THE ERIE OBSERVER.

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TERMS: $1 50, PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26 1859

News of the Week.

— Among the documents sent to the Senate by the War Department, on last week, was one purporting to be an authentic account of the murder of the Methodist Missionary, Dr Kittman, who crossed the plains in the year 1838, and settled in the valley of the Walla Walla, where he soon had around him all the comforts of rural life, and where, with his interesting family, he commenced his efforts to instruct and enlighten the savages of that region. The small pox having broke out among the Indians, spread with great rapidity, hundreds of their number falling victims to the disease. The family of the missionary did all in their power to mitigate and assuage the sufferings of these savages by nursing and distributing medicines. The family of the missionary not being afflicted with the pestilence created a suspicion in the minds of the Indians that the pestilence had been brought for the purpose of destroying the red race and obtaining their lands. With a view to test practically the truth two Indians were sent over to the mission farm that had not been afflicted with the malady, in order that the missionary might prescribe for them, which was kindly done, and the red patients returned to their friends to await the issue. By some strange fatality both of those Indians died, which confirmed in the minds of those savages the truth of the suspicion, and the next step was revenge. A stalwart savage was selected for the bloody deed, who stole into the chamber of the sleeping family, and buried his tomahawk in the brain of the missionary and that of his wife, and then other Indians rushed in, and helpless children, male and female employees, were butchered, the house razed to the ground, fences destroyed, and every vestage of a once happy home disappeared.

— The Davenport *Gazette* gives the particulars of a bloody affair which occurred at Brooklyn, Poweshiek county, Iowa, on the evening of the 11th of February. It appears that on the evening before, a man got out of the stage at Brooklyn. He said he held the post of Second Lieutenant at Fort Laramine, and was on his way to Washington City on furlough. He stopped at Dr. Conway's, and said he was afraid to go on to the city as some men were after him to take his life. It was ascertained that he had the *delirium tremens*. He stayed there all day, and about 5 o'clock in the evening, Ben. Hawes, Cornelius Putnam, and one or two others were sitting in Conway's bar-room with him. He was walking about the room when, without saying a word, the Lieutenant drew a pistol and shot Hawes through the heart. Hawes exclaimed "O, my God!" and died instantly. Putnam immediately caught the stranger around the arms and pushed him out into the street, when the officer put a pistol to his own head and blew his brains out. He died without uttering a word. The papers found on his body showed that he was all he represented himself to be—that his name was J. B. Roana, and that he was a widower and has a daughter about fifteen years old, who is residing in Richmond, Va. He appeared to be about thirty five years old.

— A very remarkable case of poisoning occurred in Bucks county last week, by which a man and his wife, two children and his wife's mother, had their lives placed in imminent danger by eating a mix ure of horse radish and pokeroot. They were all taken very sick soon after eating supper, with a violent illness, somewhat resembling the cholera at the National Hotel, Washington City, and were so much prostrated to want upon each other—Not being able to render assistance, portions of the same kind of food the others had been eating and which, when partly eaten, which, no doubt, saved their lives, expected a great scene in the family. As soon as they recovered a little from the intoxication, they set to making a thorough examination and search for the poison, and discovered the culprit, who had not tasted the horse radish and escaped the sickness, they examined some of the root of horse radish that had not been grated, and discovered that one of the largest roots was poke. It was known that one or two small stocks of poke grew up in the garden last summer, near the horse radish bed, and the children had innocently and thoughtlessly dug all up together, and grated it without being conscious of the danger. It may be a warning to others. They are all in a fair way to recover.

— The Pittsburg *Chronicle* says it has just been discovered that certain bonds issued by Allegheny county, Pa., have been fraudulently duplicated, and that the tax-payers have for years been paying interest on the same, contrary to all right and justice. It says "The county auditors have commenced the investigation of the matter and already quite a number of witnesses have given testimony before them. We are not at liberty to state the full extent of the developments that have thus far been made, but that they are of such a character as to justify Mr Barton's suspicions, our readers may rest assured. That one bond, 'No 28,' has been duplicated has been fully proved, and that it is not the only one that has been thus illegally issued, the evidence, it is claimed that is yet to be heard, will demonstrate beyond either doubt or cavil. The next move will be to ascertain by whom these illegal bonds were issued, who received them, and what was the consideration, if any, for which they were exchanged. These are questions which the Board is determined to have answered satisfactorily, no matter what the labor their elucidation may entail, or who suffers by the exposure.

— Two years ago, the wife of John Rain, a then respectable mechanic of Cincinnati, died, and he took to drink to relieve his sorrow. Three daughters thus left to contend with poverty, and without the good advice and example of a father, became a prey to vicious men and vicious thoughts. An improper intimacy sprang up between a man named Mitchell and the eldest daughter, and the father, in a moment of sensitive appreciation of the wrong done her, slew the paramour, and for this was tried and sent to the Penitentiary. The downward course of the daughters was then rapid. Two have just been convicted of grand larceny, and will be sent to the State Prison. The remaining one—the youngest—is now in the House of Refuge.

