The Treasury Project of a Bank.

The National Intelligencer of Monday last says:—"In the preceding column our readers will find one of the most important papers that we have had an opportunity of laying before them for many a day, being the plan of a Bank furnished by the Secretary of the Treasury, in answer to a call from the Senate of the United States.

We call this "the Treasury project," because it emanates from that Department, and because we do not feel authorized to call it a Cabinet measure, though we have no doubt of its having the approbation of a majority of the heads of Departments. But that as it may, however, it is obviously a well considered project, which, if cast into the form of law in the precise shape in which it has been moulded by the Secretary of the Treasury, could not fail, in our opinion, to be fruitful of benefits to the country and facilitate to the Government.

We do not doubt but that to the mind of almost every man who has thought at all upon the subject, this Bank project would be more acceptable if some one or more features of it were different from what they are. But to any plan that could possibly be proposed, objections of detail would arise in different minds, according to their particular views. We do not say that the Treasury plan is perfect, or even the best that could have been devised. We would ourselves willing see one or two of its features changed. But the change of those features would perhaps repel two friends to the measure for one that it would attract, and, for the mere gratification of a personal wish, we should never dream of hazarding the success of a great measure.

We trust that those who believe a measure of this character to be imperiously demanded by the great interests and exigent circumstances of the country will come to the consideration of this plan with minds open to conviction, and act upon it in that spirit of compromise without which great and valuable public purposes are rarely accomplished in a free and popular Government.

Concerning the early history of this National Bank question in this Government we have an anecdote, from undoubted authority, which appears to us of too much interest to be withheld from our readers. We do not know that a more fit occasion will occur for offering it, as follows:

After the bill for the establishment of the old Bank of the United States had passed both Houses of Congress, in 1791, and had been laid before President Washington, for his signature, it became a matter of astonishment to the Secretary of the Treasury, (Gen. Hamilton,) that the President should have hesitated to sign a measure until the ten days limited by the Constitution had almost expired. Calling upon the President in the ordinary course of his official duty, the latter put into the hands of Gen. Hamilton the Opinions of Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Randolph on the subject of the Bank bill, and requested him to examine and answer them. Hamilton took the papers, read them, reflected upon the subject, went to see Mr. Lewis the "great black letter lawyer" of Philadelphia at that day. They walked together in Mr. Lewis's garden, Hamilton explaining his views as to the law of incorporation, which Lewis confirmed. Gen. Hamilton returned home in the evening, retired to bed, gave directions to be called at 12 o'clock at night, and that strong coffee should then be ready for him. This was done. He went to his study and finished the Opinion at one sitting and, when it was copied, took it to the President. The next day Washington, when he saw Gen. Hamilton, taking his hand in both of his, said—"I thank you, my dear sir, for your Opinion, it is conclusive, and has relieved me from much embarrassment. I have signed the bill."

☞Below will be found the plan of the Secretary of the Treasury, alluded to in the above article—

PLAN OF A BANK & FISCAL AGENT.

Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting to the Senate, in compliance with a resolution of that body, a plan of a Bank and Fiscal Agent.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
June 12, 1841.

To the President of the Senate of the U. States:

SIR:—In obedience to the instruction of the Senate, contained in their resolution of the 7th instant, the Secretary of the Treasury has prepared and herewith submits, a plan of a Bank and Fiscal Agent.

In the general plan and frame of said institution, he has endeavored to free it from the constitutional objections which have been urged against those heretofore created by Congress, and, as far as practicable without impairing its usefulness, to guard it in its details, against the abuses to which such institutions are liable. And he now respectfully submits it to the Senate with the hope that, in the process of consideration and enactment, it may become, what he did not presume to promise, but which he earnestly desires to see in the possession of the nation, a Bank and Fiscal Agent, free from constitutional objections, and adapted to the wants of the country, and convenience of the Government.

It is proposed to incorporate a Bank in the District of Columbia by the name of the Fiscal Bank, of the United States, having a capital of thirty million dollars, with power to establish branches or offices of discount and deposite in the several States, with the assent of the States; that the Government subscribe one-fifth part of the capital; and on the supposition that it is the purpose of Congress hereafter to direct that the fourth instalment, appropriated by the deposite act of June 23d, 1836, shall be paid into the treasuries of the several States, it is also proposed that a subscription to that amount be made in the name of the United States, for the use of the States respectively; the stock to be assigned to, and held in the property of, the States in the same manner, in the same proportions, and subject to all the conditions provided and imposed by that act.

