# Erie Weekly Observer,

**ERIE, PA.**

**SATURDAY MORNING, FEB. 9, 1856.**

**Topics of the Week.**

"Banks is Speaker;" so the telegraph informed the anxious world on Saturday night last. Of course every body is glad the contest is over, and that the wheels of government are once more in motion. How it was brought about, is now, doubtless, what our readers would like to know, and we'll tell them as briefly as possible. On motion of Smith, K. N. of Ala., the House agreed on Saturday to vote four times, and if no one was elected by a majority before the fourth ballot, then the person having the highest number of votes on that ballot, should be declared Speaker. Under this rule, on the fourth ballot, Banks had 103; Aiken, Dem., 100; Fuller, K. N., 6; Campbell, 4; Mr. B. was then declared Speaker, and was conducted to the chair by his competitor, Ex-Gov. Aiken, of S. C. And thus ended the great fight; and now comes a trial of Black Republican supremacy. That party has the House; there is no denying that; But will its leaders redeem the pledges they made to the people before the election? We shall see. In the mean time, the political antecedents of the new Speaker—this Goliah of Fusion—may not prove uninteresting. On the 11th of October, 1853, says the Boston *Post*, a meeting of the friends of the Administration was held at Fanueil Hall, in Boston. This meeting was addressed by Mr. Banks, in a speech which was reported in the *Post*. In the course of it he said: "I accept the democratic principles as declared at Baltimore, and I say that the freedom of the people depends on the principles so declared. I assent most cordially to these principles, and which you will be sure to adopt." Now let us see what this Baltimore Democratic platform was, which Mr. Banks so fully and warmly endorsed. Among other things it denounces "all efforts of the abolitionists or others, made to induce Congress to interfere with questions of slavery, or to take incipient steps in relation thereto." 2. It pledges the Democracy "to a faithful execution of the acts known as the compromise measures," including the fugitive slave act. 3d. *It declares that "every attempt to abridge the privilege of becoming citizens and owners of the soil among us ought to be resisted with the same spirit which swept the alien and sedition laws from the statute books."* In addition to this, Mr. B., as is well known, is an ultra Free Trader, and joined hands with the free traders of the West in an effort to remove the duty upon railroad iron during the last Congress. In electing a Speaker with such antecedents, it seems to us that old line whigery, whether disguised under the name of Republicanism or Americanism, has neither gained honor nor profit.

— The proceedings of the Democratic County Convention will be found in another column. As was expected, the County has declared itself for Hon. JAMES BUCHANAN for President with an unanimity that argues well for the future of the party, and puts to rest, by evidence that cannot be disputed, the claim set up by some that he is not the first choice of the Democracy of Erie for that high office. It it true that in times past this county has been classed as an Anti-Buchanan county, but it was never so because our Democracy doubted that gentleman's patriotism or eminent abilities; it was so because they did not see clearly a chance of his election. That chance is now visible to every observer of events; the entire State sees it—all parties see it, and if he is nominated, as he doubtless will be, his election is as sure as the day of election comes.

— We suppose all our readers recollect the rumpus that was kicked up a few months since in the neighborhood of Altonia, on the Central Railroad, by the attempt of a "blood thirsty" Virginian to recapture a fugitive slave—how he did'nt succeed, but instead, got himself into limbo instead of his Sambo. Well, this little circumstance, it appears now, is to be the fulcrum upon which will hinge mighty events. Virginia has got her Southern blood up, and demands satisfaction. We are willing she shall take the "chattle," but she wants more, and insisting upon her right under the federal authority to reclaim a fugitive from service, threatens to imprison every Pennsylvanian and confiscate all the property of such within her limits, if the slaveowner in question be not liberated. So stands the present difficulty. What will be the real issue time only can determine. Our own impressions, we confess, are adverse to the course that Pennsylvania has adopted. We think it unwise, unjust, and impolitic, if nothing worse. Either slavery is or is not recognised by the federal constitution. If it is, we, who abhor it, have no more right to carry our abhorrence to such a point as to interfere on that subject with the local institutions of other States, than they have, in their abhorrence of our abolitionism, to interfere with the institutions of our own. And it *is* an interference of the grossest kind to interpose the strong hand of the law, when a stranger enters our borders for the purpose of obtaining that which he calls property, which has cost him money as such, and which is being secreted to his loss and damage. Unpleasant as it may be to our sense of humanity, it is our first duty to be just to others, if we would ask for justice for ourselves. We have no sympathy for that species of *quasi* philanthropy which, while seeking to carry out our own designs, is wholly indifferent as to whether the means it employs do not effect as much evil on the one hand, as they may promise to effect good on the other. Zeal without judgment is like physic without food, and no constitution ever throve upon such an unnatural course of treatment.

