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Speaker BEST and Col. CORNYN have our thanks for favors from Harrisburg.

In another column we publish the remarks of Wm. F. PACKER, Esq., of Lycoming, delivered in the Senate, in opposition to the repeal of the \$300 exemption law, passed last winter.

We invite attention to Mr. Ball's scorching letter, given in another column. The Canal Commissioners and their friends in the Legislature have waked up the wrong customer.

Explosion in New York. In another column will be found an account of a most heart-rending disaster, which occurred recently in New York. Up to Thursday last, forty-five corpses had been discovered and taken from the ruins.

Police Corruption. The new Philadelphia city government, placed in power by the pure "Independents" and "Natives," don't turn out to be so unsuspected after all.

A. O. TRAUH, Esq., editor of the Hollidaysburg Standard, has been appointed State Agent on the Portage Railroad. Glad to hear it.

The Apportionment Bill. An apportionment bill has been reported in the House of Representatives at Harrisburg, which is the most infamous effort at a wholesale gerrymander ever attempted in Pennsylvania.

J. W. Killinger, Esq. This gentleman represents Lebanon county in the State Legislature, and although one of the youngest members in the House is already attracting considerable attention for his fine business qualities and his ability and fluency in debate.

The appointment of A. W. Benedict, Esq., to the post or Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth, is spoken of by the Press generally in the most flattering terms.

MARYLAND.—Some sensible member of the Legislature has introduced a bill providing that no application for divorce shall be granted, in future, unless public notice has previously been given in a newspaper.

ACQUITTED.—David C. Knepley, tried at Harrisburg for the murder of his father, has been acquitted on the ground of insanity.

Election of Judges. The Elective Judiciary Bill is still under debate in the House. Mr. PORTER, of Northampton, takes ground against the measure, and in concluding his speech the other day he warned the Democratic party, as he styled them, from being caught in this trap.

OUR PENAL LAWS.—The Senate has before it a bill introduced by Mr. Matthias, providing for such an amendment of the penal laws of the Commonwealth, as to make it lawful for the Governor, in all cases of conviction of the crime of murder in the first degree, to commute the punishment of death, on the recommendation of the court and jury before whom the case was tried, to imprisonment for life.

The Usury Laws. In the Senate, on the 23d ult., says the Pa. Telegraph, Mr. Walker, from the Judiciary Committee, reported a bill relating to the usury law, and providing that hereafter it shall be lawful for all persons to pay and receive such rate of interests for the loan of money, on any promissory note, draft, acceptance, bills payable, or bills of exchange, drawn for any time not exceeding twelve months, growing out of commercial or business transactions or contracts.

Ambassador to Russia. It is stated that President TAYLOR has nominated to the Senate Hon. NIEL S. BROWN, Whig Ex-Governor of Tennessee, to be Ambassador to Russia, vice ARTHUR P. BAGBY, of Alabama, formerly United States Senator, who has recently returned from that mission.

UNION OF COLLEGES.—The Synod of the German Reformed Church, which assembled at Harrisburg last week, after an animated and interesting discussion, has decided in favor of the proposition to unite Franklin and Marshall Colleges, under the name of the "FRANKLIN MARSHALL COLLEGE," to be located at Lancaster City.

A LOCOFOCO RESOLVE.—The Locofoco Convention of Schuylkill county, (Pa.) assembled at Pottsville on Monday last, to nominate delegates to the State Convention, instructed those it appointed to support Hon. Edward B. Hubley as the candidate for Canal Commissioner.

Resolved, That a change of the present valuation for a specific duty on iron, one of the great staples of Pennsylvania, would be vastly beneficial to our State at large, and that our Representatives in Congress are earnestly desired to use all legitimate means to effect that change in our revenue laws.

FRIGHTFUL DEATH.—Letters have been received at Pittsburgh, announcing the death of John Mecaskey, of that city. He was left with five companions on a desolate island in the Pacific Ocean, where they all stayed to death.

Congress. As usual we have nothing of interest from Washington during the past week, if we except Mr. Clay's great speech on his compromise resolutions. This speech is worthy of its great author, and this is all the commendation it needs.

