

California—Further Items of News.

We have further advices from California by the Northern Light, at New York. The dates from San Francisco are to the 1st. The L. A. brought 82 passengers and about seven hundred thousand dollars in gold. The political news is not of much interest. The excitement still continued relative to the election of U. S. Senator, and there had been no action thus far. Sacramento has been designated as the State capital, and the Legislature was to meet there on the 1st inst. This action gave some offence to the authorities at Benicia that they refused to let the steambot, ordered to convey the State records, lie at the wharf until a charge of five hundred dollars was paid. The Alta California of the 1st inst. furnishes the following summary of mining intelligence:

The weather has not, at any time since the discovery of gold, been so favorable for mining as during the last month, and there probably was never comparatively so large an amount of gold dug. During the fortnight there have been three or four days of fine rain, and the mines continue to be plentifully supplied with water. The Cherokee Flat diggings have proved to be quite as rich as reported, and are said to be the richest ever found in the State. Three hundred shafts were taken out in a few hours, but the shaft, when about 28 feet deep, filled with water so rapidly that the company cannot work without a steam pump to carry off the water. About fifteen acres on the flat have been staked off in claims, some of which are paying exceedingly well. An excitement similar to that of 1849 prevailed.

At Iowa Hill a number of tunnels have been made, and the earth has been found unusually rich. At Santa Anita, about 18 miles from Los Angeles, diggings have been opened. Gold has been known for a long time to exist throughout the neighborhood in small quantities, but the diggings found promise to pay. There are now about seventy-five persons engaged in working and prospecting these mines. Water is scarce at the diggings, which are, besides, the property of Senor Duarte, being on his ranch. The Sacramento Union of the same date, says:

In all sections of the mining region the news is good, miners are doing well, and the quantity of gold to be taken out during the succeeding months promises to be very heavy. It is now increasing with astonishing rapidity. Under the increased production of gold, business is fast recuperating, and for the next two months we anticipate for our merchants a pretty fair harvest.

There had been considerable excitement at San Francisco on the subject of an alleged illegal proceeding on the part of Justice Alexander Wells, of the Supreme Court. Several notorious persons were engaged in a riot on the afternoon of the 17th February, and were arrested by the police, some when in the act, and others under warrants. That night, about twelve o'clock, application was made to Judge Wells and he ordered them to be discharged from custody, until the next day at 11 o'clock. The arrested persons were many of them intoxicated at the time, and no sooner got out than they threatened to return to the court, and were viciously beaten and abused, and began again their riotous conduct. This course of Judge Wells caused great excitement among the police who talked of resigning in a body. The next day at the hour appointed for the hearing of the above anomalous writ of "habeas corpus," no one appeared on the part of the people, the marshal sending in a message that he could not appear with the police as they had not been in his custody for twelve hours. Thereupon the Judge discharged the rioters from arrest.

The papers very generally condemn the conduct of Judge Wells, and some hint the propriety of reviving the action of the "vigilance committee." A resolution of inquiry into the matter was introduced in the Legislature, and rejected for the reason that the charges had not been brought in proper form before it.

A judgment for \$34,000, bearing three per cent monthly interest, was rendered against Col. J. C. Fremont, in the District Court of San Francisco, on the 16th. The amount was for certain bills drawn by G. W. Harton, Indian agent in 1851, upon the Secretary of the Interior, and by the latter dishonored.

Late from Texas—More Indian Outrages.

The steamship *Perseverance* arrived at New Orleans on the 19th inst., with Galveston news to the 17th. The papers are filled with accounts of outrages by the Indians. A letter to the *True Delta*, dated Fort Belknap, Feb. 10th, says: On Sunday, the 12th February, a most barbarous murder was committed on the Fort Worth road, within five miles of Fort Belknap, by one of the bands of Indians inhabiting the Wichita mountains. The perpetrators are supposed to be the Wichita or Waco Indians; they have been roaming over this part of Texas, more or less, during most of the winter, stealing horses, and killing and driving off cattle.

