



Huntingdon, Tuesday, December 14, 1847.

Hons. A. Stewart and John Blanchard, have our thanks for early copies of the President's message.

OUR "EXTRA."—Owing to the arrangements we had made with the editor of the Pa. Telegraph, the President's Message was issued from this office in an "extra," on Saturday morning last. This expense was incurred by us for the purpose of keeping our subscribers up with the news. We had no idea that the readers of the "Huntingdon Journal" should be "behind the age" two weeks in relation to the views of the President of the U. S., in these stirring and exciting times. It is not our purpose to make any great boast of enterprise; but think we have given our patrons an evidence, on this occasion, that we can be depended on in an emergency. Our country cotemporaries who intend publishing Mr. Polk's long yarn in their regular editions, have our sincere sympathies.

By reference to our advertising columns, it will be seen that JAMES SCOTT has purchased the "Huntingdon Jewelry Store," long in the occupancy of D. Buoy, Esq., where he has opened out a new and beautiful stock of Jewelry, of the very latest and most fashionable styles. Mr. S. is a young man every way worthy of confidence and support, and we commend his establishment to the patronage of the public.

Organization of Congress.

The Whigs, it will be seen, elected their Speaker, and all the officers of the House, except Postmaster. This desirable result was not, however, effected without difficulty, on account of the course pursued by three fanatical Abolitionists—Giddings of Ohio, Palfrey of Massachusetts, and Tuck of New Hampshire. Notwithstanding these men owe their election to Whig votes, they cast their votes against every Whig candidate presented, from the Speaker down to Postmaster, and have therefore virtually left the Whig ranks.

The Lewistown Bank.

This rotten institution is broken down. It closed its doors on Wednesday last. The news of its failure fell like a flash of lightning upon the surrounding community. There is, no doubt, a large amount of its notes out, and at present no idea can be formed as to its value. A short time may determine this. A prompt and searching investigation into the affairs and management of this institution, by the coming Legislature, is demanded by an injured community. Several individuals connected with the Bank have failed with it, and among them some who have been reputed wealthy, and carried on extensive business.

By some mysterious operation, Lewistown money became very plenty on the "breaks" between this and Lewistown, on the very day the Bank closed. This, too, will perhaps demand investigation.

High Water.

We have again been visited by very heavy rains, causing quite a rise in the Juniata and its tributaries. We learn verbally that the canal has again suffered severely above Lewistown and in the narrows below. We have heard of no damage to the canal above this. The Eastern mail due on Saturday, did not arrive here until Sunday evening. This has truly been a season of floods.

We would suggest to the editor of the Lewistown Gazette, that notwithstanding the citizens of "old Rip Van Winkle," as he is pleased to call our town, have paid pretty roundly for the recent brilliant Lewistown failures, they still retain the determination and the means too, to make Huntingdon one of the most important business towns on the Juniata.

Tax on Tea and Coffee.

Mr. Polk, in his message, boldly recommends a TAX ON THE POOR MAN'S TEA AND COFFEE, to aid him in carrying on the Mexican War! What say the Locofoco editors, who falsely charged Gen. Irvin with having voted for this justly obnoxious measure, to this? Dare they approve or condemn? We shall see.

THE MESSAGE.

Is Mr. Polk's character for Truth Good or Bad?

The President's Message detracts much from his character for truth; and in some points is worthy the author of the celebrated Kane Letter.

Near the commencement of the Message the author says:

"It has ever been our cherished policy to cultivate peace and good will with all nations; and this policy has been steadily pursued by me."

In another part of the message it is said, "Our Minister of peace sent to Mexico, was insultingly rejected;" and from the prominence of the above quotation we infer that the President wishes the rejection of Mr. Slidell, our Minister, to be taken as a justification of the war.

The order directing Gen. Taylor to march to the Rio Bravo was issued on the 16th of January 1846, and the Mexican Government did not finally reject Mr. Slidell until the 15th of March, two months after the date of the orders to Gen. Taylor. And the fact of the refusal of Mexico to receive our Minister was communicated by him to the Secretary of State under date of 18th March, 1846. In the face of the documents themselves Mr. Polk and his organs will fail to mystify this matter. Mr. Slidell had not been rejected at the commencement of the war, and it is impossible to make that event, which subsequently occurred, a ground of justification.

Again: In speaking of the act of 13th May 1846, the President says—this act declaring "the war to exist by the act of the Republic of Mexico," and making provision for its prosecution "to a speedy and successful termination," was passed with great unanimity by Congress, there being but two negative votes in the Senate, and but fourteen in the House of Representatives.

