



Huntingdon, Wednesday, February 17, 1847.

GEN. IRVIN.—We observe by the papers, that the Harrisburg Union has charged Gen. Irvin with voting, while in Congress, to tax tea and coffee. This charge is as malicious and infamous a LIE, as the assertion made in the same paper, in 1844, that Jas. K. Polk was a "friend of the Tariff of 1842," and that a "near neighbor" of Mr. Polk had so informed the editor at Baltimore. The Pa. Intelligencer may safely challenge the "proof." Gen. Irvin not only voted and spoke against taxing tea and coffee, but he labored sedulously among his fellow members for the defeat of the proposition. The same charge was brought against Gen. I. when a candidate for reelection to Congress in this district; but after hearing the accusation and the defence, the people branded the charge a SLANDER, and re-elected Gen. Irvin by a largely increased majority.

FIRES.—The stabling at Canoe Furnace, near Williamsburg, Blair county, together with a large quantity of hay and straw, and some horse gears, was consumed by fire on Friday night last.

We also learn that a dwelling house on Mill Creek, in this county, occupied by Mr. John Carroll, was destroyed by fire a few days ago, with all the furniture it contained.

RELIEF FOR IRELAND.—A meeting was held at Washington city last week, to adopt measures for the relief of the starving population of Ireland. Vice President Dallas presided. Hon. Daniel Webster reported and read a series of resolutions, calling upon the whole country to contribute to the aid of the suffering poor in Ireland. We hope the call will be generously responded to, and that this town and vicinity will make immediate arrangements to contribute to this humane project liberally. That a portion of the poor of Ireland are daily dying from starvation, there is no longer any doubt, and therefore whatever is to be done for their relief, should be done now.

☞ The Globe does not praise, but condemns with great caution, the recent letter of General Taylor in relation to the Mexican war. The editor ventures, however, to write down the old warrior, Gen. Gaines, to whom the letter was sent, "a weak minded individual;" and then quotes from a Locooco paper to show that Gen. Taylor's complaints are unwarranted and unjust. Whenever our neighbor receives any unexpected "substantial" for sneering at Gaines, or calling in question the veracity of "Old Rough and Ready," we hope he will inform the public of it.

VETO MESSAGE.—Gov. Shunk has sent a message to the Legislature, vetoing the bill to incorporate the Pennsylvania Railroad Iron Manufacturing Company, for the reason, as he alleges, that the individual liability clause is left out of the act. The message, the Intelligencer says, is a labored argument in support of the views of his party on the subject.

GEN. TAYLOR.—In the Virginia House of Delegates, on the 8th inst., resolutions of thanks to Gen. Taylor and his gallant army, were passed unanimously, for their gallantry at Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, and Monterey. They also directed, swords to be presented to Gen. Taylor, Col. Mathew M. Payne, and to Col. John Garland, all natives of Virginia, for their gallantry and good conduct in the engagements in which they have participated. This is worthy of a Virginia Legislature!

☞ Among a variety of "funny things" which we find in last week's Globe, is the assertion that the idea of running Gen. Taylor for the Presidency is a "foolish notion." This is really amusing. Our neighbor would doubtless think it the height of foolishness to hear the people shouting "Huzza for Old Rough and Ready!" "Go it Zac!" &c., &c. It would certainly be a very annoying noise to Locoocoism, yet it may have to bear its death-knell rung in sounds something similar to this.

☞ Scott's Weekly Paper has been enlarged and improved. It will now compare well with any literary paper published in Philadelphia.

WAR OR PEACE.

There are three distinct propositions before Congress, all having reference to the desirable and desired object of bringing that unhappy war to a close.

One is the President's, and asks an appropriation of three millions, to be used in some mysterious way, which the President will not fully explain. All we are told about it is, by Mr. Sevier, the chairman of the Senate's Committee on Foreign Relations, that the President has been for a long time in correspondence with somebody in Mexico, by which correspondence he learns, and is satisfied, that peace can be got by the aid of these three millions. This is all Mr. Sevier tells us from the President. On his own account he adds that there can be no peace except on the condition that Mexico gives up to us California and New Mexico; whence we are left to infer that for New Mexico and California we are to abandon all the other conquests we have made, all claim for the expenses of the war, all our other money claims, and pay these three millions into the bargain. In other words, that for New Mexico and California, we are to sacrifice fifty, sixty, a hundred millions of dollars, as the case may be. This is one proposition.

The second is Mr. Berrien's. It consists of a declaration, by the Senate, that the desire or intention of Congress, in prosecuting the war, is not to dismember the Mexican Republic, or obtain any portion of that Republic's territory by conquest. This, it will be seen, is diametrically opposed to the President's.

