Miscellaneous, Foreign and Political News.

ARRIVAL OF THE NORTHERN LIGHT.

Twenty-two Days from San Francisco.

The Northern Light arrived at New York on Thursday at 2 o'clock P. M. Her dates are at San Francisco Feb. 1st.

THE WEATHER.—The rain which began on the 11th continued till the 17th, when it became some colder than the oldest residents rember to have experienced. In San Francisco ice was frozen an inch thick in ponds, and throughout the interior were complaints made of the snow, ice and sleet. On the 20th the rain began again, and continued to the 24th, when it became fair. The rivers, canals and gulches have plenty of water for the present, and the prospect is that the produce of the mines for the next month will be usually large. Some of the rivers have became very high, and many valuable dams, flumes and mills have been carried away. In the more elevated portions of the mountains snow has fallen plentifully.

FIRES, ACCIDENTS AND CRIMES.—A fire occured at the Chelsea Laundry on the morning of the 16th. The loss was $3,000.

The steamboat Helen Hensley, engaged in running to Benecia, exploded at Jackson street wharf on the morning of the 19th. Two persons were killed, and several seriously injured. The names of the killed are Thomas Norris, of Louisville Ky., aged 37; and Hugh Fitzsimmons, a native of Ireland.

Wm. H. Graham, Notary Public of Sacramento, is very severely scalded; Dr. Wake Bryarly is very much bruised, being thrown a distance of ten or twelve feet by the force of the explosion; Hon. Wm. Whipple is also scalded, as well as several others whose names have not been ascertained. Most of the wounded were conveyed to the Hospital.

A run was made upon the bank of Adams & Co, at San Francisco, on the 18th. About $900,000 was drawn out by depositors, on account of it having been noticed that the published report of the shipments of the 16th and 31st of December did not mention any shipments by Adams & Co. The bank was kept open till 12 o'clock at night, to accommodate the rush, and notice was posted up to those who had their money, to retire and make room for more. The next morning confidence returned, as did the people to make their deposits anew.

The money withdrawn, far, of course, from being all deposited in the bank, is worth $12,000 per month, at ordinary interest, must be made to pay more by large bankers. The run has served to increase the credit and popularity of the house. The shipments of treasure made by the house were suppressed partly because it is known that false statements are sometimes made out to bolster up the credit of smaller houses.

A BRIBERY CASE.—The attention of the Legislature has been principally occupied in the investigation of the alleged attempt made by Jos. Palmer, of the Banking House of Palmer, Cook & Co., of this city, to bribe Mr. Peck, Senator of Yuba, by offering him $5,000 for his influence to bring on the Senatorial election at this session. Mr. Peck testified that on the 7th of January he became acquainted with Mr. Palmer, who, the same day, offered to count down $5,000 to Mr. Peck for his vote and his influence with his room-mate, Col. May.

Mr. Palmer testified that Peck approached him, spoke of his losses and misfortunes, and otherwise invited overtures, and finally made a direct offer to sell his influence for $5,000, which he (Palmer) refused. It is proved that subsequent to the 7th, Peck went to the office of Palmer, Cook & Co., and was there treated not very politely by Mr. Palmer. Before the charge was made public, Mr. Peck, on the 10th, told Mr. Truett, a democrat, and political enemy to Mr. Broderick, of his offer. Truett took him to the office of Collector Hammond, Broderick's rival, where a written account was made of the matter, which account became public, and a week or more passed before the charge was brought before the Senate. The expectation of those who divulged the matter was, that it would cause the postponement of the Senatorial election, and injure the prospects of Broderick.

MISCELLANEOUS.—The silver mine announced to have been discovered ninety miles east of Monterey, in the mountains, is said to be very promising. Some of the ore which has been tried, produced $40 from 100 pounds of ore.

Considerable excitement has been manifested in this city, occasioned by the fact that a wagon on which was painted "U. S. Mail," on Wednesday, January 25, drove down on California Wharf and emptied some refuse Post Office matter, among which were found a dozen or more letters and about 100 papers, all of which so far as we could ascertain, left New York in the mail steamship of the 20th of December. Among the letters found was one for Marysville another for Sacramento, and another for Santa Cruz. The newspapers were variously directly to people in this city, and other parts of the State. We learn that there is a petition in circulation for the removal of Postmaster Henley.

SACRAMENTO ITEMS.—We are informed that John Wheeler, one of the referees in a dispute relative to a mining claim, was stabbed in the back at Plankett's Ravine, on the 17th inst, by the party against whom he had decided.

SONORA ITEMS.—We have cheering news from the mines. It is estimated that the late rains have done the miners of Tuolumne county half a million dollars worth of good.