That bill was hurried through the House on the 11th of May 1846, when the President had sent in a special message, announcing the startling facts that our little army, having been pushed to the Rio Grande, had there encountered a superior Mexican force, and was then supposed in a position of great peril.—In the last stage of the passage of that bill, it was moved to strike out the whole first section, and insert a preamble beginning thus:

"Whereas, by the act of the Republic of Mexico, a state of war exists between that Government and the United States.

This was understood by every person to be a political trap set for the Whigs. It placed them into a dilemma by which they must upon the final passage of the bill vote to acknowledge the rectitude of the President's course or to vote against furnishing our gallant army necessary supplies and aid. The Previous Question was applied, and the preamble was forced upon the bill by a vote of 123 yeas to 67 nays—nearly a party division. In the Senate, the next day, a motion was made to strike out the above quoted words from the preamble; and 18 voted for striking out—all Whigs except the two Senators from South Carolina—and 21 voted against striking out, of which 3 were Whigs.

Thus it is clearly established that although but 2 Senators and 14 members voted against supplies, &c., and that perhaps on account of the lying preamble, upon the preamble itself, which the President takes as conclusive, 18 Senators and 67 members recorded their votes in the negative. So much for the "great unanimity" of Congress, and for the subterfuge of the author of the Kane Letter.

Several of the Whig papers of this State have expressed their preference for Hon. A. STEWART, of Fayette county, as a candidate for Vice President. No name would suit us better than that of "Tariff Andy."

ILLNESS OF SECRETARY WALKER.—HON. R. J. Walker, Secretary of the Treasury, was seized with a violent attack of the vertigo, at the Department, on the 9th inst. He was conveyed home in a chair and was considered much better on the evening of the same day.

There is a peculiarly beautiful idea in the exordium of Mr. Clay's speech. It may be read twenty times with heightened admiration. It is this—"In the circle of the year autumn has come, and the season of flowers has passed away. In the progress of years, my spring time has gone by, and I, too, am in the autumn of life, and feel the frost of age." We have seldom come across a sentiment so touchingly poetical.

CAPT. WM. H. IRVIN.

This distinguished and gallant officer arrived here on Sunday morning last, and took lodgings at the Washington House, where he remained until the departure of the Eastern Stage on yesterday. During his stay he was waited upon by our citizens generally, all being anxious to pay their respects to the gallant son of a neighboring county, who bears upon his person a severe wound, received in one of the desperate and memorable battles which preceded the capture of the city of Mexico. On yesterday morning a meeting of the citizens was held and a committee appointed to tender to Capt. I., on behalf of the people of Huntingdon, a public dinner. The committee promptly attended to the agreeable duty assigned them, and the following correspondence took place:

HUNTINGDON, Dec. 13, 1847.

Capt. W. H. IRVIN, U. S. A.

Dear Sir:—The undersigned, at a meeting of citizens of this borough, were appointed a committee to tender you, on behalf of the citizens, a public dinner, at such time as may suit your convenience, as some slight testimony of our admiration for your gallant conduct and chivalrous bearing on the fields of Contreras, Churubusco, and Molino del Rey.

We participate, in common with the citizens of Pennsylvania, in a just pride in the honor conferred upon this Commonwealth by the noble daring and intrepid gallantry of all her sons, in the bloodiest fields of battle ever fought upon this continent, in which the American arms were victorious over more than four times their number; but particularly have we occasion to feel proud in the green and unfading laurels won by our own immediate neighbors and friends.

Yours, Respectfully,
A. K. CORNYN, T. B. CAMPBELL,
GEO. GWIN, J. P. DORSEY,
JOHN WILLIAMSON, C. S. BLACK,
J. P. ANDERSON, JAS. CLARK,
Committee.

HUNTINGDON, Dec. 13, 1847.

Gentlemen:—My very great anxiety to reach my home, compels me to decline your invitation to a public dinner. I am most grateful to you for this distinguished mark of your approbation: the warm and generous welcome which you have given me I can never forget.

I trust that Pennsylvania has good cause to be proud of her sons who shared in the brilliant achievements in the late memorable campaign in the valley of Mexico. They left their glorious native State with the firm resolve to sustain her honor in the field; many have sealed their resolution with their lives; those who survive have the exalted satisfaction of knowing that their services are appreciated by their countrymen.

I request you, gentlemen, to convey to my many friends in Huntingdon, my grateful sense of their kindness, and accept for yourselves my thanks for the complimentary terms in which you have expressed the courtesy of my fellow-citizens.

With the highest respect,
I am, Gentlemen,
Truly yours,
WM. H. IRVIN,
Capt. U. S. A.

