Miscellaneous, Foreign and Political News.

DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION.

From the Democratic Union.

HALL OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *Harrisburg, March 8, 1854.*

The members of the Democratic State Convention assembled in the Hall of the House of Representatives, and were called to order by W. L. HIRST, Chairman of the State Central Committee, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Messrs. PETRIKEN, DE FRANCE and LYMAN CHRISTIE were nominated and chosen as Secretaries.

When the list of delegates was called over, it was ascertained that every district in the State was represented.

Mr. M'Keever appeared to contest the seat of Mr. Manly, from the senatorial district composed of the counties of Chester and Delaware. A motion was made that Mr. Manly be admitted as a delegate from this district. A motion was made to amend, by substituting the name of Mr. M'Keever. The contestants were heard, each man making a statement The question was taken on the amendment, admitting Mr. M'Keever; and it was not agreed to. Mr Manly was then admitted.

Mr. Gillis moved that a committee of the senatorial delegates be appointed for the purpose of nominating permanent officers for the Convention. The motion was amended, so as to give the delegation from each district the power of choosing a member of the committee.

Mr. Chase moved that a committee be appointed from the several districts, for the purpose of drafting resolutions for the consideration of the Convention. Mr. Hamlin moved that the consideration of the resolution be postponed until the final organization of the Convention; which was agreed to.

The Convention took a recess until twenty minutes past 12 o'clock.

When the Convention re-assembled, Mr. John A. Gamble from the the committee on officers, made the following report:

President.—PETER C. SHANNON.

Vice Presidents.—William L. Hirst, Hugh Mooney, Albert B. Ashton, Andrew Noble, James F. Nicholas, John Smith, Edward J. Lauman, Daniel B. Kutz, Levi Sassaman, Jacob L. Gross, Jacob Donahauer, Andrew Patterson, Henry C. Longnecker, J. H. Walker, Joel B. Danner, Daniel Motter, B. R. Petriken, Henry Orlady, Jas. W. Rhoads, H. L. Scott, Timothy Ives, J. Y. James, Jno. R. Brawley, David Tidball, Mathew Harbison, James Salisbury, Lewis Roberts, Jno. P. Reed, Wm. T. Alexander, Philip Hillbish, Robert F. Thompson, Benjamin Christ, and Mathew Shields.

Secretaries.—Robert W. Jones, Wm. S. Amweg, D. R. Williams, Jno S. Rhoads, Jno Brisbin, Alex. M'Kinney, David H. Baker, W. P. Laird, Charles Harmer, Jesse Patterson, and Stephen Taylor.

The report of the committee was adopted.

The President was conducted to the chair, and addressed the Convention in an appropriate manner:—

GENTLEMEN:—In taking the position assigned to me by your kind partiality, I trust you will not consider it merely customary phraseology when you are assured, that I am heartily and profoundly sensible of the honor.

As citizens of the Commonwealth, we meet today under circumstances calculated to call forth the greatest thankfulness. Our people are blessed with health, plenty abounds throughout the land, whilst peace, that smiled upon the efforts of Penn. in laying the foundations of civilized government in a new territory, still continues to scatter benign and hallowed rays over the great Commonwealth which bears, and is destined forever to bear, his name.

As delegates of the Democratic party of the State, we likewise assemble under the most favorable auspices. We are, all of us, unwavering in fealty to the Constitution and to the Union. We believe that next to the duty we owe to our God, there is none higher, none more sacred, than that which we owe to our country. We adhere to the great and lasting principles recognised by our fathers, and written in the text-book of the party. And pointing proudly to the established and honorable position of our State, amid her sister States, for steady fidelity to National Democratic principles, we claim for her that just proportion of respect and influence to which she is entitled. Nothing less, and nothing more.

Our gubernatorial contest in 1851, was brilliant and successful, and the election of last October was the crowning point to the former, resulting in majorities ranging from thirty thousand to forty thousand.

The strength of the Pennsylvania Democracy has been felt, and is unquestioned. Who will say, that what has been done once cannot as readily be done again? There is no disunion in our thick and lengthened ranks; there is as yet no cause for disunion; and if there is a murmur, it is merely like that of the sportive breeze over the calm bosom of a summer lake.

We laugh at prognostics of evil which emanate from the worse than Delphic oracle of Whiggery. The syllables of the one are as unreliable as those of the other.

Whilst the Democratic party in some States has most unfortunately been split into ignoble fragments, upon questions best known to themselves, Pennsylvania has stood firm and immovable as the mountains which divide her territory—always reliable, if she has a fair chance, always true in every pulsation of her heart to her first and early attachment

Let us, then, remain true to ourselves, and all will continue to be well. Let us avoid the example of other States, and ever shut out from our deliberations the foul spirit of discord.—Let our motto be—*union, fraternity, harmony;* and the steady radiance of our political light shall not be obscured, nor shall our lofty position ever be lost.

