THE ERIE OBSERVER.

BENJ. F. SLOAN, Editor.

SLOAN & MOORE, Publishers and Proprietors.

SATURDAY.....APRIL, 24 1858.

Democratic State Ticket.

FOR SUPREME JUDGE,

WILLIAM A. PORTER,

OF PHILADELPHIA.

FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER,

WESTLEY FROST,

OF FAYETTE CO.

News of the Week.

—The *Pennsylvanian* says some people will indulge in running away. The men run away from their creditors, and the women from their husbands—sometimes. Mrs. ——, a lady possessing some beauty and very little regard for the 10 commandments, eloped a short time since from the domicil and keeping of her liege lord, who is a retired merchant, and is now, we understand, *en route for* Europe with her *cher ami*, a monumental marble dealer, to whose loving eloquence her departure is attributable.—The husband is not inconsolable for the loss of his better half, nor is the best society of the "West End" overflowing with grief at her sudden departure. Perhaps all parties are benefitted by the hegira, excepting, perhaps, the monumental Lothario. Great exertions have been made to keep the affair from the public ear, but as the old woman remarked in reference to her milk pail, "Some things will leak out, even if you stop up the hole with rags." The lady was not exceedingly remarkable for her accomplishments or her mental superiority, but in all physical respects had probably sufficient attractions to fascinate even a harder piece of marble than the heart of her monumental friend. The friend before mentioned is poor but honest; the lady on the contrary is possessed of ample means to maintain the entire expense of a grand continental spree in Europe. We have the names of the parties, but we refrain from giving them at present. We are naturally delicate in such matters. If all the parties are satisfied with the result of the *liaison*, we are, and therefore can only use the vulgarism, and say, "Go in lemons."

—Somebody writes to the New York *Tribune* that he has been swindled "by an old hag in Philadelphia" who gets her living by advertising herself "as a prepossessing and confiding young lady in want of a husband," her plan being to extract $5 or $10 and then drop the acquaintance. The editor replies that he does not take the part of swindlers, but he cannot help thinking that the "victim" in this case was served right. We are of the same opinion. Noodles who look to newspaper advertisements for wives, may expect the reward which such noodleism earns. In the majority of cases the advertisements are written by loose characters, or else by wags, both in petticoats and pantaloons. Every man who wants a wife can get one, and when we say this we mean no disparagement to women. We think we might add to this, that every woman who wants a husband can get one without appealing to types. The stock of marrying women is always up to the demands of marrying men, and "wice versa."

—The Cleveland *Herald* announces the continued existence of the free love water cure at Berlin Heights, Ohio. It has about forty inmates, men and women, who live in perfect defiance of all decency and religion, regardless of marriage ties, and in accordance with their detestable system of "free love." They publish an organ which announces that "Marriage is the slavery of woman; free love is the freedom and equality of woman and man; polygamy is marriage multiplied; free love is marriage abolished." The *Herald* says that these free lovers have got the entire control of the village, have just elected officers of the village who are friends and advocates of their diabolical sentiments, and are turning the fairest Eden of Ohio into a perfect hell.

—A dwelling house at Green Tree, Burlington county, New Jersey, was burned to the ground on Tuesday morning, the 6th inst, and Patrick Leonard, who with his family occupied it, perished in the flames. He came home drunk, built up a large fire on the hearth, and laid down in front of it and went to sleep, and it is supposed that he had not laid there long before his clothes took fire, and being stupified with liquor, was utterly insensible of his situation, and made no effort to escape. His wife, being awakened by the flames, tried to remove him from the house, but he was unable to help himself, and she was obliged to abandon him in order to save her own life and that of her child.

—An important law case was decided last week at Springfield, Mass., in which W. Davis & Co., were plaintiffs, and Foster Pepper, postmaster at Monson, Mass., defendant. The Monson Bank sent a package of $2,000 in money addressed to the plaintiffs, depositing the package in the Monson post office. The package never reached its destination, and the parties to whom it was addressed sued the postmaster Pepper for the amount lost. There was no criminal prosecution, for no suspicion of guilt was entertained. The only fault attempted to be fastened upon Pepper was, (if we remember right,) that he did not mail the package "direct," instead of the usual mode through the distributing offices. The verdict was for the defendant.

—On Thursday evening, as a little son of Mr. J. W. Gray, editor of the Cleveland *Plaindealer*, was amusing himself by exploding percussion caps on a toy gun, about one third of a cap struck Mr. Gray, who happened to be standing about five feet distant, entering the right eye, a very little to the right and below the centre of the pupil, passing entirely through the corner, giving a free discharge to the aqueous humor, and lodging in the anterior chamber of the eye. Medical assistance was immediately called, and the piece, after much difficulty, removed. Hopes are entertained that the ball of the eye may be saved, though the vision will be lost.