LOWER CALIFORNIA.—We have news from Ensenada to the 17th of January. The fillibusters remain in their camp, there apparently waiting reinforcements, which they are not likely to receive. The news of the orders of the government had not arrived. A number of fillibusters had deserted, and arrived at San Diego. They say that the liberators receive but one biscuit a day, and the supply, even at that rate, is fast diminishing; and they would soon be compelled to purchase or take live stock, or to import provisions. President Walker has issued a decree constituting Sonora a part of his dominion.—The fillibusters have been busy breaking wild horses, drying beef, and making other preparations for a march across toward Sonora. Their departure from Ensenada, it is said, will be hastened by the announcement that the Portsmouth will soon be after them. The latest, and apparently most reliable accounts, states that they take the property of the rancheros in the neighborhood in the most unjustifiable manner, and the only pay, if any, is Sonora Scrip. Their proceedings are such that they must soon lose the little hold they have had upon public favor.

A WIFE WITH TWO HUSBANDS.—A man from this city went to California three years ago, leaving a wife and family. About a year since, the lady gave out that her husband was dead, and after a very short delay, made a matrimonial connection with another man. Meanwhile, she was receiving and pocketing remittances of different sums of money, from $500 downward *from her first husband*, who having "made his pile" appeared at Windsor, opposite Detroit, a few days since. While there, a friend informed him of the condition of his family affairs, about which, till then, he was in profound ignorance, whereupon he adressed a polite note to his quondam wife, telling her that if she would be kind enough to send him *his own* children, that she was welcome to the money which he sent her, and to make the most of her new husband, making no claim to her new offspring. But the reply of the recreant wife evinced the determination to hold on, not only to the new acquaintance, but also to the remainder of the family. Her consideration upon the subject, conveyed the gratifying intelligence that "she had never altogether fancied her first husband, and that his protracted absence had confirmed her in that impression."

This lady has evidently no confidence in the efficacy of first love.—*Detroit Inquirer.*

OPENING OF THE STATE CANALS.—The Canal Commissioners have given notice that the water will be let in the main line of the State improvements on the 1st of March, provided the weather permits.

Arrival of the Steamship Andes.

Boston, March 1.

The Andes, from Liverpool, arrived to-day. The Cunard Company advertise "that in consequences of the Niagara being taken by the Government, the Andes would take her place on the 18th. Government has chartered 13 steamships to convey troops to Malta

LONDON, Feb. 18th.—Foreign wheat held firmly—prices unaltered.

TREBIZOND, 14.—Schamyl, at the head of 10,000 men, is marching against Camatilla, an important military position of the Russians.

The following are the steamers taken by Government: from the General Screw Steamship Co., Propontis, Cape of Good Hope and Jason; from the Oriental Co., Himalaya, Manilla, Repon; from the Cunard Co., the Niagara and Cambria; from the Australia Co., the Victoria.

It is reported that Lord Ragland is to have the chief command and that Duke Cambridge, Generals Evans and Brotherton are to have appointments.

Advices from Krajova state that bad weather alone prevented the Russians from attacking Kalafat.

The invading army had made movements in Adrance, but active operations would not begin until in March.

The French Government continues war preparations with great activity.

The Brest fleet has been ordered to sea immediately.

Reported serious conflict took place at Tojara on the 29th—great loss on both sides—Turks retreated to Kalefat. The Russians also suffered

It is confidently announced that a Manifesto signed by Nesslrode, is expected to appear shortly at Vienna, in which the Czar worded his final intentions.

A camp of 40,000 men is being formed on the Sea of Marmor, near Constantinople. Gen. Guion has commenced offensive operations in Asia. Kalefat is invested with 60,000 Russian troops. The Czar has given orders to every post to drive out the Turks in Lesser Wallachia without further delay.

PARIS, Monday.—The bourse very firm. A report that the Emperor of Austria had declared that he would make common cause with the western powers if the Russians crossed the Danube, has produced a rise in funds.

Lord Russel stated in the House arrangements made between the English and French Embassadors, as the course to be taken by combined fleets. Also, that government had no reason to be dissatisfied with Count Orloff's mission to Austria, the object was to secure the neutrality of Austria in case of war but it had failed.

VIENNA, Feb. 10.—Details of the conflict at Giurgeven on the 5th of February have reached us. Eight hundred Turks, with nine gun boats and four sailing vessels, crossed the Danube early in the morning, and landed near Quarantine bulniffs, arranging themselves in line of battle.

Two battalions of Russians opened a murderous fire, lasting three hours, forcing the Turks finally to retreat to Rutzchuck.

The Battle of Citate.

The London *Times* gives the following particulars of the battle of Citate, from a private letter:

On Friday the 6th of January, the Turkish troops, under the orders of Ismail Pacha and Ahmed Pacha, marched to attack the Russians, who had fortified themselves in the village of Citate, which is about five hours march from Kalefat. The force of Ismail Pacha was composed of three regiments of regular cavalry and one regiment of Bashi-Bozouke, with six guns.

The Russian force in the village consisted of three battalions of infantry, three squadrons of hussars, and two squadrons of Cossacks.

The position of the Russians, who were distributed in all the houses of the village, which is of great extent, and which is surrounded by a double ditch, rendered the attack extremely perilous, as the enemy, well sheltered, were enabled to direct a murderous fire upon the Turks, without the latter being able to reply to it.

