Erie Weekly Observer.

ERIE, PA

SATURDAY MORNING, FEB. 3, 1855

News of the Week.

Legislatively the news of the week is "stale, flat and unprofitable." The Know Nothings at Harrisburgh don't appear to *know* what to do first. Every one has a pet "reform," but unlike the celebrated Sam Patch, they find "some things" can't "be done as well as others." The Senatorial question appears to engross most of the attention of the politicians, and the friends of Johnston, and Curtain, and Cooper, and the *Reverend* Mr. Tinney, and Dr. *Patent Medicine* Jayne, are each working their best cards, and each one is sure he has all the trumps in the Know Nothing pack. The result is easy seen. When the deal is made, as it will soon be, there will be some tall swearing; and the death blow to "Sam" will be given.

In regard to matters of a local character, little progress has been made in our favor. The bill repealing the charter of the Erie and North East road, and restoring the company its rights upon certain conditions, has been reported from the Judiciary Committee in the House; but if we understand the record correctly, another bill legalizing the road in its present location, has been reported from the Railroad Committee.—We annex the proceedings as reported:

Mr. Ross, a supplement to the act to incorporate the Erie and Northeast Railroad Company, also, a bill to extend the jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace.

A debate sprung up on the reference of the supplement to the charter of the Erie and Northeast Railroad Company, in which Messrs. Thompson of Erie, McCombs, of Lawrence, Eyster, of Allegheny, Gist of Erie, Chamberlain, of Beaver, and Fulton of Philadelphia, took part. The Judiciary Committee suggested as the proper reference of a bill which involves a number of legal questions, and the Railroad Committee, on the other hand, as to the proper reference of a bill bearing upon the subject of railroads. As there evidently was mingled in the debate was the fact that the Judiciary Committee have had the subject under consideration, and have already reported a bill to repeal the charter of which certainly complained of. The supplement relates to a charter Mr. Ross desires to legalize the acts of the Company in exercising certain privileges, which was not conceded by the approval of the Judiciary Committee in referring the bill to the Judiciary Committee. The vote was 25 to 32.

The only other item of Legislative news we notice, of a local character, is the introduction of a supplement to the charter of the Erie County Mutual Insurance Company. What its provisions are, we are not advised.

In the Supreme Court, on Saturday last, the injunction asked for by the Railroad Company, against the city of Erie, was refused. We copy from the *News* the points of Judge Black's opinion:

Injunction Refused.—The Court refused the injunction prayed for in the case of the Erie and Pittsburgh, Pennsville and Ashtabula Railroad Company, vs. Erie and others, on the ground that it was seeking for the same cause of action which is now pending in the Common Pleas of Erie County. Other reasons were assigned by Justices Black and Kane, Lowrie dissented, and held that the injunction should issue in the Common Pleas of Erie, as asked for in the present motion.

Some discussion took place between the counsel and the court, as to the effect of a withdrawal of the suit now pending in the court at Erie, with a view to making another motion for a special jury, as it was said they were anxious to have the question of right decided—whether the two companies had a right to connect at Erie.

Counsel for complainants intimated a motion to renew the motion for a special jury at an early day next, provided the bill pending in Erie court be dismissed before that time.

Black, J.—We cannot grant this. There is no reason why you should not wait until the court is full. To decide it now or at any time before the retirement of the regular term, would be doing so in the presence of a minority of the court. In the meantime, it is our decided opinion that you go on with your suit at Erie. I do not think that District has any delicacy about sitting [illegible] to supply each other. It is true we cannot exactly see how the companies may be greatly injured by the interference of the city with their preparations for a new connection, and whatever may be the rights of either party, we consider it a great fault on the part of the city to resort to [illegible] violence instead of having the question [illegible] settled.

But there is another [illegible] possibilities. Go on with your suit in the Common Pleas, and if the city refuses to let a new connection be made, perhaps we will, on a proper motion being made for that purpose, extend the time for executing the decree against the Erie and N. E. company, and thus you can preserve the present connections, if you cannot make a new one.

Knox, J.—I concur in the [illegible] suggestion.

Lewis, C. J.—I would grant the injunction now made.

We are not "learned in the law," or very well posted in regard to the duties of the Judges of the Supreme Court; but it really strikes us as a little out of the usual practice for the Court to consider questions not before it. Now, the question of a "connection" between the Erie and North East road and the Western road, was not one of the points at issue in the prayer for an injunction against the city of Erie. Why then should Judge Black travel out of his sphere to express an opinion upon that matter. Equally foreign to the question, is his intimation that if the city prevents a connection, even if in a legal way, the Court will feel bound to extend the time of the decree in regard to the North East road, and thus, as he says, "preserve their present connection, if they cannot get a new one." Judge Black has said that the Erie and North East Company built its road where it is in defiance of law; now we want this same Judge Black to tell us if Judge Black can keep it there in defiance of law! If he, in connection with his colleagues, can do so, then it would save the Commonwealth some expense, if the Legislature would adjourn until such time as its members are not wanted at Harrisburg. They have no more duty to perform than the Supreme Court *is the law making*, as well as the *law explaining power!*