—At Chicago, Ill., on Friday last, Mrs. Brown, who has long suffered with illness, apparently died, all pulsation having ceased, and features and body having every appearance of dissolution. The usual formalities were observed, and the woman placed in a coffin; and one of the girls visiting the body shortly after, and sobbing loudly, the corpse moved, and the eyes opened and stared wildly. A scene followed; the girl screamed and fainted, and momentary consternation seized the household. This, of course, was soon overcome, and Mrs. Brown removed from her rather embarrassing position, and she is now doing well.

—We have heard many tales about people with unbounded curiosity, but the Lancaster *Examiner* tells one which sounds rather tough. A person named Uriah Maan, who had been engaged in robbing somebody, but escaped detection, confessed his theft and voluntarily gave himself up a day or two preceding the execution of Anderson and Richards. He said his reason for giving himself up was that he was anxious to see the execution, and knew of no better plan to do so than by getting into prison. He was committed to prison, but was not allowed to see the execution after all. He should certainly have been allowed to gratify his curiosity after making such a sacrifice.

—The pleasure party which is to leave New York about the first of May, in the steamer Ericsson, for the Mediterranean, is said to be made up. The party will stop at Gibralter one day, at Malta two days, at Alexandria eight days, at Jaffa (where passengers usually disembark for Jerusalem,) fifteen days, at Constantinople six days, at Athens three days, at Naples five days, and at Marseilles four days. The fare for this extended pleasure trip, which will be made in six months, is fixed at $750.

—The Wheeling *Intelligencer* says that an old man named Simon Moran, while endeavoring to secure a skiff the other day, a little above that city, fell into the river and was about to drown, when his son, at the risk of his own life, plunged in, seized him by the hair, and succeeded in saving him. The old man lay speechless upon the bank for a time, and then, leaping to his feet, struck his preserver with a piece of drift wood for pulling his hair in the water.

—Mr. Jacob Williams, of Stormville, Dutchess county, N. Y., was accidentally shot dead on Sunday of last week. He was out hunting with his two sons, aged seventeen and nineteen. They were all seated on a fence, and, as the oldest was getting off the fence, his gun was discharged, and the contents entered his father's throat on the left of the "apple," severing the wind pipe.

—Elihu Burritt, the "learned blacksmith" and emancipationist, is about to publish a paper at New Britain, Conn., commencing about the 1st of May. It will be called the "North and South," and be devoted to the gradual abolition of slavery by compensation to the owners.

—In Illinois, the phenomenon known in Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky, about sixty years ago, as the "Jerks," has made its appearance. It first appeared among the Methodist of Indian Grove.

—Rev. Theodore Parker has asked that his salary be reduced, but his congregation have unanimously voted that it should not be done. The last was almost as remarkable a fact as the first.

—In the New York State Senate, the bill to origin a loan of $2,000,000, for completing the Erie Canal enlargement, was defeated on Saturday night. This destroyed carries with it all the canal projects of the session.

THE RIDE OF MANIFEST DESTINY.

When the politicians have been talking of Kansas and picking up stakes among themselves about the rights of the negro,"—questions about which there should be no diversity of sentiment, and would have been none but for that type-philanthropy fanning the flame of sectional fanaticism—events have been evolved that are many more Presidential elections will take hold of the public mind, and array the parties of the country to an antagonism more ominously national than at any time since the question of the annexation of Texas came before the people for decision. We have always been a believer in the doctrine of "manifest destiny." It has seemed to us that from the first dawn of the revolution, when the Colonies, united by a common interest and a common danger, bid defiance to the mother country, and prepared to assert their independence, the hand of Destiny has pointed to the ultimate incorporation of the North American continent in one brotherhood of States. And every step we have taken as a nation since has been an advance in that direction. Starting with thirteen colonies, occupying an insignificant portion of the Atlantic coast, we have stretched South and Westuntil the waters of the Southern Gulf and the Western Ocean wash the shores of the confederacy. That was a glorious step in the path of "manifest destiny" taken by Jefferson when he acquired Louisiana, but not more glorious, or important, than that decided upon by the great Democratic party in 1844, when Texas came knocking at the door of the Union, and demanded admission. That step in the path of "manifest destiny" gave us New Mexico and California; and California, with its great natural and mineral resources developed by the energy and industry of our people, has thrown a tide of emigration along the shores of the Pacific, from Cape Horn to the Chinese seas, that will ultimately revolutionize the commerce as well as the politics of the world. Thus it will be seen that every step we have taken in the path of Destiny, while it has added strength, and power, and greatness, to the Union, and, in fact, benefited the people of the territories immediately interested, has also given an accelerated pace to the progress of civilization everywhere. To bring these conclusions home to us, and make them patent to the mind of every reader, we have but to ask ourself what position this government would occupy to-day among the nations of the world had not the far-seeing statesmanship of Jefferson discovered the importance of the Louisiana purchase, and obeyed the demands of our national destiny?—and then, what would have been the condition of the territories which, as a natural sequence to that purchase, have become sovereign states, and now rejoice in all the elements of wealthy, prosperous, and happy commonwealths! Verily, the mind does not like to contemplate it; and yet no sooner war was ever waged upon a measure, since the foundation of the government, than was waged upon those strides of "manifest destiny" towards the full realization of that dream of the poet when he exclaims—

> "No pent up Utica contracts our powers,
> The whole boundless continent is ours."