On motion of Mr. Gillis, the rules of the House of Representatives were adopted for the government of the convention

On motion of Mr. Chase, the convention proceeded to the consideration of the resolution providing for the appointment of a committee on resolutions.

Mr. Roberts moved to amend, by giving the President the power of appointing one from each Senatorial district, to compose the committee.

Mr. Gillis moved to amend the amendment, by making the committee consist of nine members, to be appointed by the chair.

The amendment to the amendment was not agreed to.

The amendment to the resolution was then adopted.

The resolution as amended was agreed to.

Adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION.—The Convention assembled at 2 o'clock.

The President announced that nominations for Governor were in order, whereupon

Mr. W. L. Hirst moved that William Bigler be nominated by acclamation.

Mr. Alexander M'Kinney objected; when

Mr. Hirst nominated Wm Bigler.

Mr. M'Kinney " Thos. S. Bell.

A ballot was then had with the following result, viz: Bigler 128, Bell 5.

William Bigler having received a majority of votes, was declared the nominee of the Democratic party for Governor.

A motion was then made, that the nomination be declared unanimous; which was not agreed to, Mr. M'Kinney, of Westmoreland, voting in the negative.

On motion of Mr. Wilson, the Honorable Jeremiah S. Black was nominated by acclamation, as the Democratic candidate for Judge of the Supreme Court.

The Convention then proceed to nominate candidates for Canal Commissioner, as follows:

Henry S. Mott,	Chester Thomas,
John H. Philips,	George Scott,
David Fulwood,	Jno. B. Beck,
Daniel L. Sherwood,	David Laury,
Jacob Erdman,	Joseph Edwards,

Wm. Fry.

The names of David Fulwood and Chester Thomas were withdrawn before a vote was taken.

The Convention then proceeded to vote, as follows:

Henry S. Mott 56; George Scott 20; Daniel Sherwood 14; William Fry 14; J. B. Beck 12; John H. Phillips 8; Jacob Erdman 5; Joseph Edwards 4.

No candidate having received a majority of all the votes, there was no nomination.

On motion, the Convention proceeded to a second vote, as follows:

Henry S. Moth 83; George Scott 20; D. L. Sherwood 18; Wm. Fry 6; Jacob Erdman 4.

Henry S. Mott, of Pike county, having received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared duly nominated.

A motion was made by Henry Sherwood, of Tioga, that the nomination be unanimous; which was not agreed to, several delegates voting in the negative.

The Convention then took a recess for one hour.

When the Convention re-assembled, a motion was made to adjourn to 7 o'clock; which was not agreed to

On motion, the officers of the Convention were appointed a committee to inform the persons nominated of their nomination.

On motion of Mr. A. H. Coffroth, it was ordered that the President appoint a State Central Committee.

On motion, Messrs. Jones, Gamble and M'Kinney were appointed a committee to wait upon the committee on resolutions, and ascertain at what time they would be ready to report.

After some time, the committee returned, and reported that the committee on resolutions would be ready to report in ten minutes.

At the expiration of twenty minutes, the committee on resolutions returned, and made the following report, through their chairman, Mr. Chase:

Resolved, That the selection of William Bigler by the voice of this Convention, as the standard-bearer of the democracy in the next gubernatorial contest, is not only in accordance with the well-established usages of the party, but a well-merited tribute to his eminent worth, integrity and ability. His entire administration has been characterized by an unselfish devotion to the best interests of the people. The democracy will hail his re-nomination with delight, and will ratify the action of this Convention by his triumphant election.

Resolved, That the last annual message of Gov. Bigler is a public document of unusual strength and ability; exhibiting, with the greatest candor and fidelity, the actual financial condition of the commonwealth. In this frank and manly exhibit, we have assurance that the public interests of the people are entrusted to a safe and competent executive.

Resolved, That whilst there is so much in the message of Gov. Bigler to excite our admiration and pride for the exhaustless wealth of the State, and the high degree of prosperity enjoyed by the people, we should not be insensible to the importance of a rigid economy in every depatment of the government. It is in this that we have the assurance that the public money is not misapplied, and a just foundation for the confidence that public engagements will be cheerfully met by the people.

Resolved, That upon the subject of the currency, the view of Gov. Bigler are perfectly sound and democratic. That whilst it has never been the aim or intention of the Democratic party to "uproot entirely the system of banking we have," it is not less our true policy to restrain the aggregate amount of capaital invested in banking to the demands of a healthy trade and the actual business wants of the community, and not run the risk of great commercial embarrassment and distress by an undue expansion of paper circulation. Old and solvent banks should be rechartered with great caution, and only after a most thorough examination of their condition; whilst new ones should only be established when absolutely necessary, and demanded by the exigencies of trade.

Resolved, That the evils of omnibus and special legislation had become intolerable, and the former especially calculated to produce incalculable mischief and injury to the public. We therefore heartily commend and approve the position assumed by Gov. Bigler, against this species of legislation.

