Erie Weekly Observer.

ERIE, PA.

SATURDAY MORNING, FEB. 17, 1855.

Topics of the Week.

The most important topic of the week, locally, has been the change in the Directorship and Presidency of the Sunbury and Erie Road; an event, by the by, that has been hailed with as much joy and gratification as it was unexpected. Although the resignation of Mr. Cooper was hoped for by almost every true friend of that great enterprise, it was scarcely expected, and hence when it was announced that he had actually resigned, and that Erie's tried and true friend, Ex-Gov. BIGLER, was to be his successor, one universal expression of hope and joy was seen upon every countenance. For ourself, we had ceased to look upon the completion of the Sunbury and Erie Road as any certain event; but now we know that if BIGLER accepts the Presidency, and his health will admit his applying his great energies of mind and character to the work, *it will be built*. It will be built, too, as originally designed. Mr. Cooper says that in the discharge of his duties he had hoped for the cordial co-operation and support of all classes of the community, but in such hopes he has been disappointed; and continues he—

"If the obstacles which have been interposed in my way are the result of personal hostility, they can probably only be removed by my withdrawal from the management of the affairs of the Company, and as I assumed this management with nothing in view but the ultimate success of the enterprise, I feel that my own object can be best accomplished by withdrawing from a position in which I failed to conciliate the support of all whose co-operation is necessary to the completion of the work.

I will not stop to inquire into the motives of those who have arrayed themselves in hostility to the road, and to my administration of its affairs. It is enough for me to know that such hostility exists, and it is calculated to retard, if not entirely defeat the completion of a great work, necessary to the development of the State and the promotion of the interests of Philadelphia, to reduce me to remove, as far as practicable, its cause. I therefore beg leave to decline a reelection, and trust that by placing some other individual at the head of the enterprise, he may be able to conciliate the good-will and co-operation of those, whose opposition I have encountered."

In another note Mr. Cooper also declined allowing his name to be used for a directorship, after which the following gentlemen were elected:

William Bigler, Charles S. Baker, Robert Ewing, John W. Stokes, Robert L. Martin, Wm C. Ludwig, Franklin Platt, Charles Sinnickson, Henry Duhring, Israel Morris, D K. Jackman, James Armstrong, Daniel Deal

In the afternoon the new Board met, and unanimously elected Ex-Gov. BIGLER President. Speaking of this action, the *Argus* remarks:

"The election of Hon. Wm. Bigler as President of the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company will infuse new life and spirit into that important enterprise, and hasten the whole line to speedy completion. His sagacity and energy, his familiarity with business, and his extended acquaintance will prove of the highest advantage to the company, and tend in a large degree to remove the obstacles that have heretofore stood so prominently in the way of its progress."

It will be seen that Erie has no representative in the Board. How and by what means this was brought about, we will let our readers know when we obtain the necessary information. As it stands, we only know Erie neglected or refused to become a legal voter at the election, and the result is as it is.

— A joint resolution has passed Congress authorising the President to confer upon Gen. Scott the Brevet title of Lieut. General. This is no mere empty title, for it carries with it the substantial advantage of nearly $30,000 back pay, and $1,600 annual addition to his salary hereafter. This passed the House by the decisive vote of 126 to 65. While we record this substantial offering from the representatives of the people to a gallant soldier for his services, we cannot help contrasting it with another event that has just taken place, and which is hailed with great joy by the Whig and Know-Nothing press of the country. We refer to the act of the Legislature of Illinois in superseding Gen. Shields in the United States Senate by the election of Lyman Trumbull. Politically it makes very little difference whether Trumbull or Shields is in the Senate; still it cannot escape notice that while one gallant soldier is struck down for the accident of *birth*, another gallant soldier is rewarded with titles and money for the accident of having such soldiers under his command as those that followed his banner to the gates of Mexico. What part the *proscribed* Shields bore in that eventful campaign, our readers can see in another column.

— The movements of "Sam" at Harrisburg, for the past week, upon the Senatorial question, have been curious and instructive. "Sam" held a caucus on Friday evening, at which there was some tall figuring. Upon the first ballot Gen Cameron took the lead, Curtain next, and then the other nags fell in behind, having lost their wind. Upon the sixth ballot Cameron and Curtain had it all to themselves, the former having 46, and the latter 38, with 8 scattering. At this stage of the game some began to think there was "cheating around the board," and they bolted. Then Cameron was nominated. On Tuesday the two Houses held a joint sesson, and balloted twice unsuccessfully, and then adjourned until Tuesday, the 27th inst. On the last ballot, Cameron had 59; Buckalew, democrat, 28, and the balance scattering. Thus far it will be seen, Simon had "Sam" tight; but as Simon's election was not in the "bond," it became necessary to devise ways and means to prevent it, and save Curtain and the Administration. Those of our readers who have ever been at Harrisburg know there are men of easy virtue in the Legislature, and that a charge of bribery can be got up almost any minute. This being the case, we are not at all surprised to see that immediately after the joint convention adjourned, resolutions were introduced in both branches "appointing a select committee to investigate whether bribery and corruption had been used to effect the election of U S. Senator." It remains to be seen whether these committees will be able to smell Middletown money as readily as "Sam" "smells the blood of an Irishman."

