THE ERIE OBSERVER.

B. F. SLOAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1859.

News of the Week.

Later news from California and the South American States has been received in New York. Some of the information is interesting.

Ecuador is represented to be in a deplorable state, every branch of industry at a dead lock, and her principle port blockaded by a Peruvian fleet. Peru is big with insurrection, though for the present, matters were quiet. The French legation had ceased its intercourse with the government on account of the illegal imprisonment of a Frenchman. Chili is in a state of revolution. The Southern Provinces are in arms, and martial law prevails everywhere. The alleged confirmation of Casa-Yrizzari treaty with Nicaragua announced shortly since, is doubted. The English treaty was accorded a confirmation, but the American had not yet been ratified at the latest dates. It is said that the French have secured a treaty similar to that obtained by Sir W. G. Ouseley. The news we have from the Paraguay expedition indicates its departure for Asuncion on the last day of last year. Before leaving Montevideo, Mr. Bowlin and Com. Shubrick applied to the government of Uruguay for some place of deposit for coal, and for permission to land some of the troops. Both requests were denied. The Commissioner expected but to remain a few hours at Buenos Ayres. The Paraguayans, assisted by several British officers, had placed their river in so thorough a state of defence that it was believed to be impossible for the Americans to even effect an entrance from the Parana. The President, however, was said to be ready to concede any reasonable demand of our Commissioner. At Montevideo much excitement had been produced by the haste of government in its preparations for war. Without external enemy, or observable danger from internal outbreak, it was mustering and equipping men; and the moment the steamer sailed, the troops were kept under arms night and day. From California we have intelligence of further Indian troubles in the Mohave country. A battle between the 49th Dragoons and the Indians resulted in a repulse of the latter with 10 killed, and no loss on our side. Gen. Clarke will take the field with 600 men, and teach the red-skins a practical lesson.

— By passengers from Lebanon, Ky., the Louisville *Courier* learns of a most distressing affair which occurred near that place. Miss Susan Shuck, daughter of John Shuck, Esq., was to have been married to Mr. John Thomas at 12 o'clock. But a few minutes prior to the time the ceremony was to be performed her dress accidentally caught on fire, and the wedding dress, which was of a thin material, was instantly in a blaze, and the young lady was fatally burned. Her sister, Mrs. Burr Harrison, in her efforts to save her, fired her own dress, and was, perhaps, even more severely burned. There is but little hope of her recovery, it is feared. Mr. Shuck, and other members of the family, who also tried to relieve the young lady from her perilous situation, were burned, but not seriously. The scene was terrifying beyond the expression of language. The bride was badly burnt from the waist up, and the hair badly burned from her head.—After her wounds were dressed, and while she lay upon her couch, suffering the intensest agony, the marriage ceremony was performed. Rooms had been prepared at the National Hotel, in Louisville, for the bridal party, and they were to leave by the evening train.

— A number of Italian vagrants are under arrest in Pittsburg, charged with soliciting aid under false pretences. They carry forged papers, setting forth their claims upon the sympathy of the public. The Mayor learned from an intelligent and respectable Italian that there is a regular system, which has its head quarters in New York, by which this swindling is carried on. There these papers are printed by cart-loads. The chiefs have the whole United States districted off, and solicit consignments of Italian beggars, to whom they farm out counties at so much per cent. on the collections made. The moneys collected are deposited to the credit of the depositor, and then sent on to an Italian banker in New York, whose name we do not know. From there it is taken by the beggar, when he gets as much as he wants, to Italy, where he invests it to suit himself. The above and other similar facts having appeared, Mayor Weaver thought it best not to let it off according to their request, so he bundled them all off to jail for ten days each, as vagrants.

— We find the following, under date of the 8th, in the Lawrence correspondent of the Leavenworth *Times*:—"Council bill to abolish and prohibit slavery was then taken up, with only two hours to insure the Governor's signature or compel him to return it. None like it has occurred this session. The friends of the House admitted that Council bill was not what they wanted in all respects, but that Dr. Root should not be allowed to carry their bill in his pocket for four weeks as the confidential agent of the Governor, for the purpose of defeat. The most persistent efforts were made to prevent final action by a few members; but the matter was passed through, and a final vote was taken at 11 P. M., when, by a large majority, slavery was abolished and forever prohibited in the Territory of Kansas."

— Richard Randolph, a cousin of John Randolph of Roanoke, died in Miami township, Ohio, on the 31st of January. The deceased, who was as eccentric as his more celebrated cousin, was an old bachelor, and had resided on the Randolph tract, Ohio, for twenty five years. He leaves a property, mostly in land, valued at $80,000, to be expended in the purchase and freedom of the slaves now owned in the Randolph family, and those, with those offspring, formerly owned in the Randolph family, which slaves are to be set free; and if the estate is not exhausted in this purchase, the balance is to be applied to the use and benefit of said slaves.

