THE ERIE OBSERVER.

BENJ. F. SLOAN, Editor.

SLOAN & MOORE, Publishers and Proprietors.

SATURDAY.....JANUARY 30, 1858.

Democratic County Convention.

The Democratic Central Committee of the County of Erie, request and call upon the democratic voters of the County, to assemble at their respective places for holding elections, on Saturday January 30th, 1858 at 2 o'clock, P. M., (except the City of Erie,) and elect two delegates from each township, Ward and Borough to attend a County Convention, to be held in the City of Erie on Monday February 1st, 1858, at 2 o'clock, P. M. for the purpose of choosing two Representative and, in connection with Crawford, one Senatorial delegate to represent the County in the coming State Convention.

The Democrats of the East ward of the City of Erie, will meet at the Common Council room, and of the West ward, at the Select Council room, in Wright's block, corner of State and fifth sts., at 7 o'clock, P. M. January, 30, 1858.

By order of the Committe.

THOMAS MELLIN,
Chairman.

News of the Week.

—The National *Intelligencer* relates the following ruthless murder, attended by circumstances of no more than usual disregard of human life, committed on Wednesday afternoon in Georgetown. It appears that as the pupils of the Catholic free school, at the western end of First street, were going home at the close of the day, some of them played at foot ball along the street, when a negro in sport picked up their ball. One of the boys threw a stone at the negro, which, missing him, struck the porch or front door of Benjamin R. Ogle, painter and glazier, living on First street, near the intersection of Frederick street.—Almost immediately Ogle presented himself at his door, with a loaded musket in his hand, and levelled and fired at a little boy named John Webb, then passing with his school, books under his arm. The little fellow was instantly killed, the musket having been loaded with ball, which passed into the boy's head. The coroner's jury which sat on the case declared in their verdict that the evidence adduced before them showed that the deceased gave no provocation to his murderer. Ogle was speedily arrested and committed to jail for trial at the Criminal Court. It is said that he had been drinking for several days previous to the commission of the savage deed, and had not recovered from its effects at that time.

—The Cincinnati *Gazette* furnishes us the following sad recital. The announcement that Mrs. Peggs, of Ghent Ky., had committed suicide on Saturday last, by hanging herself to a tree, reminded us of a gay wedding party, consisting of two newly married couple and a large number of friends, who staid a day or two at the Walnut St. House, a few weeks ago. They were the gayest of the gay, and the merry laugh of the ladies could be heard ringing through the halls, as though no shadow of care had ever passed between them and perfect happiness. In dancing, music, and songs, sparkling wines, and a feast of good things the party passed three days, and returned again to the sober realities of every-day life. Amongst the gayest of the party was Mrs. Peggs. After her return home her husband soon sickened and died, and a house of mourning, indeed, was the home of the fair young bride. The dethronement of reason followed, and while laboring under an aberration of mind, she left her father's house on Saturday, and put an end to an existence that had no charms beyond the early buried love. From the bridal to the grave is oft, indeed, but a single step.

—A distressing casualty occurred at Brooklyn, N. Y., last week. Public school house No. 14, the largest school building in that city, being four story brick, and covering a large plot of ground, took fire from the heater, while it was filled with children, both girls and boys. In the rush and scramble to get out, eight little boys were killed, having been either smothered or crushed to death, and many others badly injured. The teachers showed great courage and firmness in their attempts to rescue the children, and remained in the rooms until all were cleared.—Many children were saved by being thrown from the windows and caught in the arms of the people. None were burned, so far as is known.

—Quite an excitement was occasioned about the Young Ladies' Seminary at Bethlehem, pays the Easton *Argus*, during the Christmas holidays, by the sudden disappearance of one of the pupils, who took it into her head to run away and commit matrimony, without the consent of her teachers or friends. The heroine of our story is a spoiled orphan girl not over fifteen years of age, with an undivided interest in a splendid farm in Hanover township, and the groom resides, we believe, in *New Jersey*. They were married at Allentown. She had been placed at the school by General Steiner, who, as her guardian, treated her as a kind father would his own child, and it is to be feared she may live to regret the day when she refused to listen to and be governed by parental advice.

—The *New Bedford Standard* says:—"Some time since a lady in this city, while dressing for church, thought that she felt something moving between her dress and skirts, but after shaking them, paid no more attention to the circumstance until seated in her pew at church, when out fell a rat upon the floor, much to the consternation of several ladies in the pew. It commenced running from one end of the pew to the other, and at last was lost sight of. The first named lady upon arriving home, was in the act of changing her dress for another, when upon shaking it, out fell the rat, having made the trip to church and back with safety.

—Capt. John P. Cole, a well known citizen of Pittsburg committed suicide, in the jail of Allegheny county, on Saturday last. He had been convicted of an assault and battery, with intent to kill his wife by shooting her in the face with a pistol, in December last, was sentenced to two years and six months imprisonment in the Penitentiary. A number of letters were found on his person, directed to the Governor and the brethren of the manuscripts was, in his own language, a "justification and vindication."

