THE ERIE OBSERVER.

BENJ. F. SLOAN, EDITOR.

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SATURDAY.....FEBRUARY 21, 1857.

Democratic State Convention for 1857.

The Democratic State Convention, for the purpose of placing in nomination candidates for Governor, Canal Commissioner, and Judge of the Supreme Court, to be voted for in October next, will be held at HARRISBURG, on MONDAY, the second day of March, 1857 at 11 o'clock, A. M.

J. W. FORNEY,
Chairman of State Central Committee.

News of the Week.

—If the Bond street tradgedy, in New York, were not monopolising the public taste for horrors, the recent case of the death of Hosea J Gardner, Postmaster at Hingham Massachusetts, would create a general excitement It appears that Gardner has for sometime been disabled by disease and accident, and his wife found him an unpleasant companion. One witness testified that Gardner had often spoken of her violence towards him, of her disgust with his person, and her threats against his life; that he had said she was found of another man, and was anxious to get rid of him, so that she might have more free intercourse with him. She was excessively violent against him during his illness, and when he died she positively refused to allow a post mortem examination When the remains were disinterred, arsenic was found in his stomach, and a druggist testifies to her having sent a little boy, on the 22d ult., to buy arsenic to be used for rats; that some time after the boy went away with the drug he returned, and said "*that* was not for Mrs. Gardner, but for a paddy woman." This boy has since acknowledged that he got it for the accused The testimony is as plain and direct as any circumstantial evidence can be, and if anything were needed to convince the public of the guilt of the woman, it would be found in her conduct before and since her arrest. During the examination she was excessively violent and abusive, interrupting the witnesses repeatedly with coarse denials of her guilt and attempts to make her husband's death appear to have been the work of his own hand. Her manner before the magistrate was bold and defiant She is a native of Maine, and her maiden name was Marshall. She is about fifty years old, and nearly six years the senior of her late husband. The evidence before the inquest was *so plain* that there was no hesitation about committing her for trial on a charge of murder. So shocking a crime as the murder of a man by his wife is rare, and the execution of a woman is a dreadful thing to think of But it seems impossible that she should escape the punishment pointed out by the law.

—A bill has been introduced into the House of Representatives at Harrisburg Mr. Eyster, "making every description of property in by State subject to taxation for all purposes, except burial grounds, cemetaries, and such buildings and property as are purchased and sustained by a general fund and raised by legal taxation, and except such corporations as are especially exempt from taxation by the law creating them This exception would include court houses, jails, county buildings and other public property built and sustained either by State or county taxation. The bill would subject to taxation for all purposes, State, county, borough or township and school, all the church property in the State not especially exempted by the character of the corporation holding such property — Mr. Petriken proposes, in a bill offered by him in the House, to exempt the salaries of presidents and professors of colleges, and teachers in academies and common schools, from taxation."

—A very distressing case of hydrophobia occurred in East Fallowfield Township, Chester County, last week, which resulted in the death of a young lad named John Good, son of Jacob Good. The boy was in the barn with his brother, and saw a pretty little black dog pass by, which he run out and picked up, and played with for some time. The dog, however, bit him on the finger, making a slight incision. The wound was tied up, and no serious result were apprehended, as the dog was not supposed to be mad One morning, shortly after the occurrence, the lad attempted to wash his face, and, having immersed his hands in the water, was seized with convulsions of so violent a character that he died in a few hours.

—Rev. W. S. H Keys, late editor of the *Tyrone Era*, has been tried and convicted by the Blair County Court of assault and battery on a young girl at Tyrone, and sentenced to three months confinement in the county prison. He was also indicted for an attempt to commit rape, but the jury rendered a verdict of not guilty. It was but a year ago that he made himself notorious by his slanderous charges against clergymen not only of his own but other denominations, and by his wholesale abuse of the Democrats who thrust themselves into the Senate Chamber with their political protest against the Nebraska-Kansas bill.

—A singular case has just occurred at Detroit, which goes to show that circumstantial evidence, though sometime the most reliable, is not always to be depended upon. A German peddler was seen to enter a certain house, but was not seen to leave it. Suspicion of course rested there —the house was searched, and the supposed traces of a foul murder were discovered—such as blood, bones and burnt clothing. The family were arrested and tried A complete case was made out, the circumstantial evidence being deemed overwhelming, and the prosecuting attorney was summing up, when the peddler presented himself to the Court, and turned into a farce what might have resulted in a judicial tragedy.

—The Washington correspondent of the *Journal of Commerce*, thinks that the bill which has passed the House providing for wagon roads and post routes to the Pacific will supersede any railroad project for years to come. The mail service, under the proposed contracts, will commence a year hence. They will facilitate emigration to the Pacific coast. Neither California nor Oregon have been rapidly growing, in proportion, for the year past; but when overland emigration shall be rendered safe and economical, it will receive a fresh stimulus.