In spite of this evident disadvantage, Ismail Pacha gave orders for the attack, and threw himself into the village under a shower of balls fired from the windows. At first the Turks received very *serious injury*; but, *although this circumstance* somewhat disorganized their attack, their impetuosity was by no means checked. The greater portion of the soldiers, who had never before been exposed to musketry, nevertheless displayed indomitable courage.

After a desperate struggle they attacked the houses, and fought hand to hand with sword and bayonet. The massacre was frightful. The Russians in vain begged for quarter. In the fever of the fight the Turks listened to nothing, and slaughtered, without pity, all who fell under their hands. No quarter was given to them.

Gutters of blood ran down the streets from this wholesale human slaughter. To add to the horrors of the scene, it may be stated that a number of pigs which had been let loose were seen eating the dead bodies.

All who could escape the slaughter took refuge in a redoubt at the head of the village, and thence recommenced a murderous fire upon the Turks, who returned it vigorously, but not without receiving considerable injury from the Russian guns.

At last, the enemy, incapable of any further struggle, decided on abandoning the entrenchments. A number of Russian troops had already evacuated the place, when a colonel of Turkish cavalry conceived the unfortunate idea of endeavoring to oppose their passage.

The Russians, finding themselves surrounded and having no outlet to escape, and no resource but the terrible energy derived from despair, recommenced the fight with desperation. It should be stated that the Turks, upon the first success in the entrenchments, committed the incredible fault of not destroying the enemy's guns.

While the battle was thus going on in the village, twelve battalions of infantry of the Russian army and a squadron of cavalry, with sixteen pieces of cannon, were brought to the assistance of the besieged, and attempted to place the Turks between two fires. Information of this was given to Ahmed Pacha, who, by a skilful manœuvre, directed his soldiers to the point, in order to prevent the junction with the besieged troops. For this movement he made use of three of his reserved battalions.

The advantage of the position was now on the side of the Turks, who were on ground which sloped towards the Russians; but the latter were in three times greater number than the Turks. In spite of this inequality, the Russians were entirely beaten, and fled in the greatest disorder. They were completely routed, a fact constituting a feat of arms on the part of the Turks which does great honor to them. Their losses in these two simultaneous affairs amount to nearly 4,000 men, among whom are included 50 superior officers. The Turks had about 300 killed and 396 wounded, who were sent to the hospitals of Widden, and of whom it is hoped the greater part may be saved.

Ismail Pacha fought like a lion, and more like a soldier than a general. He had two horses killed under him. He was grazed with two balls—one on the shoulder, and another on the wrist. A third ball struck the scabbard of his sword.

The Turks took from the field of battle, besides a number of horses, a great many muskets, sabres, schakos, epaulettes, and decorations, and also many wounded. The latter consoled themselves for their wounds by the sight of watches or handsful of gold, gathered in the midst of danger, which they placed by the beds of pain as a solace to their sufferings.

NOT BAD.—In the New York *Independent* we find the following from a mother:

"But did I tell you what a time I had with my little Joe?"

"No, what was it?"

"Why, I was showing him the picture of the martyrs thrown to the lions, and was talking very solemnly to him, trying to make him feel what a terrible thing it was. "Ma! said he all at once, "Oh ma! just look at that peor little lion way behind there, he won't get any!"

ITEMS OF NEWS AND MISCELLANY.

☞ It is said the Crystal Palace stockholders have lost $125,000 by the speculation.

☞ It is said that the English have bought up about half the stock of saltpetre in the market. This smells like war.

☞ The Virginia Senate has rejected the bill to allow the banks of that State to issue small bills.

☞ The Parisian editors speak of a new French dish recently come in fashion—namely, fried rattlesnakes.

☞ A woman named Margaret Feeny, residing in Philadelphia, attempted to commit suicide last week by chopping her head off with a hatchet.

☞ The Mexican Government has ordered two war steamers of a thousand tons each, to be built in London.

☞ A woman named Sarton was found murdered in her own house on Saturday night, in Boston. It is believed her husband was the murderer—he has fled.

☞ It is said the deposits of gold at all the Mints in the United States during the year 1858, amount to fifty million dollars.

☞ Like unto a fruitful vine is Mrs. Fraser, of Stark county, Ohio. She has presented her husband with six children within a year, having achieved triplets twice.

☞ Augustus Wilber, of West Randolph, Mass., killed his wife at the breakfast table a few days ago, and then cut his own throat. He was a man of property. Cause, insanity.

☞ The Albany *Express* says that Mrs. Nichols, in the speech she delivered in the afternoon, asserted that God *intended* that man and woman should be equal but had *failed in his object.*

DEATH OF MOSES POWNALL.—Mr. Pownall, the Whig nominee for Canal Commissioner last fall, and formerly a member of the House of Representatives from Lancaster Co., died at his residence in Christiana, on Saturday last.

☞ Broad street, Philadelphia, is about fifteen miles long, and is one of the grandest avenues in the world. It runs in a straight line, and its great width admits of being planted with trees and adorned with palaces.

