Miscellaneous, Foreign and Political News.

ARRIVAL OF THE BALTIC.

Four days later from Europe.

The United States mail steamship Baltic from Liverpool Wednesday, November 2d, arrived at about 10 A. M. A letter (without date) from Tunis announces the sudden death of Mr. Heap, Consul of the United States.

No one seems to know what is going on upon the Danube. Some accounts report an armistice and a new diplomatic note; others hostilities.—For a statement of what is said on both sides we refer to our dispatch.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.—The first note of war that fell so ominously on the ears of Europe has been as rapidly exchanged for a note of peace. The three days since last advices brought reports from the Danube, announcing successively an engagement and an armistice—the commencement of hostilities and the conclusion of a truce. We are without detailed particulars of either of these occurrences, but the London press believes that the pacific intelligence will be found the more substantial, and that the movements in the direction of peace have been more important than in the direction of war.

There are those, notwithstanding, who see in this unlooked-for armistice an instance of Russia's skill in obtaining what she most at present wants—delay.

The information on which these hopes and fears are based is as meagre and unsatisfactory as all that has been doled out to the European public during the progress of this protracted difficulty. Here it is *verbatim*:

"VIENNA, Friday Evening, 28th.—There is reason to believe that an armistice has been concluded between the Turkish and Russian armies. The intelligence of Russian hostile operations on the Lower Danube, on the 23d, is contradicted by the *Oesterreichische Correspondenz*."

General opinion regarded the news as extremely doubtful. Our correspondent informs us that it emanated, in the first instance, from a Paris bureau of very doubtful reliability; it was received with incredulity in Paris, and was only acted upon on the Bourse when it was found to have raised the price of consols at least half a per cent.

Another version of the reported armistice is given by the Paris *Monitor* of Oct. 30th. That paper announces that the French government received from the French embassador at Constantinople a dispatch, bearing date Oct. 21st—Prince Gortschakoff's reply to Omar Pasha was regarded by the Porte in the light of a refusal to quit the Principalities, and consequently justified Turkey in recording to war. Nevertheless, on the entreaties of the representatives of the four Powers, the Ottoman government had consented to order the postponement of hostilities to November the 1st, provided they did not already be commenced; but if already commenced, the order was to be void. This pacific mandate the conductors of "Telegraphic Agency" connected with the idea of the armistice.

The London *Daily News* is possibly near the truth in saying:

"In all probability, upon the very formal armistice, a few days in advance of the instance of the Sultan, allowed to Prince Gortschakoff to receive orders from St. Petersburg before Omar Pasha was finally advised to begin offensive operations on a large scale. That is, our interpretation of the 'armistice' story."

This view of the case is strongly corroborated by the following telegraphic dispatch, the importance of which appears to have been overlooked, but which is *important and true*:

"The Turks have crossed the Danube."

This highly-important information, telegraphed, substantially, to the editors of the London *Morning Chronicle* of last date: "Thirty thousand infantry and [illegible] hundred cavalry, under the orders of Omar Pasha, passed the Danube at Kalafat, on the 27th October. A great number more were in the act of crossing. From Krtova, another dispatch mentions that the Danubians to battle in [illegible] and in a general so experienced as Omar [illegible] imperceptible attack, and if he [illegible] he must have done [illegible] and with determination [illegible] the enemy in a pitched battle. The [illegible] from the seat of war will, the reader [illegible] interest.

The London *Times*, and our organ of Russian sentiment failed to prove that the skirmish on the Danube, before referred to, was more than an act of Turkish aggression arising from accident, but would not provoke the Russian invasion. The *Times* goes so far as to assert that the Czar does not consider [illegible] Turkey. If this [illegible] the authors of the outrage [illegible] the pretext on which Russia will [illegible] throw the responsibility of hostilities on the Turks.

As nearly as we can [illegible] statements of those who [illegible] on the one hand, that the attack resulted in the destruction of the Turkish forces [illegible] and the other, on the contrary, maintain that no battle whatever took place, the following is nearly the sum of the facts: Some time since, Omar Pasha gave notice to the Russian commander [illegible] Russian vessels approaching [illegible] the Turkish batteries they should be fired [illegible]. To this message Gortschakoff returned no answer, and the Russian vessels were fired on, and they would return the fire. [illegible] Russian flotilla [illegible] eight gun-boats [illegible] the declaration of war by Turkey, and the avowed intention of Omar Pasha to cross the Danube, having rendered [illegible] the main body of the Russians [illegible] Danube ahead of the Turks, [illegible] they were summoned to stop, but [illegible] the summons were promptly fired [illegible] and [illegible] rapidly returned the compliment. As [illegible] tioned, some ten or fifteen of the Russians were killed, and fifty [illegible] *not a Turkish boat*. The Turkish loss is not at all, but was probably few or none. [illegible] shell set fire to the fort. The steamer crowded on [illegible] and badly damaged, managed to make their way up the river, beyond the range of the Turkish [illegible] sides. Isaktchi is midway between the junction of confluence of the Pruth and Danube, and that part where the river divides into branches, and enclose the neutral territory. An account says that the flotilla when first fired was from Ismail, and was attempting to place itself in communication with Ibraila, a port of Wallachia, situated on the left bank of the river.