—Many of the hired negroes in the tobacco factories, in Richmond, Va., make from $8 to $12 per week, over work, without any extraordinary labor. How many poor white folks are there in the North that would like to make such a sum by hard labor for the entire week's employment. In the face of such facts how hypocritical and absurd is the cant so current in the North about "the poor down trodden slaves."

—One day last week C. Chauncy Burr of New York—formerly the "Rev." of considerable notoriety,—was assaulted in Stanwix Hall, Albany, by one of a party of three men, from New York also, who accused him of all sorts of political and moral delinquences. Finally the "one" pulled off his coat and assaulted Mr. B., but was incontinently knocked by him over a table and sent sprawling on the floor some feet distant from his original position. Bystanders then interfered and closed the conflict.

—The Lockport *Courier* says a Dutchman went into the Niagara County Bank N. Y. on Monday to make a deposit, having a number of Spanish quarters among his funds. The Teller politely informed him that he could take them for only 20 cents. The Dutchman looked up in astonishment, and said: "I save 'em because the bills break; now by tam the silver break too."

—It is said to be the intention of the New York authorities to place the Cunningham girls in the Convent of the Sisters of Mercy, in Houston street, until their case is disposed of. They will be kindly cared for by a benevolent gentleman residing in Bond street, who was on intimate terms with the family, and fully believes in their innocence.

—The Captain-General of Cuba has granted permission to "all persons" to land Chinese apprentices on the Island. So the traffic in Coolies is henceforth to be unrestricted.—Where are the crocodile tears for Abolitionists? The Chinese are almost white, but the fanatics have no shrieks nor tears for any thing short of a negro.

—The Senate of Missouri have passed a resolution, by a vote of 25 to 4, declaring the emancipation of slaves in that state impracticable, and any move towards it impolitic, unwise and unjust, and that it should be discountenanced by the people. The same resolution passed the House by a vote of 107 to 9.

—The Albany papers are filled with accounts of the disastrous overflow of water at that place. The Albany *Atlas* estimates the total loss at $1,500,000, consisting of cattle, horses, lumber flour, grain, groceries, dry goods, &c. Two hundred families have been rendered homeless. Over $2,000 have been raised by a relief committee.

—A man calling himself Wood was recently arrested in Milwaukie for swindling. Among his effects were found a lot of old clothes, several likenesses of females, and a number of letters recommending him to the favorable consideration of all friends of freedom as an active agent in Kansas aid matters.

—E. A. Penniman, Esq., well known in the political circles of our State, died in Philadelphia last week at the Girard House, after a painful and lingering illness. The cause of his death was cancer. He died at the age of 47.

—The *Journal of Commerce* learns that a Russian agent is on a visit to this country, to examine our most approved submarine diving apparatus, with a view to its employment in re-building Sebastopol and raising the hulks sunk in the harbor.

—One of the oldest, if not the very oldest paper in the Union, as it is one of the best also, is The New Hampshire Gazette, published at Portsmouth. It was established October 7, 1756, over one hundred years ago.

The New Senator from California.

The last arrival from California brings us the news of the election of DAVID C. BRODERICK, and Dr. GWIN, as Senators from that State. Of the latter gentleman it is quite unnecessary to speak, he having already occupied a seat in that body, and that too with honor. Of the other gentleman, less is known, and as his history indicates a man of no ordinary calibre, particularly that part of it relating to his six years conflict for the position to which he is now elected, we doubt not the following facts, which we extract from an article in the California *Chronicle*, will prove interesting to our readers. DAVID C. BRODERICK, the new Senator from California, was once a poor, unfrended boy, born in the District of Columbia, but for the most of his life a citizen of the city of New York. He had no early advantages. He was poor. Fortune seemed his enemy. He was apprenticed to one of the most laborious of trades, and served out his term of toil to the last hour. But though of a rough nature, herculean in strength, brave to recklessness, and in a position least, likely of almost all, to allow, much less foster ambitious views, even in his humble position, he had aspirations above the life of physical drudgery to which fate seemed to have chained him, and in the lonely, melancholly boy's humble room were found the books which he studied after his day toil was over His youth had no other education. It might be almost said that he had no other friends, for one by one his relatives dropped into the grave until he stood alone the last of the family, no kindred blood within many degrees flowed in the veins of mortality—*his last relative we believe*, a brother, having been killed in New York by an accident. It is quite unnecessary to say, with these facts before us, that DAVID C. BRODERICK is a Democrat, and emphatically a self made man. He has been his own teacher; he has studied men and books, and this, as far as possible made up for the deprivation of early life, the deficiencies of early education. He has pitched battle with fate itself and conquered her by his inflexibility of purpose, his energy, and the direction of great natural capacities of command, and a sagacity in the choice of men and measures to a particular purpose and for a particular object.