The third proposition is known as the Wilmot proviso. It addresses itself to the Government and the slave-holding interests, of which the Government is considered the organ; and, like Mr. Berrien's, it proposes to act by taking away inducements for the continuance of the war.

These three projects will form, as we suppose, the subject of long and highly important discussions in both houses of Congress. We have thought it well to present them distinctly, and together, before our readers.

☞ The Globe hurls the epithet of "Tory" at us with a fierceness that looks very much like desperation. But when we reflect a moment, it is not so very severe to be called a Tory by the Huntingdon Globe after all. It must be recollected that that paper defends all the acts of Jas. K. Polk—and that he is the only American citizen who has given "aid and comfort" to the enemy. This the President admits in his message, when he pleads guilty to the charge of having given SANTA ANNA permission to pass our Blockading Squadron into Mexico—thus furnishing the enemy with an experienced and formidable leader. The Globe has not dared to even hint a word of condemnation of this treasonable act of the Executive, although we have frequently called its attention to it. But to get out of his dilemma, our neighbor sets up the "stop thief" cry of "Tory" against all who dare exercise the freeman's right of calling in question the acts of the President!

The Globe denies having stigmatized the Hon. John Blanchard as a "traitor to his country," and calls upon us to point out the "article" containing this charge. We do not know that those were the exact words used, but that the charge was implied, we think can be maintained. The editor of the Globe will not deny, we suppose, that he charged Mr. Blanchard with circulating "tory documents"—and how he could be engaged in this business, without turning against his country, we are at a loss to determine. If the Globe withdraws its charge made upon Mr. B., then it must take back its unmeaning twattle about Mr. Gentry's speech being a "tory document" also.

The editor of the Globe need not be the least alarmed about getting into an "angry controversy" with us. Although he appears somewhat wrathly at us, we assure him that we are perfectly cool—we do not belong to the thin skinned portion of humanity, to be ruffled by every little breeze. But we feel quite as ready as our neighbor to resent "misrepresentations," and should therefore thank him to specify the "numerous unwarrantable personal attacks" he charges us with making "upon natives of this district." We deny this charge, and aver that it is without any foundation whatever. We therefore expect our neighbor will either produce his proof or withdraw it.

THE THREE MILLION BILL.

The bill to give the President Three Millions of Dollars to buy a peace with Mexico, is being ably discussed in the U. S. Senate. On the 5th inst., Mr. Berrien, of Georgia, made a long and able speech, and submitted the following amendment:

"Provided always, and it is hereby declared to be the true intent and meaning of Congress, in making this appropriation, that the war with Mexico ought not to be prosecuted by this Government with any view to the dismemberment of that Republic, or to the acquisition, by conquest, of any portion of her territory; that this Government, ever desirous to maintain and preserve peaceful and friendly relations with all nations, and particularly with the neighboring Republic of Mexico, will always be ready to enter upon negotiations with a view to terminate the present unhappy conflict, on terms which shall secure the just rights and preserve inviolate the national honor of the United States and of Mexico; that it is especially desirable, in order to maintain and preserve those amicable relations which ought always to exist between neighboring Republics; that the boundary of the State of Texas should be definitively settled, and that provision be made by the Republic of Mexico for the prompt and equitable adjustment of the just claims of our citizens on that Republic."

The Baltimore American, noticing this amendment, says: This proviso will not suit the views of those who look upon the war with Mexico as a war of conquest. Yet it is a little singular that the advocates of acquisition, who maintain that Mexico must be compelled to cede to us territory as an indemnity for the charges of the war, and in liquidation of the claims of our citizens upon her, are nevertheless willing to pay money in advance to Mexico—three millions—thus acknowledging the balance of obligations against us. In other words, we are to take territory on the ground that Mexico is indebted to us, yet we pay money to her to induce her to give us the territory. Here is a strange confusion.

In truth the whole business is strange every way. The President of the United States asks for three millions of dollars in order to bring the Mexican war to a speedy and honorable conclusion.—The inference would be from this demand, that the President intended to levy new troops, and to strike a decisive blow; for that would be, in time of war, the most natural mode of proceeding in view of a speedy and an honorable peace. But no; we are given to understand otherwise. The Finance Committee of the Senate, asking for the appropriation, announce openly that it is intended for the Mexican army! An underhand chafing, it seems, is going on between President Polk and Santa Anna; the latter promises to be convenient, but he can do nothing unless his men are at his disposal; and his men will not do as he wishes unless their wages are paid them. Now Santa Anna has no money, or if he has he wishes to keep it. If Mr. Polk will furnish him with three millions he can pay his men; his men will do as he wishes, and he will do as Mr. Polk desires, and then we shall have peace. It is a new version, as our readers will perceive, of the nursery legend which tells how the fire burnt the stick, the stick beat the dog, the dog bit the pig, and they all went through the gate.