—Moses H. Beals and wife, of Williamsburg, Mass., have been arrested on the charge of cruel treatment of their child, a boy five years old. The alleged cruelty consisted in severe whipping, exposure during severe weather, and deprivation of food, extending over a period of some six months. Four witnesses testified to having seen the father whip the child with great severity as long ago as last July, two of whom swore to having counted at that time fifty, and at another twenty, distinct blows with a piece of board a foot and a half long.

—The commission of the Hon. William A. Porter was read in the Supreme Court on Thursday morning, and he took his seat on the bench of that Court. For the first time since the resignation of Judge Sergeant the city of Philadelphia has now a representative in the highest tribunal of the Commonwealth, and we are glad to have it in our power to congratulate the people of the State of Pennsylvania that the choice of the Executive has fallen on so able a lawyer and so excellent a man.

—Some of the farmers in Michigan, deeming the present extraordinary weather for the season favorable to the running of the sap, have recently tapped their maple trees to try the experiment, and succeeded in making quite a quantity of maple sugar. The fruit trees budding in New England—the rivers and lakes navigable in the West—and making maple sugar in Michigan in the month of January!! Does "the oldest inhabitant" remember the like occurring before?

—The Mormons who recently left San Bernardino, Cal., for Salt Lake, made enormous sacrifices in selling their estates. One of them sold his farm and vineyards, which were last year assessed at $18,000, for $1500! Another sold property consisting of extensive orchards, a distillery which cost $13,000, a flour mill, saw mill, &c.; cutting all together, not less than $75,000, for $6000. The fanaticism which prompts to such sacrifices, so there must be power, fed indeed.

—The Boston *Argus* mentions an incident of an old gentleman, recently deceased in Lehigh county, who pretended to be quite poor. On examination of the premises, after his death, no less than $71,000 were found in specie, which he had laid aside, from saving and economizing for many years.

—Two young girls were drowned at Chazhwhill, Monroe county, New York, the other day, by falling through the ice of a mill pond. Their names are Rebecah Marshall, aged eight and a half, and Amelia Edwards, adopted daughter of Benjamin Moore, postmaster at Chazhwhill, aged nine years.

—Hall's *Journal of Health* states that, while on business down in the Kensington was never seen without a cigar in his mouth, and was never well. Since entering prison, smoking is prohibited, and, in three months he has gained seven pounds in flesh, and good health in proportion.

—The King of Prussia holds a million dollars of the first mortgage bonds of the Erie Railroad, which money is lost.

☞ According to a table published in the Waterford *Enquirer*, there are 71 persons in that place and vicinity who are upwards of 70 years of age.

AN ABLE PENNSYLVANIAN.

Hon. Wm. Montgomery, of the Washington district in this State, has made his mark in the House. His speech on the Neutrality Laws, in reply to Gen. Quitman, is so knowledged on all hands to be the speech of the session, and has established at once his claim to be ranked among the ablest men of that body. We have read it with infinite satisfaction. His defense of the President and Com. Paulding is clear, logical and conclusive. Gen. Quitman had assumed, in his defense of filibusterism, (which, by the by, we had the pleasure of listening to) that the law of nations does not prevent our citizens from handing themselves together to invade the territories of other nations with which we are at peace; and also that the Constitution of the United States does not grant to Congress any power whatever to pass a law to prevent our citizens from these aggressions. The speech of Mr. Montgomery is a protest against both these propositions. He truly remarks that "it is a strange doctrine for a statesman to advocate, that when we have concluded a treaty of peace with another nation, that treaty is binding only on our Government, and not upon *our people*; that the treaty of peace amounts only to a compact which binds the powers of this Government, but not the powers of the people. He maintains that the true doctrine is, that when our Government is at peace with a nation, every citizen is also at peace with that nation; that what the nation cannot do, no citizen can do. The Government of the United States cannot invade the territories of that nation, nor can any citizen of this Government invade them. The treaty of peace is as broad as the nation; and embraces every individual in it, and not only every citizen, but every *resident* of the country is bound by that treaty of peace. Nobody has any more right to violate it than the nation itself.

After showing from *Vattel* that these positions are according to the law nations, the speaker proceeded to consider the bearing of the act of 1818, upon the case of Gen. Walker. The friends of that gentleman had assumed, in their denunciation of the act of Com. Paulding, that no act had been passed by Congress that authorized his arrest beyond a marine league from our own shores, and hence the act of seizing Walker in Nicaragua was an outrage, for which ample remuneration should be made by our government. The reply of Mr. Montgomery to this assumption was most conclusive. "The law of nations," said he, "requires that we shall restrain our citizens from committing aggressions against other States. The Constitution of the United States provides that we shall have all the power to enforce the law of nations, and that Congress can enact a law for that purpose. Congress, in obedience to these requirements of the Constitution, and to carry out and enforce the law of nations, passed the act of 1818.—One of the plainest rules of interpreting a statute, is to know the object of the law making power in enacting a particular law. If we know the motives which prompted the legislation, we can easily interpret the law. The object which the Congress of the United States had in view when they enacted the statute of 1818, was to carry out the law of nations; and yet, according to the argument of the other side, they did not do it. They did not do what they intended. He contended that such an interpretation was an unfair and an unnatural one. It would not be the interpretation given by the Congress which passed that law. They intended to guard against every infraction of the law of nations by our citizens; they intended to guard against expeditions being fitted out in the United States for the purpose of carrying war into countries with which we were at peace."