THE NEW MOTOR—THE ERICSSON ENGINE.—It will be recollected that the caloric ship Ericsson, returned from her trip to Washington about seven months ago, and that immediately thereafter essential modifications and improvements in the plan of the engine were determined upon. These have since been in progress at Williamsburg, near where the ship was built, and where she has since laid. The public will be gratified to learn that these alterations are now nearly completed, and that, so far from the enterprise having been abandoned, as was the general belief, the fullest confidence is entertained on the part of those immediately interested, of its complete success, on the second trip of the ship. Mr. Ericsson is devoting his whole time and undivided energies to the realization of this end.

It is expected that within two weeks, one of the engines will be completed, and the other will be finished soon after. The several parts are all ready, and now on board. We understand that the power of these engines will far exceed what was attained under the low pressure system employed on the first trip—as they are now to be worked under condensed pressure.

It is to be hoped that these anticipations may not prove unfounded. It would be difficult to predict what changes might ensue in the course of a few years, in steam navigation, should Mr. Ericsson succeed in the application of his principle for practical purposes.—*Jour. Com.*

Important from China—Reported Flight of the Emperor.

A friend has placed at our disposal a letter from Dr. Parker, Secretary to the United States legation at Canton, of which the following is a copy:

"I have what I am assured is contained in a private letter from Pekin, that Hoen Fung, the present Emperor, on the 2d of August, fled to Gehul, in Tartary, and that Prince Wei Chin, fifth brother of Taou Kwang, was left in charge of the Empire, and that the insurgent troops were within six days of Pekin at that date.

"This news bears marks of probability, and the source of my information is as reliable as any we can ordinarily get in China.

"In speaking with the British Consul this evening, he informed me that he heard the same news three days since, which corresponds with the time my informant states the intelligence reached this city.

"Mr. Robertson seemed to receive the intelligence with some doubt. I can only say that I think it very likely to prove true, and that Prince Wei Chin is the man of all others who would be called upon to take the reins of government.

"He is the man who is said to have written Taou-Kwang's answer to the President's letter, delivered in 1844 by Mr. Cushing."

Dr. Parker's letter is dated at "10 minutes to 12 o'clock," on the 3rd of September, and was addressed to a member of the branch house of a large mercantile firm in this city, in response to a note despatched to him at half past 10 the same night.—*N. Y. Com. Adv.*

MURDER OF A MAN BY HIS STEP-CHILDREN.—An awful deed was done on Sunday night, the 5th inst., in the town of Vestal, about 8 miles from this village. The hearts, not only of men, but of women, seem to have grown harder and more callous. It appears that a Mrs. Winans, an old resident of Vestal, after a widowhood of some years, married a man by the name of Stephen Crane. Soon after their marriage a disagreement occurred, and up to the fatal hour of Crane's death, they continued to quarrel. It was rumored that at one time Mr. Crane was "bought off" by his generous wife, who then told him that he might depart forever. Mrs. Winans had a daughter, who lately got married also, to a young man whose name we could not learn. To this daughter Mrs. Winans [alias Crane] assigned her interest in the house in which they reside. Mr. Crane, after an absence of some time from home, returned on Saturday, and attempted to enter what he considered his own house, but was warned off by his new son-in-law. On persisting to enter, he was told that if he did he would be certainly shot. He then left, but returned again in a state of intoxication, it is said, and attempted to enter the house, and was again repulsed. He pertinaciously insisted on his design; then the wife took pistol and charged a pistol, and told the young man to do his duty. In another moment poor Crane was numbered among the dead. The ball passed through his head, entering the forehead, and lodging behind the ear. At first it was thought this was the only wound inflicted, but after examining the body, his head was found to contain several severe gashes—indeed, horribly mutilated. The murderers are now in custody.—*Binghamton Rep.*

DEATH OF BURKE'S OLD GUARD.—Some month since a certain Edmund Burke, not getting an office from Gen. Pierce, started a paper in New Hampshire called the *Old Guard*. The name is supposed to designate that enterprising and patriotic class of our American fellow citizens who, having kept "guard" over the U. S. Treasury in the days of Martin Van Buren, and waxed fat thereon, conceived they had an indispensable claim upon a like berth under General Pierce. Of course, these grievances were not allowed to [illegible] the *Old Guard*. Far from it. The issue was pitched upon high national grounds. No interest short of the safety, integrity, and glory of this great nation was at stake. Mr. Burke [illegible] his paper out from his New Hampshire [illegible] of a half a dozen Van Buren Democrats in New Hampshire. Resolved it is the home of Gen. Pierce, and the granite democracy are not only proud of him, but love him. So, the *Old Guard*, though it was supported on the start, by a few bottled and growling Locofocos of the Burke stamp, fast finished by want of continued backing. Facinomic, as every body knows, are the poor, poor people in the world to pay. They will make speeches, pass resolutions, and hurrah *ad infinitum*, but when the "chink" is wanting, they are as mute as mutes in swamps. Thus with Burke and his paper. His ardent friends seeing that the New Hampshire democracy were proof against sound, got tired of paying for blank shots, and so the *Old Guard* has left the field.—*Cincinnati Commercial.*

