



HUNTINGDON, TUESDAY, DEC. 11, 1849.

TERMS:

The "Huntingdon Journal" is published at the following rates, viz: \$1.75 a year, if paid in advance; \$2.00 if paid during the year, and \$2.50 if not paid until after the expiration of the year.

No subscription taken for less than six months, and no paper discontinued until all arrearages are paid, unless at the option of the publisher.

We invite attention to the card of Mr. J. M. CUNNINGHAM, in another column. His Oyster Saloon is well fitted up, and his rooms are admirably adapted to the accommodation of Ladies and Gentlemen.

Many of our new advertisements were placed on the outside of our paper this week, with the view of making room on the inside for the President's Message.

See fourth page for an exciting sketch of a "Coward's Conversion, or, Life in Arkansas."

BOSTON TRAGEDY.—An account of the murder of Dr. PARKMAN by Prof. WEBSTER, which now seems settled by the most convincing circumstantial evidence, will be found on our first page. This case very much resembles in its details, the butchery of Colt in New York, some years ago.

The Presidents Message.

We had hoped to lay the first annual message of President Taylor before our readers this week. The failure of the House to organize, however, after balloting a whole week, prevents our doing so.

Whatever may be the final organization of the House, we are well persuaded that it cannot fall into the hands of the late Administration. The majority of the House, we doubt not, regard the House in its true constitutional character as the grand inquest of the nation.

Washington Hotel.

We invite attention to the card of Col. SANDERS, of the Washington Hotel, Harrisburg, Pa. The House is delightfully located, well fitted up, and under the present proprietor, kept in superior style.

Good Advice.

Every Whig who can afford it, should at least take one Whig paper. The interests of the press he should take warmly to heart, and should promote its welfare by his own subscription, promptly paid—by his influence and his exertions among his friends and neighbors.

A Financier in Trouble.

A Washington correspondent of the New York Commercial advertiser writes: "The passage through the little State of Delaware, on the great route between the North and the South, has become more perilous to a certain class of travellers than the terrors of Sylla and Charybdis."

Religious Revivals.

The Huntingdon Register says: "The revival in the Methodist Church in this place still continues. Meeting has been held every night for the last nine or ten weeks, and quite a number have been added to the church."

Another New County.

The citizens of Johnstown recently held a meeting, with the object of adopting some preparatory measures towards the formation of a new county, out of parts of Cambria, Somerset, Westmoreland and Indiana counties, with Johnstown as the seat of justice.

Revenue from the Public Works.

Amount of tolls received from the public works at the State Treasury, from December 1, 1848, to November 30, 1849, \$1,028,860 13 Am't received preceeding year, 1,550,555 03

Excess present year, \$78,305 10 This is the largest receipt of revenue from the public works ever received in any one year, and is an encouraging indication of their future usefulness and worth to the State.

North Branch Canal—Allotment of Work.

The following are the names of the contractors to whom we learn the work on the North Branch Canal has been allotted:

- Sections. Sections. 11 Jacob Seiler & Co. 113 Mead & Carrigan 12 Dykens & Wendel 114 Francis Blair & Co. 21 John M'Cord 134 Jackson M'Fadden 27 Patrick Burke 159 John Sturdivant 67 Patrick Burke 162 George Leibrick 69 Sturdivant & Little 173 Cochran & M'Lane 75 J. & J. Lamson 182 Rody M'Gee & Co. 111 John Snodgrass 183 Edward Kerns & Co. 112 John Snodgrass 184 Wm. Pheelan & Co.

We hope that these lettings were fairly made; but it strikes us as a little singular, that every one of the successful bidders as given above is a Locofoco of the deepest dye. We do not, of course, wish to be understood as insinuating the belief that there was any proscription for opinion's sake in this matter.

Horrible Fratricide.

On the 19th ult., Benjamin Bender, of Pfoutz's Valley, Perry county, was committed to Bloomfield jail, on the charge of murdering his brother, Wm. Bender. The prisoner had an altercation with his sister, and the deceased interfering in her behalf, was stabbed with a knife in his body in four different places, which in a short time proved fatal.

Mail Robbery.

A young man named Charles M. Gearhart, of Northumberland county, who was clerk in the Post Office at Danville, Pa., has been arrested at Mount Vernon, Ohio, (by C. Garretson, Esq., who went in pursuit of him) on the charge of having stolen large sums of money from letters mailed and received at the Danville Post Office.

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Something New.

A number of capitalists in New York city are buying a large tract of land fifteen miles from New York, near the Hudson river railroad, where they intend to erect a new city, for the laboring classes.

A negotiation is going on with the Hudson river railroad, the occupants of these houses shall have the privilege to commute with the railroad company for their passage to New York and back again, at a price not to exceed six cents a day for going and coming; the distance each way will not be far from fifteen miles, at three cents a head.