This notable arrangement is proposed for the sanction of the Congress of the United States. A proposition to pay the enemy's troops! A solemn enactment to constitute Santa Anna a disbursing agent of the Government—a Sub-Treasurer—and that, too, without bond or security! Is not this monstrous! It passes comprehension how any Senator could have the face to make an avowal such as the chairman of the Finance Committee made on this subject. As for Mr. Polk's part in the business, it is scarcely worth the while to be surprised at anything which emanates from the profound statesmanship of that dignitary.

ERIE COUNTY.—The Whigs of Erie county held a county meeting on the 2d inst., and appointed Messrs. James Miles, G. J. Ball and Wm. S. Lane delegates to the State Convention, with instructions to support Gen. IRVIN.

Lycoming county has appointed a delegate to the State Convention, instructed for Gen. Irvin. Somerset county has instructed for Mr. Cooper.

☞ Thanks to Hon. John Blanchard and D. Blair, Esq. for various public documents.

LETTER FROM HARRISBURG.

Correspondence of the Huntingdon Journal. HARRISBURG, Feb. 13, 1846.

JAMES CLARK, Esq.—SIR:—A great many petitions in favor of a change of the License Law, so far as selling liquor is concerned, are coming in from all parts of the State. The Committee on Vice and Immorality, which has this matter in charge, has not yet acted definitely. A difference of opinion existed in that Committee on the question of bringing in a bill, authorizing all the counties in the Commonwealth to decide by ballot on the question, or whether it should be confined to the counties which prayed for this privilege. A resolution was adopted in the House last week, instructing the committee to bring in a bill including only such counties as desired it. But this does not fully set the matter at rest, for some of the petitions pray that the law may embrace the entire Commonwealth. So the action of the committee is still unsettled. Another difficulty with the committee is, whether, to make the law take effect on all sales of liquor, or on the retail hand of it only; and this is, perhaps, the most perplexing question before that body.

The Quaker ladies of the city and county of Philadelphia, and other parts of the State, are sending in petitions praying for the abolition of capital punishment. I wish that custom were abolished. It is a relic of barbarism which has nothing but its antiquity to recommend it.

Some of the Whigs think the present Legislature is venturing too far on the "untried sea of experiment;" that if the Whig members of the Legislature desire this to be a popular sitting, they must use more circumspection in the adoption of new measures, than they have manifested heretofore. These remarks are made with reference to the "married women property" bill, the "gambling" bill, the "license law" bill, the "kidnapping" bill, &c. I do not partake of the fears of these timid persons. That reforms are needed in all these relations of community, no one will deny; and if no extremes are gone into in either case, I cannot conceive where injury will be done. The people of Pennsylvania have become too intelligent to censure their public servants for doing right, and too moral to oppose that right. The world is progressing, and this part of it faster than any other. He who stands in the way of reform will certainly be left behind. The cry is onward, onward, and where it will stop no one can tell. The philosopher may be puzzled, and the patriot alarmed, still that does not stay the onward stride of progressive principles. That the vagueness and looseness of many of these have tendencies subversive of all civil governments, no one can deny. But to oppose seems only to irritate and stimulate their progression.

On Tuesday the Governor sent back to the House the bill incorporating the Pennsylvania Railroad and Iron Manufacturing Company of Hollidaysburg, with his reasons for not signing. These reasons are the old songs of the Locooco party on the subject of Corporations, without the individual liability clause, revamped and stewed over. It is strange that a man, situated as Gov. Shunk is, and who has any pretensions to intelligence and honesty, would risk either or both in support of that party's fallacies in regard to corporations and that wretched humbug in the shape of individual liability. The latter is the party's panacea for the supposed evils of the former. That is but the vagary of jaundiced visions; this, the quackery of party prejudice.

On Thursday last a large number of petitions were presented from the city and county of Philadelphia, praying for a law to prohibit millers from packing flour in old barrels. One of these petitions, it is said, had over 3,000 signatures. At first I thought this a small matter about which to trouble the Legislature; but upon inquiry, I find it almost resolves itself into the question whether the people of the city and county of Philadelphia shall have clean and sweet, or unclean and sour flour;—a question of no little moment to that people.