WASHINGTON TERRITORY.—Mr. Winthrop, of New York, just returned from Puget's Sound, describes the territory of Washington, from Puget's Sound, across the Cascade Mountains, as a heavily timbered country, chiefly with the Oregon fir, which in some localities grows very large. There are extensive prairies and some dry barrens between the sound and mountains; the latter covered with fine pebbles of trap rock, and sparsely wooded with oaks. Across the mountains is an open rolling prairie country, with small and thinly wooded valleys—water every where abundant. To the north of this, and in these valleys, are occupied by the Flat Head Indians, there is a good number, and the country is admirably adapted to settlements.

The Indians in Washington Territory are peaceable; those on Puget's Sound may be said to be civilized. They are in constant intercourse with the whites, farming and raising potatoes, which, with the salmon constitute their food.

THE SWISS LAND.—Col. Benton declares, and upon convulsive authority, that the central part of the Rocky Mountains has territory enough to make a mountain state double the size of all the Swiss Cantons, with everything as grand in scenery, and without the drawbacks of its avalanches, glaciers and cold.

The point or portion to which he refers covers the head waters of the South Platte, the Arkansas and the Del Norte, and supplies the springs of the East Fork of the great Colorado of the West. Grass is abundant; water plenty. The facility of traveling over the country is better than the mountain regions of Virginia or Tennessee. Charles W. McClannahan, of the Old Dominion, writes thus about this "Swiss Land:"

On this line almost the entire route can be settled, as all the land from Missouri to Bent's Fort is rich and very fertile, equal to the best lands of Missouri and Illinois, and no land can beat the Sierra Blanca for grass; even to the very summit it stands as thick as the best meadows; many acres would mow at least four tons per acre. Then comes the large and beautiful Valley St. Louis, said to be one of the most fertile in New Mexico; indeed, fine land is upon the whole route, and the climate such that stock can live all winter upon the grass.

☞ The Weston (Mo.) *Reporter* contains a letter from Capt. Kitchen, dated Las Vegas, N. M., Sept. 29th, which says:—Lieut. Whipple arrived at Anton Chicot on the 29th. He gives most excellent accounts of the location of the portion of country which he has travelled over, and expresses himself very freely in favor of the route which he has surveyed. He says that if he finds the remainder of the route as good as the portion he has traveled over, the road will be this—the middle—route. His party was in excellent health, and had no bad luck whatever. Lieut. Whipple, it will be recollected, is the chief of the party of Engineers appointed to survey the route for the road from Fort Smith to the Pacific.

A new fashioned brick machine, at the Maryland Agricultural Fair, was made, with the aid of 1 horse, to turn out bricks at the rate of 15000 a day.

Erie Weekly Observer.

ERIE, PA.

SATURDAY MORNING, NOV. 19, 1853.

Topics of the Week.

Locally Railroads have absorbed the public mind this week; but as we have elsewhere had "our say" in regard to the issue between the people and these monopolies, we do not deem it necessary to enlarge upon it here.

The news from Europe, to be found elsewhere, is of a decided character. It settles, we think, the question of peace or war in Europe. The Turk, true to his faith and his honor, has drawn the sword, thrown away the scabbard, and crossed the Danube. Success be with him.

News from China indicates the continued success of the rebels. Shanghae and the country round about, it is said, is in partial rebellion. Indeed, every thing indicates that the Tartar dynasty is upon its last legs in the "flowry empire." Pekin, though not yet in the hands of the rebels, will soon capitulate; so says the last reliable advices.

News from Mexico indicates that Santa Ana is ruling that distracted country with an iron hand. His will is law, and he who displeases him falls before his sway like wheat before the reaper. One circumstance indicative of this is worth repeating. We find it in a letter from the Washington correspondent of the New York *Times*:

"A reliable letter from any army officer, near the Rio *Grande*, communicates that by the order of Santa Anna, Luis de la Rosa, formerly Mexican Minister to the United States, and one of President Arista's Ministers of War, whose name escapes me, have both been shot recently, somewhere near the northern boundary of Mexico. De la Rosa was Minister of Foreign affairs immediately after the capitulation of the city of Mexico was the immediate instigator of Santa Anna's expulsion from the country, and wrote a letter informing him of his disgrace. The other victim was also implicated in the same transaction. Both were shot summarily, and without pretence of trial. This is considered here as evidence of Santa Anna's determination to sustain himself as Dictator by the same means as formerly. If this act passes unrebuked, it will be considered establishing confidence and stability in Santa Anna's Administration. That once ascertained, it is perfectly understood here how he will immediately settle all differences with us, from treaty stipulations to restrain the New Mexico Indians, and sell us a strip of territory, including Sonora and Chihuahua. Thus the news has great significance."

