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Interesting.

We are continuing to send out bills to those in arrears. We hope none will fail to remit their dues. We make out the bills to the end of the year, which, in most cases, is the first of July next. Those we have trusted for three years and eight months, will not of course, refuse to trust us for the four coming months for which they are charged.

THE CABINET.

We have had during the past week, a "thousand and one" rumors as to the composition of Gen. Taylor's Cabinet. The New York Tribune of the 2d and the Daily News of the 3d inst. concur that the following gentlemen will pretty certainly compose the new Cabinet: Sec. of State, JOHN M. CLAYTON, of Del.

The Washington correspondent of the Daily News in his letter of the first inst., seems to think that a change will be made in the above list, and that Mr. Lawrence will take the Treasury department, while the Navy department will be given to either Mr. Randall, Mr. McKenman or Judge Banks, of Pa. All these rumors and speculations will be set right in a day or two by the official announcement.

The Inauguration.

Washington has been a perfect jam for some time past. More than a week ago all the leading hotels were thronged and it was quite difficult to obtain comfortable quarters. The price of boarding has run up from \$1.50 to \$5 per day. And matters would be growing worse until after the inauguration. There is more people at Washington than ever assembled there on any similar occasion.

Spring Election.

Friday, the 16th inst., is the day for electing borough and township officers in Huntingdon County. We hope our Whig friends throughout the county will attend to this election. The election of honest and competent election officers is of the highest importance; and the election of the right kind of Assessors is no less important. The Locos always attend to these small elections, while the Whigs too often neglect them.

Gen. Scott.

The correspondent of the Daily News says Gen. Taylor has written a letter to Gen. Scott, at New York, expressing an earnest desire that he should come to Washington, and be present at the inauguration. Considering the peculiar relation which so recently existed between these two heroes, it does great credit to Gen. Taylor, exhibiting as it does, in its true light, the generous and magnanimous disposition which he bears.

OLD ZACK.

All who have had an opportunity to see and converse with General Taylor are delighted with the man. Gov. JOHNSTON, visited Gen. Taylor at Washington, at his special invitation, and returned to Harrisburg on Monday evening last. We learn from the Pa. Telegraph that he was much pleased with his interviews with the General, whom he found to be quite a different man from what he has been represented, particularly by his enemies, and who expressed himself unequivocally in favor of those measures of national policy that Pennsylvania has ever cherished.

The old and the New.

Saturday last closed Mr. Polk's official career, and on yesterday, Gen. ZACHARY TAYLOR was inaugurated President of the United States. The retiring Administration had lost the confidence of the People; the new comes into power with an unsurpassed popularity, which is strengthening as Gen. Taylor is becoming more generally known. According to the declaration of one of Mr. Polk's partisans the other day in the House, he was the President of the "Democratic Party" exclusively. But this declaration was not necessary to prove the fact. Mr. Polk's Administration was the most exclusively partisan, of any that this country has yet had. In his annual messages it to be found embodied the most bitter partisan slang of the day. But Mr. Polk's race is run. His good and evil deeds are before the country. The People have decided against his general policy, and demanded a change. Gen. Taylor has promised that he will lend his aid to soften the asperities of party—that the Will of the People, as expressed through their representatives shall prevail, and that in all things he shall strive, in his official capacity, to pattern after the early Presidents. Should these promises be verified, as we confidently believe they will, the People will have the desired change, and every true Republican may bless the day that elevated ZACHARY TAYLOR to the Presidential chair.

Gen. Taylor's Cabinet.

Intimations having been spread abroad that Gov. Johnston was likely to become a member of Gen. Taylor's Cabinet, it is proper for us to state that he has never entertained any such idea—on the contrary, we know that he would not leave his present position to accept of any office in the gift of the President. Nor has he at any time given any countenance to the rumor that has been circulated. Gov. Johnston appreciates too highly the efforts of those who placed him in power, to voluntarily abandon the cherished interests of his native State to the doubtful contingency of falling into the hands of political friends or enemies. He will not desert the post he has been called to fill by the voice of the people, while the interests of the Commonwealth might be jeopardized thereby.—Pa. Telegraph.