☞ The Guillotine was the first attempt at shaving by machinery. It took off the beard very closely. But there was a slight objection to this invention, it invariably took off the head and beard together.

☞ The bill to appropriate three millions of dollars for the construction of six steam frigates, was taken up in the Senate on Thursday, and passed "*in less than one minute.*"

☞ On Monday a little boy while playing about the track of the Michigan Souther Railroad at Chicago accidentally fell between two cars and was run over, killing him instantly.

☞ The "wild cats" of Maine are so exceedingly democratic that they have "shot their granny" by electing a whig Governor, and Wm. P. Feasenden, whig, as U. S. Senator. They had better get cooled down a little.

☞ Crawford's Bronze statue of Jefferson has been cast at the royal foundry at Munich. It is thirteen feet high, and the weight of metal required was ten tons. It is intended as one of the group to surround the equestrian statue of Washington at Richmond.

YOUNG AMERICA.—More than two million boys in the United States are now attending the various institutions of learning in this country. This is indeed a formidable army, and it may safely be affirmed that the future politics and policy of this nation will very soon depend upon the political views entertained by those now at school.

☞ A man named Taylor was killed on Tuesday at Fallstown, Beaver county, Pa., in the tub factory of Minor & Merrick. He was caught in the shaft and whirled around at the rate of one hundred and fifty revolutions per minute. When released he was dead. His body was dreadfully mangled.

☞ The New York *Tribune* thinks that aristocracy does not bear showing up anywhere.—Even though it escapes negro blood, it stumbles over a cobler's workbench or an old woman's apple stall, and in fact is very ordinary crockery at best.

☞ An old lady in Washington, N. H., undertook to explain the operation of a revolver to her two little grandsons, children of Otis Metcalf. She succeeded so well that she lodged a ball in the back of one of them.

☞ The Lehigh *Register* states that about twenty gentlemen have associated themselves under the General Manufacturing Law, with a capital of $200,000, and having purchased 180 acres of land lying three miles north of Allentown, at $200 per acre, for the purpose of engaging in the manufacture of iron.

☞ The ladies of South Carolina have formed a "Calhoun Monument Association," for the purpose of raising money by private subscription to erect a monument to the memory of that statesman.

☞ The Milan, O., *Free Press* gives an account of an attempt to kidnap two colored children in that place for the purpose of selling them into Southern slavery. The person charged is a Mrs. Kester, of Findly, her husband being now at the South.

☞ An abolition paper published at Indiana, Pa., has at its head the following ticket:—For President, John P. Hale—For Governor, Wm. Larimer, of Allegheny county. The nomination of Larimer is also urged by the "Wooly Head" portion of the Whig press of the State.

☞ The St. Louis Rebublican states, that from the first of January last to the evening of the 4th of Febuary, thirty-eight steamboats were badly damaged or totally destroyed on the western rivers. Eleven were consumed by fire, thirteen sunk and entirely lost, and fourteen badly damaged by snagging and other accidents.

☞ The Ohio and Mississippi railroad was formally opened from Lebanon, Ill., twenty-four miles from St. Louis, on the 7th. This is the line of road which is to run direct to Cincinnati, and there will connect with the railroad, that by way of Parkersburg, will form the *straight line railroad* from Baltimore to St. Louis.

STRONG MINDED.—Mary Brown, flourishing a sharply ground butcher's knife ten inches long and one and a half wide, was arrested in Kensington, Philadelphia, on Sunday. She was commanding a rabble of half-grown boys, in opposition to another party, and stones and pistols were fired freely. Mary was held in $1,000 bonds.

☞ They have a dreadful mean man in Iowa. He gave the measles to a neighbor, the other day and has been crying ever since—not because he parted with the measles, but because he had to give them away. Could he have *sold* them he would have died happy. He is a brother to the old gent who resides at Troy, and who never has green peas for dinner without remembering the poor—he sends the pods to the orphan asylum.

CUBA.—An opinion generally prevails in the Eastern political and commercial capitols, particularly in Washington, that there will be a voluntary offer to sell Cuba to the United States. A *coup d' etat* is anticipated at Madrid, to occur at an early day, and that the new government of Spain will be willing to dispose of Cuba upon terms to be agreed upon.

☞ Heavy damages for personal injuries are becoming quite frequent. The administrators of Mr. M'Closkey, who was killed by a collision on the Pennsylvania Railroad last March, have obtained a verdict of $4,500 against the company in one of the Pittsburgh courts, and at N. Orleans, Mr. Gould has recovered $10,000 damages against the firm of Gardiner, Loger & Co., for false imprisonment.

Erie Weekly Observer.

ERIE, PA.

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 4, 1854.

Do not Fail to Read this Special Notice.