— We have more foreign news this week, brought by the Asia. The advices by this arrival are one week later. The political news is of a highly important character. As was predicted at the departure of the Atlantic, the resignation of Lord John Russell was followed by that of the entire Aberdeen ministry, and up to the latest moment no new Cabinet had been constructed. Lord Derby had been invited by Her Majesty to form a new ministry, but his efforts were unsuccessful. Affairs in the Crimea remain in precisely the same condition as last reported, and there had been no fighting of importance.—Germanic relations were in as complicated a condition as ever. Indeed new difficulties were daily springing up.

Sale of the Main Line.

The bill, reported in the Legislature, to sell the Main Line of our public works, to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, or some other corporation, is thus commented upon by the Pittsburgh *Union*: "This bill provides for making a present of the Main Line to some corporation, for instance the Pennsylvania Railroad. We are not trifling when we use this language, but dealing in plain sober earnest. We believe it can be satisfactorily demonstrated, that on the terms named in this bill, a company with a single million of dollars capital could take the works and pay for them without using all their investment.

The first payment of principal and interest would be eight hundred thousand dollars; and each annual payment thereafter would be twenty thousand dollars less. Making an average of the payments of interest and principal so as to equalize them for each and every year, we have as a rough estimate, the total amount of each annual payment, six hundred and ten thousand dollars Let us see how this sum will compare with the net annual receipts of the road.—In the year ending, Nov. 30, 1853, the actual receipts of the Columbia Railroad alone, clear of all expenses, were four hundred and ninety one thousand dollars. They were less in 1854, owing to insane railroad competition, the objects of which we shall notice hereafter. But it is rendered manifest, that the Columbia Railroad is capable of yielding a clear revenue of nearly five hundred thousand dollars annually. We have then only one hundred and twenty thousand dollars to be cleared yearly, on the rest of the line, to enable the works in the hands of the purchaser to pay for themselves. In the name of common sense, what is the proposed sale better than an offer to surrender the improvement into the hands of a corporation, on condition that the State shall have the profits of it for a limited period? What is the scheme but a wholesale fraud on the people?

But this is not all. A premium must be offered to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company to become purchasers And what is the proposed bribe? Simply a release of the tonnage tax on the payment of $500,000 over and above the purchase money Now mark the economy!—The tonnage tax in 1853 amounted to $76,000 This pays the interest on more than one million and a half of State debt The proposition then is to give up the tax, for the purpose of paying half a million of indebtedness, and to leave the interest on the million to be paid by the people. Glorious economy!! Noble invention to relieve the State from taxation! How long will the people submit to be gulled, deluded, and defrauded by men, who under the pretence of patriotism, condescended to become the tools of wealthy corporations, to advance their selfish plans of villainy?

We have been told that the Pennsylvania Railroad Company do not wish to purchase the Maine Line. We do not believe it. They have pursued a systematic policy aiming at no other end. They reduced freights to a ruinously low rate, to diminish the profits of the State Works, and thereby render the sale popular. They did this to their own loss, as admitted by themselves. They published to the world a ridiculous estimate of the value of the Main Line to deter other companies out of the State from entering into competion with them; and their agents are now at work, at Harrisburgh, endeavoring to procure the requisite legislation for accomplishing their long desired object

The bill has another feature worthy of consideration. By the act incorporating the Pennsylvania Railroad, the State has the power after a certain time, to resume the franchise granted on payment of cost of the road, and a prescribed amount of interest. The day may come when the railroad will be worth enough over and above its cost, to enable the State to do this with profit. The day may come when the privilege reserved by the charter will be worth more than the whole indebtedness of the State, and the Company will be willing to pay millions to have the right surrendered. And yet this privilege, wisely reserved by a prudent and far-seeing economy, is to be given up for nothing. We protest against the sacrifice, and give timely warning to the present reckless administration to beware how they play into the hands of designing and rapacious corporations.

Since the granting of a charter to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, we have heard nothing from them but petition after petition for legislative favors. The charter which they first obtained was a wise and wholesome one, guarded by prudent restrictions, and still so liberal that it was cheerfully accepted. And yet, winter after winter, they have beset the legislature with appeals for one and another amendment to their charter and with such success, that it needs but one more act of folly to leave the Commonwealth like the aged LEAR, stripped of power, dignity and estate.