The Pittsburg and Connellsville Rail Road supplement has been a bone of contention in the Senate most of the week. This bill authorizes the Connellsville Company to form a connection with the great Central Railroad, and then continue their road from the Pittsburg to the Ohio State line, in the direction of Cincinnati. Numerous amendments have been proposed to this bill, but all voted down except the one offered by Mr. Bigler on yesterday, which annuls the act of 1846, allowing the Connellsville Company to unite with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, provided the connections authorized by this supplement are formed. This amendment was adopted by a vote of 16 to 14. The bill as amended, passed the Senate to-day.

The bill which passed the House last week, divorcing Eliza Ann Whale, also passed the Senate to-day by a vote of 17 yeas to 14 nays. I suppose you are aware that a supplement to the Central Railroad enactment of last winter has been introduced into the Legislature, the object of which is to legalize the subscription made by

the councils of Philadelphia, and to authorize other corporations to subscribe to the stock of that improvement.

In its original shape, the bill authorized all corporations to subscribe to the stock of this company; but in this shape it met with opposition, and it was so amended as to confine subscriptions to municipal corporations. In this shape it was up on Thursday and Saturday, and even then met with a factious opposition from Mr. Kline, a member from the county. Several indirect votes have been given on the bill, which indicate pretty certainly that it will pass the House at all events.

A number of bills are before the House for the formation of new counties. That to be formed out of parts of Berks, Montgomery and Chester, to be called Madison, seems to excite the most interest. This proposes to wake up many long and established associations, and consequently meets with obstinate opposition. On Thursday, Mr. Myers, of Reading, made a speech of some force, and no little elegance, against the bill. He is a printer, and promises to figure in life. It is doubtful whether this county will be formed, and yet one cannot guess very well in such a matter. There are bills, I think, for five other new counties before the Legislature, and by a combination of the friends of them, a strong party may be formed. Were it not for this, Madison would stand a poor chance. The new county of Lackawanna, to be formed out of parts of Luzerne, will be made, I think. There seems to be little or no opposition to it.

Quite an interesting debate arose in the House on yesterday, on the bill to exempt the real estate of married women from the debts of their husbands. The bill originated with Mr. Knox, and the debate which was had on it, on yesterday, threw some suspicions around it, which makes its passage through the House problematical. Mr. Piollet strenuously opposed the bill, and some taunting words passed between him and Mr. Knox. Some suppose this apparent difference between these two gentlemen is a sham fight, got up for the purpose of leading the whigs into the support of the bill, which these worthies think will be unpopular, and result in consequent injury to the Whig party. I give this as an *on dir*, having little faith in it myself. The bill was defeated in the House to-day, by a pretty strong vote.

The bill repealing the charter of the Lehigh County Bank passed the House to-day by a unanimous vote. It is an unconditional and absolute repeal.

The bill authorizing the Farmers' Deposit Bank of Pittsburg to issue bills, was negatived in the House this morning.

News came in this morning that Somerset county has elected a Cooper delegate to the 9th of March Convention.

The indications, which I told you in my last, were created during the week before the present one, on the subject of the Whig candidate for Governor, have not changed, so far as my knowledge extends, but rather confirmed. This state of things has begotten hopes among the majority of the Whigs to which they have been strangers for some time.—Many see, in these friendly events, signs of a Whig triumph in this State, and as a consequence, much prosperity to the people. Since I have mingled with politics—and that is some years now—I have never before seen Whig prospects look better than at present. A good candidate, and a little exertion, and we can elect our Governor next fall as certainly as we run a candidate.

Yours, &c., SPY.

☞ In the debate in the U. S. Senate on last Wednesday, on the vote of thanks to Gen. Taylor, Mr. Bagby made a speech in opposition to the capitulation of Monterey, which was, says the American, little creditable to his head, and less to his heart. We had nothing to do, he said, with the blood of foreign women and children. It was no concern of ours how much of it was shed! And this is the language of an American Senator in this Christian land, in the 19th century.

☞ The Canal Commissioners have appointed Thos. J. Power Superintendent of the Portage Railroad, and James Boon assistant; Geo. W. Patterson Collector, and F. R. West, Weighmaster, at Hollidaysburg; H. A. Boggs, Samuel J. Smith and Joseph G. Barr, State agents on Portage Railroad.

☞ Ex-President Adams has sufficiently recovered his health to leave Boston for Washington. He will reach there in time to give his opinions of the Mexican war, before the close of the session.

AN IRISH RUSE.—I engaged a chaise at Galway to conduct me some few miles into the country, and had not proceeded far, when it pulled up at the foot of a hill, and the driver coming to the door opened it. "What are you at, man? This isn't where I ordered you to stop," said I. "Whist, your honor, whist!" ejaculated Paddy, "I'm only desavin' the baste! If I bang the door, he'll think you're out, and 'll cut up the hill like a devil!"