[From the Baltimore American.]

The New Administration.

The manifest disposition of the public mind to regard the new Administration with favor, is an auspicious sign indicative of good things.—Men of all parties are inclined to trust to the strong manly sense and sterling honesty which they ascribe to General TAYLOR. This confidence in advance gives to the new President an extraordinary power for good, without the danger of its doing any harm. It is given in sincere faith, and it will remain with abiding endurance so long as it is deserved. Gen. TAYLOR is thus placed in a position the most desirable that a patriotic President could occupy—that of being free to act, in all his official doings, "with reference to justice and the public good."

Thus far, in the whole demeanor of the President elect since the decision in November, there is seen an admirable propriety, quite in keeping with a character which his countrymen had learned to venerate, as exhibited in his previous career. On every occasion of welcome which greets him, as he advances toward the Capital, the congratulations of his fellow citizens are received with a modesty that proves its own genuineness, and he continually expresses his fears that in the new line of service to which the people have called him he may not be able to meet the expectations of the public. There is no affectation in this; nor could there be a better indication of the true worth and ability which he himself is the only one to distrust.

With such characteristics as General TAYLOR possesses, and with the strong hold which he now has upon the popular confidence, his Administration, without the excesses which marked General JACKSON's, may have more than its Constitutional vigor. That the new President will be every inch a President let those doubt who doubt that he fought at Buena Vista. But his whole life shows that the energy and decision of his character have ever been manifested in upholding the laws, not in violating them; and we may with reason infer that the same promptitude of obedience which has always marked his course when serving under the orders of his military superiors in authority, will continue to characterize his service under the high control of the Constitution and its solemn requisitions.

Canal Commissioner.

A correspondent of the Pa. Telegraph recommends STEPHEN MILLER, of Dauphin county, as a suitable candidate for the Whig party for Canal Commissioner. Mr. MILLER is not an office-seeker, but we venture to say that he would make a good candidate and an admirable officer. He is a Whig of the right sort.

Wilmot Proviso.

By reference to a letter under our Washington head, it will be seen that the House has passed the California Bill with the Wilmot Proviso. On the Senate now rests the responsibility of giving to California a Territorial government.

THE NEXT CENSUS.—It is estimated that our population is increasing about three per cent. annually.—This will give us an increased population of 670,000, during the present year, and the census of 1850 will doubtless exhibit an aggregate population throughout the Union, including our newly acquired territory, of at least 24,000,000.

FROM HARRISBURG.

[Correspondence of the Huntingdon Journal.]

HARRISBURG, March 2, 1849.

MY DEAR COLONEL:—I write this letter on about one of the most unpleasant days of the season; rain, sloop, snow and at length beginning to freeze. Town news is dull. Mrs. Loomis, the mesmerist lecturer, has been giving entertainments to good houses, and astonishing the solons with Miss Martha's extraordinary clairvoyant experiments. Last night Mr. De Witt, of the Presbyterian Church, was one of the committee and expressed himself satisfied that there was no collusion. A strange feat was done by Miss Margaret a few days ago,—no less than when magnetized, telling the Ex-Secretary of the Commonwealth the exact spot where to find a paper lost a long time ago. It was perfectly successful and staggered the unbelievers in clairvoyance considerably.

The Supplement to the act incorporating the Penna. Railroad Company, which passed the House some weeks ago, has been discussed in the Senate for the last three days; Messrs. King, Johnson, Drum and Small speaking for the bill, and Messrs. Matthias, Crabb and Darsie against it. To-day it passed second reading and it will go through. The Penna. R. R. Company object to and oppose it strongly and your representative, Mr. Cornyn, fights for it. He has paid more attention to the Senate than the House for the last three days, and would have lost the bill had he done otherwise; for it was in a tight place, as the Senator from Monroe says. He is now satisfied that it is all right. The vote on second reading to day was 16 for and 11 against the bill. So much for perseverance.