And for the amount of the six million to be subscribed by the United States on their own account, and also for the amount to be subscribed for the use of the several States, it is proposed that a stock be created, bearing an interest of five per cent. per annum, redeemable at the pleasure of the Government at any time after fifteen years.

In case Congress should not see fit to make such a provision as is proposed for paying to the States the fourth instalment under the deposit act, it may be well worth while to consider whether the States might not be permitted to take the stock of the Bank according to their respective amounts of population, to the extent of ten millions in all, issuing therefor stock of their own, bearing such interest, and reimbursable at such period, as might be prescribed; their dividends on the shares thus held by the States, respectively, to be applied, in the first place, to the payment of the interest on their stocks; with a further provision, if thought necessary, that, in case the proceeds of the public lands should be assigned to the States, those proceeds should be applied to the reimbursement of the principal of their debts, or stocks, created or issued for the purposes aforesaid.

In the opinion of the Secretary, it is desirable that the States should be permitted to take an interest in one of the foregoing modes, or some other mode, in the new institution; but, if Congress should think otherwise, then it is recommended that the Government of the United States subscribe for ten millions of stock, leaving twenty to be subscribed by individuals.

It is proposed that the affairs of the Bank be managed by seven directors, two of them to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and five to be elected by the stockholders, at their annual meeting. A president to be chosen by the directors out of their own body.

That the branches be managed by not more than seven, nor less than five directors, to be appointed by the stockholders in States in which the branches may situated, if such State be a stockholder, and the rest to be appointed by the directors of the Bank.

It is proposed that this Bank be the fiscal agent of the Government. That the public moneys be deposited in it; and when there, that they be deemed and taken to be in the Treasury of the United States, and that the deposites be not removed except by law, and that the notes of the said Bank be receivable in the payment of public dues, and that payments made by the Treasurer of the United States may be by checks on said Bank.

That the said Bank receive the funds of the United States; that it transmit them from one part of the Union to another, and distribute them for the payment of public creditors, and perform the duty of pension agent free of charge.

The ordinary powers and privileges of banking institutions being conferred upon it, and the ordinary liabilities and duties imposed in order to prevent overbanking, excessive issues, fluctuations in the price of stocks and consequent speculations therein, and to secure the bill holders and other creditors of the Bank from danger of loss, it is proposed:

To limit the dividends to six per cent. per annum, but if they fall short in any year, the deficiency, with interest thereon, to be afterwards made good, and when a surplus accumulates, reserve two millions, the excess to be passed to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States.

That the amount of debts which it may at any time owe, shall not exceed twenty millions, over and above its deposites.—That the debts at any time due to the bank shall not exceed the amount of its capital and seventy-five per cent. thereon; and that when the amount of bills in circulation shall exceed three times the amount of specie in its vaults, no new loan shall be made.

That it shall not deal in any thing except coin, bullion, promissory notes, and inland bills of exchange.

That it shall take no more than six per cent. upon loans.

That it shall discount no promissory note, and purchase no bill of exchange which has more than one hundred and eighty days to run, or make any loan for a longer time.

That no stock shall be issued.

That it shall not at any time loan the United States more than three millions of dollars, nor any State more than 100,000 dollars, nor either for a longer time than one hundred days, unless authorized by law.

That it shall contract no debt for a longer time than one year.

That it shall issue no note of a less denomination than ten dollars.

That the officers of the institution shall not be permitted to borrow money from, or contract any debt therein, in any manner whatever; a note or bill of which each officer, as maker, endorser, or acceptor, is for bidden to be discounted. The directors of the branches not to be considered officers within the meaning of this provision.

To prevent or expose any fraud or indirection in the management of the institution; to prevent, also, large and improper loans to individuals, to the injury of the stockholders and the public; and to prevent, likewise, false imputations when such irregularities do not exist, it is proposed that the books of the institution, including the accounts of all individuals, shall be at all times open to the inspection of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States; to a committee of either House of Congress; to each of the directors of the Bank, and to a committee of the stockholders, with power to make public whatsoever they may think fit.

It is proposed to provide that the branch-es shall not issue notes or bills adapted to and intended for circulation; but may sell drafts, not less in amount than fifty dollars, for the purpose of transmission and exchange.

That the Bank shall not suspend specie payments—that it shall not pay out any thing but coin or bullion, or its own notes. That its existence as a corporation contin ue for twenty years; but that it be allowed to use its corporate name for two years longer in settling up its affairs.

