Erie Weekly Observer,

ERIE, PA.

SATURDAY MORNING, JAN. 12, 1856.

Democratic County Convention.

The Democratic State Central Committee having called a Convention, to be held at Harrisburg March 4, 1856, for the purpose of of selecting delegates to the Democratic National Convention, and nominating candidates for Canal Commissioner, Auditor General and Surveyor the undersigned, the Democratic Central Committee of Erie county, call upon the Democratic voters of the county to assemble at their respective places of holding elections,

On Saturday, February 2, 1856,

at 2 o'clock, P. M. and select twenty of Erie, and elect two delegates from each township, ward, or borough, to attend a County Convention to be held in the city of Erie on

Monday, February 4, 1856,

at 2 o'clock, P. M. for the purpose of choosing two Representatives, and one Senatorial, (in connection with Crawford,) delegates to represent the county in the State Convention aforesaid.

The Democrats of the city of Erie will meet to choose their delegates at 7 o'clock, P. M., on Saturday, February 2, 1856

A. P. DURLIN,
THOS. MELLEN,
A. G. ELY,
A. MALLORY,
HENRY GINGRICH,
D. W. HOWARD,
HARRISON PARKS,
Central Committee.

Erie, Jan. 5, 1856.

The Governor's Message.

The Governor's Message occupies most of our first page this week, and of course every body will read it. It is meet they should. As the Chief Magistrate of the Commonwealth, invested with the execution of the laws, and a general supervision of the interests of the people, whatever he says or suggests becomes of interest to all. That there are many things in this Message to commend, and few to disapprove, is a fact few will dispute. But that it furnishes any evidence of the great statesman, or of the deep thinker, a character his friends are anxious to claim for him, we are unable to discover. To be sure, what he says, he says well enough, but no better than a thousand other gentlemen could upon the same subjects, who make no pretension to statesmanship, or superior intellectual ability. Upon this point, however, we need not dwell, the day of the Governor's popularity has already reached the "sear and yellow leaf" of autumn; the end of those who flattered him a year ago with hopes of a higher destiny, have been attained; and now he must stand or fall upon merit alone.

In regard to the public debt, the Governor claims that it has already been reduced $930,610 under his administration. If this is a fact, it will certainly be a piece of information alike gratifying to tax-payers, and creditable to himself. In regard to Banks, the Governor by no means meets the expectation of those who elected him to office. He is cautious, and says the actual wants of legitimate trade should govern action upon applications for Bank charters, and that a premium should be required from all Banks chartered or re-chartered. Upon Education, the Governor is as progressive as any one could desire—advocating increased appropriations, a Normal School, and every other means of educating the people. In this he meets the just expectations of the liberal of all parties. In relation to the laws for restraining the traffic in intoxicating liquors the Governor says the extent of such legislation must depend on the will of the people, determined by considerations of their own moral, physical and social welfare. He thinks that a full return to the license system in operation prior to the passage of the present law is not demanded by enlightened public sentiment. In regard to our local affairs, and the questions arising out of them, the Governor is brief and non-committal. He tells us he signed "Thompson's Bill" on the 6th of October, but why he delayed signing it until that time, is left for us to guess. Now there was evidently a reason why he kept that bill in his pocket all Summer, and it would have been manly to have made that reason known. As it is, we are left to infer that the reasons were unworthy, and would not bear examination.

☞ The *Gazette* was anxious "forever" himself in regard to the election of Mr. Piatt, to the Speakership of the Senate. And to give us data upon which to base our "expression," it says he voted for Cameron last winter—is a Know Nothing, opposed to the National Administration, and voted for the Jug Law. These are sins enough, in all conscience, to sink a much better man than Piatt; still, we believe in Politics as in Religion, that the vilest sinners may return; and when they do return, they should be treated, not as outcasts from the Church, but as erring and repentant brethren. And this is Piatt's position, we suppose—at any rate, we are bound to believe it is with such fathers in the Church as Judge Wilkins voting for him. Is the *Gazette* satisfied?

SORRY WE CAN'T HELP HIM.—Col. ALEXANDER, of the Clarion *Democrat*, has been favorably mentioned in connection with the nomination of Auditor General, by a good many of our exchanges. We know the Colonel well; and we can say without disparaging the claims of any one, that he is entitled to all the clever things his brethren of the quill have said of him. Still, as we have a candidate in our own county, we are compelled to forego our desire to aid him.—This we regret the more, because in times past, when Clarion and Erie went shoulder to shoulder on congressional nominations, Col. Alexander rendered us good service, and under any other state of affairs, would be entitled to our support, and should have it. We can pledge him this much, however; that when the Convention meets, and we find we can't get our man, Erie county won't go farther than Clarion for a substitute, or lower down in the alphabet than the letter A for a vowel to spell the name of that candidate with.