☞ The Toledo *Blade* don't subscribe to the doctrine that "the prettiest lining for a bonnet is a smiling face" It says it has seen a great many "smiling faces" under bonnets, that wanted indications of happiness. A happy face, whether smiling or not, is a much prettier lining to a bonnet. Smiles in womankind are often deceitful as in mankind The smile of happiness is always recognized. It is electric and begets smiles in all beholders. The smile of cheerfulness is also sympathetic in its action, but the smile of discontent—the smile of jealousy, and they can all smile, no matter how beautiful the face, or how elegant the bonnet, destroy the lining The bitter smile of scorn is a very homely lining for a bonnet. The forced smile of sadness, which tells of crushed hopes, and a broken heart, is the most painful smile to behold—more painful than tears, because it is deceitful—more painful than anger, because it is forced. We have often seen that smile—when it was mistaken for cheerfulness, and when we knew that it was the work of agony unspeakable to produce it.

☞ We notice the Whig Caucus, of the members of the Legislature, nominated THOMAS WILLIAMS, Esq. of Allegheny, for United States Senator. The number present at the Caucus was *eight*. The whig party of Pennsylvania, then, has dwindled to *eight* members of the Legislature! Does the *Gazette* belong to that party, or where does it belong!

☞ Prat, whig and Know Nothing, is elected Senator in Philadelphia. This gives the whigs a majority in the Senate.

"Noble" Victory for the Know-Nothings

The greatest triumph that this proscriptive party has achived, is the defeat of General Shields for the United States Senate. This accomplished gentleman, this brave soldier, who has spent his life and shed his blood in defence of our American institutions, has been cassiered by a band of traitors, for the simple reason that he is unfortunately (or otherwise) an Irishman by birth. We will venture to say that one half of those who gloat over the defeat of Gen. Shields, do not know who he is, or what he has done in defense of the liberties they now affect to believe are in danger from the wiles of foreigners. They do not know the man; let the records of American history tell them what he is. He was a General in the late war with Mexico, and the following extracts from the reports of *American* officers, will attest his worth as a citizen and a soldier:

When Gen Scott issued his order for the battle of Cero Gordo, he says in that memorable document:

"The second (Twiggs's) division of regulars is already advanced within easy turning distance towards the enemy's left. That division has instructions to move forward before daylight to-morrow, and take up position across the national road in the enemy's rear, so as to cut off a retreat towards Jalapa. It may be reinforced to-day, if unexpectedly attacked in force, by regiments—one or two—taken from Shield's brigade of volunteers. If not, the two volunteer regiments will march for that purpose at daylight to-morrow morning, UNDER BRIGADIER GENERAL SHIELDS, who will report to Brigadier General Twiggs, on getting up with him, or to the general-in-chief if he be in advance."

The order was faithfully executed, but General Shields fell under the heavy fire of the enemy, and, in fact, was reported to the War Department as killed. This we have from himself. But he was not killed; he lived to achive further honors for his country and himself:

"Brigadier General Shields, (says, General Scott, in his report of the day's operations,) "a commander, of activity, zeal and talent, is, I fear, mortally wounded"

The same commander says, in another dispatch:

"The brigade so gallantly led by General Shields, and, after his fall, by Colonel Baker, deserves high commendation for its fine behavior and success"

General Twiggs said: "Of the conduct of the volunteer force under the brave General Shields, I cannot speak in too high terms."

To these eulogious remarks, Gen. Patterson, of our own State, added his testimony

Gen Shields slowly recovered his health; but he was in for the war, although suffering from the effects of a wound which was considered *mortal* by his commander-in Chief, he would still brave the field, and fight the enemy until a glorious conquest crowned the valor of American arms, or leave his body on the plains of an inhospitable enemy.

His next great battles were those of Contreras and Cherubusco. Notwitstanding, he was still suffering from his severe wounds, he still would face and fight the enemy He went into the battle when his physicians declared that it was impossible for him to survive.

On the 20th of the same month General Scott once more reports to the Secretary of War—and this time he writes "from the gates of Mexico." What does he say of Shields? We copy from his despatch:

"Shields, the senior officer of the hamlet after Smith had arrranged with Cadwalader and Riley the plan of attack for the morning, delicately waived interference; but reserved to himself the double task of holding the hamlet with his two regiments, (South Carolina and New York,) against ten times his numbers on the side of the city, including the slopes to his left, and, in case the camp in his rear should be carried, to face about and cut off the flying enemy"

And again, speaking of the grand final of that day Gen. Scott says:

"Shields, too, by the wise disposition of his brigade, and his gallant activity, contributed much to the general results. He held of masses cavalry and infantry, supported by artillery, in check below him, and captured hundreds, with one general (Mendoza,) of those who fled from above."

Referring to the fifth victory of that glorious day, Gen Scott says:

"It has been stated that some two hours and a half before Pierce's brigade, followed closely after the volunteer brigade, both under the command of Brigadier General Shields, had been detached to our left to turn the enemy's works, to prevent the escape of the garrison, and to oppose the extension of the enemy's numerous corps from the rear, upon and around our left.

"In a winding march around to the right this temporary division found itself on the edge of an open, wet meadow, and in the presence of some 4,000 of the enemy's infantry, a little in the rear of Cherubusco, on that road. Establishing the right at a strong building, Shields extended his left parallel to the road to outflank the enemy towards the capital. But the enemy extending his right, supported by three thousand cavalry, more rapidly (being favored by better ground) in the same direction, Shields concentrated the division about a hamlet, and determined to attack in front. The battle was long, hot, and varied, but ultimately success crowned the zeal and gallantry of our troops, led by their distinguished commander, Brigadier General Shields. Shields took 300 prisoners, including officers."

