Erie Weekly Observer,

ERIE, PA.

SATURDAY MORNING, NOV. 8, 1855.

The Sunbury and Erie Road Let.

The Contracts for the 82 miles of the Sunbury road, extending from Erie to the Coal fields of M'Kean County, have been awarded to Messrs. King, Brown & Co., of this city; Patton & Gosler, of Lancaster; and Struthers & Co., of Warren Most of these contractors, or at least all we are acquainted with, are old and experienced railroad men, and have the energy and ability to accomplish all they have undertaken. We look upon an early commencement, and a vigorous prosecution of the enterprise, as now absolutely certain

"Actually Signed."

So proclaims the *Gazette*, in regard to Thompson's bill, so long in the pockets of our immaculate Governor "Actually signed!" Good The commonwealth is safe; the process of incubation is ended, and the executive is as "well as could be expected" Good, again! But the *Gazette* declares it was signed on the day the telegraphic dispatch was received—that is on the 9th This is better still; but the best of all is the assurance of the Governor's *organ* here that "steps will be taken to execute the duties this important enactment devolves upon the Governor" How "soon," the Governor's dearly beloved constituents are left to conjecture If they are to take his post action, in regard to the bill as a criterion to judge of the future, it is very evident the leaves that are now falling before the frosts of November will be replaced by the buds of spring before his Exellency will take the necessary steps to carry the law into effect; if he ever takes them! A thing, by the by, we very much doubt! True, he's signed the bill, but it has taken him six months to make up his mind to do it, and now another month has passed, and yet he has not moved a finger to carry out its provisions.—Good, the bill is "actually signed!"

It is a curious fact that not one of the statements made by us of the unfortunate results to other cities of their corporate subscriptions, has been denied. They are facts, and cannot be controverted.—*Constitution.*

It would indeed be a "curious fact," if it were a "*fact*" at all; but it is not, and here is the proof from the first column of the third page of your own paper Says the Philadelphia *News*.

"Without at all designing to interfere in the discussion in which the *Constitution* is engaged, it is proper that we should state in the first place, that *this paragraph does not state the truth*, and in the second place, that it justly esteemed as a truly embarrassing state of the city finances, *has no connection whatever with the Railroad subscriptions of our city and that her present condition in this regard is not influenced in the slightest degree by the fact of her being a large holder of Railroad securities.*"

And again—

"Every intelligent man in Philadelphia knows and understands the cause of this deficit; it arises entirely from a mistaken disposition on the part of the old Councils, which induced them to make the attempt to pay a floating debt of the old district out of the taxes and other current receipts of the Consolidated City. *The deficit arises from no extravagance on the part of the present Councils, nor is it in the slightest degree connected with the City's railroad subscription.*"

Truly, your facts are "curious;" so "curious," indeed, that they are proved to be no facts at all by your own columns!" "Who struck William Patterson."

THE FUTURE.—The Cincinnati *Enquirer*, in concluding a review of the elections this year, says it is now apparent to every intelligent man that the democrats will elect the President in 1856 As the only national party in the field, they will sweep the entire country: The opposition, sectional in its nature, divided and broken, dispirited by defeat, can make no headway against our triumphant columns. Whoever the National Democratic Convention designates will be the next President of the United States. The political sky is now as bright for us as it was for the opposition a year ago. Most truly can we say, now is the winter of our discontent made glorious summer."

☞ Read the article upon our outside from the New York *Herald*, relative to the state of affairs in the Crimea. According to this statements the reader will see that the Allies are not yet out of the woods, or likely to be soon.

☞ The Meadville papers state that gas pipe "has been laid in that village on Water street below Chestnut, and on Chestnut from Water to Canal bridge" We thought, by the way the people elected Finney, that "gas pipe" had been laid all over the County.

☞ What is a man's life worth, in round dollars? This question has been aswered by the referees in the case of Harriet Wilson, vs. the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. The plaintiff's husband was killed in 1854 by the breaking of a rail on the Columbia railroad. He was about 27 years of age It was referred to Judge Haines of West Chester, Judge Pierson of Harrisburg, and John Evans, Esq, of York They awarded $4500 damages to plaintiff Among the numerous assessments of damages for railroad accidents, we do not recollect of so low an estimate of the value of human life.

☞ An Englishman, representing himself to be Sir Walter Percy Beaumont, and claiming connection with many of the nobility of England, has been honoring Chambersburg with his noble presence for the last three or four months He succeeded in swindling several persons. He induced a merchant to accompany him to New York, where he was to receive £10,000 from Lady Percy It is needless to say that when he arrived there he slipped off, and has not been heard of since

☞ There are now five vacancies in the U. S. Senate, the terms of Messrs Fitzpatrick, of Alabama, Atchison, of Missouri, Pettit, of Indiana, Cooper, of Pennsylvania, Gwin, of California, having expired on the 4th of March, 1855.

