Erie Weekly Observer.

ERIE, PA.

SATURDAY MORNING, NOV. 26, 1853.

The Legality of our Position.

We are sure all our readers will thank us for inserting the Legal opinion of Messrs. Babbit, Marshall, and Taylor, in regard to the legality of the action of our municipal authorities towards the railroad company. While this opinion cannot fail to place our city right before the world, and show our community as a law abiding and law sustaining people, it exhibits with equal clearness that the company have been attempting to ride over us despite law or equity. It shows also that the company alone possesses the spirit of the mob—that its Directors were willing to sacrifice every legal restraint in order to accomplish their infamous purpose

☞ In consequence of the length of the "official" documents in our columns to-day, relative to our railroad difficulty, we are unable to give that variety which alone makes a paper interesting. The "war" being over for the present, we hope to be able to turn our attention to something else besides "gauge" and "anti-gauge." Let us hope and pray!

"YOU CAN BET YOUR LIFE ON IT."—The Buffalo *Courier*, after abusing the citizens of Erie as though they were a set of cannibals, calling them all sorts of hard names, because they are a law abiding people and determined to see the legal enactments of their municipal authorities carried out, sent a correspondent up to report progress, and, we suppose, pick up a few items over which its Editor could ridicule us. Well, he came, looked about, and here is the result of his observations:

"A great deal of feeling is manifested. The people appear determined to have their way and are bound to make trouble. In the present state of excitement, it is useless to reason with any one; *they have been abused and outraged, and will not stand it any longer.* I shall have more to say in my next on some of the causes which have led to the present state of things as I learn them here."

"You can bet your life on that," young man; the citizens of Erie "have been abused and outraged, and will not stand it any longer" and the Buffalo *Courier* has been one of those were through which much of the filth and abuse we have submitted to has found vent

ALTERATION OF THE POSTAGE.—It is currently said, in circles which ought to know, that a recommendation will be made to Congress, in favor of modifying the postage. The revenue of the department, it is now established, does not equal the expenses. Cheap postage, is therefore, to be abandoned. Letters are to be charged five cents, and newspapers taxed more heavily.—*Philadelphia Bulletin.*

We do not agree with the *Bulletin* that it necessarily follows that, because the present law is to be modified, "cheap postage is therefore to be abandoned," or that letters are to be raised to five cents, and newspapers taxed more heavily. It is true, we doubt not, that the revenue of the Department is not equal to its expenditures, and it is equally as true that the Department ought to support itself. At least that is our opinion. We know the idea is becoming very popular among business men—bankers, manufacturers, merchants, and the hundred other class of business men who use the facilities afforded by the mails—that the Department ought to support it in part, if least, by other revenue than that derived from postage—but we think differently. Why we so think it is not our intention now to state; but merely to say that we have no doubt the present rates, to a very great extent, can be maintained, and yet the Department need not become a charge upon the Treasury. Almost every business man prepays his letters. These are almost invariably taken out, whereas those advertised, to a very great extent, are unpaid, and eventually find their way to the Dead Letter office at Washington.—We would, therefore, make prepayment imperative—not optional. This would materially increase the revenue, besides reducing the expenditures. Under the present cheap rates there is no sort of excuse for a person sending a letter and neglecting to pay the postage, and we trust Congress will amend the law in that particular.

ANNEXATION.—The Oswego Daily *Times*, a whig paper, takes a sensible view of the question of the annexation of Mexico. It says every body remembers what a storm of opposition was raised about ten years ago, when the project of annexing Texas was agitated by not less than a dozen characters in the Southwest. To bring this resort of vagabonds and villains, this home of outcasts and outlaws, this lawless corner of disorganized Mexico, into the Union, would certainly be the death of it. It would be an act of war, the first step in a career of fatal career of military conquest. It would be unconstitutional and suicidal. The "great mass" of the country opposed it—all our great statesmen, and all the counsels of Washington and all the fathers of the republic opposed it. It must not, should not, could not be done. But it was done. Young America, then an unchristened but gigantic infant, went in for it—went in and won. There was a deal of talk about it. Who ever now thinks of regretting that first triumph of the filibuster? No part of the Union has a more promising future than Texas. Good institutions always follow the stars and stripes. Law and order, schools, newspapers, steamships, colleges, and railroads are already old settlers in Texas, and to them her future may be safely trusted. Who would turn her out? Who is sorry she is in? Who is not glad that the lone child has been adopted into the family and made one of the heirs of the republic? The moral of this is, that if the Sandwich Islands desire to join their fortune with ours, "Barkins is within."

☞ The Philadelphia *Argus* gives the particulars of the course of a female bigamist in that city. It seems that a Mrs. Rebecca Eardman, after living with her husband four years, left him and her two children, and went to board in another part of the city. Here she became acquainted with a Mr. Joseph Bowman, to whom she was married, after a brief courtship. She was indulged in all her whims by her obsequious and loving lord for several weeks, when business called him to the country for a short time. When he returned, his wife was among the missing. Some time after, he discovered her at the theatre with a strange man, who proved to be her first husband, to whom she had returned. When arrested, she denied having ever seen Bowman, but not being believed, she was held to bail for further examination.