General Quitman writes.

"In directing the advance, Brigadier General Shields was badly wounded in the arm No persuasions, however, could induce that officer to leave his command and quit the field." And again: "Until carried from the field on the night of the 18th, in consequence of severe wound received in the morning, he was conspicuous for his gallantry, energy, and skill."

Yet, with all the above evidence in favor of the pure patriotism, the brave and almost reckless chivalry of this true-hearted and devoted son of our institutions, he is to be proscribed because, foresooth, he was born in another clime, and, perhaps, because he has bled on more fields of battle in defence of American freedom and American rights, than those who proscribe him have ever read of.

Gen. Shields is one of the heroes of our country, whom the good and patriotic desire to promote, and can never be effected by the malice of a cabal that can only live for a season.—*Pitts. Daily Union*,

☞ Minnesota is a great territory. Gov. Gorman for some days after the Legislature met, refused to send in his message, because he feared that immediately after that document should be read, a public printer would be chosen whom he did not like. When ready to send his message in, the Legislature refused to receive it, hoping for a successor to Gov. G. The message has been published in all the papers, but up to the 17th ult., has not been delivered To add to the interest of affairs, Gov. Gorman has been arrested for assault and battery, and on his trial the jury could not agree.

YOUNG AMERICA AT HIS DEVOTIONS.—The editor of the Detroit *Times* says he heard a day or two since, the following illustration of early piety.—"Pray God bless father and mother, and Anna, and by jinks I must scrabble quick to get into bed before Mary does."

For the Erie Observer

MR. EDITOR:—I noticed in your issue of February the 10th, a telegraphic report signed by John H. Walker, John A. Tracy, and J. B. Johnson, in relation to a certain altercation that occurred between M. B. Lowry and J. W. Wetmore. The *Gazette* of this week contains the same, accompanied by some editorial remarks that seem to require correction. The mere telegraphic report, though grossly wrong in its asserted facts, low in its language, and malignant in spirit, did not appear to demand special attention. To those who knew any thing of the "Erie troubles," the signatures to the report would explain its intent and characterise its verity. But the comments of the *Observer* and *Gazette*, apparently endorsing the document to some extent, are of too much importance to pass unheeded.

I was in the Court House on the 2d of February, and had been there constantly *that* day and during the entire session of Court. My business called me there. As to coming "into the Court House, and with a club, and threatening attacks upon some of the attornies," it is entirely and gratuitously false I never carried the one, or threatened the other. During the course of the afternoon of the day referred to I became satisfied that there would probably be trouble, and felt it my duty to remain I saw a number of individuals gathering into the Court House, probably at the request of one of Mr. Wetmore's friends who left for that purpose, and suspecting that some of them were armed and that a serious result might ensue, duty of course required me to prevent it if possible. In pursuance of that design, I interfered for the purpose of seperating two gentlemen who were not far from blows. This is not the usual conduct of a "ruffian." Besides, if Mr. L. wishes to administer what he would consider a little "wholesome correction" to the person of Mr. W., he would probably be abundantly able without my assistance Personally, I have no taste for Assault and Batteries, yet professionally, at certain stages of the game, I shall generally be happy to render assistance. J. W. DOUGLASS.

Another View.

Some of the Fusion papers are just now bellowing lustily over the refusal of Gen. Cass to conform to the instructions of the Michigan Legislature. That our readers may see that all Whig papers are not so *soft*, we annex the following from that old reliable organ of the opponents of Gen. CASS, the *National Intelligencer:*

"The Constitution of the United States was designed by its enlightened and truly republican framers, for the consolidation of the Union, and the securing of a stable, conservative, free government; and so was it construed and held to be, and such was its operation, so long as any of its wise and virtuous founders remained to direct the course of public affairs. But it seems to be mission of modern democracy to undermine the Constitution, to loosen its bands, curtail its powers, thwart its beneficent action, and nullify its conservative principles. One of the these conservative principles, and perhaps the wisest of them all, was the comparative independence given to the Senatorial branch of Congress, in order to protect it from being unduly swayed by frequent, rapid, fortuitous mutations of popular opinion; and accordingly, as a matter of course, it is this principle upon which the democracy holds itself especially bound to make war, by the indefeasible right of instruction. Thus it often happens that a Senator who is elected one year, is instructed by a succeeding Legislature of a different party complexion the next year, and if he be of the true democratic faith and profession, he must obey or resign—giving way possibly to a successor who may in a like manner be instructed out in the course of another twelvemonth—thus, as we have said above, practically nullifying one of the most vital provisions of the Constitution. It has, as if to show the folly of this doctrine, as well as its mischievousness, happened that a Senator has been instructed so rapidly and variously, by the caprice of popular opinion, as to have received an opposite set of instructions before he had time to dispose of the first, and thus rendered contemptible as well as ridiculous, if he affected to give the preference to either, as an imperative obligation upon him to obey or resign. These remarks are simply preliminary to the expression of our satisfaction at learning that the distinguished and veteran Senator Cass, yesterday in his place in the Senate, on the presentation of certain resolutions of the Legislature of Michigan, took occasion, democrat though he be, manfully to oppose this subversion and nullification of the Constitution, by the usurped democratic dictatorship of "obey or resign." We are glad that the veteran and worthy Senator boldly threw the weight of his name and character against the mischievous doctrine. We agree entirely with the sentiment of the lamented Calhoun, when he was a Representative, that instructions from constituents were to be received by the Representative with the utmost respect, be weighed with the greatest care and deference, but were not to bind the Representative against his judgment and his conscience."