☞ As the True *American* delights to publish paragraphs reflecting on the "peculiar institutions" of the south, we respectfully call its attention to the following:

PROTECTION FOR THE SLAVE.—In New Orleans, lately, a man named Hunter was sentenced to pay a fine of one thousand dollars, undergo an imprisonment of six months, and forfeit certain slaves whom he illegally sold in such a manner as to separate the mother from her children, contrary to the Louisiana laws. A most salutary example:

☞ The editor of the Newark *Advertiser* don't like Rachel. Having heard her "give" the Marseillaise, he remarks, "*If* the other performances of Rachel, were no better than her hoarse recitation of the Marseillaise—otherwise called the Marseilles Hymn—it would be worth nobody's time or money to go to hear it."

☞ One of the Boston hotels has added to its other attractions a library of three hundred volumes. This is to furnish their boarders with amusement, without the necessity of going abroad to find it.

"Who Struck Billy Patterson?"

There can be no controversy between us and the *Constitution*; still when that paper appears to be in doubt as to who struck it, we cannot do less than put it upon the right track. Now the article from the Philadelphia *News*, published by us last week, and which appears to have given the *Constitution* spasms, is the missile that hurt it, and not the *Observer*. We claim no credit; it is due to the *News*, and the *News* alone. The question at issue between the two papers appears to be this. The *Constitution*, in its anxiety to injure the Sunbury road, by preventing the consummation of the county subscription to its stock, charged, in substance, that in consequence of the subscriptions to various railroad projects by the city of Philadelphia that city was now nearly bankrupt; and in proof, republished a paragraph from the *Ledger* stating that the city's "creditors had levied upon the railroad stock owned by the municipality." And this manufactured case it urged as an argument against the propriety of Erie county fulfilling its agreement with the President and Directors of the Sunbury road.—This, we say, is the issue in substance, made by the *Constitution* It is not whether the editor of this paper "will undertake to justify the course of our councils in giving away" the city property, or not. It is not whether municipal subscriptions are right, or not. It is not whether "Shanghais are multiplying," or not. But it is simply whether the *Constitution* attempted to deceive its readers, and the people of Erie county, by holding up Philadelphia as bankrupt because she had subscribed to the capital stock of the various railroads contributing to her prosperity. In plain English, it is whether that veracious sheet has *lied* as usual, or told by *mistake* the truth, in regard to the cause of Philadelphia's embarrassment. And upon this point, the *News* is peculiarly emphatic, and decisive. We quote again from its article:

Without at all designing to interfere in the discussions in which the *Constitution* is engaged, it is proper that we should state in the first place, that this paragraph does not state the truth, and that in the second place, that what is justly esteemed as a truly embarrassing state of the city finances, *has no connection whatever with the Railroad subscriptions of our city, and that her present condition in this regard is not influenced in the slightest degree by the fact of her being a large holder of Railroad securities.*

That is, when the *Constitution* argues, as it did in the article upon which the *News* comments, that the embarrassment of the city is because of her subscriptions to railroads, it argues *falsely*, because, says that paper, "the truly embarrassed state of the city has *no connection whatever* with the railroad subscriptions of the city" On the contrary, it persists "the deficit arises from no extravagance on the part of the old or the present Councils, *nor is it in the slightest degree connected with the City's railroad subscription.*" But why, prolong comments upon facts so plain. The readers of the *Constitution* have its first article, and the *News'* reply before them; and certainly they are intelligent enough to see that a "shanghai lie has been nailed" in a most effectual manner. And that, too, by the Philadelphia *News*, and not the *Observer*

☞ The *Gazette* has a "few words explanatory," in regard to its position politically; but really we cannot see what those "few words" explain. It says it is "Anti-Pierce, Anti-Slavery," sort of Whig, sort of Republican, and "kinder sorter" Know Nothing! Now, all this we knew before; and hence that is not what we wished to get at. Here is the point: Two or three weeks since the Whigs of Buffalo held a meeting to denounce Republicanism—to protest against *fusion*; in short, to knock the *Gazette's* "next best thing" on the head! Well, the *Gazette* said that meeting was a meeting after its own heart, and hoped there would be a similar one here. The next week, however, the *Gazette*, following in the wake of the Chambersburg *Whig*, was very much inclined to go the "next best thing," which we take to be Republicanism, with a proviso. This week it is quite determined; and now we ask where will it be next? Judging by the past, it may be "back again;" but where it will be a month from now, is as hard to tell as when Sebastopol will be taken! The political road, without well defined landmarks, is a very hard road to travel.

AN APT COMPARISON.—The Philadelphia *Bulletin* draws this apt comparison between cultivated vegetables and cultivated men—between the Cabbage and Potatoe under the training of the experienced Gardner, and Man, enjoying the blessings of his newspaper! Cabbage, remarks the *Bulletin*, in a wild state, says a work on agriculture, is a slender branching herb, with no appearance of a head—a slim institution indeed, and utterly un-krout-worthy. The potatoe, in primitive condition, is a rank, running vine, with scarcely the sign of a tuber on its root, and even these tubers continually manifest a "prurient proclivity" to sink into a still more decided state of small potato-ism. Such is man. When in a wild aboriginal state, deprived of newspapers, and ignorant of the price of putty, he is a poor plant, indeed, and differing widely from the same article when guanoed up with a little literature, intelligence, political economy and philanthropy What a difference is there when he gets *a head*—like the cultivated cabbage—and what an ornament he becomes to the great kitchen garden of society. So with the murphy, which, under the beneficent influence of civilization—no longer a small potatoe—expands into a magnificent boulder, affording matter of pride to the farmer, food to mankind, and local items to the country press.