☞ Isaac G. McKinley, Esq., has become sole proprietor of the *Democratic Union*, published at Harrisburg.

Address of the Board of Directors.

As a part of the History of the Times and of our city, we occupy more of our space this week than we ought to spare with the Address of the Board of Directors of the Erie and North East railroad, explanatory of, and defending their cause in the matter of a change of gauge on that road. We do so for the reason given, and also because we propose to have a few words to say upon the subject matter ourself, and we would fain treat even the authors of this address fairly. No one in this vicinity can have forgotten that a few short weeks ago five of those who now appear over their own signatures advocating a change of gauge, issued several addresses "to the public," accusing one of our private citizens of having entered into a conspiracy, *for a consideration*, with Railroad men East and West of us to do precisely what they say they have now, "after full consideration," concluded to do themselves. The individual so assailed they stigmatized with the *most* insulting epithets, and the act of seeking to deprive Erie of the change of gauge as one that ought to consign him to eternal infamy. Is it wonderful then that the public should stand aghast with astonishment when these Directors now avow their readiness to perpetrate the very act they, a few short weeks ago, condemned in others. Is it wonderful, again, that the same "public," to which they *then* appealed, should now enquire what "consideration" they have received that this change should come over the spirit of their dream? In plainer English, if railroad men, through their instrument Dennis, were willing to give a private citizen, who had no power in the management of that road, the sum of *fifteen thousand* dollars to help to procure a change of gauge, what *have* they given his assailants, who control the road, to do it. Here is a question to be solved, not by the rule of three, but by the rule of *five*. One word more and we pass to the consideration of their manifesto. It will be recollected that the person they assailed last summer claimed in his defense that the note, Dennis and Stone gave him, was for the sum named, provided a "satisfactory Board of Directors" should be elected, and it named these very men as the individuals who would constitute a "satisfactory board." Now, will any man pretend to say that this Board has not proved itself "satisfactory," so far as the change of gauge is concerned. We think not after reading the address in another column!

The Directors in their manifesto set out with the assertion that their duty to the road committed to their care and "to the city in which they have for many years resided," demands of them the change they propose. This is true, or it is not true. If true, we beg to ask how comes it that they have just found it out?—how happens it that for two years, during all of which time a majority of the present board have been Directors, they have been totally oblivious to the "best interests of the Erie and East road, of the city and county of Erie, of general trade, commerce and travel?" One would suppose that gentlemen of the known intelligence of these Directors, would sooner have discovered what was for the best interest of their road, and of their city. They ask us, the people, indignantly, whether their views advanced the prosperity of Erie, is called in question. We answer, that the policy they thought us heretofore is right, or it is wrong. If wrong, then they have been, by their own acts and doings, endeavoring to injure the place. If, on the contrary, it is right, then we do not question their wish to advance the prosperity of Erie. In continuation, they "freely admit that Erie has been wronged by the Buffalo and State Line and other New York roads—that long since there should have been a continuation of the six foot track to Dunkirk;" and yet they do not hesitate to join hands with those who have thus wronged us, and endeavor to force Erie from her position, to make her submit to a greater wrong, and at the same time trust to the honesty and honor of those who have committed these wrongs for the fulfillment of the promises these Directors now claim would be a perfect salve for our wounds. We agree with the Directors that the six foot track should have been long since extended to Dunkirk, and we firmly believe it would have been half they but stood up manfully, unitedly, as one man, for their rights, and the rights and interests of the city. But these Directors claim to be the exclusive friends of Erie—that they alone can see what is and what is not for her interest in this matter; and yet they do not hesitate to indulge in the contemptible flings so often used against us by our rivals East and West, when they sneeringly declare that they can see no "propriety of running the road over a hundred feet down hill to the harbor for the sake of overcoming the same again in ascending, particularly when the Lake is closed nearly five months in the year and when one dray will haul from the present Depot to the Lake during the entire summer, all the trade that passes along *this road designed to be shipped at Erie.*" And why, pray. Messrs. Directors of the Erie and North East road, is it that "one dray will haul from the present Depot all the trade that passes along this road designed to be shipped at Erie?" If you cannot answer the question we can. It is because you located it over a mile from the best harbor on the lakes in order that your otherwise worthless lots in that vicinity would be marketable. And yet with this notorious "truth of history" staring you in the face you have the unblushing impudence to indulge in this fling against *the city that it possesses no business*, while at the same time you ask if your "wish to advance the prosperity of Erie is called in question." But the audacity of this position is more glaringly exhibited by a close examination of what these Directors propose as a bribe to Erie to allow a change of gauge. Give us leave to change, say these gentlemen, and we'll build the Little Valley road to the Harbor, the Pittsburgh road to the Harbor, and the Western road to the Harbor, "provided satisfactory legislation is obtained." What, run three "roads over a hundred feet down hill to a harbor for the sake of overcoming the same again in ascending," which, according to the doctrine we have quoted, has not business enough now to keep one dray in employ! Either these Directors have an idea the people are very shallow, and can be caught with poor bait, or they are not over sharp themselves.