In 1848, BRODERICK was a candidate for Congress in New York, and was beaten by Recorder Talmage—a man of great wealth and popularity in that city. It was then his eyes turned to the golden shores of California, and thither he went determined to carve out for himself fortune and fame in the new State. How he has succeeded the reader already knows, but the difficulties he has had to overcome, are thus graphically sketched in the *Chronicle*, from which we quote "For six years he has been known as a candidate for that high position. Five years ago he was the antagonist of Col. Weller for the position, and was defeated by a coalition of all the opposition forces of the Democratic party There were some half dozen other candidates, none commanding as a first choice, votes enough to secure a nomination in caucus. Finding it impossible without a caucus nomination to elect any one of them, and equally impossible to more one of Broderick's friends in the Legislature from his support, they finally combined, presenting a united front against him, and he was beaten, *himself and friends following Democratic usage and rising for Col. Weller.* Since that time he has been the target for the shafts of all who disliked him, or the Democratic party, and there is nothing which could be said or written, published or done for the purpose of destroying him that has not been called into service Perhaps never before has any man in such a position been so continuously assailed, so bitterly denounced, so earnestly battled against Yet never for a moment has he quailed, never, so far as others could perceive suffered doubt or despondency.—Often the success and the very existence of the party have hung upon his shoulders. His counsel, his friends, his means have brought the party through. Yet that party determined to destroy him. In the Legislature his friends have been at times reduced to an almost insignificant number, yet firm and unwavering, they and their leader have had the ability to defeat others though they could not elect him, and finally after years of battle, have triumphed, and the opposing hosts are scorched, charred and scattered like the wadding of the cannon which from the hill tops of San Francisco announced his election.

"What has brought Mr. Broderick triumphantly through this long and fierce battle? A few years since there were those who said that his strength lay in his money. It cannot be so said now. This year he has won without a moneyed capital to base his action upon, and against an apparent overwhelming amount opposed to him. He has won by his great ability as a tactician, by his fidelity to his friends, and by which he seldom loses one worth keeping; but especially through the influence of his indomitable will, which is his great characteristic, and—what it is this almost almighty principle, or rather, guide and master of all other principles, which has proved him so superior politically to all his antagonists."

Say what you will, the history of such a man is instructive. It shows what indomitable energy, cool judgment, and an honest political record will accomplish. Mr. BRODERICK could have been elected Senator from California long ago if he would have allowed his political principles to bend to the will of others, or consented to bargain his integrity away—but he spurned every offer, and remained true to himself, his friends, and his party—and now he has triumphed. The paper quoted from above says it has "never been an admirer of that school of politics in which Mr. B.'s early lessons were received," yet it does not hesitate to say that it knows "him personally to be a man infinitely superior to most of those who have abused him. *No man is freer of the too common vices of California than he.* As a Senator in the Legislature, the city of San Francisco never had a more faithful, more efficient representative of their interests; he never betrayed his trust, nor flinched from defending San Francisco, and even the interests of those men who most bitterly were opposed to him." With such a record, who can doubt that DAVID C. BRODERICK is a rising man!

THE CORRUPTION INVESTIGATION.—We learn that the Committee of the House of Representatives, now engaged at Washington in investigating the charges and suspicions of corruption against its members, have struck a trail which will lead to some rich developments. They have "bounced" four of its members positively, and are on the scent of others. The members implicated are Gilbert, Edwards and Matterson, of New York, and Welch, of Connecticut. Two are Republicans of the first water. The other, Edwards, is a "spread-eagle" American, from Fredonia, N. Y. Matteson has the reputation of being a very wily fox, who covers his tracks, doubles his trail, and backs and fills, dodges and jumps so cunningly, that there are few beagles that will not be put at fault in his pursuit.

☞ A resolution has passed the House of Representatives authorising the Committee of Ways and Means to examine into the propriety of, and if they deem it expedient, insert an appropriation of $10,000 in the appropriation bill, for the erection of an Executive Mansion on the public grounds in the borough of Harrisburg

A VIRGINIA VOLCANO.—It is said that the statement in reference to a volcano having recently made its appearance in Pendleton county, Va., on the great Black bone Mountain, is true. The Cumberland *Telegraph* says: It is a point on the mountain directly between the heads of the dry fork of Cheat and the south branch of Potomac rivers, at a place known by the name of "Sinks," so called from the depressed condition of the mountain at that point. These "Sinks" are funnel shaped, and each one embraces as much as an acre of ground. On the first day of January the reports caused by the bursting forth of subterranean fire were heard for a distance of twenty or thirty miles.—Vast columns of flame and smoke issued from the orifices and red hot stones were thrown in the air several hundred feet above the mouth of the crater. Our informant adds that the people in the vicinity are becoming alarmed at the pertinacity with which the flames are kept up, and the red hot masses of rocks thrown out. A heavy, rumbling noise, like distant thunder, is continually reverberating through the deep caverns of the mountain, which at times seems to tremble from summit to base.