In three months the present volume of the Erie *Observer* will close, and as there is a large amount due upon our Books, we deem it a proper time to call the attention of those who are so indebted to the necessity of a settlement. To a large number of friends who have promptly paid during the past nine months we are mainly indebted for being able to meet thus far the liabilities we entered into in order to enlarge our paper last Spring; but as we said before, *there are many who still owe us.* To those we especially address ourselves, and earnestly urge them to call and settle. We are now posting our Books to the end of the present volume, and will endeavor ere it is out to send to, or call upon each of those indebted with a bill for the amount due us. To all who will save us the trouble and expense of calling personally, or by agent, we shall charge at the rate of $1 50 per year; otherwise *it will be* $2. We make this explicit declaration that no one can have just cause to grumble should $2 per year be charged.

☞ We have not inserted the communication of our correspondent "Elk Creek;" the reason our friend's own good sense will suggest. Each of the parties to this unfortunate controversy have been heard, and as it is fast degenerating into personalities, in which the public is certainly not interested, we deem it due to all concerned to shut the door at once. Is'nt this right?

Sunbury and Erie Road.

The prospects of the speedy commencement, and final completion of this great work, by the shortest and most feasible route, is daily brightening. Some fears have been expressed, we know, that the President, Mr. COOPER, might yield to misrepresentations of interested persons, and favor a route via Meadville and Franklin, but we are glad to learn by letter from one of his most intimate and personal friends in Philadelphia, a member of the Common Council, that there is no fears of any thing of the kind. That gentleman writes to one of our citizens under date of February 25th, as follows: "Erie need have no fear. The road *will be built*, and that speedily; and it *will pass through Warren and start from Erie*, turning no wheel being the most feasible *location* of the road. I mean *be the* Sunbury and *Erie* Railroad, by the shortest and *best* route. As to its *following the Venango* road to Franklin, and thence through Meadville to Erie, *it is simply absurd*, and *will never be entertained* for a moment by any person having an accurate knowledge of that section of the State." This is explicit and to the point, and from our knowledge of the source, and of the intimate relations existing between Mr. Cooper and the writer, we place full and implicit reliance that it is not written unadvisedly.

☞ The Editor of the "*Rough Notes*," who, if he is *not* "Post Master" any where, is certainly entitled to the appointment of Defender General of all railroad enormities, whether committed by Superintendents, Directors, Conductors, Breakmen, or *Greasers*, does not like our laying the blame for the repeated Mail failures, which are constantly occurring between here and New York, to the management of the State Line Road. We didn't expect *he* would; indeed, it would be passing strange if any one should whisper a word of complaint against any road, within a hundred miles of Buffalo, even at midnight, if the Editor of that sheet did'nt have an immediate attack of night-mare on account of it. The fact is, our friend of the *Notes* believes in the infalibillity of railroad men so implicitly that we have no doubt he thinks he will "go to" a Railroad when he dies, instead of one of the other places! And, honestly, we have no doubt he will. But this aside. We said last week that it was no unfrequent occurrence that passengers and mails from the New York and Erie road were compelled to lay over at Dunkirk when, if the State Line train had waited ten minutes longer, a connection would have been made, and the detention thus avoided; and we mentioned a particular instance that occurred the week previous. To this the *Notes* replies:

"Suppose the delinquent 'Conductor' had waited that 'ten minutes,' and as a consequence the trains had failed to 'connect' at Cleveland, Toledo, and any number of places west, upon whose shoulders would the blame of certain other mail failures have rested?"

This "suppose" reminds us much of the "suppose" of the girl that was found crying by an oven one day. When questioned as to the cause of her grief, she very "*Notes*" like replied: "Suppose me and John should be married—and we should have a little baby—and I should be down here baking—and should be called away for a few minutes—and the little baby should crawl into the oven, and should be burned all up," and when she got to this climax of "supposible" grief, she "boo-hood" afresh; just as, we have no doubt, the Editor of the *Notes* did when he contemplated the awful catastrophe that would have happened if *that* conductor had waited *them* "ten minutes," and the trains had failed to connect at Cleveland, and in numerable other places "out west." But, to be serious, "suppose" that conductor had waited *them* "ten minutes," and there should not have been a connection at Cleveland, would not all beyond have been just as well off, so far as mail matter was concerned, while all East of Cleveland would have been accommodated? And "suppose" again, that the train at Dunkirk had waited ten, or even fifteen minutes longer, and thus formed a connection, and the Conductor had then given his Engineer orders to put on a little more steam, don't the *Notes* think ten or fifteen minutes could have been gained between Dunkirk and Cleveland, without danger to the train? We think so, besides we *know* it *used* to be no unusual occurrence for a train to wait at Buffalo, not only "ten" but *thirty* minutes beyond the hour set down in the time table for the arrival of trains on the Central road. But it is useless to waste words upon this point; the road *is* run for the special accommodation of the Central road, and for no other. If the New York and Erie road was the only party injured, no one would complain; but the whole west is made to suffer on account of these repeated mail failures, and the people *will* complain, and *will* lay the *odium* where it rightfully belongs—up the Lake Shore road and its management, the *Notes* to the contrary notwithstanding.