WE VOTE NO!—Some of our exchanges are recommending an increase in the Navy as a means of getting rid of the surplus revenue of the general government. For the public service performed by the navy, we think it requires quite enough of the public revenue to support it, as it is, without any further increase. There are, at all times, Navy officers on furlough, from one year to another—public drones, who do nothing for the government but spend its money. If other vessels were put in commission, other officers would be appointed, and the public drones would increase in number. We want no more Navy, until we can have *naval reform*. Whenever the time comes—if ever—when war shall demand the active services of a Navy, the government can convert as many of our elegant merchant vessels and steamships into vessels of war as will prove a formidable Navy. A large standing army, in the present *territory*, writing from San Francisco, says: "Among the news of this morning you will see the seizure of a vessel last night for an alleged violation of the neutrality laws. She was loading with arms and filibusters, it is said, for Sonora. Very likely it is so; but neither Gen. Hitchcock, or any other General can stay such a movement. It may be delayed, not arrested. Sonora, with rich mines of silver and gold, its soft climate and its miserable population, is ripe for the American sickle. Santa Anna has no force to protect it, and its ports and its commerce should be ours. The present population are a prey to the Apacha Indians, and cannot protect themselves. Let the flag of the stars and stripes be unfurled, and they will find protection under its folds. God speed the extension of the boundaries of the Republic is the cry on this Ocean."

☞ Mr. Toombs, of Georgia, is out with a letter abusing Col. Davis, Secretary of War. He evidently desires to provoke a fight with Davis, and were that gentleman out of the Cabinet we have no doubt he could be accommodated. He may be as it is, for although the Colonel is one of the mildest looking men we ever saw, not having the least appearance of a fire-eater, his whole life shows him to be a brave and fearless man. Mr. Toombs is a man of talent, and has been the means of doing the whig party, to which he professes to belong, some injury in times past, and Democrats felt a little grateful to him on that account. But he is not in a position just at present to hold his head very high among honorable men, or to do either party much harm.

☞ The *Herald* learns that the President's message will, as usual of late years, be forwarded to the Postmasters of the different large cities for delivery to the newspaper press the moment the reading of the document has been commenced in Congress. It is understood that General Pierce, as well as most of the heads of departments, intent to confine their communications to plain facts, without resorting to the customary verbosity, thus saving readers the trouble of separating the chaff from the grain.

☞ The Philadelphia *Ledger* expresses the belief that if Great Britain allows the union of the two Canadas, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, into one great federal province, the movement will end in their annexation to the United States.

THE MONEY MARKET.—Thompson's Reporter thus describes the state of the money market:

"LAND HO!—Wall street is out of the woods. The tide has turned and we are bound up. Exchange on Europe has fallen below a specie point—gold is on the increase in our Banks—deposits ditto—accommodations are easily obtained—shining on the decline—Stocks are rising—no panic among the Banks—all's safe."

☞ A Washington correspondent says that the thirty odd-millions surplus revenue in the Treasury will be required to meet the negotiations of Mr. Soule in Spain and Gen. Gadsden in Mexico. That the affairs in Europe are in a shape to favor the annexation of Cuba, and that the acquisition of the Mesilla Valley, and a strip of the open country west of it to the Gulf of California, is a foregone conclusion, and will be brought about by peaceable means if possible, and by force if need be.

The Sandwich Islands.

In an article upon the politics of the Sandwich Islands, two weeks since, we expressed the opinion that their annexation, in some shape, to the United States was a foregone conclusion.—Later intelligence seems to render that event closer at hand even than we had anticipated. Indeed, we shall be much surprised if the President in his annual message does not lay some sort of proposition of the kind before Congress; and that Congress will act upon it, and that promptly, there can be no question. The time has gone by for the people of this country to be afraid of their own shadows. We have swallowed Louisiana, Florida, Texas, California, and New Mexico, and the country is just as healthy, if not more so, than before; the annexation, then, of these islands with the consent of the people will not be likely to produce any serious results. To be sure it may not set well upon the stomachs of our beef and frog eating neighbors across the water—England and France—but what of that; what has been foreordained must be accomplished, and they must submit. The intelligence from the theatre of the events we are predicting shows, however, that they are preparing for the event—that is, the English and French Consuls are protesting against it. From the last news from the Islands we learn that on the 29th of August a correspondence took place between the English and French Consuls and the Sandwich Islands Minister of Foreign Relations, in which the former solicited an audience with the King and Privy council. It was granted, and the Council was convoked on the 1st of September, when the Consuls aforesaid presented a protest against the annexation of the Islands to the United States, and against any action of the government looking to such a result. In this protest they say that "Great Britain and France have entered into solemn treaties with the Sandwich Islands, by which treaties the King, his heirs and successors, are bound to extend, at all times, to French and British subjects the same advantages and privileges as may be granted to subjects or citizens of the most favored nation, and that the joint resolution of England and France of the 28th of Nov., 1843, was founded upon the clear understanding that his Majesty was to preserve the islands as an independent State." They therefore declare, in the name of their "government, that any attempt to annex the Sandwich Islands to any foreign power whatever, would be in contravention of existing treaties and could not be looked upon with indifference by either the British or the French government." They further say, "that, in accordance with the Hawaiian constitution, his Majesty can only alienate his sovereignty and islands under certain circumstances—which circumstances have not occurred—and that no monarch whatever, according to Vatel and other writers on international law, has a right to alienate his kingdom, or to enter into a negotiation with that view, without the concurrence of the people." In view of these facts they consider that the time has arrived for them to remonstrate, and they do therefore formally remonstrate against the proposition to annex the Islands to the United States. This correspondence and the protest were sent to the United States Commissioner, Hon. Luther Severance, who returned a long answer, in which he sustains the right of the government to cede and acquire territory. The following are extracts from Mr. Severance's letter:

"You are aware that the government of the United States has never made any proposition to the government of the Sandwich Islands, to annex the Islands, nor has the government ever entertained the idea of annexing that the merchants and landed proprietors, whether Americans or others, should perceive great commercial advantages in such a connection, considering that the principal part of the commerce of the islands is with the United States, and that the islands must look almost exclusively to the Pacific coast of the United States for a market for their products, and the means of paying for their heavy imports. I perceive, therefore, nothing very extraordinary in the project remonstrated against. And if now, or at any future time, it shall be found to be decidedly for the interest of both countries to unite their sovereignties, I am unable to perceive any treaty or moral obligations on the part of either to forbid the desired union, or any good reason for foreign interference to prevent it.

"The right to cede or acquire territory, or to unite two independent nations by compact, is recorded as inherent in all independent sovereignties. It has certainly been practiced from time immemorial. The power which can cede a part can cede all the parts. Modern history abounds in examples, and more than English and French history. Annexation is neither a new thing, nor rare in our day, as the Turks and Arabs of Algeria, the Caffres of South America, and more than one hundred and thirty millions of people in India, can testify—people it is hoped who may be benefitted by the change; but whether so or not, I cannot admit that annexation by voluntary consent is any more illegal or reprehensible than annexation by conquest. But whether it be done by one process or the other, the government of the United States can have no colonies. Whatever territory is added is but an integral part of the whole, and subject to the same national constitution and laws.

"The expediency of union with the United States I do not propose to consider at present, for I have no authority to say that the United States will consent to any terms that may be offered; yet I have no doubt if they shall be offered they will be frankly received and duly considered; but no sinister means of accomplishing the object, however desirable, will receive any favor from the United States."

This, in connection with the fact that very soon after, in consequence of it is supposed of some misunderstanding between the King and his Ministers growing out of the subject, the Ministry resigned and a new one was formed, gives a pretty strong annexation aspect to the affair. Dr. *Judd*, the Minister of Finance, and a rank anti-annexationist, retired to give place to Hon. *E. H. Allen*, late U. S. Consul, who is represented as the life and soul of the annexation movement. In confirmation of this it is stated on the 8th of September a meeting was held by the foreign residents at Honolulu to testify their joy at the resignation of Dr. Judd, and the appointment of his successor before named. They passed a number of resolutions, calling the former government a "malignant tyranny;" expressing "reverence" towards the King for his course; asserting that "the union of the Church and State has in all ages proved destructive to civil liberty;" expressing distrust of all the "office holders," "who have been the obsequious instruments of the late Minister of Finance; and concluding with a resolution to go in procession on the evening of the 10th to express to the King their approbation of the "change he has pleased to make in the office of the Minister of Finance."

☞ Gov. Seymour, our new Minister to Russia, was in attendance at the State Department on Monday. He will leave New York, on route for St. Petersburg, on the 26th inst.

Democratic Dissensions.

He is a croaker, says the Detroit *Free Press*, who predicts that the New York difficulties will spread, and that the Democracy of other States will split upon like issues as those which have rent the Democratic party in that State. If the Democratic party in all the States of the Union, or in any of them, was made up of materials so discordant as that of New York—if everywhere else, long continued heart-burnings existed, and old sores remained unhealed—if personal hatreds and individual animosities were as virulent and deep seated, as there—then might there be some ground for the prediction that the Democratic party of the country is to be divided. Or if any principle were involved in the New York defection—if the Administration of the National Government had been guilty of any sins of omission or commission worthy of reprobation—if the President had violated any of his pledges, or failed to fulfil all his obligations to the country and to the Democratic party—then might it be that dissensions and distractions would be reaped as the fruit of such Presidential short comings.

What is to divide the Democratic party, as a national party, in any State? What, to bring the matter home, is to divide it in Pennsylvania? With the solitary exception of the matter of a few appointments in New York, the acts of the present Administration, all and singular, met the cordial concurrence not only of the Democratic party as a party, but of every individual member of it. Nay, *farther*. The general foreign and domestic policy of the President commands the commendation of all national men of the whig party; and in no quarter has that policy been successfully assailed. Indeed, it cannot be assailed; for so American is it in spirit, and so much in consonance with the popular ideas, that the people would be false to themselves, and recreant to the principles of republican liberty, should they fail to adhere to the President while he faithfully adheres to his policy.

