



Huntingdon, Tuesday, February 15, 1848

Our thanks are due to Hons. J. Crittenden, A. Stewart and J. Blanchard, for valuable documents from Washington. Also, to D. Blair and A. King, Esq's., for favors from Harrisburg.

**Congressional Conference.**

We learn from the Bellefonte Whig, that Wednesday, the 1st of March, has been fixed upon for the meeting of the Conference at Brown's Mills, Mifflin co., to appoint a delegate to represent the 17th Congressional District in the National Convention.

**Whig Ratification Meeting.**

The Whig National Convention, for the nomination of candidates for President and Vice President, having been called to meet in Philadelphia on the 7th of June next, the Daily News of Monday last says a call will be issued in a day or two, for a NATIONAL RATIFICATION MEETING OF THE WHIGS OF THE UNION, in that city, on Tuesday the 8th of June next. The Editors tender the hospitalities of the city to their Whig brethren of the Union.

**Gen. Taylor.**

On fourth page will be found a letter from Gen. Taylor, in reply to the Secretary of War, which has been brought to light by a resolution of Congress. It is written in the characteristic style of him who "asks no favors and shrinks from no responsibility," and will be read with interest. The administration, in its war upon Gen. Taylor, is destined to be as badly used up as was Santa Anna at the battle of Buena Vista.

The letter to Gen. Gaines, which was made a pretext by the administration for rebuking Gen. Taylor, has also been republished in the Eastern papers, and the portions suppressed in the first publication given. We shall give this letter in our next. In the meantime, as the old hero's views on the war are in direct opposition to those entertained by Mr. Polk and his counsellors, the public may be prepared to hear him denounced by the Polk presses as a "Mexican Whig."

**Broad Top Railroad.**

On motion of our Senator, Mr. King, the bill to incorporate the Huntingdon and Broad Top Railroad company, was taken up in Senate on Tuesday last, and passed by a vote of 24 yeas to 7 nays. This vote looks encouraging, and if the proper interest is taken by our citizens in this measure, it may yet become a law at this session.

**FEBRUARY INTEREST.**—Governor Shunk sent a message to the Legislature the other day, in which he states that there is a deficit of about \$60,000 in the amount necessary for the payment of the interest. He recommends that a loan of \$100,000 be authorized.

Whether the work upon the Bennington railroad has or has not been suspended, is a subject of dispute among the Holidaysburg editors. The new Bank of "Discount and Deposit," is distinctly understood to be a "fixed fact."

The health of Gov. Shunk has been in such a delicate situation for some time back, as to cause the most serious apprehensions among his friends. We are happy to learn, however, that he is improving.

**STAGE ACCIDENT.**—We learn from the Bellefonte Whig that the horses ran off with the mail stage between Lewistown and Bellefonte on the 4th inst. In attempting to stop them, the driver, Wm. Welker, was precipitated from the box, owing to the break giving way, and the hind wheel passed over his left arm, breaking it above the elbow. He was otherwise severely injured. The passengers succeeded in stopping the horses without further damage.

**DEATH OF R. M. JONES.**—The New Orleans Delta gives a list of deaths in the General Hospital at Perote, Mexico, from the 31st of October to 31st Dec., inclusive, numbering 72, among which we observe the name of Robt. M. Jones, of this county. He died on the 6th of November, of diarrhoea. For some time previous to entering the service, the deceased was a student at Law in the office of Gen. Wilson, in this borough.

**TRUMAN SMITH TO THE WHIGS.**

The following is an extract from a letter recently addressed to the Whigs of Connecticut by Hon. Truman Smith.—It contains the true Whig doctrine:

"It seems to me that Whigs everywhere should speak of the views of each other in regard to the Presidency with moderation; good temper, and liberality; should forego premature and unprofitable discussion, and unfurl the banner which we bore aloft so proudly and so successfully in 1840, and on which was inscribed the generous sentiment, 'the union of the Whigs for the sake of the Union.' If we cultivate this spirit we shall, as I think, find in mutual consultations an ark of safety; and I trust that the Whigs of the whole country, and particularly those of Connecticut, will be prepared to accord to the proposed Convention their entire confidence. If by such an agency a ticket shall be formed which shall pay a proper respect to the opinions and feelings of all sections of the Union, (as I doubt not there will be,) we may rest assured that a large majority of the American people will mark with their signal displeasure the present rash administration of our affairs, and will sternly rebuke those who have sported with the peace of the country; and made of war and its bloody front a game of politics."