We have another arrival from Europe since our last, but the news is barren of interest. Sebastopol is still among the "things not taken, while the army of the Allies, though professed to be stronger, is evidently in a "tight place." Peace prospects remain about the same; but still it is evident the questions at issue between the belligerents are more likely to be settled by diplomacy than by powder and ball. Movements have been made in Prussia looking evidently towards favoring the Russian side of the question. In England the war is fast losing what little popularity it at first enjoyed! For instance, the *Times*, in a leading article, draws a most deplorable picture of the state of the army in the Crimea. At the beginning of January they could muster 14,000 bayonets. The artillery and engineers have been reduced in the same proportion and the cavalry no longer existed as a force. The deaths amounted to 60 per day, and the number disabled by fatigue and sickness was 1000 a week. The ratio, the *Times* thinks, will rapidly increase. It is computed that of 14,000 men nominally fit for service only 2,000 are in good health. The army was an army of invalids at the beginning of the month, although the Crimea winter had not set in. The *Times* comes to the conclusion that, unless some extraordinary stroke of fortune intervenes, the allies are about to lose their only army, the object of so much pride, of so much deep affection, of so much tender solicitude, and asks if the nation is prepared for this disaster.

The French Spoliation Bill passed the House on Saturday last by a vote of 110 to 76. It had previously passed the Senate, and only awaits the signature of the President to become a law. The amount of money involved is variously estimated; some say five, some twelve, some forty millions of dollars will be required to pay the claimants under it.

Division of the School Fund.

Somehow we have an itching desire to keep the prominent points of the Governor's Inaugural before our readers. Perhaps this is because it is such an out-spoken, truthful document; (?) and then again, perhaps it is because it is'nt.—Let us examine one point, not yet treated upon in our columns, and see! The Governor says, in speaking about the school fund, that "no division of this fund for political or sectarian purposes should ever be made or attempted." We agree with him; but does the Governor mean to impress the idea upon his constituents that a division of the fund is threatened, and that, too, by those who opposed his election? If he does not mean this, what does he mean? Evidently some party has threatened it, or else why allude to it at all? Well then, a "division of the school fund" has been threatened, and that, too, "for sectarian purposes;" and we deny that it is, or has been, by those who opposed Pollock's election. Who then is the guilty party? Why don't the Governor, or some of his friends, tell us? But for fear they won't, suppose we look into it ourself a little. We did so during the canvass last Fall, and we believe the following are the facts we arrived at. On the 13th of June, 1836, an act was passed by the Legislature, and signed by the Governor, which provided that "when a school is or shall hereafter be endowed, by bequest or otherwise, the board of directors of the district in which such school is located, are hereby authorized to allow such school to *remain under the immediate direction of the regularly appointed trustees of the same*, and *to appropriate so much of the district school fund to said school as they may think just and reasonable.*" This was the first attempt to "divide the school fund;" and singular as it may appear, in view of the position of Gov Pollock *now*, the act was passed by the votes of the very men who now support him, and received the signature of a Governor who belongs to the same party—Ex-Governor RITNER! Another singular fact is, that in all the time intervening from 1836 to 1854, neither Gov. Pollock, nor any of his supporters, discovered that this act was dangerous. This is singular again for another reason. In 1846, when Wm. F. Johnston was Governor, an act was passed, and received *his* signature, which provided that "when a free school of the common grade, in any district, shall be maintained under the care and direction of *any religious society*, it shall be lawful for the directors of such district to cause to be paid to the proper person or persons, for the support of such school, any portion of the school funds of the district which they may deem just and reasonable, not exceeding the rateable share of the inhabitants whose children, wards or apprentices, shall be taught in such school." Here was a direct "division of the school fund for religious or sectarian purposes," passed and signed by Gov. Pollock's political friends, and yet he never discovers that the "school fund" is in danger until the year of grace, 1855. Now, why this obliviousness to the danger of "division" from 1836 to 1855? And then, how comes it the discovery was so suddenly made? Perhaps some historical facts may throw a little light upon this point also. For years it has been a standing complaint against adopted citizens that they vote the Democratic ticket. In season and out of season, this charge has been rung; and various have been the devices resorted to by the opponents of the Democracy to wean them from the support of that party. As a good many adopted citizens are Catholics, the acts referred to above, were passed by whig Legislatures, and signed by whig Governors, for that very purpose. Whether it had any effect or not, we will not say; we think, however, it had not. Such adopted citizens as were Democrats still adhered to their faith; while such Catholics as saw in the creed and precepts of the Democratic party, that which seemed to them to be for the true interests of our country, remained in the Democratic fold. This being the state of the case,—these various acts having proved insufficient to secure to the whig party the "foreign and Catholic vote," *as such*,—that party in 1852 made another effort to that end, by nominating Gen Scott. He took the stump, and from town to town, from hamlet to hamlet, the country heard his appeals to the "rich Irish brogue," and the "sweet German accent" to save the whig party. The newspapers in his interest made constant appeals to the sectarian feelings of Catholics to vote for Scott, because General Pierce's native State excluded Catholics from office. Well, the result is a matter of history.—The sectarian appeals—the constant stream of "blarney" about the bravery of our "foreign" soldiers in Mexico—had as little effect to save whigery as the passage of the acts "dividing the school fund," alluded to. Then it was that the love of Pollock and his friends for the "rich Irish brogue" and the "sweet German accent" of our adopted citizens, turned to gall and worm-wood; and the hand that but two short years ago was lovingly patting them upon the back, was raised to plunge the political dagger to their hearts. Then it was that Pollock discovered the "school fund" was in danger; then it was that the "foreign element in our population" became dangerous; and then it was, and *not till then*, "ecclesiastical authority" and "ghostly intollerance" became the humbug cry of such paltry demagogues as James *Pollock!*