— At Cumminsville, near Buffalo, on Saturday night, a man entered the graveyard, removed a corpse from a grave, and placed it in a sack. In leaving the graveyard he was compelled to climb a high fence, and the feat was undoubtedly difficult with the dead weight the resurrectionist carried. It would seem that the man had placed the cord of the sack over his shoulders that he might climb the easier, the sack hanging at his back. At any rate, he was found in the morning, dead—hanging by the neck on one side of the fence and the pendant corpse on the other.

— Governor Morgan, of New York, appears to be a very sensible man. Seeing the growing evil of asking pardons for convicted criminals, he has issued a circular to all the Prisons and Penitentiaries of the State, cautioning them against signing, or making in person, applications for pardon of convicts under their charge. He gives them very distinctly to understand that all such petitions from them will be returned, and that any interference of this kind, on their part, will be prejudicial to those whom they are designed to serve. This is proper and right. All violators of law, when proven guilty, should be made to suffer its penalties.

— The *Pennsylvanian* says some time since, Mr. Michael Brady, residing in Washington street, above Jefferson, in the Seventeenth ward, was bitten by a white pet fox, at Point Breeze. At that time nothing serious was expected to result from the bite. Recently, however, Mr. Brady was attacked with quite a serious illness, and exhibited unmistakable symptoms of hydrophobia. On Thursday evening he suffered the most intense agonies, and his attending physician stated that death must speedily terminate his tortures.

— A great row agitates Quincy, Ill. A man named Henry H. Johnson, was murdered at a house of infamy by Thomas Cassidy, the keeper, and a young man named Thornton, who have been committed for trial. As soon as the examination was concluded before the Coroner a number of boys and men proceeded to the house of Cassidy and "riddled" it inside and out. They then proceeded to other houses of ill-fame, "cleaning out" ten of them, and burning one to the ground

— Mrs. Lee, an aged lady of Columbus, Ohio, has secured the arrest of a mulatto named William Folley on the ground that he has destroyed her happiness, by marrying her daughter Mary Ann, a very pretty white girl. She declared that the man made oath to the effect that the girl was eighteen years of age, when she was but sixteen. The girl, however, appears to be satisfied with her Folley, and is determined not to abandon her lord.

— A terrible steamboat explosion occurred at Conrad's Point near Baton Rouge, above New Orleans, on Saturday morning last. The steamboat Princess from Vicksburg to New Orleans was blown up. Four hundred persons were on board, of whom two hundred are lost and missing, mostly residents of Mississippi and Louisiana. A large number of ladies were on board, filling the ladies' and part of the gentlemens' cabin.

— The number of penitentiary convicts, in the western part of the State, is gradually increasing. There are now incarcerated in the Western Penitentiary, two hundred and twenty-three convicts—a higher number than ever before embraced within its walls.

— The case of Mrs. Allison at Pittsburg who sued Miss Mills and Mrs. Bratt for slander, in charging her with unchaste conduct, has resulted in a verdict of $1,125 for plaintiff.

— President Geffrard, the new ruler of Hayti, was inaugurated on the 23d of January, and took the customary oath of office. If he keeps the oath, the people will probably let him alone.

A CARD.

To such of the readers of this paper as may chance to read the gross libel spoken of, which appeared in a disreputable paper in this city last week, we address this card. The source from whence that story comes is well known to us—it is the concoction of a couple of villians who attempted to swindle us out of our interest in the *Observer* printing establishment—failed in that, however, by the legal resistance to wrong of Judges GALBRAITH and DERICKSON; they have resorted to this course to revenge themselves. The character of the sewer through which the falsehood finds its way to the public ear, precludes all reply. We never have, and never shall, lower ourself to the level of replying to anything from that source. Having associated with gentlemen thus far in life we cannot now stoop to notice a vagabond and loafer. But, if we have any subscribers upon our Books who believe this tale, they will confer a special favor upon us by ordering their papers discontinued. We don't want a man who believes the libel to read a paper we publish. As for the charge itself, it is simply FALSE! That there can be a witness produced, ready to perjure himself, we do not doubt, but that any genuine paper, connecting our name with such a transaction even in the remotest degree, can be produced, we emphatically deny. We never signed nor never saw such a paper. We never had a word of conversation with a Director of the Erie and North East Railroad Company, nor any other Railroad Company, upon the subject. We never received a dollar of money from them for any such purpose.

Thus much we have deemed due to such friends in the country who may not be posted as to the source from whence the falsehood emanates, nor the motive of its propagation. Here in the city it is laughed at as the impotent ravings of a couple of foiled scoundrels, who having received favor after favor at our hands, are now enacting the part of the serpent warmed in the bosom of its benefactor.

PROTECTION TO AMERICAN CITIZENS ABROAD.