That it will be "ours" we firmly believe; and the only question now is, in which direction shall the next step be taken. Cuba, the key to the Gulf, and lying directly in the present route between our Atlantic and Pacific States is a tempting morsel—so tempting, indeed, that, it is with difficulty our people can be restrained from filibustering expeditions to obtain possession of it—but the fruit is not yet ripe, and the suspicious day when it will be gathered into the great Union basket, is still in the distance. It must dawn, however, sooner or later. The efforts of England to prevent it may delay the day, but the issue will have to be met, and the commercial and political sentiment of the nation is fast assuming a shape to meet it. The next field is Mexico, and a most prolific field it is, too. To quote from a cotemporary, "when Mexico abolished slavery, and violated the laws of nature by the crazy attempt to elevate a race tainted with African blood to the standard of the Europeans; when she attempted to legislate away that inequality of race which the Eternal had ordained; when she degraded that Caucassian race, she undermined her liberty forever. Mexico, in her present composition, is doomed to national extinction, and will never enjoy peace and tranquility until she shall be annexed to the United States, whose government is able to protect her against outward foes and internal convulsions. This annexation is inevitable. The symptoms which prognosticate it cannot be mistaken. They are plainly visible, from the Rio Grande del Norte to the Gulf of Darien, and far beyond that, as the State of Venezuela and the significant movements in New Granada indicate. The question is only one of time. Time will conquer for us Mexico, with her immense and invaluable natural resources, and this event which is written in the stars, no political cabals, no intrigues at home or abroad can prevent."

But the most significant indication is that noticed in the following article from the *Pennsylvanian*:

NEW GRANADA.—New Granada, like the rest of the unfortunate countries of South and Central America, is in a state of social and political fermentation. Exposed to internal convulsions and hostile invasions from without, she casts her eyes for protection towards the United States.—When a high public functionary openly and frankly proposes annexation to the United States, it may be fairly presumed that the conditions of the land are such as to warrant the motion, and that the mind of the intelligent portion of the community is fully prepared for the change. The Attorney General of New Granada, in submitting the new Federal Constitution to the national Legislature, boldly and unreservedly, expresses his doubts as to the efficacy of that instrument. In his opinion, it is by no means a solid basis for national reorganization.—The only means to solve the difficulties under which the country labors, he declares, is annexation to the American Union. The people would then be protected against foreign enemies; they could direct their attention to the development of their natural resources; the public lands and private property would become valuable, and they might live in the enjoyment of prosperity and peace, while now, the fear of vandalic invasions and civil commotions weighed upon them like an incubus. New Granada would lose only a nominal nationality, to acquire a potent, real one, that would be respected throughout the world, and their race would gradually mix with the Anglo Saxons. These are certainly sensible views, but they will require time yet to ripen. National prejudice is not so easily conquered, not even by reason. What the intelligent and far-seeing anticipate now, and to which the Attorney General has given expression in so able and convincing a manner, will not become a reality until the force of circumstances impresses its deep truth upon the masses. But a reality it will become, in all human probability. There are only two things possible. The weak and declining nationalities of Central America must either fall a prey to European Powers, or become portions of the United States. England lusts after their possession. She has never left a stone unturned to gain a safe foothold in that quarter of the globe. Her man-of-war, under the empty pretext of guarding British interests, are constantly on the look-out for opportunities of aggression, and so far from really protecting the general interests of commerce, the foreign policy of Great Britain tends to establish British monopolies everywhere. It takes advantage of the weakness of foreign countries, and bullies them into insidious measures and treaties, discriminating in favor of British goods, thus indirectly levying black mail upon the trade of all rival nations. The long abused countries of Central and South America feel that this system of legitimate piracy must be put a stop to, at all hazards, and they look for aid and protection, very naturally, to this government. We should be derelict of national duty were we to disregard their clamors. From the moment we would permit the strong Powers of Europe to establish and fortify themselves upon our frontiers, from that moment we should have to look forward to endless complications and wars. It would force us to become what is incompatible with the spirit of our free institutions—a military nation, and we should be exposed, forever after, to the perils and dangers attending formidable standing armies. New Granada, like the rest of the hapless States of South and Central America, is entitled to our sympathy and aid.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT.—The Detroit *Free Press* states that since the death of Col. BENTON it has been discovered that Mrs. FREMONT's name is not JESSIE, but, simply and unpoetically, ANN. Some of the black republican papers, however, have fallen out about the matter, some contending for JESSIE, and others for ANN. They have got each other by the ears, and it is likely to be the cause of as great a feud in their ranks as the old question whether JOHN C. FREMONT really was JOHN C. FREMONT or not, and whether he said his prayers in an Episcopal or Catholic church. It is fortunate that this question did not come up during the Presidential campaign, for, combined with the other, it would certainly have rent the black republican party in twain. Besides it would have severely damaged the black republican war cry. "Give 'em Jessie" would have sounded horridly if the literal rendering, "Give' 'em Ann" had been substituted therefor.