P. S.—On Thursday the New York and Erie train arrived at Dunkirk after the Engineer of the State Line train had given his signal whistle for starting; and although the Conductor waited long enough to get on passengers and baggage, he would not wait for *all* the mail, consequently part of that designed or for the West was left over at Dunkirk. Here is another specimen of the rascality daily practiced by the managers of this road.

☞ The population of Australia is estimated at 227,000 souls.

Tonage Duties—Rivers and Harbors.

The question of the improvement of the Rivers and Harbors of the country, so that they may be able to meet the requirements of the vast trade and commerce springing up, and from year to year multiplying as the capacity of the country is more and more developed, is one which has long agitated the politics of the nation. This is not to be wondered at, for it certainly is a question of vast importance, not only as regards the interest involved, but of the large amounts that have from time to time been drawn from the National Treasury for the purpose under consideration. Heretofore all improvements to our Rivers and to our Harbors have been made by means of direct appropriations from the purse of the Nation. By this policy every section of the country—every interest, commercial, manufacturing and agricultural—have been made to bear the cost in equal and exact proportion. Whether this is exact justice or not, we will not now stop to enquire; neither do we believe the people would if the system had at all answered the purpose designed. But such is not the case. No man, who will look honestly and fairly at past legislation upon this subject, can fail to admit that River and Harbor bills are entirely inadequate to make improvements commensurate with the wants of the country; this the most sanguine advocate of that system must be forced to admit. With scarcely an exception, every improvement undertaken by the general government, results in an absolute failure, and the reason for it is very easily explained. Every bill for the improvement of Rivers and Harbors must, by the very nature of things, be an omnibus bill. No other could, by any possibility, become a law; for it is but natural that every member of Congress should look upon improvement in his locality as of paramount importance, and make an appropriation for that purpose the *sine qua non*, without which his vote for the bill cannot be obtained. If appropriations were made equal to the accomplishment of all these improvements, it would not take long to bankrupt the national Treasury. The financial abilities of the Secretary would be very soon employed, not in disposing of a surplus revenue, but in devising a way to provide for a deficit. The result is that the appropriations are too small to effect any practical good, and by the time Congress is induced to make an additional one, what little that was accomplished by the first appropriation, has been lost. Every candid man must admit that this is the usual history of the improvements undertaken by the federal government. It does seem to us, then, that the only effect of these River and Harbor bills is to create delusive hopes and check individual enterprise.

If the general government had undertaken to build our railroads, it is impossible to calculate how long, if ever, before they would have been brought to that state of forwardness which their present condition exhibits. In addition to the obstacles above stated, in the way of an improvement of our Rivers and Harbors by this system, it must always meet with violent opposition; for a large number of our best and wisest politicians believe it unconstitutional, and conflicting with the rights of the States. But, waiving the constitutional objection, and assuming that these bills can accomplish the purpose—that the improvements can be made; it must be admitted that they are of doubtful policy—involving a wasteful and extravagant expenditure of the public money, and giving to the general government a patronage and a power never contemplated by the States, when the confederacy was formed.—If the general government has the power to construct Harbors where none existed, and improve insignificant rivers, it is somewhat difficult to deny to it the power to carry on a general system of internal improvements; and no one imbued with Democratic principles can contemplate the exercise of such a power without trembling for the safety of the country. It was attempted once, but the Democratic party arrested it before its corrupting influence had pervaded the masses of the people, and poisoned the very life-blood of our institutions.

In order to obviate the very many difficulties embarrassing this vital question, it has been proposed that Congress pass a general law, giving to the States the right to collect tonnage duties, to be devoted to the improvement of the Rivers and Harbors pertinent to their jurisdiction. To what extent such a measure would meet with the approbation of the Democratic party, it is impossible to say; its merits and demerits have yet to be examined; and we do not doubt but that the dominant party in Congress will attentively weigh the reasons for and against it. One thing is very certain; some of the features are preferable to those of any plan yet proposed. It is the only way by which the improvements can ever be economically made; and it is equally certain that none others than those absolutely necessary would, under it, ever be attempted.

We believe the constitutionality of such a measure is not doubted, as Congress is expressly authorised, by the constitution, to grant such power to the States. Hostility to such a measure is, of course, to be expected from the whig party, as it is supposed to be favored by the administration. Already has a storm of indignation been hurled against it from certain quarters. Already do we find it assiled on the floor of Congress as the shift of a Demagogue to escape responsibility, but we much mistake the intelligence of the people if it eventually does not find favor at their hands, and become the established policy of the country.

SUSTAINED AT HOME.—The Senate of Illinois, by a vote of fourteen to eight, have passed resolutions in favor of the Nebraska and Kansas bill of Judge Douglas, and the House of Representatives of the State will follow the example of the Senate. This is a bold, emphatic, and significant voice from the Prairie State, and it shows the appreciation of Judge Douglas by his fellow citizens at home.

☞ THE TRIUMPH OF ORDER.—The Grand Jury of Cincinnati have refused to indict the Captain of Police for suppressing the Bedini riot, and Judge Flynn, before whom he was arranged has discharged him. Thus law and order triumph at last, in spite of the mad denunciations of the press—the same press, by the way, which waxed furious against the people of Erie on the railroad question.