That no other bank be established by Congress during the existence of the charter.

And providing that it shall not be deemed an infringement of the privileges granted by the charter, if Congress shall order the said corporation to place offices of discount and deposite wherever the same may be necessary for the collection, safe-keeping and disbursement of the public revenue.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

T. EWING,
Secretary of Treasury.

The most curious epistolary specimen, that we have seen for some time, is the following, which we copy from the Little Rock (Ark.) Times, of the 24th ult. The writer, Abner D. Hogan, was a United States soldier, who was convicted of murder at the last term of the United States district court, but recommended to the mercy of the President. It seems, however, that he decided on trusting to a good pair of heels rather than to Executive clemency:

To the Gentlemen of Little Rock, Arkansas:

STATE PRISON, April 21, 1841.

GENTLEMEN AND FELLOW-CITIZENS OF ARKANSAS: I will give you all to understand that I have made my elopement, and give you my reasons for so doing: and I hope you won't blame me. The President is dead, and there is poor prospect of my being pardoned by the Vice President, seeing he is not a military man; and I don't think I deserve to die for this act of indiscretion. If I had done this for malice or animosity, I would not have said one word against the verdict of my country. I intend never to show my face to a white man again as long as I live. If I get clear, I will go amongst my red brethren in the prairies; the Cumanches, Pawnees, Kiowas, and Towacanies, for I can speak their languages very well, and if I can get to them before I am taken, I may be of some service to the United States, for I will inform the Mexicans of every depredation on the frontiers and traders, and try to make them work for their living and be honest.

I am very well equipped for this expedition; I have a rifle, a brace of pistols, a Bowie-knife, and plenty of ammunition; a first rate horse, saddle, and bridle and some money to take me through the Choctaw nation; and if I get through I am safe, for I am not afraid of the Indians. If I can get to old Tabbaquena, the Cumanche war chief, I am at home, for he wanted me to go with him the last time I saw him, and said he would give me his daughter, and now is my time. I shall be at a loss for nothing but tobacco. Oh, if I had some now I could live like a king. It is very strange that I should flee to them for protection, but, to tell the truth, they are the most friendly human beings on earth, when they take a man to be any person, and they would lose their lives for you. For the Lord's sake don't advertise me, on account of my mother, and let me go in peace, and I will be your friend for ever. Don't let me steal any more, I pray you, on account of my mother, and let me go in peace, and I will be your friend for ever. Don't let me steal all men from using malt liquor, for you see what it has brought me to; on account of that I have to flee to savages for protection. Gentlemen, I have one request to make of you, as unknown to any person here; "a friend in need is a friend indeed." If I am pardoned, it is so much the better, and I may come back and live with you. If I do, I can be useful to you, and I will be a good citizen ever after. I have no other satisfaction to see me hanged like a dog. Let me go in peace and harmony. Nothing more, than I am your friend until death.

ABNER D. HOGAN.

TAX-PAYERS, *Read the following Fact.*—The Western Reservoir at Johnstown was let to Packer, a brother of the Canal Commissioner, and J. K. Moreheed, a particular friend of Gov. Porter, for THIRTY FIVE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY NINE DOLLARS more than good and responsible men offered to do the work for—and on which they could have a good profit. Here are THIRTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS, of what the friends of Gov. Porter call "small plunderings," taking from the pockets of the people and given to the personal friends of the Governor! What think ye of it, tax payers and work-men!—*Penn. Telegraph.*

FATAL DUEL.—The New Orleans Bee of the 5th inst. says:—A duel was fought yesterday morning at Mandeville between Messrs. SAMUEL WRIGHT and S. W. OAKEY, merchants of New Orleans. The hostile meeting grew out of certain articles in the Vicksburg *Sentinel* grossly abusive of Mr. OAKEY, and of which Mr. WRIGHT was the reputed author. The combatants fought with rifles. The first shot proved inefficient. At the second Mr. Wright fell, having received his adversary's ball in the side. He lived scarcely a minute.

THE CASE OF DR. ELDRIDGE.—In this case the Judges heard the argument on his application for habeas corpus, to release the Doctor, provided he would enter into a recognizance of $1000 in his own name.—He refused his discharge on these terms, and was conveyed back to Moyamensing. He also demanded the return of the money that had been taken from him. Subsequently, however, at the desire of his friends he gave the required bail, and was discharged.