What these Directors say about the possibility of the proposed roads south of us being built is all moonshine. One of them, the Venango project, may be built—nay, it probably will be; but we are yet to see in what way a change of gauge on this road will prevent it, or what injury will accrue to Erie should it not be prevented at all. Both the Lake Shore and that line, should it be built, will obtain all the business they can do, and what more is wanted?

We might enlarge upon this subject, and show how fatal the continuous gauge would be to the prospects of the Sunbury, just now brightening; how unjust to our State, and untrue to ourselves we would be were we to abandon our position, but it is scarcely necessary. The address carries its own condemnation upon its face, and there we leave it!

☞ The New York *Post* suggests that Congress change the title of our Charge des Affaires, and adds that if we cannot afford to furnish English names for all our public functionaries, we should at least adopt one more convenient to handle than this.

☞ An enterprise has been projected in New York City which promises to open a new market for manufacturers and extend our commerce into regions where it has never before penetrated.—A company with a capital of $100,000 propose to "send a first class river steamer, 190 feet long, now nearly ready for sea, on a trading voyage to the head waters of the Amazon. Of the capital, we understand that $60,000 is already subscribed. A gentleman who has just returned from the Amazon holds out the most promising inducements for this enterprise.

☞ They "do up" Legislation down in Alabama with railroad speed, now-a-days. Here is a specimen. On Monday, November 14th, the Legislature commenced. No sooner had the Senate organized, than Senator Kelly offered a "bill to exempt certain property from execution." Said bill provides, that in addition to property now secure from levy and execution, "*one hundred bushels of corn*" shall be intact from the official hands. The rules were suspended, and the bill, after three readings was passed!

The Sandwich Islands.

Washington, Nov. 14.

The government anxiously awaits official accounts from the Sandwich Islands, in respect to the movement of their authorities towards annexation to the United States. They have received none up to this hour. But they have had private and reliable information, which induces them to believe that the movement towards annexation is a serious and decided one. It is known here that the whole of the Hawaiian Cabinet is in favor of the project, except Mr. Wylie, a Scotchman. The letter of Mr. Severance our Commissioner, is much approved by this Government. He has, though acting without special instructions, expressed the views that are entertained by the present administration on the subject. There is no doubt that our Government will eagerly accept any proposals for bringing the Sandwich Islands under our dominion, by the only mode of annexation known in our Constitution. The Constitution does not allow of colonial appendages; and if we admit the Sandwich Islands, it must be as a Territory of the United States, with a territorial government at first, and ultimately as a State.—*Jour. of Com.*

A YANKEE COLONIST.—In one of the last letters from Bayard Taylor, dated at Macao, China, he describes a visit of Commodore Perry to the Bonin Isles, lying about 500 miles in a southerly direction from the Bay of Yedo, discovered by the Japanese 2½ centuries ago. He says:—"The oldest inhabitant, who probably exercises a sort of authority in cases of dispute, is a native of Massachusetts, named Savory, who has been on the island since 1831, and is considered the richest of the settlers. His money has been principally made by selling sweet potatoes to whaling ships, at the rate of two dollars a barrel; in addition to which he has a still, and manufactures rum from sugar-cane. At the time of our visit he had two hogshead of it, which was said to be of excellent quality. The population is continually floating, with the exception of four or five persons who were among the original settlers of the island. Sailors from whaling vessels frequently desert and remain a year or two, after which they embark again.—The whalers are mostly American, and, according to the settlers, generally conduct themselves peaceably."

It was on this island that Commodore Perry purchased from Mr. Savory a tract of land, at Port Lloyd, intended as a coal station for our Pacific Steamers. This tract, Taylor says, "has a front of 1,000 yards on the water, and extends across the island to a small bight on the northern side, which was named Pleasant Bay. The location is admirably adapted to a coaling station for steamers, since a pier fifty feet long would strike water deep enough to float the largest vessel. If the United States Government will establish such a line, as it is in duty bound to do, the intermediate stations are thus already secured, whatever may be the issue of the expedition to Japan. The soil of Peel Island is of the richest vegetable mould, and might be made to produce abundant supplies, while its mountain streams furnish a never-failing source of excellent water."

HORRID MURDER!—By the Chicago Press of Nov. 21 we learn that on last Saturday a widow woman named Mary Simmons, residing on the North side, was committed to jail, charged with the murder of her daughter, an interesting child of 12 years, who was found dead in her house Saturday morning. It appeared in evidence before the Coroners jury, that she was a woman addicted to intemperance, and cruel to her children. That Friday night she was drunk and beat her daughter brutally, and then to stop her cries thrust her head into a tub of water, holding her in that situation until she was nearly suffocated. A post mortem examination showed clotted blood about the lungs and heart, while the childs body bore the traces of the inhuman blows of the drunken fiend—her mother.