We laid before our readers last week the message of the President, asking that means be placed in his hand during the recess of Congress to enable him to protect our rights as a nation abroad. All have doubtless read that paper ere this, and also the strictures of the opposition presses upon its suggestions. Many of those strictures are not only severe, but unjust in the highest degree. In saying this we hope we lay aside all partisan feelings in the case. Were Mr. BUCHANAN ten times the Republican he is a Democrat, we would cheerfully give him countenance in the proposed measure. It is one which the exigency of the times demands, and which, if the country could for a brief period be divested of the curse of partisanship, would receive an affirmative response at the hands of the entire country. What is it that the President asks? Nothing more nor less than that his hands may be strengthened so that he can protect the lives and property of our citizens in their transet through the territories of the South American States on the routes to our Pacific possessions. Is there an American citizens, be he a Democrat or a Republican, who does not desire this should be done? But, say the opposition, this would be conferring upon the Executive the War Making Power, and this would never do. We think it would be conferring no such thing. It would only be placing in his hands means of defense and redress, to be used in case it became necessary through the bad faith and treachery of the imbecile and worthless governments of the South American States. As it now stands, in case the transet routes are obstructed, as they have been, and our citizens are murdered and their property pillaged by the half civilized savages of those countries, the only means of redress is that of diplomacy. This may be sufficient with a civilised nation, but it will hardly avail with the half savages of South America. They understand and appreciate the diplomacy of the rifle and the musket better. They only know that you are in earnest when they find their towns bombarded, and the grape and canister of forcible "diplomacy" rattling about their ears. In short, our flag and our commerce can never be respected and protected in the States alluded to until the Executive is authorized to resort to force first and "diplomacy" afterwards. Thus much by way of introducing to our readers the following well timed and judicious remarks upon this subject from the columns of the Philadelphia *Journal*, a paper by no means a partisan of the Administration. After adverting to the too common practice of looking at all measures in a merely partisan point of view, the *Journal* says:

"This mode of passing judgment on the conduct of a ministry, is prolific of evil, and it forms, in our opinion, one of the most serious sources of official recklessness and perversity in our government. We are specially prompted to make this remark, at this time, by what we consider the disengenuous manner in which the President has been charged with bad motives, in his late message to Congress. That document was a plain and reasonable appeal to the legislature, for a most necessary provision against probable or possible contingencies, in which the lives and property of American citizens might require the protection of the military forces of the republic. Such exigencies had arisen repeatedly, and great and grievous wrong had been suffered because there was no power to prevent or avenge it on the spot. This absence of any actual defence against outrage done to Americans, when beyond the jurisdiction of their country, has long been a standing complaint on their part, and a humiliating reproach to the government. In every one of the instances in which a naval commander upon a foreign station has been called on to interpose on behalf of his countrymen against violence or injustice of any kind, he has either declined to do so, on the ground that his authority was deficient, or he has dared to take the responsibility under a fear of reprehension and disgrace at home. The consequence is, that the subjects of no government are so unprotected when abroad, and so abused and insulted without sufficient redress, as those of the United States, and an American citizen, when in foreign lands, suffers the mortifying consciousness that, however his personal or political rights may be invaded, the representatives of his nation are powerless to afford him prompt and effectual relief. It was to obtain provision against this shameful weakness of our government, in an extraordinary exigency that Mr. Buchanan asked Congress to strengthen his hands during their approaching recess. He saw that, in the unsettled and turbulent state of affairs on the Isthmus, and the actual inability of the authorities of the Central American States to enforce respect for their own laws and the laws of nations, our citizens would probably be exposed, without defence, to spoliation and even massacre, and he desired, very humanely and patriotically, as we think, to have some better resource against such an emergency than that of calling Congress together from the extremities of the Union, to declare war upon the aggressors. The language in which he explained the reasons that impelled him in the matter, and the request itself, were too explicit and intelligible to be misunderstood. His obvious purpose was not only a harmless, inoffensive one, but it was eminently judicious and benevolent. But partisan enmity wilfully misconstrued it. In seeking simply to give to American citizens sojourning in, or passing through certain foreign territories, a more immediate protection from violence than they would otherwise enjoy, he has been accused of coveting the war-making power with a view to provoke or originate hostilities with friendly States, and denounced as entertaining the ambition of a military despot.—Having read the message carefully and without prejudice, we confess that we cannot discover in it anything that should either alarm Congress for the security of its prerogatives, or the public for the safety of their liberties. A state paper, however, may be very differently interpreted, according to the light in which it is seen, and we are not surprised that the recent message of Mr. Buchanan is regarded as atrocious when beheld through the jaundiced vision of his political enemies."

— The Cincinnati *Press* says that the caloric engine by which their paper is worked off, is a permanent success. It runs Hoe's lightning double cylinder press, throwing off three thousand impressions an hour, and the expense for fuel is only a cent and a half an hour.

"A KIND LETTER OF GREETING."