— A Wisconsin paper records the case of a man who, by the falling of a tree upon him, had his head crushed, and a considerable portion of his brains literally knocked out, so that the surgeons had to cut away the exploding portion, and his case was deemed entirely hopeless. But he unexpectedly improved, and has nearly recovered. Previous to this accident he had never been known to whistle or sing, or display the least musical talent; but as soon as he was able to speak, after losing his brains, he began to sing with correctness, and now displays a taste for music amounting to a passion. The inference to be drawn from this case is, that those who have a natural gift for whistling or music are deficient somewhat in brains.

— At Cleveland, Ohio, a curious discovery of a large amount of stolen property has been made. Not long since an employee of the Cleveland, Cincinnati and Columbus Railroad was arrested for a series of bold burglaries, and circumstances growing out of his arrest led to an investigation at the premises, No 64 Fulton st. In the yard, the officers found a suspicious chicken coop; throwing which aside, they came upon a hidden deposit of valuable stolen property. There were found, buried in the ground, a hundred silk handkerchiefs, an immense lot of bed clothes, ready made clothing of all kinds, a large and splendid mirror, some jewelry, railroad lamps, and other articles.

— At Lyonville, Oregon, Ill., a few days ago, a shoemaker named Osias G. Elliott was arrested on the charge of having murdered his wife, whose body was found buried under mysterious circumstances, and whom he had always greatly illtreated. While the coroner's jury were holding an inquest on the body, the prisoner was attacked in the hotel where he was in custody by a number of infuriated women, who tore out his hair and beat and bruised his so much so that his life was in danger. He was then locked up in an upper room by the officers, to keep him from the fury of the women, and while there he jumped out of the window and escaped.

— A journal published in Beloit, Wisconsin, in describing the destitution in that place says that many families are starving for bread. At a public meeting held there last week it was stated that a poor man begged a loaf at one of the markets a day or two before for his starving family. He was followed to his home, and his wife and children were found devouring the raw liver, there being no fire or means of cooking it.

— An elderly woman went to a Cincinnati Justice recently to inquire the best method of divorcing her daughter from a man to whom the parents objected to as an unfitting person. The reason of the mother's desire for having the twain divided was that the husband had promised her a new dress when he married her daughter, and, on the consummation of the event, had withheld the gift.

— The Borough Council of Pottsville made an appropriation of twenty dollars recently to pay the expenses of a boxer to go to Harrisburg and assist in passing a bill in which the town was interested. This, we believe, is the first instance on record of a town corporation openly sanctioning the *boring* system.

— Nearly five hundred members of the Order of the Sons of Malta, in the District of Columbia, called upon Gen. Jo. Lane, last Saturday evening, to congratulate him upon the admission of Oregon, and his consequent elevation to the United States Senate. Gen. Lane is a member of the Order.

ONE EXPERIMENT FAILED.

One of the marked events of the times, and one which ought to teach our Northern politicians of the "opposition" school a lesson, is the failure of the sable government of Hayti. On that island the capacity of the negro race for imperial government, or for self-government, has been fully tried. With the natural elements to build up a prosperous and happy State—with perfect liberty in the first place, and after its failure, with imperial power vested in one individual,—the experiment has been tried to the bitter end, and the result is as every man not carried away by abstract dogmas knew would be the case, the promblem of negro capacity has been solved adversely. It is true, that while his sable majesty, Faustin, has been driven from the island, and his imperial antics will no longer disgust the world, another government has been instituted; but is there any reason, either to be derived from the past history of the negro race on that island, or in any other quarter of the globe, that gives us any hope that the history of the past will not be the history of the future.—A writer in Harper's *Weekly*, for the current week, thus sums up the history of the island under negro rule, and also the history of its last ruler:

"Faustin Soulouque, a negro whose first step in life had been an appointment as varlet to a negro officer, was, it will be remembered, elected President of the Haytian Republic in that year of revolution, 1848. For half a century previous the island had known no peace. Wars—incessant, bloody, exhaustive, merciless wars—had desolated Hayti from the day when the French proclaimed the emancipation of the blacks. A long series of negro rulers, sometimes called Presidents and sometimes Emperors, had wielded an authority which, for the time it lasted, was generally absolute, and often tyrannical and ferocious. Each in his turn had been subverted, and put out of the way by some bolder or new aspirant to power. In the course of these never ending contests the island had been dismembered; the eastern end—Dominica—which is more Spanish than French, had separated from the western end (Hayti,) and had organized a separate government under a republican form. Both ends were shockingly misgoverned; the people were disorderly, agriculture was neglected, the laws derided, property and life continually menaced.

It was under these circumstances that Faustin Soulouque, a soldier of fortune, was elected President of Hayti.