A Feasible Plan.

A proposition is before Congress, submitted by Senator Gwin, to establish a weekly express *for the conveyance of a mail matter, across the* plains to San Francisco. It is supposed that the trip can be accomplished, by horse express, in about ten days. To this end the bill reported provides that the Post Master General shall, after ninety days notice, contract with responsible parties to "carry an express mail weekly, each way, between St. Louis, in Missouri, and San Francisco, in California, in ten days from city city. No letter sent by such mail to weigh more than one half ounce; all letters sent by it to be prepaid, and to be charged fifty cents postage wherever mailed in the States. The contractors to be subject to the laws which govern other mail contractors; but a failure (from any cause whatever) to complete a trip within fifteen days shall work an absolute forfeiture of the compensation for such trip." This plan is doubtless perfectly feasible; at least it is worth the experiment, and we hope it will be tried.

The special election for State Senator from Phila., to supply the vacancy caused by Mr. Foulkrod's death, will be held on the 13th of February. There are a host of candidates in the field.

A few years back, according to the Lynchburgh Republican, the Whigh party claimed to have all the intelligence of the country. Now, they are satisfied to be *Know Nothings*.

John Bull vs. Brother Jonathan.

It is not often the English press is disposed to do even partial justice to the enterprise and public spirit of "Brother Jonathan;" but the events of the war in the Crimea, and the necessity the failure there has evoked to seek for sympathy upon this side of the Atlantic, has caused a partial though reluctant change in this particular of late. Even the "Thunderer," *The Times*, finds occasionally something to praise in Brother Jonathan. True, these concessions are grudgingly given, still it is evident the hard knocks the Allies have recieved before Sebastopol, have been productive of good fruit; and if they would receive a few more we think it would not come amiss. As the pugilistic Irish would say, the failure in the Crimea has taken "the conssit out of 'em;" and that in more ways than one. They now see, and some are disposed to acknowledge it, that Jonathan can do some things even better than John Bull. "Conquering a Peace," as was the case with Mexico, for instance. In that war we fought more sanguinary battles—displayed better generalship—exhibited more of the science of war on the part of our officers, and more endurance and courage on the part of our soldiers, than the most favorable picture of the Crimean campaign can exhibit. Add to this the fact that our army was composed or raw recruits, men who had never "smelt powder," many of them officered by those equally as unskilled in the science of war, and the contrast is still more flatteringly in our favor. And yet, with an army thus constituted, we met with no reverse from the opening of the war on the Sabine by Gen. Taylor to the evacuation of the city of Mexico by Gen. Scott. On the other hand, the English army in the Crimea is composed of the standing army of England—men whose trade is war, and has been all their lives. Its officers and men are not taken from the Lawyer's office, and the mechanic shop; from the Doctor's study and the tail of the plough, as ours were! Its officers, as we said before, are the chivalry of England, and the soldiers are men paid and taught to fight. With all these advantages, the impartial historian cannot but give Brother Jonathan the credit of superiority.

But it was not of the warlike side of the picture of Brother Jonathan's superiority that we set out to call our readers' attention. To us there is a more gratifying one; and it is exhibited in the following contrast drawn by the London *Times* itself.