Resolved, That in the adjustment of the difficulties at Erie, and with the Franklin Canal company, Gov. Bigler displayed great skill, prudence and ability; and that he is justly entitled to the praise of all for his conduct throughout the entire controversy.

Resolved, That this Convention presents with entire confidence, the name of Jeremiah S. Black, as the candidate of the Democratic party for Judge of the Supreme Court. The high character and distinguished ability of Judge Black are too well known to every citizen of the Commonwealth to require endorsement by this Convention. The time he has already occupied that eminent position, has been sufficient to leave the impress of a great mind upon the jurisprudence of the country, and he has shown himself a worthy successor of the strong minds who filled the bench before him.

Resolved, That in the selection of Henry S. Mott, as our candidate for Canal Commissioner, we believe the democracy are peculiarly fortunate; recognizing in him, as we do, a man of the strictest integrity, great personal popularity, and eminently qualified to fill the responsible office for which he is nominated.

Resolved, That the election of Gen. Franklin Pierce to the Presidency, was a triumphant vindication of the attachment of the Democratic party to the Constitution and the Union; and that so far his administration has displayed great ability, been eminently judicious and consistent with the principles upon which he was elected, and the doctrines contained in his inaugural address.

Resolved, That the public services of the Hon. James Campbell, and the ability, fidelity and integrity with which he has discharged the duties of Postmaster General, entitle him to the thanks of the people of the United States, and that he possesses the confidence and merits the support of the democracy of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That the course pursued by the Hon. R. Broadhead, our representative in the Senate of the United States, entitles him to the entire confidence and support of the Democratic party.

Resolved, That the democracy of Pennsylvania are in favor of a liberal disposition of the public lands by the general government, and of the principles of a well devised Homestead Law, which would encourage agriculture, commerce, manufacturers, and all other branches of industry, by granting to every free white male citizen of the United States, who is the head of a family, a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres of land out of the public domain, upon condition of occupancy and cultivation of the same for a certain specific period.

Resolved, That the democracy of Pennsylvania adheres with unshaken fidelity, to the Constitution and Union of the States; and relies upon the compromise of 1850 as the final adjustment of the vexed and dangerous question which then agitated the country, and menaced the existence of the Union. Upon this rational principle Gov. Bigler entered upon the contest of 1851, and with a distinct avowal of his adhesion, was triumphantly elected. Adherence to its provisions was adopted in 1852, as a distinctive feature in the national platform, and President Pierce was elected by an unparalleled majority, thus manifesting the popular assent to the terms and conditions of the compromise. Regarding it, as we do, as a solemn and deliberate settlement of controversy, consecrated by the efforts and energies of the ablest and best of both great political parties at the time of its adoption, and since, twice ratified by the people of this State, we therefore ratify and adopt the principles laid down in the Baltimore platform of 1852.

The resolutions were adopted unanimously.

On motion the meeting adjourned *sine die.*

☞ James Taylor, Esq., a greatly respected citizen of Albany, who has been for the last eighteen years Crshier of the Commercial Bank, died in that city yesterday.

ITEMS OF NEWS AND MISCELLANY.

☞ The Clay monument in Pottsville, Pa., will be completed in a month or two.

☞ Indiana, within a few years, has constructed 1,200 miles of Railroad.

☞ She that marries a man because he is a "good match," must not be surprised if he turns out a "Lucifer."

☞ It is reported that suits will be commenced against Major Lally, Waddy Thompson, and the other recipients of the Gardiner claim money.

☞ The Harrisburg Union says that the appropriations asked for the public service for the coming year, are over $6,000,000.

☞ The citizens of Cincinnati have contributed $10,000 for the construction of a second steam fire engine.

☞ The population of California, it is said, has not increased to any extent during the past year.

☞ The European *Times* expresses the opinion that all hopes of peace are over, and that the war will now be carried on with vigor.

☞ Five hundred millions of people or one half of the population of the world, are bibbers of tea—the beverage that cheers but not inebriates.

☞ There is at present, in Peoria, Ill., *nearly one million bushels* of grain, awaiting the opening of the river and canal, for the eastern market.

INDIVIDUAL LIABILITY.—The stockholders of all railroad companies organized in Ohio since the adoption of the new constitution of that state, a few years ago, are individually liable to an amount equal to their stock.

☞ The news from China is of a more decided character than it has lately been. The flight of the Emperor is again reported. It is certain that the insurgents have made great progress in the interior.

☞ Mr. Zeno Scudder, a member of Congress from the first district of Massachussetts, has resigned his seat in consquence of ill health. An election to supply his place is to take place on the 3d of April

☞ The Erie Railroad Company have put on their road a telegraphic car which can be taken to any point, remote from a telegraphic station, where an accident occurs, and communicate results both ways.