**THE WISDOM OF THE PEOPLE.**

The North American says:—Every day produces some new evidence that the American people possess a wisdom which has deserted, and a moderation of character which is unknown to, their rulers; and they do not mean to yield to the ambitious projects of the latter, to make them the Roman masters of the democratic rights of an unfortunate people, whose yearning desire and constant effort have been to be free, and independent, and happy, like themselves. The re-election of Senator Pierce, the Aristides of Maryland, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, is a strong illustration of the popular feeling in that State, the full significance of which is appreciated only by those who understand all the facts connected with it.—Another equally strong and most impressive evidence, was furnished in the little news-paragraph, published on Monday, describing the reception of General Quitman, at Elizabethtown, New Jersey. "Three cheers for General Quitman," cried some worthy professor of the "inevitable destiny" school of politics,—and the crowd at the railroad depot gave them with alacrity. "Three cheers for General Scott," and the cheers were given; "three cheers for General Taylor," and these came with equal enthusiasm. "Three cheers for the annexation of all Mexico!" cried the intrepid adventurer,—but the voice of the multitude was suddenly still. Not one shout—not one cheer—not one single accent to respond to an offer such as the enemy of man once devised for the temptation of a spirit above that of men: no, not one. There was a deep voice, however, uttered in that very silence. There spoke the true voice, the brave voice, the just voice of the American people. It was the voice of the buried fathers of the republic,—sounding from their graves,—the old voice with which they used to address the nations of the earth, in the sublime words of the profession of their national faith:—"We ask for nothing that is not right; we will submit to nothing that is wrong."

The people of America cheer their brave generals: but they do not cheer "the annexation of all Mexico." The demagogues do not understand this; and, therefore, they are of opinion the people of America are all "traitors."

The State Temperance Convention which assembled at Harrisburg recently, resolved "That nothing short of a law entirely prohibiting the traffic in liquors as a beverage, can ever be an effectual remedy for the evils of intemperance," and that they would never cease petitioning the legislature "until entire and absolute prohibition of the traffic in intoxicating beverages shall be inscribed upon the statute book of this Commonwealth."

**ELECTION OF JUDGES.**—The Senate of this State, by a vote of 18 to 11, has passed a bill providing for the election of Judges by the people.

The Whigs of Lehigh county have nominated Dr. Leshner Trexler for Congress, in the district made vacant by the death of Hon. John W. Hornbeck.

A petition of 16 poor laborers on the Juniata division of the canal, who were paid off in Lewistown money the very day the Bank failed, asking for relief, has been presented to the Legislature by Mr. Blair.

**ÆSOP'S FABLES.**

Perhaps, says the North American, this venerable work of the old Greek pedagogue was never in greater demand than at the present moment. "After long seeming dead," or forgotten, it starts into sudden popularity, and every body asks every body else, "Have you a copy of Æsop? Can you tell where I can find Æsop? Do you understand Æsop's Fables?"

All of this sudden popularity has arisen from General Taylor, who is not only great himself, but the cause of greatness in Æsop. He has quoted Æsop; at all events, he has referred to one of Æsop's Fables; he has done it too, in his letter to Secretary Marcy,—the memorable letter of March 3, 1847, which has just created such a sensation: and one great reason of the sensation is the prodigious curiosity to know which fable the hero means. It is, indeed, a source of some agitation in the community to find that General Taylor troubles himself with fables at all, being a man of facts, and such hard facts, in particular, as Monterey and Buena Vista. Every body is surprised to learn that he reads Æsop—that he thinks of Æsop—that he wants the department to think of Æsop. But the wonder is as to the particular fable to which he refers so mysteriously; and every body asks, in the greatest excitement, which fable is it? what is the fable about? is it the fox and the goose? the man and the horse? the lion and the ass? or what fable can it possibly be? In short, the whole American world appears to be in a state of distraction about that fable: the Secretary is distracted, the President is distracted, all the members of Congress are distracted, the letter writers are distracted, the community is distracted, the correspondents of the newspapers are distracted: every body is distracted, except ourselves, who are always composed and calm, as editors must be, or be editors no longer.

But which fable is it? "The apparent determination of the department," says General Taylor, "to place me in an attitude antagonistic to the government, has an apt illustration in the well known fable of Æsop." Who knows but that General Taylor meant the fable of the Wolf and the Lamb?—For do whatever the poor lamb would, the Wolf was determined to pick a quarrel with it, because meaning to devour it. We think this supposition of a learned correspondent a highly ingenious and plausible one;—only that General Taylor, however innocent and badly treated by the devourer of the Department, does not seem so much like a lamb either.—"I ask no favor and I shrink from no responsibility," says the lamb who had just, at Buena Vista, so grievously disappointed the hungry wolf of Mexico.—It may be as our correspondent says; but we think that Mr. Marcy ought to take warning from the fate of Santa Anna.

