The following is given in a letter from Washington in the New York American:

A REMARKABLE DISCLOSURE.

In 1836 a law was passed to allow the President to employ a Clerk, at a salary of $1500, to sign his (the President's) name to the land Patents, as that labor was purely mechanical, and had become very onerous to the President Mr. Adams, who, during his Administration the annual average of Patents to which he affixed his signature, was 30,000, that is, 95 per day, which has been greatly increased, and would probably, at this time, average 75,000 annually. Consequently, it may be assumed, that the number of Patents signed during Mr. Van Buren's Administration, have been 300,000.

A motion was made on Thursday by Mr. Andrews to strike out this allowance of $1500 for a Clerk to discharge this duty, which was after some remarks withdrawn, probably in consequence of the remarks of Mr. Adams, which went to show, very clearly, that it would be unsuitable to impose such a heavy, mechanical duty on the President of the United States. He had endured it as long as he could, but he should much sympathise with a President who should have more than double that amount of duty to perform.

In this discussion, Mr. Lincoln announced a very astonishing fact, viz: that every Patent which had been signed by the Clerk for the last four years, was invalid by means of a clerical blunder! The fact seemed to be contradicted, and Mr. Lincoln stated that the only way to remedy this evil was to pass a special act to *legalize* those 300,000 Deeds.

It turns out then, for the comfort of those 300,000 patentees, that the titles of their lands are not, and never can be, vested in themselves, and that they are to be protected only by this remote shield! What a disturbing, anxious consideration to those whose all for themselves and their posterity hangs on the contingencies of the permanent stability of this Union! The State of Kentucky, as is known, had for years two separate jurisdictions of Circuit Courts, acting independent of and conflicting with each other. Who can tell what occurrences of future history might suspend the authority or disturb the jurisdiction of an act of Congress to legalize these informal deeds, and throw back the proprietors on an unsound and defective title? This, certainly, is not a very comfortable position for those most interested; nor would it be a very kind act to throw out these suggestions, but that they cannot be concealed.—At least, this special act of Congress ought to entitle these proprietors, at their option, to demand new patents as a matter of justice, that they may not be forced by this unreasonable official blunder to hazard their all on unnecessary contingencies. *Three hundred thousand* patents may be supposed to comprehend the entire worldly estate of *one million*, or of one *seventeenth* of our population. This is an amount too large to be put at hazard on such a basis!

ANOTHER DISCLOSURE.

It transpired in this discussion, that two important Land Office functionaries of the Land Office here has been so long engaged in a dispute, carried on by a diplomatic correspondence across the gulfs of the public office—the distance of a few feet—the whole amounting to a ponderous folio, as to have put back the execution of 60,000 of these patents, thereby, in part, forfeiting fraction of a year's toil in the department of the public service, on the coming Administration! It is no old saying, that "it is an ill wind that blows nobody any good!" and the claimants of these titles, who have waited so long for them, may now console themselves that they will be good when they come however, it may impose a double amount of duty on the successors of these delinquents for the next year. Mr. Adams, stated, that, notwithstanding he had the labor of signing all these documents with his own hand, they were always done *in time*, and that his successor could not lodge a charge of delinquency against him on this score. In all such matters, it may be said of Mr. Adams, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

PEEBLES TOWNSHIP DEMOCRATIC ANTI-MASONIC MEETING.

Pursuant to the call of the Democratic Anti-masonic county Committee of Correspondence, the Democratic Antimasonic citizens of Peebles township assembled at the Public School House in East Liberty, on Saturday, the 13th inst, and were organized by calling Thomas Davison to the chair, and appointing Benj. F. Sparr Sec'ry.

After the usual balloting by the meeting, Messrs John Rose and Alfred Sutton were duly chosen as delegates to represent Peebles township in the Democratic Antimasonic County Convention, to be held at the Court House in the city of Pittsburgh, on Wednesday next, the 17th inst.