LOGAN SQUARE, PHILADELPHIA.—We see by the Philadelphia papers, that a design has been executed by Samuel Sloan, architect, for beautifying this magnificent square, by erecting a fountain and an artificial lake in its centre.—This will be a great addition to its present beauties, which are rarely equalled. When we visited its refreshing shades a few weeks ago, this square contained about fifty grey and black squirrels, hopping around in search of nuts, a dozen of magnificent peacocks, all dotted over with eyes, and six deer, as quiet and sociable as pet kids, running after the boys and eating crackers from their hands, and cutting all kind of antics with their biped playmates. Three of these deer, we learned, were from western Pennsylvania, two from Ohio and one from Cuba; and it was very apparent that they did not all belong to one family.

SINGULAR SOLUTION OF A MYSTERY.—Thirteen years since, in the vicinity of Pittsburgh, a man who was involved in some difficulty, suddenly disappeared, and the citizens supposing that he had drowned himself, dragged the river to find his body. A few days since in taking off the decayed roof of a country church, a skeleton was found in the loft, lying under a handkerchief attached to the rafter. Examination of the handkerchief resulted in finding his name, and thus solving a thirteen-year mystery—he had committed suicide.

WARD, THE LOUISVILLE MURDERER.—A letter written to Cincinnati states that Ward has employed every lawyer of ability in Louisville, to defend him on his trial. He remains in confinement, occupies a large apartment, well furnished, in the city prison, being accommodated with every luxury. From his great wealth and influential family connections, it is already intimated that he will not be convicted, though his offence was an act of open and direct murder.

☞ The Louisville *Courier* states that a day or two since, two gentlemen passed through the city on their way to Canada, to reclaim some slaves that ran away some time since. They are staying in Canada, have not the means to return home, and, at their oft-repeated request, their masters have gone for them.

Personal and Local Observations.

The Cleveland and Buffalo Press.

Our newspaper brethren East and West are easily hoaxed, or they designedly misrepresent Erie and her citizens. We suspect it is the latter. For instance, the Cleveland *Herald* gives currency to a foolish story that General Reed resigned his position in the Board of Directors of the Erie and North East road, because he was afraid his dwelling would be burnt by the mob. This foolish and false story is seized upon by the Buffalo *Express* and a most shameful sermon preached upon it, in which our citizens are represented as being animated by the spirit of a mob, and ready to sack and pillage the dwellings of all who oppose them. Now, we ask the *Express* and *Herald* if they are not ashamed of this libel. If they are not they ought to be. There has been no mob in Erie; no disposition to use mob violence; but there has been and is still a determination on the part of *all* our citizens to see the municipal regulations and ordinances of the City enforced.—Gen. Reed's House has been, and is, just as safe from violence as that of the President of the United States. Firm in the belief that they are right themselves, and determined to maintain their rights at every hazard, they will and have respected the rights of others.

True, the military has been called out, but only to sustain and protect the Mayor in carrying out the ordinances of the city. That those ordinances are legal there can be no doubt; if they are not, then the municipal authorities of Buffalo are now exercising illegal authority, for we see by the *Courier* of the 23d that the city authorities have directed the Street Commissioners of that city to demolish the turnpike "Bridge over Buffalo Creek, on Ohio street, unless the company construct a draw in it." This is precisely what our city authorities have determined to do, in substance. They have told this private corporation, the Erie and North East Railroad company, that unless it complies with certain regulations in running the road, the High Constable, who is our street commissioner, shall remove their bridges from across our public streets. There are two of these bridges, both of which are obstructions to the streets, and would not be tolerated by our Courts, even had the railroad company a right to construct a bridge that would be no obstruction over them. But that company has no such rights, having occupied the streets only by sufferance since the construction of the road. No doubt, if the company would pay a decent respect to the wishes of the people, they would submit to have the streets obstructed as they are a few years longer, but eventually the result would be the same—the bridges would have to come down. Now, because our city government has declared its determination to exercise this right, railroad men from abroad have declared in our streets that if this ordinance is attempted to be carried out those who attempt it shall be shot down like dogs. And here, gentlemen, is where the whole difficulty lies. These men from Buffalo and Cleveland have come here and attempted to set our city government at defiance, and because we would not submit to it, the *Herald, Plain Dealer* and *Democrat*, of Cleveland, and the *Courier, Express* and *Commercial* of Buffalo, have traduced us in the manner and form we have set forth. For shame, gentlemen! for shame! Erie is only exercising her legal rights—rights, too, that Buffalo exercises, that Cleveland exercises, that all cities exercise—the right to regulate and control her public highways!

— Don't forget that Ole Bull gives one of his inimitable Concerts to-night. All our exchanges east, where he has been performing, say he has lost none of his proficiency since his tour through the country a number of years ago. The Buffalo *Republic* says, of the concert in that city on Tuesday evening, that Ole's execution of our "national air", was the most finished thing it ever heard, and the singing of Patti was sweet and bird-like beyond description. She is indeed a wonderful child. Strakosch's execution of "musical rockets," as composed by him, brought forth plaudit from many delicate hands in white kids.