In a recent letter, Mr. Jesse Stem, the ex-Indian Agent for this part of Texas, has left this place, accompanied by his family, to visit his relatives and friends in Ohio. He reached his home in safety and health, and after a short sojourn there, in company with several others returned to this country. At Shreveport, in Texas, the company separated; those having charge of some wagons pursuing their journey and reaching this place in safety. Mr. Stem and Mr. Lepperson remained behind to attend to some business, expecting to overtake the wagons before they would reach Belknap. They were delayed by some illness, and on leaving Shreveport they reached the wagon on the Fort Worth road, within five miles of Fort Belknap, and within fourteen miles of Belknap, when some part of the hired wagon broke, which it was necessary to repair before the journey could be completed.

Leaving the broken wagon in charge of the driver, Messrs. Stem and Lepperson pursued their journey, expecting to reach the Fort by sundown. On Monday morning, before daylight, the driver started on horseback, with the broken part of the wagon, to the place; for the purpose of having it repaired. About daylight, the horse the driver was riding shied round something by the roadside, which, as he says, he supposed to be two persons asleep, in their shirt sleeves, and not wishing to disturb them or to be disturbed, he was glad to pass on unmolested. He reached the Fort and inquired for Messrs. Stem and Lepperson, but could hear nothing of them. He then related the occurrence of the previous day, and suspicion began to be manifested. Preparations were made to start out on the Fort Worth road, with the view of obtaining if possible, some information in regard to the expected gentlemen, when a person rode into Belknap, and reported that, in hunting for cattle, he discovered two dead bodies at the roadside, and without alighting from his horse, rode into the Fort and gave the sad intelligence.

Major Merrill, commanding the garrison, sent out a wagon, accompanied by a number of his command, and caused the dead bodies to be brought into the Fort. The skull of Mr. Stem was broken, the jaw-bone broken, and a wound on the side with a sharp instrument. Mr. Lepperson's skull was broken and shattered, and one of his arms also broken. Near the bodies was also found an old rifle, the stock all shattered to pieces, and the barrel very much bent. A pair of muskets a good covering were also found near the spot—the same as used by the Wichita and Waco. The bodies were interred on Tuesday, 14th February, in the burial ground attached to the post. Nothing was ascertained as to the names of the perpetrators of the crime, except the two coats and hats. Their watches, breast-pins and money were left, apparently untouched. The two mules attached to

THE NEWS AND BREVITIES.

Ten dollar bills of the Waterbury bank, Conn., altered from ones, are in circulation. Capt. James McManis, aged 100 years died at Carlisle, Pa., on Tuesday. The man who drives his business has just purchased new reins and a whip. Trinity Church was burnt in Cleveland, March 30th, together with a large boarding house adjoining. It is said the Williamsport and Elmira and the Catskill railroads, will be finished by July, thus connecting Philadelphia with Buffalo. The Japan squadron, it is reported, has been recalled, but it is supposed Com. Perry will pay his second visit to Japan before he receives his recall. Martin Kosta is now in Chicago, at the residence of Mr. Kedgie, a lawyer. He has been offered a situation in the State Bank of that city. Titles.—In Demerara every one is "Esq." that wears shoes and stockings. In Pennsylvania every one is a Colonel who asks a commission of the Governor. The length of the Mississippi River and its numerous branches is fifty-one thousand miles, of which twenty thousand miles are navigable waters. An Exchange paper says, that forgetting to pay your small bills and robbing a horse-car are the same thing in Dutch, only a little differently expressed. In Cincinnati on a trial before the Police Court, it came out that many hundreds of barrels of blood are annually used in that city, for making sweet wine. Christopher Fallon, Esq., has been elected President of West Chester and Pikesville Railroad Company, in place of John Butler, Esq., resigned. Forrest, the actor, is said to be a believer in spiritual rapings, because he attends the services of the Fox girls, one of whom is a baron and pretty lady. Mr. Buchanan's Residence.—It is stated that for a respectable and decently furnished house occupied by Mr. Buchanan, in London, he pays an annual rent of \$3,581 60—more than a third of the salary attached to his office.