It appears that, notwithstanding the crimes of Soulouque's later administration, his earlier policy was creditable to him and beneficial to his country. He proceeded with considerable vigor and skill to restore order to the finances, and to enforce the laws. He put down several revolutionary movements with a strong hand. He forbore to carry out the traditional policy of his party, and made peace with Dominica. A few months of this wise course, however, exhausted his stock of virtue. In 1850 he followed the example of his predecessors and overturned the Constitution; proclaimed himself Emperor; and a couple of years afterward he had himself solemnly crowned by the Roman Catholic Primate of the island. The ceremony was most faithfully copied from that which was observed on the occasion of the coronation of the elder Napoleon; not a functionary was wanting, though, of course, with the exception of a few visitors, all the personages were negroes. The force concluded with the appointment of a large array of noblemen, dukes, barons, marquises, etc, among whom the Marquis de la Marmalade and the Duke de Lemonade have achieved general notoriety."

From this, which is sustained by every reliable source of information, it is evident that ever since the island fell under negro rule its condition has been steadily growing worse. And yet nature has done every thing to make it a paradise. The New York *News* says it has more mountains than Cuba, and more space than Jamaica, but makes less use of both. Its valleys are the noblest, and its vegitation the most perfect. None of the tropical districts are so favorable to the growth of tropical products, yet in none are they less cultivated. In spite of all its decided natural advantages the country is suffered to decline apace, under the sable shadow which damps its development and damns its prosperity. Coffee, which it once produced in great abundance, is ill cared for, and the wild and neglected trees are the chief source of the present supply which the indolent fellows who are in possession of the charming fields care to collect. So it is with the cultivation of sugar cane, and, indeed with every commodity in which the country could be made to excel. At one time all Europe took its sugar supplies from this very island which now sends to Jamaica for its own sweets. The shipping in its ports have fallen off immensely and steadily, and all that indicates true prosperity has sickened in Hayti well nigh to death. Take the trade in mahogany and other sorts of woods as an example: It fell from $105,322 in 1853 to $49,507 in 1855. So of other things.

There is another side to the Haytien subject, which closely concerns us. No commercial relations have formally been made between our Government and the indefinable Administration of Hayti. Trade has suffered materially on this account. The capriciousness of Haytien legislation, and its total disregard of principle, often harrass our ship-masters. This would be a small matter were it not that we could run a brisk trade with the island, even in its present state of decrepitude. Our ships need never, if relations were well managed, quit its ports without a valuable cargo of coffee, or acajou, or campeche, or petre. We export cotton there largely, even under present disadvantages. In 1857 we sent there $296,000 worth of cotton; while Cuba only took $26,000 worth for the same time. These darkies, counted by thousands, took no less than 1,928,682 boxes of our soap in 1857; while the whiter folks of Cuba, counted by millions, only took 389,748 for the same time.—We send twice as much flour and six times as much salted pork to Hayti as to Cuba, and there is likely to be an increase of trade with Cuba while she remains under Spanish rule. If, then, we cannot at the present moment exercise our very best philanthropy, by saving these industrious and disorderly negroes the trouble and danger of administering their own affairs, to the detriment of their vital interests, we have no right to let the opportunity slip of improving our imperfect commercial relations. Let those whose duty it is, look to it in time. Hayti needs our best attention just now, commercially, politically and strategically, in more senses than are at once apparent.

A NEW MOVE.—Judge Nill, member of the Judiciary Committee, reported a bill to the House, a few days ago, relating to the collection of taxes in the several counties of the Commonwealth. The bill provides that the County Treasurer shall collect the taxes, by visiting every township at certain advertised periods—designating time and place; and that the inhabitants shall then and there assemble and pay up. If there are any that refuse or neglect to pay, then the Treasurer shall hand the bills to a Constable who shall proceed to levy and distress for the same. The bill contains fifteen sections, but the cream of the bill, is as we state it.

PUBLICATION OF THE LAWS.—Mr. ZOLLER, of Allegheny, recently submitted a bill in the House providing for the publication of the laws in newspapers in the various counties of the State. The Philadelphia *Inquirer* strongly commends the measure, and "hopes it will receive prompt and favorable consideration." It says:

"Under the existing system, not one-tenth of the community are able to ascertain the nature of the laws under which they live, and by which they are governed. The defect is a serious one, and it should be corrected as speedily as possible. The subject has heretofore been urged upon the attention of the Legislature, but without effect. Ever session an immense total of business is transacted, and laws and resolutions that amount in the aggregate to a formidable list, are enacted. And yet, strange as it may appear, but few obtain a wide or a general circulation. It is difficult even for the members themselves to keep thoroughly informed of all that is done towards the close of the session, and how, therefore, can the community at large, unless some duly authorized publication be made, be expected to ascertain the nature of all the Legislative enactments that are passed at Harrisburg? We repeat—the movements of Mr Zoller is one that is calculated to give very general satisfaction, inasmuch as it is intended to keep the public at large advised of what is finally determined upon at the seat of the State Government."

The Editorial Union which recently met at Harrisburg passed resolutions approving of the publication of the laws at half the usual rates of advertising. This would not be very expensive, and there is no intelligent tax payer in the State who would not give the measure a hearty endorsement. The people, as well as the press, demand action in this matter, and we trust our Legislators will not disband without passing a law to this effect.