Moral.—If you don't want to be like the cabbage before improved by the hand of agriculture, without *head*; or like the potatoe, before subjected to the hoe of civilization, all running vines, *take your county paper!*

☞ One fruitful source of railroad accidents has been and continues to be the straying of cattle upon the track. Against this evil the Central Ohio Railroad Company has determined to wage war. Accordingly its solicitor has been instructed to prosecute the owners of all cattle that may be found upon the track hereafter, by which injury is done to the property of the company.

GOOD.—Hon. Isaac P. Walker, late a Democratic United States Senator, from the State of Wisconsin, has joined the Republican party, and become a candidate for a seat in the State Senate on the Republican ticket. Good; the sooner all that class of politicians to which Walker belongs leave the Democratic party, the sooner the Democratic party will become healthy. "There are a few more left of the same sort," that ought to go.

THANKSGIVING.—Thanksgiving day in Massachusetts, Indiana and New York are appointed for the 29th inst.: in Maryland and Virginia it will take place on the 15th; in Pennsylvania and Ohio on the 22d. North Carolina observed here last Thursday week, and New Jersey had here some weeks since.

"The Next Best Thing."

"The next best thing," after whigery is dead according to the *Gazette*, is the Republican party. Not so, however, thinks a good many of the old whig leaders, in whose sagacity the *Gazette* used to place confidence. There is CHOATE and WINTHROP, of Massachusetts; and HUNT and BARNARD, of New York; and DIXON and PRESTON, of Kentucky, and hundreds of others we have not time to enumerate. They can't go fusion; it is not the "feast of fat things" to which they dedicated their political lives, and therefore is far from being "the next best thing." In this they are supported by the old line whigs of Maine, who, true to their ancient principles, refused to be sold to "the next best thing." The same may be said of Massachusetts whe rea large and respectable State Convention of the old liners of the whig party was held, and took strong ground against the fusion disunion movements into which the mass of what had once been their party were being drawn. Rufus Choate, not being there in person, wrote a most eloquent letter, which was read, endorsing the movement, and closing with the significant sentence—"We join ourselves to no party that does not carry the flag and keep step to the music of the Union." Winthrop, the very head of New England whigery, wrote a letter to the same convention, a portion of which we give below, in which he declares, that he "holds nothing within the range of political action to be paramount to the honor of Massachusetts and the integrity of the American Union under the constitutions which severally secures liberty for them both." Patriotic and well expressed, will be the response of every man, be he whig of democrat, who does not think that a sectional party, such as is now seeking to supplant the old whig party, "is the next best thing." In New York the same element has been at work, and in solemn convention, it has pronounced the *Gazette's* "next best thing," to be the last thing that shall receive countenance. Among the declarations of these New York whigs is this, which we heartily endorse:

Resolved, That the sacrifice of the interests of twenty-five millions of white men, and silence upon all the principles that concern them, to the supposed interests of three and a half millions of negroes, is an abandonment of our own race and color to aggrandize into greater importance the race and color of the African. The whig party was made for the American and not for the African.

But it was not to the action of the whigs of Maine, or Massachusetts, or even New York, that we set out to call the *Gazette's* attention; but to a portion of the letter of Hon. R C WINTHROP, alluded to above. We want the *Gazette* to particularly notice his opinion of its "next best thing" in politics, and then tell us what it thinks of them We would gladly give the whole letter, for it is suggestive from the opening to the close, but we have not room. The following paragraphs, however, will give the reader an appreciative taste of the whole production

"But we are urged to abandon our old colors and rush wildly into the promiscuous ranks of a one idea party in order to promote some grand result connected with human liberty Let us look at the new party for a single moment in this particular light and see what claims it has to our confidence.

Beyond all doubt a great and grievous wrong was perpetrated by the passage of the Nebraska bill. I united with others in protesting against it at the outset, and I have no words of palliation or apology for it now. It was an act of a character to put 'toys of desperation' into all our brains, to tempt us for the moment to break from all our old relations and to plunge into any policy which might hold out ever so delusive a hope of redress. But a sober second thought may lead us to inquire what more can the whigs of Massachusetts do on that subject than they have done already? Their Representatives opposed it at every stage of its progress by argument and by vote, while the very men who are now clamoring most loudly for their aid and alliance manifested their appreciation of such fidelity by lying in wait to undermine and overthrow them at the earliest moment.

