river, thirty miles from Cumberland, was contemplated; but the unavoidable delays attendant upon the adjustment of location, in conjunction with that of the canal extension to the same point, together with the sickness prevailing on the Potomac badly during the autumn of 1849 and 1850, made that impracticable; and the idea was abandoned the more readily, as nothing of importance would have been gained by its accomplishment. The commencement of the laying of the rails west of Cumberland was, therefore, postponed until the present spring, and is now steadily advancing—upwards of six miles being now passed over by the locomotives, with their trains, carrying the iron materials of the track.

As the whole line to Wheeling is to be pushed forward in this way, by transporting the iron over the new road as fast as it is finished, it will give the clearest and readiest idea of the progress and time of completion of the whole line to say that no delay in the progress of the track from this time forth is anticipated, and that the laying of it will advance at an average rate of about ten miles per month. This, counting from the first of April, instant, would lay the whole two hundred miles from Cumberland to Wheeling in twenty months from that date, or by the first of December, 1852; and the opening of the line to Wheeling cannot be delayed beyond that month, if there be no failure in the supply of labor and of means to pay for it. These are the only contingencies, and, so far as they are under the control of the company, they will not stand in the way.

I am not expected to speak of the financial part of the subject. In regard to the labor, I can say that every proper effort shall be made, and that I think the worst is past. We have now about 4,500 men and 800 horses upon the whole line—making about 22 men and four horses per mile. This force would be very inadequate to finish the 200 miles by the end of 1852, were the work only now begun; but it has so far advanced that a concentration of labor upon the heavier jobs, midway and near the west end, will soon begin to take place, and their progress will thus be accelerated.

In speaking of such of these as are known to the board and to the community here as remarkable for their magnitude, I will state (each section being about a mile long, and its number, therefore, showing its distance from Cumberland) that—

The tunnel on section 32, and the very deep cut on section 38, will be finished in July.

The summit cut on section 45 will be passable in August.

The tunnels on sections 65 and 68 will be finished in June.

The remaining very heavy sections east of Cheat river may be passed in September.

The very high bridge walls on section 77 will be in a condition to support the track by October, although not fully completed for some months after.

The other heavy sections thence to the Kingwood tunnel, on the 82d section, will be ready for at least one track of rails in the same month of October.

The great tunnel just named, of four thousand one hundred feet in length, will be finished in December next.

The high embankment on the 83d section will be made ready to carry the track by the same time.

Beyond this point (eighty-three miles from Cumberland) the work is comparatively light, until we reach the heavy work let in December last, from section 161 to section 193, upon the new line substituted for that preferred by the company, and used as the basis of their original estimate of the time of opening the road to Wheeling. But from this work no delay in the advance of the track, so as to accomplish that final result in all December, 1852, is apprehended.

It fortunately happens that on this long line of two hundred miles there are but six viaducts of large size. The first of these at Cumberland is finished; the second, over the Potomac, on the 31st section, will be completed in May; the third, over the same river, on the 30th section, in July; the fourth, over the Youiogheny river, on the 55th section, in August; the fifth, on the 75th section, across Cheat river, in September; and the sixth, over the Monongahela river, near Fairmount, on the 123d section, some time next winter. All the minor bridges and culverts, with their superstructures, will be completed in time.

The water stations will be ready as fast as needed, and the depot buildings, engine-houses, and shops, also.

The materials for the track will all be furnished in good time.

Of the 21,000 tons of rails required, nearly 19,000 have been delivered at Locust Point, and the remainder will be before the end of the present year.

The advance of the track will carry it to Piedmont station, twenty-eight miles from Cumberland, by July 4, 1851; Cheat river, seventy-five miles, by November 1, 1851; Tygart's Valley Bridge, one hundred and three miles, by February 1, 1852; Fairmount, one hundred and twenty-three miles, by April 1, 1852; Wheeling, two hundred miles, by January 1, 1853.

In the confident hope that these results may be realized, I have the honor to be, sir, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

BENJ. H. LATROBE, Chief Engineer.

J. J. Turner, esq.,
Director on the part of the city, &c.

[Correspondence of the N. Y. Tribune.]

The Great Exhibition.

The Building, (Hyde Park,) March 26, 1851.