**THE WOLF AND THE LAMB.**

One hot sultry day, a Wolf and a Lamb happened to come just at the same time to quench their thirst in the stream of a brook that fell tumbling down the side of a rocky mountain. The Wolf stood upon the higher ground, and the Lamb at some distance below him. However, the wolf, having a mind to pick a quarrel with the Lamb, asked him what he meant by disturbing the water, and making it so muddy that he could not drink; and, at the same time, demanded satisfaction. The Lamb, frightened at this threatening charge, told him, in a tone as mild as possible, that with humble submission, he could not conceive how that could be, since the water which he drank ran down from the Wolf to him, and therefore could not be disturbed so far up the stream. Be that as it may, replies the Wolf, you are a rascal, and I have been told that you used ill language concerning me behind my back, about half a year ago. Upon my word, says the Lamb, the time you mention was before I was born. The Wolf, finding it to no purpose to argue any longer against truth, fell into a great passion, snarling and foaming at the mouth, as if he had been mad; and drawing near to the Lamb, "Sirrah," says he, "if it were not you, it was your father, and that is the same." So he seized the poor innocent helpless thing, tore it to pieces, and made a meal of it.

The moral which is appended to this fable says—"when cruelty and injustice are armed with power, and determined on oppression, the strongest pleas of innocence are preferred in vain, and nothing is more easy than finding pretences to criminate the unsuspecting victims of tyranny. How many of the

degenerate, corrupt and arbitrary governments," it adds, "with which the civilized world has been disfigured, have exercised their vengeance upon the honest and virtuous, who have dared in bad times to speak the truth."

**Slavery vs. Harbors and Rivers.**

The Pittsburg American says:—On the subject of Slavery Gen. Cass wrote a letter of three columns in length, to favor the South. On the subject of Harbors and Rivers he wrote a letter of three lines, giving the cut direct to the North. Honest General Cass!!! A line to improvement, and that line not for it; a column to slavery, and that column to sustain it. Hurrah for General Cass!!! The only merit of this hero consists in the fact that he did not run in 40 miles to surrender himself with Hull in 1812. He had not to fight nor run the gauntlet. All he had to do was to keep his distance from the enemy—which he did—instead of running in to surrender.—History furnishes us with no other evidence of this hero's military exploits in the last war to claim our suffrages.

**MR. STEWART'S SPEECH.**

Letter writers from Washington say that no speech which has been made this session has thus far been so largely subscribed for as that of the Hon. Andrew Stewart, of Pennsylvania; more than 50,000 copies of which, in pamphlet form, have already been sent out. It is full of sound argument. There is one paragraph which so graphically describes the policy and character of this administration, that we cannot avoid transcribing it. There never was more truth and humor put into briefer compass, to wit:

"But, this administration goes by the rule of contrary; their theories and their measures are always at war.—When they preach economy, I look out for extravagance; when they flatter the people as the true sovereigns of the land, then comes a veto; when they cry peace, then look out for war; when they say democracy, look out for aristocracy; when they denounce paper money, look out for Treasury notes; when they say 54 40 or fight, look out for 'slink out' and 49; when they say no conquest look out for all of Mexico."

**Bridge Allotments.**

The County Commissioners have made the following allotments of the bridges advertised by them to be rebuilt.

Drake's Ferry Bridge, let to John Robertson, at \$3,395.

Bridge at Vandevanders, let to David Irons, at \$1,845.

Crooked Creek Bridge, let to John M. Comb, at \$349.

Bridge near James Entrikens, let to J. & O. Copelin, at \$600.

Spruce Creek Bridge, let to J. & O. Copelin, at \$825.

The cost of the whole—\$7,014.

**CHLOROFORM.**

The Boston Transcript has heard of a case where Chloroform was administered to relieve the sufferings of a dying person. The success of the application was complete, and the patient's last moments were tranquil and void of pain.

**TAXING BACHELORS.**

A bill was introduced into the Kentucky House of Representatives, on Saturday last, and referred to a select committee, "to levy a specific tax on old bachelors over thirty years of age, the proceeds to be applied to the support of indigent widows and orphans, and for other purposes."—Should this be passed into a law, it will give a new impulse to matrimony in Kentucky, and render our sister State the paradise of ladies.

**EXCLUSIVE ASSEMBLIES.**

Major Noah, in his Sunday Times and Messenger, says that the only real exclusive assemblies in New York, are our aristocratic churches. "When we pass by them on Sunday, and see the liveried servants waiting outside, while their masters and mistresses are worshipping within, we think that possibly the thing may be reversed in the next world, when the masters may have to stand outside."

