THE ERIE OBSERVER.

BENJ. F. SLOAN, Editor.

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SATURDAY ..... JULY 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 telegraph announced the decease of Gen. John A. Quitman, at Natchez, Miss., on Saturday. The country and the public service sustain a great loss in his death—Although his political views were of the ultra school, he was a brave, honest and consistent man, and much more of a statesman than many who made a good deal more noise in our national council. He was the son of a minister of the Dutch Reformed Church, and was born in Dutchess county in the State of New York. Early in life he removed to Mississippi where he became a planter.—The *Tribune* says slavery existed in New York at that time, and was one of the "peculiar institutions" of his paternal home, so that Gen Q never lived in any other than a slave State. Gen. Quitman supported Gen. Jackson, but abandoned him with Mr. Calhoun, and was for years known as a "State Rights Whig." As such he supported Gen. Harrison in 1840, and we think was once a Whig candidate for Congress, or Governor or both. When Mr Calhoun returned to the Democracy, he was accompanied or soon followed by Gen. Quitman. When the Mexican war broke out, Gen. Quitman volunteered and was appointed a Major General by President Polk. The gallant manner in which he conducted himself in the bloody scenes of that contest, is fresh in the minds of the people. After the war Gen. Q. devoted his time to his family, his plantation, and the construction of a railroad, until nominated for Congress in 1855, when, after a spirited canvass, he was elected by about one thousand majority—a full party vote, and something more. Repairing duly to Washington, he, though a new member and a Democrat, he was designated Speaker Banks, whose election he had opposed to the last, for the important post of Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, a post of which he discharged the duties with eminent ability. He was re elected last Fall without opposition, and of course continued by Speaker Orr in the post assigned him by a political antagonist. His death of course vacates a seat in the House, and the Chairmanship of the Committee. General Quitman was but moderately fluent as a debater, but always spoke tersely and to the point.

—The Buffalo papers of Saturday report a curious case of child abduction in that city. A Mr. Hanaford, of Cleveland, had a little daughter residing with her grandfather, Col. Ass B. Meech, of Buffalo. A half sister of the little girl, a young lady, also resided with Mr. M. The young child had been in Buffalo only three weeks, and Mr. H. came to take it home with him. The family made no objection, and the little girl went with her father to the American. On Friday evening Miss Meech, the half sister, went to the American in a carriage, and sent the servant in to get the child. As Mr. Hanaford was entering an omnibus at the door with his child, a Mr. Hunter seized him, and the servant girl took his daughter to the carriage to go off. The affair caused a disturbance, and Mr. E. B. Jewett seeing the child go into the carriage, jumped in himself to find where it was to be taken. It turned out that the whole affair was managed by Miss Meech, who did not want to have her half sister go to Cleveland—the mother of both being dead—to be under the care of strangers. Mr. H. finally consented to let them remain in Buffalo. The story of the attempted abduction was first told by the *Courier* before the explanation was made, which we find in the *Commercial* It puts a different aspect upon the case.

—The villian Tyler, who has figured prominently at Berlin Heights, Ohio, as a Free Lover, is said to be the originator of a movement for colonizing the spiritualists, socialists and Free Lovers on an island in the South Seas. For several Sundays meetings have been held in a grove in New Jersey, a few miles above New York, at which a hundred or more of these people have attended. A regular organization for the above object is now accomplished, of which Tyler is the President, and a man named Leland the Secretary. Frequent meetings are held in the city, [illegible] of their schemes. The Tribune publishes a long series of resolutions written by Tyler, advocating the disgusting and filthy doctrines of "Free Love," &c. If Tyler should succeed in taking away all people, male and female, who entertain sentiments like his, he will do society some service, and establish a harem in the Tongo Islands which will put the old King of that groupe to the blush. Wentworth, alias Weeks, the man of forty wives, has gone out from San Francisco to the South Seas as a great courier for Tyler.

—S. S. West, a young man from Palmyra, Wayne Co., died recently at Marquette, Lake Superior, of injuries received by diving. He went to bathe—his foot slipped as he went to jump from a pier and he fell upon his head in shallow water. His head was thrown back so as to paralyze the spine and whole body. He survived a few days only. The Detroit *Tribune* says his remains have been taken eastward, and adds that deceased was a young man of good abilities and excellent character and much esteemed by all who knew him. Two of his sisters have been missionaries at Constantinople and one is still there, the other having returned to this country on account of ill health. A widowed mother and an invalid brother who doted upon him, will mourn his loss, at there now most lonely home. A sister in Detroit, Mrs. Trowbridge, is bereft of an affectionate and beloved brother, while a young lady at Marquette is inconsolable at the sudden death of one to whom her heart's first affections had been fondly given.