And how happens it, by the way, that Mr. Wilson and his compeers have reserved their zeal for 'the paramount issue' to so late a day? They tell us that the whig resolutions of last year were superlatively excellent, and they seem never tired of rehearsing them with ecstacy at all their own meetings now. Why did they not recognise their goodness a little earlier? Why did they not give them an honest support at the time they were passed and help to re-elect those who had been true to them? Why was not my old friend, Julius Rockwell, who is now fit to be their Governor, fit then to be their Senator? He had just retured home from a faithful support of every Northern right; and yet, instead of rallying to support him, they united to supplant him and strike him down in the dark, and with him all the other whig Representatives who stood firmly at his side. That was the greatest blow to the honest cause of freedom it has ever received in this Commonwealth; and we see where it came from; we see to whom it was dealt, and for what end. You would not have heard a word in favor of this fusion project from that source if certain men had been still out of office. Did a vote against the fugitive law or against the Nebraska bill—did the most uncompromising fidelity to 'the paramount issue' ever satisfy them while their own ambition was ungratified? But, now that they are fairly, or unfairly seated in the Senate or the House, they are quite willing to fortify themselves in their position by drawing around them the very gentlemen whom they have ousted, and some of these gentlemen are polite enough to fall in at the word of command.

And this brings me to my principal objection to the new party; and that is, its eminent adaptation to defeat the very ends at which it professedly aims. I am one of those who believe that the ultraism and recklessness of some of these old Freesoil leaders, who are now calling on the whole people to sustain them in the offices which they have gained by every degree of indirection and indecency, have been the occasion of not a few of those very aggressions which they are so vociferous in condemning, and are destined to be the occasion of still new ones, if they are to be encouraged and strengthened in their fanatical career. No class of men in the country, either Northern or Southern, have, in my judgement, been more responsible for many of the measures which they have been loudest in denouncing than your regular Northern agitators, who have at last alarmed the South into an idea of the absolute necessity of strengthening herself for the protection of her domestic institutions. Sometimes, we know, the South has received the most direct and positive aid from this source. Nobody doubts that Texas was brought into the Union through the instrumentality of New York Free Soilers, at least one of whom may be found at this moment among the leading Republican candidates in that State.

But even the Nebraska bill owed not a little of its success, in my opinion, to the futuity of some of these ultra men. The violence to which they resorted, here and elsewhere, but particularly here, in resisting the fugitive slave law, produced the impression that the North intended to keep no faith on any point; and when at length this Nebraska bill was introduced, a handful of them precipitated themselves into the front ranks of the opposition, in a way to drive off the only persons who could have prevented its consummation. Half-a-dozen of them, under the style of Independent Democrats, got up a flaming manifesto in such hot haste that it was said to have been dated on Sunday, and put it forth, cock-a-hoop, half-signed, to the utter discomfiture of all who hoped to prevent the bill from passing. They usurped a trad which belonged to others, and gave an odor of abolition to the whole movement.

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It is not enough considered that the real retarders of any movement are often found among those who are claiming to be its leaders. Has it not been so in the case of temperance? Has not excessive zeal and blind one-idealism led at last to the enactment of laws which have created a general reaction and put back the cause of temperance we know not how far? Just so has it been and will it be again with those altruists in the cause of freedom. For one, I never witness one of their violent spasmodic agitations about slavery at the North without looking to see it followed forthwith by some fresh triumph at the South.

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We had a grand rising about Texas, I remember, after it was irreparably annexed, and now we are to have a grand rally about the repeal of the Missouri restriction after it is hopelessly accomplished; and, while we are thus engaged, the South will be looking about them for some fresh chances of fortifying their institutions. Our ultraists will have succeeded in nothing but in alarming them afresh into a feeling that some new defences must be secured.

* * * * *

And to this end we are called on to forget the past, to disregard all experience and to rush into the formation of what has been elegantly denominated a grand "Backbone party." No, the vertebral column must support a sounder brain before I can desire to see it assuming any thing of additional strength or solidity. Better let it remain as fragmentary and fleshless as that of some fossill reptile of the coal measures if it is only to be employed as an instrument for disjointing the carefully compacted framework of our national body politic, or if it is forever to serve as a bone of contention among those who ought to be able to live together in unity and concord

One thing I have resolved on in my own political career, and that is, never to give countenance or support to any policy or any party which tends in my conscientious conviction towards disorganization or disunion. Three or four years of retirement from public office have served to wean me from all inordinate affection for official station, if I ever had any, and I bring to the consideration of the present state of parties the most absolute indifference to any mere personal results But I am not indifferent, I never can be indifferent, to the honor and welfare of my native State, or of the great and glorious country of which it forms a part

Others may find their "paramount issues" in whatever secondary or subordinate questions they may see fit to select I hold nothing, nothing within the range of political action, to be paramount to the honor of Massachusetts and the integrity of the American Union, under the Constitutions which severally secure liberty for them both.