The speaker then proceeded to quote from the act of 1818, and comment upon it, as follows:

"In *every such case it shall be lawful for the President of the United States, or such other person* as he shall have empowered for that purpose, to employ such part of the land or naval forces of the United States, or of the militia thereof, for the purpose of detaining any such ship or vessel, with its prize or prizes. And *also*, for the purpose *of preventing the carrying on* of such expedition or enterprise from the territories or jurisdiction of the United States against the territories or dominions of any foreign prince or State, or of any colony, district, or people, with which the United States are at peace."

"Carrying on!" The one is to prevent such an expedition from being equipped, armed, and organized, and the other is for the purpose of preventing it from being *"carried on."* What is the meaning of the phrase *"carried on!"* Is its application confined to within the marine league?—Or does it extend from our shores to the place where the conflict of war is taking place? I ask you whether such an expedition is not being *"carried on"* when the contending armies are actually in sight of each other and ranged in battle array, and even when they are actually engaged in conflict? I ask whether the Army and Navy of the country cannot just as well arrest the offenders there, for the purpose of preventing them from *"carrying on" the expedition* as they can within a marine league of the shore? If we cannot prevent the expedition from being carried on wherever we find it, then the language of the act is too broad; and if Commodore Paulding pursued the words of the act, the fault is in the law, and not in that noble American sailor.

The next question that arises is this: Has "General" Walker committed any offense against the law of nations? No man will stand on this floor and deny that he went with an armed force into a country with which this country was at peace; that he went into Nicaragua with a body of soldiers, with arms in their hands. The papers show that he signs his name as commander-in-chief of the army—not as an agricultural emigrant, not as a peaceful man going to settle in the country, to till the soil, and to live there in peace under the laws as they stand. On the contrary, he styles himself commander-in-chief of the army of Nicaragua. He goes in hostile array to wage war against that country. He goes as a military usurper to overturn the civil institutions of the country by the force of arms, and to hold it by conquest. This is his offense against the law of nations, and the laws of our country.

Then the question arises as to the legality of his arrest. I maintain that this is the doctrine of the law, and that no man can controvert it; that the right of a nation to arrest a criminal who has committed an offense against its laws is *always perfect;* that it *exists everywhere;* and that *you can arrest that criminal wherever he is found*, anywhere on the broad earth. But the right of arrest is subject to a limit. What is the limit? In certain cases—mark, I do not say in all cases, but in *certain cases*—the right of arrest is in *subordination to the sovereignty of the country where the arrest is made.* A criminal escapes from this country to England. The sovereignty of England may interpose to prevent his arrest; but *between the criminal and the* country our right to arrest him is as perfect as it ever was—just as perfect as it would be in the streets of Washington, or in the city of New York. It is the same in London. It is the same in Pekin. We never lose that right of arrest; we cannot lose it, in any shape, unless we relinquish it."

We wish we had room for further extracts—but we have not. The whole speech is replete with sound reasoning, and marks its author, as we said before, as one of the ablest men in Congress.

☞ Mr. Doolittle, U. S. Senator from the little State of Wisconsin, appears to "draw about as much water" as members from bigger States.—*Whitewater Wis., Register.*

Well, that is a novelty, surely—a wind-mill going by water!

SPUNKY LUCY.—The famous *Lucy Stone*, of Orange, N. Y., refused to pay her taxes, averring that woman should not be compelled to pay taxes who had no vote. The consequence was that the constable levied upon her property, advertised and sold sufficient to make the money due.—The articles sold were a marble top table and two steel plate engravings; one of Gerrit Smith and the other of Gov. Chase. Lucy says that the same thing shall be repeated every year until she gets her rights.

☞ Bachelors two hundred years ago were just as rusty, musty and crusty in their notions of women as they are now-a-days. For instance, one that lived and died during the reign of the first Stuart, gave this opinion of the marriage state: "'Tis reason, a man that will have a wife should be at the charge for her trinkets, and pay all the scores she sets on him: He that will keep a monkey 'tis fit he should pay for the glasses he breaks."

What an unmitigated old brute!

☞ Dogs must be a very scarce commodity in and about Toledo just now, for we notice that the Cleveland *Herald* chronicles the arrival there of one and a half tons of "sausage meat" by the Toledo railroad. One and a half tons of sausage meat have wooded out the dogs pretty effectually. "Bow-wow-wo!"