LICENSING BROKERS.—An Act was passed at the late session of the Legislature, and been signed by Gov. Porter since the adjournment, "To authorize the licensing of Stock Brokers, Exchange Brokers, and Bill Brokers, and to regulate contracts for the purchase and sale of Loans and Stocks." This Act provides that from and after the 1st of July next, any individual or company desirous of pursuing the business of stock Broker, if in the city of Philadelphia, he or they must first procure from the County Treasurer a License by the payment of $100—if in Pitsburg, $50, and if in any of the other Counties of the State, $30.—If it be intended to add the business of Bill Broker, *double* these respective sums must be paid, and if a Stock Broker also, then *treble* the sums, viz; $300—$150—$90.—The License to be renewed annually at the same rate—and any person violating this law will be liable to a fine of $500, one half for the use of the Commonwealth and the other half for the use of the guardians of the poor.—This law is intended to put a stop, as far as practicable, to that species of *gambling* carried on to a most mischievous extent in the cities, known by the designation of *time sales* of stock, and declares that all sales of this kind stipulating for the delivery of stock at any future period beyond five juridicial days next ensuing the date of the contract or agreement, shall be null and void, and that any person or officiating shall be liable to a fine of not less than $100 no more than $1000.

The above sketch we deem sufficient for general information, as those among our readers (if any such there be) to whom the law may be *particularly interesting*, will have no difficulty in obtaining it in full.—We consider the law an excellent one, and it should be rigidly enforced.—Those who are in the practice of shaving others, can certainly have no objection to be lathered and scraped a little themselves—and as for those gentlemen in the city who are in the habit of producing panics and groans in "the money market" by their "operations," we hope their case will soon be that of Othello's. —*Chamb. Rep.*

MELANCHOLY EFFECTS OF A THUNDER STORM.—The York Republican of Wednesday last, says:—"About 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, a very heavy cloud gathered in great blackness on the evening of Tuesday of last week, being evidently very heavily charged with electricity and threatening a copious rain—The lightning, however, participated very slightly in York, the dust being scarcely laid in the streets by the shower. In other parts of the country, however, the storm seemed to have been accompanied by thunder and lightning, and unfortunately causing a loss of human life. In the village of New Haven Mrs. CATHARINE FERN, who was sitting in the same room with her husband and family, though occupying a position nearer to the fire place, was struck by a stream of the electric fluid which descended the chimney and occasioned her instant death. The other persons present were not injured. She was between 34 and 35 years of age—had been married more than 17 years to Mr. WM. FERN, and left four surviving daughters, one of her children having preceded her to the grave. A light which was seen here on the same evening was said afterward to have proceeded from the burning by lightning of a barn in Fairview township.

THE PATRIOTIC FOWLER.—There was no one charge that tended more to the overthrow of George Wolf, when Governor, than that of too freely using the pardoning power. He however used it but few times, comparatively speaking, during his administration. To what has it got now?

Not satisfied with opening the prison doors indiscriminately on behalf of the pickpocket and the DETECTED THIEF—he has knocked off the shackles from those hands which were dyed with human blood, and, in the cold-blooded murder of his own kind, loose again upon society, to spill more blood.

We learn by some of our exchanges, that the worthy friend of the felon has *pardoned nineteen convicted felons* from the cells of the Eastern Penitentiary. What was the price of all this insult to justice and virtue! and whose hands had clutched the guilty gold? Are we mistaken? Where they turned out to form a part of a band of bullies and blood hounds, who are to hunt honest men from the polls at the next election! In the name of justice, of the peace and of a virtuous community, we exclaim against such a *disgraceful*, yea, and criminal procedure. It cannot be otherwise than both *disgraceful and criminal*, otherwise the laws are so which establishes a sentence too great for crime. We ask every lover of virtue and righteous Government, if they are willing to say that a Governor, and he perhaps aspiring to be a Senator, so virtuous shall have the power to walk into our prisons, and unloose the well deserved chains of every scoundrel, knave, and felon; and bid him take a passport to riot upon the blood or treasure of a law loving, and law obeying people!—*Huntingdon Jour.*

"BEAR'S RABIES."—We see it stated by the Ohio Statesman, that Mr. John W. Bear, the Buckeye blacksmith, whose blows with the sledge of truth shivered Locofocoism so terribly last season, has been appointed Sub Indian Agent at Upper Sandusky, in place of Purdy McElvan, Esq. The appointment throws Medary into spasms, for he cannot bear Mr. Bear any more than the "sweet spirit of Nitre" rage, he accuses Mr. B. of nearly every crime except stealing "outside quires."—The secret of the State Printer's spite towards the Blacksmith, we believe is, that he offers to save the State the expense of a pair of hand cuffs, by furnishing Medary gratis.—*Cleveland Herald.*

BALLOON ASCENSION.—Mr. John Wise, Æronaut, ascended with his balloon on Saturday last from Danville, Pa., at two o'clock P. M. and at 25 minutes past four landed in safety at Morgantown, having traversed in 145 minutes a distance of 87 miles. He crossed Pottsville at three o'clock, and passed to the eastward of Reading about four o'clock. Swift travelling.