It is raining in torrents. In fact, the weather since the commencement of this month has been wet, gloomy, and miserable; still the work at the Palace progresses. Considerable inconvenience has been experienced from leakages in parts of the roof where the attempted water-proofing process has not been perfected; and many of the papers now openly state the opinion that the building, from the contraction and expansion of such an immense pile of glass, iron, wood, and putty, cannot be rendered impervious to the rain, or safe from injury and breakage by the heat of the summer sun. It will doubtless be found necessary to cover the entire roof with some water-proofed material.

A few zealous Americans (in the absence of any local authority) have to-day urged and insisted upon packages in the eastern division being removed from under little cascades of water, which were penetrating the crevices, and probably injuring the contents. No one who has not seen the building can well form an estimate of its immensity and beauty; and it will truly be a sad affair if it should not be found fully adequate for the purpose for which it has been constructed. The American contributions are principally with the walls, but as yet unopened, with the exception of a portion, whose owners or agents have authorized a custom-house examination, or in cases where it was evident breakage had taken place. One instance of this last is in what, judging from the remains, was originally a beautiful plaster model of the New York Exchange; it, as well as the mirror placed at its back, is crushed into an infinity of pieces.

Rough skeleton counters have been placed in the department appropriated to the United States; but contributors must be at the expense of such counters as are requisite, and proper fixtures for their own articles, besides the general items of expense mentioned in my last. The French and other nations are decorating their respective portions of space handsomely; and it is to be regretted that ours is the only country which has not placed at the disposal of its commissioner a suitable fund to enable him to do so. It is intended to lay down an electric telegraph round the building, with a dial plate at each entrance, that due notice may be simultaneously communicated to every part of the edifice on the arrival of any known swindler or pickpocket, so that he may be closely watched, or to facilitate the recovery of anything which may be stolen in the crowds that will constantly be passing and repassing.

A grand fair or fête will be held at Bayswater some time during, and in honor of, the exhibition, which will probably be a great attraction to visiters.

It is now said that her Majesty will distribute the prizes of the exhibition; but as they have dwindled down from premiums of $5,000 and less, as first promised, to bronze medals, it does not so much matter who confers the honor on the victors.

Throughout London, new windows, new fronts, and fresh paint are giving a bright appearance to the old and dingy buildings. Every one seems to expect to make a fortune the coming season. The publicans, lodging-house keepers, omnibus and cab proprietors, are in a happy frame of mind; and there cannot be a doubt that a very heavy amount of money will be disseminated during this great World's Peace Convention.

The shop-windows of London are always tempting baits for the stranger, from the general custom of dealers in exposing so many of their wares, and ticketing them with prices which, if not really low, at least purport to be. It is amusing now to see how the present mania is seized hold of by shopkeepers; and *exhibition* needles, *exhibition* pork pies and sausages—in fact, *exhibition* almost everything—meet the eye of the rambler in all directions. There is no great influx of strangers here yet, unless we except thousands of the poor Irish, who come over in the hope of getting a living in a place which cannot keep from starvation all its own paupers.

Yours, truly, E. G.

Visiters to the World's Fair.—The Washington Republic calls the attention of visiters to the World's Fair to the necessity of procuring passports in this country, if they intend visiting any portion of continental Europe. The manner and mode of obtaining them are these: An application is made to the State Department, with a general description of the applicant's age, residence, height, complexion, and other minutiæ of personal appearance, together with an affidavit of citizenship, age, and place of birth, signed by himself and one other person, and taken on oath before a justice or a notary. A passport is then returned from the department without charge. It is much better to get them here than it will be to tease the American Minister for them.

NOTICE.

Baltimore and Washington Railroad.

ON and after Wednesday next, 9th instant, the station on Pennsylvania avenue will be vacated, and the new one on New Jersey avenue occupied.

The passenger trains will leave the latter, commencing at 5, p. m., as usual, at 6 and 9, a. m., and 5, p. m., daily, except on Sunday, when but two trains run, viz: at 6, a. m., and 5, p. m.

In making this change, the undersigned desires to call attention to the rules of the company in regard to the reception and delivery of merchandise.

1st. Shippers are reminded that in all cases a bill with full directions should accompany the goods.

This is for the protection of both parties, and unless complied with the goods cannot be received.

2d. Consignees are notified that all merchandise must be removed on the same day upon which it is received, as the company cannot hold itself responsible for anything left in its house during the night.

The hours for reception and delivery of merchandise are from 8, a. m., till 4, p. m.

The undersigned takes occasion to remark that these are not new regulations, but he has been compelled to call attention to them from their frequent violation, which has caused much and serious inconvenience.