On the 11th, at Allegan, Mich., one Clements, killed his father, a man of 70, by chopping him down with an axe, and intended to kill his brother. He is not insane, though the lawyers will probably make him so on trial. Last month by the sinking of an overloaded boat carrying passengers to a steamer on Lake Nicaragua, 45 persons, returning from California, were drowned, many being carried down by the wind on their persons. What Next?—Among the patents issued from the Patent Office during the last week, is one to C. V. Ament, of Danville, New York, "for improvement in devices for preserving hens' eggs in the nest." Smith O'Brien.—It is said that it was at the solicitation of the Hon. James Buchanan, the U. S. Minister, that Smith O'Brien was pardoned, Mr. B. having previously urged the measure at an interview with Lord Clarendon. The last discovery of gold we hear of is that made by a farmer of Megantic, near Black Lake, Canada, who found four pieces of the precious metal in the gizzard of one of his ducks, which frequented a brook on his farm. A Miss Freeman was accidentally shot on the 10th inst., at Greensburg, Union county, Ind. She took hold of a loaded gun and placed it to the side of her head, saying jocosely "look here!" to her friend, when it went off, killing her instantly. Some one is anxious to know why the French and English fleets have gone together to the Black Sea. Our plain answer is, that the combined movement is made with the view of settling accounts with Nicholas by double entry.

PHILANTHROPY.—In the sixth story of the Sun office, in New York, there have been fitted up sleeping, reading, and lecture rooms for the especial benefit of the new-borns of New York. Mr. Tracy, the superintendent, reports that on Saturday night there were twenty-five beds occupied by lodgers. A locomotive, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, when near Wheeling, recently ran over a valuable cow that was eating a piece of hay, and knocked her all to pieces. The calf so suddenly brought into this breathing world, escaped unhurt, and at last accounts was alive and well. That calf should be called McDuff, or Julius Caesar. We learn from the Raleigh Star that an extensive bed of porcelain clay has been discovered on the North Carolina Central Railroad, a few miles below Neuse river. While it is a serious obstacle to laying the rails, being so soft that timbers laid upon it soon sink out of sight, it may prove to be a valuable discovery. In a cut on the same road, near Mount Moriah, a bed of magnesia has been discovered. THE NEW CENT.—The Bunker Hill Aurora says: "We understand that the proposed new cent is to be of white metal, resembling silver in appearance, with a round and slightly raised edge. It is about 8-10ths of an inch in diameter, and has a quarter cent raised on its twenty-five cent piece. There is not to be any hole in the coin, as has been suggested in some of the papers. It may be readily distinguished, we think, from other coins of about the same size, and will be a very great convenience.

A SINGULAR LAWYER.—The *Troy Whig* says that a lawyer of a decidedly novel character is now a leading topic of conversation in the gossiping circles of that city. Several weeks since, at the Odd Fellows' ball in Troy, a careless waiter upset a service of coffee upon a lady's dress, ruining the garment, which was valued at seventy-five dollars. The gentleman who attended the lady has prosecuted the person who furnished the supper to recover the value of the dress. Three times in the present century has wheat reached the high figure of two dollars a bushel in the valley of Genesee. In 1816, by reason of a remarkably cold summer and a very short crop—in 1839, by a somewhat protracted season and neglect of agriculture for purposes of trade and speculation, compelling the large importation of breadstuffs from Europe; and in 1854 by reason of short crops in Western and Central Europe, and the war between Russia and Turkey. If ever there was a real hero—a hero in the highest and truest sense of the word, the pilot of the ill-fated steamer *Caroline*, lately burnt on the Mississippi, may well lay claim to the title. His name was John R. Crane. When the fire broke out, he felt that all depended on him, and he was staunch to his trust. In the midst of the whirlwind of flame he stood by the wheel, and guided the vessel to the only safe land within eight or three miles round, and as the steamer struck, jumped overboard and was drowned. He died in the performance of his duty, from which he did not shrink in the most appalling moment.