The following, Resolutions were submitted to the meeting and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the recent organization of the Grand Lodge of the State of Pennsylvania, and the impudent announcement of its subordinate agents throughout the State, together with the simultaneous movement of the Grand Lodge of Ohio to procure an act of Incorporation from the Legislature of that Commonwealth, furnishes just cause of alarm, and calls for a firm, united and vigorous opposition on the part of the friends of the supremacy of the laws, and the free press of the country.

Resolved, That in supporting the principles of political Antimasonry we are asserting the supremacy of the laws, and the dearest and most sacred rights of freemen, and that no considerations can induce us to lay aside those principles, or abandon our party organization, to go for the degrading and slavish system of MAN-WORSHIP, which has already brought ruin and distress upon the country.

Resolved, "That we will not act politically with those who prefer secret oath-bound societies to the good of the country, but that we will extend the right hand of fellowship to men of all parties who will unite with us to slay the many headed monster."

Resolved, That the secret attacks made by anonymous letter writers at Harrisburg, and other tools of the Lodge, upon Thaddeus Stevens, Esq. the eloquent and successful advocate of universal education—the firm, steadfast and uncompromising friend of Reform, and the able and fearless champion of the supremacy of the laws—are the offspring of low, selfish and groveling minds, and merit the pity of every man who can appreciate distinguished talents and eminent public services in the cause of the country.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the Chairman and Secretary, and published in the Gazette and American, Pittsburg, Harrisburg Telegraph, and all other papers friendly to the cause.

THOS. DAVISON, Ch'n.
Attest—BENJ. F. SPARR, Sec'ry.

RESIGNATION OF MR. WEBSTER.

The subjoined communication to the Governor of Massachusetts, was transmitted by that gentleman, on the 16th inst., to the Legislature of the State:

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10, 1841.

SIR:—Events being likely to take place which will necessarily cause my retirement from the Senate, I have thought it proper that I should anticipate their actual occurrence, for the purpose of enabling the Legislature to fill the place, should such be its pleasure, during its present session.

The object of this communication, therefore, is to say, that on the twenty-second day of this month my resignation will be made known to the Senate, and that from that day my seat will be vacant.

My immediate purpose would be fulfilled were I now to say no more; put I confess I do not find myself able, without violence to my feelings, to sever the tie of public service, which has long connected me with Massachusetts, by a mere formal notice of resignation.

The object of the obligation which I am under to the Legislature and the people of that state, has sunk deep into my heart, and I hope it may not be unbecoming in me to give it utterance on this occasion.

Coming originally from another state, and only an adopted fellow citizen, the people of Boston bestowed on me the high distinction of representing them in Congress, and thus gave an unexpected turn to the course of my life. This honor they saw fit to repeat, more than once, under circumstances calculated to satisfy my highest ambition, and awaken my warmest gratitude.

At a later period it pleased the Legislature to appoint me to a seat in the Senate, which I have now holden, under that and subsequent appointments, for fourteen years, eighteen years having elapsed since I first came into Congress from Massachusetts.—These have been years of labor, responsibility and anxiety; but they have brought along with them solid gratification, in proportion to the consciousness which I have been able to feel, that my public conduct has met with the approbation of my constituents; and has not been thought prejudicial to the general interests of the country. And if it be now, and shall continue to be hereafter the judgment of Massachusetts, that her prosperity has not been impaired, nor her honor tarnished, by being trusted, even in some degree, to my hand, and that I have deserved well of that common country, to which we are all bound by so many ties of interest and affection, I shall be richly compensated for all labor and all sacrifices. Proud to be one of her citizens, proud to serve her, proud to connect myself honorably, if such may be my good fortune, with her name and character, I shall never cease to be penetrated with the profoundest conviction of duty toward her, for full to appreciate the liberal kindness for favors and blessings upon her Government and people.

I have the honor to be your Excellency's obedient and very humble servant,

DANIEL WEBSTER.