☞ The Roman Catholics of Boston contemplate the erection of a cathedral in the south part of that city, which shall out-do in dimensions, costliness, and splendor all that this country has ever seen in the way of architectural splendor.

A REMARKABLE MAN.—Mr. Levi Swain, of Meredith, N. H., informs the editors of the Democrat that he has worked forty-seven years at the carpenter business, and has never cut himself with an edged tool, never has been sick a day, and always voted the democratic ticket.

☞ We learn from the Dunkirk *Journal* that H. W. Perkins, of Fredonia, who claims to have been robbed of 14,000, at Hornelsville, a short time since, has been arrested on complaint of his creditors, and is under examination before Judge Lewis, at Fredonia.

☞ It is stated that England can avail herself of upwards of two hundred and fifty ocean steamers, in case of war with Russia; of course the largest steam marine in the world. Each of the nine Cunard steamers is able to carry a regiment of the line.

☞ Mr. Green, the celebrated diver, has been prospecting on the Canada shore of Lake Erie for some locomotives that were lost overboard from vessels a year or two ago. From indications about the ice he thinks he knows the whereabouts of two of them, and says he will have them, as soon as the ice goes off.

☞ Smyth, of the Louisiana, Ky., District, lately announced himself as a candidate for Congress. The editor of the *Courier* says that he knows nothing of the political sentiments of the man, but that he is immensely patriotic. The Editor found him one night when he evidently "knew no north, no south, no east, no west;" so he quietly *led him up an alley.*

☞ Dr. Wolfred Nelson has been elected Mayor of Montreal. Seventeen years ago, "the hero of St. Dennis," as he was called, was brought into that city in irons, amid the insults and taunts of the populace. He was the admitted leader of the revolt of 1837, but subsequently pardoned through the influence of Lord Durham.

☞ The Hornellsville *Tribune* has been informed that Mr. Charles Minot, whose resignation of the Superintendency of the New York and Erie Road we noticed a few days since, will visit England during the coming season, and that the Emperor of Russia has offered him the post of Superintendent of the St. Petersburg and Moscow Railroad.

☞ The Buffalo *Republic* says that during the coming season the fare on railroads is to be very materially lessened. From Cleveland to New York and Boston, via the New York Central road, passengers are to be carried at a reduction of one dollar in the fare. The New York and Erie has made a like reduction.

BENEFITS OF ADVERTISING.—The Buffalo *Rough Notes* learns that a "chap out west tried advertising for a wife. It worked to a charm, as usual. He says he has received in answer to his advertisement, 765 letters, 15 daguerreotype likenesses of ladies, 2 gold finger rings, 17 locks of hair, 1 copy of Ik Marvel's "Reveries of a Bachelor," 1 thimble and 2 dozen shirt buttons. He *ought* to be convinced."

☞ They have a new way of advertising in San Francisco. At the American Theatre, a new style of act drop scene has been introduced. A small portion in the centre of it is devoted to fancy scenery of lake, mountain and chateau, very tastefully executed. But the balance of the curtain is covered with the signs of some thirty or forty business firms in almost every variety of trade, from music down to groceries.

A SAD CASE.—The wife of R. A. Smith—the one hundred thousand-dollar mail robber arrested at New Haven a few days since—is a sister to the late Mrs. Bradley, who was murdered at New Haven by a fiend named Jennings, and who is to be hung in July next. On Wednesday, Mrs. Smith visited the jail to see her husband, where she found the murderer of her own sister in one cell, and in another her husband, incarcerated for mail robbery. This is trouble indeed.

CLERGYMEN IN THE SENATE.—The Washington *Star* says Mr. Badger, the distinguished N. Carolina Senator, is a zealous member of the Episcopal Church, and a few years since engaged in a theological discussion with the Bishop of his diocese. Senator Everett, who sits next to Mr. Badger, was, when only nineteen years of age, pastor of the wealthiest Unitarian church in Boston, and when only about twenty years of age, wrote a learned volume in defence of Christianity.

FROZEN TO DEATH.—Mr. David Herber, an old resident of Greenwich township, Berks county, was frozen to death in the great snow-storm of the 20th of February. He had attended a funeral on that day, and started in the midst of the storm on his return home, but he never reached it alive. His dead body was found on the following Wednesday evening, upon the land of Benjamin Herbster, in Albany township. A Coroner's inquest was held, and a verdict rendered, of "Death by Freezing." His remains were conveyed to his family, for interment.

☞ When you see a young lady so very delicate that she can't make her bed, or put a couple of plates upon the table, and yet trots all over town daily with the speed of a race horse to jumble nonsense with the Softpates, and Snippers, and Jenkinses, and Duzenberries, just chalk it down that she's a piece of calico you can't invest a single penny or pulsation in. A girl who hasn't the muscle to lift three feathers and a pillow-case, but can tire a locomotive and a whole omnibus line out of breath, is an institution that, like prussic acid and old maids, is to be kept clear of. Young men will please button up this fact in their memory.