A correspondent of the *Detroit Register*, in speaking of the Saginaw Indians, says: "Some of these Indians are intense wagers in their own way. One of them, having given a trader some annoyance, was told that if he was again with a bottle, it would be taken from him and thrown into the fire. A few days after the Indian appeared with his pint flask in his blanket, as usual, but the trader was as good as his word, and demanded the bottle, which the Indian gave up and started for the door. The trader threw the flask into the stove, upon which the bottle burst, and out came the flames, and the trader following close behind. The next time that man burns an Indian's whisky bottle, he will examine it, to see that it is not of the 'pint' size." The largest and most disastrous fire we have recorded since the 10th of April 1845, occurred in Birmingham, opposite the eastern end of this city yesterday (Saturday), by which upwards of one hundred houses and stores have been left in ruins, and at least two hundred families rendered homeless. About 2 o'clock in the afternoon fire was discovered issuing from the packing house, belonging to the glass manufactory of C. H. Manan & Co. in the western end of Birmingham. The wind was cold and blowing a perfect hurricane. The fire broke out, and the flames spread with tremendous rapidity, so that in a few minutes the adjoining buildings were enveloped in one wild and raging flame of fire and smoke. It soon communicated to Gregg's lead factory and saw-mill, and next to twelve frame houses close by, which were all in a flame and consumed so rapidly that the occupants had barely time to escape with their lives. (We may just add, that Mr. John D. Davis had just a short time since, purchased the last named twelve houses.) Between Grosvenor and M'Kee streets, forty buildings were entirely destroyed, and by the force of the wind, sparks and burning pieces of shingles were carried to Bradford street, where some frame buildings caught, and still raging most fearfully along Bradford and DeWan streets, (known as Cholera Hollow) upwards of sixty dwellings and stores were left in smoking ruins. Great excitement prevailed throughout the borough, and one time was thought that the whole upper part of the town would be burned down, but happily the wind took a change to the southward, and by the efforts of firemen and citizens, the flames were checked about six o'clock. It is estimated that about three hundred families were compelled to move from their houses; about a hundred, however, in the vicinity of the fire, would return to their homes. The hill-side was covered with furniture, and distressed families running to and fro, suffering from cold, rain, &c. We have not heard an estimate of the loss, but it is very great. Mr. H. has had a large supply of glass, &c., and his loss will be heavy. The packing house and black bottle factory, together with their contents, were entirely destroyed. The Pittsburgh firemen were promptly on the ground and rendered efficient service; some exceptions must be made, however, as we learn some of them were beastly intoxicated, and disgraced themselves by their conduct in the streets; we regret to say to this, but the firemen should be their guard and not allow such conduct. It was certainly the work of an incendiary, as there had not been any fire in the room where it originated.—*Pitts. Journal*.

News from Colonel Fremont's Party.

It is known that this gentleman has attempted to make the trip across the country, through the Coastochee pass, to California, in the winter, to test its practicability for a railroad route. It was in the vicinity of this pass, a few years ago, that his party met with such terrible reverses. For his enterprise in this matter, which is undertaken at his own individual expense, he deserves the commendation of the community. Until a few days ago, we had received no information from him or his party. It will be remembered that at the outset Colonel Fremont was taken sick, and returned from the Missouri to this city, where he remained some time. In the meanwhile his party proceeded him to the plains. Lord Fitzwilliam, who returned a few days ago from the plains, informs us that he arrived at Bent's House, situated about two miles below the River de los Animas, a tributary of the Arkansas, at the Point Rock in the Big Timber, on the same day that Colonel Fremont left, but did not see or speak to him. At Bent's House he learned that the Colonel had lost at Salt Creek, on the Crow River, seven animals, and afterwards had five more stolen from him by the Cheyennes. These Indians subsequently said they stole them, supposing they belonged to the Delaware in the Colonel's party. His party, before he overtook them, had consumed most of his provisions, at least that which was desirable for the Plains—and he was compelled to recruit in horses and provisions at the Bent's House. The impression was that this man, who had been encamped at Salt Creek some time before his arrival, had destroyed most of his provisions for the journey. The last snow which Lord Fitzwilliam met with was at Petty Encampment, about 240 miles from the Mountains qui Bruille creek, down the mountains of the Great New York, was visited much of the Oregon and Washington Territory, Puget's Sound, and Vancouver's Island, and as he is familiar with Western life, has been able to make many useful observations. He is on his return to England.—*St. Louis Republican*.