A WINDFALL.—It is said that one of our stevedores, a poor and respectable man, received a letter from England by the last steam ship, informing him that there was awaiting his order a legacy of £3600 sterling, with the accumulated interest of *thirty six years.* The *fortune* an individual is about 60 years of age, and passed the best portion of his life on ship-board, enduring the hardships of a seafaring life. He has of late years been small craft, and was a stevedore of industrious habits, and a hard-working man.—*Salem Reg.*

PLAIT YOUR HAIR, LADIES.—The Galvestonian says that a lady while bathing in the Gulf of Mexico, suddenly found that she was floating out on the waves. Her garments buoyed her up, and the under tow was drawing her out pretty rapidly. She immediately cried out, and a gentleman who was bathing with her swam to her rescue. On reaching her, she clutched him by the throat, and it was with some difficulty that he disengaged himself.—Luckily, the lady had plaited her hair previous to going into the water, and the gentleman seized hold of one of the braids between his teeth, and thus managed to tow the fair one ashore. We'll bet six radishes to a sweet potatoe that he marries her.

THE STATE CANALS have done a large Spring business. We shall shortly publish a statement proving it.

The Tide Water Canal has also been doing an increased business. The amount of coal sent from Pine Grove this season averages about eighty tons more per week than at any former time.

The Tide Water Canal has done business to the amount of about 85000 per week over that of last year. If this work is properly managed, it will be a source of great profit to the Stockholders and Bali-more. Large quantities of coal are despatched daily to market upon it from the Susquehanna and Swatara rivers.—*Har. Reporter.*

The St. Louis Republican states that one mercantile house in that city, in the course of its business, paid last year up wards of $162,000 on exchange. On this the editor well remarks:

"Who pays this in the end? Why, the consumer—the farmer, the mechanic.—Although we are not obliged to see the enormous exchanges now demanded for eastern funds, are by no means going to sell goods at the same prices, as if exchange be what it was when the United States Bank was in successful operation. But the U. S. Bank was a "monster" and the Loco Focos preferred skin-platers to a sound currency—and the people are now the sufferers. Which is the most monstrous a source. This is more than probable that some clue will be shortly obtained by which this atrocious transaction may be unveiled and its authors discovered and delivered up to justice.

P. S. Since the above was in type, we learn that a meeting of the Council of the Second Municipality was held yesterday, at which decisive measures were adopted for the recovery of the $50,000 lost by the transaction. The steamship Neptune was immediately chartered to go on a cruize in the Gulf, and 60 able bodied seamen engaged at a liberal wages to accompany her, the whole under the command of Capt. Butler, harbor master of the Second Municipality. A large number of citizens offered their services as volunteers, but the gentlemen having her full compliment, the proffer was declined.

We are informed that the Levee was thronged with spectators, and the tone and feeling manifested were honorable to the humanity and spirit of our citizens.

Nothing further has been ascertained at New Orleans, on the 8th inst. of this piracy.

THE COAL, IRON AND WHEAT OF PENNSYLVANIA.—Three great staple products of the Keystone State are Coal and Iron Mines and her Wheat. Some interesting statistics with reference to each of these were presented at the Business Convention at Harrisburg in an excellent speech by Mr. Henry K. Strong, of Schuylkill county, from which we compile the following summary. About one-fourth of the State comprising more than seven million acres, seated mostly upon navigable waters leading to an States of the Union, is one vast bituminous coal field, filled with lime and iron-stone, and possessing as fine a soil as ever the sun shone upon. Pennsylvania Coal no other State possesses, so that the whole Union must purchase of Pennsylvania for ever.—Twenty-one years ago, when the trade first commenced, only 365 tons were taken from the Lehigh mines to market: there are now mined more than one millions of tons annually. About 800,000 tons are sold to other States, and 200,000 consumed in Pennsylvania. In great Britain about 30,000,000 tons are mined annually, of which only 812,245 are exported to foreign countries. In 1834, less than 5,000,000 tons were used for fuel, and more than 25,000,000 tons were consumed in driving the machinery of manufactories.—This is the true policy which Pennsylvania now initiates a bringing into use her coal, and iron must both be consumed in propelling her own machinery, and driving her own cotton, woollen and iron factories.