The subject of providing a territorial government for New Mexico, the admission of California, and other matters kindred thereto were before the House a few days ago, without exciting, it would seem, much debate. Mr. Root's resolution instructing the committee on territories to report a bill establishing a free government in New Mexico, was lost by a vote of 105 to 79.

Disunion and its Advocates. The New York Tribune concludes a leading article upon the schemes of the disunionists with the following declaration: "We are now to see what the North is made of. If its Representatives can be driven, as they were last winter, to reconsider Mr. Galt's resolutions, they will be. But this is not what the disunionists desire. They mean to break the Union, and any skulking on the part of the Free States will only secure contempt without regaining affection."

The Florida Indians.—We are informed by the National Intelligencer, that news has been received at the War Department from Florida, stating that on the 21st January the Commanding General in that State met in council the Chief and six sub-chiefs of the Seminole and Micasuke Indians, and a delegate from the Tallahassee, which terminated very satisfactorily.

Small Notes. The Virginia House of Delegates, composed of a majority of Locofocos, has rejected the report of the committee on Banks, against the issue of small notes by the banks of that State, and it is thought the House will now pass a bill authorizing the Banks to issue them.

The New York Evening Post says: "In his plans for putting down any treasonable proceedings on the part of the fanatics of the South, Gen. Taylor is understood to declare that he will not ask the aid of a single man from the States lying north of Mason and Dixon's line."

A Union Party. The Phila. Ledger says, some one suggests that a Union party, in opposition to the Disunionists, be formed in this country. This would be useless, as such a party exists, composed of ninety-nine hundredths of the people of the country.

THE MORALITY OF DISUNION.—Wm. Lloyd Garrison sent a letter to the abolition convention in New York last week, in which he urged that "the time has come to preach disunion, on the highest Moral and religious grounds. The constitution of the United States is a 'covenant with death and an agreement with hell.'"

NOBLE KENTUCKY.—Well may her sons be proud of her. In her Legislature on the 13th ult., the following resolution was unanimously adopted: Resolved, That the Governor is hereby requested to cause a suitable block of native marble to be conveyed to Washington city, to take its proper place in the monument to the memory of the Father of his Country, and that the following words be engraved thereon:—"Under the auspices of Heaven and the precepts of Washington, Kentucky will be the last to give up the Union."

Important from California. NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 3.—A. M. By an arrival here we have received dates from San Francisco up to the 31st of December. The Assembly met on the 17th. Gov. Burnett was inaugurated.

The Steamship Cherokee arrived at Chigres on the 26th. The Empire City sailed for New York on the 27th. The Steamers Chesapeake and Panama arrived from New York.

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NEW COUNTERFEIT.—A counterfeit relief note, of the denomination of two dollars, purporting to be of the re-issue of the Farmers' Bank of Lancaster, has been detected at Lancaster. The vignette and medallions are rather coarsely done, but the counterfeit is a dangerous one, well calculated to deceive.

RETRIBUTION.—The Albany Evening Journal recommends that in case any of the Southern States pass resolutions refusing to use Northern products, we of the North can retaliate by ceasing to chew tobacco.

THANKSGIVING IN CALIFORNIA.—The 27th of November was celebrated in California, as a day of Thanksgiving. The San Francisco correspondent of the N. O. Picayune says the day was observed much more universally than was expected, very little business was done, labor of all kinds suspended, the churches opened, and, in short, the day observed as it is "in the land of the free and the home of the brave," not excepting the pleasures of the social circles, the turkeys, mince and pumpkin pies and other good cheer incidental to the occasion.

SOMETHING NEW.—For the first time in this country, says the Columbus (Ohio) Statesman, of the 25th ult., one hundred head of fat cattle belonging to Mr. Seymour Renick, have been shod with iron shoes, for the purpose of traveling over the mountains. If the experiment proves good, it is the intention of Mr. Renick to shoe eleven hundred more.

THE LOCOFOCO PAPERS are copying with great delight the comments of the English papers upon Mr. Meredith's report. The principle which the Secretary of the Treasury avows does not at all suit the English market.

