



HUNTINGDON: Wednesday, April 1, 1846.

Democratic Whig Candidate For Canal Commissioner JAMES M. POWER, OF MERCER COUNTY.

Blanks: A large supply of JUSTICES' BLANKS, on superior paper, just printed, and for sale at this office.

Hon. Simon Cameron Hon. John Blanchard, and Hon. Alex. Ramsey, have our thanks for Congressional Documents.

Also, John Morrison, and J. P. Sanderson, Esqrs., of the State Senate, the first for various documents and the latter for a copy of Mr. Gibbons' speech on the Right of Way.

Those of our readers who may change their places of residence on the first of April, will please give us notice.

An important message from the President may be found under our Congressional head. It will be seen that the President recommends military preparation, which has given a fresh start to the oft-repeated question, "Will there be War?"

A communication in to-day's paper signed X. is published entirely on the responsibility of the author, as we know nothing whatever of the facts. The gentlemen alluded to can have the name, if they are wronged by his statements.

The Whigs have been doing exceedingly well all over the State at the late Spring Elections. In Philadelphia city they carried every thing as usual. The county divided between the Natives and Locofocos. In Lancaster, the "Old Guard" of true principles, the Whigs in several of the townships, beat the Locos and Natives combined.

Our neighbor of the Register informs us that the Whigs do nobly in Hollidaysburg, carrying a large majority for the Inspector and Assessor, and only losing the Judge by 14 votes.

EZRA HOLDEN, one of the editors of the Saturday Courier, died at Washington a few days since, whether he had gone to take recreation from his labors, on account of the delicate state of his health.

Enigmas.—We have received a perfect shower of enigmas during the last week, from our young friends, and will therefore have to ask a suspension of these favors until we get through with the publication of the stock on hand. They shall all appear in good time. We would suggest to authors that they furnish but one at a time.

Melancholy Occurrence.

A Father killed by his own son!

We are informed by one of our citizens, who came from Pennsylvania Furnace on Monday last, that a most melancholy and heart sickening occurrence had taken place in Ferguson township, Centre County, a short distance from the Huntingdon County line, on Friday, the 27th ult. James Irvin, an old, respectable and industrious man, was suddenly launched into eternity by the hands of his own son, Henry Irvin. The son it appears had been drinking hard for some time previous, and it is thought was laboring under mania potius, as he appeared to think that his father was meditating upon his life. On Friday he walked into the yard, picked up a axe, felt its edge, and then went deliberately into the house and made a stroke at his father, which was received by the parent on his hand and arm, which he threw up to defend himself. The son then caught him with one hand, while with the other he inflicted a number of severe wounds upon his head and face, which caused his death in the course of six hours.

The son has been arrested, and lodged in the Bellefonte Jail.

The Keeper and His Prisoner.

An account of the fight between Mr. Watson, the Keeper of the Dauphin County Prison, and his prisoner, John Gibbs, may be found on our outer page. No one need regret the result of this encounter, as Gibbs was a most desperate and hardened villain—entirely beyond reformation, and appeared determined to set all law at defiance, or die in the attempt. Mr. Watson has shown himself to be a faithful and fearless agent of the laws, for which he deserves the hearty plaudits of all right minded people. It appears from the testimony taken before the Inquest, that at one stage of the engagement, when Mr. Watson evidently had the worst of the fight, Gibbs proposed terms of peace; to which Mr. Watson replied, while struggling for his life, which all know who have any knowledge of the desperate character of Gibbs, was in great danger, "I ask no favors and I will grant none." Language like this, under the circumstances, is worthy the best days of the Republic, and clearly demonstrates that Mr. Watson, although a gentleman of but small stature, is possessed of a heart and nerve equal to any emergency.

Had we a voice in the management of the Dauphin Prison, we would vote for an increase of the Keeper's salary forthwith, as conduct like his should not go unrewarded.

Fire!—We are informed that the smoke-house of Mr. Samuel Miller, living on the farm of Dr. Jesse Wright, in Union township, in this county, was consumed by fire on the 26th ult. It contained about 500 lbs. meat, which, together with some ploughs, horse gear, &c. were all consumed, making the loss to Mr. Miller about \$70.

Pennsylvania Legislature.

Correspondence of the Huntingdon Journal.