— The detention of the railroad trains and the mails this week in consequence of the vast quantities of snow which has fell and drifted, has been a topic of prolific conversation, as well as embarrassment to the business and the traveling public. On Friday night, last week, the Lake Shore road became impossible, and continued so until Thursday, notwithstanding the untiring efforts of the Superintendent, aided by all the men money could procure. The result was, we had no mails from Buffalo in all that time, and Buffalo was equally shut off from the West.—Gentlemen who had notes to meet in Buffalo became nervous, and dreamed of protests. Buffalo merchants who looked confidently for remittances from the West to meet expenses, and keep the Notary Public from their doors, consulted the telegraph hourly to know the progress made in cutting through the drifts. Passengers, anxious to get on, and with purses render ed light by detention, cursed their own ill-luck, and inconsistently damned all railroads. In short, the war of the elements, and the quantity of snow Providence has blessed us with this winter, has made almost every body ill-natured the past week.

BE JUST.—The Cleveland *Plain Dealer*, usually just to all Democratic Statesmen, we are sorry to see is a little unjust to Mr. Buchanan. For instance, in speaking of that distinguished man's return, after faithfully and creditably serving his country at the Court of St. James, it says "when Mr. Buchanan left for England he was a Missouri Compromise man, as his Home Festival letter shows," and that "he is believed to occupy that position now, and is fiercely favored by the New York Evening *Post*, and other Free Soil Prints, for the Presidency." In regard to the first count in this indictment, we have only to say that the letter alluded to does *not* "fully show" that Mr. B. was a Missouri Compromise man *when* he left for England. His Berks County Harvest Home letter was written in 1847, before California was acquired, and hence before the admission of that State had practically annulled that Compact. His position then was the position of nine tenths of the Democratic party; a position, let us add, that most likely never would have been changed had that compact been adhered to by the people. But it was not, and hence to say that Mr. B. was a "Missouri Compromise man" in 1852, "when he left for England," because he was in 1847, is to assume a position not borne out by the facts, or by legitimate reasoning.

The next count in the *Plain Dealer's* indictment is still more ungenerous, and what is more, has less grounds to rest upon than the first. So far from Mr. B. being "fiercely favored by the N. Y. *Evening Post*" for the Presidency, that paper of the 26th of January, we think, had a "fierce" attack upon him, in which he was accused of all manner of political sins, from Federalism to dough faceism. And as to the "other Free Soil prints," which the *Dealer* says are "fiercely" in favor of Mr. B., we confess they have never come under our observation; when they do, we intend to tell our readers their names and location, and it would perhaps be as satisfactory to the readers of our cotemporary if it would do likewise.

THAT RUMOR.—In noticing the change in the proprietorship of this paper, the *Constitution* says there is a rumor that a new democratic paper will be one of the fruits of the change. We think this rumor does not owe its origin to the change alleged to. We heard of it first last Fall, soon after the Democratic County Convention, and it was only *revived* a *few days* before the Convention on Monday, in order to see how the wind would blow from the Country. The result of Monday was not very strengthening, if we are to judge by the tone of one of the malcontents since, who had been fast a few days before to invest a cool five hundred in the enterprise, but who since has'nt said five hundred once. By the by, this establishing papers is rather an expensive amusement, more especially as papers born in that way are certain to be the children of their parents, and as in duty bound obey in all things the wishes of those who give them life. Personal organs never did flourish, and personal organs never will; and the reason is very plain. They generally reflect the personal views, the personal hates, and the personal animosities of the worthy gentleman who has the good luck to be the power behind the Editor, greater than the Editor himself. Still, if any one feels agrieved at the course of the *Observer*, and thinks he can redress his grievances by expending a couple of thousand or so in establishing a new Democratic paper in Erie County, we have only to say he or they can pitch in. This is a free Country, even for Editors; and hence we feel duly warranted in conducting the *Observer* to suit ourself, "regardless of denunciation from any quarter," as Gov. Porter once remarked.