To His Excellency JOHN DAVIS,
Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

[There are now twenty-seven Whig Senators, including those who hold over to the next Congress, (and among them are Mr. Webster and Mr. Crittenden,) and also the Senators elect, who will take their seats on the 4th of March, and twenty-two Van Buren Senators.—*N. Y. Com. Adv.*

WAR MOVEMENT IN MAINE.—On the 3d instant resolutions on the subject of repelling British aggression, were offered in the House of Representatives and referred to the committee on the North Eastern boundary. We learn from the Portland Argus of the 15th instant, that these resolutions were taken up on the preceding 13th, and after being amended by inserting $1,000,000, instead of $400,000, for the defence of the state, were referred to the same committee.

Mr. Davies then offered the following resolve, which was also referred to the committee on the North Eastern boundary:

"Resolve for repelling foreign invasion and providing for the protection of the State.

Be it Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested and urged to cause the immediate removal of the foreign armed force, by which our State is invaded, stationed upon the upper valley of St. Johns, and that the Government of the United States be earnestly invoked to relieve this State from the present heavy needless burthen of its own defence."

HARRISON'S INAUGURATION SUIT.—The Lowell (Mass.,) Courier says:—We were yesterday shown, by Samuel Lawrence, a splendid piece of black broad cloth, manufactured by the Middlesex Co., in this city, to the order of the Baltimore Tippecanoe Clubs and designed for the inauguration suit of Gen. Harrison. The cloth is made entirely from American wool, a part of which was from Mr. Lawrence's flock of sheep in Connecticut, and it is probably the finest article

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of the kind ever manufactured in this country. It is precisely such cloth as the President ought to wear at the time of his inauguration, and such as it is an honor to American skill to have produced.

It may not be generally known that the Middlesex is the most extensive woolen manufacturing establishment in the country. It is said to be far in advance of all others in the perfection of the machinery used, and in the systematic manner in which the various departments of labor are conducted. At this establishment are manufactured, broadcloths, beavercloths, double and single milled cassimeres, of all colors, fancy woven cloths and cassimeres of great variety. The mills are working two thousand pounds of wool per day, of American growth. We are told that any new style of goods can be produced within a month after the pattern is received from Europe.

SINGULAR AND DISTRESSING.—A child of one of our citizens Mr. Bradley, of the firm of Bradley & Sons, has been afflicted by the St. Vitus' dance, which is supposed to have been occasioned by a fright from one who had become a mendicant by this disease, and came to ask alms of Mr. B.—The circumstances as we learn them are briefly these. The beggar entered the room where Mrs. B. was sitting with her children, and one of her boys was so much frightened by the singular appearance and odd movements of the distressed object who was so unexpectedly ushered into their presence, that he ran out of the room looking very pale, and appearing much agitated.—Since then he has been subject to the same disease; but as he is very young, and as every possible means are taken for his recovery, it is to be hoped that his parents will soon be relieved from the heart rending spectacle that must be presented to them by the sight of their dear little boy, should he continue to be thus afflicted.—*N. York Sun.*

MRS. GENERAL HARRISON.—The Journal of Commerce gives the following sketch of the wife of Gen. Harrison:—

"As this lady is soon expected to occupy the *"White House"* at Washington, any thing relating to her history will be gratifying to the public. After the news of the desperate battle of the Miami in 1794, Gen Wayne went to the Atlantic States, leaving Captain Harrison in command of Fort Washington, now Cincinnati. The next year Captain Harrison married the daughter of Judge John Cleve Symmes, who was born at Riverhead, Long Island, and removed early in life to New Jersey, where he married the daughter of Governor William Livingston, and was soon after one of the Associate Judges of the Supreme Court of that State. In 1787 he became the proprietor of *"the Miami purchase,"* of near a million of acres, and removed to that country.

Mrs. Harrison was educated at East Hampton, Long Island, and when young was esteemed a lady of great personal and mental accomplishments. A writer for the Boston Monthly Portrait Gallery for 1839, thus speaks of her:—"She is distinguished for her benevolence and piety; and all who know her view her with esteem and affection. Her whole course through life, in all its relations, has been characterized by those qualifications that complete the character of an accomplished matron."