"In the intelligence from the gold countries on Tuesday there is one little paragraph, which reflected with no small significance on affairs in the Crimea, and which will suggest, we think, some conclusions not altogether agreeable to British pride. Our California correspondent, writing from San Francisco, observed that they now had a weekly mail to and from the Atlantic States, and he further added, that on the last occasion the transit of this mail from New York to San Francisco had been accomplished in 23 days 13 hours. Even this, however, was not enough to satisfy American notions of velocity and enterprise, for a certain "express house" in San Francisco had been making arrangements to carry the mails express, by relays of horses, across the whole Mexican territory from Acapulco to Vera Cruz, by which service San Francisco would be brought within sixteen days' post of New Orleans. Now, the reader will no doubt recollect that on Monday morning last we thought ourselves tolerably fortunate in being able to lay before the public detailed intelligence from Sebastopol up to the 7th instant, and in point of fact we may say that if mails arrive in London from Balaklava in less than three weeks' time it is a pretty good post. Let us compare, then, our services between San Francisco and New York on the side, and Balaklava and London on the other. New York and San Francisco are seperated from each other by the whole breadth of the North American continent. By sea the communication involves a long voyage from New York to Panama, a painful and uncertain passage across the isthmus which divides the two oceans, and a second long voyage from Panama to San Francisco. The entire sea passage, we should think, cannot be much short of 4,500 miles, besides which there is the transhipment and the risk of a land journey, if not very long, is liable to interruptions of no ordinary kind. Nevertheless, New York, it appears, is within 24 days of San Francisco already, and is likely enough to be brought nearer still. To comprehend the truly American scheme of 'expressing' across Mexico, the reader must needs turn to a map, for no words of ours can otherwise do it justice. It will there be seen that the points to be brought in connexion with each other by this new postal service, are not situated on the central isthmus, where the Atlantic and Pacific are separated only by a few miles of land, but on the shores of the old Mexican kingdom, with some hundreds of miles of territory between them. To get across from Vera Cruz to Acapulco the couriers must toil up the mountains leading from the hot low countries on the shore to the high table-land on which the city of Mexico stands, must traverse this vast plateau, and then descend again to the Pacific ocean on the other side. This journey the Americans expect to accomplish in sixty-six hours. It is related of the Aztec monarchs that when, in all the pride of power, and with all the resources of what, in some respects, was considerable civilization, they reigned in Mexico, they accomplished the extraordinary feat of getting fish up fresh from the sea, by means of trained runners, who in the space of 24 hours could bring loads from the coast to the capital. Now, as Mexico stands nearly about midway between the two oceans, this would make 48 hours for the journey across the continent, at a period when everything was in favor of the exploit, when roads were good, runners abundant, and the whole service skillfully organized. The American projectors reckon upon 66 hours being necessary for the passage; but the country, instead of being a populous and well-ordered State, is now a prey to every kind of disorder. Civil war is raging throughout the land, and the plague itself, as we learn by the last accounts, is working havoc in the interior. Such, in fact, is the condition of the country that the project, though regarded as perfectly feasible in itself, is said to be postponed for a season. Now, look at the journey from London to Balaklava. The whole sea voyage, though it may be some 3,000 miles or more, is perfectly easy, and we have stations at Gibraltar and Malta to facilitate all our operations. But for postal service there is the cut across the continent of Europe by Calais and Marseilles, which reduces the distance to 2,675 miles, and there is an additional saving of time to be effected by Varna and Bucharest. No doubt the Turkish provinces are in a disturbed state, but they are at any rate the provinces of our own ally, and as such their resources should be under our own command. Look, too, at the interests at stake respectively in California and the Crimea. At the former place the whole matter is a mere speculation of business or convenience—an attempt to bring the market news of New York more within reach of the merchants of San Francisco. At the latter spot two mighty governments are engaged in deadly grapple with a third, and the hopes, fears, and interests of nations depend upon the event. But what have we done to compare with the American project? Nothing, or next to nothing. There is no reason whatever, as we have often shown, why we should not twice a week get intelligence only ten or twelve days old; but the thing is not done, and, with all our steam, our enterprise, and our energies, the Emperor of Russia beats us hollow. Of course, we see that the scheme for an express across Mexico is but a scheme, nor do we forget that a certain amount of "bang" must be allowed for in such projections."

"It is true we cannot avoid being somewhat impressed by the considerations you mention, that the Companies may be greatly injured by the interference of the city with their preparations for a new connection."

"But there is another way of saving these troubles.—Go on with your suit in the Common Pleas, and if the city refuses to let a new connection be made, perhaps we will, on a proper motion being made for that purpose, extend the time for executing the decree against the Erie and N. E. Company, and thus you can preserve the present connection, if you cannot make a new one."

Mr. Editor:—I have selected the above extracts from the opinion of Judge Black, of the Supreme Court, delivered on last Saturday, at Philadelphia, in the case in which the Cleveland, Painesville and Ashtabula Company were refused a special injunction against the City of Erie. This language sounds strange to a reader who has seen the able opinion of the same Judge in the case of the City of Erie against the Erie and N. E. Co. and whose mind had been captivated by the strength of the doctrines therein advanced, and whose feelings were deeply stirred at the apparently well founded *horror* which that eminent functionary professedly felt at the violation of "chartered powers" by that Company. Some were even afraid that the learned Judge had overstepped the bounds of propriety in the expressions of his supreme hate and patriotic fear of lawless monopolies.—When it was urged by the Counsel for the Company, that the city of Erie, by means of certain conditional ordinances, had indirectly acknowledged the propriety of the Company's action, Judge B. replied with great effect, that if the people of Erie had connived at the Company's offence, the best evidence of their penitence and reformation was their present worthy efforts to abate the wrong. It would'nt do to talk to him of corporations taking anything by construction. They must show an express grant of the powers exercised, or be driven in confusion from his presence. Nothing short of the letter of their charter was to govern in a Court where he could speak the judgment.—Such, in effect, and partly in words was Judge B's position at the outset of the legal campaign of the "Erie War." Every intelligent reader was of course delighted with sentiments so scrupulously careful of popular rights and sovereignty. It is, indeed, a rule of vital importance, that Courts of law should be governed by law *exclusively*, and that they should set their faces inexorably against every attempt to wrest from the law of the land either doubtful or unwarranted significations. The extracts I have given strike me forcibly as arraying themselves in open hostility to these safe and sound principles of juridical construction.