The condition of Washington City is a disgrace to the nation. Crime enjoys a perfect immunity in the Federal Capital, and the inefficient, dependent municipal authorities of the city are powerless, either to punish or to restrain it. Deadly encounters by day, assassinations at night, burglaries, robberies, waylayings and thefts are committed constantly, with a boldness which the indolence of the helpless authorities, inspired by the helplessness of the lazy authorities, and the persons and property of respectable persons are completely at the mercy of bloodthirsty rowdies, who do nothing but prowl over the city in quest of victims. When most the foreign ministers, who represent governments where the life of the citizen at least is protected, think of a Republic whose Capital is overrun by lawless despadoes! If this state of things be not speedily changed, we suggest that the Government be removed to some more respectable city.

The Coopersville *Courier* states that two girls aged about fifteen, residents of Wayne, Ashtabula Co., Ohio, who were constant readers of flash newspapers, and cheap novels, became "impressed" that they were to be married, and one dark stormy night last week, left their parents' houses and started on foot, each carrying a bundle and without money, in quest of adventure. The first day they walked through the mud to Harmonsburg, in Crawford county; but learning there was a vast difference between fiction and reality, they told their story to some person who took them home.

HON. G. W. BREWER.—Much credit is due the distinguished gentleman whose name appears at the head of this article, for his high minded and honorable course upon that cherished project of the North Western portion of the State—the sale of the Canals to the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company. Representing as he does a constituency residing in the extreme Southern section of the State, who had no local interest in the measure and are presumed from their position to entertain sentiments of hostility to it, he had the magnanimity to disclose all motives of a private and local character, and to devote his eminent talents, energies and influence to the success of a measure which, although apparently local, must ultimately most favorably affect the whole Commonwealth. From the position in the State, and his talents and energy, he was regarded by the enemies of the bill as one of their champions, but when it was known that his efficient support would be rendered to it, the success of the bill was generally conceded. The friends of this important measure owe a debt of gratitude to this gentleman which we trust they will take the first opportunity to repay, for it must be admitted that without his aid the bill would have been endangered very much, if not entirely defeated. We trust higher honors are in store for the distinguished Senator from Franklin, and that he will attain a position which his high character for honor and integrity and his eminent abilities deserve.

We regret to see, in the *Gazette* this week, in its notice of the resuscitation of the "Erie City Bank," what seems to us an evident intention to do injustice to some of those who have been instrumental in accomplishing that desirable end. It is not so much what the *Gazette* says, as what it does not say,—or rather what it says by implication and comparison—that we object to. After stating that the old notes "are promptly redeemed" at the counter of the Bank of Commerce "whenever and by whomsoever presented; and all just claims against the old institution fairly and honorably met," and paying a deserved compliment to one of those "engaged in the direction of its affairs," our cotemporary, in his usual "pungent and vigorous" style gives the others "engaged in the direction of its affairs," the following cut direct.—"The new bills," says he, "are handsomely executed—signed, B. Grant, President, and A. M. Guild, Cashier." In plain English, "the new bills are handsomely executed, and signed by a couple of men of straw." That seems to us to be the plain purport of our cotemporary's pungent and vigorous paragraph. Now, in our humble judgment, if there is any more credit due to one man more than another among those "engaged in the direction of its affairs," that credit is due to the President of the Bank. When the Erie City Bank failed—from no fault of his, as this community know—there were over three hundred thousand dollars of its notes in circulation. Instead of "giving up in despair," as some of the directors did, he set to work, and with an energy that knew neither rest nor failure, succeeded in reducing that circulation over two thirds—and then it was, and not till then, with the circulation thus reduced, and ample assets left to secure the redemption of the balance, that capitalists were found to risk their money in the resuscitation of the Bank. Perhaps we feel more sensitive over the evident slur of the *Gazette* upon Mr. GRANT because we know it is undeserved. We have known him, as boy and man, for the last twenty-five years, and we know that a more upright and honorable man is not among our citizens.—As to the Cashier, Mr. GUILD, he has been a citizen here, in business, for five or six years, and we do not think our cotemporary himself can present a better record. The slur, then, upon these gentlemen, if one was intended, is undeserved as well as ungenerous.

THE NEW AMERICAN CYCLOPÆDIA.—Two volumes of this popular work, published by the APPLETONS, New York, are now ready for delivery to subscribers.—There has been, perhaps, no work published in this country that comprises so much that is really useful as this.—It is in fact a library in itself. If you wish to ascertain the facts in regard to any prominent event in the history of the world—or any fact in literature or science—or of any of the names, history or character of the celebrated individuals who have participated in these events—you have but to consult this work, and the information is ready before you. It would seem to us that a Book so eminently useful should find a place on the shelf of every gentleman's library; and as the agent for the Publishers, MR. VAN VOAST, is now canvassing this city and county, we advise all who can afford so cheap a luxury to give him their names. He is also agent for all the other publications of Messrs. Appletons, which he will exhibit with this, and take the names of those desiring them.