—The New York *Post* of Saturday states that five young ladies belonging to the House of Mercy, at the foot of 86th street, New York, were drowned while bathing in the Hudson on Friday evening. They went into the river about sunset, near their place of residence, clasping each others hands as they walked into the water. Unaware of the existence of several deep places at that point, they were soon beyond their depth, and were drowned before any assistance could be rendered. Sergeant Sloth, of the Twenty Second Precinct, obtained boats and grappling irons, and labored with six officers till twelve o'clock, attempting to recover the bodies. Capt. Coulton then sent for cayon grappling hooks, and the search was prosecuted till morning, but to no purpose. The deceased were Asjayah Van Gilder, aged fourteen; Hannah H. Bryan, aged fifteen; Ellen Smith, aged fifteen; Margaret Flynn, aged sixteen; Louisa Ever, aged nineteen.

—Charles Latcha, a young man of 19, who had been for some time with the Free Lovers at Berlin Heights, committed suicide recently. He wrote a valedictory to his comrades, which is published in the New York *Tribune*.—It is blasphemy from first to last, and is a genuine relex of socialism, as the suicide is an example of the class to which he belonged. He was a rank atheist, and in his last words cursed marriage, cursed religion, and cursed God, whom he styles the "Father Monster." The *Tribune* calls the young man "insane." Are not all the Free Lovers insane—and for that matter, all other criminals?

—A telegraph dispatch from Elmira stated that Dr. O. D. Williamson, of that place, committed suicide on Friday. He had amputated a leg for a man by the name of Hammond, in the town of Chemung, who soon afterward died. Dr. W. was then charged with malpractice, and criminal proceedings entered against him, and immediately after the Sheriff served the papers on him he took some deadly poison, and died in half an hour. The Coroner held an inquest, but the verdict has not reached us.

—The Canadian Parliament has passed a bill authorising the Grand Trunk Railway to throw a Bridge across the St. Clair River at Port Sarnia—the consent of Michigan, of course, to be first acquired. How will the Buffalo papers relish this plan to cut off or interrupt the passage of vessels to and from Lakes Huron and Michigan? or is Buffalo trade so dead that the Buffaloonians are indifferent to all such schemes as bridging the St. Clair?

—The People's conferees of Clearfield, Blair and Cambria, have nominated H. Booher Swope, as their candidate for State Senator. The action of the People's conferees will not meet the approval of the people themselves. The Democratic voters of the District will see to it that no man having the Ping Ugly proclivities of Booher Swope, ever disgraces the Senate Chamber of the Old Keystone State.

—The Sunday School Union has been saved from loss by the defalcations of Mr. P. W. Porter. He wrecked the Society out of $50,000, but by dextrous management, the Society has obtained security to the amount of over $40,000, and the balance has been assumed by a Christian gentleman who desires the welfare of the Society.

—*Six hundred and seventy ladies* have petitioned the Common Council of Detroit to take measures for the abolition of concert and liquor bier saloons. Cause—they draw the young men away when they ought to be sparking.

—The black folks of Massachusetts will hold a State Convention at New Bedford, as soon as the weather gets warm enough—in dog days—to see what can be done about the Dred Scott decision.

RENEGADE DEMOCRATS AT A PREMIUM.

The history of the opponents of the Democratic party, under the various names they have assumed for the last few years, shows conclusively that renegade Democrats are more acceptable as party leaders than men with other political antecedents. While the Whig party existed, led by those master minds, CLAY and WEBSTER, we never heard of state or national conventions—or even county conventions—ignoring the claims of faithful men in its own ranks, and bestowing the insignia of a leadership upon the renegades and raw recruits from the ranks of the Democracy. The reason of this is plain. The Whig party professed to be governed by a set of fixed principles; its banner floated in every State in the Union; what it taught in Maine it proclaimed in Louisiana; and what it proclaimed on the Gulf of Mexico, it boldly and consistently avowed on the shores of our great Lakes. But when that party breathed its last, and its followers were cast adrift without a chart or compass, a new set of leaders, as devoid of principle as they were of patriotism, seized upon its remains, and sought to obtain power and place by pandering to the *patient* fanaticism of the different sections of the Union. And, as an adjunct to this design, they have upon all occasions given the place of honor to deserters from the Democratic camp. In this particular, they have affected Democracy though they had it not, and would, were they engaged in business and not politics, be liable to indictment for obtaining goods under false pretences, should they ever succeed in obtaining the emoluments they so hanker after.