To Messrs. Cornyn, Campbell, Gwin, Dorsey, Williamson, Black, Anderson and Clark.

Personal Damages.

In the Circuit Court of the U. S. for the Western District of Pennsylvania, before Judges Greer and Irvin, Henrietta Glenn brought suit against Walter Graham, Stage Proprietor, recently, for damages sustained by being upset in his stage through the carelessness or incompetency of the driver. The fact, as we learn from the Pittsburg Gazette, was clear that the accident by which the Plaintiff was injured was caused by the unskillfulness of the driver, and the Judge charged the Jury that if they believed this from the evidence the Plaintiff was entitled to recover—it being the duty of the Defendant to have substantial coaches and competent drivers. After a short absence, the Jury returned a verdict for the Plaintiff for two thousand dollars. This is a matter which concerns the whole community. Security while travelling is highly desirable, and this end cannot better be promoted than by compelling the careful and skillful management of public conveyances.

EXTENSIVE FAILURE.—A Thousand men Thrown out of Work.—The proprietors of extensive Iron Works in Baltimore have failed. The establishment is a most extensive one, and at least a thousand hands were employed in it.

Arrival of Gen. Taylor at New Orleans.

RICHMOND, Dec. 8, 1847.

The steamer Monmouth, from Brazos, Santiago, arrived at New Orleans on the 30th ult., having left Santiago on the 26th. She brings no news. Gen. Taylor and suite came passengers by the Monmouth. Gen. Taylor was to be received at New Orleans by a splendid military and civic procession, on Tuesday, the 3d inst.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Organization of Congress.

Election of Whig Officers in the House.

Both Houses of Congress assembled at the Capitol on Monday the 6th inst., at 12 o'clock. The Senate organized and adjourned at 1 o'clock.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 220 members answered to their names. The roll having been called,

On motion of Mr. ADAMS the House proceeded to ballot for a Speaker. Three ballots took place before a choice was effected.

On the third and final ballot, Mr. LEVIN, (Native) of Philadelphia, who had twice previously voted for J. R. INGERSOLL (Whig) changed his vote, and supported Mr. WINTHROP. Mr. HOLMES (Loco) of S. C. refused to vote, and another Member retired from the Hall, thus reducing the whole number to 218 votes. On the first ballot Mr. Winthrop lacked 3 and on the second 2 votes of a majority.

Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP having received a majority of 2 on the third ballot was declared elected Speaker.—He was conducted to the Chair by Mr. VINTON of Ohio, and McKAY of N. C. Having returned thanks in the following able, eloquent and patriotic address, he was sworn in by Mr. ADAMS.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives of the United States:

I am deeply sensible of the honor which you have conferred upon me by the vote which has just been announced, and I pray leave to express my most grateful acknowledgements to those who have thought me worthy of so distinguished a mark of their confidence.

When I remember by whom this chair has been filled in other years, and, still more, when I reflect on the constitutional character of the body before me, I cannot but feel that you have assigned me a position worthy of any man's ambition, and far above the rightful reach of my own.

I approach the discharge of its duties with a profound impression at once of their dignity and of their difficulty.

Seven years of service as a member of this branch of the National Legislature have more than sufficed to teach me that this is no place of mere formal routine or ceremonious repose. Severe labors, perplexing cares, trying responsibilities, await any one who is called to it, even under the most auspicious and favorable circumstances. How, then, can I help trembling at the task which you have imposed on me, in the existing condition of this House and the country?

In a time of war, in a time of high political excitement, in a time of momentous national controversy, I see before me the representatives of the people almost equally divided, not merely, as the votes this morning have already indicated, in their preference for persons, but in opinion and in principle, on many of the most important questions on which they have assembled to deliberate.

May I not reasonably claim, in advance, from you all, something more than an ordinary measure of forbearance and indulgence, for whatever of inability I may manifest in meeting the exigencies and embarrassments which I cannot hope to escape? And may I not reasonably implore, with something more than common fervency, upon your labors and upon my own, the blessing of that Almighty Power, whose recorded attribute it is that "He maketh men to be of one mind in a house?"

Let us enter, gentlemen, upon our work of legislation with a solemn sense of our responsibility to God and to our country. However we may be divided on questions of immediate obligation, we are the Representatives of twenty millions of people, bound together by common laws and a common liberty.—A common flag floats daily over us, on which there is not one of us who would see a stain rest, and from which there is not one of us who would see a star struck. And we have a common Constitution, to which the oaths of allegiance, which it will be my first duty to administer to you, will be only, I am persuaded, the formal expression of those sentiments of devotion which are already cherished in all our hearts.

