the committee entertain no doubt."

Rather ungallant, we must admit; but nevertheless deserved!

☞ As war between Russia and Turkey is not improbable—nay, probable—we give in an other column, from the Baltimore *Sun*, a description and historical account of the Danubian Principalities, the fruitful bone of contention between the Czar and the Porte! It is worth perusing.

☞ On Monday afternoon there was a terrible rain storm at Albany, which extended as far west as Syracuse, though with not so much violence at the latter place. The railway trains near Syracuse were delayed by the flood of water upon the track, putting out the locomotive fires, covering the track with drift wood, &c., &c.

☞ The Massachusetts Constitutional Convention now sitting, has adopted a provision abolishing imprisonment for debt—also prohibiting special bank charters, and providing for a general banking law.

☞ A responsible party has proposed to the Council of Cincinati, to erect gas works in that city, and to furnish gas at $2.00 per thousand cubic feet fo private customers, and $1 50 for street lamps—the gas to be of the best quality, and illuminating power.

☞ Late accounts represent that the silver mines in the vicinity of Mesilla are apperently inexhaustible, and the ore very rich. That Mesilla country will be worth contending for if our title is good.

A NEW EDGE.—An exchange, in speaking of ladies at Saratoga, says they "wear their shoulders bare to the lower edge of decorum."—How far down is that?

HABITUAL DRUNKENNESS.—The first case which occurred in New Jersey under the law relative to habitual drunkards, passed at the last session of the legislature, took place at Princeton on Friday, the 22d, and is mentioned in the Whig. The Chancellor issued a commission to three gentlemen, who proceeded to try before a jury an inquisition into the habitual drunkeness of Chas. Skillman, and his incompacity to take care of his property. The jury gave a verdict that such was the case; and, according to the law, the Orphans' Court, on application, must appoint a guardian over him. He is divested of all control of his property, which will be restored on his reformation. All liquor sellers, under a penalty, are forbidden to sell to him; and legally he is to be treated as a lunatic.

New Haven, July 28.

HORRIBLE AFFAIR—PROBABLE MURDER.—At Waterbury last night, about 10½ o'clock, as a young man named Miller, a baker, recently from New York, was passing home, four Irishmen named James Burns, John Swain, John Kelley and James Oxley, came out of a shop, and one of them ran against Miller, who said something by way of remonstrance, when Burns and Kelley threw him down and held him, while Kelley ripped open his bowels! Miller must soon die. His employer was near by, and with a little help, was able to secure Swain and Burns. Oxley was taken at midnight, but is said to have had no hand in the affair. Kelley is still at large, and a reward of $50 is offered for his apprehension. The other three were committed to jail here to-day.

☞ A break has occurred in the Delaware division of the Pennsylvania Canal, which will interrupt navigation for a week or ten days.

Personal and Local Observations.

Erie and Her Rail Roads.