☞ The notorious C. Dennis, of Buffalo, Superintendent of the Buffalo and State Line road, had a hearing before Justice LAIRD, on Wednesday, for firing a pistol at certain citizens of Harborcreek last winter, and was bound over on several charges preferred against him, in various sums, amounting in all to near $4,000, for his appearance at the May Term of our County Court. He will probably see the inside of our county jail before he gets through with this matter.

United States Senator.

The Democratic convention of Allegheny county, which met a few days since for the purpose of appointing delegates to the State Convention on the 8th, passed a resolution *unanimously* favoring the election of Col. WILSON MCCANDLESS to the Senate of the United States. This speakes well for Col. MCCANDLESS' popularity at *home*—the spot, of all others, where a politician should be strong. We notice, *also, that the* Pittsburgh *Union* has a leading article endorsing the action of the Convention, and urging the claims of the West in general to the Candidate; and those of Col. McCandless in particular. That paper says:

"It is the misfortune of prominent Democrats in this county, to be seldom favored with the bestowal of office, though it is a well known fact, that in the campaigns wherein the Democracy of the State have proved victorious, the Democrats of Allegheny have performed a large share of the labor—not only here, but throughout the entire West. We have not yet seen the compaign in which the gentleman who is the subject of this article has failed to bear his part. In the fall of 1844 his numerous able and stirring efforts contributed more than those of any single man, to promote the success to our party. Though public expectation declared, that, ere the close of Mr. Polk's administration our esteemed fellow-citizen would be selected for some high position in the government, such was not the case. But Mr. McCandless was no discontented grumbler. He did not utter a complain, that the wishes of his friends had not been acceded to in his preferment; and accordingly, we find him in 1848 again taking the stump in favor of General Cass, and devoting his remarkable energies to the service of his party. In the last campaign the course of Mr. McCandless won for him golden opinions.

It is needless to speak of the qualifications of Mr. McCandless for the position for which he has been more than once designated by the popular voice. His reputation has long been extended beyond the limits of his own State, not by virtue of any office, for he has never had any; but by the power of natural abilities and force of character. There are many reasons why we believe him to be the very man for the occasion. Among these we may own, that, by no means the least, is the excellence of his private character, and his generous, manly and hospitable feelings. At the present time, when several rival candidates are presented, with many personal animosities between them, there can be no more prudent policy than to select a man who has not been identified with those interminable feuds—one who is in every way fitted for the position, and who is beloved as far as he is known."

☞ We were shown the other day a couple of beautiful wrought canes, cut from the flag ship *Lawrence*, the handiwork of Messrs Stockton & Fuller, designed as presents to Col. JOHN HERRON, of Pittsburgh, and Sheriff M'GILL, of Allegheny. They were procured by Gen Killpatrick and others, and are to be presented to those gentlemen in the name of Erie County, as a slight token of the gratitude felt by our citizens for the kindness and attention bestowed upon Messrs. Kilpatrick, Kirkpatrick, Sherwin and Jacks, during their unjust confinement in the Allegheny County prison.

☞ The fools are not all dead yet—no, not even in that seat of wisdom and liberality, Cleveland. The other day Messrs. Sterrett & Gray, Grocers of this city, wrote to a Cleveland firm, dealers in beef and, as the sequel shows, "very small potatoes," requesting to be furnished with a quantity of dried beef. To this letter they received the following reply:

Cleveland, Feb. 23, 1854.

MESSRS. STERRETT & GRAY:

GENTLEMEN:—Your favor dated 21st inst, ordering one barrel Dried Beef, came to hand this morning. We regret to say, that the indignities we have been compelled to endure in passing through your town, are *too* recent in our memories for us to wish to have any business or social connection with your place! We do not know that you have any sympathy with the mob who have controlled your city for the last few months, but until we are assured that you have had none, we shall have to decline your order.

Yours Very Truly,

G. & C.

P. S.—We have made no enquiries about grass seeds, knowing that there is not a good merchant in our city who would sell seeds for cash or otherwise to go to Erie.

Yours, G. & C.

If Messrs. G. & C., dealers in "small potatoes" and dried beef, of Cleveland, Ohio, are not full brothers to the man that burned the notes of a solvent Bank in order to spite the Bank, we are no Yankee. Besides, we'll bet our steel pen against a gray goose quill, that their *cows* are at least six inches longer than those of any dray horse that ever toated a load from their store!

GOOD NEWS.— A Harrisburg correspondent of the Pittsburgh *Post*, says that "Messrs. Knight and Wright, of Philadelphia, Lowry of Tioga, Roberts, of Fayette, *Ball, of Erie*, Dunning of Luzerne, are among the ablest and most influential members of the House, on the Democratic side." The above is a piece of truly gratifying news in this meridian, as it is the *first* time Erie county was ever represented by a *Democrat.*

☞ We do not know who "doll" the following, but it contains more real unvarnished truth in a small space, than any other "slap" we have ever seen at the Lucy Stones and the other "strong-minded" women who perambulate the country lecturing on women's imaginary, as well as real wrongs:

"The modest maiden, the prudent wife, or the careful matron, are much more serviceable in life than petticoated philosophers, blustering heroines or virago queens. She who makes her husband happy and reclaims him from vice, is a much greater character than ladies described in romance, whose sole occupation is to murder mankind with shafts from their quiver or their eyes."