We hope our readers will not accuse us of egotism in inserting the following letter in our columns. It was not, perhaps, designed for publication, but as the writer is one of the most learned and eloquent clergymen in New England, and has known us personally and intimately for many years, we have thought that his "kind words of greeting" may not inappropriately be given as an offset to the gross slanders with which our return to the chair editorial has been greeted by our few malignant enemies. It is a pleasure to know that the friendship and esteem formed in boyhood with the writer of this letter has been cemented and continued in riper years, and that although our paths in life have run in separate channels, there is no such separation in our sentiments, political or otherwise. And here, *en passant*, let us add, that our clerical friend's caution is timely. In the heat of political strife the Editor is apt too often to forget that there may be honorable, and high minded, and christian men in every party, sect, or profession. The fact that three thousand New England clergymen pronounced a maladiction upon the Democratic party for the passage of the Nebraska bill, should not blind our eyes to the other fact stated by him, that "not all Calvanistic, or Congregational, or Presbyterian, or Baptist, or Methodist clergymen are disloyal to our Union." We know they are not. We know many, very many, who, although differing widely with the principles of the party we are identified with, would scorn to use the name and influence of their high and sacred calling to the base purposes of political demagogues. We know others, like the writer of this letter, who see with us in the Democratic organization, covered as all such organizations more or less must be with the filth of party corruption and blurred with the angry passions of over heated partisans, the great lever of civilization and progress on this continent.—They see that whatever has been accomplished for this country in the past has been by the measures, and through the efforts of the statesmen of the Democratic party; and seeing this they are willing, though walking humbly in the path of their choice, to give their voice, not in noisy acclaim, but in quiet approval, to the advancement of the ends and aims of that party. Of this class is the writer of this letter. All honor to such men. The friendship of one of them compensates for the wounds of a thousand arrows, hurled by the hand of envy and poisoned with the venum of malignity:

W.——Mass. Feb. 23, 1859.

DEAR FRIEND SLOAN:—I have just read your announcement in the *Observer* of Feb. 19, with feelings of sincere gratification. "Richard is himself again," and I am right glad of it.—Washington's Birth Day, which is just past, and which has been celebrated in New England with a zest unknown for the last fifty years, reminds one of the "entangling alliances" to which you and I and others are exposed.

My present communication has two objects in view. First, to congratulate you and the Democracy of Western Pennsylvania on the continuance of the *Erie Observer* as a National Democratic Paper—one which sustains government, and law, and order generally, both at home and abroad. Border ruffianism, wherever found, is to be rebuked. The rights of the people, *legally expressed*, are to be maintained at all hazards.—The forms of law are to be observed. Civil errors are to be corrected by civil means. Moral errors by moral means. Caesar's kingdom is not to be governed by the laws of Christ's kingdom. The Constitution of the United States as it is, and not as it ought to be, is the present rule of political conduct. The disloyal, unfraternizing citizen is brother to the traitor. True patriotism merges the private into the public good.—True philanthropy regards the white man and the black and the red man alike. Nor is the Chinese or Irishman to be disfranchised. Our brethren of the Teutonic Stock are to be gladly welcomed to our shores and homes furnished them on our national domain. Sectionalism is to be guarded against, while the rights not vested in the central government remain with the several state governments respectively and are to be sacredly observed. These are the principles of the *Observer* and of yourself during your political career.

My second object in writing is to administer a word of caution in respect to your treatment of the profession to which I belong. Not all calvinistic, or congregational, or Presbyterian, or Baptist, or Methodist clergymen are disloyal to our Union. The political preachers of all persuasions are. Those who preach Christ and his Cross in the true spirit of their office meddle as little in politics as our Saviour did in the midst of Roman despotism. The noisy political preachers of the day are not true exponents of the religion of all the fraternity. Those who feed upon the spiced poisons weekly served up in the *Independent* and *Tribune* have no patience with the wholesome diet of the Sacred Scriptures.—Fanaticism and political hate form no part of the true Christian character. Love is the fulfillment of the law. My caution is simply this. That in the heat of attack upon those christians militant, you distinguish between friends and foes. You may set it down as a safe general rule that those clergymen who read the *New York Observer* are good and loyal citizens. You never hear them denouncing their brethren for thinking differently from themselves. These are not the ones who pour their vials of wrath upon the President, or Constitution or Congress. They are not found using contemptuous epithets and shameless abuse towards the Supreme Court of the United States, the most dignified and august tribunal in christendom.

Trusting that you will ever prove faithful to your present high position and that the true *democracy* will rally around you with fresh enthusiasm and sustain your hands and encourage your heart I subscribe myself, Your Friend.

G.

THE BOUNDARIES OF OREGON.—The act of Admission defines the boundaries of this new State to the ocean on the west, the Columbia River to its intersection with the 46th parallel, and that parallel on the north; the Snake River to the annexe of the Owyhee, and a line due south from that point on the east, and the 43d parallel on the south.

The area thus designed covers a trifle more than a half of Oregon Territory; in square miles about 115,000; a surface far exceeding that of any of the older States yet falling very much short of the extent either of California or of Texas. Kansas, if admitted, would bring with it an area greater by 21,000 square miles, than that of Oregon.

A HOUSE FULL.—The St. Charles Hotel at New Orleans, for the first time since it was erected, was brimful on the 8th ult., and not a bed to spare—containing the large amount of eleven hundred and sixty nine guests. A small town.