There may be differences of opinion as to the powers which this Constitution confers upon us; but the purposes for which it was created are inscribed upon its face in language which cannot be misconstrued. It was ordained and established "to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

Union, justice, domestic tranquility, the common defence, the general welfare, and the security of liberty for us and those who shall come after us, are thus the great objects for which we are to exercise whatever powers have been entrusted to us. And I hazard nothing in saying that there have been few periods in our national history when the eyes of the people have been turned more intently and more anxiously toward the Capitol than they are at this moment, to see what is to be done, here and now, for the vindication and promotion of these lofty ends.

Let us resolve, then, that those eyes shall at least witness on our part duties discharged with diligence, deliberations conducted with dignity, and efforts hon-

estly made for the peace, prosperity, and honor of the Republic.

I shall esteem it the highest privilege of my public life, if I shall be permitted by a faithful and impartial administration of the office which I have now accepted.

On Tuesday the House proceeded to the election of a Clerk, when Mr. T. J. CAMPBELL, of Tennessee, was chosen on the first ballot. He had 113 votes; French 109; Governeys 1; Lent 1; Sergeant I. Mr. Campbell was a member of the last Congress, and is an unflinching Whig.

On Wednesday the House completed its organization by the election of NATHAN SARGENT, for Sergeant-at-Arms; S. HORNER, Doorkeeper; and Mr. JOHNSON, Postmaster.

The officers elected are all Whigs with the exception of Postmaster, and were nominated in a Whig caucus.

The reports of the Secretaries of War, Treasury and Navy have been sent in. Nothing else of interest has transpired.

Execution of Lawrence Tearney.

A letter from Easton, in the "Pennsylvaniaian," gives an account of the execution of Lawrence Tearney, in the jail yard, of Northampton county, on Friday of week before last. It will be recollected that he was convicted, (on circumstantial evidence,) of the murder of his wife, who was found dead in front of her shanty, dreadfully burned, in November, 1846. Messrs. Reardon and Maloney, two Catholic clergymen, attended him on the scaffold.

A short time before the condemned criminal was executed, he was thus addressed by the Rev. Mr. Reardon: "You know, Larry, that your only hope of salvation depends upon your telling the truth; you surely can never enter Heaven with a falsehood upon your lips."—The prisoner replied: "I know that, Sir, and I have no other desire than to tell the truth: I can declare solemnly before my Great Judge, that I am entirely innocent of the death of my poor wife." His dying dress was then put on him, and at 10 minutes before 12 o'clock, he was led from his cell to the gallows.—He ascended to the platform with a firm and manly step, accompanied by the Reverend gentlemen who attended him. The usual ceremony was performed by the clergymen, when the prisoner turned to the crowd, and said: "Gentlemen, as I expect shortly to appear before my God, I can declare before God and man, that I am innocent of the crime for which I am to suffer. I forgive all who harmed me—may God have mercy on my soul." The cord was then cut, and poor Larry was launched into eternity. He died an extremely easy death, having shown signs of life only four minutes after the fall. He never struggled—but three twitches of his shoulders and all was over. I saw the prisoner an hour before his death, and spent some time with him, in the presence of his clergymen. His demeanor was perfectly calm and cool. He repeatedly expressed a hope that his "exchange from this world to the abode of bliss above," would be one of "peace and happiness," and declared over and over again, that he was "ignorant of the manner in which his wife came to her death."

The Village Record publishes an interesting letter from Lieut. C. P. EVANS, in which we find the following complimentary notice of Captain WM. H. IRVIN, of this State:

"We had but two Captains in the regiment, both of whom were wounded. Captain Wm. H. Irvin, brother to Mrs. Dr. Brinton, of your borough, was wounded by a musket ball striking the back of his hand, which, although it has been very painful, I am most happy to say is now nearly well. It may be a gratification to his friends to know (although it could not have been expected otherwise,) that my friend Capt. Irvin, upon this as well as upon all other occasions, behaved most gallantly. Pennsylvania has found in him one of her truest sons; and that noble State may well boast of her chivalry, so long as her interior can produce such gallant soldiers to represent her in the field of battle."

MYSTERIOUS MURDER.—The New York Herald says that the body of a fair and elegant young lady, about nineteen years of age, and of surpassing beauty, was found a few days ago in the East River:

"Even in death the features of her countenance were expressive of the utmost female loveliness. Her linen was of the finest and most delicate texture, her skin fair and beautiful as alabaster, and around the breast was a pair of corsets of the most expensive kind, and richly embroidered. Her frock was of a rich silk, and had evidently been torn by violence in shreds from her person.—Long ringlets of beautiful hair hung dishevelled over her now melancholy face, and hung down over her finely proportioned shoulders."