MR. EDITOR.—It may be expected that I should answer the review of the Gazette's correspondent of my article in your paper of the 23d ult., upon the subject of our railroads. This shall be done (with your permission,) in as short a space as possible. The review is based entirely upon the opinion of chief Justice Gibson in the case of the Philadelphia and Trenton railroad company, 6 Wharton, 25. This decision is upon a special act of the Legislature authorizing that company to use certain roads and streets in Kensington and the Northern Liberties. It is therefore not general in its application. It decides we admit that the special act is constitutional. Kensington and the Northern Liberties were laid out on private property and the right to use the streets exists only in private grant or appropriation. The commonwealth when she transferred the soil undoubtedly reserved, as she usually does the right to appropriate six per cent for roads &c. Hence by her right of eminent domain, and the reservations in the grant she enters and takes possession of the streets. The legislature gave the Railroad company the right to use and occupy those streets in the same manner, and by the same authority that they would do to use and occupy a farm or any other private property. Erie was laid out by the commonwealth on her own property. The streets, lanes, alleys and lots were specially appropriated by the *parens patriae*, the lord paramount, the commonwealth herself to *be and forever remain common highways.*" She made no reservation of six per cent in the grant of the lots. The *streets are as absolutely appropriated* for the special purpose and use of streets as the bed of a railroad or canal is appropriated for the purpose expressed in its charter, and *the commonwealth has no more right* to transfer the streets (now that they have been specially appropriated) to a railroad company than she has to transfer the soil of one company to another. Two absolute and unconditional grants or appropriations of the same thing cannot of right exist at the same time, and the older grant has the preference or only right. The legislature has never attempted to confer any right on these railroad companies to use and occupy the streets of the city, therefore the case referred to is not in point. It does however, establish one doctrine, and that the only one that is applicable to this case as the law now is. That is this: "no person natural or corporate has an exclusive interest in the trust, (the soil) unless she, (the commonwealth,) has granted it to him," per ch. J. Gibson 6, Wh. 44. We need refer to nothing further to prove that these railroads in their present location are mere trespasses remaining only by the sufferance of the city corporation. So much for "R. R's." law. We will now examine the premises and argument he bases upon it. He says, referring to the case "such there being the general law, &c." We have proved that it is only a special law having no application to our case. He then says: "A railroad is in our sense a highway—a highway being a public road—a common highway does not seem to be any more than a public road." Or to concentrate his propositions a little we have, "a railroad is a highway—a highway is a public road—and "a public road is a common highway, hence the conclusion, *a railroad is a common highway, and a common highway is a railroad,*" sage and logical reasoning; and a great pity that it is not correct, as then every man would have a railroad at his own door. If the premises are false the conclusion must be. But let us inquire, is a railroad a highway? Barclay defines a *highway* to be "*free passage* for the King's subjects." Webster defines a *highway* to be "a way open *to all passengers.*" Cunningham in his law dictionary says *highways* are "free and common *to all* the King's subjects, and through which they might pass without *any toll.*" Our courts say that railroads "have the clear right to the exclusive use of land" on which their roads are built, and that the public are trespassers when they pass upon them except as the company may direct.—The companies say that the public must pay toll to pass upon their roads. For instance, in the case of the commonwealth vs. A. L. Norton, for Assault and Battery for assisting a conductor on the Erie and Cleveland Railroad to eject a passenger from the cars because he refused to pay the full amount of fare claimed, alledging that it was more than the usual fare, in Quarter Sessions of this county, the court, GALBRAITH Pres., instructed the jury that the authority of the conductor in the cars was supreme, and that he had the same right to eject a person from the cars who had not paid his fare that a man had to eject an intruder from his own house. They have nothing in common except that both are roads; one public and open for the passage of all persons, and all manner of conveyances, the other private, open to the passage of no persons without the payment of "toll," and to no carriages except the cars of the company.

Having shown the fallacy of the first two propositions, we leave the others with the *powerful* arguments that follow to fall by their own *immense weight*. The argument in this case reminds us forcibly of the very logical method of reasoning sometimes adopted by schoolboys that "an elephant has a trunk, trees and travellers have trunks, hence trees and travellers are elephants." ERIE.

☞ The Buffalo *Rough Notes*, a paper we have heretofore respected, is guilty of a gross misrepresentation—to call it by no harsher name—in regard to us. It says we have "boldly avowed that the object of Erie," in seeking to secure the necessary change of guage between the Eastern and Western roads at Erie instead of Buffalo, "is to reach the pockets of the Railroad corporations and make money at the expense of passengers over that route." It is scarcely necessary to say that we never entertained such sentiments, never expressed them, and least of all in the paragraph quoted by the *Notes*. The Editor of the *Notes* knows as well enough to know that if we did entertain any such sentiments, we would express them "boldly" and as "boldly" maintain them in the face of the world. The petition we did take, in the article quoted, was simply this:—That if the corporations now trying to force Erie from her position—rob her of her rights—did succeed in forcing her to the wall, she had, as a last resort, a hold upon their pockets, which, in fact, is their life and soul—that they could not resist. As the *Notes* is aware, the Supreme Court of this State has decided that the road from Erie to the Ohio line has no charter, and hence is liable to have an injunction served upon it, and an order issued to have it removed as a public nuisance, at any moment. That is the pocket nerve we alluded to, and that is the vital spot from whence Erie, if the worst comes to the worst, will draw the life blood of the money kings of Buffalo and Cleveland!! From the course of the *Notes* for a few days past we did not expect justice or fair dealing at its hands; we, therefore, do not ask it to get this matter right. Years ago, we learnt not to be disappointed if we should meet falsehood and misrepresentation where we least expected it, and hence we are not and shall not be taken by surprise at any the coarse the *Notes* may pursue.

WILL SOMEBODY STOP IT?—That harmless squib of ours, declining to take the advice of the bachelor of the *Gazette* to get up at 4 o'clock in the morning to hear the birds sing, is still going the rounds, accompanied with the slander that we said it because we were a "newly married man." The last we saw of it, it was in the Thibaidaux *Minerva*, away down among the swamps and bayous of Louisiana, en route for Texas, we suppose. Now if our Editorial brother of the *Minerva* will "arrest the fugitive" and brand it with the fact that we said it after eight years experience as a married man, well send him a new dress for his first born." Is it a bargain?