FROM HARRISBURG.

(Correspondence of the Observer.)

HARRISBURG, MARCH 1, 1859.

MR. EDITOR:—March certainly came in like a lamb this morning, let it go out like whatever other beast it may. The sun is shining clear and bright, and although there is a little snow left in spots, the weather is mild and spring like. While all is so joyous and bright, in the Capitol of the Keystone State, the scene is far different at the Capitol of the Nation. There a gloom is impending that no sun be it ever so bright can cheer. To-day all that is now left of an able lawyer, a man of brilliant talents, and a shining light in the fashionable circles of the city of magnificent distances, who less than forty-eight hours ago, was life, hope and animation, will be consigned to the narrow house appointed for all. A gray haired, fond mother, will take from the gay and fashionable scenes, where she fell so low, her ruined, disgraced and heart broken daughter, while in a gloomy cell of a dreary prison, may be seen the emaciated face of the brain racked and heart tortured Sickles, who, in a moment of frenzied madness, to avenge his wounded honor, hurried, all unprepared before his Maker, the immortal spirit of P. Barton Key. The details of this fearful tragedy show the moral corruption in Washington, where so much political dishonesty is constantly being carried on. It is a sickening theme to contemplate, and as you will receive the full particulars from other sources, I will leave it.

In the way of legislation here this winter, the record will bear me out in saying, that two months of the session have been consumed, and very little, if any business of a general character has been transacted. On Friday last the appropriation bill went through the Committee of the Whole in the House, but when it comes up on second reading there will no doubt be various amendments offered, and any amount of speech-making indulged in. The House some time since passed a resolution fixing the final adjournment on the 15th inst., but has since then discovered this date was slightly previous, and an effort was made yesterday afternoon to fix a later day. The motion to reconsider the resolution naming the 15th carried, but before another date could be agreed upon, the hour of adjournment arrived, and no time was settled upon. Young members of the House frequently indulge in the buncombe flourish of advocating early adjournments, in the beginning of the session, to show their constituents that they are very anxious to save time and money, but I have always noticed that they were just as willing as any one else to draw their pay and lengthy mileage.

This being private bill day, the House this morning took up bills in their order, which were not disposed of on the last day; among which was one to charter a bank at Lewiston, Mifflin county. Pending the consideration of which, the hour of 1 o'clock having arrived, the House adjurned until 3 this afternoon. In the afternoon the bank bill was again taken up, and passed finally by a decided vote. It still has to go through the Senate and be signed by the Governor, so that the danger of having another rag-mill opened is not at all alarming, as it is pretty well understood that the Senate and the Governor are both opposed to such institutions.

"An act relative to foreign insurance companies in the county of Erie," has just been passed to second reading, and will doubtless go through, but will not be reached again to day. It provides, I believe, to treat foreign companies that may wish to locate in your region, more liberally than has been the case heretofore, especially in the way of taxes.

Your members, Messrs LAIRD and CAMPBELL, are ever watchful of the interests of their constituents. Mr Laird, especially, seems to understand the ropes, and bids fair to make a very useful representative. He is a young man of decided ability, of pleasing address, and is admirably calculated to make friends wherever he goes. The people of Erie county will show their good sense by continuing him here, as long as he is willing to come. He has not yet made a set speech, but has on several occasions addressed the chair briefly, in such a way as to show all that when he deems it proper to do so, his constituents will have no reason to be ashamed of him in that respect. As matters transpire worthy of note, I will try and drop you a few lines once a week, during the balance of the session. Yours, truly, JIM

☞ Elsewhere we give an account of the startling tragedy at Washington, in which Hon. Daniel Sickles, member of Congress from New York, shot Philip Barton Key, U. S. District Attorney for the District of Columbia, on Sunday afternoon. The particulars are taken from the Washington correspondence of the N. Y. *Tribune*, a paper that would not be likely to give the matter a coloring in favor of Mr. Sickles. If the facts are as stated, there are few who will blame Mr. Sickles. Certainly if anything can justify or palliate the taking of human life, the offence of which Key is accused would. That a high minded man should slay the destroyer of his happiness, the invader of his domestic rights, the seducer of her whom he had sworn to love and protect, is not to be wondered at—is it not rather to be approved, for courts afford no adequate redress for such a crime? What a fearful load of responsibility and shame rests upon the guilty woman who has been a principal instrument in this tragedy. Her conduct was as perfidious and shameful as its consequences have been terrible and ignominious. It is heart-sickening to read the particulars of this degrading prostitution in high life. In all such cases we are almost inclined to believe the revolver is the most speedy avenger and most effective remedy. When unprincipled and licentious men are assured that their criminal assaults upon domestic peace and purity will imperil their lives, they may learn to respect the sanctity of wedlock and refrain from their work of ruin, and not till then.