THE SECRET LEAKING OUT.—The secret why Messrs. Wood, Greeley and Company, says the Philadelphia *News*, first killed off Campbell for Speaker, and are now working so hard for Banks is gradually becoming fully understood. A recent Washington correspondent of the New York *Express* says:

"Thurlew Weed's principal business here this winter, it is said, is to get the duty off Railroad iron, in order to benefit roads in which he is largely interested, and especially in your New-York and Buffalo Road. Ther is a wholesale plunder contemplated at this session, and I beg you to keep your eyes well on the lobby and inside the bar.

☞ The authorities of Watertown, Jefferson county, having discovered that the retail wood sellers were selling short measure, appointed a wood measurer to protect the poor. The wood sellers rebelled and combined under the penalty of ten dollars, not to offer for sale any wood for the term of two weeks. A few days in the county jail, would be no more than they deserve.

AUDITOR GENERAL.—Murray Whallon, Esq., of Erie, now a member of the Legislature, will be presented as a candidate for the nomination of Auditor General before the next Democratic State Convention. Mr. Whallon possesses eminent qualifications for that position.

We copy the above from the Pittsburgh *Union* for the purpose of endorsing the suggestion, as well as pointing out the manifest propriety of the nomination, should it be made by the Convention. Six years ago, Mr. W. was a candidate for the same post, and although his name was brought before the Democracy of the State but a few weeks previous to the Convention, he received a truly flattering support. This is evidence that, in the opinion of a very considerable body of the Democrats of the State, he was then eminently fitted by position, capacity, and political character to preside over that department of the public affairs of the Commonwealth. That six years have rather added to these qualifications, as well as the claims of our locality, no one will pretend to deny. In a hopeless minority for years, the Democracy of Erie have ever responded to the call of their brethren in other portions of the State, and with a fidelity to principle that knew no abatement, ever in the face of a proscriptive opposition, have gallantly stood their ground without hope of reward. In this little army, Mr. W. has always been a reliable and efficient laborer. In season and out of season, wherever there was work to be done for the Democratic cause, there has he been found. Now, secondarily to the interests of the cause is easy enough in a majority county, but with a majority of the temper and numbers the Democracy of Erie have heretofore had to encounter, it becomes an entirely different affair. To be a Democrat in Berks is comparatively no virtue, because one but sails with the current, but to be a Democrat in Erie, in times past, was to encounter the most vindictive and unrelenting opposition—sometimes even extending to one's business and personal relations. This state of affairs we know exists no longer, party lines have been broken down; and the little band of Democrats who for years were never counted in the political calculations of their opponents, have now become a "power in the State," and are duly represented at Harrisburg by the gentleman whose claims we are advocating. Setting aside, then, the eminent fitness of the candidate presented by Erie county, would it not be sound policy on the part of the Democracy of the State to recognise and reward the claims and fidelity of the Erie county Democracy, by nominating their chosen representative for the office proposed? It strikes us that it would, and, hence, as one deeply interested in the future success of our party, we urge the claims of Mr. WHALLON upon the attention of our brethren of the press in the State.

Pollock in a Tight Spot.

The last Harrisburg *Patriot and Union* puts his Excellency, Gov. POLLOCK, in a rather unenviable position, considering the high pretensions to official rectitude and consistency which his supporters claim for him. It appears that on the 19th day of March last, the Governor, through the Secretary of the Commonwealth, promulgated certain "rules" to "all future applicats for pardons," and these "rules" were as follows:

First, Satisfactory evidence will be required, that at least five days previous notice of the intended application for the pardon was given to the District Attorney of the city or county in which the conviction took place.

Second, That at least ten days previous notice of the intended application was given in at least one newspaper, published in the city or county in which the conviction took place.

To show how these "rules" are adhered to, the *Patriot and Union*, details the following case:—On the 10th of March, about 11 o'clock at night, in the Borough of Birmingham, in Huntingdon county, five individuals named James C. Clark, A. M. Graffius, James McCahan, D. G. Owens, and Samuel T. Martin, disguised with false faces, and otherwise, broke into a grocery of a licensed dealer, knocked down and wounded him, went into his cellar, broke in the heads of his whiskey barrels, and poured out his liquor. The defendants—all young men—were brought to trial for this flagrant outrage and breach of the peace, at the last August session of the Court, and were all convicted of the crimes charged against them in the indictment. The verdict of the jury was rendered on Friday evening of the first week of the Court, and the young men were permitted to go home on condition of their returning on Monday morning to receive sentence and have the judgement of the Court passed upon them. On Monday morning they appeared, and were called up for sentence, when their counsel *produced and read, i. arrest of judgment, a pardon from James Pollock, under the broad seal of the Commonwealth*, and the defendants were discharged. This case we present to the friends and apologists of His Excellency for approval or condemnation. Bear in mind that the defendants were convicted on Friday, and on Monday following the pardon was read in Court, so that it must have been made out on Saturday or Sunday. Now, as only two days elapsed between the rendering of the verdict and the reading of the pardon in Court, it is impossible that either of the rules in the above proclamation could have been complied with; and, unless the Governor or his friends can show such "peculiar circumstances" as would "justify their suspension," he must be content to stand before the community as a man utterly destitute of veracity, undeserving the respect or confidence of any portion of the people.