STRANGE IMPOSITION.—A notorious woman of New York has for some time been going about among the rich and benevolent of that city, dressed in mourning and wearing a most meek countenance, soliciting subscriptions for the establishment of "A Christian Home for the Benefit of Female Servants" She procured somehow the name of the philanthropist, Peter Cooper, and by showing it around obtained subscriptions to the amount of twenty thousand dollars! James Boorman subscribed $1000; Cornelious Vanberbilt $2000; S. P. (Sarsaparilla) Townsend gave four *lots of ground to build the "Home"* on; ex-Mayor Westervelt, Rev Drs Hawks, Cheever, Alexander and Potts, besides many benevolent ladies, heartily endorsed the enterprise; and there is no knowing how far the imposture might have gone, if she had not applied to an inquisitive gentleman who took the trouble to investigate the matter. He soon found that it was a fraud, and on the exposure of the woman's character, the subscribers, clerical and lay, male and female, came out with cards, disavowing the whole project.—It is not known whether the enterprising woman obtained any cash by the operation; but it is quite likely that she did.

SLANG PHRASES.—Among the many "bywords that are used now-a-days, that have great popularity (?) or are still in vogue, are the exclamations—"Hip-up-te-doodle," "Let-er-rip," "Dry up," "Nothing shorter," "Over the left," "I shant do anything else," &c. We have recently heard of a young lady using this latter phrase in a very ridiculous manner. She had a beatifuful and very showy ring on her finger — A friend asked her if she intended to wear it to church. She replied—"I shan't wear any *thing else!*"

MORGAN FOUND.—The Masonic *Mirror* publishes a rather curious story to the effect that Morgan who, it was alleged, was murdered by the Free Masons, for disclosing their secrets, has been found in Smyrna, in Turkey—that he now goes by the name of Mustapha, and is engaged in teaching the English language. The authority given for this report is one Joseph A Bloom.

According to the *Mirror*, this man Bloom met Morgan at a house in Smyrna, to whom the latter gave a detailed account of his adventures.—It is stated that Morgan left the country in the ship Mervine, which sailed from Boston to Smyrna, and belonging to the firm of Langdon & Co. The captain's name of the Mervine was Welch.

We think the above story will be hardly "good enough Morgan," until after the election.

From the Petersburgh, Va., Express.

A Snake Ejected from a Man's Stomach.

For some time back, a gentleman named Harrison Tyler Wade, on a visit to a friend in the neighborhood of Reedy Creek, near Cox's road, felt at certain hours a choking or suffocating symptom, as if something was being forced up his throat. This was attended with pain and restlessness; indeed, he seemed as if going off suddenly into a consumption, and puzzled both the friendly and medical faculty to know what ailed him. When this suffocating sensation came on, Mr. Wade felt always as if he had an uneasy load on his stomach, which, as he fancied, if removed, would cure him; so he resolved to try the merits of an almighty powerful emetic on his constitution, in order to bring forth what ever was bad in him!

The remedy he made use of was very near giving him a *quietus* in more ways than one, for it nearly turned the snake-laden gentleman inside out completely. After very violent spasmodic wordings and retchings, a small milky-colored snake leaped from his throat, and seemed most thunderstruck at finding itself in broad daylight, and suddenly transferred so unceremoniously into a cold temperature.

The snake was almost transparent, had reddish eyes of a great brilliancy, and was five and a quarter inches long. It made sundry efforts to turn a few lofty somersets, protrude its sting, and as if in agony of grief at an ejectment by such a method—which can only find its equal in Ireland between landlord and tenant—from snug quarters, the small snake died. We assisted at its interment into a bottle of alcohol—excuse the bull—and noted the whole affair down as something very uncommon.

Mr. Wade, during last summer, while out in the fields, used frequently to slake his thirst at rivulets and creeks, and may then have swallowed the snake when it was of very small dimensions. He certainly felt considerably relieved after having got rid of the creature, which he prefers keeping in a bottle much better than in himself.

Later from the Crimea.

SEBASTOPOL, Jan. 10.—It is understood in camp, that considerable deviations will be made from the original plans of attack, with a view of taking important points of defence in the flank of the reserve.