FAILURE OF WESTERN FRUIT TREES.—Lewis Ellsworth, one of the most successful and intelligent fruit growers in Illinois, says in a communication to the *Prairie Farmer*, that the loss in fruit trees in our State within the last three years, is millions of dollars—and is attributed to the cold winters and dry summers. But he asserts that to a great extent this result has arisen from their standing unprotected in a soil underlaid with a retentive clayey loam subsoil, which characterizes most of the prairie lands. He has adopted the pratice of ridging his land, by repeated plowings commencing at the same ridges and ending at the same furrows, and where nursery trees were formerly thrown out by freezing, since ridging they stand throughout the winter without injury, and make a better growth in the summer. He recommends the ridging system for all orchards, each row of trees being placed on the center of the ridge.

—The steamer Quaker City was burned at the wharf at Nashville, Tenn., on the 17th inst.

DREADFUL AFFAIR AT WASHINGTON.

From Special Correspondence of The Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27, 1859.

This city has been thrown into an unusual state of excitement this afternoon by the shooting of Philip Barton Key, United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, by Daniel E. Sickles Member of Congress from the IIId District in New York, resulting in the almost instant death of the former. The circumstances, as I have learned them from the parties on both sides, including Mr. Sickles, with whom I have had an interview in the District Jail, are as follows:

For more than a year there have been floating rumors of improper intimacy between Mr. Key and Mrs. Sickles. They have from time to time attended parties, the opera, and rode out together. Mr. Sickles has heard of these reports, but would never credit them until Thursday evening last. On that evening, just as a party was about breaking up at his house, Mr. Sickles received among his papers an anonymous letter. Without opening his mail, or knowing the contents of the letter, he accompanied his wife to a hop at Willard's. On his return home at midnight, Mr. Sickles opened the anonymous letter, which informed him of the infidelity of his wife, of her intimacy with Mr. Key, and stating all the details of the manner of their meeting, and naming the place of rendezvous. The letter was so plausible in its statements, and gave such precise directions for the detection of the parties in their assignation meetings that Mr. Sickles decided to investigate the facts. Accordingly he placed the letter in the hands of two of his most intimate friends, who last evening possessed themselves of the evidence satisfactory to Mr. Sickles that Mr. Key had rented a house of a negro in Fifteenth street, which he used as a place of rendezvous with Mrs. Sickles.

This morning, being in great agony of mind, Mr. Sickles, in the presence of two witnesses, charged his wife with having had illicit intercourse with Mr. Key. At first Mrs. Sickles declared her innocence. Mr. Sickless then paraded before her the evidence of her guilt. She became overwhelmed with the sudden arraignment, and fainted, and finally confessed her guilt. Mr. Sickles was not satisfied with the verbal confession, but desired Mrs Sickles to make the confession in writing. She complied. She also informed him how often Mr. Key had been in the habit of seeing her, and his mode of telegraphing to her by a wave of his handkerchief when he wanted her to come out.

Mr. Sickles' residence is No. 7 President's square, in view of the Jackson statue, which is opposite the White House. In full view of Mr Sickle's residence, on the other side of the square, Fifteen and a-half street, is the Washington Club-House, where Mr. Key frequented, and from the windows of which Mrs. Sickles says he was in the habit of telegraphing her with his white handkerchief. If Mr. Sickles was absent, she was in the habit of returning the signal.

About 2 o'clock to-day Mr. Sickles saw Mr. Key come out of the Club House and go round the square and walk past his (Sickle's) house two or three times. He made the signal for Mrs Sickles once or twice, when Mr. Sickles, arming himself with a five-bore six-inch revolver and two single-barrel Derringers, which carry a ball each double the size of the revolvers, went out of his house and walked down past the President's, and met Mr. Key. The latter greeted the former, and was about offering him his hand, when Mr. Sickles, refusing to take Mr. Key's hand, said, "Sir, you have dishonored me; prepare to die!" Mr. Key started back a few feet, exclaiming, "What for? What for? Don't! don't!" and made a movement as if seeking for a weapon in his left breast, but which proved to be an opera glass, which he threw at Sickles. Mr. Sickles then drew one of his Derringers and shot Mr. Key, who staggered some; Mr. Sickles shot at Mr. Key again, with his second Derringer, which sent him reeling against a tree; he cried out "murder," when Mr. Sickles fired a third time, from his revolver, and Mr. Key fell. Mr Sickles, believing him dying, desisted, and did not fire again.

Mr. Samuel F. Butterworth, Superintendent of the Assay Office, New York, was conversing with Mr. Key when Mr. Sickles came up, and witnessed the affair, and then went with Mr Sickles to the office of District Attorney General Black. He expressed a desire to surrender himself, and accordingly sent for the Mayor, the Marshal of the District being absent, and, in company with that magistrate, rode in his carriage to the District Jail, where he has been visited by a large number of his friends, from different sections of the country, all of whom expressed great sympathy for Mr Sickles.

After learning the facts, Mr Sickles conversed freely on the subject, and justifies himself. He said to me, "He has dishonored me, and we could not live together on the same planet."