MORE FOLLY.—The Philadelphia *Argus* says: The last, and one of the boldest follies we have heard, occured last week in the upper part of the city The spirit of a murdered man has been for months in tribulation, but finally, a few days since, succeeded in communicating the fact that having been murdered some ten years since, his body was placed in a dry well in a sitting posture, and the well having since been filled, the position was found unconvenient, especially as the place has been built upon, and the spirit wants the body taken up and decently interred. The precise location was indicated—directly beneath the steps of a certain house in Hutchinson street, between Poplar and Girard avenues; and since then the most laborious excavations have been going on *to find the body*, while the story has afforded abundant food for gossip."

LOSS OF THE CHARTER OAK.—The propeller Charter Oak was lost on Saturday night last somewhere between this port, and the mouth of Elk Creek. A correspondent writing to the Buffalo *Express*, says "all of her upper work is on the shore. She was loaded with staves, and they are all in piles on the beach. A trunk came ashore—the property of WM. STILLMAN. We found by some papers which it contained that he belonged to the *Charter Oak*. The trunk is in my possession, and I shall keep it until called for. We have heard of no person coming from the wreck and suppose all hands are lost"

MISSING.—A Mr. Winchester ascended in a Balloon from Norwalk, Ohio, on the 8th of October, since which he has not been seen. What has become of him is the question. The Cincinnati *Times* states, that several persons of that city saw a wrecked balloon in the air, on the 3d inst., and the *Times* infers that it may have been the balloon of the unfortunate Mr. W.

☞ Dr. Barton lately read an address before a society in New Orleans, in which he stated that within eight years, there had been in that city ten epidemics of yellow fever and cholera, with a mortality of seventy-seven thousand three hundred and thirty-eight—or nearly one-half of the population.

☞ The Cleveland *Herald* says that the schooner *Free Trader*, Capt. T. Green, arrived at that port on Saturday, having been out ten days from Buffalo. Her cargo is much damaged, and her captain reports a perilous trip. During the gale within the ten days, his vessel had at times been in the greatest danger, and he and his crew gave up hopes of ever reaching land. How much the vessel is damaged is not yet ascertained. All things considered, Capt. Green has made one of the most perilous voyage on record.

☞ The Indiana *Sentinel* thinks the democratic majority in the State will be 20,000. Last year 12,623 fusion majority—democratic gain, say 32,623; or, in round numbers, 30,000. The legislature elected a year ago holds over till next year.

Correspondence N. Y. Journal of Commerce.

WASHINGTON, Oct 25.

Late accounts from Kansas go to confirm the generally received opinion, that Kansas will present herself as a free State. Some of my friend, who have held a contrary opinion, have now admitted this to be the probability. The late Legislature promoted the object, by passing the act requiring each voter to pay a dollar prior to voting. The New England Emigrant Aid Association, according to their recent explanation, had in view no objects that were inconsistent with the free action of the sovereign squatters on political subjects; and this is admitted by some of the Missouri papers. The Kansas excitement, so far as it was used as a means of national agitation, has run out, as all such excitements will do; and I have no idea that it can produce much exasperation in Congress at the ensuing session. In relation to the contest for a seat between Reeder and Whitfield, it can not obstruct the organization of the House, as did the New Jersey case, for though this is a broad seal case, yet it is of a delegate, and not members. It will, after the organization, be referred to the Committee on Elections, to take its regular course.

A DEAL FOR A WIFE.—The peace of several German families in Lancaster was somewhat disturbed a few days since by the discovery that three of their male members claimed the same woman for wife. At one time, says the Examiner, things looked serious, portending a storm, but better feelings, with lemonade cordial and lager beer, having prevailed, it was determined by the parties and their friends that the three husbands should double their claims by resort to cards. A game was accordingly played, and the winner put in possession of his "fair, fat and forty inamorata." The unsuccessful husbands, or rather widowers, concluded to "drown their sorrows in the cup," and make a night of it.

NEW YORK.

Correspondence of the Erie Observer.

NEW YORK, November 1, 1855.

The banners are swaying to the wind over Broadway and the main avenues of the city, indicating to the citizens the approach of the election. It is worthy of remark that the flaunting canvass in no case bears a motto, nor the enunciation of a principle, but are filled with the names of *men*, most of them heretofore unknown to fame.

The interest of the election seems to centre upon the choice of Senator in Erastus Brooks' District, which comprises nearly the northern half of the city. The Hards and Softs have united upon his opposition, Mr. Mundy, as well as the Liquor Dealers.

There is no doubt that the Know Nothings and the Hards have formed an arrangement for the election of two or three of the American candidates, especially the Sheriff. As this is a most lucrative office, considerable capital has been embarked in the speculation. Encouragement is given to the formation of all sorts of conventions and nominations, in order to split up the vote. For this service in the city, the American ticket is to be deserted, and their strength thrown to the Hards, in order to aid them in their attempt to obtain seats in the Cincinnati Democratic Convention. It is rumored that a certain large contractor has given large sums of money to aid them in these arrangements, hoping to meet with his reward by an elevation to the White House of Washington.

Some twenty conventions have made nominations already, and every day witnesses the birth of a new *machine* of the same sort. Next year we expect to see the Banks, Insurance Companies, and very likely some of the churches each putting forward a set of candidates.