Two divisions of the French army will immediately leave their camps on the British left, and take up a new position on the right. The object is partly to stop supplies from reaching Sebastopol by the new road, which the Russians have made from Inkermann.

Large bodies of the Russians are again concentrating in Reni and Sadik Pacha has proceeded with all his available troops to that point. The Russians made a reconnoissance from Fort Tultzche, on the 10th and 11th, between the Sulina mouths of the Danube and some skirmishing occured. The St. Petersburg *Journal* gives an official account of the recent crossing of the Danube and describes it as a reconnoitering force. Letters, however, say it was really an advance of the whole Russian army, which was stopped by the orders of the Russian ambassaders at Vienna. The Russians now occupy their previous positions

The galvanic apparatus for exploding 20 tons of powder against the sunken ships at Sebastopol, has arrived at Balakhava. It is expected the explosion would damage the foundation of Forts Constantine and Alexander. The new Russian defences of Odessa are completed, mounting 110 guns. The fortification of Anapa, Kaffa, Keilish and Sugakpale are being straightened.

Constantinople accounts to 221 say the change in the Turkish ministry is expected. Affairs are arranged in Greece, and the Turkish minister is recalled Numerous arrests had been made at Florence on the pretext of a revolutionary conspiracy having been discovered Arrests have also been made at Leghorn, because of the sale of Mazzinian bonds.

HAVE WE A SWEDISH PRINCESS AMONG US?—The Fireside Journal (Mass.) has made a grand discovery—nothing less than a second Bourbon case— in which the lately deceased keeper of Long Island light plays the principal part, and is asserted to have been the son of Gustavus III, King of Sweden. We give the substantial facts of the statement of the Fireside:

"The story, as we get it—and we have no doubt of its substantial truth—is this: The late Capt. Joseph Beck, so long known by our maritime folks as keeper of the Long Island light in our harbor, on his death-bed, last summer, disclosed to his family that he was a son of Gustavus III, King of Sweden, and a younger brother of that remarkable knight-errant of a king, the late Gustavus III. An unknown person, who had been seen at various times to regard him with great interest, and who was present at the time of his death, left in the next European steamer for Sweden. Within a short time, the only daughter of Capt. Beck, a very intelligent and accomplished lady, now the wife of Abel T. Hayden, one of the pilots in our harbor, has been sent for from a high quarter in that country, and supplied with funds for the voyage, to be restored to the possession of property and titles belonging to her father, which were confiscated at the time when his brother, Gustavus IV, was dethroned. Mr. Hayden and his wife, it is said, will take their departure for Sweden in a few days."

ORIGIN OF KNOW NOTHINGISM.—Barksdale's Mississippian says that "know nothingism developed itself during the administration of John Adams in the shape of laws under which alien-born citizens were persecuted and driven from the country. It was put down by the democracy with Mr. Jefferson at their head Some years afterwards the monster again raised its head in the Hartford Convention, whose primary object was to plot treason against the country, and give aid and comfort to its enemies in the war in which it was then engaged. That notorious conclave of traitors, among other numerous resolves, adopted the following in regard to naturalized citizens:

"6th. *Resolved*, No person who shall hereafter be a naturalized citizen of the United States shall be eligible as a member of the Senate or House of Representatives of the United States, nor be capable of holding any civil office under the authority of the United States."

A man named Samuel S. Chappell, of Pennsylvania, aged about fifty-five years, and by occupation a book and lace pedlar, was arrested by the Marshal of Montgomery, Ala., and taken to Savannah, Georgia, charged with stealing a negro girl, the property of J. W. Sandifer, Esq., of the latter place. The girl was dressed in men's clothing, but promptly gave her name when questioned. Chappell acknowledges that this is not his first commission of the crime of which he stands committed.

ONE OF THE BOARDING HOUSES.—The *Rahway Advocate* tells the following good story at the expense of one of the "upper ten" of New York:—Mr —— is one of the "merchant princes" of the Empire City, and though living in one of the most spacious mansions on the Fifth-av., his entire family consists of himself and his wife. Meeting a friend from the country one day, he invited him up to view his house The friend was shown the gorgeous rooms, with tressellated floors and magnificent frescoed ceilings, and finally was taken into the lower rooms, in one of which he found a small regiment of colored servants seated at a bountiful dinner. On his return home he was asked if he had seen Mr S. and so: "O yes." "What is he doing now?" "Well, when I saw him he was *keeping a nigger boarding house* on the Fifth-av.!"

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 14.

The steamship *Empire City* from New York via Havana 8th, has arrived here with one day's later news from latter place. It was rumored that an attempt was made on the life of General Concha on the night of the 8th. The palace was illuminated with gas which was suddenly turned off, when the supposed conspiracy was discovered and 80 of the leaders were arrested, including Concha's Secretary and two Americans.

THE OBSERVER.

LOCAL, LITERARY & MISCELLANEOUS.

For the Benefit of the Poor.