RAPID GROWTH OF THE WEST.—The *Chicago Tribune*, speaking of the rapid development and growth of prosperity possessed by the Great West, says: The West is still in its infancy. It has not yet passed out of its teens. Nineteen years ago there were less than five thousand white inhabitants in all the vast region of beautiful country lying between Lake Michigan and the Pacific Ocean! Now the number is between one and two millions! Twelve years ago Chicago contained a population of 5,000. Now it has over 60,000! Twelve years ago, eight or twelve days passage between Chicago and New York, was considered a long time in the most favorable season. Now two days is the average, and it is soon to be reduced to but three hours more than one day! Six years ago, Chicago had not a single foot of railroad completed, and only one in contemplation. Now it has 482 miles contemplated in the limits of the State alone, and over 2,000 in process of construction. Fifteen years ago, the people of Chicago bought a large part of their breadstuffs and provisions from the State of New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. Now there is exported from this city each year, 5,000,000 bushels of grain, and 120,000 barrels of beef and pork.

ERIC WEEKLY OBSERVER.

ERIE, P. A. SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 1, 1854. DEMOCRATIC STATE NOMINATIONS.

FOR GOVERNOR: WILLIAM BIGLER, Of Clearfield County. JUDGES OF SUPREME COURT: JEREMIAH S. BLACK, Of Somerset County. FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER: HENRY S. MOTT, Of Pike County.

We will endeavor to answer the *Gazette* fully, fairly and satisfactorily, in our next. In the mean time allow us to assure our contemporaries that there is nothing in our past course, or present position, upon which one ought to base even a surmise that we are in favor of the amendment to the Nebraska bill proposed by the whig Senator from Delaware, Mr. Clayton. We never have admired either that Senator as a man, or his political course, and least of all his last "hard" upon the Nebraska bill! Nearly all our Merchants have bought their Spring Stock in Philadelphia, instead of New York. A good indication that Erie and Philadelphia will soon become "one and indivisible" by means of the Sunbury road.

No news of importance from Europe this week. The last accounts do not show any better prospects of peace than that of a previous date. Our friend of the *Warren Ledger* should not be so touchy. We intended no slur at the isolated condition of Warren, in our handling of the *Rough Notes*. The remark was simply made to show how ridiculous it was in a man, who had just emerged from the "back-woods," to make mouths at those still there, as the *Notes* man had at us. Is the *Ledger* satisfied; if not we'll have to tell Maj. Lynch's story about their Post office stamps! The latest returns from New Hampshire foot up 157 Coalitionists to 151 Democrats in the House. The *Observer* will have to "knock in."—*Gazette*.

This is the way we "knock in." The vote in 213 town for Governor is as follows: Baker, (democrat) 29,122 Bell, (whig) 16,821 Perkins, (free-soil) 10,988 Democratic majority 1,363 Thirteen small towns to be heard from, which last year gave 361 democratic majority. Baker's majority will, therefore, be about 1700. To the Senate eight democrats and two coalitionists are chosen; no choice in two districts. When the vacancies are filled, there will be— Democrats 10 Opposition 2 The House of Representatives stands thus: Democrats 161 Whigs and Free Soilers 145 Three to be heard from in Coos, which will all democrat last year, and will be so this. Then the list will stand— Democrats 164 Opposition 145 Democratic majority 19

The editor of the *Concord Patriot*, upon whose authority we give these results, and upon whose tables we rely, says, "We have no doubt that the majority in the House will be about nineteen on all test questions between the Democracy and the opposing factions. It is a larger and more reliable majority than we had in 1847, when the Democracy carried every party measure proposed and every candidate nominated; and we have no doubt that the result will be the same now. True, they are small when compared with last year; but there was no contest then, and we carried everything. But, when compared with 1847, 1848, 1851, and 1852, our present majorities, in all branches, will be found above the average."