THE BURDELL MURDER.—The *Herald* says the Bardell murder case still occupies the attention of the authorities and interests the public. An examination of the prisoners were had on Monday before the Coroner, and they severally answered "not guilty" to the charges preferred against them. The answer of young Snodgrass is somewhat remarkable. In reply to the Coroner he said: "I am entirely innocent; I know nothing whatever of the facts relating to the murder of Dr. Burdell; if any one knows anything about the murder in the family, I thing it is Miss Augusta Cunningham with the mother. Understand me—that is, if the murder was perpetrated by any of the inmates of the house." The case was submitted for the action of the Grand Jury of the Court of General Sessions on Tuesday by the Recorder, who will proceed with the examination of witnesses as soon as possible.

—A young man in Washington was so affected by unexpectedly drawing a prize of $1500 in the Southern Military Academy Lottery, that he has become hopelessly insane.

☞ The Council of Brownsville in Fayette, Co. have notified the proprietors of the coal pits in the immediate vicinity of the town that they must stop operating in that direction, as the place is being undermined.

☞ A despatch has been received from Havana, stating that on the 12th instant Dr. Elisha K. Kane, the distinguished Arctic Navigator, was then dying.

PUBLICATION OF THE LAWS—We notice the newspapers of the State are again agitating the propriety of the passage of an act, authorising the publication of the Laws passed by the Legislature at each session in the newspapers—those of a general character in one or more papers in each county, and those of a local character in the papers in the vicinity where the law is operative. Long ago we gave our voice to this measure—not because it would prove pecuniarily beneficial to us, for that would not be likely in this region, but because we deemed it a just measure No serious movement, however, has hitherto been made in the Legislature to adopt the system, and we doubt whether there will be now. And yet we can see no reason why not, except it be the indisposition of our law makers to have their work submitted to the scrutiny of the people. As our laws are now published, in pamphlets, not more than one out of fifty of the people ever see them: and yet ignorance of the statute is no bar to conviction. We know the poet says—

"Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise,"

But the man who transgresses some one of our numerous penal statutes, because he does not know of its existence, and pays the penalty thereof, will have no very exalted opinion either of such a doctrine, or of the law makers of Pennsylvania who seem to act upon it.

We are aware that the expense of publication is urged against it, but that seems to us a "penny wise and pound foolish" objection Ignorance is always expensive—knowledge is always cheap; and hence it is that a community is always virtuous in proportion to its knowledge. And therefore it seems to us that its expense, even admitting that it would add to our already enormous taxation, is no objection, after taking into the account the benefits it would confer upon the people. But we doubt whether it would materially increase the amount already expended. It would obviate the necessity of the present system of pamphlet laws, and for the money thus expended in printing a lot of Books to be piled away in the vaults of our county offices to moulder, it would place in the hands of every man who takes his county paper, the means of acquiring a thorough knowledge of the laws under which he lives. This is the effect in other States where the system has been tried, and this would be the effect in our State we have no doubt. But whether our legislators will ever take this view of the subject, and act upon it, is another question.

"TRUE AS PREACHING".—The Harrisburg correspondent of the Pittsburg *Union* says the "opposition candidates for the Gubernatorial nomination are becoming very numerous, and among the number recently brought into the field is Gen J. K Moorhead of Pittsburg. This must be a gratifying compliment to the General, who but a few years ago, boasted of his Democracy. But so the political world goes. There is scarcely a leader in the Republican party who is not a renegade from the Democratic ranks. Cameron, Wilmot, Johnston, Moorhead and many others have kindly relieved the Democracy of their presence and are now playing deep games for the spoils in their present unenviable position. It seems that the highest qualification a Black Republican leader can have is that he is to mean to belong to any other party." This is as "true as preaching"

THEY WILL NOT MIX—May and December form a very uncongenial union. The frost in one either congeals the fruitfulness of the other, or else the flowers of the latter only seem productive enough to weave a garland to deck the tomb of the first In Brooklyn, for instance, we see a young woman of twenty six arrested for a tempting to kill her husband, who is over sixty years of age What else but misery, suspicion, and crime could follow a conjunction so unnatural? Women grow old much more rapidly than men, and hence it is that ten, fifteen, and sometimes even twenty years of seniority may exist, on the side of husband, with advantage to the wife. It furnishes her with that experience which she cannot have enjoyed herself It supplies her with that wisdom against which her comparative youth would wish to lean with undisturbed confidence It gives her that circumspection, that tact, that caution, which only arise from a thorough knowledge of the world, and without which her happiness is subject to be perilled every day by the schemes of the artful and the hopes of the unscrupulous. But forty years difference in age between man and wife means an amalgamation of opposites that will not stay mixed. Its cement may be gold, but its severance will be mischief, and may be murder.

DRINKING TWO GALLONS.—In Cincinnati, last week, a German drank two gallons of beer at once, in order to win a small wager. Nothing but a stomach pump saved his life afterwards. A man may make a pig of himself with impunity, but he cannot undertake to make his stomach resemble a hogshead, without paying the penalty of his indiscretion.

[illegible] us that nothing has been made in vain. Providence—we mean the city of that name—has strikingly exemplified the truth of the observation. A fashionable lady crossing the river there upon the ice, broke in and would have drowned but for her crinoline. The outspread hoop caught upon the glittering surface of the frozen stream, and sustained her shivering form in the sudden cold bath until some body had leisure to rescue her. We have nothing more to say against hoops.