Since writing the above, I learn that after Mrs Sickles confessed her guilt, her husband demanded her to return to him her wedding ring, and desired her to write to her father to send for her and take her in charge. Her father is Antio Bagioli, an Italian music master in New York City, where he has resided about thirty years.—Her mother's name was Cook, and was born in New York.

Mr. Sickles married his wife when she was but sixteen years of age. He took her to England with him when he was Secretary of Legation under Mr. Buchanan; introduced her to the Queen; carried her to the Continent and introduced her into the most fashionable society. Mr Sickles loved her with great devotion, and lavished all his means upon her. They lived in elegant style here, occupying a house of $3,000 rent.—Mrs. Sickles rode in a splendid carriage with outriders; wore jewels to the value of $5,000, and seemed to want nothing that she did not have.

Immediately after the shooting, the body of Mr. Key was picked up and conveyed into the Club-House, from which he was in the habit of telegraphing to Mrs. Sickles.

One shot took effect in the groin, the ball passing through the body to the skin at the back, where it remains. Another entered the right chest, and the third grazed the skin immediately outside where the first ball lodged.

A coroner's inquest was held, and a verdict returned that "Mr. Key came to his death by two balls fired from pistols in the hands of Daniel E. Sickles, and that either would prove fatal."

Mr. Key is nephew of Judge Taney, and brother-in-law of Mr. Pendleton, Member of Congress from Ohio. The father of Mr. Key was the author of "The Star Spangled Banner." Key and Sickles were both the intimate friends of the President.

As Mr. Sickles has killed the District-Attorney, it will be necessary for the President to appoint another to fill his place.

An attempt will be made to-morrow to issue a writ of habeas corpus, and bring Mr. Sickles before Judge Crawford, in the hope to release him on bail.

Mr Key's friends are quite indignant, and talk about shooting Mr. Sickles at sight.

Mr. Sickles will be examined to-morrow.

It is stated that Mr. Butterworth, who was in conversation with Mr. Key when Mr. Sickles came up, was in the house of the latter immediately before the shooting affair happened.

Mr. Sickles has one daughter six years old, and Mr. Key leaves four motherless children, one a daughter about fifteen years of age.

The affair creates a good deal of excitement.

(From the Correspondence of the Press.)

WASHINGTON, Feb 28.

Last Thursday evening Mr. Sickles received a bundle of letters addressed to himself. Among them was an anonymous communication, which he either overlooked or did not open until Friday morning. This letter charged infidelity to her marriage vow on the part of Mrs. Sickles, and stated further that Mr. Key had hired a house on Fifteenth street, between K and L streets; that Mr. Key's motive in hiring this dwelling was for the purpose of meeting Mrs. Sickles; and that Mrs. Sickles was in the habit of visiting Mr. Key at certain hours in the day.

Mr. Sickles was, as would naturally be supposed, at first inclined to treat the anonymous firebrand as the work of malice. But the circumstances being detailed with such precision, his suspicions were aroused, and accordingly he requested Mr George W. Wooldridge, a mutual friend of himself and his lady, to ascertain the truth or falsehood of these assertions, affecting, as they did, his own honor and that of his family.

Mr. Wooldridge undertook the mission, and visited the neighborhood indicated in the anonymous missive, to see whether such a house had been let last summer, and under what circumstances the lease had been granted. He there learned that Mr. Key had hired such a dwelling, at the time alleged. The landlord was a colored man named John Gray, who stated that he received fifty dollars a month rent for his house, he having furnished it, &c. The house was a two story brick; no one else occupied it. Mr. Key commenced going there with Mrs. Sickles in the month of January last; Key generally entered first; and going up stairs, would hoist the first window over the door, and hang out a towel or a white handkerchief as a signal to Mrs. Sickels that all was clear. He then would leave the door ajar for Mrs. Sickles to enter.

The last time Mrs. Sickles and Key had been at this house was on Wednesday the 23d ultimo. On that occasion they entered in the back way, through an alleyway leading from Sixteenth street.

On this Wednesday night there came along a man closely muffled in a shawl. He asked a colored woman standing on the pavement whether the house was then occupied or not?

"Yes, sir," was the response.

"Very well, that's all I want," the mysterious gentleman replied, and turning around, walked away in the direction of K. street.

He was observed, however, to hang around the neighborhood a good part of the evening. Eventually Key was seen to leave the dwelling, and the stranger muffling his face still closer, spoke a few words to Key and then hurried off. It is supposed by many that he was the author of the anonymous letter.

Mr. Sickles knew of an intimacy existing between Mr. Key and his wife. He supposed it simply an innocent but incautious flirtation, and, on account of the scandal that it excited in many circles, he remonstrated with her. She did not pay any heed to these entreaties of her husband, but continued uninterruptedly her singular, but (by her husband) unsuspected intercourse. Key was known to be in the habit of attending the theatre, opera, balls, soirees, and other places of gaiety and fashion, and was almost invariably accompanied by Mrs. Sickles. He, indeed, followed her everywhere.

It is said that Key was accustomed to boast of his attentions in this quarter, and that at the National Club House the criminal intercourse between himself and Mrs. Sickles was well known, and formed the topic of conversation.