☞ A German boy, named SWAPP, engaged in peddling, was crushed between the cars and the Platform at the Depot, on Friday afternoon of last week. He had droped his basket between the cars and the platform, and had got down to get it when the train started, and he was litterally smashed to pieces. A warning to others which we hope will be heeded.

☞ The "war of the gauges" has been succeeded by a war of the poets:

Blow, O blow ye heavenly breezes,
All among the leaves and trees;
Sing, O sing, ye heavenly muses
All about the boots and shoes.

For particulars see the Advertisement of Messrs. Wilcox & Norton, and the rejoinder of Mr. Devean. Poetically, we think Devean is a "foot or two feet" ahead so far.

☞ Why did the "*Home Journal*" cut our exchange? We paid our usual compliments to it sometime before the close of its last volume, but somehow, in pruning its exchange list, the "*Observer*" fell by the way-side. Shall we not welcome it back to our table?

☞ The Fredonia *Censor* entered upon its 34th volume this week. Quite an aged gentleman, measured according to the general life of newspapers. Long may it wave, and the junior Editor speedily forsake the errors of his ways and become a—married man! Look at *Pratt* and take courage, O *Censor!*

☞ The publishers of Boston have held a Convention, and have agreed to raise the price of advertising in their respective papers, 25 per cent. Right; and because it is right, the publishers of Erie have done the same, a fact those interested will do well to observe.

From Washington.

[*Correspondence of the Erie Observer.*]

WASHINGTON CITY, D. C.
February 26, 1854.

The Nebraska Debate—Washington Monument—Senator Douglas' Letter—the Homestead Bill—a "little bit of a shindy"—Snow Storm—Sam Houston and the Presidency—death of Gen. Armstrong, &c., &c.

The past week has been one of great interest even. The Senate Chamber has been every day crowded by anxious listeners to the debates on the Nebraska bill. TOOMBS, of Georgia, BUTLER, of S. C., DODGE of Iowa, and HUNTER of Va., have ably and fearlessly spoke in favor of the bill. It will not be justice to these men merely to say that their arguments were clear and unanswerable, as indeed I may with truth add, they rapidly dispelled the mist and humbuggery of Chase, Seward and Sumner, and carried conviction to the hearts of the whole audience. At times the gentlemen who spoke in favor of the bill were particularly severe upon those free soil agitators. The bill will pass by a handsome majority in each house, and, allow me to add, that in less than one year it will be the most popular measure of this administration. It is not so, set me down as a false correspondent. More than this, its author will hold a place as firm and strong in the affections of the people as any statesman in the country. And why should not any measure which advocates the doctrine that all power belongs to the people—that allows the people to decide all questions of public policy—be popular? No man dare, in these days openly advocate a republican government, advocate that the people are incapable of, or even should not exercise the power of deciding all and every question affecting their State government and the home policy which shall govern them. I have said the Nebraska bill will pass; its friends are increasing daily; and allow me further to add, the more it is debated the weaker its opposers grow. The close of this bill will hush up the annoying question of nationism, and our congressmen will then have an opportunity to attend to the business for which they have been sent.

I was at the Washington Monument yesterday. Little progress has been made since you were here in spring. I have a private opinion of my own that the Monument is decidedly one of the meanest swindles in the country; not that the object is not a good one, but management is most execrable. I have heard many complain at the slow progress it has made, and I am not inclined to doubt it, that not over one-fourth of the immense sums contributed towards its erection, have been expended in that way—the other three fourths being in the hands of rank up, by the cormorants who have managed and retained as officers of the association. You will scarcely believe me that if this is so, it is most infamous. Almost everybody is proud of the name of Washington, and would willingly give to erect a monument to his name, but if anything he must help keep up a set of Monument rats, one of which one of your "wharf rats" is not a single one, and I am inclined to think this will be an unpleasant thing some years to come!

By the by, have you seen DOUGLAS' letter to Governor *Coles*, of Illinois? Of course you have, for you store see every thing. Well, as they say over west, we are both of the gentleman had from. "I'm not a bit surprised." My own private opinion is that his Ex-Excellency has got so completely "hauled over the coals" by Mrs. *Coles*, as he has by the "little giant" in his letter. The little Senator first "roasts," then "toasts" the disease, and serves up the Ex-Governor in a manly-like style that it will be one of the best things he is ever heard of again in this day and generation. I need not worry you with comments. The letter is going the rounds, and you can read.

The Homestead bill will doubtless pass, and thanks to that prince of good fellows and talented gentlemen, your State's—Hon. JOHN L. DAWSON. We miss him in the Senate is more than your correspondent can