☞ Here are a couple of stanzas from the *lay* of a candidate for matrimony, that are decidedly rich. We give them a place in order to show those in this section who think of going and doing likewise how the thing is done:

And when the reverend sir shall say,
"My son, take thou this daughter"
I'd answer him in fearless tones,
"I shan't do nothing shorter"

"Will you, my son, support and nourish
This flower I give to thee?"
I'd give my span white kids a flourish,
And answer, "Yes, sir-ee!"

☞ The August number of the Western Literary Messenger is received. It is a very readable number, though not in fact so good as some of its "illustrious predecessors." A little more care, a little more spirit, would make it unsurpassed as a magazine of general literature. J. Clement, Editor; Jewett, Thomas & Co., Publishers, Buffalo.

ROUTE OF THE SUNBURY ROAD.—At a meeting of the Directors of the Erie and Sunbury road, held in Philadelphia last week, the various surveys and estimates from Erie East were submitted by the Chief Engineer, Mr. Ferris; and after mature deliberation the Eastern, or Waterburg route was adopted? So that question is settled.

☞ One of our exchanges exhibits the "broad difference between nature and art" in the following pithy style:

"Not long since, we heard, while crossing a field, laughter wild and musical, and saw a handsome Miss bounding like a fawn, and cleaning fences with the most charming abandon. When she found she was discovered, her gait assumed the precision of a machine, and her mouth a pucker that utterly precluded the idea that she ever swallowed a platter of cold victuals. The woman of art was a most wretched counterfeit."

A POOR EXCUSE.—The editor of the Michigan City *News* gives as an excuse for not getting out a paper last week, that he was engaged in getting out *two* extras of himself—amounting to ten pounds of additional editorial responsibility. That's a poor excuse! An Editor that can't get out two extras, as light as that, in a week, besides a newspaper, isn't worth "shucks!"

Our White List

We acknowledge the receipt of the following amounts in subscription to the Erie *Observer* during the week ending yesterday noon:

J. S. Robison,
Levi Bell,
Jesse Clark,
Wallace May,
J. B. Milliken,
A. G. White,
L. A. Hall,
A. Heath,
N. C. Remington,
John White,
V. Schlaraff,
Wm. Cooper,
Wm. Hood,
James Robinson,
Rufus Miller,
E. Duncombe,
Henry Allison,
S. C. Boyd,
J. M. Jinney,

☞ Our old friend BROCKWAY, formerly of the ville *Sentinel*, but more recently of the Oswego, has "broke out" again, and is now editing the *Democrat*. The last time we saw him he was on the Avenue at Washington, hunting a [illegible] drink!—*Erie Observer.*

The editor of the *Observer* is too modest to [illegible] joined in the search, perhaps thinking it would be inferred by all who know him by reputation [illegible] propensity for fat offices these Democratic editors weakness for brandy smashes, and they would [illegible] ther further than any other class of men. [illegible] *Observer* would stick to the latter as he [illegible] Democratic principles—"till *succeed* [illegible] sor.

Just listen to the *sot!* One can't hinder [illegible] but he must associate it in his mind with [illegible] "brandy smashes." Now, every body [illegible] BROCKWAY is as temperate as an iceberg, [illegible] always so opposed to drink that our mother [illegible] had to spank us severely *before* we'd nurse. We [illegible] knowledge, however, to being so intemperate [illegible] sant the Editor of the *Censor*, upon two occasions [illegible] of Monongahela—such as Ex-Gov. Johnston [illegible] so fond of! and we have heard that just [illegible] he (the said Editor) was great on corn [illegible] Virginia-fence Editorial.

— The Editors of the Westfield *Transcript* [illegible] ville *Sentinel*, are each and severally very [illegible] for wishing to transfer the present break of gauge [illegible] them and New York, at Dunkirk and Buffalo [illegible] this they show just exactly how much go [illegible] possess, and we confess the inventory is much [illegible] we expected. For instance, under the [illegible] ment every citizen of Westfield and Mayville [illegible] every one west of Buffalo who receives [illegible] and every one west of Dunkirk, receives [illegible] good-kirk, is compelled to pay at least five cent. [illegible] account of the break of gauge at these places [illegible] undeniable fact, and yet those numbsculls [illegible] stupid, or obtuse, or something else, that [illegible] their readers in order to build up Dunkirk [illegible]