☞ Crawford County Bank Bills are circulating quite freely in this vicinity. They are printed on good paper, are well designed, and handsomely executed. They are pretty enough to pass current, and as they look like money we presume they will be taken as such.—*Conneaut ville Courier.*

The best evidence in the world of a Bank's solvency is the fact that its "bills circulate quite freely" in its own neighborhood. And, apropos of this—a gentleman from Meadville assured us the other day that this bank was doing a very safe and profitable business—accomodating the business interests of the town—and, upon the whole, winning the *confidence* of the community. Relying upon this assurance, we say to our subscribers that, should any of them come in possession of a V. of the Crawford County Bank, and cannot find any one else to pay it to, we will be very happy to pass it to their credit on our Books.—Pass them along.

PASS HIM ROUND.—The Conneaut ville *Courier* says every pious church member, a *few days* ago, brought a pail of butter to town, and after a thorough but vain effort to sell it for more than one shilling per pound, let his minister have it for fourteen cents, remarking that that was the going price. The preacher shortly after exchanged the butter, at the former price for goods. The same man discouraged taking the *Courier* a while ago, because of its immoral tendencies, though ever since he has been very punctual to borrow his neighbor's to read. We wouldn't give much for that man's religion, notwithstanding his Sunday fags and numerous long prayers.

☞ DAN RICE, "all the way from Girard, Erie County Pennsylvania," is tickling the "upper ten" in Gotham at Rome's. Dan, with his people and mules, will draw any where, and we are glad to hear he is in excellent health and spirits.

Local, Personal and Miscellaneous.

JOB WORK, JOB WORK, JOB WORK, JOB WORK — CHEAP at this OFFICE. — JOB WORK, JOB WORK, JOB WORK, JOB WORK

EDITORIAL CHIT-CHAT

An event, which probably took place in England last Monday, reminds us very forcibly of the rapid flight of time We refer to the marriage of the Princess Royal—the eldest daughter of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert—with Frederick William, the presumptive heir to the crown of Prussia. It seems but the other day, as it were, that the newspapers were full of the marriage of the parents of the bride of Monday. Eighteen years ago, as the papers of that day informed us, a love match was consummated by the marriage of Prince Albert with the youthful Queen of England. The fact that it was a love match—a novelty in royal marriages—was heralded far and near, while the enthusiasm of phlegmatic Johnny Bull almost equalled for a time, his excitable neighbors across the channel, who live on excitement and—*frogs!* The result of this excitement, eighteen years ago, was that on the 21st of Nov. 1840, a Royal Princess was born, and England was in convulsions of joy which lasted some time. In less than a year afterwards a Prince was born and the convulsions were redoubled. Since that time royal births have been so common that the English public has ceased to go into *great ecstacies of joy*, as each such event occurs, though there is genuine happiness at the safety and the additions to the domestic happiness of that excellent little royal lady, Victoria. The little girl born on the 21st of November, 1840, having now arrived at the mature age of seventeen and a quarter years, was doubtless married on Monday last to Prince Frederick William, the presumptive heir to the crown of Prussia. He is a said to be a very well-looking and well-behaved young man, now in his twenty-seventh year, having been born October 18th, 1831. The match like that of her Royal mother, is said to be one of genuine affection, and it is fortunate that it is so, for in the very small circle to which English royal marriages are confined, it is a little surprising that a person should be found who should really love the Princess Royal, and be loved by her in return. The royal marriage not forbids alliances between members of the royal family and British subjects, while it also forbids marriages with foreign princes or princesses who are not Protestants. The consequence is that all English princes and princesses of modern times have to find wives and husbands among the German Protestant royal families, and these keep up a supply of marriageable young men and women, that is quite equal to the demand.——But to leave royal marriages and love matches to take care of themselves, and come down to things that concern *us* Democrats—are some of our subscribers aware that, in this rapid flight of time, they are indebted to us for the *Observer* for two or three years? Now, if there are two things in the world that we dislike more than words can tell, it is to dun or be dunned. But how can we avoid the one, or prevent the other, unless our delinquent subscribers "come to time" and hand over the "ready?" True, the sum each one owes us is, individually, small—but add them all together, and, *presto change*, they would astonish our pocket book, and relieve our credit from the imputation of being "slow." Will not, therefore, our dear kind subscribers—those who have relieved us for a year past of all anxiety about the failure of banks, by keeping *our* money in *their* pockets—now come forward, and hand over, each and severally the respective sums they may owe us? Remember that "the wicked stand on slippery places," and that there is no crime in the decalogue so repugnant to the Christian character, as the secretion of money in your pocket that rightfully belongs to the Editor.——We see it stated that in Europe there is a somewhat extended secret order called the Brotherhood of the Seven Wise Men. So far as divulged, it is understood that the principles of the order are liberal; its objects are the promotion of the freedom of all mankind, the improvement of morals, and the support and relief of distressed members. The wise men claim that their order was established five hundred years before the birth of Christ; the brotherhood, however, has not made much noise in the world. It has for some years been established in the United States, and under a charter from the Supreme Conclave of the United States, a subordinate conclave has been formed in New York, called the Franklin Conclave Whether the "seven wise men of Gotham" that "went to sea in a bowl" were the founders of this institution is only known to the initiated.——A late California paper relates the following incident, which, take it all in all, is about the most satisfactory settlement of a dispute we have ever recorded. It appears that two young ladies of one of the mining towns took a tramp into the country, prospecting for gold, and having found a spot where they thought was a "lead," staked off a claim and posted notices, according to miners' usage. Some gentlemen prospecting, found the claim, believed it offered extraordinary inducements, and "jumped" it. They prospected it for quarts, and found it astonishingly rich. It became soon noised about that a new lode had been discovered, and many of the curious visited the diggings.—Among them were the fair claimants of the property, who asserted their title, and asked for possession of the ground. Here was a dilemma! The ladies' claim was undoubtedly valid, yet, probably, but for the enterprise of the miners, the lode would not have been opened. The latter thought the prospect for a fortune was too good to be lost, and they finally hit upon a compromise—proposing to the ladies to take the claim, and accept themselves along with it! These terms were almost immediately accepted; and here, for the present the narrative closes.——And speaking of mining, reminds us that the *Waterford Enquirer* stated last week that a piece of native copper was recently found on "the farm of the late Lyman Blair, about three and a half miles northwest of Waterford. It weighed eight pounds, and was together with several other similar pieces, found in the earth, clinging to the root of an old tree which had been prostrated by the winds." Esq. White, who melted down 624 grains of this copper, informs the editor of the Enquirer that it lost but two grains in the process.