The quantity of pig iron annually manufactured in Pennsylvania is estimated at 100,000 tons, or one-third of all that is made in the United States. It may be increased so as to meet the demand of the whole Union, though it is yet the whole value is estimated at only $5,000,000.—The amount of pig iron made annually in Great Britain is valued at $28,000,000, while the value given to it by manufacturing part of it into bar iron, hardware and cutlery, is estimated at 90,000,000 more. Pennsylvania sends iron to the Northern States, and one-fifth of it is returned to her in manufactured articles; she sends them coal and flour, and receives in return cotton fabrics and articles that she ought to make herself.

The Census returns show that there were raised in Pennsylvania in 1839, 12,029,758 bushels of wheat, one sixth of all that is raised in the Union; the annual value, when made into flour, may be estimated at $13,029,756. England, Scotland and Wales contain 26,888,930 acres of land, of which 18,605,800 are cultivable, 20,409,400 pasturage, 8,935,000 forests and gentlemen's parks, and 12,885,330 incapable of cultivation. Pennsylvania contains 30,000,000 of acres of land, or more than 3,000,000 will ever be improvable of being converted into tillage and pasturage. And yet Great Britain which in 1700, when her population was mainly agricultural, produced only 14,000 bushels of wheat, in 1830, under the stimulus of her manufactures, increased the amount to one hundred and thirty millions—nearly twice as much as is raised in the whole United States. Thus it will be seen that the value of the great staples of Pennsylvania is annually—of Coal, $5,000,000; of Iron, $5,000,000; and of Wheat, $13,000,000—making the aggregate of $23,000,000.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—We should really like to know of the Members of the House of Representatives, the Whig members particularly, upon whom we have a right to call, if they mean to go on doing nothing, as they have done for the last week, without two weeks to organise a House, for what ought not to be over a six weeks session, is a little too much even for one's friend to bear, especially when there is no doubt who has the power to make up that majority. Many Members daily voting for every adjournment will soon be called to account. More will suffer before the People, and their Representatives, if the Congress adjourns and does nothing, as is indicated by this waste of two weeks in the House.

There is, we readily see, no spirit for business among the Politicians of either party in the House. Why do they not take hold of their work as business men, as Merchants would, and have it done? Why do they not do, in order to return home.—Why quibble for hours upon points of order? Why waste time upon abstract principles, when action is what is wanted. Mr. Adams's memorials seem to have been enough the next session of Congress, to vindicate the abstract right of petition, without worrying the country out of patience now. Mr. Ingersoll could print his essay on Slavery and not consume the time of the House. The Loco Foco Members are, however, hardly to blame. They came to do nothing, and they don't mean, if they can help it, that anything shall be done.

It was most unfortunate for the action of Congress, that the proposition of Mr. King to lay aside the luxurious desks and cushioned seats, did not succeed. As it is, the Capitol is about the only comfortable place now in the City of Washington, and it, therefore, has positive temptations for members to come and loll in it. It is an air in the well ventilated and spacious building is good. The grounds around are beautiful. The protection from the scorching rays of the sun powerful. Members leaving their desks can write all day, much more agreeably than in the hot, narrow rooms of their boarding houses, so that protracted idle loitering, amounts to a positive premium on doing nothing, and doing no good. Talking against time is permitted, for talking, what is wanted, consumes time. Members feel no sensible inconvenience, for they have no incapacitation, or it not, the best of seats, in the best of rooms, which all outward appliances to make them comfortable. On the contrary, they feel that they are doing conspicuously, without chairs on desks, or mere benches, as in the House of Commons, they must, and would work, for being so miserably uncomfortable, they would hasten to escape elsewhere.

As the House of Representatives is constituted and as it acts, there is not the least need of such a caucus as that of the Government. Its expense certainly ought to be dispensed with. The Senate is the only legislative branch of the Government, and creates and perfects all the laws worth name. The country must look to that body for aid, and leave the members in the House to prate till dog days upon points of order, and its 21st Rule.