CHOLERA ON THE RIVER.—The Louisville Courier says the St. Louis steamer Alex. Scott, passed up the river on the 24th, having on board several hundred German emigrants, among whom the cholera broke out two days previous, of which some eight or ten had died, many more were down with it.

At Gettysburg, on Wednesday last, a verdict was obtained by Henrietta Melhorn against Frederick Moritz of \$400 and costs for breach of promise of marriage.

The St. Louis Dispatch states that there was 21 deaths of cholera at St. Louis during the week ending the 13th ult.

Letter from the State Treasurer. The following letter has been sent to the Senate by Mr. Ball, state treasurer, in reply to a resolution of that body, adopted on the receipt of a complaint from the canal board, that the bill due the Messrs. Norris for locomotives, had not been paid on presentation. It is a complete refutation of all the charges brought by the opposition, and exhibits, in a measure, the unscrupulous manner in which the affairs of the canal board are conducted, and the means they have in some instances adopted to embarrass the state treasurer in the discharge of his duty.

SENATORS.—The resolution of your honorable body, of the 26th ultimo, is before me. My absence in Philadelphia, on public duty, has prevented an earlier reply.

Messrs. Norris Brothers never personally presented at the treasury for payment, nor did any person for them, an order from the canal commissioners for the amount they claim, nor have I yet official notice that the state owe them. In default of such notice, duty required that I should refrain from paying away the public money.

The engines referred to were purchased, it seems, under the authority given in the 16th section of the last appropriation bill; this being true, it scarcely justifies the sale by the canal commissioners of five locomotives, worth at least \$25000, for the paltry sum of \$3390, thereby sacrificing upwards of twenty one thousand dollars, which evinces gross ignorance of the value of property, or a criminal neglect of duty.

While it is both my duty and my pleasure to provide the ways and means to answer every call, nevertheless the interest and credit of the state, as every business man will understand, cannot be sustained if other branches of the government refuse to harmonize with this department.

THE FIRST NOTICE I have received of the change of officers was the presentation, by the new incumbent, of drafts for large sums of money.

SENATORS are aware that the treasury has a vast number of payments to provide for besides the canal appropriations; it seems proper, therefore, in a business view, that the treasurer, whoever he may be, should have the co-operation of the co-ordinate branches of the government, rather than to have so powerful an arm as the canal board exercising their authority to draw money without reference to the general interests or credit of the state.

G. J. BALL, State Treasurer. THE MORMONS.—These remarkable people have been long subject to imputations against their morality. These imputations have also been denied. "We have been most positively assured," says the Washington Globe, "by one of the Mormon delegates, that the charge of polygamy and of bigamy, brought against the citizens of Deseret, is utterly unfounded, and that it is a cruel calumny."

A BEAR KILLED.—The Lebanon Courier says that a bear, weighing 240 pounds, was shot near Mr. Weidman's forge, in that county, on Monday last, by a colored man who was out on a gunning expedition. Sportsmen say that game of this kind has been more plenty in the Blue Mountains during the present winter, than for many years previous.

Conditions and Prospects of Mexico. President HERRERA opened the extraordinary session of Congress in the city of Mexico, on the 1st of January. He stated that, with the exception of one part, Yucatan, intestine strife had entirely ceased in Mexico. British mediation had tried to restore peace to the peninsula, but ineffectually. Measures had now been taken which would probably be successful. He declared, however, that under no circumstances would any portion of the sovereignty of Yucatan be alienated. He spoke energetically of the necessity of Mexico's recovering her credit, by making a satisfactory arrangement with the home and foreign bond-holders, and recommended power to be granted to the administration to that end. He affirms that the revenue is not in so bad a state as it has been described. The amount of duties received at the maritime custom house, between 30th June, 1848, and 30th June, 1849, is \$6,000,000, and the total amount of revenue for that period is \$8,000,000. Industry is improving, and the mineral wealth of the country, under the auspices of peace, has been steady in its development.