☞ We always like to record the success of our friends abroad, as well as at home, and therefore take pleasure in copying the following paragraph in regard to the operations of Messrs. Gaggin and Walker, of this city, in Illinois. The Rockford *Register* says:

K., B. & R. I. RAILROAD.—We are informed by Mr. Gaggin, one of the Contractors, that work was resumed last week on each unfinished section of the Road between here and Harvard, with the intention of driving it right through ready for the iron. Messrs. Field, Gaggin & Walker, the Contractors, have been indomitable in prosecuting the work, and are entitled to credit for their energy and excellent management.

☞ As puffing "wholesale Grocery Dealers" is all the rage among our cotemporaries, because they "keep no liquors," we beg leave to call the attention of customers to the establishment of Messrs. CADWELL & CLARK. They not only keep an extensive assortment of Wines and Liquors, but also every other article found in such an "institution." Wines and Liquors, Ale and Porter, are recognized by the laws of the State as articles of trade and trade, to deal in which a license is demanded, and when paid, the dealer is just as much entitled to "public favor" as though he did not engage in it. Such is the case with Messrs Caughey & Clark—they deal in liquors, in addition to a general Grocery business—pay their license—and hence contribute towards the support of the Government under which they and their customers live. Give them a call!

☞ The "Erie County Agricultural Society" has made a donation of $200 to the Farmer's High School in Center County. All right, we suppose—but next year, when the managers of the concern want their printing done for a quarter price, we hope they will remember this donation, and evince a corresponding liberality towards their friends at home! It is said that Charity is a Heavenly virtue, and that it begins at *home!*

☞ Dr. J. L. Stewart, of this city, lectured in Waterford last week, on the "Current Literature of the Age."—The *Enquirer* characterizes the effort as a highly successful and brilliant performance—and, from the fact that the speaker gave the press a "great deal" among the "dispensers of light and knowledge," we think the *Enquirer* estimate is correct.

☞ We are indebted to the publishers for the third number of *"Peterson's Philadelphia Counterfeit Detector and Bank Note List,"* which we are satisfied is, by far, the most complete work of the kind issued in the State. It is published monthly and semi-monthly at $1 and $3 per year. Address T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Phila.

☞ Among the "new things under the sun" in our city, is a Gymnasium—instituted by a number of our young men who, feeling the need of exercise, and not relishing the idea of seeking it at the tail of a road cart, have hit upon the plan of a gymnastic association. We hope it will be a successful and permanent institution. We visited it the other day, not as a participant, but as a "looker on in Venice." If a man wants to try his strength, he has the chance—if he wants to throw himself in as many postures as a Republican politician, the instruments are at hand to hang on to, or, if he desires to go in on his nerve, and climb a greased pole, all he has to do is "to try it on," and if he don't succeed, why, it will be his own fault, and not the pole's. The institution is located in the old Perry of Blackwell's new block on State street.

☞ HANNA has removed his picture to the ballroom of the Paragon Block—immediately beneath the Banking House of Clark & Metcalf—where he has fitted up one of the finest establishments in the State.