ROBBERS ABOUT.—We understand that the dwelling of Mrs. M'Murry, on 10th st., was entered one night this week, and about fifty or sixty dollars in money, and some silver were stolen. The silver has been found, we believe, in a lot not far from the house, but the money is most likely beyond recovery. A night or two after a trunk was cut from a carriage while coming down Peach street, and taken into a vacant lot and robbed of its contents. Our citizens had better look well to their doors or these rascals may extend their field of operations.

☞ The Buffalo *Republic* records a most extraordinary case of suicide which occurred in that city on Tuesday last. It says a lad about 16 years of age, in the employ of Messrs. Phinney & Co., Book publishers, committed suicide yesterday afternoon between the hours of 3 and 4, by shooting himself through the right temple with a pistol. He resided with his parents on Clinton st., near Union. It seems that his mother desired him to remain at home for a short time in the afternoon to take care of the house, as she was going out. On her return she was attracted to his room by the smell of powder, and on opening the door the first thing she saw was the body of her boy stretched on the floor, covered with blood. A pistol was found in each hand, showing the most calm and deliberate intention.—On the back of an old letter laying on a stand, was written these words, "I commit suicide." No possible cause, as we have been able to learn, can be assigned for the commission of so strange and dreadful an act, by one so young and full of life. We are informed, however, that he has once before made the attempt, but was defeated by his mother. It is most probable that his mind had become affected, and swung from its proper balance.

WANTED.—We will give any reasonable compensation for information of the whereabouts of a certain "Judge Reed, Robinson, and the fifty others whom" the Forest City *Democrat*, "could name" who "are in favor of a peaceable change of gauge." We're pretty well posted up as to the names of the leading men here, but really we're totally oblivious to any Judge Reed, or any man named "Robinson," except it be a half-witted fellow who saws wood, and does odd chores about our streets some times.

THE PEOPLE'S JOURNAL.—Alfred Beach has issued, in New York, a publication under the above title, intended as "An Illustrated record of Agriculture, Mechanics, Science and Useful Knowledge." It contains 32 pages to the number, and is very profusely illustrated. Price 50 cents. A specimen copy can be seen at this office.

BEHIND THE TIMES.—The Easton *Argus* very correctly says the character and condition of that class of business-men who are always "behind the times" in all things, are most aptly described by *Dickens*, in "Dombey and Son," in the person of *Solomon Gillis*, an old fashioned, antiquated maker of Ship instruments, who, in speaking to his favorite *Walter*, says:

"In truth this business is merely a habit with me. I am so accustomed to the habit that I could hardly live if I relinquished it, but there's nothing doing, nothing doing. I have seen the time when fortunes were to be made and were made, but competition, competition, new invention, new invention—alteration, alteration—the world has gone past me. I hardly know where I am myself, much less where my customers are. * * * As I said just now, the world has gone past me. I don't blame it, but I no longer understand it. Tradesmen are not the same as they used to be, apprentices are not the same, business is not the same, business commodities are not the same. Seven eighths of my stock is old fashioned. I am an old fashioned man in an old fashioned shop, in a street that is not the same as I remember it. I have fallen behind the time, and am too old to catch it again. Even the noise it makes a long way ahead confuses me."

There are a good many *Solomon Gillis*' in this age and generation and in this country. We meet them every day and find them in every town. Miserable fellows, who have got "entirely behind the times" in their system (if they have any system at all,) of doing business, who lay on the counters in their shops or in their stores, waiting for customers who never come, without making any effort to bring them. Every business will stand driving—and every intelligent business man knows how to drive it. And in this enlightened age it is essentially necessary for the man who expects to succeed and prosper in business, to drive it judiciously, with energy, vigor and perseverance. If he stands still, he will be distanced in the grand race for fortune and position just as "sure as thunder." The business man now-a-days, must make a noise in the world. He must let the world know that he is "about." He must keep his eyes as well as his goods, his location and the advantages of dealing with him like Macbeths' banners, on the outward walls. He must advertise liberally and judiciously. The man who pursues this course, need ask knowledge no such word as fail.

☞ BENJAMIN GRANT Esq., of this city, has been appointed Commissioner of the United States, by the Circuit Court, for the Western District of Penn'a, for the county of Erie.

☞ SAMUEL PIKE, Esq., has retired from the Pudnash *Pennant*, and is succeeded by Messrs Monroe and Fenn. Good-bye Samuel; and good-*Morrow* to you, gentlemen of the *Pennant*. May both of you "wave" as long as the Cumberland and the Tuscarora roll side by side in their hurry to embrace the Ohio.

☞ A new volume of the "Genesee Farmer" commences in January. We hardly need tell our readers that it is the best publication for the price in the country, for Erie county now furnishes it more subscribers than any other county in the Union, we believe. The price is only 50 cts a year; or 5 copies for $2, or 8 copies for $3. Cheap enough, in all conscience!