LO! THE POOR "SLAVE!"—The Louisville Courier of a late day describes a scene, which it says it little believed could be enacted within the borders of Kentucky. The Steamer G. W. Kendall was lying at the wharf preparing to start to New Orleans. On the fore-castle deck stood a group consisting of a master and five or six slaves, including a woman with a child in her arms, who were apparently going to the South. Just as the last bell of the steamer rang, and the lines were about to be cast loose, the mother was bade to give up her infant, and was told that she must go without it. At this intimation the poor creature became frantic with grief. She caressed the child a moment, then flew to her trunk in which had been packed various little articles of clothing that she had made up for it to wear. These she first pressed fervently to her lips and then bestowed them upon the child. Her own then ordered her to follow him, and she mechanically started to obey, but the promptings of nature were too strong within her swelling breast to be resisted, and with loud sobs of grief, she turned, embraced her child and clung to it with the tenacity of despair. The heart-rending grief of the woman, and her frantic gestures, attracted the attention of persons along the levee, and strongly excited the sympathies of many. The owner woman and child. To this he assented, and demanded \$500 for them. Upon inquiry, however, it was ascertained that the woman was to be sold down the river, and that the child would be disposed of here. The bystanders volunteered to raise subscription to buy the child, and send it with its mother, and several of them proffered \$10 apiece. At this juncture, Capt. Nourou, the captain of the slaves that were to be taken on his boat, and sent the woman and child ashore, and in a few moments the steamer was seen dashing over the falls without them. Was the cruel and unnatural separation finally effected?

English Opinions. The message of President Taylor has been published in England, and has given rise to much comment and speculation. Upon the Tariff recommendation of the President, the editor of the Liverpool Mail remarks: "If General Taylor shall succeed in carrying out his views, he will be the greatest man that America has yet produced, and the munificent benefactor of his country. The Americans have coal, iron, timber, and can raise sufficient cotton for the world. They have extensive supplies of corn and provisions, cheap and fertile lands, and they have no taxes worth mentioning. Why, then, should they not manufacture for themselves? Why should cotton be brought four thousand miles to England, to be spun and woven in Lancashire, and be carried some three or four thousand miles more to the United States to be consumed? We cannot see any reason for it. It is true that England has had the start in manufactures, but what right has she to expect to be always first in what she does? The Americans are not only justified in protecting their own interests, but, as the President says, 'it is the right and duty of Congress to encourage domestic industry, which is the greatest source of national as well as individual wealth and prosperity.' Sounder policy was never broached—truer words were never uttered."

DISUNION IN MARYLAND.—The Baltimore Clipper holds the following language on disunion as involving the State of Maryland: "We believe that a mistake has been committed by pledging the state, in certain events, to send delegates to the southern convention. There was no occasion for the committee on the subject, especially as the councils which might prevail in the southern convention might be such as would not be approved by Maryland. We set it down as a 'fixed fact,' that this state will not, under any circumstances which are likely to occur, sanction a dissolution of the union. Whatever may be the feeling among members of the legislature, we are satisfied that a large majority of the people of the state are opposed to any such course. Maryland to unite with the south, or any other section, in other than constitutional measures. The old Maryland line will stand steadfast to the union, first, last, and always; and the legislature would do well to keep this fact always in mind."

WORKMEN THEIR OWN EMPLOYERS.—The puddlers and boilers in the iron works at Pittsburgh intend to have a mill of their own, in which the profits will go to themselves. An attempt to cut down their wages by employers has driven them to this project.—Whether it will be successful or not time will show. In Cincinnati it has proved so, and this fact gives great hopes to the Pittsburg workmen.

ANOTHER AWFUL EXPLOSION.—The steamer St. Joseph, hence for St. Louis, burst her boilers on Wednesday morning last, when at Choctaw Island, killing, it is supposed, about twenty persons. After the explosion the St. Joseph took fire and burnt to the waters edge. The steamer George Washington rescued the surviving passengers and crew.—N. O. Picayune, Jan. 27.

ROMANTIC REVENGE.—In Kentucky, a ploughman became enamored of a milk maid on a neighboring farm. His addresses were rejected; and the disappointed swain, full of melancholy and revenge, procured a rope, went to the farm, and—tied all the cows tails together!

ALABAMA.—In the Senate of this State, on the 28th ult., resolutions were adopted unanimously, directing the return of the resolutions of the Connecticut Legislature on slavery to the Governor of that State, with a respectful declaration that they were insulting to Alabama.