In the first extract the learned Judge is sympathetically "impressed by the consideration that the Companies may be greatly injured by the interference of the city with their preparations for a new connection." What does "his honor" think the people of Erie have been contending for? Does he suppose that they have incurred heavy expense, suffered imprisonment, and borne unstinted obloquy for the pleasure of the excitement merely? or have they, as sane men usually do, contended for *success?* Can he imagine that the city enacted and enforced her ordinances for the sport of the thing, and not for the very purpose of "interfering" with these projected railroad "connections." These connections were the very head and front of the offending; and for the purpose of preventing them she prosecuted her suit to judgment. The city said that she possessed certain "legal obstacles" which if thrown in the way of foreign and domestic railroad schemers might defeat them. She presented her case to the Supreme Court and asked for judgment upon its "legal" merits, and upon no other. With these, and with these alone the Court had to deal. The question of "policy" involved in the controversy was for the people or the Legislature. But now, just when the people were getting the railroads into a position in which they could handle them with effect, the Court, stepping out of the case before them, and back to an adjudicated case, interfere in behalf of the companies lest the people may succeed.—Our second extract verifies this assertion, and sets forth a full length plan, almost insured by the Supreme Judiciary to accomplish our defeat. In it Judge Black proposes to loan the railroad companies the use of certain *nuisances* on the streets of Erie—constantly endangering life and violating State sovereignty—until such time as the Companies shall have consummated their schemes, and may acquiesce in their (nuisances) abatement. What parental care and solicitude!—What a novel discharge of judicial duty! peddling the infracted law and deeded sovereignty of the State, by the month, for the use of freebooting corporations. Where now is the religious reverence for that glorious old Commonwealth that not long since, in the language of the same learned Judge, "stood for judgment against one of her lawless creatures?" What has it availed her that a solemn judgment in her highest Court was entered in her favor. To this day are the same gross violations of her supremacy and will in active existence, and the hands that should have averted the blow are seemingly busy in giving permanency and effect to its parricidal intention. All this for fear that the people of Erie were about to succeed in "interfering with the preparations of the companies." A creditor having established the justice and legality of his claim is about to have the benefit of his exertions, when he is met by the same tribunal that gave him judgment, now forbidding *execution*, upon the ground that if allowed he would probably secure his money or estate. This, in principle, is clearly a parallel case. Justice judicially administered in this style might suit a millennial age, but it will hardly suit the present unregenerate and selfish race.

These are pointed expressions, I know; but when the rights of thousands and the declared "law of the land" are being toyed with, if not positively disregarded, it's the privilege and duty of every or any freeman to express his honest indignation.

ERIE.

The Michigan Southern and Michigan Central Railroad are giving the use of their cars and roads free, for the purpose of hauling wood for the suffering poor of Chicago. Who says corporations have no souls!

The Washington *Star* says, that the President will soon issue a Proclamation warning all persons, citizens of the United States, against participating in armed forces designed for settling in Central America. Col. Kinney's project it is understood, will be coerced into disbanding by this Proclamation.

Sleighing continues excellent, and our dealers in Ice begin to wear faces covered with smiles.

The prohibitory liquor bill has passed the Assembly of New Jersey, by a vote of 35 to 22, three members being absent. It has yet to be acted on in the Senate, and if successful there, will be submitted to the people in October next.

The Emperor Nicholas—A Great Sham.

For the Erie Observer.