HARRISBURG, March 28, 1846.

My Dear Captain.—Another week has passed the shores of time, and although it would be no small job to inform you of all that has been done at the Capitol, much more to chronicle a tythe of what has been said, yet I think I may safely predict that I shall give you all that has been accomplished here during the past week, which will be interesting to your readers, in a pretty small compass. Sometimes, for want of time I am obliged to write a long letter; for be it known to you that it requires more time to condense into a nut shell the important facts which transpire during a week, than it would to give the same information more diffusely.—But I must proceed to the matter in hand.

The Bill granting to the New York and Erie Rail Road Company the right of Way through Pike County in this State, has been signed by the Governor, and is therefore a Law.

The Bill to incorporate the Pennsylvania Rail Road Company to construct a continuous Railroad from Harrisburg to Pittsburg, and thence to Erie if they deem it expedient, by any route the Company chooses to adopt, has at length been passed! Finally in both Houses, and sent to the Governor—the House having receded from its amendments non-concurred in by the Senate, and having concurred in those added by the Senate. The Bill will doubtless receive the approbation of the Governor in due time.

The Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Bill has been permitted to sleep in the Legislature during the whole of the past week, which is a thing altogether wonderful, and looks very much as if their friends were afraid to call it up. The fact is that the adoption of Mr. Kunkel's amendment, last week, by a vote of 50 to 48, providing that the act shall not go into effect before the 1st of June 1847, which will be after the meeting and final adjournment of the next Legislature, amounts to a negation of the Bill. The Bill has passed the Senate and is upon second reading in the House. It is not dead; but sleepeth.

The Bill authorizing the construction of an outlet lock at Well's Falls (below "Black's Eddy") on the Delaware Division of the Pennsylvania Canal, has been the theme of almost daily discussion, during the past week, in the Senate. The Bill is still pending on second reading, and is in a fair way to pass the Senate.

On Thursday a communication was received from the Canal Commissioners, giving a detailed statement of the damage done by the recent flood in the Susquehanna and Delaware Rivers, together with an estimate of the amount which will be required to put the same in navigable order. The Board estimate that the repairs on the Main Line from Harrisburg to Pittsburg will be completed by the 30th inst. (Monday next) and from Harrisburg to Columbia by the 15th of April; and the West Branch and Delaware Division by the same day; and the Susquehanna Division by the 1st of May next, and the N. Branch by the 20th of May. The whole cost of the repairs is estimated at \$111,515, as follows: Eastern and Juniata Division to the Rope Ferry \$26,700; from Rope Ferry to Hollidaysburg \$5,200; Western Division from Johnstown to Pittsburg \$1,440; from "Junction" (at head of Duncan's Island) to Milton \$20,000; from Milton to Queenstown \$10,175; N. Branch, from Northumberland to Lockawana \$30,000; and Delaware Division from Bristol to Easton \$28,000.

A communication has been received from the State Treasurer in reply to a resolution of the Senate from which it appears that the amount of money in the Treasury on the 27th inst. was \$93,275.44, and that no part of the amount appropriated at an early period of the Session for the completion of the Eastern and Western Reservoirs has been paid. I presume that appropriation will be suspended, for the purpose of securing a fund sufficient to pay the expenses of the extraordinary repairs recently rendered indispensable. Some seem to think these repairs will prevent the payment of the August interest on the Public debt; but I think their fears are groundless, unless the Public works should be permitted to remain long idle.

A Revenue Bill was discussed in the House almost every day this week, after the morning business had been gone through with. The principal subject of debate, was a provision in the Bill (which is on second reading) laying a tax of ten cents per ton on Anthracite Coal, to be estimated at the pit's mouth. This morning a vote was taken on a motion to strike out this provision, when the House refused to do so, by a vote of Yeas 31—Nays 56.

So the House declared in favor of taxing Anthracite Coal. Whereupon Mr. Kunkel, who was opposed to the same, moved to amend by adding a provision laying a tax of 2 1/2 mills per bushel on bituminous coal; which was the question pending when the House adjourned, to-day.

The House of Representatives passed a resolution to adjourn sine die on the 9th of April. The Senate has not yet agreed thereto;—their Committee to whom a Resolution on this subject was referred, reported in favor of adjourning on the 15th of April. My calculation is that they will adjourn about the 20th of April—not before; and unless they improve their time better, important matters, will then be undisposed of.