It will be seen by this that the *Gazette's* New Hampshire's victory is like most whig victories—achieved before the votes are counted. The Westfield *Traveller* tells its readers that a gentleman of that village is about to erect a "brick harness store." It will be a curiosity when done, no doubt. Where is Barum? S. L. Porter, Esq., has been appointed Post Master at Wesleyville in this county, vice C. HALL, Esq., resigned. Mr. H. has been Post Master at Wesleyville for over sixteen years, during all of which time he has discharged his duty faithfully and efficiently. The new appointment is a good one! HORATIO KING, of Maine has been appointed First Assistant Post Master General, vice S. R. Hobbie, deceased. Mr. K., we believe, was a Clerk in the Department.

THE TREASON.—The *New York Tribune* contained the other day, a letter from Mr. Foote, of New Haven, Connecticut, recommending that the North take measures to dissolve their political connection with what he calls the "slave-breeding and slave-whipping States." The *Tribune* has an editorial comment on this letter, speaking very highly of its author, and equating strongly towards an approval of his project of dissolving the Union. The editor intimates that disunion would be preferable to the policy which he thinks the passage of the Nebraska bill would inaugurate. This is perfectly characteristic of Greeley. He is one of those "reformers" that know how to pull down, but can't build up.

The prohibitory liquor law, now before the Legislature of this State, if it passes, will have to be submitted to the people at the next general election, when if a majority vote in favor, it is to remain in force; but should a majority vote against it, the law to be without effect. The section in regard to the right of search, does not apply to private dwellings. If passed by the Legislature and sanctioned by the people, the law will go into operation on the 22d February, 1855. If we may believe the census every person in the United States owns a horse; and every one's "horse" to bring it home immediately. We want it!

GOOD.—The Baltimore correspondent of the *Journal of Commerce* states, on the authority of Mr. Astor, President of the American Colonization Society, that the late decision in regard to the McDougall will, among other things, for forty years, save \$20,000 per annum to the society.

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Twenty Years of Trials and Triumphs.

Nearly every great advantage secured to the country, in the assertion and application of principle to government, has been achieved by the Democratic party against powerful combinations of personal prejudices and personal interests. It is singular how unvarying this rule has been maintained from the first. We can hardly point out an exception to it. From the present point of view it is profitable to look back upon the past, and, as the long procession of events glides through the memory, to refresh ourselves for other emergencies. We find that every few years furnish repeated evidences of the truth of our declarations. Take the last twenty years as an instance. The retrospect shows to us nearly the same men engaged in every crusade against the Democratic party, and always the same weapons. Between 1830 and 1840 there was a series of struggles between these men armed with the same weapons, and that great party. Take the case of the Bank of the United States. During the contest upon that question the war upon the Democracy was conducted with almost inhuman violence. It invaded the family circle, made brothers personal enemies, and ended in throwing both houses of Congress into the hands of the opposition. The Democracy were literary minority; and the remark was almost proverbial, that a new party was about to rise upon the ruins of that great organization which had so long defied the battle and the breeze. The great commercial cities were made to howl with the bitter denunciations of disappointed and reckless men.—The money power reigned supreme; and the timid and the dependent, to save themselves from the tortures of the bank, surrendered at discretion, and aided to swell the ranks of an infuriated party. All this is now that history which has been wisely called "philosophy teaching by example." What followed? A speedy overthrow of a passionate faction; a full and eloquent vindication of the great Chief in whose name the moneyed power had been stricken down; and a rapid realization, far beyond the most favorable anticipations, of solid and sterling blessings to a people rescued from the fangs of a monster which first controlled the gigantic system of American commerce, and then aspired to trample the government itself under foot. The Democrats, a few years before, beaten and abused, assailed by every epithet that could be invented, preached against from pulpits, railed at by public meetings, and voted down at the polls, quietly resumed their place in the front rank of parties, and vigorously pursued the same reforms in which they had been temporarily stayed.