COMMANDER LANMAN.—This Officer, recently appointed to the Command of the *Steamer Michigan*, we find is already the recipient of golden opinions from gentlemen connected with our Lake Marine. The Schooner J. W. Brown, Capt. Downs, in attempting to make this Port about ten days since, went ashore high and dry north of the Beacon Light, where, in all probability, she would have yet remained had it not been for the prompt and efficient aid of the *Steamer Michigan*, through the gentlemanly courtesy of Commander LANMAN, seconded by the sturdy heart of her weather beaten Pilot, Capt. HINTON. Such acts of disinterested generosity on the part of those connected with our Government service never fail in the end of securing a corresponding reward.

FREE LABOR.—The politicians of New England, of the Black Republican school, have a great deal to say about "*free* labor" and all that—but when they come to put their theory in practice, they sing quite a different tune, as the following illustration related the Hartford *Times* goes to show:

"*In Glastenbury, on Monday, Martin Harrison*, a workman in the mill of the Nahog Satinet Company, voted (as we are informed) the Democratic ticket. For thus daring to exercise his rights as a freeman, he was promptly told by the agent of the Company, Mr. Glazier, that his services would not be required any longer. It was soon afterwards ascertained, however, that Glastenbury had elected but one representative, and that there was a tie vote on the other. Mr. Harrison was accordingly told that perhaps he had better remain in the mill a little longer—that his removal was not fully decided upon. He took the hint, and voted, next day, the Republican ticket—and he is now reinstated in the good graces of the management of that concern, and not likely to be removed. The removal of Mr. Nettleton, an overseer in the prison at Wethersfield, for daring to vote the Democratic ticket, goes very well with such an act as this. Let us see—what party was it that lately lamented so loudly over what was called the stifling of free opinion in Kansas?"

The old lady that said there was nothing new under the Sun, evidently had'nt seen the "*Empire Churn*," now exhibited at the New England Hotel in this city. It is well known that the "universal Yankee nation" are getting up something new every day, hence it is not to be wondered at that in presenting this new Churn to the public the inventor should claim for it superior qualities over all heretofore invented—the chief of which is that it makes butter chemically, by bringing all the cream equally in contact with the air, thus bringing all the butter at the same time, and leaving no particles of it in the butter milk, as all other Churns invariably do. It will bring butter in from five to fifteen minutes, and in milk warm from the cow, in from fifteen to thirty minutes. It is so easily worked that a child can operate it. And as it is not complicated, it is not liable to get out of order. The public are invited to call and examine the practical working of this wonderful Churn. Persons desiring to purchase the right to use or manufacture this Churn, can address M. C. PARKER, M. D. or W. L. HOLCOMB, Cleveland, Ohio.

Mrs. Dieter, wife of Conrad Dieter, of Meadville, came to her death very suddenly on Tuesday of last week. She was standing by a stove, engaged in some culinary occupation, when she suddenly fell forward, striking her forehead against the stove, and on being raised up it was found she was dead. She was a young woman, and left two children. The same day an aged lady, the mother of the Roman Catholic priest at Meadville, was struck with apoplexy and died instantly. We could not ascertain her name from our exchanges.

The radical "Red Republicans," of New York have issued to the public a manifesto eulogizing the attempt of Orsini and his confederates to assassinate the Emperor Napoleon. We do not know that the fact is singular, but it is a fact, that the same names that are appended to this "*manifesto*," were appended to a *Black* Republican "manifesto" in 1856.

The Dunkirk *Journal says* that a salt water shad was taken from Lake Erie by one of the fishing boats of that place. The *Journal* may be correct, but we think it doubtful; nevertheless we do not doubt but better fish were caught than the shad. The White Fish, for instance, is as far ahead of a shad as a brook trout is of a sucker.

Mr. Price, editor of the *Workingman's Advocate*, at Pottsville, who was convicted of libel and sentenced to several months' imprisonment, has been pardoned by Gov. Packer.

GOT HOME.—Our showman, DAN RICE, has got home, after astonishing the natives of those provincial towns, New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore. He's going to give the Pittsburgers a taste of his qualities in a few weeks.

The *Gazette* has discovered that W. G. Morhead is "an eminently suitable person for the Presidency of the Sunbury and Erie road." Thank providence that question is settled!

NEW YORK.

[Correspondence of the Erie Observer.]

NEW YORK, April 19, 1858.

The weather for the last few days has been disagreeable in the extreme, with a few balmy hours of sunshine sandwiched between by way of a relish. These are the days. People who have time to notice their feelings are down hearted and disconsolate. It is a happy chance for many however that trade is too active to have any room for their unprofitable meditations. Waiting for customers, when customers are few and far between is always a dispiriting occupation.