PUBLICATION OF THE LAWS.—There has been a great deal said, from year to year, in the papers of this State in favor of publishing the laws in the newspapers of the several counties; but as yet, with very little effect. Yet such a measure is so evidently demanded by the very nature of it, that it seems strange it has not long ago been engrafted in as a part, and an important part of our system of policy. As it is, our institutions as carried out, contain a striking and an iniquitous absurdity. We boast that our citizens are the sovereign power, that they really make the laws, and yet they never see them, and in many cases never hear of them til themselves or neighbors have been arrested for violating some act that they did not dream had an existence. If men are to be punished for violating law, it seems that it would comport with the character of our government to place it in the power of the people to learn what that law is.

☞ A man named Willis has on exhibition at New Haven, a machine which he claims to be the solution of the perpetual motion problem.—The *Palladium* says that "the machine certainly goes, and there is no chance, as anybody has yet discovered, of its being moved by any extraneous or concealed force."

☞ The semi-annual report of the New Orleans chief of police shows that in six months nearly one-twelfth of the entire population of the city has been put under arrest.

Don't Deny Responsibility.

The opposition begin to feel restive under the accumulated load of infamy which the course of the majority in Congress is heaping upon its shoulders; and as a natural sequence, it is now seeking to shift its weight upon the glorious "74" who constitute the minority. The New York *Times*, for example, through its Washington correspondence and by editorial arguments, claims that upon the President and those who support Gen. Richardson alone rests the responsibility of non-organization. It says the "President is the leader of the mob in Congress as he is the leader of the mob in Kansas." Party malignity and party mediocrity could not go farther if it tried. The President the leader of men who were elected as his opponents—of Havens, Mr. Fillmore's law partner—of Dunn, of Millward, of Fuller, of Scott Harrison, and the thirty five other anti-Banks men, who got into Congress through the people's fear of the Pope, or by fanatical tirades against that just and patriotic measure, they courteously designated as the "Nebraska swindle." For weeks and months before Congress assembled this same *Times*, as well as the entire opposition press, teemed with boasting proclamations about the majority against the Administration in Congress. Daily we were told that the Administration had been condemned by the people—that when Congress assembled, so far from the Democratic party occupying the proud position it did a year ago, it would be a miserable minority; and that the "wrongs and and outrages" perpetrated by the last Congress, under the lead of the President and in the name of Democracy, would be redressed by the restoration of the Missouri compromise. Indeed, so certain was the *Times* and its adjuncts of a clear majority, ready to do the bidding of Seward, Giddings, & Co., that it was gravely proposed in many quarters to impeach the President.—And yet when Congress did meet, instead of reforming abuses, instead of restoring the Missouri Compromise—instead of impeaching the President—instead of succoring the cause of "freedom in Kansas"—these patriots fell of wrangling among themselves over the bone of place, and the peuter-platter of official crumbs gathered about the Speaker's chair. And when they find the more they try to divide the spoils, the wider their forces are divided, the hired scribblers of such papers as the *Times* fall to abusing the President and the minority in Congress as the cause of their trouble. Do they think to humbug the people in this way? Do they expect to escape responsibility for the disgrace they are bringing upon the country, by shifting it upon the shoulders of the party whose defeat before the people they have flouted in its face for a year? If they do, they are mistaken! For even if the charge, that upon the President and his friends in Congress rests the responsibility of non-organization, did not bear its falshood upon the face, there are too many doctors describing symptoms, to let the country long remain in doubt as to the true cause. Thus, for example, while the Doctor of the *Times* declares "the President is the leader of the mob in Congress," and thereby prevents organization, Dr. Greeley, of the *Tribune* puts the blame where it belongs.—He says, in giving the reason why the majority cant organize,

"Because men who vote uniformly for Banks, constantly intrigue to defeat him; nightly caballing against him, threatening to bolt, swearing they will vote for him no longer, and giving secret assurances to his open and manly adversaries that the Banks vote will soon break up, and exhorting them to hold out against a plurality rule, or any course which may result in his election.

Such are the facts as I know them, as the country should understand them. Had all the men voting for Banks, in good faith supported him, he would have been chosen days ago. He has not been simply because some men who were morally bound to support the Anti-Nebraska candidate would not, while others who have pretended to support him secretly plotted and connived to defeat him. Night after night they in secret conclave resolve to bolt next day; but when the time has arrived to fulfill their resolve their hearts fail them, and the resolves which they have caused to be telegraphed to distant points are falsified by their acts. So the Democrats, who want the House organized, are kept voting solid against a plurality rule in the daily hope that the Banks column will speedily break, and give them a chance to elect Orr if not Richardson."