DEATH OF THOS. H. SILL, ESQ.—Under our obituary head the reader will notice the death of THOS. H. SILL, Esq., the senior member of the Erie Bar, and one of the oldest and most respectable citizens of this section of the State. We are not informed of the precise date at which Mr. S. became a resident of Erie, but it must have been about, or shortly previous to the breaking out of our last war with England, and here he has resided ever since. As a Lawyer Mr. S. had few equals at the bar. A ripe scholar, and with an address that was at once winning and effective, his efforts before a jury were models of eloquence; hence he seldom failed to make an impression in his own favor, if he did not always gain his client's case. Mr. S. was not much in public life. He once represented this district in Congress, and held the office of Post Master under the administration of Mr. Fillmore. Aside from these positions, we believe his life has been passed in the quiet walks of a profession of which he was at once an honor and an ornament.

☞ We would really like to know whether the *Gazette can* state a simple fact without misrepresentation. If it can, will it some day do so, just by the way of treating its readers to a novelty. We say this, because the account that paper gives of the difficulty, and the result of that difficulty, in the democratic Convention on Monday is a notable example of the propensity of the *Gazette* to misstate and misrepresent simple facts. There was no war in the Convention in regard to Mr. Buchanan—none at all; upon that question it was a unit. The difficulty was simply a contest for seats between the writer of this and his collegue, and the gentleman named by the *Gazette* and his collegue. And upon that question, whether it is "difficult to tell which whipped," or not, the simple fact that we were admitted by a vote of 29 to 7 is a sufficient answer. In regard to the impression sought to be conveyed by the *Gazette* that in the election of Messrs. LAIRD and ALLISON, we suffered a partial defeat, and that their position in regard to Mr. Buchanan is uncertain, one or two fact will suffice to answer. *We* nominated Mr. L. for delegate. We were nominated by some other gentleman as his collegue; the name of Mr. Allison was then mentioned, whereupon we stated that if Mr. A would give a pledge to the Convention to attend *himself*, we would decline. He gave that pledge, and we nominated him, and both gentlemen were elected without a dissenting voice. Both of them, however, previous to their election, addressed the Convention, and pledged themselves to the fortunes of "Pennsylvania's favorite Son." In view of this facts, the *Gazette* can rest assured that "the whole party, from Springfield to North East" *will* "stand in solid phalanx."

☞ For a number of years the Commissioners of Erie County have been liberal enough to allow Democrats to see their annual statement of the Receipts and Expenditures of the County in the Columns of the *Observer*. This year, however, a different course is pursued—owing perhaps to the reforming leaven introduced by the election of a Republican.

**Democratic County Convention.**

At a Democratic County Convention held at Park Hall, in the city of Erie on the 4th day of Feb'ry, 1856, at 2 o'clock P. M., in accordance with the call issued from the County Central Committee, THOMAS MELLON, Esq., was elected President; and GILBERT HURD and DAVID OLIN were chosen Secretaries.

The following named gentlemen appeared and were admitted to seats as delegates, from

North East Tp.—Thomas Mellen, Henry R. Porter.
North East Bor.—Thomas Polwell, Henry H. Allison,
Greenfield.—E. C. Roberts.
Harborcreek.—Christian Hull, James Brawley.
Greene.—P. F. I. Brown, E. O. Pinney
Summit.—John Buys, James Johnston, jr
Le Boeuff.—Perry G. Stranaham.
Edenboro Bor.—E. W Gerrish, Isaac Van Tassell.
Girard Tp.—Nicholas Kauffman.
Girard Bor.—David Olin, M. N. Cutler.
Elk Creek.—Alonzo Sherman, William Akers.
Millcreek.—Robert Cochran, Henry Gingrich.
Erie, E. Ward.—B. F. Sloan, J. Ross Thompson.
Erie, W. Ward.—B. Grant, W. Laird,
Fairview.—Joseph Beckman, John V. Chapman.
Lockport Dis.—J. C. Kauffman, John Peas.
Springfild.—Hugh Paterson, Gilbert Hurd
Conneaut.—Alden Pomeroy, Anson Parsons
McKean.—J. M. Reed—the latter named gentleman though a resident of Millcreek was admitted to a seat as a delegate for McKean.

The President of the Convention then called upon Wilson Laird, Esq., to state the object of this Convention, which was done in a brief and eloquent address.

The first business in order was the consideration of contested seats from the East and West Wards in the city of Erie, which matter after a full hearing from all the claimants was decided by a very large vote in favor of the gentlemen whose names appear in the proceedings.

On motion of G. Hurd, it was *Resolved*, That the President appoint a committee of five to draft and report resolutions for the consideration of this Convention,

Whereupon, Benjamin Grant, Robert Cochran, B. F Sloan, H. R. Porter, and M. N Cutler, were appointed such committee.