☞ The *Gazette* opposed the admission of Oregon as a State on the "ground that it is laying down one rule for Oregon and a different one for Kansas." Admitting the "rule laid down for Kansas" wrong, then it is evident the *Gazette* favors the commission of another wrong in regard to Oregon. But again, says the *Gazette*, "Trickery, fraud and quibbling of a most disgraceful kind, are resorted to to prevent Kansas from getting into the Union, and on that ground, if for no other, every Republican vote should have been cast against" the Oregon bill. If these charges are all true, it seems to us, that applying to the case of Oregon the simple rules of right and wrong, they do not justify the vote of the Republicans against her admission. In other words, we do not believe two wrongs ever made one right. Nor do we think, looking at the question from a political point of view, that it was good policy in the Republicans to have voted against her admission. To have made a telling point against the Democrats—always providing they really believe their Kansas stories—they should have said—"See, here is Oregon, her people ask admission—we don't know whether there are just 93,000 population or not—we know, however, that her constitution is here—approved by the people—we don't approve of some of its provisions, but as we voted for the admission of Kansas, so we will vote for her." Such a position would have been a sound one—an honest one,—and would have been a bright record for 1860. As it is, the Republicans have thrown away a chance as they always do!

WHAT FOR?—We see by the proceedings at Harrisburg, that a bill has passed the House raising the tax upon moneys at interest and real estate one cent on the hundred dollars. What is this for? Are not the people of the Commonwealth already taxed to the utmost? And if they are not, why should their burthens be increased when we are told the financial affairs of the State are in good condition and yearly improving under the present rate of taxation. The public works are disposed of, consequently there is no longer a call from that quarter upon the coffers of the State. We are not engaging in any new enterprises. There is no extraordinary emergency, so far as can be seen by human eyes, about to arise to increase our expenditures. Why then should real estate, a species of property already taxed more than its proportion, be subjected to more onerous burthens! Besides, if more revenue must be raised, why not be just, and levy it upon property now exempt from taxation. A farmer may have a thousand sheep, and yet he pays no tax upon them. He may have a thousand head of young cattle, and still escape the visit of the tax gatherer; but woe to the poor man who only has his cow or his horse,—the tax gatherer, like death, is sure to find him out. All this is wrong. Taxes, like the dews of heaven, should fall on all alike. The rich man with his "heards upon a thousand hills," should pay a tax upon the cash valuation of his property—while the poor man, with his one cow and horse, should be subjected to the same unerring rule. This would be even and exact justice to all. But we are not about to enter into a discussion of the question of taxation—the justice or injustice of the present laws upon that subject—that would require more time and room than we have to spare—we merely took up our pen to ask the reason for the proposed increase. Can any one tell?

NOT A BED OF ROSES.—The official career of Ex Gov. MATTESON, of Illinois, does not appear to have been a "bed of roses," added to which the people of that State appear determined to keep him in hot water now that he has retired to private life. He no sooner gets out of one scrape than they contrive to scrape him in to something else. When he vacated the Governorship he turned up a little "short" with the State, rumor says, but he contrived in a short time to lengthen himself out into a railroad from Chicago to St Louis, which has given him a mighty sight of trouble. He undertook to fence the road in. This, or something else, frightened the employees and they "struck." He had hardly recovered from this blow, when something like two hundred thousand dollars of fraudulent State stocks confronted the intrepid man. And the worst of it is, the whole of this fraudulent script was issued by some wretch, or wretches during Matteson's administration. He has invited investigation—it would undoubtedly have come without inviting—and time and witnesses will unfold the tale—either bob-tail or switch.

☞ The Republican party is a queer institution. Some of its leaders advocate Free Trade; some of them are rampant for a Protective Tariff. Some of them want Cuba; some of them don't. Most of the Republican members of Congress voted against Oregon—a portion voted in favor thereof! Hence it is evident they have no settled policy on any subject,—not even the "nigger" question, for members advocate agressive measures against Slavery, while their most politic champions disclaim any intention to interfere with the institutions of the South. If this be not "a house divided against itself," where shall we find one.

AT THEIR OLD TRICKS.—We have observed in Opposition papers various stories of corruption among Federal officials, with an occasional insinuation of complicity on the part of the President. Charges so contradictory of the uniform tenor of Mr Buchanan's public life, which through all its vicissitudes has never contracted so much as the stain of suspicion, are too preposterous to require formal refutation. But the absurdest rumor gains a sort of credibility from perpetual repetition. The following statement, for instance, having been propagated without denial, now circulates as accepted truth in the Opposition journals:

"The Senate Printing Investigating Committee is slowly progressing with their testimony. Yesterday some developments, regarding the election in Pennsylvania, were made. Mr Wendell, of the *Union*, says he distributed large sums for political purposes, especially when the public printing was under his charge; and that he received a letter from Mr Buchanan requesting him to expend $1,000 to defeat John Covode, which he refused to do."