BACKBONE DOCTORS, GREELEY AND WEED.—Dr. Greeley, the distinguished spinal disease practioner, is again in Washington. He returns to us finding his patient—the majority of the House—in the condition so aptly described by the great original of his school—Dr. Cuffee—"getting no better, fast." Dr. Weed having been called home to attend to the other patient—the just assembling New York Legislature—Dr. Greeley will find that he has a world of labor on his hands in the task of screwing up a majority to vote for the Hon. Mr. Banks. Our private impression is, that the patient is just now in a condition to nauseate Dr. Greeley's nostrums more than ever. Many sensible people in Congress declare that all the physicking and backbone rubbing which Dr. Greeley, Weed and Company, have essayed her since the first Monday in last month, has only served to complicate the disease of the patient, and make the case—the organization—more difficult.—*Wash. Star.*

SUNBURY AND ERIE RAILROAD.—This morning the Sunbury & Erie railroad train crossed the bridge over the North Branch at this place, for the first time. An experiment with the locomotive "Niagara" was first made, and then a train of passengers followed to Greenoughs Island. The bridge, after the system of William Howe, proved to be a superior structure, not the least motion of it being perceptible during the passage over. The engineer of that division saluted the builder, A. G. Shiffler, Esq., with three cheers, to which the whole assemblage joined. The bridge at the south side of the island will be ready for the passage of trains by the end of this week, when the connection with the Shamokin railroad will be completed.—*Lycoming Gazette, Jan. 1.*

☞ Excavations for the railroad at Arica, Peru, have brought to light many interesting relics. At one point the cut is seventy feet deep, and as the soil is loose sand, as the work proceed, everything from the top comes sliding down—dead Indians, pots, kettels, arrow heads, &c. Among other interesting mortuary relics, an Indian was started out of his resting place, *rolled up in a shroud of Gold.* The workmen cut up this magnificent winding sheet and divided it among themselves. A piece of it has been sent to Mr. Ewbank, commissioner of patents at Washington. The weight of the entire shroud must have been eight or nine pounds, and had it been preserved, would have been the finest specimen of sheet gold that we have heard of since the times of the Spanish conquest.

WASHINGTON CITY, Jan. 8.—It being generally understood that the Democratic Caucus last evening resolved to stick together by their platform and nominees and when the House meets to-morrow to vote against all motions for a recess or adjournment until a Speaker is elected, the session of to-morrow is looked forward to as fraught with important results. It is hoped that the Speaker will be chosen before the close of the week.

The Sunbury and Erie Railroad.

We present to the reader, below, the communication of Ex-Governor Bigler, referred to in the proceedings of Councils published in the *News* of yesterday, which was unavoidably crowded out of our report. In addition to the answers to the interrogatories of Mr. Gibson, Mr. Bigler makes some excellent suggestions which are worthy the attention of those who take an interest in this great work. The communication of Gov. B. is as follows:

To the President and Members of the Common Council of Philadelphia

GENTLEMEN:—The officers of the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company are in possession of a resolution adopted by you on the 27th ultimo, asking for certain information as to the prospect and management of the enterprise committed to their charge, and, as directed by the managers, embrace the earliest opportunity to reply.

In doing so, they deemed it proper to remark, in the first place, that the report submitted to the stockholders in May last, a copy of which is hereto annexed, contains an exhibition in detail, of the affairs of the Company at the time the present managers assumed the control, and embodying much of the information called for by your resolution, furnishes the best and only reply we can make to the spirit of most of the inquiries presented.

It was estimated, in that report, that ten millions eight hundred thousand dollars, in addition to the resources then secured, and a mortgage of fifty per cent. on the cost of the work, would be sufficient to secure the construction of the entire road with a single track, and we have seen no reason to change the opinion then expressed.—With a view, however, to a more satisfactory answer to your inquiries on this point, we deem it proper to present the whole plan of operations at present contemplated by the Company.

Very soon after taking charge of the work, finding the resources of the Company quite insufficient to complete the whole road, they determined the policy of the Company to be, to devote all its means and energies towards the construction of such parts of the line as would evidently pay best, when completed, in order to give immediate value to the investment previously made by the city and other stockholders.

They had no difficulty in deciding that the eastern end of the road, reaching the anthracite coal of the Shemokin Valley, at Sunbury, and the bituminous coal-fields above Farrandsville, a distance of about eighty miles, extending through a rich and populous country, would be the most productive part of the road. The total cost of this division, including the money already expended, is estimated at $3,600,000.

The Western Division of the line, extending from the harbor of Erie to the coal-beds in McKean county, a distance of eighty-two miles, which it is believed would be well sustained by the local tonnage and travel, has been estimated at a total cost of $2,000,000. The construction of this division, except the iron, has been contracted for with a number of enterprising and responsible citizens of Erie and Warren counties, one-half the gross cost of the work to be paid in the municipal bonds of the City and County of Erie and County of Warren, twenty-five per cent. in the bonds of this Company, and the remaining twenty-five per cent. in cash.

The Middle Division, found between the points already named, a distance of one hundred and ten miles, embracing the heaviest part of the work, is estimated at a cost of five millions and a half of dollars.