The President next called for the nomination of delegates to the Democratic State Convention to be held at Harrisburg on the 4th of March next, when B. F. Sloan and Wilson Laird were nominated. Mr. Sloan stated that if the Convention thought proper to select any other delegate, or if any person wished to be a delegate, who would pledge himself *to be there*, he, (Mr S.,) would withdraw his name; whereupon Henry H. Allison was nominated, and Mr. Sloan accordingly declined further to be considered a candidate.

It was on motion of David Olin *Resolved* That Wilson Laird and Henry H. Allison, be and they are hereby elected representative delegates from this county to the State Democratic Convention to be held 4th March next at Harrisburg, and that this convention concur with the Crawford county Democratic Convention in the election of Major Vincent Phelps as the Senatorial delegate to the said State Convention.

Before this resolution passed Mr. Laird and Mr. Allison were called upon to give their views in regard to their support of Hon. JAMES BUCHANAN for the next Presidency, and of Hon MURRAY WHALLON, for Auditor General of Pennsylvania. They stated that they were uncompromisingly in favor of each gentleman for the offices named.

Gilbert Hurd then introduced the following resolution which was unanimously adopted.

*Resolved*, That the several delegates elected to-day by this convention, directly and by concurrence, be, and they are hereby instructed to support the Hon. James Buchanan for the President of the United States, and likewise the Hon Murray Whallon for Auditor General of this State, at said 4th of March Convention.

The committee on resolutions here reported the following, which on motion of B. F. Sloan were received and unanimously adopted.

*Resolved*, That upon issues that have been long before the country, the Democratic party stands where it has always stood, and that it is unnecessary that their views and principles on those subjects should be here reiterated.

*Resolved*, That the interests of all parts of the Union are alike to us, and that we will to the utmost of our power and the best of our ability maintain the constitutional rights of all, and that we fully recognise the principles of popular sovereignty in the territories.

*Resolved*, That the principles promulgated and acted upon by the secret organization called Know Nothings, are in direct violation of the rights guaranteed by the Constitution, and the spirit of Christianity—and that we regard every person who makes this country his home and loves the Constitution and laws, as an American citizen, and that in our opinion the deliberate change of allegiance to our government is as convincing an evidence of love and faithfulness to our free institutions as the accident of birth.

*Resolved*, That we retain undiminished confidence in the integrity and ability of the National Administration.

*Resolved*, That it is highly proper and but our just right that the next National Executive should be selected among the sons of the Keystone State, and that in James Buchanan we present for the support of the Democracy of our sister confederacies a Statesman eminently qualified for the position and entitled to their suffrages.

*Resolved*, That we pledge our hearty support to the State Ticket that may be put in nomination by the Convention to assemble in Harrisburg on the 4th day of March next.

*Resolved*, That we heartily approve of the course pursued by the Democratic members of the present Congress in relation to the election of a Speaker.

*Resolved*, That we recommend to the consideration of the State Convention Murray Whallon, Esq., as a candidate for Auditor General.

On motion, *Resolved*, that these proceedings be signed by the officers and published.

No other business being before the Convention, on motion, it ajourned, *sine die*, its delibarations having been characterized with much unanimity and harmony THOS. MELLEN, Pres't.

GILBERT HURD, } Secretaries.
DAVID OLIN, }

☞ Our paper is crowded this week by the Proposals for carrying the Mails of the United States, advertised on another page. Of course our readers will excuse the fact, inasmuch as such a "phat take" dos'nt come but once in four years, and then it don't always light where it has this time.

☞ It is said that the Hutchison Vocalists are to give one of their Concerts at Park Hall on Monday evening the 18th. Of course everybody will be on hand.

☞ The Reading *Gazette* mentions the arrival in that city of a gentleman from Montreal, Canada, on last Thursday, who drove the whole journey [five hundred miles,] in a sleigh. We presume there has not been a winter for many years during which this distance could have been travelled continuously on runners.

**WASHINGTON NEWS.**

*Correspondence of the Erie Observer.*

WASHINGTON, FEB 1, 1856.

The "big scare" that was on the Banks men at the date of my last communication passed off the following day, and instead of pitching their candidate overboard, as they were on the point of doing, they have clung to him with great firmness. The terror they were in was caused by an apprehension that the "South Americans" would vote with the Democrats, several articles advising a union of the "national men" having appeared in some of the papers of this city. The debate on Tuesday brought them relief, the gulf between the Democrats and the National Know Nothings having, apparently been widened by the discussion; and their courage was further revived and strengthened by a rumor that the plurality proposition would receive some support from the Democratic side of the House. The rumor was not without foundation. A resolution in favor of the plurality rule was offered on Wednesday by a supporter of the Democratic candidate, but it received very little favor from that side of the House, and failed by five votes. On Wednesday evening two absent Banks men arrived, and it was thought that Campbell of Ohio, who had voted against the rule, might be induced to change in its favor. This would make a tie, and if one *more* vote could be got, the plurality rule would carry — The contest seemed approaching a climax, and members of all parties thought that by Thursday evening the long agony would be over. But Thursday has come and gone, and the end is not yet, though close at hand.