It is the hope that the Party to be given at the Reed House on the evening of the 22d inst. for the benefit of the poor, will be largely attended. The object is praiseworthy, and is but responsive to the cry of hunger and distress around us.

The price of the tickets is fixed at three dollars each. One ticket will admit a Lady and Gentleman, and can be had of any one of the Committee of Invitation, or at the Book Stores of Durfee & Sloan and John B. Gunnison.

It is desired that as little expense be incurred as possible, so that the fund may remain to distribute to the poor, and therefore particular request is made of each housekeeper, or other person willing to lend their free offering of provisions and refreshments to the Reed House by three o'clock P. M. of the 22d inst. What may remain will be taken up and given the poor" Persons disposed to contribute to the Entertainment in that manner, will please, as early as convenient, notify any one of the following named gentlemen, viz: Chas. M. Tibbals, John M. Justice, Benjamin Grant, P. Sherwin, Wm S. Lane.

NAVAL.—Tuesday last a Court of Inquiry assembled at Brown's Hotel in this city by order of the Secretary of the Navy, to investigate certain difficulties that have arisen between 1st Lieut. G Minott, and 1st Assistant Engineer Jesse S Rutherford, of the U. S. Steamer Michigan.

The Court is composed as follows: Post Captain McIntosh, President, assisted by Captain Bigelow, and Commander Rollins, Purser Reynolds of the steamer Michigan, is Judge Advocate The Court is still in session with the prospect of another day's labor before them. From what we are able to learn the matters of difficulty would be of small importance were they existing between other than officers of the Navy. From the composition of the Court we can only say that the affair will be fully and impartially investigated, and even and exact justic meted out to each.

— We have received the first number of the Philadelphia *Weekly Bulletin*, a large and well filled sheet. The Daily *Bulletin* is one of our most entertaining exchanges, and the weekly possesses all its life and characteristics.

— We find in the *Pennsylvania Inquirer*, of the 10th, the speech of Judge THOMPSON, at the dinner given in this city to the Philadelphia Councils, reported at length. Though it makes its appearance late upon the board, we'll find room for it in our next.

GONE.—We notice that Dr. R. FAULKNER, who, for a number of years has been practicing medicine in this city in connection with his father Dr. P. Faulkner, has gone west, having locked himself at Marshall, Mich. The Dr. leaves many warm friends here who, in parting with him, join in recommending him to the good citizens of Marshall.

COOL, COOLER, COOLEST.—The other day a locomotive, on the Erie and Cleveland road, broke a wheel just as it was running upon the Connecut bridge, in consequence of which it was, together with several freight cars, precipitated off the bridge, a distance of some forty feet, to the valley below. In one of the cars was a man who is, by all odds, the coolest chap out. With him he had a horse, and twenty-five sheep When the accident took place, the car ahead went off first, and then the one he, and his horse and sheep were in, piled itself up on top, scattering man, horse, sheep, and the fragments of the demolished car, rather promiscuous over the ground. Gathering himself up uninjured, he coolly surveyed the heap of ruins for an instant, and then, with that peculiar nasal twang which proclaims the true Yankee, he broke forth with: "What the d—l ye all about Let why, I swow, I wouldn't been so scart for $5 silver dollars." Just then he spied one of his sheep, and the only one hurt, with a horn knocked off, and he continued his complaint with increased warmth. "There's my best ram with one of its horns knocked all to flinders, why, I wouldn't had that done for twenty shillings." Then mounting his horse, and gathering up his sheep, he drove them up the hill, got his dinner at a neighboring house, and departed, no doubt cursing his luck, and bewailing his lost horn. If any body can produce a cooler man than this, we will thank them to bring him on.

GENERAL MARINE INSPECTOR.—The Buffalo *Commercial* says "the convention of Lake Underwriters, recently held in this city, created an office of General Inspector for the Western Lakes, to be located in Buffalo. The duties of the General Inspector shall be to correspond with all other Inspectors on the Lakes, and with Companies having no Inspectors; to keep and revise the registration of vessels and objectionable acts of Masters; making it the duty of all local Inspectors to repor their weekly inspections to the head office, at Buffalo, of all vessels registered and inspected, and such other information as they may deem useful. The salary attached to the office is $2,000. At a meeting of the executive committe of the Association, the appointment of Inspector General was tendered Capt. D. P. Dobbins, of this city, who has accepted it. This is an extremely judicious appointment. Capt. DOBBINS has been engaged in navigating the Lakes for over twenty years, in every capacity, from foremast hand to Captain of sail and steam vessels." The Captain is a "Erie boy," and his numerous friends here will hear of his appointment with pleasure.

—One of our exchanges "tells the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth," then it says an Editor's life is spent in ushering clever people into deserved celebrity; he sits as charioteer outside the vehicle in which prodigious talents are driven to immortality.