Business with the country at large, however, is decidedly on the increase. The city is crowded with country buyers and in many branches of wholesale trade, the aggregate receipts will equal those of the same time last year; profits however, are generally reduced. Dry Goods of American manufacture, especially cottons, promise to pay well by midsummer, and we may therefore look for a renewal of activity in the manufacturing districts in a few months more. The unemployed here are in really as bad a condition as they have been at any time during the winter, as the unsettled state of affairs leads people to operate with the greatest caution. The "Theatre Woodie" charity seems likely to turn out a great charity to the managers: how much good the poor may get of it remains to be seen.

The order of the day now is a general crusade against Lotteries, gift schemes, stock gambling and all sorts of machines for raising the wind. The number of such operations which has lately been brought to light is quite astonishing. But Reform is the order of the day. There is need enough of it and room enough for it. The religious interest is well sustained. There is an odd fancy abroad for holding prayer meetings in all sorts of odd places; a lady up town gathers every day a company for religious services in the elegant billiard room attached to her *saloon*.

In amusements the Musical Concerts at the Academy are the great feature. They are in the Julian style, only more so. The managers of the Crystal Palace Ball are preparing for another grand display at the Palace which is to last a whole week in May if enough fools are found left in the city or out of it to keep the ball moving.

The great auction sales of silk dress goods this Spring have a rather unfortunate result for importers. There has been a decided scarcity of new things calculated to strike the feminie eye, and it was supposed there would be an active demand at good prices on account of the light importation. But it seems that the country is disposed to go back in some degree to the old days of calico and delaine, and there is sense in this movement. American printed calicoes of the best quality, are pretty enough and nice enough for all ordinary occasions and it is a very false pride in our country women which cannot be satisfied with anything short of a costly Paris tissue for common wear. The financial pressure has been very severe on all articles of *vertue*. Paintings and statuary of acknowledged merit, bring at auction almost half last year's prices. The trade sales of books, however, are more satisfactory. No two large works of travel have ever sold better in this country than Dr. Kane's arctic expedition or Dr. Livingstone's South Africa; a pretty pair to rest cheek by jowl in a library; one redolent of tropic heat and luxuriance the other chilly with arctic ice and desolation.

This month is rather dull, it must be confessed. It is a kind of transition period. Everybody is shaking carpets in one's eyes; dropping white wash on his coat, or leaving furniture about for a trap to break one's shins. The first of May is coming. Happy is he to whom the landlord saith not, "What doest thou? arise and go hence."

Unhappy race of landlords! accursed of men ever since the days of him who invented the plan of living in hired houses. They are obdurate by nature. Stocks may sink; money may depriciate even, but they never come down, and still therefore we go on building up nearer over year to the jumping off place; there seems to be no over-supply; no superfluity of house accomodation. ERIE.

WASHINGTON, April 20.

Mr. English's bill is still under consideration of the Senate's confering committee with a fair prospect of an ultimate agreement Many consider this already certain Messrs. Seward and Howard dissent. The several political parties were this afternoon and are to-night much interested or privately discussing the measure, of the success of which no definite notion can be formed. It is probable the conferring committees will report to-morrow.

NEW YORK, April 21.

Mr. English's bill was offered to the conference committee yesterday. The majority accepted it without hesitation, and when Mr. Howard appealed to English to allow him to insert a short amendment providing for the submission of the Leavenworth Constitution at the same time, he declined. English then proposed to report immediately, but Seward asked for an adjournment till to-morrow in order to have time for consultation.

The majority consented to only two hours delay, and the matter was accordingly postponed till two o'clock.

At the appointed hour Messrs. Howard and Seward attended, but no other member of the committee was present, and after waiting sometime, they retired.

It is rumored that in the meantime several southern members of the House, including Quitman, Miles, etc., had signified their dissent from the arrangement, and that Hunter and others of the Senate had done the same thing, hence the non attendance of the committee at 2 o'clock.

HARRISBURG, April 19, 1858

The bill for the sale of the State Canals having passed the Legislature, and the necessary public business being nearly finished, there is no longer reason to doubt that the Legislature will adjourn on the 22d inst. There are many private and public bills on the calendar which have, not been disposed of; but this would be the case if the session lasted a month longer. Bills accumulate until the very end of the session.

The Governor hesitated about signing the Sunbury and Erie bill, on account of the outlet lock at Northumberland being attached to the North Branch, in the provision providing for the sale of that division to residents thereon. This objection was removed by a supplement which was put through both Houses this afternoon in a half an hour after they met. This objection being removed, no doubt the Governor will sign the bill at once, as it was understood from the beginning that he favored the measure. If the effect of this bill will be to secure the completion of the Sunbury and Erie Railroad, the importance of the object may perhaps more than compensate for any immediate pecuniary loss sustained by the State from inadequacy of price.