It was not this, however, that we took up our pen to discuss, but merely to show by well known facts in the history of the opposition, since the demise of the Whig party, the truth of our declaration that renegade Democrats are at a premium. And to do this, we need not go back beyond the birth of the Republican party—an event which was signalized by bestowing the insignia of leadership upon a renegade Democrat in the person of JOHN C. FREMONT; and this, too, when there were men who had grown gray in fighting the battles of the sectional dogmas promulgated as the creed of the new party. Who so fit to have led the Republicans in 1856 as WM. H SEWARD, or Judge MCLEAN—and yet faithful as they had proved themselves, and gray as they had grown in the service, they were discarded for a raw recruit, without civil qualifications for the station, only because it was hoped that his former connection with the Democratic party would secure for him a few votes from among his ancient associates. And what was true of 1856, has been true, and is true now, in every State where the Republican flag floats. Commencing with Maine we find Lott M. Morrill, a renegade Democrat, Governor, with Hannibal Hamlin, of the same political antecedents, a Senator in Congress. New Hampshire continues to send John P. Hale to the Senate, while Massachusetts, an old and reliable opponent of Democratic men and measures, is in the hands of renegade Democrats throughout—N. P. Banks, Governor, and Messrs. Wilson and Sumner, both formerly connected with the Democratic party, Senators! New York sends Preston King to the Senate; Ohio makes S. P. Chase, Governor; Illinois follows suit by sending Judge Trumbull as a colleague of Judge Douglas, while Wisconsin does likewise by electing Doolittle and Durkee to the same high position, all renegades from the Democratic camp. If we have passed over Pennsylvania in this enumeration, it is not because the political phenomena we are discussing is not as apparent here as elsewhere—indeed, it is more so. The canvass of last fall is not forgotten, when Wilmot, whose political antecedents are so well known, was brought forward for Governor, and the support of the high tariff Whigs of the State invoked in his favor. There is Gen Cameron, also, placidly occupying a seat in the Senate, the gift of the Republicans of Pennsylvania, when it is known to every body that his seat in the Democratic councils is scarcely cold. But, as if to make the record so plain that none can gainsay it, the Republican State Convention last week, after elevating Ex Governor Reeder to the empty honor of presiding over its deliberations, passed by all its other available timber, and sought a candidate for Judge of the Supreme Court in the person of Hon. JOHN M. READ, but a short time since a *free trade Democrat of Philadelphia*.

This favoritism to the malcontents from the Democratic party by the Republicans, to the exclusion of older opponents, might not possess so much significance as we ascribe to it, and might not attract so much attention as it does, were it confined to localities where the contest would be doubtful, and the supposed strength which such nominations give would be necessary to secure success—but such is not the case. Indeed, the state of the canvass in our own county at the present time furnishes unmistakable evidence that even here, where the old whig party was always invincible and the word of its leaders law, the "soldiers of fortune" in politics have complete control of the party, and are using its organization for their own advancement to the exclusion of older whigs. Here, the contest for Congress in this district is made to hinge on the success of one of these "soldiers of fortune" in his aspirations for Senator. Another one, with a modesty peculiarly refreshing, after having enjoyed the emoluments of Deputy Sheriff as a Democrat, to which position he was appointed by a Democrat, is now moving heaven and earth, and with a fair prospect of success, too, to secure the nomination for the Sheriffality itself. While his political mentor, the before alluded to candidate for Senator, is busily engaged in shoving such men aside as Finney, and Kelso, and Hills, and a dozen others who fought the Democratic party while he was using his talent to sustain it, he is following in his "illustrious patron's footsteps," and is endeaving to overslaugh such men as Craig, and Colton, and Brecht, and McLane, and Stunts! Nor does the record stop here. It is a matter of history that last Fall one of the most prominent candidates for a legislative nomination was a renegade Democrat, and because he was not nominated, it is equally a matter of history that the successful nominee was defeated. And the history of last Fall, we apprehend, will be the history of this. Our old Democratic friend, Henry Teller, who a few short years ago was an enthusiastic admirer of our present Executive, has been promised, and must receive a nomination for the Legislature, or, as we remarked last week, there will be a revolt immediately if not sooner. And to this complexion has it come at last—in the old whig and anti-masonic county of Erie, three of the best offices in the gift of the people, Senator, Representative, and Sheriff, must be spread out as a repast to satisfy the rapacious maw of these notorious "soldiers of fortune"—men whose desertion from the Democratic ranks is so recent that the political scars they received in *that* service are still visible to the naked eye. And who is it that, (to use the expressive language of one of them,) "will have to stand back like bound boys at a husking," in order that this trinity of political renegades may enjoy undisturbed the "feast of fat things" in the gift of the Republican party in Erie county?—John H. Walker, Elijah Babbitt, C. W. Kelso, A. King, G. J. Ball, J. B. Johnson, J. M. Sterrett, James Skinner, G. W. Colton, J. W. McLane, A. A. Craig, S. B. Benson, John Evans, and others too numerous to mention. From this it really appears that when the old whig party died, these men became fatherless, and are now about to be "bound out" by their political guardians, M. B. Lowry, Henry Teller and H. C. Rogers! But our article is already long, and we must close with the single remark that if there was a particle of evidence wanted to prove the truth of the remark made to us by a friend the other day, that the Democracy had furnished the Republicans with *all* their leaders, the National, State and County facts we have enumerated, furnish it beyond a question.