The North Branch Bill and the bill for avoiding the inclined plane at Philadelphia, are hung up to dry, for the present; the House being desirous to pass revenue measures before voting new appropriations. One of these latter passed the House to-day, making the licensing of inns and taverns in Philadelphia general. It will yield from \$250,000 to \$300,000 per annum. A few more such acts will set the State on her feet again.

An attempt was made a few days ago to procure an adjournment for four days, so as to enable those who desired to see the inauguration of the new President; but there were so many who did not want to go, of both parties, that it failed.

The bill revising the general school laws occupied the House yesterday, morning and afternoon. The representatives from counties where there are many non-accepting districts endeavored to get a bonus to come in, but the House very properly refused to honor them. The bill is a very good one and will probably pass.

The Governor and Mr. Cooper both went to Washington to see old Zack, the other day.—The Governor is back, well pleased with his trip, and Mr. Cooper still remains in the city. I have no general news. HUNTINGDON.

Opinions of us Abroad.

At the time of the difficulty in the organization of the Ohio legislature, we mourned over the light in which the affair would be regarded abroad. Our fears have been verified. A prominent subject of exultation in the English newspapers, and one frequently referred to with chagrin by the French, is the anarchical movement, which characterized that unhappy and disgraceful exhibition. In some of the Parisian newspapers which are in the interest of an incipient revolution in one of the American States; and jeers, but partially concealed, are flung at the stability of our institutions. It is melancholy to reflect that any action of any party of the United States, should be quoted at a period like this, as a proof of the weakness of a Republican government. Already the reaction in favor of the privileged orders is sufficiently great in Europe, without having the cause of Freedom smitten under the fifth rib by our own folly. We trust that the members of both sides will remember hereafter that the eyes of all Europe are upon us. The destinies of the human race depend upon us more than any people that has yet lived. Ought we not therefore to be mindful of our high vocation and run the race set before us like men conscious of a mighty mission.—Bulletin.

The President Elect.

The National Intelligencer of Wednesday last says:

"Our readers will be glad to learn that Gen. Taylor has been, by a day or two of repose, quite restored from the effects both of the accident which he met with on his route hither, and of the fatigue of his long journey; so much so that, besides receiving, yesterday, a large number of visitors of both sexes, he paid a formal visit to President Polk, by whom he was most courteously received, and with whom he exchanged the respectful greetings due from each to the other in their respective situations. We have reason to believe that the impression made on the numerous persons, public and private, who called on the General yesterday, scarcely one of whom had ever seen him before, was highly favorable. The blended urbanity and dignity of his demeanor, his kindness to all, and the evident benevolence which pervades all his actions, are well calculated to win general esteem. We, ourselves, were pleased to observe the alertness and vigor which mark his movements, after so many years of hard, anxious, and wearing service."

OYSTER WAR.—A difficulty occurred in the neighborhood of Drummondtown on the Eastern shore of Virginia, between the citizens of that neighborhood and a party from Philadelphia.—A fleet of twenty boats from the latter place, had recently entered that quarter of the bay and commenced dredging for oysters, in violation of the laws of the State, whereupon five small boats were manned and armed with two pieces of cannon, and thus prepared, a conflict ensued in which one oysterman was killed and the most of their schooners shot away. Ninety persons were subsequently captured and lodged in jail, but released on account of some informality. In the skirmish that took place, one of the Virginians was shot; the ball entering the mouth, and coming out at the side of the head, carrying away one of his ears.

FROM PANAMA.