FOUND—We noticed, some three months since, the mysterious disappearance of a man named James Fife, in the employ of the Erie City Iron Works. Nothing was heard or seen of him until Monday last, when his body was found in the Bay, near Gen. Reed's dock. He had been working on a vessel, and is supposed to have accidentally fallen in.

DECAYED TEETH.—An old subscriber, says an exchange, sends us the following receipt to stop the decaying of teeth, assuring us that he has tried it with success:

Mix chalk, powdered fine, with enough salt to give it a decided saline taste. Use once or twice a day as a tooth powder with *no water*, but applied *dry*, with a tolerable stiff tooth brush.

BELLIGERENT.—The editor of the New York Sunday *Mercury* threatens to flog one of his "daily" brethren with a six foot cowhide, and nail his ears to the first wooden lamp post he can find How wonderfull belligerent the knights of the pen are becoming, to be sure.

☞ The Harrisburg *Union*, in noticing the exhibit of the affairs of the Erie City Bank, published by us two weeks since, says that in its "opinion the wisest course for the note holders to pursue is to turn their paper into money as soon as they can." *That*, is a very profound remark of the *Union*.

☞ Hon. DAVID C. BRODERICK, the new Senator from California, had a grand reception on his arrival in New York the other day. He was visited by upper-tendom, and lower-tendom indiscriminately—all anxious to pay court to the rising star, upon which the *Mirror* asks the following pertinent question:

"How many of these political nabobs would have visited 'Dave Broderick' a few years ago, when he was a poor journeyman stone cutter, in this city?"

That's so; but then "Dave" Broderick, the New York mechanic, and Senator Broderick, with two hundred and fifty thousand dollars in his pocket, are two different personages, in the opinion of the New York snobocracy. So we go!

☞ In the Court of Sessions of New York city, Madame Lion, alias Felice Duprez a lady of wealth and position, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment in the Penitentiary for shoplifting—a failing for which she has been notorious.

ABOLITION CONCLAVE.—The Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society, in its session in Boston, a few weeks ago, was the arena of some pretty intense talking, as will be seen by the following very harmless ebullition on the part of one H. C. Wright:

"For myself, I am heartily sick of hearing people talk about "Holy Bibles," "holy churches," "holy institutions," &c. The institution must be preserved whatever becomes of the man; not only four millions of slaves have been sacrificed, but the whole nation has been sacrificed. We should not trouble ourselves about God, only about humanity. We owe no duties to God aside from those we owe to humanity I won't respect a God who does not respect me. If I love anything it must be because that thing must be lovable and not for any other reason. It is the sacred duty of every one to be true to himself—to be faithful to his own nature. Be true to yourself where you are ever looking to be a higher self. Life is absolutely sacred under all circumstances. This is my doctrine; but not one in ten thousand agrees with me. Henry Ward Beecher and the Republican party generally say that Sharp's rifle is the best and only salvation for Kansas. Why not make an effort to put the bowie knife and revolver into the hands of the slave. In my opinion the slave has just as good a right to cut the throat of his master, as Washington had to plant his cannon on Dorchester Heights and pour his shot into Boston. If my mother was a slaveholder, and a slave rose against her to defend his rights, I would be with the slave and not with my mother."

There was much other raving of the same impious, treasonous and murderous character from Theodore Parker, one Higginson, &c.

NEW YORK.

[Correspondence of the Erie Observer.]

NEW YORK, Feb. 12, 1857.

The Burdell murder remains a mystery, unfathomable as at the first, and is consequently as great a centre of interest and object of speculation as ever. We hear of nothing else at present. It is the first thing after breakfast and furnishes a text for tedious talkers even at balls and parties. The evidence of Farrel is the most important thus far given, but there are circumstances which give it little weight in the minds of many. Throwing out that we have no tangible evidence against Eckel, and none against Mrs. Cunningham, except that there have been proved to be motives for the deed on her part.—Each day's evidence has been eagerly looked for and the consumption of morning and evening papers has been immense. Occasionally a newsboy likely to get "stuck," as their phrase is, when they have a large stock left on hand at night, would raise a cry of "Eckel's confession" This dodge was tried two or three time with prodigious success. The evidence of the doctors with regard to the blood stains, does not tend to criminate the accused parties. The inquest has now dragging its slow length along to a close, and the model coroner must descend again into the obscurity of his usual life. He has abundantly proved the truth of the homely adage in the Don Quixotic: "The higher up the monkey gets, the more do his base buttocks show"

Business is decidedly better this week though we are still rather under the weather It is difficult to make shipment of goods to any part of the country, except the South. The importations for the last week have been very heavy though there is no probability that they will be so large for the season as last year. Shipments are made a good deal easier than formerly as manufacturers on the other side find that they obtain better prices for goods which arrive here in February All kinds of clothing promise to be much higher this season as there has been a simultaneous rise in labor and in raw material across the water The rise in silks will be most noticeable.