At a time like the present, when war is agitating all Europe to its foundation, a word on the great potentate of the north cannot be uninteresting. It is amusing to see such powerful nations as France and England frightened at a spectre. Russia is the greatest Empire and the most despotic nation in Europe. Its territory is more extensive, its population more numerous than those of any other nation. There the Emperor is dictator, his word is law. From his demeanor—from the wording of his manifestos, and from the spirit of his policy, it is evident that he believes he is set apart for a peculiar work—that he has a special mission. Because he is ambitious and yearning after power; because he has a large standing army; because Turkey is weak by his side; he is alike feared by statesmen, by journalists, by priests and people. A superficial glance at the state of things might justify the existence of this fear. There is no denying that the pretentions of Russia have behind them a formidable looking power; that the immense population of the country, the geography, the area, and the hopes and intentions of its ruler constitute a powerful force in Europe. And no doubt the prophecy of Napoleon Bonaparte—"that Europe in fifty years, will either be Cossack or Republican," has strengthened the position of the northern bear. Though Nicholas is monarch and ruler of a great geographical nation, that has vast, as is said, internal resources, and where despotism finds an unbroken shelter; though his mind is filled with idea of conquest, mingled with a hatred of the agitations and institutions of the West; though he has a great standing army, and is presiding dictator over 50,000,000 subjects, yet we do not hesitate to pronounce him a *mighty sham*, and the *most gigantic political imposition in the world*. We maintain that there is no necessity for fear. The strength of Russia in a military point of view, is built on despotism; and its despotism is built on ignorance. The battles of Alma and Inkermann tell, in unmistakeable characters, that it is impossible for barbarian hordes, even with fanaticism, and primed with *raki*, to cope with civilzed armies. There was no necessity for a coalition to roll back Russian aggressions; and it was cowardly on the part of the Western Powers to form an alliance to humble the Czar. It will not readily be forgotten that Hungary, single-handed, kept Austria and Russia at bay, for some considerable time. Yet, Hungary, brave Hungary! with its ten or twelve millions of inhabitants, defended itself manfully and successfully against Austria and Russia with eighty or ninety millions of inhabitants. Hungary was conquered by treachery, and not by the superor force of Austria and Russia. Georgey did more to defeat the Hungarians than Prince Poskiewitch. Hungary and Poland would be sufficient to defeat Russia; and the Emperor fears them more than England and France. Why then do not the Western Powers declare the Independance of Poland, and call Hungary and Poland into the field? Echo answers why? Because the murderer on the throne of France, and the aristocracy of England fear Republicanism more than the Czar.—If Russia had half the power attributed to her, she would have conquered the Hungarians without the assistance of treachery. Besides, the Russians have not yet conquered the Circassians—their hereditary enemies. The Circassians are few in numbers, but strong in their natural fortifications; and yet they remain year after year defying the puny power of the Emperor. And most singular to relate, Europe fears a puny power that cannot conquer the Circassians! There is no necessity to fear Russia, and one reason is because she is poor, and deeply in debt. Its ostentation and show have long been kept up by the aid of loans from other countries. It is beggarly proud, for the finery and splendor of its Court are borrowed from other countries. The poverty of Russia was clearly exhibited in 1850, when the Emperor negotiated a loan to complete, as it was said, the Railroad between Moscow and St. Petersburgh. But the money was wanted to pay the debts of the Hungarian war and not to complete a Railroad. But even if the money was wanted to complete a railroad, it shows the poverty of a great country, when it is obliged to negotiate a loan in a country where its name is feared and hated. It has often been said that the silver mines of Russia are sources of immense wealth to the Empire; but this is a great mistake. If they are rich, Russia would not be obliged to borrow money so frequently from other countries. In relation to the loan of 1850, a popular statesman says:—"The money was wanted for purposes of vile ambition, and blood brutality, by a power who has the will—who has all the tastes of Peter the Great, wrapped up in the livery of Louis XIV, and without the genius of the one, or the wealth of the other; and who wants to play a part in Europe, forgetting that he is in the middle of the nineteeth century instead of the seventeenth, and utterly wanting not merely the appreciation of what can enable him to play a part in history, but wanting the means even to pursue those tastes which he possesses." The spread of knowledge and progress of ideas in Europe are reasons why the Czar should not be feared. He has the sole distinction of ruling over 20,000,000 of male serfs, (white slaves,) who are bought and sold like the land on which they live. The ideas of freedom have been marching from west to east, for ages; and slavery and tyranny have been disappearing before the enlightened spirit of the age, which has advanced to the confines of Russia; and before the Czar had attempted to subjugate Europe, he should have destroyed two enemies—one from within and the other from without. Increasing knowledge, producing discontent within—a deadly hatred of oppression and injustice springing from the soil of intelligence without. Such enemies no monarchy in the world can destroy.

AVELHAM.

The Hon. John Slidell was last week re-elected, by the Legislature of Louisiana, a Senator in Congress for six years from the 4th of March next, when his present term will expire. Judging by the large majority which Mr. Slidell is reported to have received in the Legislature, we presume that there was no serious opposition to his re-election.

MR. DAVID THOMAS, residing in Baltimore, was married on Friday night and retired to rest. In about an hour afterwards the bride heard him breathing in a singular manner, and on arising found him at the point of death. The jury rendered a verdict of death from organic disease of the heart. The deceased was in the neighborhood of sixty years of age.

Snow in Quebec on the 18th inst. was three feet deep. In some of the northern portions of New Hampshire it is six feet deep, and still deepening.

We congratulate the poor of Erie!—They will no longer want for any of the necessaries of life! As Sancho Panza said of sleep, the charity of the community "covereth them up like a mantle." As proof of this, take for instance the following receipts and expenditures of Mr. Clement's Lecture at the Presbyterian Church this week, for the *benefit* of the Ladies Benevolent Society:

Number present 84,	$21,00.
Tickets sold, not used 51,	12,75.
Total,	$33,75.
Paid Lecturer,	$10,00.
Use of the Church,	5,00.
Printing bills and posting,	3,50
Total,	$18,50.