The Philadelphia Ledger of Tuesday throws off the mask of neutrality, and says "the Ledger is not, and never was, a 'neutral' paper; it dispenses neutrality." That, we should suppose, will block the game so long pursued by Locofoco and professedly "neutral" papers of quoting the authority of the Ledger as neutral.—Gettysburg Star.

LATER FROM MEXICO.

SANTA ANNA SEEKING THE PRESIDENCY—DENIES THAT HE RESIGNED.

RICHMOND, Dec. 7, 1847.

The express that left New Orleans on the 30th ult., reached here to day, bringing the following intelligence from Vera Cruz and the Brazos:

The steamer New Orleans arrived, with Vera Cruz dates to the 21st, on Sunday the 28th. The New Orleans stopped the next day at Tampico, which place she left on the 23d. She brings about 70 passengers in her cabin, and 350 men discharged from the quartermaster's department.

The English steamer Forth left Tampico the same day for Vera Cruz, and the steamer Madrid went into Tampico as the New Orleans came out. No news of interest from Tampico.

The most important news by the arrival of the New Orleans is in relation to an attempt having been made by Santa Anna to resume the reins of government not by force, but a mere assumption of the authority of President, which he contends cannot be equally separated from the command of the army. A long document from Santa Anna, dated Nov. 1st, at Tepanacan, directed to President Pena y Pena, through the Secretary of State, is published. In it he contends that the terms of his resignation was not sufficient and could have no legal force unless accepted by Congress. He never entirely resigned the functions of President, but temporarily consented to the separation of the civil from the military powers of the office, which the state of the country then required, but such reasons having now ceased to exist he desired to resume his full legal position till Congress should accept his resignation. The same day he addressed an exposition of the same views to Congress, tendering his resignation and entreating that body to accept it.

An order had been issued by the Governor of Vera Cruz, forbidding any person to land in the department of Vera Cruz from any public or private vessel belonging to the United States, unless attached to the army, or having business connected therewith, which must be strictly established before landing.

The schooner Wm. Hazard, from Brazos St. Jago, arrived at the Southern Pass on the afternoon of the 25th ult., and reached the city on Sunday. The vessel left the Brazos on the 20th, to which date the Picayune publishes letters from their correspondents. J. E. Duriage, a passenger also furnishes some intelligence.

A party of the 2d and 3d Dragoons, were despatched after the Guerrillas that attacked Lieut. Wilson on the 1st ult. but were not able to come up to them.—It was understood that the loss of the Guerrillas was very severe. Michael Martinez, the one armed robber who commanded them, was among the killed.

Maj. Lane despatched a party in pursuit of an Indian force in his vicinity, but they arrived too late, having left on the previous day, taking away with them 2500 head of cattle, mules and horses, driven in from different ranchos. Capt. Adams was also sent out in pursuit, but had not returned. At the last accounts he was at Encatada.

Lieut. Dusenberry, of the Texas battalion, had shot a man in the thigh for mutinous conduct, and it is thought the wound will prove mortal.

Gen. Taylor broke up his encampment at the Walnut Springs, near Monterey, on the morning of the 8th ult., and with his staff, accompanied by General Wool and his staff, turned their march homeward. When near Marin, the General was met by Mr. Vanallen, of New York, who was the bearer of despatches. The only important one was a copy of the correspondence between the War Department and Gen. Scott, in which the former instructs the latter to rely for certain supplies upon the resources of the country, as no more would be sent to the troops from the United States.

It is, however, deemed to be impossible to collect contributions to any extent from the inhabitants, or obtain corn without paying for it, between Matamoras and Monterey, as nearly all the ranchos and towns are destroyed.

Lieut. Col. Webb, of the 16th Regiment, on the 6th ult., received intelligence that a party of guerrillas had encamped near Ceralvo. He accordingly despatched Major Norvel, with fifty mounted men, for the camp, accompanied by a guide. The attacking party surprised the guerrilla camp, having made their way through the chapparal unperceived, and the robbers made a precipitate retreat. The fire of the pursuers killed two and wounded several others.

There has been no change in the markets since our last.

Tax on Newspapers.

Mr. Brodhead, of this State, has given notice in the House of Representatives of his intention to introduce a bill to repeal the law of last session which laid a postage on newspapers within 30 miles of their place of publication.—This is right. Let this unjust tax be taken off at once. Mr. Brodhead deserves the thanks of the country press for his prompt movement in this matter. We pity the member of either party who refuses to vote for the repeal.