After this, not to mention other trials, we had the great panic in the money market, which once more enabled the whig opposition to unsettle the Democracy, and to go into the government with all its wild and reckless schemes. Defeat overtook us in 1840, and the enemies of sound legislation started with every prospect of continued success. A great question, however, rising like an unexpected lion in the flowery paths of rural peace, soon frightened the whigs from their property, and hurried them into all those excesses which prove how singularly they misunderstand the American people. We allude the annexation of Texas. At once the old actors and the old tricksters made their appearance. Political preachers railed against it through repeated Sundays and multitudes of sermons. Abolition anticipations, freighted with pictures of New Territories overrun with slaves, and New States added to swell the "slave power in Congress," were published to the four winds of Heaven. Even Mr. Clay altered, with his high hopes of the future and his warm hold upon the people, while the little politicians, new so busy against Franklin Pierce, and the noisy factionists, now so eager to renew their claims upon a doubtful notoriety, delighted in the occasion to misrepresent and to calumniate, and counted upon the defeat of the Democracy as inevitably sure. But the Democracy stood firm. Fearlessly they upheld the right; ably they defended their positions, and gloriously they succeeded in 1844. From that period to 1848 "one great reform" trod upon another's heels—so fast they followed. The tariff of 1846—the war with Mexico—the acquisition of California—the chief achievements of that eventful era, consummated in defiance of all sorts of machinations, and in the face of frequent defeat and defeat. The next great event was the compromise measure of 1850—that commanding act of peace which fully closed the half century of constitutional freedom, and fully sealed the last grand triumph of Democratic consistency, courage, and patriotism. In this, as in all that preceded it, the Democracy bore the brunt of the fight. The whigs and the abolitionists, as now, constituted the bulk of the opposition; and the triumph, when last obtained, after three long years of conflict, was achieved in spite of their assaults and their misrepresentations.

Such is a rapid glance at the history of twenty years. It is useful to review such a past; and more especially so, in front of the fact that the party which has stood firm and faithful through all these trials is now stronger than ever, and stands, in unimpaired majesty and power, upon the enduring foundations of its own victorious and well-earned creed. On the other hand, the Democracy has been amply revenged upon the fog of Democratic principles and Democratic legislation. Amid the general warfare and prosperity, while progress and happiness go hand in hand, and extending borders and extending civilization and freedom are convertible terms, the people realize the practical benefits of a consistent party boldly adhering to great truths, until, through disaster and defeat, they are triumphantly applied in the administration of the government. Foremost among those who are aided by this harvest of sound principles are the very men who have vilified and opposed them for twenty years. And what of the future? What of the years beyond? What of the Democratic party of the present day? Questions easily and successfully answered. In the providence of God the Democrats are always called upon to meet and to dispose of great questions. What they have done in other days they must do now; let the temporary consequences be what they may. The ultimate result will be as it has been—the triumph of truth and the downfall of faction. Nor will those who prophesiate evil have long to wait before they shall see their diabolical forebodings scattered to the four winds of Heaven, and in their own increased happiness applaud the success of the measures which they now oppose. It is strange that, in view of the invariable defeat of the efforts of factions and narrow minded agitators, and with the wholesome force of bold and patriotic measures scattered before and around us, there should be found a single public man willing to lend himself to the passing excitement of the day, and afraid to trust himself to the judgment of a patriotic people.—*Washington Union*.

A Good Suggestion.—The Philadelphia Ledger proposes that newspapers should be changed into our common schools. This is a capital idea. It says the newspapers of all school books, as has been practically demonstrated. The great purpose of a common school education is to qualify the scholar for a business life, when he shall arrive at maturity. And for this purpose what school book can be found which can instruct a scholar in a paper which is ever fresh with intelligence, what standard book can be found, that will give the student the inquiries and seek explanation of his teacher? These are important considerations. Mark a man who will see one reading in a monotonous way, and a thing that interests no one in the class, but himself. Try the same class on a good paper, especially if the teacher has been himself, you will quickly note the difference. There is too much theory among teachers, too much subservience to the old style, and among the Directors of our public schools, too short a way is the best, if it attains the end fairly and fully; and the more we know of our children, the quicker and the more liberally they will seize and compass the benefits presented. Certainly newspapers furnish four-fifths of all the reading of business mechanics, after leaving school. They give a perfect history of the times, and a new invention, whether in the arts or in general speculation of philosophy, and frequently they discuss the merits of novelties, faithfully representing both sides, and introduce well conducted papers, free from sectarian ties, and school will cease to be an unwilling witness in the general intelligence of the student, will soon be an improvement too much to admit of doubt, as to the direct influence of change.