Total amount realized for the poor, $15,25.

The Ladies Benevolent Society can now go on in its work of mercy. Its treasury is *full!* It can scatter its benefits wherever penury and want show their gaunt and haggard face. But we forbear—the subject, like the *sum realized*, is too vast for our pen.

Hon. James Thompson made a flying visit among us this week. He looks extremely well, and feels a good deal of confidence in being able to whip the Railroad Company yet.

THE MARRYING MAN.—We published in our paper of Friday last, an account of the arrest of Mr. John H. Livingston, on a charge of bigamy, having married first a Miss Smith, of New Scotland, N. Y., and afterward a Miss Perry of Schenectady. Livingston was brought up for examination at Albany on Saturday last, and according to the *Argus*, a most unexpected quietus to the charge of bigomy was raised when Miss P. was called to the stand. At first she refused to be sworn, but when told by the Justice that the law made it obligatory, she burst into tears, and with stifled voice confessed that she was not married to the prisoner. An explanation being asked for, the unfortunate female confessed that Livingston, after becoming intimate with her, had said that he was marrid, but that proceedings had been commenced for a divorce, and that in a few weeks, at most, the marriage would be declared legally void; that she listened to his persuasion to become his wife in name under promise that when the divorce was obtained, they should be *legally* united; that they made representations to her mother that they were married, and the fact was so recorded in the family Bible. It appears that a few weeks after this liason, she, with the prisoner, removed from Schenectady to a small village in the western part of the State, but that his indolence compelled her to toil with her needle for their maintainance, and seeing no evidence on his part of a determination to support her, she agreed that if he would send her home she would never, in any event, become a witness against him. This he did, and the fact that they were not married was studiously concealed from the knowledge of her family; and it was not until Saturday that the daughter's shame came to the knowledge of her mother. The charge of bigamy was therefore quashed. Justice Cole, however, in view of the circumstances in the case, decided to hold Livingston to answer the charge of seduction, under promise of marriage.

{From the Dubuque Express and Herald}

Horrible and Distressing Tragedy.

A most thrilling and awful targedy occurred in the vicinity of Cascade, on Friday night. Robert McGinty, residing some two miles this side of Cascade went to the house of his father-in-law, Mr. Clark, residing a short distance beyond Cascade, and commenced an assult upon his wife, who had gone there to escape his ill-treatment, when the farther, Mr. Clark interfered, by drawing a pistol from his pocket, and informing McGinty that he would shoot him if he did not desist. McGinty seized a flat-iron and knocked the old man down, took the pistol from him and shot him.

During the time that this recontre was going on between McGinty and Clark the wife escaped to a neighbor's house; but fearing pursuit from her demon husband, she left the house and went into the woods, and there secreted herself. McGinty followed to the house where the wife had retreated, and not finding her there, swore he would shoot the woman of the house if she did not inform him of the place of concealment of his wife. The woman, alarmed for her safety, informed McGinty the direction his wife had taken. Bent on blood, he pursued, and found her concealed in the bushes, and, horrible to relate, cut her head nearly off. He then went to his own house, and placing the muzzle of the pistol under his chin, discharged it, the ball passing out of his right cheek. Finding this effort to destory life ineffectual, he discharged three balls into his abdomen, and then attempted to sever his windpipe by drawing a knife across his throat.

He was found, some time during Friday night, at his own house, in bed and still alive, by some men from Cascade, in pursuit of him.—As they entered the house, he pulled the clothes over his head. They placed him in a wagon and started for Cascade, but before they reached there, life had left the carcass of this desperate wretch. McGinty and his wife are both dead, and it is doubtful whether Clark will survive.—McGinty is the same desperado who, a short *time since, bit a man's nose off*, in the lower part of the city, and was bound over to appear at the next term of the District Court.

THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.—We recently published a statement made by the Washington correspondent of the *New York Journal of Commerce* to the effect, that the American Government had made a positive pledge to the British and French Government in 1843, through Mr. Upshur, then Secretary of State, that they would not possess themselves of the Sandwich Islands. This statement, if we are to credit the correspondent of the *New York Courier and Enquirer*, is not entirely accurate, who writes, "the pledge given by Mr. Upshur in 1843, to the British and French Governments, was only a stipulation that this Government would not seize the islands and subvert their independence, as had been done by the squardons of the people and native government voluntarily sought admission into the Union, or should, without coercion consent to annexation, the United States would refuse or neglect the opportunity of extending its jurisdiction over the group. The islands had been seized by violence, and the aggressors bound themselves to abstain in future from such attacks, if we would do the same. Annexation would be no infringement of this arrangement. But Mr. Upshur had no authority to make the agreement which it is conceded he did make, nor could he bind the country to any other, without. The informal understanding to which he consented with the Ministers of France and England, has been respected by this goverment, and is not proposed to be violated."