At an early hour on Thursday the galleries were packed with eager spectators of both sexes, and at 12 o'clock, when the House was called to order by the Clerk, all the members were in their seats. A multitude of propositions were submitted and disposed of, some producing great merriment and others intense excitement. At length the plurality resolution, on the final passage of which Mr Banks has so long built his hopes was brought forward, and the impression was general that it would pass. At this juncture, however, a movement was made by the Southern Know Nothings which gave a new turn to affairs. A member of that party offered as an amendment to the plurality proposition, a resolution declaring Hon William Smith, a Democratic member from Virginia, Speaker of the House, and demanded the previous question. The yeas and nays were taken and the amendment in favor of Mr Smith received 100 votes—not a majority of all the votes cast, but enough to make it a question whether Mr Smith or Mr Banks would be elected under the plurality rule! Here was a new "scare" for the friends of Mr Banks—they did not press the plurality resolution, but voted an adjournment, which they had previously shouted down in a very hot haste indeed.

This afternoon the tug of war will come. How it will end I cannot say. It is evident that a crisis is approaching, and you may expect either an election of Speaker or an ajournment of Congress very soon. My impression is that there will be an election this afternoon or to-morrow.

PERRY.

WASHINGTON, Feb 2, 1856.

I need not inform you that at last we have a Speaker. The intelligence has gone with lightning speed to the remotest corner of the country, and ere this everybody almost who takes an interest in public affairs is aware that Hon. Nathaniel P. Banks, of Massachusetts, is Speaker of the Thirty-fourth Congress. He may thank certain "new fen sation" Know Nothings, who professed to be his uncompromising opponents, and who did oppose him through eight long and weary weeks, for his sudden elevation from the slough of despond to the Speaker's Chair. The Democrats were resolved not to permit the adoption of the plurality rule so long as it was certain that Mr Banks would be chosen under its operation, and at the the opening of the session on Friday they voted it down. During the day resolutions declaring this and that member duly elected Speaker were offered and voted upon. These were "feelers." Mr Banks' strength was ascertained to be 102 votes, whilst the resolution declaring Mr Aiken (dem) Speaker received 103, Mr Whitney of New York, one of the "[illegible]" changing his vote to Mr. A. under the erroneous impression that the change would make an election. The chances appearing to be equal, or slightly in favor of Mr Aiken, the Democrats yielded to the plurality rule on Saturday and got beaten—Broom and Fuller of Pennsylvania, and Clark and Whitney of New York, whose votes for Mr Aiken on Friday had induced the Democrats to consent to the adoption of the plurality rule, threw away their votes and permitting Mr Banks to triumph. These gentlemen, from the best light before me, cheated their Anti Nebraska constituents at home. They have just balanced their political account by cheating the Democrats in Congress. I should not wonder if they were to ascertain, when the next Congressional election takes place, that they have cheated themselves.

Great interest was manifested by the public in the proceedings of Saturday. The galleries were packed to their utmost capacity and the "closing scene" was quite brilliant. Hundreds of ladies were present, many of them evincing the highest interest in the contest. One was heard to declare that she "would die if Gov Aiken was not elected," whilst others gave vent to enthusiastic expressions in favor of Mr. Banks but the feeling both in and out of Congress is really excellent. I don't think the Union will "slide" this year

Gen. Cullom, of Tennessee, was run through for Clerk yesterday at a killing pace. The office that sought him had no trouble whatever in finding him. It is universally believed he will accept.

Last night the anti-administration members had a caucus—Col. Edie, of Pennsylvania, who appears to be Caucus Crier for that side, having given the necessary notice. The object was to nominate candidates for the various offices yet to be filled. Morris, of Philadelphia, was nominated for Postmaster; Evans, of this city, for Sergeant-at-Arms; Darling, of New York, for Door-keeper; and Follet, of Ohio, for Printer. A number of members favorable to the nomination of Nathan Sergent for Printer, withdrew from the caucus.

If you have any "weakly" Lutheran, German Reformed, Unitarian, Congregationlist, "Blue Stocking" or "Hard shell Baptist" Clergymen in your region, send them here immediately.—My reason for making this request is because a strong effort is being made to convert the halls of Congress into a Hospital for weakly Clergymen, and I find no clause in the Constitution entitling Methodist Clergymen to all the benefits of the institution.