For the "Huntingdon Journal." GUN COTTON.

FRIEND CLARK:—This great curiosity has of late occupied the attention of many chemists, and amongst all that has been said and written of it, I have not yet seen a chemical explanation given, of the process by which it is obtained. I am sensible of my inability to give this explanation scientifically, but I am determined to hazard the attempt.

There are several modes of obtaining gun cotton, but the most effective one is the immersion of the raw cotton in the acid obtained by the distillation of saltpetre with oil of vitriol. When one equivalent of nitrate of potassa (saltpetre) is dissolved with two eqvs. of protohydrated sulphuric acid, protohydrated nitric acid distills over, and protohydrated bisulphate of potassa forms the residue. (KO, NO₃, & 2SO, HO, = NO₃, HO, & KO, 2 SO₃ > HO.) If the weights indicated by the above mentioned eqvs. be taken of nitre that is moist, and oil of vitriol not of full strength, then the nitric acid that distills over, will be weaker than protohydrated nitric acid, (NO₃ HO.)

If we mix one eqv. of nitrate of potassa with one eqv. of protohydrated sulphuric acid, we shall get, theoretically speaking, protohydrated nitric acid as before; but instead of bisulphate of potassa with water of crystallization, we should have as a residue KO, SO₃, that is, sulphate of potassa, which is an anhydrous salt. In point of fact, however, these latter proportions give a red nitric acid, which is deemed to be a real nitric acid holding nitric oxide in solution.

The result may be thus explained: The dry nitric acid set free by the sulphuric acid for one instant, is not able to take away enough water from the sulphuric acid to convert it wholly into protohydrated nitric acid. The part which is protohydrated, nitric acid distills over as such; the remainder, which cannot get water, breaks up into nitric oxide and oxygen. The nitric oxide distills over with the hydrated nitric acid with which it forms the red acid, and the three eqvs. of oxygen are lost. Now the proportions last indicated, are one eq. of nitrate of potassa (KO, NO₃ = 102,) and one eq. protohydrated sulphuric acid (SO₃, HO, = 49) or 10 to 4, S.

The proportions used by Dr. Otto, of Brunswick, are 10 to 6, which give more than enough sulphuric acid to form a sulphate, but not enough to convert the whole into a bisulphate. Under these circumstances, it is probable that a certain proportion of the nitric acid is broken up into nitric acid and oxygen, but not so much of it as when the proportion taken is as 102 to 49, or 10 to 4, S. The product you get may be nitric acid, but at the same time an impure nitric acid of a red color, containing nitric oxide. A person would be naturally led to presume that the additional amount of nitrate of potassa in the proportions suggested by Dr. Otto, was for the purpose of obtaining an excess of oxygen, to aid combustion; but experiments prove, that nitrogen cannot be more highly oxidated than it exists in nitric acid; hence the uselessness of the superabundance of potassa; it being broken up in the process, for want of water to condense it.

In my next I shall be able to finish the process by which this explosive material is made, together with a few skeptical opinions of its practical utility as a superseedent of gun powder.

Yours, &c. H. K. N.
Huntingdon, Feb. 15, 1847.

From the Penn'a Inquirer. LATEST FROM EUROPE.

NEW YORK, Feb. 10.

The ship Admiral, Capt. Paris, arrived here this morning, bringing London dates to the 9th ult.

The Bank of France has been relieved by a loan of bullion from the Bank of England.

Great and unparalleled distress exists in Ireland; the plague and famine were carrying off the poor in great numbers.

The civil war in Portugal was turning in favor of the Queen.

The Spanish Cortes opened on the 31st December. The Queen in her speech recommends liberal provisions for the clergy and the church.

At Liverpool, Jan. 6th, flour had advanced 6 1-2d. per barrel, and 1s. per sack. Of bonded wheat, a parcel of superior white American brought 11s. per 70 lbs. Large purchases of flour at 40s. for Philadelphia and Baltimore, and 40s. a 40s. 6d. for Western Canal.

Liverpool, Jan. 8th.

Wheat this morning, 2d. to 3d. per 70 lbs. dearer than on Tuesday, and flour in bond 6d. per barrel advance. Little doing in other articles. Indian Corn steady, and Indian meal held at 34s. per bbl.

STILL LATER.

FURTHER ADVANCE IN BREADSTUFFS. NEW YORK, Feb. 10.—P. M.

The iron steamer Sarah Sands has arrived bringing dates to the 20th ult.

Western Flour 42 shillings; Indian Corn one shilling dull. Cotton market dull. The Liverpool Times of the 19th ult. quotes Flour at 43s. 6d. Wheat 4d. higher. Indian Corn 1s. higher.