Several bills have been passed authorizing the reconstruction of bridges where the same have been destroyed by the late flood, and also the establishment of Ferries to meet the immediate wants of the community; amongst these is a Steam Tow boat Ferry at Shamokin, and a supplement to the Northumberland bridge company. Some fifty or more private Bills have been passed in each House during the past week, but the Calendar gets no less; and if the Legislature would sit till Christmas, the business would keep them going. The fact is each Senator has his list of private Bills, and so has each member of the House, and the result is that each House, being bent on the passage of its own bills, neglects or fails to get the same bill through the other House, and at the end of the session, lots of beautifully transcribed bills, which have passed in one House only, will be found amongst the archives of the Legislature.

towing up stream before embarking, in order to make the Island at the proper point. The Harrisburg Bridge Company, are about establishing a Rope Ferry at the old Bridge. PHH.

James M. Power.

The nomination of this gentleman as the Whig candidate for Canal Commissioner has met with the most enthusiastic response from the Whig press of the State. The friends of Mr. Foster, who has been nominated through the influence of his own official patronage, and against the known wish of a large majority of the voters of his party, may well feel alarmed for his success, when opposed by a man like Mr. Power.

The Philadelphia Inquirer says of our candidate: "Mr. Power is well known throughout the State as an upright, intelligent and accomplished gentleman. He is a practical engineer, and is every way competent to a proper discharge of the duties of the office to which he has been nominated. We are told that he was left an orphan at only fifteen years of age, and that his father died insolvent. Though now only about thirty-five, he has succeeded by dint of honest industry, close application, and untiring effort, in paying off all his father's debts, in acquiring a competency, and in sustaining in respectability, his father's family. Such a man is entitled to the confidence and respect of his fellow citizens. An individual who has managed his own affairs with such faithfulness and efficiency, is exactly the person best qualified to discharge with fidelity and capacity, the duties of the important post of Canal Commissioner.—A little of his energy of character exerted in the office, would speedily put a brighter aspect upon the financial condition of our State. In brief, the nomination is a good one in all respects, and the resolutions adopted by the Convention, which we submit, breathe the true Whig spirit, and will be cordially responded to by our political brethren throughout the Commonwealth."

The United States Gazette says: "The gentleman nominated by the late Whig Convention, as the candidate for Canal Commissioner, is competent to discharge the duties of the office in every department, and is, therefore, confidently recommended to the tax paying citizens, as a man qualified to administer the internal improvements of the Commonwealth, in a way that shall make them subservient to the great good of the State, enabling her to meet the interests, and diminish the principal of her enormous debt, and also to secure the best uses of the canal and railroad for the business portions of the people."

By the way, the candidate is JAMES M. POWER—not Powers, but Power—that which is wanted, or the proper use of which is most needed in this State. We must get and keep all kind of power on our public works, motive power and steam power, and then we can do a power of good."

Acceptance of Mr. Power.

By the following correspondence it will be seen that JAMES M. POWER, Esq., the nominee of the Whig State Convention, has accepted said nomination, and henceforth will stand before the Freeman of this Commonwealth as a candidate for that important and responsible office. The nomination is hailed with such universal joy throughout the State, that we can scarce have a doubt of success by the triumphant vote of the People opposed to political favoritism, extravagance, and in favor of retrenchment and reform.

HARRISBURG, March 12, 1846.

Dear Sir:—The undersigned a committee appointed by the Democratic Whig State Convention, which assembled in this place on the 11th inst., take great pleasure in the discharge of their duty, to inform you of your nomination by that body as a Candidate to be supported by the Whigs of this State at the ensuing election, for the office of Canal Commissioner of Pennsylvania.

We sincerely trust that it will be in entire accordance with your feelings; and accept said nomination. Very respectfully, yours, &c.

L. A. MACKAY, JAMES D. DUNLAP, ED. C. MARKLEY, J. H. M'CURUM, ALEX. HILANDS.

To JAMES M. POWER, Esq.

WEST GREENVILLE, March 19, 1846.