As we were rolling up Broadway by stage a few days ago a gentleman handed us a Spanish sixpence to pay his fare with. When called back by the driver he handed up another six and a quarter, and ran off without waiting for his change. As the driver refused to take the odd four cents we had no alternative but to deposit them in our vest pocket, which we did with great satisfaction on learning that they were the property of William B Astor, the millionaire. We feel bound to hold the sum in trust for charitable purposes, and hereby give notice that benevolent associations of all stripes, will be admitted in competition for four weeks.

The fillibuster trial is rich and racy at times, but we have only one trial on the docket which reviews public attention. The weather is hot and cold, bright and foggy, wet and dry, by turn Since E. Merriam, the great Regulator, left us for the North, we have had no order nor consistency in our weather arrangements

ERIE

Greeley and the Des Moines Improvement.

The Burlington (Iowa) *State Gazette* having charged that Horace Greeley received one thousand dollars from the Des Moines Navigation and Railroad Company, and having been threatened with a suit by the philosopher for libel, backs up its assertion by an official document, which will certainly require explanation from Horace in order to vindicate himself from the charge. The editor of the *State Gazette*, in his issue of the 31st ult. says:

"Extracts from Journal of Joint Committee appointed by the General Committee to investigate the affairs of the Des Moines Navigation and Railroad Company.

"Examination of J. Brown, Book-keeper, and Chief Accountant of the Company.

"Question by the Committee.—When was the item of $1,000 paid J. Stryker' charged on the books of the company at Ottawa?

"Answer.—The item was reported to me by the treasurer in his settlement made in July, and passed on our books sometime in August. I have since received from the Treasurer the voucher, and from that I learn that it is a draft drawn in favor of Horace Greeley.

"Ques.—In the statement of disbursements made by the Company which you have furnished the Committes, are the words 'paid in Washington' explanatory of the item of $1,000 copied from your books?

"Ans.—I cannot distinctly recollect the exact words or form in which it was entered on the books, but my impression is they are 'J Stryker, council fees,' and the words 'paid at Wash ington' are added as explanatory in the statement now presented.

"Ques.—By whose direction were the words 'paid in Washington' added as explanatory?

"Ans.—They were added on my own responsibility, and without direction or instruction of any one, and from documents and verbal information which have recently come into my possession and knowledge.

"Ques.—When and from whom did you receive such documents and verbal knowledge?

"On or about the 29th of November last I was informed, verbally, on asking for an explanation of this item from the President, for the purpose of determining whether it was subject to estimate for lands, that it was paid to Horace Greeley, and since then have received from the Treasurer his voucher for the item.

"Ques.—Please present that voucher to the Committee.

"Mr. Brown presented the voucher, which is as follows:

"Twenty days from date for value received, please pay to the order of Horace Greeley, ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS.
"New York, July 2, 1856.
"Signed, JOHN STRYKER.
"To Alvah Hunt, Esq., Treas. Des Moines Nav. and R. R. Co."
'Indorsement on the back in Mr. Greeley's handwriting—Received payment. HORACE GREELEY.
"'July 30, 1856.'"

* * * * * * *

"Ques.—Did the Company receive any consideration, and if so, what was the consideration for said draft?

"Ans.—I don't know.

"Ques.—Have you not heard verbally or otherwise, from the President or other members of the Directory, or either of them, anything concerning the value of the consideration for said draft?

"Ans.—I have been informed by the President and other members of the Company that it was paid in relation to the extension of the Des Moines River Grant."

A YOUNG MAN SEDUCED—HIS GREAT DISTRESS.—The Troy *Times* says:

A young lady named Mary Davis, who is eighteen years of age, and belongs in this city, has been arrested in Ballston charged with the seduction of a precocious son of Mr. Henry Clark of Albany, aged sixteen years. The young lady indeced the boy to elope with her, and they passed as brother and sister. She treated him with the most loving kindness, 'footing all the bills at the hotel where they were stopping. The poor young gentleman is quite disconsolate at the arrest of his sweetheart—tears his hair and swears he will drown himself in the cistern if she is punished. Poor little Lotharic.

The Bond Street Murder—The Inquest Closed.

This protracted inquest was closed on Saturday, the case summed up by the Coroner, the verdict of the Jury rendered, and five of the inmates of the house, including the two daughters of Mrs Cunningham committed to prison to await the action of the Grand Jury. Saturday's evidence was highly important, as proving the complicity of young Snodgrass in the crime as an accessory before the fact. We copy the testimony of the young woman who swears to selling him the dagger, which he denies having purchased:

Margaret Alviset sworn—I live at 590 Broadway, about two or three days, before Dr. Burdell was murdered I saw a man whom I since recognized as George Vail Snodgrass; he came to our place and bought a sword cane; he objected to one that it was not strong enough; he bought an old one for $8

The witness told a long story of the manner in which she recognized Snodgrass, since she came to the house She swore positively that he was the man. A dagger was shown the witness, which she said had the same blade as the one she sold to Snodgrass. She afterwards said it was like the blade. The dagger has a straight strong blade about six inches long

Snodgrass was at this time absent from the room The Coroner went out, leaving the witness in conversation with the Jurors When he returned he said to the witness:

"Now, Madam, go to that door, (the folding door between the front and back parlors,) and see if you can recognize any one"

The witness went to the door where Snodgrass was standing in a crowd of twenty or thirty persons, and at once pointed out Snodgrass with a cane, exclaiming, "That is the man!"