Thus, the cost of the several divisions, and the total cost of the road, are exhibited as follows, to wit:

Eastern Division,	$3,600,000
Middle "	5,500,000
Western "	2,400,000
	$11,500,000

The resources of the Company, collected, and to be collected, and those only prospective, so as to exhibit the whole scheme, may be stated as follows, to wit:

Total amount of Subscriptions, collected, and to be collected,	$4,894,000
Municipal Subscriptions of Erie City and County, and Warren County, as provided for in the contracts for work, and not included in the above,	550,000
Original Capital, to be raised as hereinbefore stated, and which has been termed "the Consummation Stock,"	2,800,000
Proceeds of Mortgage Security on the the plan hereafter presented and explained,	5,000,000
	$13,294,000

This aggregate covers no Municipal Subscriptions, except those of the Cities of Philadelphia and Erie, and Erie and Warren Counties. The remainder of the Crane Subscription is embraced in it, and the contract under which it is to be paid, made the basis of the estimated cost of the Middle Division, to which it mainly applies.—We have made no estimate for the income from the completed portions of the road, on the one hand, nor for contingent expenses on the other. A few thousand shares have been subscribed to the "Consummation Stock," but no formal effort has yet been made to obtain subscriptions, for the reason, that until the City of Philadelphia makes arrangements to pay the balance of her subscription, our basis, from which to argue and prove that the subscription now sought, will be sufficient, was not complete. So soon as the pending ordinance shall have past, and the monetary affairs of the country shall become more auspicious, the Managers intend to make a vigorous effort for the stock necessary to complete a single track. The success of this scheme of operations, it will be perceived, depends much upon the state of monetary affairs, and hence we have calculated for a gross capital of nearly two millions above the estimated cost of the work.

This general exhibit, in our judgment, presents the best answer to your first and sixth inquires that we can furnish.

To your second inquiry, we reply, that the total cost of "surveying and engineering," from the earliest explorations, twenty years since, up to January last, is set forth in the accompanying report to the stockholders. During the past season, a few thousand dollars have been expended in the engineering department, but in the absence of the Chief Engineer's annual report, we are not prepared to name the exact sum.

In answer to your third inquiry, we have to remark, that the Board of Managers by resolution, dated in December 1854, determined to confine the payment of interest to full paid stock. When the city shall have made provision for the final payment of her subscription, she will thereafter be entitled to interest under this resolution.

In reply to your fourth inquiry, it is only necessary to remark, that the proceeds of the city bonds were all expended prior to the selection of the present managers, and we have no means of informing you "what amount of the city subscription has been expended west of Williamsport." The total expenditures west of that point, up to the present, amounts to near $600,000, but as all the funds were placed in a common treasury, it does not appear what portion of the money, so expended, was received from the city.

In reply to your fifth interrogatory, we have to say, that the location of the road has not been actually changed at any point by the present managers. The question of location near the town of Williamsport, is still pending, as is also another, as the location between the waters of the Sinnemahoning Creek, on the east side of the summit, and those of the Clarion river, on the west. When in possession of the proper scientific and other information as regards points, it is the determination of the managers to fix the location, were nature and the public convenience have conspired to place it, regardless of individual interests or complaints, or menaces from any quarter.

About $160,000 have been paid on the Crane subscription, and for particulars as to the provision made for the balance, we respectfully refer you to the accompanying report. It will be perceived that, by an agreement with James Burns & Co, made in 1854, for the construction of a large amount of work, they are bound to take the several instalments of this subscription in payment, and that they have since then given the Company the right to retain 60 per cent of their contract, they being released from a like per centage of the Crane subscription. The managers will dispose of this matter at the right time, in such manner as the interests of the Company may seem to demand.

By reference to the report to the Stockholders, submitted in May last, it will be perceived that the Choteau subscription was released and cancelled on the 10th day of March, 1851. No payments have been made or claimed on it.

It may not be improper to remark in this connection, that those who at present control the affairs of the Company, had no connection with it at the time the city made her subscription, nor have they ever had control of one farthing of her money. They are only asking the performance of a contract on the part of the City, which her own solicitors and those of this Company, as well as the able counsel of certain of the individual stockholders, have shown by abundant authority and reasoning, to be valid and binding. The highest obligations they are under, and the best conditions they can perform, is to make a judicious and faithful use of the means furnished by the stockholders, and their policy and plan of doing this has been freely and fully set forth.

These remarks, and the information contained in the preceeding part of this communication, furnishes our answer to your eighth inquiry.

It affords us pleasure to say that the individual subscribers have been paying with liberality and promptitude. Very many of them have anticipated the instalments, and paid in full.

The road east of Williamsport is now completed, and connecting with Shamokin road at Sunbury, makes a continuous line from Williamsport to Mount Carmel, a distance of 70 miles.—Since its completion, we have made arrangements with the Shamokin Company to furnish cars and motive power, and transport, daily, not less than 600 tons of anthracite coal over the entire length of the road.