Gentlemen:—Your letter of the 12th instant, is at hand, informing me of my nomination by the Whig Convention as a candidate for Canal Commissioner. This is an honor which I neither asked nor expected. Since the Convention have seen fit to select me as their Candidate, I consider it my duty to accept the nomination.

I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant, J. M. POWER.

JAMES D. DUNLAP, Esq., L. A. MACKAY, Esq., and others.

The Central Railroad.

We are gratified at being able to inform our readers, that this important bill has passed both Houses and will now go to the Governor, who we doubt not, will give it his approval. If this road is made, and we doubt not that it will, Pennsylvania will then take the position that nature has designed she should assume among her sister States of the Union—that of No. 1—and be emphatically and truly the "KEYSTONE OF THE ARCH."

For the Journal.

Ignorance is the Enemy of Liberty!

The persons who concocted and prepared the advertisement, in the last week's Globe—headed, "knowledge is power"—are William J. Jacobs, Esquire, George W. Watson, and another person, whose connection with the transaction, I am not sufficiently satisfied of, to now give his name.—They are men,—in the language of a chaste and elegant writer—whose sins are certain, but whose salvation is doubtful.

March 30, 1846. X.

The nomination of Capt. JOHN STEWART, for Associate Judge has been confirmed.

CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, March 24.

Mr. Johnson, of La., presented resolutions adopted by the Legislature of Louisiana, calling upon Congress, in view of the present aspect of our foreign relations, to adopt measures for putting New Orleans in a condition of defence.

Mr. Johnson moved that the resolutions be referred to the Secretary of War, with instructions to report a plan for the defence of New Orleans, and an estimate of the cost. The motion was laid over until to-morrow.

Mr. Allen said he desired to call the attention of the Senate to the question "on what day they will be willing to terminate the debate and take the vote upon the question of notice, now before the Senate." Mr. Allen said the discussion had now occupied forty-five days, and there were many reasons, which he could not now mention, why it was desirable to bring it to a speedy close. For himself, he would desire to name Saturday next, as the day upon which the vote should be taken.

Mr. Morehead said he did not know how far the practice of the Senate would sustain the suggestion of the Senator from Ohio.

Mr. Allen said he merely wished to direct the attention of the Senate to the subject, that they might fix in their own minds a period for taking the vote, and he therefore had no objection to its being passed over until to-morrow.

The Senate then proceeded to the consideration of the special order of the day, and the Oregon debate was resumed.

Mr. Chalmers addressed the Senate at length upon the subject of notice, and in favor of that measure.

A message was here announced from the President. The reading was called for, and the message was found to be in answer to the resolution of Mr. Dayton. It is as follows:—

Message of the President

To the Senate of the United States:—

In answer to the inquiry of the Senate, contained in their resolution of the 17th instant, whether, in my judgment, any circumstances connected with, or growing out of, the foreign relations of this country, require at this time an increase of our naval or military force; and, if so, "what those circumstances are," I have to express the opinion that a wise precaution demands such an increase.

In my annual message of the 2d of December last, I recommended to the favorable consideration of Congress an increase of our naval force, especially of our steam navy, and the raising of an adequate military force to guard and protect such of our citizens as might think proper to emigrate to Oregon. Since that period, I have seen no cause to recall or modify these recommendations. On the contrary, reasons exist which in my judgment, render it proper not only that they should be promptly carried into effect, but that additional provision should be made for the public defence.

The consideration of such additional provision was brought before appropriate committees of the two Houses of Congress, in answer to calls, made by them, in reports prepared, with my sanction, by the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy, on the 29th of December and the 6th of January last; a mode of communication with Congress not unusual, and, under existing circumstances, believed to be most eligible. Subsequent events have confirmed me in the opinion that these recommendations were proper as precautionary measures.

It was a wise maxim of the Father of his country, that "to be prepared for war, is one of the most efficient means of preserving peace;" and that, "avoiding occasions of expense by cultivating peace," we should "remember, also, that timely disbursements to prepare for danger frequently prevent much greater disbursements to repel it." The general obligation to perform this duty is greatly strengthened by facts known to the whole world. A controversy respecting the Oregon territory now exists between the United States and Great Britain; and while, as far as we know, the relations of the latter with all European nations are of the most pacific character, she is making unusual and extraordinary armaments and warlike preparations, naval and military, both at home and in her North American possessions.