—The "*Constitution*" does not relish our account of the "*Fogit in high life*" last week. As we wrote that article to please ourself, or rather because we couldn't help it, and not to please the *Constitution* or Mr. Walker, we don't see why either of the latter have a right to complain. The fact that Mr Walker and Mr Cochran got into a fight, in which the former got just what the Paddy gave the drum "a devil of a batin" is no reason why we should put on sackcloth and ashes, and go into morning. Neither is it any reason why we should "tear pasdon to tatters" through a column of leaded Brevier, and make a fool of ourself generally like the "*Constitution*."

A DOUBTFUL COMPLIMENT.—The Meadville *Gazette*, in noticing the appointment of *H L Richmond* Esq Aid to the Governor, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, says "it is a befitting compliment to the capacity of Mr R" As an Aid to the Governor is only a paper Colonel, having about as much relation to the effective military force of the State as a fifth wheel to a wagon, the *gazette's* insinuation that the appointment is a "befitting compliment to the capacity" of the appointee, sounds very much like a doubtful compliment, if not a biting sarcasm.

—Some horticultural writer lays it down as an established fact, that Peach trees are destroyed when the mercury reaches 15 degrees below zero. If that is true, we shall have no peaches in this section next summer.

WHAT NEXT.—The "locals" of the Buffalo *Republic* has seen a new fashion for pants—for gentlemen of course—and describes it as follows.—The pattern was of the finest cassimere, with an embroidered stripe of silk arabesque down each leg. They are splendid and cost only $18. The next fashion will be for gentlemen to wear low necked dress coats, with horse hair chemisettes. We shall await anxiously for their appearance.

☞ Strang, the Mormon, who is a member of the present Michigan Legislature, is said to have three wives.—He is a good speaker —*Exchange*.

No doubt of it; practice, it is said, makes perfect, and a man ought to be a "good speaker" to keep up with three wives!

☞ If there is a heaven on earth, it is on a soft couch by your own fireside, with your wife on one side, a smiling baby on the other, a clear conscience, a dozen cigars, and a knowledge that you are out of debt, and don't fear the tailor, the sheriff, or the devil.—*Exchange*.

If that's so, then we're pretty near paradise. We've the "fire-side" and the "appurtenances thereunto annexed;" we've a "clear conscience;" we dont care a fig for the cigars, don't fear the tailor, the sheriff, or the other gentleman.

☞ Wonder if this is the charity preached by the Saviour? Recently a poor woman of the Jewish sect, in New York, made application to the officers of the Association for the Poor, for relief, being furnished with testimonials of her being a deserving object of charity by a respectable gentleman, and was refused, on the ground that they did not assist the Jews! The charity which could only be moved by a coincidence of faith, is certainly not the charity which Christ recommended as a virtue. But there is a great deal of just such narrow and restricted charity about.

— The following item of New York politics is rather good, whether true or not. By the-bye, we wonder if it is true? If it is, it beats any thing yet attempted in this state:

There are three papers in this State which are particularly down on the "d—d furriners" of all kinds—the Albany *State Register*, Rochester *American* and Buffalo *Commercial Advertiser*, and yet strange to say, the leading men of these papers are of foreign extraction. Lacy, one of the proprietors of the *Register*, was born in England. Mann, of the Rochester *American*, was born in Scotland, and until he was 14 years of age, peddled Holloway's ointment around Edinburgh. Parmlee, of the Buffalo *Commercial*—the man with the "twenty-five dollar character," was an English soldier and left the army one day under the escort of one drummer and two rope ends. These are the men who are "rallying round the Constitution," and who insist that foreign interference will yet undermine the liberties of the nation. Queer people, those Hindoos. That's so.—*Albany Knickerbocker*.

☞ Postmasters see some queer superscriptions upon letters passing through the mails. Here is a specimen.

Send this Postmaster, if you're willing,
To John M Page, "A Damned Villain"
Let it go without Postag: bounty,
To Union Valley, Osw-land County

—We notice that Erie Coal is selling in Chicago for $10 per ton: while Blossburg is offered at $9 50, and Lehigh at $12.

PHILADELPHIA.

Correspondence of the Erie Observer.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 13, 1855

Gov. Bigler elected President of the Sunbury and Erie Rail Road—Departure of the Snow—the Foreign News—Value of our City Property and City Expenses—Virtue Overcome—New device of the Fortune Hunter—our City Directory—Steam Fire Engine—the Markets, &c.

Ex-Gov. Bigler has been elected President of the Sunbury and Erie Railroad, in place of Hon Jas. Cooper resigned. The salary is $5000 per annum. It appears from the statement laid before the annual meeting of the stockholders that four millions nine hundred and thirty one thousand five hundred dollars have been subscribed to the capital stock; of which two millions two hundred and seventy-eight thousand nine hundred and twenty six dollars and eighty four cents have been paid in.

The snow has gone, and the streets are covered with slush and mud. While the sleighing lasted our citizens made the most of it. On Saturday afternoon over three hundred sleighs passed through the toll-gates on the Germantown Plank Road alone. The livery stable men have charged from five to ten dollars per hour for their sleighs and many a young blood "spouted" his lover to sport his sleigh.

The foreign news by the Atl