Erie Weekly Observer.

ERIE, PA.

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 18, 1854.

FOR GOVERNOR:
WILLIAM BIGLER,
Of Clearfield County.

JUDGE OF SUPREME COURT:
JEREMIAH S. BLACK,
Of Somerset County.

FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER:
HENRY S. MOTT,
Of Pike County.

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 indedted 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.

Bigler, Black and Mott.

These are the names inscribed upon the Democratic banner for the ensuing campaign, by the Democratic Convention last week. And they are right worthy to be placed there. As the Executive of this great Commonwealth, Gov. BIGLER has more than met the expectations of those who placed him in nomination three years ago; and hence it is that we find the peoply rallying around him with such unanimnity now. That he will be re-elected by an overwhelming majority there cannot be a reasonable doubt; indeed we sincerely doubt whether there will be any serious opposition

The same may also be said of Judge BLACK. His nomination was made by acclamation, and his election will doubtless be in the same manner.

Of HENRY S. MOTT, the nominee for Canal Commissioner, the people know less, and yet he is none the less worthy of their confidence. He comes before them endorsed by the Democracy of the North, where majorities are not numbered by hundreds but by thousands, and hence has a claim upon all true Democrats for a fair trial.—As a member of the Legislature from Pike, for two or three years, we believe he has been invariably found faithful, honest and true to the interests of the State and of the Democratic party. Of his election, under these circumstances, there ought not, and cannot be a doubt.

Municipal Election.

As we go to press, (Friday,) the election for municipal officers is quietly progressing. There is but one ticket in the field, we believe. That is composed of gentlemen of both political parties, and was agreed upon at meetings held on Saturday and Tuesday evenings. We were in hopes the railroad men would bring out a ticket, and show their strength, but they have not. They have been writing and circulating fabulous stories about the course of the City Councils not be being sustained by any considerable portion of the property holders of the city, and hence we expected they would embrace the earliest opportunity to show it; but they have not. The truth is, they know they could not raise, all told, twenty-five votes out of the thousand the city can throw, and hence they have concluded "discretion is the better part of valor."

☞ A good deal of excitement was got up on Saturday by the report that the railroad companies, taking advantage of the absence of *both* Superintendents appointed by the Governor, had commenced running their trains through. As this was in direct conflict with the understanding between the Company and the Governor, it was looked upon as a gross breach of faith on their part, and our citizens were justly incensed. We made considerable inquiries, and found that while the railroad men acknowledged to having taken through, by means of a switch on Sassafras street, some twenty or thirty cars, they claimed that they did so for the purpose of loaning them to the Erie and North East road. This appeared reasonable, inasmuch as all roads in New York are of a different width from the road from here to Buffalo, and hence that road could not borrow cars East. We think this explanation would have satisfied the community, even if there was but little truth in it, had not the Buffalo papers come up on Saturday crowing most lustily over the consummation of the long hoped for defeat of Erie. Hence it was deemed necessary, on Monday, in order to allay the excitement which was fast getting up, to order the High Constable to remove the switch across Sassafras, by means of which the connection had been made. Not an inch of the track proper of the road was touched, and the switch referred to, we verily believe, would not have been interfered with if Buffalo Editors had known enough to have remained quiet. But common sense is an article railroad greasers and Buffalo Editors do not deal in, hence we must blame them we suppose.

☞ In his speech at the consolidation festival in Philadelphia, the other day, Gov. BIGLER very happily alludes to the connection which ought to exist between Philadelphia and Erie. He said:

"Such fellow-citizens, are the distinguishing characteristics of this new and flourishing city, and it is befitting that we should mingle our congratulations on the consummation of a measure so well designed to give her a fresh impetus in her growth, and a brighter lustre to her fame. The agency I had in this work, allow me to say, was a labor of love. (Applause.) I was prepared for it, and there was something significant in the circumstances which surround its consummation, for I signed the bill in the north-west extremity of the State, in the city of Erie, *as though it were to be in future a covenant of mutual confidence and protection between the extremes of our Commonwealth,* or typical of a *closer sisterly affection between the cities of Erie and Philadelphia—and such I trust it may prove to be.*"

MUD AND DUST.—The people of New York are moving against the mud and dust in the streets—not by shovels and sprinklers, but by public meetings and resolutions.—*Exchange.*

What right have they to do that? Have they asked Buffalo? Have they asked Cleveland? If not, then what right have they to hold meetings, and pass resolutions denouncing *any thing* in their streets. Buffalo and Cleveland have, or they think they have, the supervision of all the streets in the different cities of the Union, and nothing must be removed without their consent.

The Homestead Bill.