Our Thanksgiving.

In accordance with the recommendation of his Excellency, WM. BIGLER, the Dutch, Irish, Yankees and Scotch, with their descendents, in the "old Keystone," returned thanks to Providence for the blessings of the year 1853 on Thursday last. This custom, as all know, is not a product of Pennsylvania. Like many other useful inventions and "notions," we are indebted to New England for it; her hardy sons having industriously disseminated it, until now, like their wooden clocks, it is a household word and almost as necessary in every state, now or old, from Massachusetts bay to San Francisco. Indeed it has become a truly national festival, well adapted to a time saving people like ours, where the ruling idea that "time is money", is practically applied upon all occasions and in all relations, religious as well as political. It was doubtless the observance of such a day as this that suggested the idea to Franklin when young, that his father would save much time and breath by saying grace over the barrel of beef instead of each separate piece. We therefore lump the business of returning thanks by offering a "nugget" of time, instead of a myriad of golden moments; and the postponement has the advantage too of allowing leisure for a test of the true value of blessings we might over value at the instant of fruition. Yes, "Thanksgiving," once a year is the essence of pious calculation.

Of course each year has its especial miseries and blessings, its escapes from evil and its affluence of gifts. The worst used minion of fortune can thank God his lot has been no worse, and the best used had better return thanks on the instant, for a few weeks may show the truth that we are but poor judges at the start of what is a blessing.—For our own part we are thankful to the brim and running over, that we are not called upon to chronicle a nearer approach to "war, pestilence and famine," than the calling out, by our worthy Mayor, of Gen. Killpatrick's bloody "second brigade, second division, P. M;" and the subsequent flight of those railroad gentlemen from Buffalo who, like the King of France, "marched up the hill and then marched down again." Yes, very thankful were we, we repeat, for this exhibition on the part of the railroad Directors that discretion is the better part of valor; and when we set down to *that* Turkey, which our subscribers did'nt furnish us, and in our minds-eye compared it with what Providence had bestowed upon our ancestors in "ould Ireland," very much more thankful were we that those same worthy ancestors had the good sense to leave that country for this country's *good-les.*

☞ We have rumors from Washington that there is soon to be a reformation of the Cabinet.—*Exchange.*

Yes, no doubt of it. Rumors don't cost anything; facts do. Rumors grow spontaneous upon every bye-path at the Capitol. They meet one at every turn, in bar-room, parlor, barber-shop, and even in the anti-room of the Presidential mansion. "Rumors," indeed, we could start a rumor in five minutes that the President was about to resign—that Marcy was crazy, that Cushing was going embassador to Hayti, and that Col. Davis contemplated joining the ranks of Seward & Co. All we'd have to do would be to vaguely hint that such a thing might be to one of those pests of Washington, a mousing letter-writer; he'd tell his cronies down at Brown's, or Willard's, and forthwith the "important rumor" would be telegraphed to the *Herald*, the *Times*, and the *Tribune*; and the beauty of it would be, half of the world would believe the "rumor." Rumors in Washington are as thick as flies around a molasses cask, the leaves on the trees in June, the sands upon the sea shore; in short, as the celebrated Mr. Micawber would say, as plentiful as a woman's wants or as a tailor's duns.

— Quite an animated scene took place on the public square when it was announced that the railroad company had given up their efforts to change the gauge. Gen. Killpatrick called the military together, and then sent for his Honor, the Mayor. He was on hand, "like a thousand of brick;" and when called out mounted the "big gun," and responded to the cheers of the multitude in his usual happy and impressive manner. He was followed by M. B. Lowry, Esq., who went into the railroad company in his peculiar rough and tumble style. We should infer from the cheering, for we really could'nt get close enough to hear, except occasionally a word, that he did the thing "up brown." Carl Benton, Esq., then followed in German, after which twelve guns were fired for the six o'clock, and nine for the Mayor, Lowry, Benton, and the German military Companies. We then thought the "boys" would be satisfied and go home, but no—the "Father of the Gauge Law," who it appears had declared his determination to persevere in spite of all opposition, must be remembered, and so they gave three groans for Walker, and then dispersed.

☞ The "local" of the Buffalo *Republic* does not like the "little jaunty bonnets" just now in vogue among the ladies. Now, we do! That shows how two men of excellent taste may differ. He says they "do give such a look of boldness, as hardly seems to comport with that degree of modesty which is the ornament of female character."—This is there nonsense, in our opinion; or rather affectation of the shallowest kind. How the full exhibition of a pretty face, is immodest is rather a mystery to us. Give us the bold, free, frank girl that is'nt ashamed of her face in any crowd, and well show you one that is all purity; and that is just what these jaunty little kiss-me-quick of a bonnet now in fashion make every one appear.