Fire in Cincinnati.

A fire broke out in Cincinnati, on the 7th inst., which entirely destroyed the extensive pork packing establishments of Messrs. Pugh & Co., and Stagg & Shay. The former had on hand a large quantity of provisions, including 3000 dressed hogs, and all destroyed; the latter a heavy stock of hams, which were also destroyed.

DEATH OF AN ARMY OFFICER.—Information has been received at the War Department of the death of Lieut. Montgomery P. Harrison, a grandson of the late President of that name. He was killed by the Indians, near the Colorado river, in Texas, on the 7th of October last, while riding a short distance from the camp, for the purpose of ascertaining the proper road.

State Life.

The Commissioners appointed by the States of Delaware, Maryland and Pennsylvania, to fix the point of junction between those States, have accomplished that duty, by the aid of distinguished typographical engineers appointed by the War Department of the U. S.

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Fatal Street Affray.

On Saturday night, Mr Newton Weimer, brother of the late Postmaster, of this city, had an altercation in the street with James S. Thomas, Esq., broker, of the house of Benoit & Co. Both gentlemen were much excited. Pistols were drawn, but through the interference of the bystanders, were not used.

Mr. Thomas may possibly recover, though he is dangerously wounded from the blows which he received about the head. The cause of the affray originated in the following manner: Mr. Thomas had, some time since, while Mr. Weimer's brother was Postmaster, failed to receive some large remittances of money sent by mail, and had charged the Post Office with fraud.

The Treasury Deficit.

The Republic, in referring to the deficit of between fifteen and twenty millions, which it has already been announced will exist in the amount of revenue requisite to meet the expenditures of the government for the fiscal years, ending the 30th of June, 1850 and 30th June, 1851, thus explains it from official documents: Our receipts in 1847 were \$26,346,790; our expenditures in the same year were \$55,929,000.

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FROM WASHINGTON.

Monday, the 3d inst., being the day appointed by the Constitution for the meeting of Congress, both Houses assembled in Washington. On the Saturday evening previous, the Locofoco members of the House made the following caucus nominations:

- For Speaker—Hon. Howell Cobb, of Georgia. Clerk—John W. Forney, of Pennsylvania. Sergeant-at-arms—Newton Lane. Doorkeeper—B. F. Brown, of Ohio. Postmaster—J. M. Johnson, of Virginia. The Whig members also met in caucus, and after nominating the Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, of Massachusetts, adjourned over to Monday morning, to complete their nominations.

There was a pretty general attendance of the members on Monday, and the balloting for Speaker of the House proceeded with much animation, but without effecting an election, as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Name and Votes. Includes Hon. H. B. Cobb, Hon. R. C. Winthrop, Hon. M. P. Gentry, Hon. David Wilmot, Scattering, and three other ballots.

The excitement in regard to the organization of the House increases—both parties being equally confident of success.

The clerk having read the Journal, the House resumed the balloting for speaker.

Table with 2 columns: Name and Votes. Includes For Cobb, Democrat, Winthrop, Whig, Scattering, and several other ballots.

The Free soilers, 10 in number, voted for Mr. Wilmot, of Pennsylvania, and 6 Southern Whigs for Gentry of Tennessee.

Several other ballots were had with nearly the same result, when the House adjourned.

The only members now absent are the following, viz: Hon. T. B. King, Whig, of Georgia; Hon. G. W. Julian, Free Soil, Indiana; and Hon. J. Morton, Whig, Va.

The Free soilers, 10 in number, voted for Mr. Wilmot, of Pennsylvania, and 6 Southern Whigs for Gentry of Tennessee.

Several other ballots were had with nearly the same result, when a discussion arose on several propositions to change the manner of proceeding in the election of Speaker, all of which were voted down, and the House proceeded to the fourteenth ballot with the following result:

Table with 2 columns: Name and Votes. Includes Cobb, Winthrop, Root, Potter, Richardson, Cleveland, Stanton, Allen, Venable, and Total.

Necessary to a choice, 112. Several other ballots were had with nearly the same result, when a discussion arose on several propositions to change the manner of proceeding in the election of Speaker, all of which were voted down, and the House proceeded to the fourteenth ballot with the following result:

Table with 2 columns: Name and Votes. Includes Cobb, Winthrop, Root, Potter, Richardson, Cleveland, Gentry, Allen, Kauffman, and Total.

Necessary to a choice, 112. It being apparent that no choice could be effected, on motion of Hon. Jacob Thompson, the House adjourned at a quarter before three o'clock.

An attempt will be made, it is thought, this evening, to effect some kind of a compromise, but with what success, to-morrow will show.

Up to this time nothing of interest has transpired in the Senate. The Hon. Henry Clay appeared on the first day of the session, and took his seat in the Senate.