A letter to the New York Tribune dated at Panama, January 22d, gives an account of a meeting held at that place by a considerable number of Americans, to protest against the priority given to passengers from the Pacific coast by the agent of the U. S. mail steamer California. The Americans at Panama who went across the Isthmus, in the expectation of obtaining passage in the steamer, contended that by an advertisement of the Pacific Mail company they have the right of priority over passengers from Callao and other Pacific ports. The meeting also passed resolutions approving the circular issued by Gen. Smith, notifying foreigners that they are prohibited by the laws of the United States from trespassing on the public domain, and that it will be his duty to enforce those laws against persons not citizens of the United States, on his arrival in California. The following is the circular letter of Gen. Smith:

Wm. Nelson, U. S. Consul at Panama:

SIR:—The laws of the United States inflict the penalty of fine and imprisonment on trespassers on the public lands. As nothing can be more unreasonable or unjust, than the conduct pursued by persons not citizens of the United States, who are flocking from all parts to search for and carry off gold belonging to the United States in California, and as such conduct is in direct violation of the law, it will become my duty, immediately on my arrival there, to put these laws in force, to prevent their infraction in future, by punishing with the penalties prescribed by law those who offend. As these laws probably are not known to many who are about starting to California, it would be well to make it publicly known that there are such laws in existence, and they will be in future enforced against all persons not citizens of the United States, who shall commit any trespass on the lands of the United States in California.—Your position as Consul here, being in communication with the Consul on the coast of South America, affords you the opportunity of making this known most generally, and I will be much obliged to you if you will do it.

PERSIFER F. SMITH, Brev. Major General U. S. A., Com'g. Pacific Division.

There is considerable dissatisfaction among the Americans detained at Panama, in consequence of what they conceive to be the bad faith of the Pacific agent of the mail company, but the letter expresses the opinion that the order-loving and law-abiding portion are so much in the ascendant, that all will pass off without serious consequences.

Authentic Accounts From California.

THE EXAGGERATIONS OF FORMER REPORTS.—After the exaggerations of first reports usually comes the truth. Capt. Phelps, whose arrival recently from California was telegraphed from the South with the addition that his accounts confirmed the most glowing descriptions of the gold country which had been received, is now in Boston, and has communicated his knowledge to the public. From the Boston Traveller's version of Mr. Phelps' experience in California, many of the stories that have been published are pure coinages of the brain. Capt. P. says letters have appeared in the papers from persons who had no existence in California, and vessels are named leading with gold that have never been there. The amount of gold that he brought is much less than the lowest reported quantity. He brings one lump weighing one ounce and a half, and says that the largest piece he had seen did not exceed six ounces. In many instances where it was reported that lumps of a pound and more weight had been found investigation proved that the statement was an exaggeration. Capt. P. worked personally at the washings, and he says the diggers do not make \$150 per day. Those who have done the best have not obtained more than \$3000 during the entire digging season.

Capt. P.'s opinions as to the success of expeditions daily starting for the country is, that it will depend upon the manner of their organization. There are considerable quantities of gold in California, but the amount does not equal the exaggerated reports. The inhabitants are anxious to maintain order but are obliged to resort to Lynch law to do so, in the absence of regular authority. The reported disorders in the country are also exaggerated. There was but one case occurred before he left, a negro, who was whipped for insulting a Mormon woman. When Col. Mason's companies deserted, a file of men were sent after them; they deserted also, and he called upon the miners to assist him in recovering the men if they wished the protection of the United States. They replied that they were willing to assist him in arresting fugitives from justice, but their time was too precious to be running after deserters.

New York, Feb. 25.—Tom Hyer the champion of America, as he is called, arrived in this city yesterday. As soon as it was known, that he came in the Philadelphia train, his friends procured a brouche, which they ornamented with American flags, and in which they conveyed him through the principle streets. They finally deposited him in the Branch Hotel, in the Bowery, in which establishment he has lately purchased an interest. He announces his determination of not engaging in any pugilistic encounter for the future.

FROM WASHINGTON.

[Correspondence of the Daily News.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27th, 1849.