OBJECTIONS TO THE PEW SYSTEM.—The New York *Churchman* devotes considerable space to a discussion of the pew-system, as it exists in most of the churches of this country, and advocates a radical change. Under the law of the church, that Christ should be loved supremely, and all the members of his body alike, the *Churchman* argues that the pew-system is an effect of a selfishness which can be expanded no farther than the family, and that it is also a cause of that limited state of the affections. The idea of church unity, which embraces the idea of Christian love and community of interest, cannot be attained, unless the Christian affections are carried beyond the limits of the household. The relations which are borne among pew-holders outside of the church are those that are remembered in the church. The pew-system fosters the feeling, for its very idea is a separation of the household from the congregation. Moreover, the enclosure of one family is more valuable than the enclosure of another, and this fosters distinctions out of the place in a Christian assembly, since the value of each pew is derived from the fact that each is held by a right which is exclusive in its nature, and therefore opposed to a true Christian spirit. In the eyes of the pew-holder, the congregation is not a whole, for a portion of it is his own property in severalty. There is a common interest in *keeping the price of pews up, and hence a tendency to employ "crack" preachers.* "Thus, (says the *Churchman*,) the whole system of pews tends to array each family and each head of a family against the rest of the congregation. *The affections of the head of the family have been so far* expanded as to take in his family; they have been so far elevated as to assume something of a religious character; but they can get no farther. They want to be helped on to embrace the congregation. But the pew system intervenes, and checks them where they are. The man does not get to feel that he is a member of a congregation, and so he never can get to feel that he is a member of a church." This may be so; but, so long as it is more comfortable to sit their stand—so long as it is easier to go to sleep with a dull preacher than remain awake, and so long as it is cheaper to employ a dull one than one of talents—just so long we apprehend the pew-system will remain in fashion, and the efforts of the *Churchman* at reform prove unavailing.

COL. STEPTOE'S DEFEAT.

The following letter from Lieut. H. B. FLEMING, of the 9th Infantry, attached to Col. Steptoe's command, giving the details of the defeat of that officer, will be read with interest. It was written to his father in this city:

FORT WALLA WALLA, W. T., May 31st, 1858

Since my last letter of May 1st, we have had bloody and exciting times. In my last, I stated that we were about to start on an expedition to see to some affairs towards Fort Colville, which is in the Gold region, and a post of the Hudson Bay Company. Accordingly on the 6th, Col. Steptoe, with about 120 Dragoons, and a detachment of Infantry with two Howitzers, left this post en route for Fort Colville, intending to visit the friendly tribes by the way, talk with them, and confirm their friendship. No Indians were hostile but a band of the Palouse tribe numbering about 150. When we had got into the Spokane (pronounced Spo-kan) country, about 140 miles from this post, we were surrounded by about sixteen hundred Indians, mostly armed, painted and dressed in war costume. They had prepared an ambuscade for us, but we refused to be led into it, and went into camp off to the left near a little lake. This occurred on Sunday the 16th, and seeing the overwhelming force against us, we concluded to return. Accordingly the next morning, Monday the 17th, we started on our retrograde movement, marching along a bottom with high bluffs on each side, with a company of dragoons thrown out on each side as flankers. We had not proceeded far, before we were fiercely attacked, the enemy having fired a large number of shots into us before they were returned. The enemy tried to make us fire first, but the Col. gave strict orders that no shots should be returned without absolutely necessity, in order to throw the blame on them of opening hostilities. Now the fight commenced in earnest, and we continued our march for about a mile; but so many men and horses were either killed or wounded it was impossible to proceed further without great loss, and we drove the Indians from a hill, made our camp, picketing the animals in the centre. This was the only thing that saved us from being cut off in detail, surrounded as we were by such a host of red devils who came flocking around us as if Pandemonium had disgorged its whole inhabitants.

The fight continued from seven in the morning, until seven in the evening, when the enemy drew off and commenced digging rifle pits round our camp, which would have prevented us from getting water for ourselves or animals. We were out of ammunition, and the next day would have presented another Dade's Massacre. Under such circumstances a council of war was held, and finding that without ammunition the next day would be our last, the enemy hourly increasing, we resolved to leave our position and make a forced night march, taking with us only five days orations of pork and flour. Accordingly we left camp at 10 o'clock that night, and by the 10 the following night, arrived at Snake river, a distance of 30 miles, where we were met by the friendly Nez Perces, who put us across the river next day. This was one of the most rapid forced marches on record, and from this place we proceeded to the Fort by easy marches, taking the best care of the wounds in our power. About 20 miles from Snake river, we were met by Capt. Dent, with provisions and a reinforcement of 90 riflemen. Our loss was Capt. Taylor, Lieut. Gaston of the Dragoons, and 5 men killed and 15 wounded. Besides, one half breed and one Indian were killed. The loss of the enemy was very severe, and must have been five or six times as great as ours. The last news they had had brought in 9 killed, 22 wounded, (most of whom would die) and are still carrying them in. We were forced to leave in camp some wounded and broken down animals, old pack saddles and some subsistence stores. This was one of the most sanguine Indian battles on record. I was Quartermaster and Commissary and had I been at the head of my company, probably you would never have received this note. H. B. F.