☞ We never knew till this week the length, breadth and depth of our "acquaintance" and sincerity"—the per margin value in Editorial currency—of the Editor of the *Gazette*. It is not often you can arrive at such a result in current coin; but in this case we arrived at so marvellously easy a problem for the "Rule of Three." For instance, the Editor of that remarkable sheet desires us to publish the speech of *Wm. A. Stokes*, Esq., before the Democracy of Westmoreland, on the Kansas question, and "by way of enticing" his "earnestness and sincerity in the matter" he "hereby agrees to receive and *pay for* twenty-five copies of the paper which shall contain it." Now, the price of twenty-five copies of the *Observer* would be just *seventy-five cents*—and hopes you arrive at a mathematical demonstration that the "*earnestness and sincerity*" of the Editor of the *Gazette* is valued in current coin at *three quarters of a dollar!* As auctioneer Bates used to say, "going! going—will no one bid any more!—why, gentlemen, this article is as cheap at that price as bull-beef at a-penny-a-pound—gone! Who's the lucky man?"

☞ The Buffalo *Commercial* relates a case of "matrimonial infelicity" among the colored population of that city of rather a novel character. It appears that two members of church—man and wife—are so unfortunate as to live unhappily. The husband—whether under Othello-pangs of jealousy or simply because he was worried by a colored Xantippe—found his life so uncomfortable that he resolved to take some means to rid himself of his conjugalities, and he once more a man and a brother, but not a husband. There being no Jo. Biegler at hand to whom he might apply for "a cup of cold piece," and having a distaste for any of the more vulgar means of divorce, such as are said to be prevalent in Rochester, the "called parson" in question falls back on the Fugitive Slave Law as a resource.—His wife was a fugitive who came there by underground railroad—he wished she had staid underground—and so he writes to her master down south, imploring him to come north, prove property, pay charges and take his help meet back to chains and slavery. The fact leaked out and the matter is now dividing the church. We learn that a portion of the elders think that this remanding his own wife back to slavery was not just the fair thing, while others look upon it as justifiable. They argue that the husband may have suffered so severely under the bonds of wedlock, that the bonds of slavery should be no more than a sufficient punishment for the wife. There the matter stands. The church is divided and distracted, and where it is to end nobody can tell.

☞ William Pekes and William Smith, nail makers, have been arrested in Pittsburg on a charge of having attempted to ruin the business of a rival nailmaker by exploding an infernal machine in his shop. The machine was formed out of a piece of large gas-pipe, into both ends of which metal had been cast, so as to completely close them. A small tube or fuse was inserted through the metal in one end, and the pipe filled with pieces of iron, nails, &c., and a large quantity of powder. A piece of cotton was wrapped around the smaller tube and this once on fire, the powder quickly ignited and the explosion followed. The shop and contents were damaged but no person was injured.

☞ We find in the Boston *Post* a sketch of a lecture delivered before a literary association, the evening previous by Rev. Isaac S. Kalloch. The subject was "the moral responsibilities of the press!" Mr. K. is "great" on morals, as all who remember his operation at the Lechmere house some months ago are aware.

ANOTHER FALLEN CLERGYMAN.—The New Hampshire Patriot contains the following paragraph:

A correspondent informs us that Rev. Obadiah Smith, of Fremont, well known in that vicinity as a brawling Kansas shrieker, was on Wednesday last brought before a magistrate charged with triple crime upon his own daughter, and on the testimony of his wife and daughter, was committed to jail to await his trial at the next term of the criminal court.

CALL HIM MUGGINS.—The Free State Legislature of Kansas, on the reception of Buchanan's message, passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That James Buchanan, president of the United States, be entitled to the name of Muggins, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to him. The resolution passed amid deafening cheers.

We find the above choice specimen of "all the decency" blackguardism in the Crawford *Journal*. Perhaps the free state legislature of Kansas passed such a resolution, and perhaps it did not; if it did, all we can say is that it was engaged in a very dirty, and a very mean business. The members have disgraced the name they bear, and demonstrated all that has been charged against them individually and collectively—namely, that they are a set of blackguard outlaws, that it would be a base slander upon the name to call men!

☞ John B. Robertson who has been on trial in Rochester for a conspiracy, or attempt to procure the death of his wife, has been acquitted. When the verdict was received, the audience in spite of the Court gave three cheers. The verdict gives universal satisfaction.

☞ The Chicago *News* states that several men have left that city to go to Lake Superior to pack ice for the Chicago market. At Copper Harbor, on the first inst., there was plenty. A letter from Mackinaw says several parties are housing it on the St. Joseph River, between there and Sault Ste. Marie.

☞ General Scott is soon to be dispatched by the War Department to the Pacific coast, for the purpose of organizing a force to operate against the Mormons from that quarter. The General will doubtless sail in the next steamer. So says a Washington letter.

☞ "Extremes meet" in Illinois, as the following two paragraphs demonstrate, which we clip from one of our exchanges:

"The most "finished down" specimen of humanity of which small American coin boast, is now said to be a Gen. Green, a native of Western Missouri, but now a resident of Illinois. He is an intelligent boy, about years of age, stands, he looks young—perfectly innocent, and much smaller than the far famed Tom Thumb.

"There is a boy in the town of Cary, near Joliet, Ill. 14 years of age, who measures six feet eight and a half inches in height, and weighs two hundred and twelve pounds. His name is John Carpenter.