WASHINGTON, 18th April, 1858.—

A gentleman who has just arrived from the army, brings some interesting particulars of the state of affairs in Col. Johnston's camp. His advices are satisfactory. He says that the men are, almost without exception, in robust health, and good spirits. They profess themselves able to enter Salt Lake City at any time, without other reinforcements than the volunteers, who offer themselves on the spot. It is believed that were Johnston authorized to provide a force for himself, and were a rendezvous established at Council Bluff or other convenient locality, he would enroll a thousand additional men within the next six weeks, and thus supercede the necessity for those two new regiments. After having gone so far, Col. Johnston would like to have the credit of finishing the campaign, by occupying the enemy's capitol; and, if he is not fettered by orders, will probably try to accomplish that end before the arrival of his superiors in command. As to the fighting, no one anticipates much of that. Johnston, of course, bases his operations on the view of having to burn gunpowder, but no one thinks that Brigham Young really means to give battle. Such, at least, is the statement of my informant.

NEW YORK, April 21.

Capt. Chalker of the Hartford Propeller Seneca, was accidentally shot this morning, while standing on the pier alongside of his vessel. He is mortally wounded. The shot came from the pistol of a private watchman, who was in the act of drawing a charge.

WORCHESTER, Mass., April 20.

H. D. Stone who was arrested in Springfield on Saturday, for forgeries in this city, was held to bail to-day in the sum of $2,000. He was also arrested for debt to the amount of $70,000, and in default of bail to the amount of $140,000, was committed to jail. The case is one of much interest.

From the Philadelphia Press.

Sale of the State Canals—Great Speech by Judge Wilkins.

HARRISBURG, April 16, 1858.

The Senate Chamber was last evening the scene of an animated contest—the most important, perhaps, certainly the most spirited and protracted that has occured here for years. The bill to sell the State Canals to the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company having passed the House, had now reached a stage in the Senate when, from the near approach of the day of adjournment, it became necessary that the strength for and against it should be finally tested. An evening session was appointed for this purpose, and the opposing parties marshalled their forces.—Rumor of the expected contest having gone abroad when the hour of contest came the Senate Chamber was thronged with a brilliant array of ladies, and seats were called into all possible places for the accomodation of members of the House and citizens.

Such was the scene at the opening of the debate, and both parties were full of hope and anxiety. The opponents of the bill numbered some able men, and were led by Charles R Buckalew, whom great experience, skill and eloquence, make him a formidable antagonist in any contest. The friends of the bill, however, had the weight of talent and character, and what was of more importance, of numbers on their side.—Speeches were made and replied to by various members, which, (being some few who indulged in unworthy personalities) could not fail to impress the stranger with a high opinion of the ability and eloquence of the Pennsylvania Senate. But I am proud to add that the crowning honors of the evening were universally conceded to our venerable Senator, Judge Wilkins. He had given the bill his most careful consideration, and understood it in all its bearings. The animated spectacle around him seemed to bring back all the vigor of youth, and this spirit, combined with his mature wisdom and his statesmanlike view of the whole question, called forth hearty encomiums from his most determined adversaries. Mindful that he was an Allegheny Senator, Judge Wilkins showed—and showed to a demonstration—that even in a narrow, selfish, local point of view the best interests of Pittsburg required the passage of the bil, especially with an amendment which he offered and which was promptly accepted, requiring a subscription of half a million of dollars, to aid the Allegheny Valley Railroad in its completion from the mouth of the Mahoning to Winslow. This will insure the early completion of the latter road, which will then form a link in a new route to Philadelphia and New York, shorter in time if not in miles, than any other. He showed further, to a mathematical demonstration, that the Allegheny Valley Road was destined to be the great trunk, and not merely a feeder of the main stem.

But passing from local considerations, the venerable Senator discussing the question on broad and general principles, he reviewed our improvement system from its earliest turnpike to its present railroad—drawing from memory and observation the materials which his associates and all of us of this generation must gather from books—showing how every section of the Commonwealth had in turn shared the fostering care of the Commonwealth except the region it was now proposed to open up. A Senator had sneeringly spoken of this region as a desert, a forest, and a wilderness. Judge Wilkins blandly reminding the Senator that the epithets "desert," and "forest" were somewhat incompatible, admitted that it was a forest or wilderness, and then with admirable tact and irresistible force turned this view of the case into an argument for the passage of the bill. How came it, he asked, that gentlemen, whose own districts had been opened up and enriched by the beneficent hand of the government, can still point with sneers and taunts to this region as a wilderness?—as rich in varied resources as in any other portion of the State, and needing only the development that this road will give it to make it populous and prosperous. This step-mother policy toward one branch of her family whilst nourishing all the rest bountifully, had been carried too far already; it was time to correct it.