The *States* says a more shameless calumny never originated in the malice of political foes.—Mr. Wendell has testified to no such charge; nor could he without committing the basest perjury. Indeed, the accusation is palpably false; since the person for whom Mr. Buchanan is represented to have employed his influence, was the opponent of his Administration or its leading measure.

☞ HON ELI THAYER, who voted against his Republican associates, in favor of the admission of Oregon, is not inclined to take the blows which his colleagues inflict upon him without some compliments of the same sort in return.—In his speech in the House of Representatives we find the following significant paragraph. We think somebody is hit by the plain language of the Hon. Member from Worcester:

"And, sir, I think this is a strange necessity which compels the Northern Representatives upon this floor to give the reasons for their votes for the admission of another free State into this confederacy. Sir, I shall vote for the admission of Oregon without hesitation, without reluctance, and without reserve. So far as my voice can go, I would extend to her such a welcome as becomes her history, as becomes her promise for the future, and such as becomes our own high renown for justice and magnanimity—a welcome not based on contemptible political calculation, or still more contemptible partisan expediency; but such a welcome as sympathy and friendship and patriotism should extend to another new State; such, sir, as becomes the birthday of a nation. This people comes before us in accordance with the forms of law, and upon the invitation of this House, and it is too late to apply a party test upon this question. On the 19th of May last a vote was taken in the Senate upon the admission of Oregon, and ten Republican Senators voted for her admission, while six Republican Senators only voted against her admission; and, sir, I have not heard of any attempt on the part of the six Senators who voted for the rejection of Oregon to read out of the Republican party the ten Senators who voted for her admission; and if that attempt is now to be made, we will see whether it is in the power of a minority of the people to read a majority out of the party."

DECREASED IMMIGRATION—ITS CAUSE.—On this subject the New York *Evening Post* furnishes a plausible and pretty well established theory for the great falling off in arrivals. The *Post* says:

"The tables published by the Secretary of State concerning the nationalities of immigrants from Europe to the United States during the last year, show a marked decrease as compared with former years. The reasons of this fact are various. One of them, and one which for years to come may prevail, we find in the law and permanent characteristics ruling the European immigration.

According to the tables, Germany and Ireland, forming together about fifty millions, are the principal sources from which have flowed hitherto to our shores the current of immigration.—The whole population of Europe consists of over two hundred and sixty millions, comprising three principal races. Out of them the Teutonic, including England, and the Celtic, from Scotland and Ireland, form the principal fountains of immigration, constituting in the aggregate, not more than eighty millions—less, in short, than a third of the entire European population. The tables show how altogether insignificant is the *immigration from the two other races*, and above all, the tribes from the eastern side, such as the Sclavic, Russian, including Wallachians, Moldaves, Belgrarians, Greeks, who amount to more than one hundred millions. Equally inconsiderable is the number of immigrants furnished by the Latin and Gallic race, forming near eighty millions in the European family.

The conclusion we draw from these facts is, that Germany and Ireland have sent to our shores the disposable surplus of their population; and that this surplus must therefore diminish yearly more and more. The other two members of the European family, composing more than two-thirds in number, seem for some reason or other not to manifest the same roving and migratory propensities but are more attached to their birthplaces or homes, and are not, in the future, likely to swell the population of America."

☞ THE NEXT PRESIDENCY.—The Albany *Argus* takes the position that the Democratic candidate for the next Presidency should be from some one of the Southern States.—*Exchange.*

And thereby the Albany *Argus* takes a very silly position. The location of the candidate, whether it is in the South, the North, the East, or the West, is a matter of very little moment. What we want is, first—is he true and tried; and second, is he available. With such qualifications we can defy the "opposition" let them take whatever shape they may. But if the question of locality is to decide, and sectional feeling is to usurp that of patriotism, then indeed may we doubt our success in 1860. No! no! the candidate should be not a southern man, nor yet a northern man, but a Union man!

PIKE'S PEAK—A CLEVELAND COMPANY AND A CLEVELAND STEAMBOAT GOING!—An enterprising party of Clevelanders are making arrangements to start for Pike's Peak about the middle of next April, by way of the Ohio Canal and the Ohio, Mississippi, Missouri and Kansas or Platte Rivers. They have chartered the staunch little steamer Niagara, which in Spring stages of water, will probably be able to run within one or two hundred miles of the celebrated Gold Diggings. Capt. Joseph Greenough, her owner and who will command her, is well posted in relation to the Western country, having run on the Maid of Ohio, the Red Rover and the Grey Eagle on several of the Western Rivers as far up as he could find MOIST GROUND, and on the dry land by a pair of dogs and wagon for want of a better team. He was at Iowa City in 1844 when there were only about half a dozen white inhabitants. It took about three weeks to make the trip, on account of obstructions in the river which they had to clear away. From this it will be seen that he is the man to undertake such an expedition. As soon as the organization of the company shall be completed, the boiler and machinery of the Niagara will be thoroughly overhauled and put in the best order, at the Cuyahoga Steam Furnace, and the boat will go into dry dock for thorough examination and repairs if any are found necessary. She is partially iron frame, which renders her stronger than any of the small boats on the Western Rivers.