ANOTHER "INFERNAL MACHINE" CASE AT CINCINNATI.—A diabolical attempt was made on Monday evening to destroy the family of Mr. Cyrus Swishelm, at Cincinnati; the particulars of which the *Enquirer* gives:—

"On the evening in question Mr. Swishelm and family, consisting of five persons, were seated around the fire, when a huge ball descended the chimney, and, bouncing into the fire rolled in a bright blaze into the middle of the floor. It was made of cotton, saturated with turpentine, and during its brief contact with the fire, had become ignited. Luckily, a pail of water was standing near, and Mr. Swishelm, catching the burning ball in his hand, instantly immersed it in the water and extinguished it. Upon opening the ball, it was found to be filled with gunpowder and slugs, and fortunate indeed was it for Mr. Swishelm and his family that the water was near, as otherwise he says he should have hurled it into the fire, in which case, in all probability, it would have been our painful province to have recorded another event as horrible in its details as that which transpired at the Marine Hospital."

HYDROPATHY.—A good story is told of a lady in our city, who was entertaining a party of friends in a new house into which she had just moved, and of which she was quite proud. She had taken them through the various apartments, from kitchen to garret, and expatiated on, giving terms upon the peculiar advantages of each. At last they reached the bath room. "Here," she said, "you see we have a bathing tub; there are two faucets, one for hot and other for cold water."

"Here is a shower-bath; you have only to step in so, and the water comes down; when you pull the string in this manner," said she, suiting the action to the word, and sure enough it did come down in a perfect torrent, drenching her to the skin. It is impossible to imagine a more complete picture of bewilderment and outpouring presented, at the consequence of her absent-mindedness!

In spite of the sympathy her friends expressed, it was a hard matter for them to retain their faces. The lady was obliged to undergo an entire change of clothing, and lament the loss of a new silk dress, to say nothing of suffering from a cold for a fortnight afterwards. We believe she hasn't repeated the experiment.

AWFUL TRAGEDY.—The *Old North State*, now published at Elizabeth city, N. C., on the 1st inst., says:—

"A most outrageous murder was committed last Tuesday, in the upper part of Camden county. William Sawyer, without provocation, deliberately shot a man by the name of Henry Bray killing him almost instantly. Bray had gone to the house of Sawyer, helping him kill a hog, and after the work was finished, at Sawyer's invitation, he remained all night. Some time during the night Sawyer had a *difficulty* with his wife and commenced whipping her. Bray hearing the noise started to get up, when Sawyer jumped up his gun and deliberately shot him. Sawyer has thus far eluded every effort to arrest him."

New Advertisements.

Flour! Flour! Save your Money!

JUST received by the subscriber, 2 [illegible] Family Flour from Cincinnati, made of Wheat, and warranted to give as good satisfaction as any Flour made in our own city, and the price is Dollar 50 by the barrel, and still less by the [illegible] sale at the Brick Store, corner State and Front streets.

Erie, Feb. 30, 1855. A. Pl[illegible]

Auction and Commission Store.

Not Quite Closed, But Closing.

SALE of a large consignment just received, and large one just received, consisting in the Staple and Fancy Line of Dry Goods, at auction without reserve or at private sale at the lowest rates days. Better bargains than ever on hand. [illegible] All are expected to apply. First Auction [illegible] Afternoon and evening, and to continue [illegible] Book Sale on Monday evening, Feb 5th.

The present Consignment is Positively the last will be received and offered for sale at [illegible] till after the 1st of April next. Hence the necessity of part of purchasers looking for bargains to the Dimes in their pockets.

Erie, Feb. 3, 1855. J. J. LIVE[illegible]

DISSOLUTION.

THE Co-partnership heretofore existing [illegible] Rosenaweig & Co., will expire on the [illegible] April next. All persons having unsettled [illegible] are requested to call and settle the same, [illegible] our business must be closed before [illegible] ship.

Erie, Feb 3, 1855—3t. I. R[illegible] I. A. [illegible]

CHEAP LIGHT—CARBON OIL [illegible]

Erie Feb 3, 1855. CARL R. K[illegible]

DR. A. THAYER'S PANACEA

FOR the cure of diseases in the form of [illegible] ma, Whooping Cough, Bronchitis, [illegible] Throat, Stomach, Lungs, Kidneys and [illegible] Rheumatism both acute and chronic [illegible] cure the Piles in any stage.

Hysterics, weak Nerves, Sowness of spirits [illegible] other delicate Female complaints promptly [illegible]

Prepared and Sold only by Dr. A. Thayer [illegible] Block, State street, Erie.

Jan. 14, 1855.

THE PANIC

Now is the Time to secure Good Bargains

BILLS of the Canal Bank and City Bank of Columbus, and Banks, will be received for STOVES, DRY GOODS, at the Stores of the [illegible] days.

Erie, Nov. 18, 1854.

REMEMBER the New Drug Store [illegible] where you will find an assortment of [illegible] and Extracts of the Purest and best [illegible] market, which will be sold cheaper than [illegible] other store in town, for cash.

Erie, Jan. 14, 1856. A. Th[illegible]

List of Letters