It cannot be disputed that, however sincere may be the desire of peace, in the event of a rupture these armaments and preparations would be used against our country. Whatever may have been the original purpose of these preparations, the fact is undoubted that they are now proceeding, in part at least, with a view to the contingent possibility of a war with the United States. The general policy of making additional warlike preparations was distinctly announced, in the speech from the throne, as late as January last, and has since been reiterated by the ministers of the crown, in both houses of Parliament. Under this aspect of our relations with Great Britain, I cannot doubt the propriety of increasing our means of defence, both by land and sea. This can give Great Britain no cause of offence, nor increase the danger of a rupture. If, on the contrary, we should fold our arms in security, and at last be suddenly involved in hostilities for the maintenance of our just rights, without any adequate preparation, our responsibility to the country would be of the gravest character. Should collision between the two countries be avoided, as I sincerely trust it may be, the additional charge upon the treasury, in making the necessary preparations, will not be lost; while, in the event of such a collision, they would be indispensable for the maintenance of our national rights and national honor.

I have seen no reason to change or modify the recommendations of my annual message in regard to the Oregon question. The notice to abrogate the treaty of the 6th of August, 1827, is authorized by the treaty itself, and cannot be regarded as a warlike measure; and I cannot withhold my strong conviction that it should be promptly given. The other recommendations are in conformity with the existing treaty, and would afford to American citizens in Oregon no more than the same measure of protection which has long since been extended to British subjects in that territory.

The state of our relations with Mexico is still in an unsettled condition. Since the meeting of Congress another revolution has taken place in that country, by which the Government has passed into the hands of new rulers. This event has procrastinated, and may possibly defeat, the settlement of the differences between the United States and that country. The Minister of the United States to Mexico, at the date of the last advices, had not received by the existing authorities. Demonstrations of a character hostile to the United States continue to be made in Mexico, which has rendered it proper, in my judgment, to keep nearly two-thirds of our army on our southwestern frontier.—In doing this, many of the regular military posts have been reduced to a small force, inadequate to their defence should an emergency arise.

In view of these "circumstances" it is my "judgment" that "an increase of our naval and military force is at this time required," to place the country in a suitable state of defence. At the same time, it is my settled purpose to pursue such a course of policy as may be best calculated to pre-

Great Battle in India.

Thirty-Three Hundred British and Native Troops Killed and Wounded, and Reported loss of Thirty-Thousand Sikhs at Moodkee and Ferozshah.

The English papers furnish the account of one of the greatest battles ever fought by the British in the Indian Empire, in which they sustained a loss of 3,300 men, including Sir J. M'Kaskill and Maj. Broadfoot.

An Extraordinary Gazette gives the official account of all the military operations of this great struggle. On the 12th, 13th and 14th of December, the Sikh army crossed the Sutlej, with the lowest estimate, 80,000 men (of whom 30,000 or 30,000 were cavalry) and about 150 cannon of the largest calibre moveable in the field.

A fierce conflict ensued, in which the Sikhs lost the artillery attached to their division, in number 17 guns. It was in this stage of the battle that Sir Robert Sale and General M'Kaskill fell. The contest proceeded languidly through the 19th and 20th, the armies on both sides being occupied with the burial of their dead, and the re-organization of their respective armies.

Imagination can scarcely depict the fury and the obstinacy of the two days' fight that must have preceded the capture of the invader's camp with all its material and artillery, and the utter dispersion of the invading army on the 22nd of December.—Their loss is variously estimated at from 25,000 to 35,000 in killed and wounded. Our loss in killed and wounded, it is to be feared, falls little short of 3,300, including 50 European officers.

The news of the refusal of our Government to arbitrate the Oregon difficulty created no little sensation in England.

The London Standard says the President has "abated none of that rabid violence which has characterized all his official proceedings in regard to England," and adds that there can be no clearer indication of Mr. Polk's wishes and intentions than is to be found in his answer to Mr. Packenham's offer.