BOYS THINK OF THIS!—The gentleman elected Governor of Tennessee at the August election, was left an orphan at two years of age, and being friendless and penniless, was sent to the poor-house, where he remained until he was eight years of age. At that age he was apprenticed to a tailor, where he served faithfully, and in due time made his way, barefooted, to East Tennessee, where by industry, economy and perseverance, he succeeded in business, married a good wife, who aided him in his studies; became a popular speaker, a legislator, member of Congress, and now Governor, furnishing a notable example of the truth of the couplet.

"Honor and wealth from no condition rise, &c."

☞ At a meeting of the stockholders of the Erie City Bank, held at the office of that institution on Monday last, the following Directors were elected for the ensuing year, viz: Smith Jackson, C. M. Tibbals, D. S. Clark, C. Seigel, J. H. Fullerton, Benjamin Grant, Wm. A. Brown, Milton Courtright, J. C. Beebe, C. Brandes, J. R. Dick, Meadville, John Brawley, North East, Ira Sherwin, Harborcreek.

☞ The *Gazette* has a couple of correspondents who "pitch into" the Erie and North East Railroad Company and its Directors in a style that clearly shows how *few* friends the conduct of that Company have among us. We like to see this; it indicates a healthy state of public sentiment, and a determination to resist legally and otherwise the absurd proceedings of this corporation.

— Our friend Willing has removed his music Store to the room lately occupied by the New York Store, between the Reed House and Brown's. He has a new stock of music, which can only be fully appreciated by calling.

☞ Graham's Magazine for December, is already published. It contains three beautiful mezzotints, several fine wood engravings, and a few pages of humorous etchings from *Punch*. The literary contents are the first order, and embrace contributions from some of the most distinguished English and American authors. A new Volume commences with the next Number, to which Longfellow, Bryant, Saxe, Lowell, Mrs. Stephens, Grace Greenwood, and other "bright particular stars" will be regular contributors. In the March Number an "Illustrated Life of General Washington," by J. T. Headley, author of the popular work, "Napoleon and his Marshals," will be commenced. This additional attraction cannot fail to enhance the interest of the Magazine, and bring it many new readers. It can always be found as soon as published at No. 9, Brown's Hotel.

THE NEW TWENTY-FIVE CENT PIECES.—It is stated in a New York paper that the new American twenty-five cent pieces have been extensively counterfeited, and large numbers of them are in circulation. When not much worn they are a good imitation, with one exception, the milling on the outer edge is badly done. They are run in moulds and the creases are not clear, and show, on particular examination, that they are not made in the manner of the genuine. After use they become dark, almost as copper; but a large number, of them are in circulation that look well, and all new quarters should be examined closely.

— A religious paper in Cincinnati "cuts it rather fat," in appealing for aid for the poor, when it uses language like this: "Reader, you may one day be poor and friendless in a strange land. If you desire that God should then provide for you, assist God now in providing for others."

THOSE WHO DANCE PAY THE PIPER.—It has been resolved upon by the publishers of Rochester, N. Y., to make the man who is rendered happy by taking to himself "a better half,"—or even a worse one, if such a thing could be,—pay the printer for announcing his blissful change, when called upon to do so. The charge is not onerous, being fixed at a quarter of a dollar for every such notice. This plan is finding favor all over the country, and we suppose will soon be among the fixed customs of the day.

RESIGNATION.—In consequence of the difficulties experienced by the Erie and North East Railroad Company, in carrying out the plan of the Directors to change the gauge, two of the Board, Gen. C. M. Reed, and Smith Jackson, Esq., have resigned. Sensible men that, we think!

Our White List.

We acknowledge the receipt of the following on subscription to the *Observer*, since our last list, two weeks since.

A. J. Backus,	$1 50
A. C. Martin,	1 50
L. A. Dunn,	1 50
M. Jackson,	3 00
Isaac Willis,	1 50
Z. E. Peck,	1 50
G. Green,	1 50
J. M. Pettis,	2 00
P. Andrews,	1 50
J. V. Tilson,	1 50
D. Parker,	1 50
F. Zimmerman,	1 50
J. H. Grinnold,	3 50
E. O. Pinney,	1 25
Jno. Rice,	1 00
J. W. Hankin,	1 50
Wallace May,	50
R. G. Pinny,	75

— After a week or ten days of most delightful weather, for which we are duly thankful, Thanksgiving was ushered in with a "cold snap," that, under the circumstances, we would most thankfully have dispensed with.

— Gen. Wm. H. Irvine is brought forward by the whigs of Mifflin county, for nomination, as the next whig candidate for Governor We beat one Irvine for Governor in this state and we guess we can do the same by another.

☞ A London *Physician* says if men would wear their beards in winter, sore throats would go out of fashion.—Very good advice, but what if one hasn't got enough beard to make respectable whiskers?

☞ The more papers, the merrier, say we—so long as they pay.—*Fremont Journal.*

"The more papers the merrier," so long as they are *paid for*, say we!

— The following proceedings of the meeting of the military of the city were handed in last week too late for insertion. We insert them now as a part of the History of the past excitement.