Some of the best Whig architects in the whole country, are busy at work on the Cabinet. It is pretty well settled of what order it is to be, but the materials are not decided upon. Indeed, before Saturday, it is possible that the existing aspect of affairs may be entirely changed. The best authenticated rumor now has it that the Treasury Department will not be given to New England, but that will be pressed upon Pennsylvania. Wm. M. Meredith or Josiah Randall, Esq., it is further rumored, will be called upon to fill it. The same authority says that the Navy Department will be offered to Abbott Lawrence, while Caleb B. Smith, for reasons yet unknown, will not be assigned the Post Office Department. Thomas Ewing, of Ohio, and R. P. Letcher, of Ky., are now spoken of for this department. This is entirely a new aspect of things, and if correct, the Cabinet will be constituted differently from what it would, in all probability, have been, had it been formed yesterday.

The "outsiders," as the mongrel politicians are euphoniously called, have all sorts of rumors, stretching over a space larger than all California and New Mexico. Yet "many are called but few are chosen." General Taylor is in fine health and spirits, and receives his friends with a warm cordiality that is constantly adding to his popularity. He is all that the soundest Whigs have claimed for him, and right upon all the great questions that involve the interest and happiness of the people. He will be true to Pennsylvania, and treacherous to none. His great simplicity, honesty, and firmness, will endear him to all sections alike, but not to all parties.

There will probably be about one pick-pocket to every 500 people here on the 5th,—hence, those who visit the city should take extra caution with their money. The plan is frequently adopted, of leaving valuables and cash at some safe place of deposit.

The President's house to-night, is tolerably thronged with visitors, many of them embracing this as a last opportunity of extending a doleful farewell to the President-Er. Every thing seems to say to Mr. Polk, "Depart." The worshipful eyes even of some of his "tried" friends are already turned towards the rising power. The old dynasty sinks away as gradually as an iceberg in a tropical climate—it goes back to its original nothingness.

ADAMS.

Correspondence of the N. Y. Tribune.

Passage of the California Bill—House.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Feb. 27. Parade-day in the House to-day. The California bill was taken up in Committee half an hour after meeting—the House having previously laid on the table the only Land Reform bill presented at this Session, refusing the yeas and nays thereon. Mr. Roman of Md., had half an hour for the middle of a good Tariff Speech—the beginning was delivered late last night, the end being cut off by the arrival of the hour (noon) at which the debate was ordered to stop. The bill was then read by sections for consideration and amendment, without a pause until the 12th had been read—that which applied the provisions of the illustrious Ordinance of 1787 (Jefferson's Anti-Slavery) to this Territory. Here Mr. Sawyer of Ohio—representing the Free State first-born of the Ordinance of '87 and the noblest trophy of its existence and its virtues—moved that this section be stricken out of the bill.

The Committee divided by tellers—Yeas 88; Nones 105—so the peremptory exclusion of Slavery was sustained.

Mr. Murphy of N. Y., then moved to add a clause in effect nullifying the Proviso by declaring that the Legislature of the Territory might enact any sort of laws—establishing Slavery if they choose—and the same shall be valid. Voted down.

Mr. Meade of Va., tried two or three amendments—one of them running the Missouri compromise line (36 30 North) through to the Pacific Ocean. All defeated.

All amendments proposed to the several sections of the original bill being disposed of, the next question in order was on the substitute for the whole bill proposed by Mr. Preston of Va., erecting all the New Territory of the U. States West of the Rio Grande into one State, to be called California, and governed by such laws as its People should enact.

Mr. Collins of N. Y., moved the Wilmot or Jefferson Proviso on this. Carried: Yeas 91, Nones 87.

And now the friends of the substitute deserted to a man. The Yeas stood up, and those in its favor were requested to walk forward and vote—but nobody did it except Gov. Gayle of Ala., who voted Aye by mistake and took it back in brief earnest.

So the bill being perfected exactly as framed by the Committee on Territories, with one or two verbal amendments was reported to the House, ordered to be engrossed under the Previous Question, and put at once upon its passage.

Mr. Meade of Va., moved that it do lie on the table. Defeated—Yeas 86, Nays 127. The question recurred on its final passage, and it was carried: Yeas, One Hundred and Twenty-six. Nays, Eighty-seven—39 majority for Freedom.