☞ The Hillsdale (Mich.) Gazette says: "We have seen upon the western coast of a contemporary where the said Winter had fallen, and Autumn had got an extension.

NEW YORK.

(Correspondence of the Erie Observer.)

NEW YORK, Jan. 25, 1858.

The year is further started, in appearance at least, in point of view. The country trade has not begun to come in yet, except from the far West and South, but the Dry goods dealers have made all the hotels, watching like hungry cats, for any early spring bird of a purchaser. The worst feature of our wholesale Dry goods business in New-York, and the one which has most contributed to give us such a bad reputation in the trade, is the prevailing system of *forcing* goods upon buyers in excess of their wants. A country shopkeeper is called upon by a prospective vendee whose eyes are to be dazzled by the display of new styles and brilliant coloring, and whose ears are to be filled with magnific predictions, until in a few infatuated moments he is led to give orders for three times the stock he had intended to buy and more than he can sell in two years. His store is filled every season with two year old goods and he becomes thus in the end a poorer customer for the wholesale merchant, besides the injury to the solvency of the party. We have no hesitation in saying that the "smart" salesmen of our leading houses have ruined many a small dealer, of course inconsiderately, but still effectually, by loading him with more goods than he could possibly carry. Said a leading clothing dealer to us the other day. I never did a thing of that kind but once in my life and the result gave me a new idea of business; a small tailor came into the store from the interior of the State, intending to buy about $400 worth of goods. I showed him one thing after another till I had run up the man's bill to $1200, and thought I had done a "cute" thing. But the man never got over it. The goods laid on his hands, he could not pay; we had to sell him out, the man's prospects were ruined and a good customer lost. So much for forcing goods into consumption.

The recently exposed system of "accommodation bill-drawing," in connection with British banks, explains what has long been a mystery, namely, how English manufacturers could afford to produce goods and send them to this market to be sold year after year under cost. An equitable competition now would hardly injure our manufacturers were there no tariff at all on cottons. But cheap labor, and money so cheap that it was never paid for at all, were facilities not possessed by New England manufacturers, and consequently they found themselves continually swamped by the British in a most mysterious way. Now these facilities are likely to be removed from unprincipled speculators abroad, we may hope for the good time coming for our own manufacturers. Manufacturers are now very evidently scarce of material and an active demand for a few weeks would raise prices, though raw material is very low. Domestic goods are being bought up by the speculators at auction to carry over to next August when every one looks for a lively trade and a small supply of goods; consequently a high range of prices.—Manufacturers is not reviving so generally as was expected after the opening of the New Year.

Talking about Dry goods, the case of the young dry goods man who ran away with a fortune of $30,000 right in the thick of the hard times excites a great deal of attention. The bride is commiserated by the mother who thinks the catch rather a huge one for a young fellow on $800 a year especially considering the increased value of money. If the twain is successful he will probably have a chance to enter as partner any one of thirty or forty impoverished dry goods firms.

Charity calls and charity concerts are still attractive. But some of our reported rich men, if the truth were known, are deserving objects of charity. Some of the wealthy men who were obliged to unspend with large families during the pressure and have applied every cent of receipts to the payment of their debts, tread their soft tapestry carpets with unmended boots, and jingle doleful copper in pockets unfrequented by silver or gold. ERIE.

A LITTLE TOO FAST.—The Westfield *Republican* is a little too fast in its endeavor to show us inconsistent in agreeing with Gov. PACKER that "all the qualified electors of a territory should have a full and fair opportunity to participate in selecting delegates to form a Constitution preparatory to admission as a State, and, unqualified right to vote upon such Constitution after it is framed," and our endorsement of the President's message.

Every reader of this paper knows that we regard the non-submission of the whole Lecompton Constitution as a wrong; while every reader of the President's message, also knows that he regretted that the whole Constitution was not submitted—but it is a wrong which the people of Kansas can very promptly redress, provided only that, they will exercise the right of suffrage. It is probable too that the Convention had a *legal right* to submit the Constitution as they did submit it; and that consequently outsiders can only blame that body for an impolitic and ill advised use of discretionary powers. But the moment the people go to the ballot box and vote, that moment they effectually clean away the "Pro-Slavery" and "Border Ruffian" bugbears and find no difficulty in fashioning their institutions to suit themselves. Thus we observe by the latest returns, that notwithstanding nearly all the "Free State" leaders throughout the country doggedly opposed the policy of recognizing the Lecompton Constitution, by voting for State and Legislative officers on the 4th instant, yet enough of the "Free State" people went to the polls to carry more than two-thirds of the Legislature and the State Administration.

In this connection we quote from the Boston *Traveller*, which says the letter is "from a gentleman who has taken a distinguished part in Kansas politics:"

LAWRENCE, Friday, Jan. 8, 1858.

DEAR SIR:—It is now believed that the Free State men having carried the State Ticket and a majority of the Legislature under the Lecompton Constitution, will repeal Leavenworth County, which is still in dispute. The frauds were practiced at least, but it is believed not quite big enough to defeat us. You will remember that this result was obtained after a State Convention had decided not to vote. Had that Convention decided to vote, we could have triumphed early in the autumn. Some of us have been in favor of taking possession of the Lecompton State Government, but were overruled in the Convention by a majority, on unworthy game. But the people, many of them, determined to vote, and have thereby rendered that problematic.