A MAN ON FIRE.—The Baltimore Sun states that a lady residing in Madison st., a day or two since discovered considerable smoking issuing from the basement of a house immediately in the rear of her dwelling.—Much alarmed, she ran to the place and found a man drunk as Bacchus, and his clothes on fire.—When he saw her he bawled out as intelligibly as possible, "For God's sake, madam, put me out, or I shall be burned to death!" She hastily obtained a bucket of water, and threw it upon him, extinguishing the flames and undoubtedly thereby saving his life, for he was too much intoxicated to help himself. She could not tell how he became on fire—he had not been in the house, but was lying under the steps in the basement. The poor bacchanalian will have cause to remember his narrow escape, by the burns he received, and if it works a reformation, he may be gratified that the occurrence took place.

THE NEW SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.—The National Intelligencer says: It gives us pleasure to be able to state that Mr. BADGER of N. Carolina, has accepted the offer of the post of Secretary of the Navy under the Administration whose duties begin on the 4th of next month. This information is the more welcome to those who know him, because some apprehension was entertained of his declining the appointment in consequence of his professional engagements. Anti-masonic objections, of personal vexatious and interest have, however, yielded to the sense of duty which impels him to take the place in the Cabinet to which he has been called by the distinguished citizen whom he has so essentially aided in placing in the Presidential Chair.

CAUGHT IN HIS OWN TRAP.—The Portland Argus relates an amusing case, in which a beggar in that city received what he asked for, but not what he wished for:

"A few days ago, a full grown able-bodied man, presented himself at the door of one of our citizens and solicited the lady of the house to give him two cents. She remarked that she had none, and enquired what, he wanted with them. "To buy a dose of castor oil ma'am, (was the reply) for I am dreadful sick."

The lady had no cents but she had plenty of oil; and she prepared him a stiff dose.—He tried hard to get excused from taking it; but she was firm, he was sick man, and it must go down. The loafer found he was caught in his own trap; and where he meant to have a glass of liquor he got a glass of physic; but making a virtue of necessity, and with sundry wry faces, he gulped it down and cleared out. He'll not call at that house again, we dare say.

FOREIGN NEWS.

ARRIVAL OF THE BRITANNIA.

The steamship Britannia arrived at Boston on Monday, bringing Liverpool dates to the 4th and London to the 3rd and Paris to the 1st inst. We copy from the New York Courier and Enquirer.

The British Parliament assembled on the 20th ult. and was opened by the Queen in person. Her speech on this occasion is more remarkable for what it does not say than for what it does. The absence of all allusion to the State of the relations between England and France is the omission to which we have referred. It is stated in the French papers that the English ministry had inserted in the original draught of the speech a friendly paragraph towards France, but that a few hours before the opening of Parliament an account of two projects of law presented to the Chambers of Deputies, the one calling for a levy of 80,000 recruits, and the other providing for the organization of an army of reserve had been received and was the cause of the omission to be observed in the speech.

The debate on the fortifications of Paris in the Chamber of Deputies of France, had been very animated and had not terminated.

The opposition to the Guizot administration continues fierce and unrelenting.

The affairs of Syria are definitely settled, and it has been announced in Parliament that the Turkish fleet had given up to Mehemet Ali, and the Sultan had granted the hereditary sovereignty of Egypt to the Pacha.

There are no further accounts from China, the latest appear however to be generally credited.

DEATH OF THE AMERICAN CONSUL IN FRANCE.—Died on Sunday, the 10th ult. 31, in Paris, in the 68th year of his age, of typhoid exhaustion after great suffering, Daniel Brent, Esq., Consul of the United States of America for Paris, and agent of American claims.

Correspondence of the New York Courier.

LONDON, January 14, 1841.

The packet ship Montezuma of Boston and New York have all arrived—the latest dates being to the 20th ult. brought by the New York. The message of the President of the United States has arrived by those packets and has been republished in all the London journals, but without exciting the usual interest the annual message of the chief magistrate of the republic—as the present message is perceived to be principally occupied with a defence of the policy of Mr. Van Buren, which is now considered to be useless and out of all place, as the nation has overwhelmingly declared him an unfit for continuance in the Presidential chair.