Those then, who imagine that dissentions, arising from such causes as exist in New York, will distract the Democracy of the country, must have a poor opinion of the popular intelligence. What care the hardy sons of toil, who make up the masses of the Democratic party, about who holds this or that office in New York? Nothing whatever. They care little for office holders any where. They ask only that the government may be well and honestly administered—that the honor of the country shall be protected—and that Democratic principles shall prevail.

Never was the national Democratic party better and more fully united upon principles than now; and never was there a Chief Magistrate more patriotically determined to do the whole duty to his country than FRANKLIN PIERCE. With no interests to subserve but those of the whole Union—with no desire of reward but the plaudits of a grateful people—with aspirations only for an unspotted fame—he will go forward in the firm and resolute discharge of his duty, unawed by the clamors of natural enemies or false friends, relying confidently, not upon office holders or office seekers, but upon the *Democratic masses* for support in every crisis. And this support he will have. The great Democratic party, influenced only by patriotic motives—prone to rally around faithful public servants—unyielding in their attachment to bold and resolute leaders, will stand by Gen. PIERCE so long as he shall stand by them—so long as he shall steadfastly hold on to the principles and enforce the policy which eight months since he declared should govern his administration. The President will be scorned by all good men.

IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN SO.—No, Democratic Executive has ever escaped the malignant assaults of the enemies of our own faith. General Pierce then, must not hope to escape. Look at Gen. Jackson! His opponents abused him more outrageously than the enemies of General Pierce do him. Jackson was called a libertine, a bully, and a murderer—a horse racer, a tavern brawler, and the thief of another man's wife.—Even this would not satisfy the malignity and envy Jackson's political elevation excited. His wife's character was assailed in the most disgraceful manner, and she was sent, broken-hearted, to her grave by the fiendish libels of the political opponents of her husband. But the voice of an indignant people stamped with infamy the authors of these vile slanders, and manifested a just appreciation of such cowardly and disgraceful persecution, by bestowing new and unfading honors upon the Hero of New Orleans. And now, says the Boston *Post*, the vile blackguardism uttered by a Cooley, of the Chief Magistrate of the United States, is covering its promulgator with ignominy, and increasing the people's devotion to the distinguished individual it is aimed at; a devotion which so lately bore him triumphantly to the proudest position in the world.

☞ The New York *Tribune* says the Whigs have carried the State, because they could not help it—and that "he who desires to prove that the Whig party has still a healthful vitality, must offer some further evidence than that afforded by our recent election."

☞ Here is a fact showing *how* the policy of the Democratic party *has* ruined this country:

"It is found to be a matter of the greatest difficulty to secure army recruits, such is the demand for laborers in the country, and the high wages paid. The drum and fife is by no means man's merriest music, at present."

☞ Americans and American influence, we see are making themselves felt, in a great way, in the Central American or Isthmus regions.—The last Panama papers announce that "Senor Santiago Aguow" an American by birth, and sometime a citizen of Philadelphia, has just been elected Governor of the interesting and rapidly progressing province of Chuiqui. The *Star* says:

"He has frequently been elected President of the Provincial Legislature, and might have been a regular representative for the Province at Bogota, but always declined the appointment on the grounds that he had never become a citizen of the country, and did not wish to resign his allegience to the United States. He is, notwithstanding, looked upon by the people as a citizen."

ANNEXATION OF HONDURAS.—A Washington correspondent of the *Tribune* states that application has been made to our Government to annex Honduras to the United States, but no answer has yet returned. The Hondurenes are rather bothered by their war with Guatemala, and the controversy they have on hand with England about the Islands and other matters.—They accordingly would like to transfer themselves to the United States, and as an inducement offer a country very rich in silver and other metals, and possessing the most advantagous line for an inter-oceanic railroad that can be found out of the United States. Mr. E. G Squier, who is now in that country negociating for a charter, under which to open this route, has had a great deal to do in getting up the proposal in question.

Personal and Local Chronicles.

Another Railroad Excitement.

About every sixty or ninety days Erie gets into a fever over her railroads, present and prospective. This is not so much because the people are naturally an excitable race; not at all—on the contrary, while we have a considerable sprinkling of yankee excitability, the placed, phlegmatic characteristics of the German predominate among us. But even a people with these characteristics will become, by constant irritation, subject to such excitement as we allude to. For some years our railroad men have played upon the feelings and interests of our citizens with the ease an experienced performer would play upon a piano. They have made them sing one tune to-day, and another the next, just as the interest of their railroad projects seemed to demand; and in many of these tunes there has been more than once detected a note or two from the "rogues march." In plain English, they have deceived the people so often heretofore—they have played fast and loose so many times—they have cried "wolf! wolf," when there was no "wolf"—they have proclaimed peace when there was no peace from so many house tops, that any proposition emanating from that source to compromise our railroad difficulties is received with doubts and misgivings! If any one is bamboozled for this state of facts, it's not the press; it's not the people!—it's simply our railroad men themselves! They have not been candid with the people heretofore; and if they were candid this time in laying their proposals before the Councils, they had a very unfortunate way of showing it. But to go back and bring the events of the past week succinctly before our readers. On Saturday evening a meeting of our railroad men was held at the office of the Erie & North East Company. Who was present, of course, not being a railroad organ, we are not advised, but understand all the railroad interests east and west, except the Sunbury, were represented. At that meeting it was agreed, and committees appointed for that purpose, to lay before the City Councils the following proposition:

"It is proposed and the offer has been made by the corporations and parties named, proper legislation being attained, that the Franklin Canal Company or its assignees, shall extend its road from Girard or Springfield to the coal fields in Mercer county, then the Buffalo and State Line Railroad Co., or the stockholders thereof, shall make or procure to be made, a reliable subscription thereto to the amount of $100,000, or they may at their option subscribe the same amount to the Pittsburgh and Erie Railroad Co. The Cleveland, Painesville and Ashtabula Railroad Company shall take or cause to be taken $50,000 of the stock of the Erie City Railroad Company. The Franklin Canal Co to be at equal expense with the Erie City Railroad Company in purchasing the right of way and constructing so much of the Erie City Railroad as lies between the present line of the Railroad and the Harbor of Erie, as the said Franklin Canal Co. and the Erie City Railroad companies may use in common—each road to have its own track, and furnish its own terminus or depot at the Harbor. Engine house and such repair shops and station buildings as the executive committee of the two roads shall deem necessary for the convenient use of the road, shall be built at Erie with all proper expedition."

Now, had the people of Erie faith that all this would be accomplished—that there was no humbug in it; that it was not a cunningly devised card to procure the change of gauge, and then let them whistle for its accomplishment, we have not the least doubt it would have been satisfactory to a very large majority. But, as we have hinted above, the want of candor heretofore on the part of our railroad men had so weakened the confidence of the people in anything they propose, that it was looked upon at once as a ruse to gain their point. This was strengthened when it became known that, instead of waiting for the action of the Councils upon it, the agents and employees of the company immediately proceeded, even upon the Sabbath, to make arrangements to change the Gauge! This proceeding, unwise and foolish in the extreme, at once raised an excitement unparalleled even in our history; and put to flight any hopes that might have been previously entertained by those having faith in the genuineness of the proposition submitted to councils, of a favorable result. Such fears were well grounded, for after the Councils had fully heard the matter on Monday evening they adjourned until Tuesday evening, when, instead of considering the proposition, resolutions were carried unanimously in one body, and with but two nays in the other, to enforce the ordinance of the 19th of July last, directing the proper officer to remove the railroad track from the public streets whenever the company should attempt to change the gauge. To enable the High Constable to carry this out effectually, the Mayor was directed to issue his proclamation, "calling on the citizens of Erie, both civil and military, to hold themselves in readiness, at a moments warning, to assist in maintaining the ordinance and peace of the City." He was also directed to appoint one hundred and fifty special police officers to aid and assist in enforcing the ordinance. In obedience to these instructions the Mayor has issued a proclamation for the purpose named, and has appointed the ad-

One word in [illegible] action of our City Authorities will not be [illegible] mistaken. We [illegible] a reasonable people, and when approached properly will listen to reason, but they have been abused by railroad men east and west so outrageously—they have been deceived at home so often—that it will take more than words to bring them to that point where a proposition to compromise will be entertained for a moment. *Give us acts*, gentlemen, and our citizens will be with you heart and hand. Without it they will not. You know what they want; give it to them, and the fight is ended!

☞ The *Republic* records a most brutal and unprovoked murder, which was committed in Buffalo on Saturday night last. The circumstances of which are as follows:—It seems that two Germans, named Weis and Bohl, were at a grocery on Tupper street, Saturday evening, both leaving for home between the hours of 8 and 9 o'clock, Bohl for the purpose of accompanying Weis home, who is reported to have been somewhat under the influence of drink.—They had not proceeded far from the grocery, when a shriek for help was heard, a crowd gathering around, Bohl stated that Weis drew a knife and inflicted a wound which has since resulted in his death. The wound was about five inches in length, allowing a portion of his bowels to gush out. Hardly aware of the extent of the injury, he walked to his home, which was near by, and Weis was arrested and taken to jail. Bohl lingered in great agony until yesterday morning, when death put an end to his sufferings.—He was a carpenter by trade, a young man, the only child, and deservedly esteemed by those who knew him. There was no palliation, so far as we can learn, for the brutal act beyond the influence of liquor.

A HAPPY RETORT.—A Chicago paper relates the following "good one." A boy going along the street carrying a pitcher of milk, when presently he stumbled, and smash went the pitcher and away ran the milk. Another boy across the way saw the accident and shouted: "Oh! won't you catch it when you go home: your mother'll give it to you." "No she won't neither!" screamed the other: "my mother always says *never cry for spilled milk!*" We'll stake our reputation that the father of that boy was an Irishman!