The mortgage heretofore resting on the road between Williamsport and Sunbury, has been satisfied, and the bonds issued under it cancelled, and another has been created over the entire line, not to exceed the aggregate of six millions, with the condition that the bonds issued under it shall never exceed half the amount of capital previously invested in the construction and equipment of the road. We have reason to believe that this will afford a good system for out door for the Company.

It may not be known to all of you, that the payment of the remainder of the subscription to the Cleveland, Painesville and Ashtabula Railroad Company, (two hundred thousand dollars,) is dependent upon the action of the City of Erie.—Under the law, the payments are to be made contemporaneous. Until the City makes provision to pay, no demand can be made on the Ohio Company, and a failure in the former involves the loss of the latter.

But that it is—aside from these considerations—the true policy of the subscribers to the stock, who have already much at stake, to pay the remainder, and to do so promptly, we can't doubt. Any other policy will prove prejudicial to the future progress of the enterprise, and will surely lead to a virtual, if not to a legal sacrifice of what has been already paid. The adoption of the ordinance now under consideration in the Councils, would secure the completion of the eastern end of the road by the autumn of 1856, as it would also, in the opinion of the managers, enable the Company, with a favorable money market, to prosecute the western division to early completion; and we most earnestly entreat you to adopt this measure without further delay.

Confirmed in their belief in the correctness of this work—of the vast influence it will exert upon the growth of the city and a large portion of the State—indeed, in view of the necessity for such an avenue to the Lakes and the West, those who at present control the affairs of the Company are determined not to be discouraged or disconcerted by temporary obstacles, but to persevere to the end. Public justice and representations originating among your fellow commercial cities, and with rival improvements out of the State, together with a stringent money market, may at times, embarrass the progress of the enterprise, but they can no more defeat its ultimate success, than they can arrest and defeat the natural progress of our country to greatness and wealth. This work is demanded by the interests of the great west on the one hand, and the commerce of the Atlantic cities on the other, and we venture nothing in claiming for it, in future, greater influence upon the commercial trade and commerce, and general improvement, than will be exercised by any other Railroad now contemplated in the Atlantic States. This opinion is evidently gaining strength in the south-western States. At a convention of gentlemen representing large Railroad schemes and interests in the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Iowa, held at Fort Wayne, on the 4th inst., the Sunbury and Erie Railroad was referred to as the great future route for tonnage and and travel between the east and the west, and the advantages freely conceded to it over all rivals. When at Cleveland and Erie recently, the President of this company was informed of the vast accumulations of tonnage destined for the east, but delayed at Cleveland, Dunkirk, and other points, for want of transportation facilities, and which would have been promptly forwarded on this road leading from the lake to this city. The future of this enterprise will yet, we are confident, fully exemplify the wisdom of its early advocates, and reward them for all they have done and endured for its sake. When the completed thoroughfare between Pittsburgh and the lakes, and the great west, in the work of transmitting tonnage of every kind and description which it will perform, in its agency in developing the immense mineral wealth now sleeping silently in the hills on the line of its route, in the powerful influence in attracting population to the surrounding country—by the herculean agency it will have in the general progress, improvement and civilization, it will proudly frown down, disperse and rebuke the illiberal spirit which has marked the policy of its opponents. When so completed and operating, the benefits and advantages, direct and indirect, which it will certainly confer upon the trade and commerce of this city—the teeming elements of wealth which it will constantly throw into all departments of industry, the stimulant which it will lend to her growth and improvement, will sink the contributions she has made towards its construction, into utter insignificance. We are, at least, willing to claim all this for it and abide the test of time.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
WM. BIGLER, President.

THE PAST AND THE PRESENT CONDITION OF THE NEGRO.—The New York Observer, in the course of an article on slavery, says,—

When the ancestors of those negroes were torn from their homes in Africa, by the slave traders of Old England and New England, and placed under the influence of Christianity at the South, they were among the most degraded and miserable of the human species, slaves of cruel masters, the victims of bloody superstitions, believers in witchcraft and worshipers of the devil.

And what now is the condition of their descendants? Several years ago more than 300,000 of them were members of Protestant evangelical churches in the slaveholding States. About 10,000 American negroes, trained chiefly at the South, transplanted to Liberia, now rule nearly 100,000 natives of Africa, and through their schools and churches are spreading the light and love of the gospel in that land of darkness and heathenism.

It is true that more than nine tenths of the negroes at the South are still slaves; but is slavery under Christian masters in America, the same evil with slavery under heathen tyrants in Africa? Degraded, as these slaves may still be, compared with the sons of the pilgrims in New England, or even with the mass of laborers in some of the enlightened countries in Europe, can 3,000,000 or 1,000,000 negroes, bond or free, be found in any part of the world, who can compare for good condition, physical, intellectual and moral, with the 3,000,000 slaves at the South? Has Christianity, aided by all the wealth of British Christians, done as much during the last twenty years for the elevation of the 800,000 emancipated negroes in the West Indies, British philanthropists themselves being the judges of what it has effected there, as it has done during the same period for the elevation of our 3,000,000 American slaves?