The House met as usual, and the whole day after various unsuccessful expedients to elect a chairman, with power to preserve order until a presiding officer shall be elected—was spent by the House of Representatives, as had been the preceding days, in ineffectual efforts to choose a Speaker.

Four ballotings were had, in addition to the fourteen which had already taken place, and show a steady decline in the strength of Mr. Cobb, and a gradual concentration of his vote upon Mr. Richardson, an old line Locofoco of Illinois, who will probably become the declared candidate of the opposition.

Table with 2 columns: Name and Votes. Includes Winthrop, Cobb, L. F., Richardson, L. F., Tyler, L. F., Tucker, F. S., Gentry, W., Scattering, Total vote, and Necessary to a choice.

The House then adjourned.

FRIDAY, Dec. 7. The House met at 12 o'clock. The journal of yesterday was read by the clerk.

On motion of Mr. Bayly, of Va., the House proceeded to vote for a Speaker. The following are the ballots:

Table with 2 columns: Name and Votes. Includes Cobb, Winthrop, Richardson, Potter, Wilmot, Gentry, McClelland, Booth, Bowden, Featherstone, Hall, Strong, Morse, and Necessary to a choice.

Report of the Postmaster General.

The report of the Post Master General, owing to the most contemptible meanness and bad faith on the part of some members of the press, has been published in advance of the President's message. It appears that Mr. Collamer gave permission to the reporters to take a copy of his report, but with the solemn pledge from all that it was not to be used until the President's Message was delivered.

We make the following extracts from the report:

The number of post offices in the United States at the close of the year ending June 30th, 1849, was 16,747, there having been 921 established and 338 discontinued within the year, making an increase within the year of 588.

The number of Postmasters appointed within the year ending June 30th, 1849, was 6338.

Of that number, 2782 were appointed in consequence of resignation; 183 were appointed in consequence of death; 284 were appointed in consequence of changes of sites of offices; 2103 were appointed in consequence of removals; 11 were appointed in consequence of commissions expired and not renewed; 26 were appointed in consequence of commissions renewed; 23 were appointed in consequence of becoming Presidential by income exceeding \$1000; 921 were appointed in consequence of new offices.

The number of mail routes in the United States on the 1st day of July, 1849, was 4,943, and the number of contractors \$4,190. The length of these routes was 167,703 miles.

The gross revenue for the year, ending June 30, 1849, amounted to \$4,905,176 28, derived from the following sources:

Table with 2 columns: Source and Amount. Includes From letter postage, From newspaper and pamphlet postage, From miscellaneous items, From fines, From dead letter money sold, From the appropriation made by the 12th section of the act of 3d March 1847, for mail services to the government, THE EXPENDITURES DURING THE YEAR WERE FOR Transportation of mails, Compensation to Postmasters, Ship, steamboat and way-letters, Wrapping paper, Office furniture, Advertising, Mail bags, Blanks, Mail locks, keys and stamps, Mail deprecations and special ag'ts, Clerks for post offices, Miscellaneous payments, Post office laws and regulations.

Excess of gross revenue for the year, \$426,127 15

The whole number of letters charged with postage passing through the mails the past year, reckoned on the postage received, agreeably to a basis heretofore approved amounted to sixty-two millions.

It has been said that the newspaper and pamphlet postage is not in proportion to the cost of their transportation; but it is not to be therefore understood that any increase of that postage is proposed. It has long been regarded as sound public policy to promote the circulation of these publications by cheap postage, and it may be advisable to proceed further in this policy, especially in promoting their circulation in the vicinity of their places of publication, provided no decided injustice be done to the postmasters within that same vicinity.

The most obvious and prominent feature now in our postage is the double price, ten cents, charged on all single letters carried over three hundred miles. The reduction of this ten cent postage, and charging all single letters at five cents each, would simplify the manner of accounting, and render the same both more facile and perfect—would remove the dissatisfaction arising from the great difference in the postage in different offices, even in the same vicinity, but separated by this arbitrary line; and would promote and encourage the correspondence and intercourse by mail, between the most distant parts of the country, which most need and demand it, in precise proportion as their other means of intercommunication are slow and unrequited.

In the last year there were received 2,100,000 dead letters, all of which have been opened and examined. Of these 4964 contained money to the amount of \$32,069, have been registered and the same sent out for delivery to the owners, and 993 letters containing other enclosures of value.

To show the great increase of service, and the consequent demand for the increase of the force in the Department, the following comparative statement is made:

In 1837, the number of post offices was 11,767—now 17,164—47 having been established since June last. Number of dead letters in 1837, 900,000—now 2,100,000. Number of quarterly returns in 1837, 48,000—now 73,000. Number of mail contractors in 1837, 1682—now 4190. Length of routes in 1837, 141,242—now 167,703. Annual mail transportation in 1837, 32,597,006—now 42,544,069.

The number of communications received at the department annually cannot be less than 370,000.