Another Great Fire in Pittsburg.—Seventeen Houses Burnt.—The Pittsburg American of last week says: "We have to record another destruction of property in our city by fire, which broke out this morning about 4 o'clock, in one of the bakeries on Seventh street, between Grant and Coal Lane, belonging to Mr. M'Leary, and another man whose name we did not learn. The buildings being frame, the fire obtained headway before the engines arrived, and the destruction has been very great extending from Seventh to Prospect street, including in all sixteen houses, most of them new, and many of them of the better class of frame buildings, with all the furniture and household property of every kind in as many as four of the houses. The sufferers are Mr. Murray, two houses; Mr. Smith, one; Mr. John Patterson, two houses, including all his furniture, the fire spreading so rapidly as to afford him no time to save any part of it; Squire Arthurs, two houses; Joseph Wright, one house; Mr. Houston, one house, and six others, the owners of which we did not learn. Part of this was the site of the second great fire last spring, which had been rebuilt. We have no estimate of the loss, which is serious, from being the all of many of the sufferers. We believe there was little, if any, insured."

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News from Mexico.

The Steamship Alabama arrived at New Orleans on the 16th instant, from Galveston. The Captain reports, that Mr. J. P. Shtatzell, our Consul at Matamoras, was actually put in prison by the Mexican authorities, charged with the crime of holding correspondence with Gen. Taylor, of the U. S. Army, at Corpus Christi.

The Corpus Christi (Texas) Gazette of a recent date mentions a number of rumors brought to that place by Mexican traders and others. One of these is that the Mexican forces were rapidly concentrating on this side of the Rio Grande, and erecting breastworks. The Gazette says:—

It is reported that the object of the Mexican Government in posting Generals Mejia, Garcia, Canales and Col. Saverio, on this side of the Rio Grande was simply to form a case for negotiation with the United States, showing that they had military occupation of the territory between the Neuces and the Rio Grande, and that they had been forced to retreat before, or had been driven west from the Rio Grande by the advance of the United States Army.

In this view of the case no fighting is anticipated. But it is also thought by others, that the march of Generals Ampudia and La Vega indicates a determination in the Mexican Government to reinforce the troops on this side of the Rio Grande, with a view of disputing the advance of the American Army, and that a battle will ensue whenever and wherever the opposing forces meet each other.

The Gazette says that the Northern States of Mexico, consisting of Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon, Coahuila, and portions of the States of Zacatecas and San Luis de Potosi, had it in contemplation to declare their independence of Mexico, and, like Yucatan, form a separate independent nation, with a government modelled after that of the United States.

The editors of the Gazette think it possible that this event has already taken place, and add that they are in possession of a printed copy of the proclamation and the orders appertaining to the movement, which they refrain from publishing at present.

VERMILION.—THREE PERSONS DROWNED.—The schooner-rigged canal boat "Peter," from the Schuylkill, which left Philadelphia about a week since, with a load of lime for St. Georges, on the Delaware and Chesapeake Canal, and thence with a load of marl bound to Bridgeton, N. J., with four persons on board, was foundered in the gale on Tuesday night, of last week, and sunk in the Delaware in four fathoms water, about ten miles below Reedy Island, sixty or seventy miles below the city, by which the captain, Charles Ingle, of this city, and two of the crew, Richard Lopez, of Eisenborough Point, N. J., and a lad named Patrick, surname not learned, about 16 or 17 years of age, were all drowned. John Evans, of this city, one of the crew, was the only person on board saved, and preserved his life by climbing to the masthead, where he sat some six hours, from three o'clock of Wednesday morning till nine, when he was taken off by the schooner Hero, from Baltimore, and brought up to the city.—Daily Chronicle.

This affair grew out of a criminal intercourse between Judson and Porterfield's wife. His wife's dishonor when rendered fully apparent to him, almost deprived Porterfield of his reason, who is represented to be a most amiable and tender husband; he was about 30 years of age. This fact, too, is what excited the populace to so great an extent.

HORRIBLE MURDER.—A negro named William Freeman, entered the house of Mr. Van Ness, a farmer and Supervisor residing near Auburn, N. Y. one night a few weeks since, and stabbed Mr. Van Ness, his wife, child and mother-in-law, and also the hired man. The four former have all died.—Freeman has been arrested and made a confession; stated that his object was to obtain some money that he knew Mr. Van Ness had received a few days previous.

THE TRIAL of Thomas Richie, Jr. for causing the death of Mr. Pleasant, was to take place on Wednesday last before the Supreme Court at Richmond, Virginia.