We are glad the popular Branch of our national Legislature has had the good sense to pass, by a decided vote, the Homestead bill introduced by Hon. JOHN L. DAWSON, of this State; and we trust it will as promptly pass the Senate. We confess we have had our fears about the Senate, but we are becoming hopeful. It is one of those bills in which the masses are deeply interested; one which proposes to confer innumerable benefits, not only upon the "landless" individually of this generation, but its effect must be to build up a class of small proprietors of the soil who will transmit to their posterity all the virtues incident to an industrious agricultural community, and thus sow the seed of benefits untold to the future history of our confederacy.

But there is another consideration why we desire that the Homestead Bill should become a law. If there ever was a system fraught with evil, it is a system of internal improvements by the General Government. It requires no argument to prove this. The simple history of all such experiments by government is all that is required to establish the proposition. So true is this, that the experiment had hardly been tried before it became an intollerable stench in the nostrils of the entire people, and when Gen. JACKSON, with that sagacity so peculiar to him, put his veto upon it in the person of the Maysville road bill, he was hailed universally as the true guardian of the people's rights. That act put an end to the system for the time being, but it has developed itself to an alarming extent, under an old guise, within a few years. We refer, of course, to the practice of donating certain portions of the public domain to companies to enable them to construct such improvements In this system, the simple proposition that all such improvements benefit the country through which they are constructed, and thus are advantageous to the people, no one disputes; and least of all do we. We acknowledge, too, that so far as the Government is concerned it is not a bad paying investment, for by the system of only donating every other section to the Railroad companies, the residue is enhanced in value, and the coffers of the treasury thereby replenished. But we are yet to learn that it is the mission of this government to become a speculator upon the people. In other words, it is repugnant to our ideas of republicanism that the *creature* of the people; the Government, should enter into a compact with a *few* of its *creators,* to speculate off of the balance. But the worst feature of all, is the tendency the system has to create in our midst a class, and not a small one either, of extensive land proprietors. And this, the system of donating land to internal improvement companies, does to an alarming extent. It was bad enough that the country should pay its debts of gratitude to its gallant soldiers with donations of the public domain, to be snapped up for a song by greedy speculators, but it is infinitely worse—yea, a thousand times worse, to give it away by states to such combinations as the Illinois Central Railroad Company, and its counterparts in the other western States.

Pass the Homestead Bill and this system is at an end. The speculators that now surround the National Capital will be driven back to their legitimate calling; and the powerful combinations that are forming to succeed them, should they prove successful, will disband like a nest of pirates at the sight of a seventy-four. And hence it is that we rejoire that the popular Branch of the National Legislature has spoke its approbation of the measure in such emphatic terms. It is a triumph of humanity over corporations and combinations, and we have hopes the Senate will so view it. That body knows that the true foundation of a great State is in an agricultural population of small proprietors, owning farms sufficient for comfortable living—a hardy, independent and intelligent race. Commerce may amass wealth more rapidly, and manufactures may assist to develope agriculture; but no nation has ever been permanently powerful, much less free, without a yeomanry class. The Homestead Bill seeks to foster such a class. Under its benign influence, should it pass into a law, the great prairies west of the Mississippi will speedily "blossom like the rose," and become, to all time, the home of an industrious, well-informed, and free agricultural population.

☞ The consistency of the anti-Nebraska agitators is excruciating. They talk about that "solemn compact," the Missouiri Compromise, as though they had not for years been endeavoring to bring that same "compact" to an end. They talk about "plighted faith" as though they had observed any "faith" but "Punic faith" upon the slavery question. They forget that they carried the slavery prohibition clause in the Oregon bill, notwithstanding that "solemn compact" was then in existence, and if it *had* any binding force, such a prohibition was unnecessary. They forgot they attempted to engraft the same prohibition upon New Mexico and California when bills were introduced to establish territorial governments for them, notwithstanding both territories were, by the terms of this "solemn compact," this "plighted faith," delivered over, as they call it, to slavery. Verily, we repeat, their consistency is excruciating! and hence we cannot refrain from noting still another instance of their desire to observe this "solemn compact." When Arkansas, a State formed out of territory south 36 degrees 30 minutes, applied for admission neither good faith or the "solemnity" of the "compact" prevented JOHN QUINCY ADAMS from removing an anti-slavery condition to her admission; which received the votes of a large portion of the Representatives from the North. *Then* the Missouri line was not so "sacred" as *now.* Oh! the hypocrisy of abolitionism. On *one* side of the line it has always been right to "violate," but *not* on *the other.*

☞ James C. Vandyke, Esq., has been appointed by the President, U. S. District Attorney for the Eastern District of this State. Mr. Vandyke has the reputation of being a good lawyer—we know that he is an active and influential Democrat, and has done much for the party in Philadelphia. The leading papers of his city contained congratulatory notices of his appointment.

☞ The Crawford *Democrat* will be satisfied with Mr. Ball's bill for the disposal of the Western road, provided the subscription of 2000 shares to the Pittsburg and Erie road, is increased to 5000, and that expended on the French Creek route.