Free Love was just about to engage in the same operation last week, but the police clubs knocked its calculations into the Station House.

Free Love however is not yet wrecked. It was washed from its moorings by an extraordinary uprising of municipal indignation, but has been triumphantly carried back to the home of a new excitement—viz.: the question of the suppression of moral or immoral speech, by a Police Captain; or rather the right of free speech. The Free Lovers still meet at 555, being more careful however as to the admission of brethren and sisters.

The true remedy for the poison is to *let it alone* very severely, and it will pass away to make room for some other excitement The wheel of success revolves very fast in Gotham. Nine days is rather a long lease for wonders in these days of railroads and telegraphs.

The "indicted officials" has been a standing head for some time as every week seems to bring a new corruption to light. Alderman Herrick's trial is now in progress and the result will soon be known. P. S.—The jury has just decided that they cannot agree. It is difficult to say whether this will amount to an acquittal of Alderman Herrick before the bar of public opinion. It leaves him at all events in an awkward position.

But in order to relieve the dulness which always succeeds an election, as soon as the choice of the people is decided, a new batch of "indicted officials" will be introduced to the public, with developments richer and more racy than any yet produced. It it rumored that some gentlemen who have most ungraciously declined re-nominations this fall, have only done so to escape the course of justice. In this connection the election of sheriff is important, as some persons have imagined that the aforesaid officer has an influence upon the empaneling of the Grand Jury.

Our model Mayor will most probably marshall the forces on one side, and Herrick, &c., on the other, and we shall have the play of "The Czar and Allies" enacted on this side of the water. This is a comfortable prospect for the press, for nothing helps the Journalist so mush as a free fight or a gay muss. It is prolific of paragraphs, and *suggestive of moral reflection.*

The Crystal Palace is renewing its former glories in the attractions it offers in the fair of the American Institute. The display of the useful exceeds that of the ornamental it is true, but as much interest is apparently felt in the steam engines as in the Lubin's extracts, and especially by the fair sex. The foreiorn bachelor of the Paris Exhibition, who stood for weeks by the case of cashmere and shawls, to detect a fair one who would not go into extacies over them might here find the long desired wife in many a pretty Yankee girl, who is evidently more intent upon the examination of a sewing machine than the admiration of a laced basque. Forsooth it is time for bachelors to look about them. It is calculated that our Broadway belles spend at least $3000 per annum to keep up merely a proper appearance in silks and flowers. One cannot help wondering where the money comes from, especially if he knows that the charmers cannot possibly get it from papa or mamma. But one must not wonder too much or investigate too closely. City institutions won't bear it.

Jouge Morris, of the Supreme Court, died on the 25th inst. He was formerly Mayor of this city. The venerable consort of Com. Chauncey, also died on the same day.

Thackery has arrived, and will proceed to fulfil his engagements in lecturing in this and other cities, and will, most probably cultivate an acquaintance with some of our most important provincial towns. The product of his journeyings, is, it is said, to appear in the shape of a next summer's book.

Bosia, is the quaint title of a prettily executed volume of sugar tooth verses on the subject of kisses, and the manner of doing them anciently and modernly. Published by Blanchard, of this city. ERIE.

DR. KANE AND THE SPIRITUALISTS.—A correspondent calls our attention to a statement in the *New England Spiritualist*, dated June 30th last, according to which Dr. Kane had been seen in the spiritual world in company with Sir John Franklin, while his mortal remain were seen lying upon the polar ice among the relics of his expedition—his vessel having been crushed to pieces, and most, if not all, his men destroyed. Our correspondent seems to think that the falsehood of all these particulars affords a new evidence against the credibility of the so called spiritual communications; but we do not see that in this respect the revelation in question differs much from the mass of those pretending to come from the world of ghosts and rappers. There is no other class of liars to be compared with those who play upon their dupes from behind the veil which hides trans-mundane existence from the sight of men.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

☞ A letter from Fillmore City, Utah, to the Chicago *Tribune*, says that the institution of negro slavery exists in the territory, as well as Indian slavery. The Indians sell each other into perpetual bondage, and make active, ready and obedient servants. The population is estimated at from sixty to a hundred thousand persons, which, if true, would entitle the territory to admission into the Union as a State.

Letter from California.

New York, Oct. 30.

The George Law from Aspinwall, with the California mail of the 5th, arrived at her dock at 6 P. M. She brings 560 passengers, and $1,670,000 in treasure. She connected at the Isthmus with the John L. Stephens, which brought down nearly $1,900,000.

News unimportant. All the election returns were in, but no official accounts had been received.

All the K. N. ticket elected. Johnson has over 5,000 majority for Governor. Total number of votes 90,000. The Legislature is composed of 72 Know-Nothings, 39 Democrats and 2 Whigs. The K. N. majority in the Senate is 4, in the Assembly 19.

The Prohibitory Law is defeated by 6,000 majority.