Arrival of the Canada.

The royal mail steamer *Canada*, Capt. Stone, arrived here this afternoon, after a very stormy passage. She brings Liverpool dates of Saturday, the 22d ult., three days later than those received by the *Arago* at New York.

The present prospect of peace is this: It may be remembered that Austria made a suggestion of certain terms, not known to the public, which the Austrian Cabinet considered might constitute a basis for pacific negotiations. These negotiations Austria sent to Paris, through the French Minister at Vienna, and the French Government sent a copy of said suggestions to London. Much correspondence ensued between London and Paris, resulting in the original suggestions being sent back, altered by France and England, to Vienna. The Austrian Cabinet expressed mortification that her suggestions were not adopted. More correspondence ensued resulting in Austria agreeing again to append her name jointly with France and England to the modified proposals. The propositions, thus amended, was sent from Vienna on Sunday, Dec. 25th, Count Esterhazy being the messenger, to St. Petersburg. Five or six days are allowed to reach St. Petersburg, and fourteen days more for the Czar's unconditional acceptance or refusal of it. The contents of this ultimatum are kept profoundly secret.

If the Czar refuses, France and England threaten to continue the war, and Austria to cease diplomatic relations, and afterwards to be governed by the course of events.

Simultaneously with the transmission of peace proposals to Russia, the Paris *Moniteur* publishes the treaty entered into between the Allies and Sweden; guaranteeing the western limits of Sweden against Russian aggression. As Russia does not at present threaten Sweden, this ill-timed treaty may be received by Russia as an intentional insult, and cause the rejection of the peace proposals. The terms of the treaty are very stringent. It is declared that the treaty is contrived to prevent any complication of a nature to trouble the balance of power in Europe.

By Article 1st, the King of Sweden engages himself not to cede to Russia nor to exchange, sell or lend, nor allow her to occupy any portion of the territory belonging to the crown of Sweden and Norway; engages, moreover, not to cede to Russia any right of pasturage or fishing ground, or of any other nature whatsoever of the said territories, or of the coast of Sweden and Norway, for every pretension Russia might raise to establish the existence of the above named rights.

Article 2d. In case Russia should make any proposition to the King of Sweden, or any demand with the view to obtain either the cession or exchange of any portion whatever of the territory belonging to the crowns of Norway and Sweden, but permission to occupy certain points of said territory, or the cession of the pasturage rights, or of any other on those said territories, or on the coast of Sweden and Norway, the King of Sweden engages to communicate immediately such propositions to the Emperor of the French and the Queen of England, and they engage to provide Sweden with sufficient naval and military forces for Sweden, to resist the claims or aggressions of Russia. The nature, the importance, and the destination of the forces in question, should the case occuring, be decided by a common agreement between the three powers. A secret clause is appended to the treaty, providing for Sweden eventually taking the field against Russia.

SHINPLASTER SWINDLE.—Some of the citizens of Tiffin have issued a card, cautioning the public against the shinplasters which have recently flooded the West, and purporting to be issued by the "Ohio Savings Institute." There is no such institution in existence. It is a complete swindle, and the press in the West should expose it.—*Ohio Statesman*

MARRIED.

On the 1st inst, by Wm. E. Marvin, Esq., Mr. JACOB ROCKWELL, of Mina, N. Y., to Miss MARY ANN CLOUD, of Greenfield.

On the same day, by Rev. D. Mitzner, Mr. AMASA WRIGHT, of Earlsville, Ill., to Miss CAROLINE LEE, of Harborcreek, Erie co.

On the same day, by Rev. S. Rogers, Mr. R. W. PORTER, to Miss AMANDA M. DYE, both of Le Bœuf tp.

On the 31st ult., by Wm. Benson, Esq., Mr. SOLOMON DEWEY, of Chautauque county, N. Y., to Miss HANNAH EDGELOW, of Le Bœuf.

On the 25th ult., by Rev. Dr. Prosser, of Cleveland, Mr. DAVID LYON, to Miss MARTHA J. NICHOLS, both of Girard.

On the 27th ult., by Rev. John Prosser, Mr. CHAUNCEY HAVEN, to Miss S. A. PATTISON, all of Girard.

On the 1st inst., by Rev. Jos. H. Priestly, Mr. JAMES ROBINSON, to Miss JANE ANDREWS, both of McKean township.

DIED.

On the 27th ult., at the residence of her daughter, in Edinboro township, EUNICE, wife of George Reed, aged 78 years, 2 months and 13 days.

On the 27th ult., DAVID, son of Wilson and Jane Caldwell, of this city, aged 1 month and 1 day.

New Advertisements.

NOTICE.

THE partnership or joint business of Cook and Kelso is dissolved and ended by limitation of the agreement, and all persons indebted to them are required to settle up and pay without delay.