The paragraph in the message referring to the prospects of a satisfactory settlement of the North Eastern Boundary Line—has been noticed as important, because the progress of that question has been without explanations for some time past, and generally the impression has prevailed that a rupture between the south and pacific condition of general mercantile, monetary, financial and political affairs.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

"My Lords and Gentlemen:—I have the satisfaction to receive from foreign powers assurances of their friendly disposition, and of their earnest desire to maintain peace.

"The posture of affairs in the Levant had long been a cause of uneasiness and a source of danger to the general tranquility. With a view to avert the evils which a continuance of that state of things was calculated to occasion, I concluded with the Emperor of Austria, the King of Prussia, the Emperor of Russia, and the Sultan, a convention intended to effect a pacification of the Levant; to maintain the integrity and independence of the Ottoman Empire; and thereby afford additional security to the peace of Europe.

"I have given direction that this convention shall be laid before you.

"I rejoice to be able to inform you, that the measures which have been adopted in execution of these engagements have been attended with signal success, and that the objects which the contending parties had in view are on the eve of being completely accomplished.

"In the course of these transactions, my naval forces have co-operated with those of the Emperor of Austria, and with the land and sea forces of the Sultan and have displayed upon occasions their accustomed gallantry and skill.

"Having deemed it necessary to send to the coast of China a naval and military force, to demand satisfaction and redress for injuries inflicted upon some of my subjects by the officers of the Emperor of China, and for indignities offered to an agent of my Crown, I at the same time appointed plenipotentiaries to treat upon these matters with the Chinese Government.

"The plenipotentiaries were by the last accounts in negotiation with the Government of China; and it will be a source of much gratification to me if that Government shall be induced by its own sense of justice to bring these matters to a speedy settlement by an amicable arrangement.

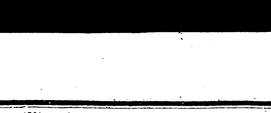
"Serious differences have arisen between Spin and Portugal, about the execution of a treaty concluded by those Powers in 1835, for regulating the navigation of the Douro. But both parties have accepted the mediation of France, I hope to see effect the reconciliation between them upon terms honorable to both.

"I have concluded with the Argentine Republic, and the Republic of Hayti treaties for the suppression of the slave trade, which I have directed to be laid before you.

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons—I have directed the estimates of the year to be laid before you.

"However sensible of the importance of adhering to the principles of economy, I feel it my duty to recommend that adequate provision be made for the exigencies of the public service.

"My Lords and Gentlemen—Measures will be submitted to you without delay which have been recently made upon that



GETTYSBURG, March 2, 1841.

DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

The friends of General Harrison in Pennsylvania are respectfully invited to elect Delegates to a State Convention, to be held in the Court House of Harrisburg, at 10 o'clock, A. M. on WEDNESDAY, the 10th day of March, 1841, for the purpose of selecting a candidate for the office of Governor, to be supported by the Democratic party of the State at the approaching general election.

Each county, and the city of Philadelphia, will send delegates to the Convention, equal in number to their members in the State Legislature.

THOMAS H. BURROWES,
JOHN PRICE WETHERILL,
JOHN C. MONTGOMERY,
FRANCIS PARKER,
WILLIAM M'CLURE,
THOMAS ELDER,
JOSEPH WALLACE,
SAMUEL ALEXANDER,
BELA BADGER,
JAMES GREGORY,
JOHN H. WALKER,
SAMUEL D. CARLESBERTSON,
JAMES STEEL.

Harrisburg, January 6, 1841.

The old Democratic day for nominating the candidates for Governor, was at hand, is departed from in the present instance, in order to afford all who desire it, an opportunity to attend both the State Convention, and the inauguration of President Harrison.

The Address of Mr. *Hamersly*, delivered before the citizens of Petersburg on the 22d of February last, will appear in our next.

Thaddeus Stevens, Esq.