PERRY.

THE WAY IT WORKS.—In defining his position in Congress lately, Mr Fuller said, among other things, "all that I now ask upon the subject of the tariff is to let it alone." So it would seem the Democratic revenue act of 1846 is not such a wicked invention of Beelzebub after all the noise that was made by the bar room politician about the "black British tariff" and the awful "ruin" of the country. In truth it has, like every other Democratic measure so fully vindicated its justice and merit, that the opponents of Democracy are glad to let it alone.—And so it will be in regard to the Nebraska act. The tariff *was* a "swindle" and so *is* the Nebraska bill, according to these political mountebanks—but wait a few years, and other Fullers shall arise in their seats and ask to be "let alone."

FEW BUT TRUE.—The Democrats of Springfield township, though few in number, are true to the principles and organization of the party. At their caucus the other day, to select delegates to our County Convention which met on Monday, they passed the following resolutions endorsing the Administration, and recommending the nomination of Mr. Buchanan:

*Resolved*, That the administration of Franklin Pierce, its policy and its principles, meets with the undivided approbation of the Democrats of this town, that the ability, prudence and patriotism evinced by the President in the discharge of his duties, entitles him to the respect of the whole country

*Resolved*, That inasmuch as our State has never furnished a candidate for President, and is always sure, when the Democracy are united, of securing a Democratic victory to the country, we feel anxious that she shall furnish the nominee of the Democratic National Convention, in the person of Hon James Buchanan

A PIOUS MAN.—John Covode, the Know Nothing member from the Westmoreland district in this State, is decidedly a great, as well as a *pious* man. The other day, upon the election of Banks, as Speaker, the *pious* Mr Covode sent the following expiicit dispatch to his pious friend of the *Journal*, Pittsburgh,

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2, 1856.

To R M RIDDLE:—Glory to God!

JOHN COVODE

Whether the "glory to God" is because Mr. C can now get his $8 per day, or because the *iron* interest has secured such a firm friend of protection as Free Trade Banks, of Massachusetts, is not stated. Perhaps, however, it was a little of both.

KNOW NOTHINGISM ILLUSTRATED.—The Legislature of Massachusetts last year was almost unanimously know nothing, and, in their effort to disfranchise foreigners the members, in one instance at least, rather overshot the mark. It seems they recommended an amendment to the constitution that no person should be entitled to vote in this commonwealth unless he shall have been resident within the jurisdiction of the United States twenty-one years, and legally naturalized. Should this amendment be adopted the effect would be that none but naturalized persons would be allowed to vote! Gov Gardner recommends the Legislature to drop this amendment, and commence anew

☞ One of our western exchanges says that owing to the extreme coldness of the weather, the wolves in Iowa have become dangerous to the inhabitants. A few weeks since a man, accompanied by his two daughters, was returning from a prayer meeting, all riding on the same horse, when they were suddenly attacked by a pack of timber wolves. The eldest daughter was at once dragged to the ground and devoured.—The father and other daughter escaped

☞ Last week four men engaged on the Northwestern Railroad, were killed at Blairsville, while sinking a pit in the rear of the Female Seminary. The earth caved in and buried them—three were taken out dead, and the fourth survived but a few hours.

☞ Wendell Phillips, who, himself a yankee, is therefore supposed to know, says no Yankee is satisfied with the truth unless you can prove it is worth eight or ten per cent. This accounts for the lack of truth in Phillips' own harangue to his brother Abolitionists, we suppose

☞ The Westmoreland papers complain of large quantities of spurious quarters and half dollars in that vicinity. They are so well executed that the sharpest are liable to imposition

☞ It is said that John H. Brant, Esq post master at Harrisburg, has sent in his resignation, to take effect on April 1st, and that Mr Hopkins of the *Patriot & Union* will take his place. We are very glad to hear this, for HOPKINS is a clever fellow, and a staunch Editor!

☞ A mere boy has been sent to prison in New Orleans for the murder of another youth, a few Sabbaths ago. The *Bulletin* says that the murder was the result of the "cowardly practice which many persons indulge of carrying concealed weapons."

☞ The Delegates to the Democratic National Convention, from the State of Maine, are for Buchanan. It is evident the great Pennsylvania is a trump card this time, and is bound to win.

☞ Mrs. Miller, a lady upwards of 70 years of age residing in Robinson Township, about eight miles from Pittsburg, has been lying seriously ill for some time. During the past forty days she has not eaten a morsel of food of any kind, and her only drink is water.