A few years hence, however, as the nuisances in the House become too expensive for the People, and too intolerable to be borne, the body will be forced to adopt the customs of the British House of Commons, which long experience has proved to be the only means that can make such large deliberate bodies act.—*N. Y. Express.*

THE HOUSE ORGANIZED.—The Madisonian of Thursday says—"The House of Representatives, after nearly three weeks of confusion and agitation, arrived yesterday at a point that promises a temporary calm. The vote of 119 to 103, by which the Rules of the last Congress were adopted for the government of this session, superseding the rules before adopted, which confines the action of the House to the business contemplated in the Proclamation of the Executive, is indicative of a determination on the part of a majority of the members to proceed to the consideration of the 'grave and weighty matters' before them."

RESCUE OF A SLAVE.—We learn from the Lancaster Intelligencer that on Wednesday last, two of the police of that city, in company with Mr. Grabill, the brother-in-law of Dr. Shields of Maryland, proceeded to arrest a female slave of the latter, who had absconded in Lancaster county, and was secreted in Salisbury township. They succeeded in capturing her, placed her in a carriage, when they were attacked by eight colored men with a shower of stones.—Grabill and Lewars, one of the officers, fired upon the mob; the ball of the latter struck one of the men, who it is rumored has since died. The mob however rescued the woman and carried her off. Mr. Grabill was considerably hurt; and Messrs. Myers and Lewars considerably bruised.—The attack was made in an unfrequented spot and at an early hour in the morning.

LOW ENOUGH.—The Louisville Advertiser states that corn has been sold at auction in Missouri as low as *three cents a bushel!*—On descending into the cabin, several bottles which contained porter, and had their necks knocked off, were found on the table; some of their contents had been spilled, and the truth looked quite fresh. Every article of luggage had disappeared. Not a trunk, not a bedstead, nor an article of furniture in the cabin, save an old pair of boots, were to be seen. The apparel and bedding of the captain, crew and passengers had entirely disappeared.

On examining the vessel's deck, spots of blood having the appearance of being recently shed, together with 8 or 10 bludgeons, were seen on the starboard side. On the larboard was a small pool of blood running towards the scuppers, and on the same side on the outward part of the vessel, were eight stains of the sanguine fluid which had apparently flowed from some wounded person which had run the aggregate of the ship's side.

It must be borne in mind that this appalling discovery was made at an early hour in the morning—about 8 A. M. After ascertaining the circumstances just related, the Tiger was promptly put to sea, and cruised about some 5 or 6 hours. In the course of the morning, about ten miles distant from the Charles, a boat recognized as one attached to the vessel, and containing a dog said to belong to one of the passengers, was picked up. The dog appeared by no means exhausted, and had evidently not been long in the water, as when offered water, he did not lap very eagerly. After searching some time longer, and finding nothing whatever to elucidate the mystery, Capt. Crowell returned to the Charles, took her in tow, and returned to town, where he arrived yesterday morning at 7 o'clock.

It is needless to state that this singular affair has given rise to innumerable speculations. Piracy, murder, robbery and piracy, mutiny and assassination fled from mouth to mouth with incredible rapidity.—The most prevalent supposition—though not an opinion we ought to mention—was that the crew had risen, murdered the captain and passengers, seized the baggage and money on board and escaped in one of the boats, which was therefore missing. In the absence of positive information, we even plausible data upon which to base a conclusion, we forbear indulging in conjectures which may be deprived by the earliest intelligence. We are happy to learn that the city authorities, on the receipt of the news, assembled and adopted prompt and vigorous measures for tracing the mystery to its source. It is more than probable that some clue will be shortly obtained by which this atrocious transaction may be unveiled and its authors discovered and delivered up to justice.

P. S. Since the above was in type, we learn that a meeting of the Council of the Second Municipality was held yesterday, at which decisive measures were adopted for the recovery of the $50,000 lost by the transaction. The steamship Neptune was immediately chartered to go on a cruize in the Gulf, and 60 able bodied seamen engaged at a liberal wages to accompany her, the whole under the command of Capt. Butler, harbor master of the Second Municipality. A large number of citizens offered their services as volunteers, but the gentlemen having her full compliment, the proffer was declined.

We have ourselves beheld a more animated spectacle than that witnessed at the departure of the Neptune. The Levee was thronged with spectators, and the tone and feeling manifested were honorable to the humanity and spirit of our citizens.

Nothing further has been ascertained at New Orleans, on the 8th inst. of this piracy.

GETTYSBURG STAR

AND

REPUBLICAN BANNER.