☞ The Editor of the *Constitution* seems determined to have enough business on his hands to keep him "bobbin round" this hot weather. He is not only determined to regulate the political affairs of his own district (a pretty tough job, by the by) but in his last number he travels entirely out of his bailiwick, and blows up the Republicans of the Washington district for not organizing to defeat Hon. Wm. Montgomery. We have seen men who got so many irons in the fire that they let some of them burn—and it may be so with the Editor of the *Constitution*.

—An exchange truly says: "Suing editors for libel is about played out. There is only one thing less productive, and that consists in shipping ice to Greenland, or wooden nutmegs to the Spice Islands. A swindler undertook to sue a Philadelphia paper the other day, and was not only beaten, but committed to jail until he paid the costs of the suit

—Captain C. P. Bradley, of Chicago, been recently arrested, in Mercer county, Perry Randolph and George Elmore, head men in the gang of counterfeiters which have so long infested northern Indiana, and for the arrest and breaking up of which the celebrated Lynnier Regulators were organized.

—A young girl, daughter of Mr. Charles Thompson, formerly State agent on the Westchester, Pa., cars, arose from her bed, as is supposed, while asleep, and deliberately walked out of the third-story window! She fell on the pavement below, and was horribly crushed by the fall.

THE TELEGRAPH EXPERIMENT.—*According* to the *N. Y. Eve. Post* Mr. Morse never expected that the expedition now upon the Atlantic would be successful, though he is quite sanguine that a cable can be laid and worked between the termini which the company has selected. He does not disguise his conviction that the cable on on board the company's steamers is much too heavy, and that one half of its weight, might be laid and worked effectively.

His views upon the subject and the consequences to which they have led, are said to have been the controlling reasons for his being left out of the Board of Direction, at the election which immediately preceded the reduction in the the price of the stock.

Of course the company did not make the cable as heavy as they did, except to increase their chances of laying it successfully; and nothing but a trial will probably ever determine whether Professor Morse's view is correct.

His opinion unquestionably possesses great weight, and will be carefully considered if any new experiment is made. The other provisions which have been suggested to us against the accidents to which the plans for laying submarine cables have thus far proved to be liable, which we will submit without argument for what they are worth:

"A cable *coiled* cannot be uncoiled without *kinks*."

Therefore, the cable must be *reeled* to be laid.

The necessity for two vessels to lay the cable, quadruples (and more) the risk of accidents;

Therefore, the cable must be laid from one ship.

The voyage *to* England is easier, shorter and safer than the voyage *from* England:

Therefore, the vessel with the cable should start from this side.

There is one vessel, and only one, of tonnage and room sufficient to carry the whole of the cable, to wit: the Leviathan:

Therefore, the cable, if ever laid at all, must be stowed on a succession of reels in the Leviathan, and the Leviathan must sail from our shores."

If these views should be deemed to possess any value, it would be easy for the Leviathan to bring the cable here to this country and lay it on her first trip home.

TAMING VICIOUS ANIMALS.—Mr. Rarey, the American Horse Tamer, has been astonishing the people of Europe by his power to subdue vicious animals. He imparts his secret to gentlemen at so many guineas apiece, exacting from them a strict pledge of secrecy. An English editor, however, at the risk of being prosecuted for the penalty of five hundred guineas, divulges Mr. Rarey's method of conquering animals considered unconquerable before he took them in hand. The editor says Mr. Rarey's plan is, first unscrew and take off the animal's head, which will bring him to a dead stand; next to take off his legs, when he will immediately lie down; and lastly, to take out his entrails, when his subjugation will be complete and a drum may be beaten over him. This is a very effective method of taming vicious animals, but it is not original with Mr. Rarey. He has borrowed it from the Democracy, who have successfully practised it upon that most vicious of all animals the 'Opposition.' In 1852 the Democracy unscrewed the Opposition's head—Whiggery; in 1855 they took off his legs—Know Nothingism; and in 1856 they ripped out his guts—black Republicanism; and now they are beating their spirit stirring drum over his conquered and disembowelled carcass, and the poor creature is not able to give one avenging kick. We wish Mr. Rarey abundant success among the crowned heads and dogbed tails of Europe, but we don't want the Democracy robbed of the credit of their civilizing invention.—*Valley Spirit.*

LOCAL AND PERSONAL.

—Read the advertisements of S. S. Sherrett's cheap Grocery and Provision store. He has a capital stock, and sells as cheap as the cheapest.

—A German named Restery, employed on Mr TRACY's farm, about three miles above town, committed suicide on Friday evening by drowning himself in the Lake.

—The N. Y. *Times* says Wm. A. Seaver, late of the Buffalo *Courier*, has succeeded Thos. Ramsay, Esq., in the editorship of the New York Churchman.

—A young man named Brown, was drowned on the 3d inst., in French Creek, a few miles below Waterford, near Donaldson's mill.

—The jury of inquest in the Erie Railroad disaster rendered a verdict exonerating the company and the officers in charge of the train from all blame—attributing the sad occurrence to the breaking of the rail.