Thus every member but eleven voted on one or the other question. Of the eleven, some could have voted if they had wished to, but Messrs. Duntan and Dickinson of Ohio were sick, and so (it is presumed) were others. Empty seats were uncommonly scarce. Those members named in Italics above are not Whigs.

Interesting Ceremony.

[From the National Intelligencer of Wednesday.] The joint committee appointed by the two Houses of Congress to communicate to General Taylor official information of his election to the Presidency, waited on him for that purpose on Monday last, when the Hon. Jefferson Davis, of the Senate, chairman of the Joint Committee, addressed the General as follows:

SIR:—We have been deputed by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States officially to inform you that they have, in the manner provided in the Constitution, ascertained that you have been legally and constitutionally elected to fill the office of President of the United States for four years, to commence with the fourth day of March, 1849; and to present to you your certificate of election, as proclaimed by the Vice President of the United States on the second Wednesday of February of the current year.

In conveying to you this evidence of the high confidence reposed in you by the people of the United States, we tender to you our cordial good wishes that you may find in the Chief Magistracy the honor, the glory, the happiness which should wait upon patriotism, and flow from a nation's prosperity.

Many causes, such as difference of pursuit, of circumstance, of education, or of mental characteristic, divide now, as they have heretofore divided, the people of the United States into political parties; but it is a proud spectacle to see the conflict of opinion, after having raged with its wildest fury through the course of a canvass, subside into peace at the returns of an election, and no other power ever be required to enforce the result than the power of that respect which American citizens feel for the laws and institutions under which they live.

A majority of the Senate of the United States are of the political party which most strove to defeat your election. I accord in political creed with that majority. To select me, under these circumstances, to announce to you your election to the highest office in the United States, will I trust be received as a token of their acquiescence, not reluctant admission, but respectful acquiescence in the decisions of the people. I feel, sir, that I can offer you assurance that from them your administration will not encounter factious opposition; that as far as difference of opinion will permit they will give that sincere support which our common interest and constitutional obligations might lead you to expect.

The character of your election, the general feeling of admiration and gratitude for your long, arduous, and most brilliant military services; a life of earnest devotion to your country, your whole country, give a high hope and expectation in the public mind that in taking the chair first held by Washington and which is sacred to every American heart, you will be able to hush the winds and still the waves of sectional strife, to pursue the constitution with all its harmonizing compromises, to promote the permanent prosperity and further illustrate the honorable fame of our Union.

SUBSTANCE OF GEN. TAYLOR'S REPLY.

The President elect, in signifying his acceptance of the office to which he had been chosen by the people, avowed emotions of the profoundest gratitude, and declared his distrust of the ability to fulfill the expectations upon which their confidence was based; but gave assurance of a fixed purpose, to administer the government for the benefit and advantage of the whole country.

In alluding to the fact to which his attention had been drawn, that the chairman of the committee represented a public body a majority of whom were opposed in political opinion to the President elect, and accorded with that majority, he recognized in it the deference to the popular will, constitutionally expressed on which rests the strength and hope of the Republic, and he said that it was to have been expected of the Senate of the United States. He expressed an ardent wish that he might be able in any degree to assuage the fierceness of party, or temper with moderation the conflicts of those who are only divided as to the means of securing the public welfare. Having been reminded that he was about to occupy the chair once filled by Washington, he said he could hope to emulate him only in the singleness of his aims which guided the conduct of the man who had no parallel in history, and could have no rival "in the hearts of his countrymen."

In conclusion, he announced his readiness to take the oath of office on the fifth of March proximo, at such hour and place as might be designated, and expressed to the committee his thanks for the manner in which the duty assigned to them had been discharged.

Delaware U. S. Senator.

The Legislature of Delaware have elected JOHN WALKES, Esq., of Wilmington, a sound Whig, U. S. Senator, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of the Hon. JOHN M. CLAYTON.