GETTYSBURG, June 22, 1841.

Democratic Candidate
FOR GOVERNOR,

JOHN BANKS,

OF BERKS COUNTY.

Appointments by the Post Master General.

JOHN A. DAVIS, to be Postmaster of Littlestown, Adams county, in the room of Mr. Melvaine.

EMANUEL KERR, to be Postmaster of East Berlin, Adams county, in the room of Mr. Crumbine.

HON. JAMES COOPER will address our readers for a copy of the President's Message, and accompanying documents.

We are indebted to Mr. SNYDER, for a copy of the report of the Select Committee, appointed at the late session of the Legislature, to investigate the expenditures upon the Canals and Railroads of this State.

Robbery of the Frederick Co. Bank.

Possible Arrest of a Robber.—We learn from the Baltimore Sun, that an endorsement on the way-bill received in that city on Friday morning last, states that a man has been arrested in Cincinnati, having in his possession a large amount of the notes of the Frederick County Bank. No other information is given.

Judge Black, (Harrison Democrat) has been elected to Congress, from the Somerset district, lately represented by the Hon. Charles Ogle.—Mr. Pittman, his opponent, received but a few hundred votes.

Congress.

The House of Representatives is at last organized, and we entertain a hope that the business of legislation will now be more rapidly pushed forward toward completion. Nearly three weeks of the time of the House has been uselessly consumed by a set of disorganizing demagogues, whose base and hollow pretensions entitle them to little or no consideration whatever, and whose wrangling and jangling produced a scene of chaos and confusion which would disgrace even a cockpit, and could not fail to mantle the cheek of any true American with shame and mortification to witness. We regret this the more on account of the fact that the House is composed of a majority of Whigs, on whom must necessarily rest the responsibility of this profligate waste of time and money.

The present session of Congress, it was confidently believed by the people, would be of short duration, and its action confined exclusively to measures of the most urgent nature, to the country and the community. But in this, present appearances justify us in saying, they are likely to be disappointed. Business, foreign to the purpose of legislation, will for the present, be brought up, and much time consumed in discussion upon it. Already half of the time of the session has expired, in which it was thought all the business would be disposed of by the present Congress, might be disposed of, and yet comparatively nothing has been done. The repeal of the Sub-Treasury, 'tis true, has been effected, but this is a measure of importance, but it truth there is no doubt."

GOOD.—Mr. Barber, late editor of the Boston Republican, whose establishment was broken up by the libel suit of Mr. Cooper, has been appointed postmaster at Coopertown.

PIRACY AND MURDER NEAR NEW ORLEANS.

The Southern mail brings us N. Orleans papers of the 7th and 8th inst. and in them is given a detail of a horrible transaction at the Balize, which we copy the following from the New Orleans Bee of June 7:

Shocking and Atrocious Occurrence.—The entire community was yesterday morning thrown into the utmost consternation, by the reappearance at the levee of the ship Charles, of Bath, Me., Captain Gorham, which left this city for Bordeaux, on the evening of the 1st June, with a cargo of 60,000 staves, 70,000 feet of lumber, a lot of heading and wheel spokes. She was brought back to the city by the tow boat Tiger. We have made careful enquiries into all the circumstances connected with the horrid business which we are about to relate, and the following details may, we think, be relied upon.

The Ship Charles cleared on Tuesday last, 1st inst. and went down to the Balize the same evening, crossing the bar, and getting well into the Gulf on the morning following.—During the whole of Wednesday and Thursday, the Charles as well as the Loco Zanitorze, which went out at the same time, was distinctly visible from the Balize, the weather being rather calm; though it was observed that the Charles steered to the west, while the Louis Quatorze headed to the east of the S. W. Pass. On Friday morning at an early hour, the Captain of the Louis Quatorze reported a vessel apparently steering for the South West Pass, probably at the distance, as other studding sails were set. Presuming that the vessel was in want of steam, he dispatched the Tiger towards her. On nearing her he discovered that it was the ship Charles. She was in the following conditions:—Nearly all her sails were set, and the jib which was flying loose, appeared to have been cut, probably to make an awning for one of the boats.

Not a solitary living being was on board. The deck was covered with blood, and the bulwarks were stained with blood. The ship's boat was gone, and the main mast broken by the main boom, and the main topsail was torn to pieces. The main topmast was gone, and the main topsail was torn to pieces. The main topmast was gone, and the main topsail was torn to pieces. The main topmast was gone