**CANADA.**

The Montreal Courier, of the 1st, contains an article which commences thus:

"Shall we have a secession from the Mother Country, and become a Republic? or shall we join the United States?—These are two questions upon which the country must now decide. Mr. L. Joseph Papineau has declared for a Republic. He has caused one rebellion to obtain its end."

**HONOR TO GENERAL SCOTT.**

The Virginia House of Delegates have passed resolutions, unanimously, voting a gold medal, with a suitable inscription, to Major General Winfield Scott, of the U. S. A., for his recent services in Mexico.

**FROM WASHINGTON.**

The discussion on the ten regiment bill still continues in the Senate. Mr. Hunter, of Virginia, spoke on Monday in favor of the bill granting supplies, and in advocacy of the withdrawal of our troops behind a military line resting on the Sierra Madre. A number of resolutions, calling on the President for information on various subjects connected with the war, have been adopted.

In the House, Mr. Hunt introduced a joint resolution of thanks to Gen. Scott, Commander-in-Chief, and through him to his officers and men, regulars and volunteers, for their uniform gallantry, &c., in capturing Vera Cruz, and at the battles of Cerro Gordo, San Antonio, Contreras, Churubusco, and in front of the City of Mexico, directing the President to have a gold medal presented to Gen. Scott, and to communicate to him a copy of this resolution. After some attempts to amend, this resolution was adopted by a vote of 197 to 1.

Mr. Stephens submitted a joint resolution of thanks to Gen. Taylor, and through him to his officers and men, for their gallant conduct at Buena Vista, and directing a gold medal to be presented to Gen. T., and a copy of the resolutions to be adopted.—yeas 185, nays 1.

**"HARMONIOUS DEMOCRACY!"**

We clip from the report in the Baltimore Sun, the following abstract of a spicy debate which sprung up among the Democracy in the House on the 7th inst:

Mr. Wilmot obtained leave to make a personal explanation, and proceeded to comment on an attack upon him in the Union, a few days since. He was very severe on the editor of the Union and upon Mr. Buchanan, and intimated that the hostility manifested towards him arose from an unwillingness on his part to attach himself to a particular aspirant for the Presidency. He denied that he had separated himself from the democratic party by any act, public or private, and that his course here was in obedience to the known views of his constituents.

He charged Mr. Buchanan with having opposed the late war with Great Britain, and with having been instrumental in defeating the election of Mr. Woodward to the United States Senate, from Pennsylvania. He examined Mr. Ritchie's political course, declaring that he had done more to break down the democratic party than any other man in the United States—that there were not twenty-five democratic members of the last House who had not been directly or indirectly assailed by him—and that after having, no longer ago than 1837, come, like a mendicant upon his knees, begging for admission into the democratic ranks.

In the course of Mr. Wilmot's remarks, Mr. Brown, of Pennsylvania, declared that he had good reason for declaring that Mr. W. himself had opposed the election of Mr. Woodward, and was in expectation himself, at the time, of being elected to the United States Senate.

Mr. Wilmot denied that he had any such expectation, or that he had opposed the election of Mr. Woodward, who was his personal and political friend—had ever been his friend—had grown up at his side—and read law in his office. The friends of Mr. Woodward believed that he had been defeated through the influence of Mr. Buchanan.

Mr. Thompson, of Pennsylvania, when Mr. Wilmot had concluded, by permission of the House, replied. He defended Mr. Buchanan, denied that he opposed the war with Great Britain. There was no man in Pennsylvania who was more popular than James Buchanan—no one who enjoyed a higher reputation. His friend from Pennsylvania, (for so he would call him, though he had now said much to forfeit his respect,) was only one among the whole democratic delegation from Pennsylvania who entertains such sentiments; and in their expression here, was much safer than he would be in Pennsylvania.

**THE FINANCES.**

On the 8th, the House went into committee of the whole on the state of the Union, and took up the Loan Bill. Mr. Vinton addressed the committee at length, with a view to point out alleged errors in the estimates of the Secretary of the Treasury for the present fiscal year, and probable errors in his estimates for the ensuing. From the facts which he stated, he came to the conclusion, that instead of the \$16,000,000 now asked for by the Secretary, it would be necessary to raise between twenty-three and twenty-four millions. The Secretary, too, had estimated the revenue from all sources, for the next fiscal year, at \$35,000,000. But the estimated revenue from the public lands would not be available, because the receipts from that source were pledged, by the loan act of last session, for the payment of the interest on that loan, and for the creation of a sinking fund for the final liquidation of that debt. If the anticipated revenue from customs was put down at \$28,000,000, and the revenue from lands (though not available) at \$1,500,000, he thought it would be rather over, than under, the mark. Instead of the expenses for the war, if continued, being less, he contended they would be larger than heretofore. But if they were put down at this sum, and the interest on the loan

were added, the expenditures would come up to \$65,000,000, leaving a deficit of thirty millions in the estimates of the Secretary for the next fiscal year.