But a limited number of persons will be admitted, and great care will be taken to admit into the company only persons of good character, as the projectors of the expedition adopt this plan as a means of selecting their company in preference to taking their chance in a promiscuous crowd, such as usually travel on the River Boats for that region.—*Cleveland Plain Dealer.*

The State Editorial Union.

This body met at Harrisburg on the 16th instant. The proceedings are too lengthy to be given *in extenso*, but we present the Report of the Business Committee, as a matter of general interest:

The Committee appointed at the last meeting of the Editorial Union held in the city of Philadelphia on the 1st day of October, 1858, to prepare business for the consideration of the present Convention, *beg leave to report*,

That the primary object of the Association is to create good fellowship between the members of the profession in Pennsylvania, and to promote the common interests and general welfare of the Editorial fraternity.

The very assembling of Editors at different points of the State on stated occasions, cannot fail to make them be acquainted with each other, and their private intercourse alone, at such times, will make them more familiar with the best modes of conducting newspapers and periodicals.

In addition to this, however, the Committee have thought that a public discussion while this body was in convention, might elicit still more important information in regard to many subjects connected with the business of printing and publishing, and they have therefore deemed it proper to state briefly several matters which in their judgment can be examined now or hereafter with decided advantage to the craft.

1. What means, if any, can be taken whereby the circulation of well conducted newspapers may be extended, and what is the best plan to be adopted to guard against losses and subscriptions.

2. Whether it is practical to adopt the cash system—what are its advantages and disadvantages, and whether such a system is as well adapted to the rural districts, as to the cities, where it is now in some cases in successful operation.

3. Whether it is practical, and if so, is it not to the best interests of printers and publishers who occupy the same locality to have a similar scale of prices for job work and advertising.

4. Advertising agencies—should they be encouraged? The evils and benefits of these agencies as now established? Whether this Union might not employ or appoint agents in the several cities to procure advertisement on better terms for publishers than they are now made for them.

5. Whether newspapers and the public are injured or benefitted by advertising the various nostrums or patent medicines now in use, or which are continually coming into use.

6. Whether encouragement may not be held out for the manufacture of a substantial and well constructed power press, especially designed for country newspapers, at a less price than those now offered by the best makers.

7. The teaching and proper education of apprentices in printing offices, so as to fit them to be, not only thorough mechanics, but practical editors of their own papers. What are the elements requisite for an editorial education?—What particular studies should it embrace as being most practical in the capacity of an editor? What should be the term of apprenticeship?

8. We assume that the profession is degraded and the public injured by the frequent personalities indulged in by the press, particularly when leveled at each other. Can they not be avoided in the main with decided advantage to the cause advocated? Do not opprobrious personalities amongst editors take away the just influence that every press should exercise in the community in which it is established?

9. What responsibility attaches to the editor for the sentiments of his correspondents? How far is he bound to publish communications at *his own expense*?

10. How far a political paper is justified in refusing to be controlled by the dictation of the political party whose views it advocates? If the press be the organ of a party, in what manner shall it arrive at the party will, and who is empowered to make known and dictate the principles and policy of the party under the circumstances which may from time to time arise? Is not the party press more or less in shackles to politicians, and should it not be more free?

11. Organization—what are its advantages to the press? What its dangers?

12. The code editorial—its origin—its benefits—its history—how far it is observed or recognized by the craft.

13. The ink roller.

14. What is the most approved system for collecting debts?

15. The postal system.

16. The secrets of the printing office, or the violation of professional confidence.

SINGULAR AND ATROCIOUS VILLIANY.—The dwelling of Henry Stowell, of Shutesbury, Mass., was entered on Monday night, Jan. 21st, by some desperate, revengeful villain, who stealthily proceeded to a bedroom in which Mr Stowell's daughter, Ellen, a young lady of 19 years, and another young lady were sleeping, in separate beds, administered to both sufficient chloroform to render them utterly helpless and unconscious. He then, says the Amherst *Express*, made several cuts with some sharp instrument upon the forehead of Miss Ellen, extending from the roots of the hair to the eyebrows, and also upon her chin. From these wounds the blood flowed freely, but they are not serious. He also made a gash of some three inches in length upon her breast, and probably committed other outrages.—On retiring, she had taken the rings from her fingers and placed them upon the table near her bed; these were found upon the floor, broken and useless. Her clothing of all kinds, as well as whatever else belonged to her, including even her papers which the villain obtained by breaking open her trunk, were carefully selected in the room where she slept, and also in adjoining rooms, and carried away. As other articles, many of them of value, belonging to other members of the family, were left undisturbed, it is obvious that personal revenge upon Miss Stowell was the object of the wicked depredator. Miss Stowell recovered her consciousness about daylight the following morning, and found her face and bed clothing covered with blood, and herself suffering greatly from her wounds. The family were at once aroused, and diligent search instituted, but no certain clew to the perpetrator had been discovered at last accounts, although the family have strong suspicions of the guilty one. The victim of this inhuman outrage is an intelligent young lady, of much amiability of character, greatly esteemed by all who knew her, and is not conscious of having made any one her enemy.