☞ In accordance with permission granted by the Legislature, the New-York & Erie Bank has been removed from Dunkirk, and an office opened in the Patchin Bank Building, Buffalo.

☞ Our Harbor has been clear of ice for some time, but what is the use of it with railroads running a mile and a half away from it.

A Lesson to Timid Men.

Under this head the new Democratic paper at Harrisburg, "*The Pennsylvania Patriot,*" as a commentary upon the present pregnant aspect of political affairs, remarks that there is *one* fact which stands out in the history of politics in unchallenged distinctness. It is a whole volume for reflection, and a massive argument against unjust agitators that dare not be confuted. We allude to the fact that almost every great reform which benefits the country, has been carried by the Democratic party in the face of the most embittered and persevering assaults. We have only to recall the Bank of the United States, the Independent Treasury, the repeal of the bankrupt law, the annexation of Texas, the war with Mexico, and the Compromise Measures of 1850. Take them up, one by one. The history of each is, as we have said, a volume full of instruction. How our opponents raved! How they threatened! How they swore! How they prophesied! The number of men who were to be annihilated for supporting each of these measures were appalling Some of those who did, were a little worried by temporary or local troubles. Some were defeated straight out; and some were got back into public life again; but the aggregate was good—the sequel—and the speedy sequel to each was healthy and compensatory Some of the violent and angry men who undertook to anticipate events, and to unite history according to their own mad impulses, lived long enough to correct themselves, and to do justice to the measures and the men whom they had maligned.—There are no monuments of those transactions that do not record the triumph of bold and upright men, and the defeat of the timid and the doubting

☞ When "*Ik Marvel,*" in his "*Bachelor,*" described the various kinds of Cockneys to be met with along the path way of life, there was one species he had never met or large The class we refer to is a very common one; hence, as "Ik" is a very close observer we cannot account for the omission. Be ours the task then to fill the niche left by the author we refer to The Cockney of which we speak can be found in almost every country four-corners; and what is more he is of almost every age, from ten to forty. If a man, although at home he feeds on mush-and-milk, when abroad no delicacies are good enough for him. Corn-lodgers are excellent at his own board, but gracious, what airs he will put on at the table of one of our first class hotels. The bill of fare is execrable; the servants are no servants at all, and the House itself is a miserable affair. The Younger Cockney will save all his odd pennies, and some day he will pay a flying visit to Erie, and then when he returns, what a swagger he'll have. None of his young companions can come within a rod of him. If this species of the young Cockney, on the other hand, has always lived in Erie, why, the first odd change he can get, he'll slip off to Buffalo, and then *he's* traveled; and for a year after it you can hear him, over his game of marbles, describing how they do things in Buffalo, and lamenting his hard fate in being compelled to live in such a dull place as Erie. Of this latter species are the Editors of the *Rough Notes,* in Buffalo. A few months ago one of the Cockneys of the *Notes* lived over in the back-woods of Warren, where they rejoice in a horse-back mail once a week, and are thankful for that But vaulting ambition, and a hankering after the fleshpots of the railroads, drew him from his wooden retreat, and he is now swelling like a true Cockney over his connection with a Buffalo paper. The other, a few years since, was a journeyman in this office, from whence he migrated to the back-woods of Livingston, and finally to Buffalo. All this is nothing to their discredit—not at all; it is rather to their credit, if they would not "put on airs" and play the "Cockney." In a word, when they sneeringly talk about "two or three letters and a half a dozen papers flooding the Erie Post Office daily," they should recollect that they themselves have not yet got the *country* moisture dried up behind their ears, and that none but the most verdant of country Cockneys sneer at their own country origin

DARING ROBBERY.—A daring robbery was committed in Pittsburgh on the 10th, inst. John Hastings, Collector of the Port, was knocked down and his pocket picked of $250, a gold watch and the keys of the Custom House and safe.—The robbers then entered the Custom House, and stole a box containing $10,000 in 20 gold pieces. Mr Hastings was considerably injured. An investigation was had before the Mayor the next day, but no clue to the robbers was obtained. The following is the testimony of the Physician called to attend Mr. Hastings:

"Dr. George M'Cook being sworn, deposeth and saith: I was called upon to see Mr Hastings last night, between 8 and 8½ o'clock, P. M. I went along with the messenger to his residence in Allegheny City, and found him in a very critical position. I found him literally pulseless, with a very cold skin, scarcely able to articulate distinctly, with marks of violence upon the front part of his throat, indicating clearly that the main arteries and veins of the throat had been compressed by that violence, and thereby retarding the return of blood from the brain to the heart. I also found marks of violence upon the most prominent part of the parietal bones on both sides of the head, produced, as I inferred, by the application of the force of a foreign body, which in my opinion indubirably induced the depressed condition of the system previously described. There was also an extreme difficulty in swallowing as well as of utterance. My opinion is, beyond a question, from the facts of the case, that the injuries were the result of an attempt to assasinate. He was not fully conscious when I first saw him. I think it was about an hour and three quarters from the time, when I supposed the accident to have occurred, until I saw him."