The Harrisburg Telegraph stongly intimates that our distinguished townsman, Mr. STEVENS, will be intended a foreign mission by the new administration. The Baltimore Patriot says "a rumor to the same effect has reached us from Washington. Without knowing what probability might at the case, we may say that such an honor, on the part of the new Administration, could hardly be awarded to a more talented or efficient friend than Mr. STEVENS."

Hon. John Banks.

The current of popular feeling appears to be running strongly in favor of this distinguished individual, and there seems to be but little doubt entertained of his nomination, by the 14th March Convention, as the Democratic candidate for Governor.

There appears to be much anxiety among the people to know what will be done by the Legislature in reference to an improvement Bill. We know not. This much we know, that if they act in the contrary way, they will be sent home, to whom he has the care, the cost will be counted and the means provided before the bill is passed. There rests a *small debt* upon us just now, which we intend to pay off shortly. Be just before you're bountiful. *This is not the time to play the prodigal.*

MASSACHUSETTS UNITED STATES SENATOR.—The Hon. RUFUS CHOATE has been elected U. S. Senator by both branches of the Legislature of Massachusetts, on the 10th instant, occasioned by the resignation of Hon. Daniel Webster.

KENTUCKY U. S. SENATOR.—The Hon. J. T. MOREHEAD, has been elected by the Legislature of Kentucky, a Senator in Congress for six years from the 4th of March next, to succeed Mr. Crittenden.

SOLICITOR OF THE TREASURY.—The Harrisburg Intelligencer of Saturday last, states that *Charles J. Penrose*, Esq. has received official notice of his appointment to the office of Solicitor of the Treasury of the United States.

AN EXTRA SESSION.—The Richmond Whig says that Gen. Harrison makes no secret of his determination to call an extra session of Congress, probably in April, and recommends early for doing so, has urged itself upon his mind for several months past.

The Question Settled.

At the Convention of Democratic Anti-Masonic delegates held at Lancaster on Wednesday last, the following sentiment were appointed delegates to the 10th of March Convention:—

George Ford, jr., Nathaniel Ellmaker, Samuel S. Patterson, George Mullin, Thomas H. Burrowes, Jonathan Owen, Samuel W. Croft, David Hartman.

The following resolution of instruction was adopted by the convention:

Resolved, That the Delegates elected by this Convention to the Democratic Harrisburg State Convention to be held at Harrisburg on the 10th of March next, be and they are hereby instructed to vote on the first and *all succeeding ballots* for JOHN BANKS as the Democratic Candidate for Governor.

Resolved, That should he be nominated the "Old Guard" will come up to the rescue with a free will offering in support of *the man of her choice* of 4500 majority.

The series of Resolutions adopted bore a striking similarity to those passed at our county meeting on the 13th ult; and in relation to them it is proper to note, that the spirit which was breathed throughout them is universally approved, both here and elsewhere. The most entire satisfaction exists as to the position we have assumed. *They need the crisis in every aspect.*—The reiteration of the same opinions by our friends of the "Old Guard" proves them to be ever true in defence of the *"purest principles of democracy."* Among other resolutions they that speak of our fellow-citizens—

Resolved. That we regard the attacks which have been recently made upon that

REPUBLICAN BANNER.

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Resolved, That should he be nominated the "Old Guard" will come up to the rescue with a free will offering in support of *the man of her choice* of 4500 majority.

The series of Resolutions adopted bore a striking similarity to those passed at our county meeting on the 13th ult; and in relation to them it is proper to note, that the spirit which was breathed throughout them is universally approved, both here and elsewhere. The most entire satisfaction exists as to the position we have assumed. *They need the crisis in every aspect.*—The reiteration of the same opinions by our friends of the "Old Guard" proves them to be ever true in defence of the *"purest principles of democracy."* Among other resolutions they that speak of our fellow-citizens—

Resolved. That we regard the attacks which have been recently made upon that

GETTYSBURG, March 2, 1841.

DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

The friends of General Harrison in Pennsylvania are respectfully invited to elect Delegates to a State Convention, to be held in the Court House of Harrisburg, at 10 o'clock, A. M. on WEDNESDAY, the 10th day of March, 1841, for the purpose of selecting a candidate for the office of Governor, to be supported by the Democratic party of the State at the approaching general election.

Each county, and the city of Philadelphia, will send delegates to the Convention, equal in number to their members in the State Legislature.

THOMAS H. BURROWES,
JOHN PRICE WETHERILL,
JOHN C. MONTGOMERY,
FRANCIS PARKER,
WILLIAM M'CLURE,
THOMAS ELDER,
JOSEPH WALLACE,
SAMUEL ALEXANDER,
BELA BADGER,
JAMES GREGORY,
JOHN H. WALKER,
SAMUEL D. CARLESBERTSON,
JAMES STEEL.

Harrisburg, January 6, 1841.

The old Democratic day for nominating the candidates for Governor, was at hand, is departed from in the present instance, in order to afford all who desire it, an opportunity to attend both the State Convention, and the inauguration of President Harrison.

The Address of Mr. *Hamersly*, delivered before the citizens of Petersburg on the 22d of February last, will appear in our next.

Thaddeus Stevens, Esq.

The Harrisburg Telegraph stongly intimates that our distinguished townsman, Mr. STEVENS, will be intended a foreign mission by the new administration. The Baltimore Patriot says "a rumor to the same effect has reached us from Washington. Without knowing what probability might at the case, we may say that such an honor, on the part of the new Administration, could hardly be awarded to a more talented or efficient friend than Mr. STEVENS."

Hon. John Banks.

The current of popular feeling appears to be running strongly in favor of this distinguished individual, and there seems to be but little doubt entertained of his nomination, by the 14th March Convention, as the Democratic candidate for Governor.

There appears to be much anxiety among the people to know what will be done by the Legislature in reference to an improvement Bill. We know not. This much we know, that if they act in the contrary way, they will be sent home, to whom he has the care, the cost will be counted and the means provided before the bill is passed. There rests a *small debt* upon us just now, which we intend to pay off shortly. Be just before you're bountiful. *This is not the time to play the prodigal.*

MASSACHUSETTS UNITED STATES SENATOR.—The Hon. RUFUS CHOATE has been elected U. S. Senator by both branches of the Legislature of Massachusetts, on the 10th instant, occasioned by the resignation of Hon. Daniel Webster.

KENTUCKY U. S. SENATOR.—The Hon. J. T. MOREHEAD, has been elected by the Legislature of Kentucky, a Senator in Congress for six years from the 4th of March next, to succeed Mr. Crittenden.

SOLICITOR OF THE TREASURY.—The Harrisburg Intelligencer of Saturday last, states that *Charles J. Penrose*, Esq. has received official notice of his appointment to the office of Solicitor of the Treasury of the United States.

AN EXTRA SESSION.—The Richmond Whig says that Gen. Harrison makes no secret of his determination to call an extra session of Congress, probably in April, and recommends early for doing so, has urged itself upon his mind for several months past.

The Question Settled.

At the Convention of Democratic Anti-Masonic delegates held at Lancaster on Wednesday last, the following sentiment were appointed delegates to the 10th of March Convention:—

George Ford, jr., Nathaniel Ellmaker, Samuel S. Patterson, George Mullin, Thomas H. Burrowes, Jonathan Owen, Samuel W. Croft, David Hartman.

The following resolution of instruction was adopted by the convention:

Resolved, That the Delegates elected by this Convention to the Democratic Harrisburg State Convention to be held at Harrisburg on the 10th of March next, be and they are hereby instructed to vote on the first and *all succeeding ballots* for JOHN BANKS as the Democratic Candidate for Governor.

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Death of Justice Barbour.