GOOD NEWS.—We are glad to announce that the ordinance passed by the Common Council of the City of Philadelphia, a week or ten days since, to perfect and pay the second million of dollars subscription to the Sunbury and Erie road, *has passed* the Select Council by a large vote—17 to 4, we believe. This is truly good news, especialy to Erie, and we now hope to see the work at this end commenced at once.

☞ We invite attention to the advertisement of Harsen & Brailey's Self acting Lever Gate, in another column. This is decidedly one of the most useful improvements that has come under our observation, and we invite the attention of farmers and others to it, confident that to them it will prove a great benefit

A MOVE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.—A bill has been reported in the Legislature, which provides that in every prosecution and every civil action for writing and publishing a libel, the defendant may give in evidence in his defence upon the trial, the truth of the matter contained in the publication charged as libellous; and such evidence shall be deemed as a sufficient justification unless malicious intention shall be proved.

**Arrival of the Arabia at Halaifx.**

HALIFAX, Jan. 31—10 P. M.

The R. M. steamship Arabia, from Liverpool on the morning of Saturday, the 19. inst., with one hundred and seven passengers, arrived here at half-past 9 o'clock, this P. M.

THE WAR.—The grand news of the week is that Russia agrees to negotiate on the terms proposed by the Allies.

The first announcement was made from Vienna by Telegraph to the London *Times* in the following words:

"Russia accepts the Allied propositions unconditionally. This is authentic."

This despatch caused an immense sensation. The funds rose three per cent., and Cotton one-farthing. In the other markets a panic reigned.

Next day the government published a dispatch from Minister Seymour at Vienna as follows:

"Russia agrees to accept the Allied proposals as the basis of negotiations."

This qualified announcement curbed the excitement, and alarmists begin to fear that Russia merely seeks to gain time by deceptive negotiations. Meantime funds remain steady. Previous to the above announcement, the Vienna papers represented the state of affairs as most serious, unexpected, and alarming, and that all the *personnell* of the Austrian Embassy had received orders to quit St. Petersburg, and the Russian Embassy was ordered to leave Vienna.

The actual circumstances were that when Count Esterhazy handed to Count Nesselrode at St. Petersburgh, the Austrian allied note of December 2d, he said that he was not authorized to enter into a discussion, but if the note was not accepted unconditionally, before January 18, he and all the Austrian embassy must leave St. Petersburg. To prevent this Count Nesselrode communicated with Vienna direct, and January 11th Prince Gortschakoff had a talk with Count Buol, in which Gortschakoff produced a memorandum expressing a general inclination on the part of Russia to negotiate, but proposed certain alterations in the programme. Count Buol formally received the document next day, Friday the 12th but inasmuch as it did not contain an acceptance, pure and simple, of the propositions, Austria could make no reply without the concurrence of France and England. The ambassadors of those powers accordingly sent to Paris and London, and received for reply that the Western Powers had no motive to give up a decision which had already been carefully considered, and further that, if by January 18th, Russia did not accept the ultimatum, Count Esterhazy and the Austrian Legation would leave St. Petersburg, and Austria would immediatedly seek to obtain the armed co-operation of the German Diet against Russia. During the week that elapsed between Russia's first and second reply, intense apprehension existed in Vienna, though without sufficient cause, for the Austrian Cabinet had taken the precaution to notify the Western Powers that notwithstanding the rupture of diplomatic relations, Austria would not be in a position to commence hostilities this year. On the 16th all apprehensions were set at rest by the announcement above stated, that Russia agrees to negotiate on the terms proposed.

There is very little other news

From the Crimea there is nothing important. Numerous ambuscades of Cossacks were distributed around the allied camp, but vigilance prevented many stragglers being captured. Several additional explosions had been made in the Sebastopol Dock, and they were nearly destroyed. France and England each reserve a gate by which they were enclosed, as a trophy

The *Invalide Russe* publishes a despatch from Prince Gortschakoff, saying that a party of French wearing white cloaks to prevent them being seen in the snow, advanced by night, and surprised Baider, bayoneted the outposts, and retreated when the Russian reserves came up

Gen Codrington's latest despatch is dated Jan 1st, and merely reports the health of the army to be good

Sweden continues warlike preparations

The Copenhagen official journal denies the existence of any circular repudiating the Swedish alliance on the part of Denmark

St Petersburg letters say that Marshal Paskiwith has bequeathed his dying injunction to the Emperor to make peace. He would never have given this advice to Nicholas whose battles he had fought, but to the young Emperor who had no hand in raising the war, he urged the policy of peace.