—The Editor of the Gettysburg *Compiler* acknowledges the receipt of "several cucumbers, each about a foot in length;" and the result, we suppose, has been "*several feet" of cholera!*

—Our farmers are in the midst of their harvest, and notwithstanding the croakings about the weevil, we have every reason to believe we shall buy our bread cheaper this year than we have in ten.

—It will be seen that the "*Old Erie Foundry*" has changed hands—Messrs. Barr & Johnson, succeeding Sennett, Barr & Co. Both gentlemen have been connected with the business for a number of years.

—The *Western Press*, Mercer, P., comes to us this week in a new and attractive dress. The *Press* is in its forty-seventh volume, being the oldest Democratic paper west of the Mountains, and except the Reading *Eagle*, a German paper, the oldest in the State.

—Two or three weeks since, in one of our local items, we broke the leg of Dan Rice's horse "Excelsior," and had him killed. We now take pleasure in saying that the whole story was one of Dan's dry jokes, and that his famous horse is alive and kicking.

☞ The *Gazette* raises the names of John M. Reed and Wm. E. Frazier, candidates for Judge and Canal Commissioner, and styles the ticket, "*Opposition State Ticket.*" From this it would appear that, as a State organization, the Republican party is defunct. In the language of the great Dutch poet—

"As it was so soon done for,
We wonder what it was begun for."

—An Irishman, named Mahany, living in that part of the city known as Jerusalem, burst a blood vessel on Thursday, and died before any assistance could be rendered. When the event happened, his wife ran to a neighbors for assistance, but when she returned he had ceased to breathe. He had been unwell for some time with Consumption.

—Mrs. Knabb, wife of the editor of the Reading *Journal*, was nearly killed the other day by the upsetting of a carriage. We learn by Saturday's *Journal* the lady is now out of danger. The accident was caused by the imprudent digging away of the railroad embankment by the Schuylkill Navigation Company, leaving scarcely room for a carriage.

—The *Gazette* says that "a large number of the delegates to the late People's Convention at Harrisburg were formerly prominent members of the Democratic party."—Very possibly; still we'll wager the ice cream with our cotemporary that he can't point out one that voted with the Democratic party in 1856, or even last Fall!

—The Harrisburg *Herald* says it has been ascertained, by experiment, that the most effectual way to destroy rats is to place a copy of the New York *Tribune* in their holes. The rats gnaw at it to get it out of the way, get a snuff of the brimstone that is disseminated direct from Satan's headquarters thro' its columns, and then give one tremendous sneeze, by which they are blown into atoms.

—The Methodist Episcopal Conference, at Meadville, adjourned on Wednesday, having been in session since the 14th inst., Bishop Janes presiding. The list of members being called over, 115 answered to their names. Professor L. D. Williams, of Allegheny College, was elected Secretary and Revs. J. D. Norton and G. W. Chesbrough, Assistant Secretaries. Large accessions to the Churches in the several districts were announced. The appointments for the districts will be announced as soon as furnished.

—The Buffalo *Republic* asks, in all the agony of its soul, "*what shall be done for Buffalo?*" *to save it from* absolute ruin. Presuming the question is addressed to us, [illegible] nothing can be done to save Buffalo! It is beyond hope. It must dry up.' According to the *Republic*, Buffalo has long sucked its sustenance from a commerce which has now departed. And the once proud *city is now literally "a gone sucker!" So says the* Rochester *Union*, and we guess there is more truth than poetry in it.

—A man named Wm. Rawland, an Irishman by birth, for some time in the employ of Dr. J. L. Stewart, in the capacity of a hostler, attempted to commit suicide on Wednesday night by cutting his throat with a razor. He drew the instrument across his neck three times, but either from a want of nerve, or some other cause, did not succeed in reaching the jugular vein, and consequently his life was saved. Cause—drink and family trouble.

—The pleasure excursion, on Monday, on the Schooner *Wm. M. Arbuckle*, was attended by a very large number of ladies and gentlemen; and, considering the seasickness, and other incidents, was quite a lively affair.—One of the most pleasing incidents of the trip was the presentation of a *couple of silver cups to* Capt. GRAY and the first mate, Mr JAMES BALL, by Col. D. S. Clark, accompanied by some very appropriate remarks by the donor. G. J. Ball, Esq., responded on the part of the donees.

—Mons. Goddard and wife, Dr. Hutchins, formerly of Waterford, in this county, and Leone Tiphane made a balloon ascension at Buffalo one day this week. They started at six o'clock and landed four miles from the city at eight. Their highest elevation was two miles. A most glowing description of the panorama is given. Niagara Falls and Lake Ontario were in sight, and steamers on the lake could plainly be seen. Lockport, Tonawanda, Batavia, and all the villages within a circle of twenty or thirty miles, seemed to be clustering about Buffalo. Niagara River was a line of light, losing itself in Lake Ontario.—The party saw the sun "set" twice.