Mr. Vinton estimated that the public debt of the ensuing year would reach one hundred and twelve millions of dollars. The existing debt may be called, in round numbers, fifty millions; add to this twenty-three millions, which the Chairman estimates for the present fiscal year, and a deficiency of thirty-nine millions for the ensuing year, at the present cost of the war, and we have the interesting little sum of ONE HUNDRED AND TWELVE MILLIONS of a public debt as one of the blessings of this Executive war!!!

**General Scott and the Army.**

"Mustang," the excellent correspondent of the New Orleans Delta, in describing the departure of Gen. Cadwalader's command to occupy Toluca, says:

"The brigade formed in the Grand Plaza, this morning, at an early hour when there was an old-fashioned bidding 'good-by.' I always love to see soldiers bid one another 'good-by'—it is so warm so enthusiastic, and so full of the sincerity of true friendship, and invariably accompanied with the emphatic and expressive sentiment 'God bless you!' How strongly does it contrast with the cold, unfeeling, hackneyed phrase of civilians at home, 'adieu, my dear friend.' As the column emerged from the Plaza, and marched by the quarters of Gen. Scott, who, hat in hand, exchanged salutations, as they passed, the air was filled with the spirit stirring notes of 'Yankee Doodle.' The rank and file entertain the most remarkable degree of enthusiastic feeling for the chief who has directed them through so many trying and perilous positions, and who has conducted them to the topmost peak of the altar of fame. When they stand before him or pass by him, they appear to look better, and assume the more correct character of the soldier than at any other time. This, however is one of the great secrets of the success which has attended our arms in Mexico. If the rank and file had ever doubted, or ever entertained the least want of confidence in the officers who led them, there is no judging what would have been the result.

"As the command took the direct road leading to Toluca, every band in the brigade, as if prompted by the same feeling, and entertaining the same sentiment, struck up the tune of 'The Girls we left behind us,' and although they went off happily and cheerily, it came upon them like an electric shock—like a voice from their far-distant homes.—How many recollections of the past does this little incident bring to our mind! It recalls vividly to our view the bright and happy days of our childhood—our sports upon the green lawn in spring-time of life—our frolics when we attended the primary school—our progress and growth to the age of maturity—the dear sister we have left behind—the weeping mother, offering up ardent petitions to kind Providence for our safety—the bright-eyed girls we promised never to forget—our youthful associations and the realities of manhood—the friends who started with us on the journey of life, and those who with manly fortitude, are still climbing up the steep and rugged cliffs of time striving to reach the topmost tower of fame—and as we first survey the field of our past operations and then endeavor to scan futurity, we cannot help thinking how many there are of us here who will never again return to the 'Girls we left behind us.'"

**A GOOD MOVEMENT.**—A bill has been introduced into the New Jersey Legislature "for the preservation of newspapers," which authorises the clerks of counties to subscribe and preserve in a bound form all the newspapers published in them. No better general or local history can be found than the newspapers, and in future years as matters of reference they are invaluable.

**A FIEND IN HUMAN SHAPE.**—A man near Mendon, Illinois, is charged with starving his own mother to death. The man's name is Jesse R. Hull, and the statement is, that for some cause, supposed to be merely to release himself of the burden of keeping her, he shut his mother up in a cold room, and kept her without food until she literally starved to death—having first gnawed the paper from the walls.

**A GOOD PHRASE.**—The Knickerbocker tells a good story of a witness, who made a very nice distinction in the shades of lying. Being questioned by a lawyer as to the general reputation of another witness was asked whether the individual was not a notorious liar. "Why," said he, rolling an immense quid of tobacco in his mouth, "not exactly so; but he is what I call an 'intermittent liar.'"

**ESSENCE OF BRUTALITY.**—A prize fight took place in Geneva, (N. Y.) on January, 26, between Smith and Featherly.—Smith was horribly mutilated. The parties were arrested on the spot, and Featherly is now in jail on charge of maiming. In the fight he wore rings on his fingers such as pick-pockets wear, which enclosed blades, and at every blow inflicted a wound as with a knife.

Since the abolition of capital punishment in Michigan, it is said that capital offences have increased.