They used to send notions to get enormous prices. From present times they would do well to re-examine their country. Lately, hams are quoted at six cents at ten cents a pound—prime could be sold as high as ten cents a pound, and butter sold daily at ten cents to fourteen cents—very choice butter at ten cents. Could it be some of our great plenty of these articles by the next year?

PLAIN TRUTH.—We don't know whether or whether it was wrong for a man to get enormous prices. From present times they would do well to re-examine their country. Lately, hams are quoted at six cents at ten cents a pound—prime could be sold as high as ten cents a pound, and butter sold daily at ten cents to fourteen cents—very choice butter at ten cents. Could it be some of our great plenty of these articles by the next year?

Have you ever observed how a man assumes the storkness of his dicky neck? People elevate him a little! The town is a general thing, the most interesting part the occupant. Some of our local printers put on more airs than the Governor of the State; while we have seen the President of the Missouri Compromise, prohibiting slavery north of 36 deg. 30 min. and allowing it south of that line, did not extend through to the Pacific, therefore there was no inconsistency in insisting upon the incorporation of the Wilmot Proviso in the bill establishing the territory of Oregon. Perhaps the Missouri Compromise did not extend to the Pacific; nevertheless, the fact is clear to our mind that those who enacted it intended that it should, and thought they were establishing the line to that point. If this is not so, then the debates of 1820 are pure nonsense. On the 4th of February 1820, Mr. Hardin, a member from Kentucky, first broached the subject of a Compromise upon the basis of the line of 36 deg. 30 min. In his remarks upon the occasion, he used the following language:

"It strikes me, Mr. Chairman, that this matter can be settled with great facility, if each party be so disposed, and neither give up any point in this controversy. Can it not be done by permitting Missouri to go into the Union without the restriction, and then draw a line from the western boundary of the proposed State of Missouri, due west to the Pacific? North of the line prohibit slavery, and south of it permit it."

So well was it understood that the line was to be extended to the Pacific, that Mr. Stephens, a member from Connecticut, but five days before the concurrence of the two Houses in the bill, in a speech against it, indulged in a criticism by saying that extending the line to the Pacific would not prove a very pacific measure. The following is his language:

"The south line of Pennsylvania State and the Ohio waters now form the boundary line between the two parties. If you continue that line by 36 deg. 30 min. north latitude to the Pacific ocean, I fear it will not prove a pacific measure."

So it appears that if we were mistaken in supposing that the Missouri Compromise extended through to the Pacific, there were those who were equally mistaken before us, and they the very men who participated in the debates upon its adoption.

The Philadelphia *Bulletin*, in speaking of the prospect of an increase in the price of newspapers, says that for more than a year the price of paper has been steadily advancing, and instead of exhibiting any symptoms of a decline, threatens a still further rise. In part this is attributable to the enormous consumption, which has increased the demand beyond the capacity of the supply, but in part also to the difficulty of obtaining rags. In fact ratters are at a premium. Old clothes grow scarcer every day, a strange phenomenon, especially in these times of prosperity, when everybody buys twice as many garments as they were accustomed to formerly. Without old clothes, there are no rags, and without rags, alas! no paper. What will be the result, it would take a second Solomon to tell. Certainly, if the price of paper continues to advance, newspaperdom will find itself in a tight corner. People, by some strange perversity, expect to get their journals at the old price, no matter how much wages may advance, or the price of paper rise. Yet, if the increase continues much longer, a point will be reached, with many newspapers, where the cost of paper alone will consume nearly the entire net receipts; and in such a case they must either advance their price or stop altogether.

DEATH OF MAJOR HOBBS.—Major Hobbs, in Washington, on Thursday morning, March 28. Major Hobbs, after serving as member of Congress, became connected with the Post Office Department under Jackson's administration. His highly responsible position in the department was kept till the administration of Taylor, when he resigned. Upon his recent visit to Panama, in the interest of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, in order to regulate and improve our postal system in that quarter, he contracted a disease by which his constitution appears to have been fatally shattered.

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