—Every body says it is dull times, and such is doubtless the fact—and yet, let one take a walk of an evening about our town, and he will observe evidence on almost every street that the progress of Erie is onward—Various new buildings, for dwelling houses, stores, and shops, are in process of erection, showing at least that we are not retrograding, which is more than can be said of some of the other towns on the lake shore.

—The *Gazette* says that "a policy which flatly contravenes the favorite Democratic doctrine of Popular Sovereignity" "strikes at the fundamental principles of a free government." Good! The policy advocated by the *Gazette*, that Congress should exercise exclusive control over the domestic institutions of the territories, *is* "a policy which flatly contradicts the favorite Democratic doctrine of Popular Sovereignty"—*ergo*, the *Gazette* is engaged in "striking at the fundamental principles of a free government." Good! we repeat!

—Now is the time for moonlight rides on the Bay—on the road—on the rail—any where, so that you have a lovely specimen of crinoline by your side, and a due quantity of romance and "soft nawdur" at your tongues end.—*We saw a fellow the other night with a twenty nag* going at a snail-like pace, while he himself was leaning up to the calico like a "sick pig to a warm jam,"—both looking as happy as if they were walking on a rainbow with the man-in-the-moon for a fiddler!

☞ The Erie *Observer* stole two items last week from the *Democrat* and one from the *Journal*, without the least credit. *Mr. SLOAN, be just.—Jamestown Democrat.*

There it is again; we never *stole* "another feller's" stock in trade that the "other feller" did'nt make a confounded fuss about it. However, we'll make it up with the *Democrat* man; he may steal a dozen of ours, provided he confines himself to those of a political complexion. As to the *Journal*, why he may go to thunder!—never "stole" an item from him, and never want to; cause, he never had any to "steal." He's a regular know nothing. P. S. As we don't exchange with the *Journal* it is evident Jeames, of the *Democrat*, has'nt got over that spree at Ward's, and consequently sees double.

☞ The Philadelphia *Press* charges that the editor of the *Observer* "has written more articles *personally abusive* of Mr. BUCHANAN than any man in Pennsylvania,—that his columns for ten years past have teemed with scandals upon the President and his friends."

We find, the above in the *Gazette*, with much more of the same sort, from which we infer that our political course "for ten years" creates a vast deal of trouble to both the Editor of the *Press* and his black republican brother of the *Gazette*. Now, we assume we deem any thing that either of these gentlemen can say about us will damage our political reputation either at home or abroad, but in order to vindicate the "truth of history," we inform Col. John W. Forney that his accusation is false. The Erie *Observer* never contained an "article personally abusive of Mr. Buchanan." We know the charge has been made time and again, but it is none the less false! It is true the *Observer* opposed Mr. Buchanan's nomination in 1852, but it did not do it with "personal abuse." It spoke of him then, as it has always spoken of him, with respect and admiration. We thought the time had not arrived when he could be nominated and elected; and thinking this honestly we did not hesitate to say it. At that time, as will be recollected, there was a "close corporation" in this State *which arrogated to itself the exclusive control of Mr. Buchanan's political fortunes.* At the head of it stood John W. Forney. No man could approach the future President except through that gate; and we did not choose to so approach him. When Mr. Buchanan went to Europe that "corporation" was broken up. His political fortunes became the property of the great Democratic party; we know that Forney thought different—we know he expected to have charge of the Kitchen Cabinet at the White House, and become a power behind the throne, greater than the throne itself—but time and events have proved *his* mistake. His *ipse dixit* is not *law* at Washington; there is no Kitchen Cabinet for him to preside over; Mr. Buchanan is the President himself—and as such *he* has passed upon the charge so frequently made by the Editor of the *Press* that we "have written more articles personally abusive of him than any man in Pennsylvania." The fact is notorious that our opponents ransacked Erie county to find a file of our paper containing those "abusive personalities." They found the paper, but when they looked for the "personal abuse" it was at there. Such as they found, however, they transmitted to our black Republican member of Congress, and by him they were duly placed *before the President. What effect they had may be inferred* from the fact that, in a very few weeks after, *he sent our re-appointment to the Senate.* With this endorsement, we can afford to let John W. Forney bite himself and snarl at us in his disappointment.

SONS OF MALTA.—The Philadelphia *American*, speaking of the assembling of the National Convention of this order, in that city, says: "In England, the office of Grand Commander is held by his Royal Highness the duke of Cambridge, and Prince Albert condescends to perform the less arduous and important duties of G. R. J. A. In the United States, Mr. Breckenridge, the Vice President, is Grand Commander, and Hon. S. A. Douglas is G. R. J. A. Indeed, throughout Europe the order is hailed as one of the democratic features of the age, while prince and peasant and peerage, within its sacred precincts meet upon a common recognition of universal brotherhood. Its offices have been dignified by men of the noblest ancestry and the highest cultivation, and take it altogether, the order bids fair to prove an important adjunct to the present order of free masonry."

Report of Investigating Committee on Banks.