Coroner—Captain Dilks, you will take Mr Snodgrass into custody—here is your warrant.

The evidence of Miss Alviset was corroborated by Agnes Smith, who worked in the shop

The Coroner began his summoning up at a late hour in the afternoon, and occupied an hour in charging the Jury He advanced and argued his theory that the murder was committed by Eckel and Mrs Cunningham, and that Snodgrass was privy to the deed as an accessory before the fact; discredited the statement that Mrs Cunningham was married to Dr Burdell, but did not doubt that a marriage took place, in which Eckel or some other party personated the Doctor; thus establishing the fact of a purpose in the commission of the murder The Jury went out a few minutes before 5 o'clock, and returned 10½ P M, after an absence of five hours and forty minutes, with a verdict of guilty against Mrs Cunningham and Eckel, against Snodgrass as an accessory before the fact, and against the two daughters, Augusta and Helen, as accessories before or after the fact The verdict was received with manifestations of approbation The Coroner took immediate measures for the committal of the daughters to prison to await the action of the Grand Jury

The Verdict

State of New York, City and County of New York, ss.—An inquisition taken at the house of the late Dr. Harvey Burdell, No 31 Bond street, in the Fifteenth Ward in the City of New York, in the County of New York, this 14th day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty seven, before Edward D Conery, of the city and county aforesaid, on view of the body of the said Harvey Burdell, lying dead at No 31 Bond street aforesaid, upon the oaths and affirmations of twelve good and lawful men of the State of New York, duly chosen and sworn or affirmed and charged to inquire on behalf of said people how and in what manner the said Harvey Burdell came to his death, do, upon their oaths and affirmation, say that the said Harvey Burdell on the 30th day of January, 1857, at No 31 Bond street aforesaid, was feloniously murdered, and came to his death by being stabbed in various parts of his body with a dagger or other sharp instrument; and the jurors because from the evidence, and therefore J. Eckel were principals in the commission of said murder

And the jurors aforesaid further find that George Vail Snodgrass otherwise called the said Emma Augusta Cunningham and John J. Eckel in the commission of said murder, or was accessory thereto before the fact, counselling, aiding or abetting the said Emma Augusta Cunningham and John J Eckel to commit the said murder; and the jurors aforesaid further find that Augusta Cunningham and Helen Cunningham, daughters of the said Emma Augusta Cunningham, being in the house No 31 Bond street, aforesaid, where the said murder was committed, have some knowledge of the facts connected with the said murder, when they have concealed from the Jury, that it is the duty of the Coroner to hold them for the future action of the Grand Jury. In witness whereof, we, the said jurors as well as the Coroner, have to this inquisition set our hands and seals on the day and place aforesaid.

So ends the first act of this terrible tragedy

From the New York Times

Mr Snodgrass

George Vail Snodgrass was conveyed to the Tombs yesterday afternoon He seems to have laid aside his dilettanty care manner, and realizes that he has got himself into a serious scrape That he purchased the dagger he most emphatically denies, and he feels assured that the woman who swore that he did, will prove to have been altogether mistaken in his identity He says that when he gets clear of this affair it will be a lesson to him which he will certainly profit by. Mr Snodgrass is confined in the third corridor of the male prison, above Mr Eckel. His cheerfulness seems to have departed with his banjo and his liberty

Mrs Cunningham and Eckel

The conduct of the above personages does not differ in the least from that of any other murderers in prison Mrs Cunningham expresses the utmost confidence in eventually getting clear; and as soon as she effects this, she will forthwith commence a suit against the New York Herald for libel.

Mr. Eckel willingly entered into conversation on the all engrossing topic He said he was very comfortable, and seemed marvelously calm and self possessed for a man charged with the heinous crime of murder. His meals are sent in from a restaurant, and he has the privilege of a light at night if he wishes it

Newspapers, cigars and other luxuries are allowed him, and he says that with one exception he has experienced none but the kindest treatment. He admitted that the circumstantial evidence against the family was rather weighty, but he asserted his entire innocence and his full belief that the others now charged with the crime would be proved innocent

STRANGE AFFAIR—The following information has been posted at the Liverpool Underwriters' Rooms:

"The Kelpie (opium clipper) was lost in the China seas in 1846, and all her crew and passengers were supposed to be drowned Intelligence has just been received from China that the ring of one of the passengers having been lately offered for sale in Canton, inquiries were instituted, which led to the discovery of the crew and passengers not having been drowned, but of their being in a state of slavery in the Island of Formosa."