The French Council of War continues its sitting at Paris. Two Commissions, one for the Army and one for the Navy, are appointed to prepare a report.

Admiral Lyons and General Canrobert are the members for the Army, and Admiral Dundas and General Neil for, the Navy. There had been a discussion relating to the withdrawal of the allied force from the Crimea, retaining only Kamiesch, Eupatoria, and Balaklava, and making a campaign up the rivers of the North in Provinces of Russia. The Austrians opposed the plan, inasmuch as it would take six months to remove the materials of the past campaign from the Crimea.

**Destructive Fire in Painesville**

*From Painesville Telegraph Extra—[illegible]*

The most destructive fire that ever occurred in Painesville, broke out last night, a few minutes past 12 o'clock. The flames were first discovered bursting from the rear of the Farmer's Market, a two story wooden building standing on State Street, a few rods south of Main, occupied by Messrs Hurlbut, Carter & Co., for a meat market, and for packing of pork. The flames had made such headway, that no one was able to enter the building, and all was lost. The ledger of the company had been placed in the safe of a neighboring store and was saved—other books, with probably a thousand dollars worth of meats and flour lost. Building owned by John House, and worth $500. No insurance.

The "Geauga Store," standing immediately south, occupied as a Grocery by Wm Barnes & Son, was several times slightly on fire, but escaped. Goods somewhat damaged by removal. Insured in Ætna.

Directly north of the market, was a two story wooden building, occupied by Lewis Miller as a tin shop. Goods removed, but building burned Owned by Gen. King

Farther north, was Taylor's currying shop Mr. Taylor's loss was $300, with no insurance Building owned by Gen King.

Still further north, in the path of the fire, was a two story brick building owned by Gen King, and occupied by Lemuel Darand for a Grocery Goods removed; small loss from breakage, &c, no insurance

Upon the corner of State and Main, was a three story brick building, owned by Dr. John H Mathews, and occupied by John House & Son, Dry Goods, Groceries, &c. Goods removed; insured in Ætna for $1500. Building insured in Portage Mutual for $1000, and estimated worth about $2000.

Directly in the rear of this building, was the Drinking Saloon of Edward Vesey, immediately connected with the old "King Tavern," one of the oldest public houses on the Reserve. The hotel was occupied by Mr Edward Babcock, and owned by Gen. King. Furniture removed; building total loss. Upon all the property lost by Gen. King, there was only an insurance of $200 in Washington Union, Cleveland

**DIED.**

On Thursday evening last, in this city, THOMAS H. SILL, Esq., aged 72 years.

His funeral will take place from his residence on Sixth Street, to-day at 3 o'clock, P. M.


**A Snow Storm.**

"Old winter and we will agree,
Though a stern and frowning raffer is he"

SANG Eliza Cook, but winter and such snow as we have to day the last two months would be a very dreary affair indeed without the *Western American*. It is the best Elevated oven Cooking and Parlor Stove in use, it consumes less wood, bakes better and is cheaper than any other stove you can get. They can be bought wholesale and retail at the Store of SENNETT, BARR, & CO., State street, between 10th and 11th Sts. Erie, Penna. Go and see them

Erie, February 9th, 1856

MR. EDITOR:—Please announce the name of W. C. Braley as candidate for CONSTABLE for the West Ward of the City of Erie, subject to the decision of the independent voters of said Ward. W. C. BRALEY.

Erie, February 9, 1856.

**HARSEN & BRAILEY'S**
**Self-Supported Lever Gate.**

THIS is a valuable improvement in Farm Gates, for which a patent was granted to the subscribers May, 1855. It possesses the following valuable properties—It is convenient, durable and cheap. When closed it rests equally upon the hinges and latch which is stationary. [illegible]

The great utility of this Gate over all others [illegible]

C. L. HARSEN
M. C. BRAILEY

We have examined Messrs. Harsen & Brailey's Gate, and consider it well adapted to the purpose designed.
BRAINERD & BURRIDGE, Patent Agent, Cleveland.

[illegible]

Erie, Feb. 9, 1856.

**Erie County Agricultural Society.**

THE Erie County Agricultural Society [illegible]

**FEBRUARY & MARCH APPOINTMENTS.**
**DR. HARDMAN.**

PHYSICIAN FOR DISEASES of the LUNGS, [illegible]

[illegible]

**Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company.**

THE Annual Meeting [illegible]

PHILIP M. PRICE, Sec'y.
Jan. 2, 1856.