Ex-Governor Foote and ex-Congressman Marshall and Peyton are spoken of among the K. N.'s to succeed Gwin

Gen. Denber, Secretary of State, had left for the States to claim his seat in the House of Representatives in the next Congress.

A party of 120 recruits left in the Uncle Sam to join Walker's expedition; another party was to go from Nevada.

Judge Norton has decided that the sale of the Slip property, made by the city in December, 1853, was invalid.

A large fire had occurred in Jamestown. Loss $50,000. The Masonic Hall was consumed.

Advices from Oregon announce the safety of Gov. Stevens. He and his party were at Fort Benton at last accounts.

Dates from Australia are to July 25th. Haxall flour sold at Melbourne on the 7th. at £50 per ton.

What are the Sound Dues?

Much is said in our exchanges of the probability of war between the United States and Denmark, in which it is supposed other powers might engage. The *Mobile Register* has taken the pains to look into the matter, and serves its readers with the following:

The 'Sound' is a narrow Strait, lying between the Island of Zeeland, belonging to the Danes, and the Swedish coast, and gives entrance to the Baltic Sea. The fortress of Cronburg Castle guards the passage, and here the Danish government exacts a payment of toll from all vessels entering the Baltic—as well from ships of their own citizens as those of other nations. The origin of this exaction is, that in the ancient times the Danes undertook to build and sustain certain light houses along the coast, for which the Hanse towns agreed to pay toll.

England, France, Holland and Sweden pay a duty of only one per cent. on every cargo entering the Baltic Other countries, including the United States, pay one and a quarter per cent.; even Danish ships are taxed to this rate In the year 1826 a treaty recognizing this duty was concluded between the United States and Denmark This treaty, however, according to one of its stipulations, may be dissolved by either of the parties, provided they give one year's notice of their intention

During the Presidency of Mr. Tyler, our Government determined to put a forcible stop to the imposition. Mr Upsher, the Secretary of State, fitted out a fleet of merchantmen and vessels of war, under Commodore Stewart, which he designed should force its way into the Baltic and thus at once rid the United States of the Sound duties Mr. Upsher's sudden death, however, by the explosion of a cannon, just as the fleet was ready to start, delayed the expedition and it was finally abandoned. Other attempts were made to abolish this tax. While Denmark was at war with Schleswig-Holstein, Mr. Flennikin, the United States Minister, offered on the part of his Government to pay Denmark $250,000 for a ten year's suspension of the dues; his death prevented the proposal coming to a head, Finally, on the 12th of April last, the United States notified the Danish Government of their intention to cease paying the Sound duties; and the stipulation of the treaty will accordingly expire next spring. Should no amicable arrangement of the question be arrived at in the meanwhile, we may then expect to see our vessels passing the Sound under warlike convoy. A serious conflict will then most probably arise.

The Danes are much alarmed upon this subject, and fear the United States will size upon their West India possessions, the Islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix. They are believed to be soliciting the good offices of the French Government.

MYSTERIOUS MURDER.—The body of a man was found Sabbath morning last, dead, near the Railroad track, two and-a-half miles below the station house in Ashtabula. The back part of his head was smashed in, and near by was found a coupling bolt used in coupling cars together; on the end of the bolt was found hair and blood, and it fitted to the wound in the head. There was nothing found on the body to give a clue to the name of the deceased; the body was conveyed to the station house in Ashtabula, an inquest held on it, and a verdict given that the deceased came to his death by a blow inflicted on the head with a coupling bolt in the hands of some person unknown to the jury.

The deceased had on black cattinet pants with patches on both knees, a new black cassimere vest, an old gray coat, a pair of coarse boots, a black silk hat well worn, and a coarse striped cotton shirt; he was a man of medium height and ordinary size, with dark brown hair.

MEXICO.—The New York Journal of Commerce has the following remarks in reference to the newly-elected President of the Mexican Republic:

"We have private advices from the city of Mexico to the 5th instant, which seem to render it probable that, after the new Government is thoroughly established and its authority every where recognized, all the secret elements of opposition becoming quieted, Gen. Alvarez will make way for the elevation for his trusty counsellor, Gen. Comonfort, to the highest position in the Republic. In an address to his countrymen, issued on the 2d instant, Alvarez expressed the wish to retire to his native mountains, and declares his intention to remain at the seat of Government only long enough to secure the sway of the principles for which he has been contending. His habits of life and tastes tend to inspire confidence in the renunciation thus expressed of ambitious pretensions and views. Comonfort possesses the high qualifications of education, intelligence and untiring zeal in the liberal cause, which we confidently count upon seeing exerted to secure a just administration of affairs at home, and to promote the national prosperity by encouraging the expansion of commercial intercourse with foreign nations. But the praise belongs to Alverez, untutored Indian though he be, of initiating the movement for the attainment of results so much to be desired, and which if accomplished, will worthily crown the labor of a life devoted to his country's service; for the name of the Piato chief has been prominent in connexion with every contest waged for liberty in Mexico during a period of more than forty years."