Mr Sickles dwelling was opposite the Club House, and Key was accustomed to go up stairs to a window in the latter building, overlooking Sickles house, and hang out signals to Mrs. Sickles. He would also go in Lafayette square, wave his handkerchief at her, throw out kisses, and make profuse demonstrations of attachment.

Before the fatal denoument of this unhallowed intercourse, Key had been time and again warned by his friends that something dangerous would grow from his criminal attachment. He was accustomed, however, to treat these friendly admonitions with an air of haughty bravado. He would listen to no remonstrance from any quarter. He had been known to boast of his amours in society, and it is said that Mr. Buchanan, being informed of Mr Key's character, had made out his dismissal, and was only waiting to select a successor, previous to sending in the document to the Senate, when Mr. Key met his death.

I visited Sickles to night in the prison. He appeared to be in good spirits, and has been visited during the day by many of his friends and Congressional colleagues. He positively refuses another examination and declares his determination to remain in prison till the day of trial. He asks no favors from the law.

A despatch was received to-day from New-York city, from the friends of Mr. Sickles, sympathizing with him in his sorrows. Public opinion in that city is said to sustain Mr. Sickles in his conduct.

Mr Sickles' affection for his daughter weighs heavily upon him. He feels that his hopes are blasted, and that his home is broken up.

The mother of Mrs. Sickles, (Mrs. Bagioli,) and the mother of Mr Sickles arrived in the city to-night. Mrs. Bagioli will take charge of her daughter, while the mother of Mr. Sickles will take under her charge his daughter.

Public opinion is universally in favor of Mr. Sickles. The council retained by him embrace the following named gentlemen:—Messrs. Stanton, Ratcliffe, Chilton and Magruder. David Paul Brown, Esq., of your city, is not retained, as has been reported.

The remains of Mr. Key will be taken to Baltimore to morrow afternoon, at three and a half o'clock, and will be interred from that city.

This evening's train brought many friends of Mr Sickles from New York. The greatest excitement still prevails.

WASHINGTON, March 3.

It is not regarded here that the tenor of the despatches from the Paraguay evpedition is such as to warrant the conclusion that war between the United States and Paraguay is inevitable, though it is presumed that such an inference has been drawn from articles in the Seminrrio, published at Ascuncion, which are to be taken with large allowance for Spanish hyperbole, and Paraguan bravade.

PHILADELPHIA, March 3.

A fire broke out at 1 o'clock this morning, destroying two large buildings on 2d street below Dock, and a court of small houses in the rear.

A dozen families or more are rendered homeless. There were some narrow escapes, and a barkeeper in a lager beer saloon, which was destroyed, was severely burned. Loss $20,000.

ALBANY, March 3.

Mrs. Hartung is sentenced to be executed on the 22d of April. It is understood that no further attempt will be made to continue this matter before the courts, but her friends will ask Gov Morgan for a commutation of the punishment.

ANTICIPATED TROUBLE BETWEEN FRANCE AND BRAZIL.—France is said to be disposed to quarrel with Brazil. The Brazilian Government has refused to pay the demands of a French subject, who established a hippodrome at Rio Janeiro, which was so obnoxious to the populace that they set fire to it, before the police, who had been ordered to pull it down, could complete their work. The French Ambassador demanded an indemnification of £8,000, and being refused, is only waiting further orders to persist in his course.

—The Senate of Missouri have appropriated $2,000 to the Mount Vernon fund. The vote was unanimous.

☞ CONSTABLE.—TO THE VOTERS OF THE EAST WARD, CITY OF ERIE.—I offer myself as an independent candidate for Constable in the East Ward, and if elected pledge myself to perform the duties of said office faithfully.
March 5, 1859. ADAM SCHELLEIN.

To the Voters of the West Ward.

☞ THE subscriber offers himself to the voters of the West Ward as a candidate for Constable at the approaching municipal election, pledging himself, if elected, to discharge the duties of the place with impartiality and fidelity.
Erie, March 5, 1859. CHARLES MILLER.

Justice of the Peace.

MR. SLOAN.—Please announce JOHN A. MAY, as a candidate for Justice of the Peace in the West Ward.
Erie, March 5, 1859. ONE OF THE PEOPLE.

☞ CONSTABLE.—We are requested to announce E. CAUGHLIN, as a Candidate for Constable, in the East Ward, at the election in March.
Erie, Feb 26, 1859.

☞ IMPORTANT TO FEMALES. DR. CHEESEMAN'S PILLS, Prepared by Cornelius L. Cheeseman, M. D., New York City. The combination of ingredients in these Pills are the result of a long and extensive practice. They are mild in their operation, and certain in correcting all irregularities, Painful Menstruations, removing all obstructions, whether from cold or otherwise, headache, pain in the side, palpitation of the heart, whites, all nervous affections, hysterics, fatigue, pain in the back and limbs, &c., disturbed sleep, which arise from interruption of nature.

TO MARRIED LADIES,