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.

The Times' correspondent says a gentleman recently returned from England, now in Washington, brings intelligence which he asserts can be relied on implicitly, to the effect that Great Britain, as long ago as last October, negotiated a secret treaty with Guatemala, by which she obtained absolute sovereignty over a portion of the territory formerly claimed by her, under cover of the right to cut dye-woods at Balize.

The Senate was engaged until midnight in an animated debate upon the political issues growing out of the unextinguishable Kansas question. The point under consideration was an amendment to the general appropriation bill, offered by Mr. Hale, to repeal the restrictive clause of the Kansas admission act.

All the democratic Senators whose political tenets are regarded as lacking in orthodoxy, availed themselves of the opportunity to define their positions.

The amendment was rejected by a vote of 19 to 27, and the bill finally passed.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—A caucus of democratic Senators was held yesterday, and it was agreed upon that no more private bills shall be passed. It was also decided to take up the Cuba bill on Friday, and continue in session until a vote is had.

Important Message from the President.

Protection to the Lives and Property of our Citizens Abroad.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The President today transmitted the following Message to Congress:

To the Senate and House of Representatives

The brief period which remains of your present session, and the great urgency and importance of legislative action before its termination for the protection of American citizens and their property whilst in transit across the Isthmus routes between our Atlantic and Pacific possessions, render it my duty again to recall this subject to your notice.

I have heretofore presented it in my Annual Messages, both of December, 1857, and December, 1858, to which I beg leave to refer. In the latter I state that the Executive Government of this country, in its intercourse with foreign nations, is limited to the employment of diplomacy alone. When this fails it can proceed further. It cannot legitimately resort to force without the direct authority of Congress, except in resisting and repelling hostile attacks. It would have no authority to enter the territories of Nicaragua, even to prevent the destruction of the transit, and protect the lives and property of our own citizens on their passage. It is true, on a sudden emergency of this character, the President would direct any armed force in the vicinity to march to their relief, but in doing this he would act upon his own responsibility. Under these circumstances I earnestly recommend to Congress the passage of an act authorizing the President, under such restrictions as they may deem proper, to employ the land and naval forces of the United States in preventing the transit from being obstructed or closed by lawless violence, and in protecting the lives and property of American citizens travelling thereupon, requiring at the same time that these forces shall be withdrawn the moment the danger shall have passed away. Without such a provision, our citizens will be constantly exposed to interference in their progress and to lawless violence. A similar necessity exists for the passage of such an act for the protection of Panama and the Tehuantepec routes.

Another subject equally important, commanded the attention of the Senate at the last session of Congress. The Republics south of the United States on this continent, have unfortunately been frequently in a state of revolution and civil war ever since they achieved their independence. As one or the other party has prevailed and obtained possession of the ports open to foreign commerce, they have seized and confiscated American vessels and their cargoes in an arbitrary and lawless manner, and exacted money from American citizens by fixed loans and other violent proceedings to enable them to carry on hostilities. The Executive governments of Great Britain, France and other countries, possessing the war-making power, can promptly employ the necessary means to enforce immediate redress for similar outrages upon their subjects. Not so the Executive Government of the United States. If the President orders a vessel of war to any of these ports to demand prompt redress for outrages committed, the offending parties are well aware that in case of refusal the commander could do no more than remonstrate. He can resort to no hostilities. The question must then be referred to diplomacy, and in many cases adequate redress can never be obtained. Thus American citizens are deprived of the same protection under the flag of their country which the citizens of other nations enjoy. The remedy for this state of things can only be supplied by Congress, since the Constitution has confided to that body alone the power to make war. Without the authority of Congress the Executive cannot lawfully direct any force, however near it may be at the scene of difficulty to enter the territory of Mexico, Nicaragua or New Grenada, for the purpose of defending the persons and property of American citizens, even though they may be violently assailed whilst passing in peaceful transit over the Tehuantepec, Nicaragua or Panama routes. He cannot, without transcending the Constitutional powers, direct a gun to be fired into a port or land a seaman or marine to protect the life of our countrymen on shore or to obtain redress for an outrage on their property. The banditti which invest our neighboring Republic of Mexico, always claiming to belong to one or the other of the hostile parties, might make a sudden descent on Vera Cruz or the Tehuantepec route, and he would have no power to employ the force on ship board in the vicinity, for their relief, either to prevent the plunder of our merchants or the destruction of the Transit. In reference to countries where the local authorities are strong enough to enforce the laws, the difficulty here indicated can seldom happen; but where this is not the case, and the local authorities do not possess the physical power, even if they possess the will, to protect our citizens within their limits, recent experience has shown that the American Executive should itself be authorized to render this protection. Such a grant of authority thus limited in its extent, could in no just sense be regarded as a transfer of the war making power to the Executive, but only as an appropriate exercise of that power by the body to whom it exclusively belongs. The riot at Panama, in 1856, in which a great number of our citizens lost their lives, furnishes a pointed illustration of the necessity which may arise for the exertion of this authority. I therefore earnestly recommend to Congress, on whom the responsibility exclusively rests, to pass a law before the adjournment conferring on the President the power to protect the lives and property of American citizens in the cases which I have indicated, under such restrictions and conditions as they may deem advisable. The knowledge that such a law exists would of itself go far to prevent the outrages which it is intended to redress, and render the employment of force unnecessary. Without this the President of the United States may be placed in a painful position before the meeting of the next Congress.—In the present disturbed condition of Mexico, and one or more of the other Republics South of us, no person can foresee what occurrences may take place before that period. In case of emergency, our citizens seeing that they do not enjoy the same protection with subjects of European governments, will have just cause to complain. On the other hand, should the Executive interfere, in especially should the result prove disastrous and valuable lives be lost, he might subject himself to severe censure for having assumed a power not conceded to him by the Constitution. It is to guard against this contingency that I now appeal to Congress.