SUPPOSED MURDER.—The body of a young woman was found in a dying state not twenty-five feet from the sidewalk of Clark street, in the southern part of the city. The place was a vacant lot, a short distance north of Twelfth street. A watchman for the railroad passing by the spot between three and four o'clock in the morning, heard a faint groan, as of some one in distress, and turning aside from his course, perceived, by the aid of his lantern, the body lying there in the mud. Life was not yet extinct, but the poor being was so near to death that she could not speak and probably heard not the questions addressed to her. The watchman went for assistance, and when he returned, the vital spark had fled. Suspicion fell upon two men named John Holland and William Griffin, who were arrested and placed in the Watch-barn.

We found the body lying on the floor of the stable, concealed from sight by the shawl which she wore before her death. When the shawl was removed, the sight which met our gaze was one of the most dreadful of which we have remembrance. Before us lay the lifeless form of a female, but so covered and smeared with mud that, but for the outlines of a human form it could not have been distinguished from a mass of earth. Her clothes, the outer garment being what might once have been a genteel appearing plaid dress, was so saturated with mud and water that it was difficult to determine the material of which they were made. On foot was but one, the other were a shoe and stocking The corner procured water, and washing the mud from the face, revealed the features of a girl, not over eighteen years of age, fair and rotund as one in the bloom of youth and health The lips were injected with blood, and the right cheek and ear bore the appearance of having received a severe blow. There was a slight wound under the ear from which the blood slowly oozed. The skin was of a dark color, as well as we could, but not black. The breasts indicated that the girl had been a mother.—*Chicago Times.*

HORRIBLE MURDER.—A correspondent of Douglassville sends us the particulars of a terrible murder, committed on Wednesday night, in the person of Mrs. Hannah Shingle, a widow of about 60 years old, residing in North Coventry township, Chester county, one and a half miles south of Unionville. The house was entered by means of a ladder placed against a window in the second story, and it appears that the murdered woman was down stairs when the murderer was climbing in the window above She went up to see what was wrong, taking her axe with her as she was accustomed to do. Upon coming to the head of the stairs, she was met by the villain, when a desperate struggle ensued He pushed her to a bed which was near by, succeeded in taking her axe from her, hit her some five or six times across the head, and killed her almost instantly. She was undoubtedly killed on supposition that she had money in the house, as the murderer rifled everything in the house, where the supposed money could have been concealed, and an old clock-case down stairs, was broken open. One of the neighbors states that she was in the habit of putting money sometimes in the clock. The murderer succeeded in getting all the money she had, with the exception of $5,25 which was found in one corner of the bureau As yet, no picion rested upon no one, and the villain is still at large. Mrs. Shingle was living entirely upon her property, and had done so for many years.—*Reading Gazette.*

HINDOOISM OUT WEST.—The Milwaukeans have been near lynching a Russian, named Pelz, who was about to burn the corpse of his wife on a funeral pile of sixteen cords of wood, and then collect her ashes in an urn The papers say there, call this funeral attempt "heathenism." As to the modes of dealing with the dead it is very much a matter of taste, and burning the human body is very far from being some Pagan custom. It was a common practice in the most enlightened Grecian age, and was regarded fitter than to give the body to, consuming worms and dull decay." Byron and his friend Trelawney burned the corpse of Shelley, in accordance with the old classic usage, and the practice is common in Louisiana, especially in the country bordering on the Gulf Coast, the soil which is too spongy to permit a grave to be dug. We should think it more sensible for the Milwaukians to bury their own dead in any place, and let others have the same liberty. No practice will be largely followed that is not in accordance with popular custom.—*Mirror.*

VEGETABLE EGGS.—We are indebted to Sanborn, of Andover, for specimens of the queer productions of nature They are called vegetable eggs, and look for all the world in shape, size and general appearance like Shanghai or goose eggs. Dr. Sanborn informs us that the seed came from the patent office at Washington. The plant is a new production, and a longed for ornament in the garden If planted by a fence or tree that is not more than fifteen or twenty feet high, the vine will run so as to nearly cover it with these apparent productions of the Shanghai.—*Boston Jour.*

HORRIBLE CRIME.—The Rochester Union says that a father, forty-five years of age, residing in that vicinity, has for months subjected a female daughter of thirteen to the most wicked and unnatural crime. The mother of the child is insane. An aunt, hearing of the dreadful situation of the niece, stole her away from home unknown to the wicked parent, and took her away beyond his reach. She has now returned to appear against him before the tribunals which we trust will not permit him to escape the punishment he so richly merits. The affair is the worst of the kind ever heard of, and perhaps has not parallel in the annals of incestuous crime

YIELD OF COPPER FOR 1855.—The Lake Superior *Journal* gives the amount of copper that the agents of the different mines are confident of being able to ship the present season, as follows: From the Ontonagon District 2190 tons, from the Keweenaw Point District 2255 tons, from the Portage Lake District 3454 tons Total 4790½ tons, or 9681,000 pounds of copper, the yield of the range for 1855, which, at the present