We learn from the Baltimore Patriot that Hon. Philip P. Barbour, of Virginia, Associate Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States, was found dead in his bed at his residence in Washington on Thursday last. His decease was caused, it is believed, by ossification of the heart. His physician, Dr. Sewall, while attending him during a recent indisposition, was led to suspect that the heart was affected; yet the Judge has been since, apparently in his usual health. Last evening he remained in consultation with his brother judges, as is usual, until ten o'clock, and was in peculiar good spirits, when he retired from them to his chamber. As he did not make his appearance at the breakfast table, a servant was sent to call him, who immediately returned, and shocked the Judges with the intelligence that he appeared to be dead. On the Chief Justice, and the others entering his chamber, they found him lying on his side, in a perfectly easy and composed position, his features tranquilized, and neither his form nor countenance exhibiting the slightest indication of having passed through any suffering. He had evidently gone from life to death without a struggle.

Pardoning of the Magician Libellers.

Public Opinion.

Gov. Porter's recent high-handed and outrageous exercise of pardoning power, we are pleased to perceive, meets with universal condemnation in every quarter.

The following is a copy of a resolution, passed at a meeting of the citizens of Lancaster County, Pa., held at Lock Haven, on the 10th ult:

Resolved, That the pardoning power as recently exercised by Gov. Porter in the case of Hutter & Cantine, the publishers of a scurrilous print in Harrisburg, during the late Presidential canvass, who had been prosecuted for a gross libel upon the public and private character of Hon. Thaddeus Stevens, Esq., is, in view of the aggravating circumstances of the matter, unprecedented, and deserves the execrations of a virtuous and law-loving community.

Among the proceedings of a County Convention, held in Pittsburg, on the 17th ult. we observe the following resolution:

Resolved, By this Convention, that the late high handed and unprecedented proceeding of the present Governor of Pennsylvania, in the pardon of Hutter and Cantine, wherein a true bill had been found for a libel, but had not been tried, merits the abhorrence and detestation of all high minded and honest citizens of this Commonwealth, and throughout the Union.

The Rochester Daily Democrat thus forcibly illustrates the dangerous tendency of pardoning power by the Governor of Pennsylvania:—

ABUSE OF POWER.—What would be said of Gov. Seward, should he, now that McLeod is about to be tried, grant a pardon, *before trial*, for any arsons or murders that he may have heretofore committed on the Canadians? He would be called a fiend, a wretch, unfit for the station he holds, and the more guilty in proportion to the greatness of the intellect prostituted to so base a purpose. What then would be thought of Governor PORTER, the Loco Foco Governor of Pennsylvania, for pardoning two subservient partizans of his, at Harrisburg, *by one constroke?* E. W. Hutter and J. J. C. Cantine had been indicted for a libel upon several gentlemen of the Whig party in Adams county, and when arrested for trial, produced a warrant granted *in advance*, by Gov. Porter, under the broad seal of the State, and were discharged! Will not the reflecting of all parties, perceive the evil tendency of such contempt of law and justice, and mark the individuals who perpetrate such abuses, or sanction them, as unfit for public confidence?

ABUSE OF THE PARDONING POWER.—The Pennsylvania papers inform us of a most singular, and, as far as our knowledge extends, unprecedented exercise of the pardoning power, by the Governor of that Commonwealth, by which indeed, that functionary seems to have reversed the humane and just maxim of the law that persons accused of crime shall be deemed innocent until their guilt be proved, and to have assumed their guilt before trial, that he might anticipate and avert the moral as well as the legal consequences of an unfavorable verdict. The case, is this. The grand jury of Adams county found a true bill against Messrs. Hutter and Cantine, editors of a paper published at Harrisburg, for a libel upon the citizens of Gettysburg, and Thaddeus Stevens particularly, and a few days since, when the case was called for trial, the counsel of the defendants, instead of pleading not guilty or submitting the case without argument to the court a paper under the broad seal of the State,—yes, under the *broad seal*, which seems to be poetical enough in courts of justice, though it may be denied by writings in and out of the halls of legislation, —giving a full and free pardon from the Governor of Pennsylvania to the individuals charged with the crime of libel, an offence, but, with an expansiveness of liberality perfectly original and unique, "for all the libels published by them in *Adams county, or elsewhere!!*" The Governor seems to take it for granted that Messrs. Hutter and