MILITARY MEETING.—At a meeting of the Second Brigade, 2d Division P. M., held in pursuance of a call from the Hon. Alfred King, Mayor of the city of Erie, on the evening of the 16th of November, 1853, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Whereas, The Hon. Alfred King, Mayor of the city of Erie, has issued his proclamation calling upon us to hold ourselves in readiness to aid and sustain him in maintaining the ordinance of said city against any and all unlawful encroachments on the part of any and all railroad companies—and whereas, we as citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania feel it our duty, not only as citizens but as soldiers, to obey the orders of our superiors, and to aid in sustaining the rights of our fellow citizens and the integrity of the laws:

Resolved, That we do hereby tender to the said Mayor of said city of Erie our services as citizen soldiers, and hold ourselves in readiness to obey all his lawful orders and to co-operate with him for the purpose aforesaid.

Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolutions be signed by the commissioned Officers of said Brigade, and presented to his Honor the Mayor of the said city of Erie.

JOHN KILLPATRICK, Brigadier General.
F. DUTLINGER, Brigadier Inspector.
URBAN KNOLL, Major.
DANIEL KNOBLOCH, Captain.
MAX SCHLADDAKER, Captain.
A. FLEIGEL, Captain.

DR. MORSE'S INVIGORATING CORDIAL.—The only sure and safe remedy, yet discovered, for general debility, physical prostration, irritability, and all the various train of nervous affections; it will also remove depression, excitement, dislike of society, incapacity for study or business, loss of memory, mental debility, &c., &c.—See advertisement. 6m24.

☞ The Mechanics' Institute of Ohio, at Cincinnati, have awarded their Diploma to Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, the widely celebrated remedy for colds, coughs, and consumption. This honor was richly merited by the inventor of that invaluable medicine which has secured not only the above commendation, but also that of the most eminent Physicians in this, as well as the highest medical authority in other countries. And what is far greater encomium on its usefulness, is, that it has won its way to almost every fireside of the American people.

"I DIGEST!" SEE IN THE TRUE MEANING of the word "PEPSIN," or of the two Greek words from which it is derived This is the significant and appropriate title of the TRUE DIGESTIVE FLUID, or GASTRIC JUICE, prepared by Dr. J. S. HOUGHTON, of Philadelphia, from the fourth stomach of the Ox, for the cure of Indigestion and Dyspepsia. It is Nature's own remedy for an unhealthy Stomach. No art of man can equal its curative powers.—It renders GOOD EATING perfectly consistent with HEALTH. See the figure of the Ox, in another part of this paper.

A CARD.

MRS WINSLOW'S THE LADIES.—Mrs Winslow, an old and experience nurse and female physician, would call the attention of the Ladies to her soothing Syrup for children teething. It will immediately relieve them from pain, allay all spasmodic action, soften the gums, reduce inflammation, and insure to regulate the Bowels. Depend upon it Mothers, it will give rest to yourselves and relief and health to your children *Price 25 cents* per bottle

We have sold very large quantities of Mrs Winslow's Soothing Syrup during the past six years, over 20,000 bottles the last year. We believe it the best medicine in the world for Children teething or for the cure of Dysentery and Diarrhea in Children whether it arises from teething or any other cause It gives universal satisfaction—never heard a complaint from any one using it—never sold a medicine so universally successful in relieving pain and affecting cures In all cases where stated it taken in season relief is IMMEDIATE and ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN.

CURTIS & PERKINS, Druggists, formerly of Bangor, Me.—now at No 40 Courtland street New York Agents are now being established in all the principal towns in the state of New York CRAMP'S PAIN KILLER The world is astonished at the wonderful cures performed by the Cramp and Pain Killer, prepared by Curtis & Perkins. Its equal has never been known for removing pain in all cases; for the cure of spinal complaints, cramp in the limbs and stomach, rheumatism in all its forms, bilious chills, chills and fever burns sore throat, and gravel, it is decidedly the best remedy in the world Evidence of the most wonderful cures ever performed by any medicine are on the circulars in the hands of Agents—you may be positively sure of relief if you use it Millions of bottles of this medicine have been sold in New-England the past six or eight years—it is now for the first time being introduced into all the principal towns in New York.

N B.—Remember and call for CURTIS & PERKINS' Cramp and Pain Killer All others bearing this name are base imitations.—Price 12½, 25, 37½ cents per bottle according to size. Also for sale those pure WILD CHERRY BITTERS, for the cure of Bilious and Jaundice complaints, and general debility. They quicken the blood and give new life and energy to the whole system Price only 37½ cents in Pint Bottles Boyd & Paul, No. 10 Courtland street, New York, wholesale agents for all the above medicines. Application for agencies or orders for the above medicines must be directed to Curtis & Perkins, No. 40 Courtland street, New York Also for sale by the following agents—Carter & Brother, J. H. Burton & Co., Erie, Pa; Parsons & Whitmore, Westfields J. S. Bogue, Dunk