If it proves that we have that Government, Mr. Buchanan can do what he pleases with the Constitution, for we will stand independent upon no outside power for protection from Germany.

Good bring the end, what ends is there in howling over the Lecompton Constitution? If an Anti-Slavery party had control of the State Government of South Carolina, I think, we should like to know what chance that slavery would be worth. But in Kansas the Anti Slavery Legislature is backed up by a decided majority of the people, who only need the initiative from the Legislature to wipe out every vestige of slavery from the young State. As it is, even under the Lecompton Constitution, slave property would be so insecure that the institution would speedily die out; on this point there can be no doubt; since slavery requires all the support of both Legislature and people to make it a profitable and successful institution.

"STAND ON AN EARLY DAY."—The other day the *Tribune* said, "Kansas is sure to be a Free State—if not upon her admission, then at an early day after her Admission." Very well, says the Albany *Argus*, in reply, we are glad to see symptoms of returning sense on the part of the *Tribune*. In its discussions on the Lecompton Constitution, it at first insisted that the admission of Kansas under it, would perpetuate Slavery in the new State. We, on the other hand, urged that the people of Kansas, "at an early day after her admission" could, if so disposed, amend their Constitution, or frame an entirely new one, and thus secure a "Free State," if such was the popular desire. We are glad to see the *Tribune* at length concede the correctness of our position, although it was not honest enough to do so while its discussion with us was pending. This reluctant concession of the *Tribune* shows how much the importance of any pending questions concerning the admission of Kansas, is overrated. We certainly should be glad to see Kansas come into the Union with precisely such a Constitution as a majority of her people desire, but our anxiety as to the precise form of her Constitution when admitted, is much modified by a knowledge of the fact, that she can change her Constitution to any desired form within a twelve month after entering the Union, and that, if her people will it, (in the language of the *Tribune*,) "Kansas is sure to be a Free State—if not upon her admission," then at an early day after her admission. Why, then, does not the *Tribune* cease its howling, and be content to let the people of Kansas mould their own Constitution in their own way?

☞ A meeting has been held in Philadelphia to consider the propriety of increasing the number of chaplains in the army and navy. A memorial to Congress on the subject has been prepared, and is being extensively circulated for signatures.

☞ We call the attention of persons desiring to purchase, to the advertisement for the sale of the Government Timber at this port. It will be disposed of in lots to suit purchasers—and as it is of superior quality, culled expressly for the government works, we doubt not there is a good speculation ahead for some one! For size and terms see advertisement.

Our Camel Region.

With all the costly expenditures of Congress in publishing massive reports, which so few can obtain, and fewer still consent to wade through, we question whether one thousand people out of the thirty millions of our population have any definite idea of the extent and character of the "Dry Plains" and "Central Plateau" of this continent. It is even more questionable if a fourth part of that number have weighed seriously and intelligently the real capabilities of this vast region. Although thousands have inhaled health and delight in traversing its wide borders, they remember only its arid wastes and treeless monotony.

Two or three pages in Secretary Floyd's last report gives us a summary but graphic outline of all that is known or can be said in the way of general description; and where he alludes to the camel, we have one single ray of light on its future means of development; but there the public information ends.

Yet this region—considerably larger than the whole area of the first twenty-five States—is in fact the genial domain of the camel, the cashmere goat, and the alpaca, three of the most valuable and most profitable animals ever domesticated by man. The cashmere goat, whose fleece is much more precious than silk, will find an extensive and congenial range in the southwestern portions of this calumniated Arcadia; and our enterprising citizens will not be slow to act upon this hint, when they come to examine into its merits. The alpaca will thrive as far north as Utah, but it is likely the highest ranges of Texas and New Mexico will suit its tastes still better; and ten or fifteen years hence, "alpaca ranges" will be a noticeable feature on the despised hill slopes of the far West.

But first of any the pioneer camel, the meek, abstemious, and incomparable burden-bearer of the desert, must clear the way for all the other arts and animals of civilized life. With him, and only with him, the emigrant can penetrate the green spots on these dry wastes, and establish at once his line of traffic and exchange with the towns he has left in the distance. The camel is the only domestic animal on which man can rely for freight or travel on these wide and arid plains. Horses, mules, and oxen, cannot live and work on the scanty herbage of the dry season; but the patient, hardy camel, goes on with his load day after day to the end of the journey, perfectly satisfied with a breakfast of thistles and a supper of prickly pear, with a holiday treat of a few buckets of water once a week.

By a happy providence Gov. Davis, the late Secretary of War, conceived the bold resolution of introducing the camel in the transportation service of the army; and a greater boon to the "Dry Plains" of the Southwest could scarcely be imagined. It required the energy, the resources, and the extended practical opportunities of the Government, to famil