A long report from the Committee appointed to investigate the affairs of the Tiogo, Crawford, Phœnixville, Shamokin and Octorara Banks, has been presented to the Governor. It exposes a most flagrant deception on the part of the Buffalo and other speculators, on the charters granted by the Legislature. The *North American* gives a short sketch of the developements made, as follows:

The first of these Pennsylvania Banks, all of which were chartered at the legislative session of 1857, is the Tioga County Bank. The letters patent state that the subscription amounted to 1069 shares, and the committee found that 1040 of these shares had been subscribed, and the first instalment paid in a single day, by certain Buffalo financiers, of whom Wells D. Walbridge, for himself and various females, took 640 shares, while Edward K. Thayer, of Buffalo, took 200 more, and J. Porter Brawley took the remaining 200. Thayer belongs to a nest of financiers of that name in Buffalo, one of whom opened the Bank, and at once entered discounts to the amount of $20,655, all to Buffalo parties. G. P. Steers, of Buffalo, was elected teller of the Bank, says that upon taking charge of it there was a deficit of $6,373. The discounts now amount to $39,066 38, nearly all of which has been to Buffalo parties, and all, except one note of $1100, in sums of $5,000 to $8,500. The Thayers and Walbridge figure either as drawers or endorsers in nearly all of these. It is clear that this Bank was purely speculative, the subscription notes having been immediately discounted.

The same parties appear to have been the operators in the new Bank of Crawford county—To this concern, 1534 shares of stock were subscribed, of which 1210 were by the Buffalo gang, and the rest by J. Porter Brawley, as one of the same party, except about forty-four shares. This subscription was paid in Tioga County Bank notes, being chiefly the $20,155 discounted at the organization of that concern, except about $500 paid in specie. The Bank has a circulation of $34,055 against $2,796 84 in gold and silver, and its discounts reach $127,917 52, of which $63,800 has been to parties out of the State. The teller states that he and the President ordered at the same time, the engraving of the plates for both this and the Tioga County Bank.

The Thayers again figure as the parties taking the stock of the new Shamoken Bank, of which the whole subscription was 1640 shares, while they and their associates took 1520 shares. One of the Thayers settled for all the stock subscribed by persons not residing in Shamokin, and paid no money except $7,000 in gold and $28,000 in notes of the Tioga and Crawford County Banks. Immediately upon the organization of the Bank, the books show that $41,015 50 of discounts were granted to J. Jackson, of New York city, and Underhill & Lockhart, $38,000 being in one item to Jackson. The endorsers of these notes are J. W. Underhill and R. R. Underhill, while the teller of the Bank is Robert Underhill. The circulation amounts to $26,460 and the cash to $2,372 05.

The cashier, David A. Robinson, formerly of Buffalo, explains that the money paid in as capital stock of the Bank, was discounted to the parties named, and the notes were left as the capital of the Bank. A person named Street, on pretence of being a man of means, who intended subscribing $40,000 to the stock of the Bank, was entrusted with $20,000 to arrange a system of exchange with the Banks of Western Pennsylvania, instead of which he appropriated the money to his own use, but was afterwards arrested, and obliged to disgorge. J. Jackson, who figures as a principal operator in this Bank, alleged himself to be worth $19,000, which on investigation turns out to be moonshine. J. R. Robinson was another of the wireworkers of this institution, and appears as the party to whom the discounted $38,000 was transferred on check—About $2000 of the bills of the Shamokin Bank were obtained from it by Robinson, and used to pay the first instalment of a subscription of stock by him to the McKean County Bank.—How this money was procured does not appear, but it was not by discount, as it was to be returned to the Bank.

Among the persons acting with the Thayers, and belonging to the Buffalo party *in all these* Banks, were W. Meech, several named Gannon, C. H. Payne, and M. Carson. These appear again in the stock subscription to the Bank of Phœnixville, which, had an organization taken place, would have stood 1200 shares taken by Buffalo and vicinity, 198 by Phœnixville. Some of these subscriptions to the amount of 1,000 shares were taken for others by parties who only held powers of attorney to subscribe 500 shares. They altered the figures at the time of subscribing. The first payment on the stock was made in notes of the Tioga County Bank, which was objected to by the commissioners, and an investigation ensued, ending in the subscription being declared bogus, and withdrawn.

A startling revelation is made by the committee relative to the bank note reporters. Proof seems to have been afforded that some of these publications are regular black mail sheets, which quote Banks in good or bad standing according as the conductors are fed. Letters and circulars are described as being sent to Banks, requiring immediate correspondence or a personal visit, to make certain arrangements on pain of disagreeable consequences.

Altogether this report is calculated to surprise the people of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania, and put them on their guard against speculators in bogus Banks. All these institutions have been manufactured by one gang of Buffalo operators, and are of the worst species of wild cat.

CLEVELAND, July 22.

The Railroad Convention held here last evening, decided on making the through passenger rates from all points the same as on the Erie road, and freight one dollar per ton less than by the Erie; to take effect on Monday next.

Arrival of the North Star—Failure of the Atlantic Telegraph Expedition.

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