SINGULAR CAUSE OF SUICIDE.—A prisoner in the Michigan Penitentiary, sentenced to solitary confinement, was found dead in his cell. A steam pipe passing through the cell to warm it had burst, and as no cry for help could be heard by the keeper, to save himself from being *cooked* to death the poor man cut his throat.

☞ The Mississippi Legislature has just passed a bill prohibiting any owner of slaves from puishing them with more than "nine and thirty lashes" at any one time for any one offence under penalty of fine and imprisonment. All other unnecessary cruelty to slaves is also made indictable and punishable by fine and imprisonment.

☞ At the request of several of our Catholic subscribers, we publish the following correspondence between a committee and the Pastor of St Patricks Church. Though of no interest to the general reader, it will doubtless prove none the less acceptable to such of our readers as are connected with that denomination, and we therefore make room for it in our columns;

ERIE, Pa., Jan. 15th, 1857.

REV DEAR SIR:—It is with feeling of pride and pleasure that we (members of the congregation of St Patrick's church,) avail ourselves of the present opportunity to tender you this trifling mark of the appreciation of your untiring and indefatigable exertions in promoting the cause of religion, and banishing the bane of envy and discord, (which too often makes its appearance in society,) and establishing by your precepts, harmony and good feeling among all whose good fortune it is to hear your advice, and witness your example of love and charity

We therefore beg leave to present, on behalf of your many friends, the accompanying cloak, which you will please receive with the assurance of our sincere affection, and the warm attachment your many virtues have commanded from your flock

During the short period of your spiritual charge, we have perceived with much pleasure, the high standing of your learning and talents, and we much fear that this confined and limited sphere will, by-and-by, prove too small a field for the more expanded exercise of those gifts which God has given you Should it ever be your lot to be separated from us, we feel certain that your talents and your virtues will earn for themselves their just reward Rest assured that our prayers will ever follow your footsteps, and that they will be addressed to heaven in your behalf, for a long life of usefulness, and an eternal reward hereafter in Heaven

Permit us also, Rev. Dear Sir, to assure you of the gratification it affords us to feel that you are our countryman, and a worthy child of that Island which has furnished for ages so many distinguished luminaries, to adorn the Church in whose faith her people have remained firmly fixed. Receive once more, Rev Dear Sir, the assurance of the profound esteem and affection of the [illegible] of your flock, with which we have the honor to remain

Your obedient servants,
CAPT. D. H McBRIDE,
CAPT. JAMES SHEA,
JOHN BROWN,
JOHN GOLDEN,
R O'BRIEN, Committee.

REV. J O'CONNOR, ERIE.

ERIE, Pa., Jan. 15th, 1857

GENTLEMEN—I thank you for this evidence of your affection to me comfort, it is always consoling to the heart of the Priest, to find that he is kindly regarded by his flock, and the cares and anxieties of the pastoral charge it is no small pleasure to discover that these cares are appreciated by those who are chiefly the object of them. On occasions like this, it is not so much the value of the gift that is to be considered, as the affection and good will of the givers; and I am happy to say that your gift is not once valuable and useful in itself, but is rendered still more valuable to me as an indication and expression of the regard you are pleased to manifest towards me

But, Dear Friends—You must have listened rather to your wishes, and the kindly dispositions of your hearts than to your judgement and discrimination, when you allowed yourself to say such flattering things of my talents, capabilities, and virtues.

It is a very small field indeed, that would not be found sufficiently large for the exercise of all the talents with which I have been blessed I therefore seek no other than the one in which the good Providence of God has placed me My residence in your midst has been to me a source of much pleasure and edification and your kind address leaves me room to hope that it has not been without its pleasures and consolations to you as well. I hope, therefore, that many years may come and go before our present relations are changed

But, whether here or elsewhere, your promised prayers for my welfare and success will not be without their effect, and I know I shall not forget your claims on my remembrance in the hour of prayer, and before the altar of God.

That our common country has been the fruitful mother of saints and sages, of men renowned by flood and field, is a matter of authentic history.

I am sorry to say, no fresh laurels are likely to be entwined around her venerable and majestic brow by the gallant [illegible] of our humble servant.

But, Gentlemen, let us not forget that, though her green fields of Erin are trodden to behold, the proud majestic forests of this a new world are no less worthy of our admiration—as the Killarney Lakes of the one are unrivalled in their beauty, so are the Niagara Falls of the other in their stupendous grandeur—and while we cherish fond recollections of the homes of our youth, let us be still more deeply interested in the glories, the honor, and prosperity of this Queen among the nations.

Permit me, before I conclude, to thank you again for this very excellent and substantial favor of your esteem, when the cold breezes off Lake Erie whistle around my ears in the chill days of winter, this very warm and beautiful cloak will be more and more cherished, as the day The more violent the storm, and the more [illegible] the cold, the more warmth will my heart beat beneath it in affectionate prayers and aspirations for your as few, noble and collectively, gentlemen of St