The Ice and General Teaming business will hereafter be conducted by Hiram Cook alone and on his own account.

Erie, Jan. 12, 1856—3t35. COOK & KELSO.

House and Lot for Sale.

THE subscriber offers for sale the house and lot which he now occupies, situated on Short and Second streets. The house is new, now finished and will be sold on reasonable terms.

Payments one third in hand and the balance in one and two years. For further particulars inquire of the subscriber on the premises or of S. S. Spencer at his office on 6th street.

WILLIAM POWERS

Erie, Jan. 12, 1856. *3m35

Stray Cattle.

CAME to the farm of the subscriber about the 27th of Nov., two Heifers, one a red and white, and the other a gray or dun color, two years old, no artificial marks.—The owner is requested to come, prove property, pay charges, and take them away.

M. SHANK.

Millcreek, Jan. 12, 1856. *3t35

MERIT vs. BRAG.

DO YOU WISH A GOOD PICTURE?

DOUBTLESS every one who procures a daguerreotype desires to receive a "counterfeit presentment" of him—as near perfect as nature, assisted by art, can make it, and to this end, we would advise every body to trust to their own good judgment, rather than that of any committee, whether such committee acts in the name of the Erie County Agricultural Society, or in the name of any other society. We would also caution those who desire such pictures, to let merit, not brag, decide their choice in selecting an artist. Pretenders can "play upon five hundred strings," and even quote poetry, still such fact does not prove their skill of Daguerreotypes are "constantly emanating from their so-called "extensive sky light Daguerrean galleries." And yet we would not have the public be too hard upon the "Agricultural Society" artist, because, "where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise;" or, in the language of a favorite poet, when describing one of similar pretensions,

But 'tis some justice to ascribe to chance,
The wrongs we might expect from ignorance,
None can the moulds of their creation choose,
We therefore must their ignorance excuse,
When born too low to reach at things sublime,
'Tis rather his misfortune than his crime."

The undersigned would, therefore, say to all those in want of a good Daguerreotype to call at his Gallery, between Brown's Hotel and the Reed House, and examine the best pictures, the best assortment of materials, and the best sky light in this city. Don't be humbugged, but in the language of an eloquent southern brother, "search the scriptures," and you will find that the brag and the pretender "plays upon a harp of five hundred strings," and that, like his *pictures*, there is not one of them "perfect."

Erie, Jan. 12, 1856—3t5. E. H. ABEL.

William Evans vs. Lydia Ann Evans.	No. 22 August Term, 1855. Alias Subpœna in Divorce.

WHEREAS Williams Evans did on the 5th day of February 1855 prefer his petition to the Court of Common Pleas in and for the county of Erie, praying for causes therein set forth that he might be divorced from his wife Lydia Ann Evans.

Therefore notice is hereby given to the said Lydia Ann Evans to be and appear before our Judges at Erie at our Court of Common Pleas then and there to be holden for the county aforesaid on the first Monday of February next, to answer to the charges preferred.

J. KILLPATRICK, Sheriff.

Erie, January 12, 1856. 6t35

James Marshall vs Jane Marshall.	No. 23, Nov. Term 1855. Alias Subpœna in Divorce.

WHEREAS James Marshall did on the 5th day of January 1855, prefer his petition to our Judges of Common Pleas in and for the county of Erie, praying for causes therein set forth that he might be divorced from his wife Jane Marshall.

Therefore notice is hereby given to the said Jane Marshall to be and appear before our Judges at Erie at our Court of Common Pleas then and there to be holden for the county aforesaid on the first Monday in February next to answer to the charges preferred.

J. KILLPATRICK, Sheriff.

Erie, January 12, 1856. 6t35

SHERIFF SALES.

By virtue of various writs of *Venditioni Exponas* issued out of the Court of Common Pleas of Erie county and to me directed, will be exposed to public sale, at the Court House in the city of Erie on Monday the 4th day of February, 1856, the following described property, viz: All the right, title, interest and claim of John Eagles, of, in and to the following described piece of land situated in North East township, and bounded as follows: North by Lake Erie, east by land of Mrs. Jane Crawford and J. Jewett, south by J. Jewett and E. S. Dickinson, and west by same, containing seventy four acres more or less, about fifty acres of which are improved, and having erected thereon a brick dwelling house, brick barn and other outbuildings. Taken in execution at the suit of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Also, All the right, title, interest and claim of Hiram Lamport and S. S. Dunnington, of, in and to the following described piece of land situated in Union township, and bounded north by land of E. Bishop, east by land of the heirs of Baker, south by a road, and west by land of E. Bishop, containing about one acre and having erected thereon a frame house. Taken in execution at the suit of James Auberry.

Also, All the right, title, interest and claim of Johnson Boyd, of, in and to the following described piece of land situated in Le Bœuf township, and bounded as follows, north by land of Wm. Smith, deceased, east by land of Willard, south by a road, and west by land of [illegible] containing one hundred acres of land more or less. Taken in execution at the suit of Austin Thompson