Having thus recommended to Congress a measure I deem necessary and expedient for the interest and honor of the country, I leave the whole subject to their wisdom and discretion.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

AN ACT RELATING TO EVIDENCE.—Judge Bell, from the Judiciary Committee of our State Senate, has reported a bill relating to evidence, which is of great importance, as it proposes to alter, in at materially, the rules which heretofore have governed the admission of evidence in our State Courts. The *first* Section of the bill provides, that no person shall be excluded from testifying as a witness in any judicial proceeding by reason of his having been convicted of felony, after he shall have undergone the judgment inflicted for the same, or shall have been pardoned by the Executive. The *second*, enacts that no person shall be excluded from testifying as a witness in any such proceeding, by reason of any interest he may have in the event thereof, but *provides* that this section shall not apply to a party to the record, or any other for whose benefit the action may be brought—the *Third* declares, that when an assignee is examined as a witness in behalf of any person deriving title from him, the *adverse* party may be examined as a witness in his own behalf, but such assignee *shall not* be admitted to testify in behalf of any person deriving title through him, *against* an other assignee or executor or administrator, unless the original party thus represented is living, and his testimony can be procured nor unless reasonable notice of the intended examination shall be given in writing to the adverse party. Section *Four* provides, that a party to the record, or a person for whose benefit any suit is prosecuted, may be examined as if under cross examination, at the instance of the adverse party, but the party calling for such examination shall not be concluded by such testimony, but may rebut it by counter statements—by Section *Five* it is enacted that such examination may be had previous to the trial of the cause before any Judge of the proper Court or Commissioner appointed for the purpose, with such notice to the party to be examined as is now or may be hereafter prescribed by the rule of the proper Court, but the party to be examined shall not be compelled to attend in any county than that of his residence or where the proceeding may be pending. Section *Sixth* provides that a party in interest may testify in his own behalf as to any matter pertinent to the issue, if, however, he testify to any new matter, then the adverse party may be examined as a witness in his own behalf in respect to such new matter but responsive inquiries propounded by the adverse party. Section *Seventh* sets forth that a party may testify on behalf of his co-party plaintiff or defendant as to any matter in which he is not jointly interested or liable with such co-party and against which a several verdict and judgment may legally be rendered. Section *eight* provides that a party proposing to examine a party adverse in interest may have the same process and means of compelling attendance and response, as the law provides in the case of ordinary witnesses.

Senator Coffey, from Indiana, has introduced a bill relating to the same subject. Its provisions are substantially the same, with the exception that the bill from the Judiciary Committee provides that the plaintiff can only be examined under cross examination, while Mr Coffey's bill enacts that a plaintiff may be examined as a witness in his own behalf; but if he does so, then the party in interest may offer himself as a witness and shall be received. The provisions of these bills are highly important, and they should receive the most profound attention from those who are called to act upon them.—*Pennsylvanian.*

PROLAPSUS UTERI.—This prevalent disease is manifestly one of general and local debility, and requires for its alleviation the alterative and tonic virtues of iron. The PERUVIAN SYRUP offers this element in the only form in which it can enter the blood. Its administration is safe, certain, and free from the disagreeable effects of other preparations of iron.

☞ The defalcation of Oscar F. Fields, the absconding teller of the Atlantic Bank, Brooklyn, will amount to $60,000. Gambling was the cause.

☞ CONSTABLE.—We are requested to announce J. CALDWELL, as a candidate for Constable, in the 2d ward, at the election in March.

Erie, Feb. 26, 1859.

☞ A CARD.—It having come to the knowledge of the undersigned, that many of the good people of this vicinity, have got the impression that Dr A. C. Amsden is self are one and the same individual, I therefore take occasion of informing all such persons, and the public at large, that such is not the fact, as they may easily satisfy themselves by calling at No 38 Brown