— The admirers of the *Home Journal* will be pleased to learn that N. P. WILLIS, who was very far gone, as many of his friends feared, in consumption awhile ago, has fully recovered his good health, by means of country exercise, up at Idlewild Cottage. The hoe, the hatchet, the saddle and the highland air, have been found the best medicines in the world for him.

GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK.—The December number of this excellent periodical is received. We have seen no better number of this Magazine, and would advise our lady readers, and gentlemen, too, to buy it; and if they buy it they can't help reading it. It will be for sale in a day, or two at No. 9, Brown's Block.

LIBERAL.—The *Gazette* states that the collection in the Presbyterian Church of this city, last Sunday, for Church Erection purposes, amounted to $150. At this rate, the saying that "he's as poor as a church mouse," will soon get out of fashion.

— Mr. Randall, Secretary of Common Schools in New York, has decided against the principle of compelling the pupils of common schools to "join in prayers," or read or commit to memory portions of the Bible, as a matter of school discipline. This decision is received with general favor. This is the true doctrine. The opposite rule would at once destroy our system of common school education.—The only hope of its success lies in its absolute freedom from all sectarian influences.

— The application made to the Grand Jury of this County at the last court, to authorize the county Commissioners to subscribe $150,000 to the Pittsburgh & Erie Railroad, was not acceeded to. The refusal was based upon grounds of expediency. So says the *Gazette*.

THE SPEAKERSHIP.—Several candidates are named for the speakership of the House of Representatives:—James R. Strathers, of Carbon; E. B. Chase, of Susquehanna; Jacob Fry, Jr., of Montgomery; Major John Rowe, of Franklin; Mr. Roberts, of Fayette, and Mr. Wright, of Philadelphia. They are all good men, and the race is likely to be an animated one.

GOOD ADVICE.—Rev. Dr. Bethune in his lecture before the Albany Young Men's Association, gives the following sensible advice: "In view of his experience in the world, the lecturer would give three rules for the benefit of his hearers: 1st. Never argue with a woman. 2d. Never dispute a hotel bill. 3d. Never quarrel with an editor, for he will always have the last word." That's so!

☞ One dollar notes changed to tens on the Ohio State Stock Bank, are in circulation. The alteration is well effected, and calculated to deceive.

Let the Little Dogs Bark.

Reader, did you ever see a juvenile specimen of the canine race, of a moon lit evening amuse itself by barking at that luminary? The question is needless, for we know you have. Well, the Cleveland Editors are just now going through just such a performance towards Erie, and the result will be about the same, we presume. The man in the moon won't even wink at the puppy, and our Cleveland friends will no doubt take as little notice of these Cleveland agitators. True, they call Erie a "den of highwaymen," and our councils a set of "boors," and all that, but hard names like the bark of the puppy aforesaid, don't hurt any one. So we say, let the little dogs bark, if it does them any good. The ignorance they display, however, is lamentable. For instance, the *Democrat* tells its readers, that "if the company have not nerve enough to crush the *rotten* [illegible] calls our city councils and police force, that they had [illegible] "change the track from North East to the corporation [illegible] its. *From there*," it adds, "to the Depot of the Cleveland road *is only a few hundred* yards;" and upon this [illegible] ment of the case it proceeds to give the following [illegible] ingly practicable plan of spiting Erie: "Let," it [illegible] "the regular track at each end be raised a couple of feet, [illegible] the trains come along they can be run upon tracks. [illegible] tracks can be propelled from station to station, and [illegible] train resume its course in half or quarter the time [illegible] unload and reload at present; and at far less expense. Passengers could keep their seats, and baggage would remain undisturbed. Not a dollar of black mail would [illegible] led on freight or persons, and in a short time the Erie [illegible] booters would cease their attempts to fleece the public."

This plan reminds us much of the idea of the [illegible] about improving his dilapidated stocking in the [illegible] if this sock had a new leg, and a new heel, and a [illegible] it would be first rate." So with this plan. [illegible] a few hundred yards," and if they had the right [illegible] and if a few more *rods* could be got out of the road [illegible] would be "first rate." But unfortunately for our [illegible] land inventors, the distance from the corporation limits on the west, to the east to the corporation limits on the west, is three miles than "a few hundred yards," and [illegible] space our municipal authorities have ample power to prohibit *any* railroad track from crossing a public street more than this, the road from Erie to the Ohio line is *the vestige of a charter!* This fact the Supreme Court decided last year. Let our Cleveland friends put in their pipe and smoke it! In conclusion the Cleveland Editor gets valiant. Hear him:

"It were better the town were burnt to its ashes cast into the lake, than that its inhabitants should continue.

Had we the business to settle with the Erie [illegible] should change the track at whatever hazard, [illegible] with force. These scamps have been parley[illegible] coaxed until they are spoiled."

That is your opinion, is it? Well suppose [illegible