Judge Wilkins produced statistics showing the magic effect of the internal improvements of this and other States, in adding to the value of the taxable property and in increasing the general wealth, and argued that it was the duty of statesmen to look forward—to open up these resources—and to lay the foundations of public prosperity broad and deep, instead of skimming the surface for a transient pittance of revenue We then proceeded to show in emphatic and convincing language the benefits that would naturally flow from a connection with the Sunbury and Erie Railroad—at a distance from Pittsburg much nearer than is apprehended—by a junction with the Allegheny Valley Railroad. That it will take place he had the authority for saying of every engineer of both companies as expressed in their annual reports. And, furthermore, that the latter company have recently made a material change southwardly in the location of their road for the express purpose of inclining towards Pittsburg, and with a view to render their connection with that city more convenient shorter, and less expensive. When the Senator resumed his seat the audience felt that the question was settled, and so it was. The final vote was taken about one o'clock in the morning—ayes 18, nays 14. The Democrats voting aye were Wm. Wilkins, of Allegheny, Wm. P. Schell of Bedford, George W. Brewer, of Franklin, C. M. Straub, of Schuylkill, George P. Steele, of Lazerne, Samuel J. Randall and Harlam Ingram, of Philadelphia

Mr George W. Miller, a young man representing Washington and Greene, had the wretchedly bad taste to attempt to read a lecture to Judge Wilkins upon the impropriety of his conduct on the question at issue. He was universally condemned, and his conduct was in striking contrast to Mr. Buckalew, who generously declared that the Senator from Allegheny had made the great argument in favor of the sale of the public works, and was most deferential in his respect, as were all others. Mr. Francis, of Lawrence, in an eloquent and sarcastic speech, gave the Senator from Greene some wholesome lessons in courtesy that he will do well to profit by, and I am inclined to think he will tarry at Jericho until his beard has grown before running another such tilt against one who exceeds him not more in years than in all the other characteristics of manhood.

Those who saw and heard Judge Wilkins on Friday night must have felt, that notwithstanding his four score years, time has dealt so kindly with his faculties, both physical and mental, that in all probability he will be able for years to come to serve his constituents and country.

SPIRITUAISM AND DIVORCE.—At the recent Sandusky County Common Pleas, the case of Rosetta Kline vs Barnhart Kline, for divorce and alimony, excited much interest. The case occupied two days. Mrs. K. charged that her husband had become a convert to spiritualism, in consequence of which he grew cross and morose to his family; had driven petitioner from her bed room, and finally, when sick and on a cold and stormy day, had expelled her from the house, thinly clad and almost destitute, and compelled her to seek refuge with the neighbors. This occurred about twenty years after their marriage. Some seventy witnesses were examined on both sides, and the character of the petitioner was admitted to be above reproach. Judge Taylor granted the divorce, and decreed Mrs. K alimony to the amount of $3,000, and a restoration of the articles of household goods belonging to her at the marriage, that yet remained.

DAT'S WHAT MAKES HEAEN OB.—The Henderson (Ky.) *Commercial* tells the story of a fashionable "lady of color," who was promenading the streets on Sunday last, when all at once, newspapers commenced falling, and her dimensions contracting, until about fifty papers were strewn upon the street, nor was she aware of the loss until a little darkey just behind exclaimed at the top of his voice, "Lor a massy, I's do believe dat nigger is made of newspapers." This raised the "lady's" ire, when she retorted by exclaiming, "You fool, boy, dat's what makes heaven oh."

A SAD CASE.—The insanity of Mr and Mrs H. C. Peck, of Providence, R I, and the frequent death of the latter, as the result of excitement on religion, is a very sad affair in Providence that, in giving an account of the circumstances before Mrs. Peck's death, we stated that both of them have felt much interest in a revival now progressing here, and recently have allowed religious subjects to so constantly press upon their thoughts as to prevent them from sleeping with much regularity. For a few days both have manifested unmistakable signs of insanity, and Mr Peck, when not under the influence of chloroform, has had to be handcuffed to prevent him from injuring himself or those about him.

Mrs. Peck, as is usual in such cases, believed that God had commanded her to fast, and she thus refused food for several days, and on two occasions She had also imagined her children had been commanded to fast, and that they should refuse food, and was unless in her chastisement of them when they disobeyed her, that she also had to be confined.

A WHOLE FAMILY POISONED.—On Sunday morneng last, a colored man residing in Pearl Street, Burlington N. J., was suddenly seized with a violent burning sensation in the stomach accompanied with violent convulsions in the course of an hour or two, other members of his family were attacked in the same way, and during night two additional members were seized with similar pains and convulsions There were four adults in the same house, all ill at the same time. On inquiry it was ascertained that a young colored woman an acquaintance of the family, had on Friday given them a large cake which she had obtained from an acquaintance, and that all who had partaken of it were made sick, while those members of the family who had not touched it escaped unharmed. Further inquiry showed that the family who had baked the cake had been backed, had all eaten of it and suffered injury

The perpetrator was sent for. She was sent to Burlington to answer. No poison has been positively traced to her hands, nor had any motive been detected to justify the supposition that she would have administered it. Yet her antecedents are by no means of a favorable character. Meantime, from Saturday up to Monday evening the whole five patients were undergoing great suffering, the symptoms to some extent resembling strychnine. Last night four of them were nearly recovered, and the fifth still continued in a precarious condition. The mystery of the affair has excited intense interest, in Burlington, and crowds of anxious inquirers thronged the premises during the height of the attack.

EXECUTION OF STOVALL.—The Rev. W.