☞ A funny cotemporary of ours says he does not think the ladies can be "*head-over-ears* in love" with the present style of bonnets. He is probably correct, for we notice they generally *turn their back on 'em!*

☞ We were shown a letter on Thursday to a business firm in this city, from a forwarding House in Cincinnati, informing them that the railroad companies of that city refused to transport a lot of Hides to this place which he had in store for them, and which he had just received from New Orleans. Here is another outrage for the *Rough Notes* to palliate, but for fear it will not do it, we respectfully call the attention of the Governor and the Legislature to the fact

☞ New Hampshire has just held her annual election, and notwithstanding the "great cry and little wool" got up over Nebraska, the Democracy have knocked the feet out from under the whigs and Abolitionists combined. So be it ever, and so will it ever be.

☞ S. J. GOODRICH, Esq., has resumed his connection with the Warren *Ledger.* Good!

From Washington

(Correspondence of the Erie Observer.)

WASHINGTON, March 1[illegible]

Blue Birds, Robins, Shad and Herring—Fillmore and its Fate—The Gardiner entitle[illegible] and the Black Warrior—Pacific Railroad—Nebraska Bill—A Sunday Ramble.

I see you people up North are taking a [illegible] blue-bird," and the "first robin" of spring, such small things were novelties. Why, [illegible] souls, robins and blue-birds "aint now [illegible] Potomac Shad. No-sir-ee! Give a [illegible] spring and you make him happy [illegible] Without it he is miserable. Hence [illegible] chivalry" hurrying down to the market with a big darkie behind, bent upon having [illegible] coffee. "Like master, like man," is a good [illegible] this case it holds good, for while the [illegible] kind upon Shad, the darkie is "death [illegible] ring," vast quantities of which are [illegible] sandria and put up, dried and smoked [illegible] well cured, they are not bad eating [illegible] you have never visited the spot where [illegible] witnessed the operation of dressing the [illegible] you to your stomach at the sight of [illegible]

The Homestead bill, you see, went through [illegible] a decided majority, and is now in the [illegible] What its fate will be there I have [illegible] still adhere to that prediction, though [illegible] the signs are more encouraging than [illegible] Gen. Cass' emphatic avowal of friendship [illegible] has no doubt given it strength. H[illegible] weight upon either side of any measure [illegible] many argue that he can and will carry [illegible] through. I hope he may, but will forgive [illegible] in the Senate—it has such a firm hold [illegible] and affections, and, in fact, thoughts [illegible] gill" who occupy seats in that body [illegible] begging will prove too strong for [illegible]

The suicide, after conviction, of Dr. Harmon [illegible] a profound sensation here. You, of course [illegible] great deal about this matter, for the press [illegible] has blown its merits and demerits far [illegible] thousand, [illegible] very certain that he was [illegible] has decided that he was, there are a few [illegible] him innocent. I am not of that number [illegible] in his course that to me can alone be [illegible] of two hypotheses. It will be recollected [illegible] obtained his award from the Commissioners [illegible] his money, a part with a Washington [illegible] believe, in New York, and then with a [illegible] pocket for the full amount he departed [illegible] his arrival out he learnt that the claim [illegible] claim was a fraud, and he could then [illegible] ter of credit, have secured all his money [illegible] But he did no such thing. He returned [illegible] his accusers and there he has remained [illegible] two long years, although the bail which [illegible] "straw bail," being simply a portion [illegible] the Government had seized, and which was [illegible] hands of certain gentlemen by the [illegible] purpose of going through the form of [illegible] cumstances have an appearance of [illegible] To rebut them, the Government in sought [illegible] evidence overwhelming in its character [illegible] all its details. Therefore, I am forced [illegible] Gardiner in returning to this country [illegible] conviction that, as one of his own [illegible] *the cabinet,* as others were influential [illegible] an almost impossibility in disproving [illegible] try, that he could fight it out, and [illegible] tigation by falling through, would [illegible] instead of his disgrace. The trial will [illegible] him, as well as the extraordinary [illegible] ken by the Government in sending [illegible] Mexico, prove that Gardiner [illegible] difficulty which presented itself [illegible] is not evident the unhappy man [illegible] fear, instance, to return, by [illegible] of detection, and in his subsequent [illegible] of despair which induced him to [illegible] money and reputation; and [illegible] refuge in the tomb for his [illegible] acts. If this was all, few would [illegible] just, but alas the blow falls not alone [illegible] to have been married, had he been [illegible] plished and beautiful lady of [illegible] the blow must fall with crushing [illegible] and public opinion may decide, she [illegible] down him innocent. How fathomless [illegible] man's [illegible]

Well, the prospect is pretty f