T. H. PARSONS, Agent.

Ap 6—2wd

THE MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY,

(MORSE LINE.)

WASHINGTON OFFICE, PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE,
Fifth house east of National Hotel, No 6.

THE first line ever established by any company in the United States, and consequently the oldest—the pioneer line, extending between Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York, and delivering and receiving messages at the intermediate stations, Havre de Grace, Wilmington, Trenton, Princeton, New Brunswick, Newark, and Jersey City—the only line in the country at the present time having up four wires—has lately undergone extensive repairs, and is now prepared to transmit and deliver any number of messages which may be required of it for the accommodation of the public, with an accuracy, promptness, and fidelity hitherto unequalled. This line connects with other companies of Morse lines, east, west, north, and south, extending already over fifteen thousand miles, to either of which messages and payment will be delivered as desired. The managers of this line have lately more thoroughly systematized its business, in both its transmission and mode of delivery of messages. Its charges are equal to all with special favors to none. With the facilities for business now possessed by this company, every one is invited to try this line, and see if they do not find it most reliable for telegraphing. The offices of the Magnetic Telegraph Company are: Washington city, Pennsylvania avenue, fifth house east of National Hotel; Baltimore, No 2 Exchange, South Gay street; Philadelphia, No. 101 Chestnut street, Quincy Granite building; New York, No. 5 Hanover street, corner of Beaver.

WM. M. SWAIN, President.

March 14—3md*

Young Ladies' Institute,

(Late Mrs. D. H. Burr's,) corner of 9th and E streets.

THE subscriber will assume the charge of this institution on Monday, the 21st of April, and will give his constant and personal supervision to every department. The usual branches of a thorough English, French, and mathematical education will be taught.

The religious instruction of the Institute will be based upon the formularies of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

The experience and success of the principal as a teacher encourage him to look for the patronage of the public, and for a corresponding measure of success.

TERMS:

For boarding pupils, $75 per quarter.
For day " $5 to $16 "
Payable always in advance.

Music, drawing, Latin, Italian, Spanish, and German, extra.

Reference is permitted to Rev. C. M. Butler, D. D., Rev. J. W. French, Mr. Fitzhugh Coyle, Washington city; Rev. James May, D. D., Alexandria; Rt. Rev. Alonzo Potter, D. D., and the clergy generally of Philadelphia; and Rt. Rev. Alfred Lee, D. D., of Delaware.

WILLIAM J. CLARK.

Mar 21—t25thAp

MARSHAL'S SALE.—By virtue of a writ of fieri facias, issued from the clerk's office of the circuit court of the District of Columbia for the county of Washington, and to me directed, I shall expose for sale, on Wednesday, the 30th day of April, 1851, before the court-house of said county, at 12 m., to the highest bidder, for cash, the following-described property, to wit: All that part of lot 5, in square 461, lying and being in the city of Washington, in the county aforesaid, beginning for the same at the southwest corner of the alley made in the subdivision of lots 6 and 7 in that square, and running thence eastwardly along the line of North B or Canal street 22 feet; thence northwardly and at a right angle with said B street, 66 feet; thence at a right angle westwardly 22 feet to the said alley; thence southwardly along said alley 66 feet to B street to the place of beginning. Also, all of lot 9 in the subdivision of lots 6 and 7, in square 461. All that part of lot 8, in subdivision of lots 6 and 7, in square 461, beginning for the same at the end of 47 feet on a line drawn from the northwest corner of said lot 8, and which is also the corner of said square, and which line runs south along 7th street, and running from said beginning south 18 feet; thence due east 17 feet 6 inches; thence with a straight line towards Pennsylvania avenue until it intersects a line drawn due east from the place of beginning, with the improvements upon all of said parcels of ground and premises, seized and levied upon, and will be sold to satisfy judicials No. 4 to October term, 1851.

RICHARD WALLACH,
Marshal of the District of Columbia.

Ap 3—dts

Clerk's Office House of Representatives U. S.,
April 5, 1851.

PROPOSALS will be received at this office until the 4th day of May next for the delivery at the Capitol of two hundred and fifty tons of the best anthracite coal, to be broken into lumps about the size of a fourteen pound weight, the same to be deposited in the vaults of the Capitol, free from fine particles or dust. Also, for two hundred and fifty cords of best quality seasoned hickory wood, twenty cords to be sawed in four pieces, and the remainder in two pieces, and to be delivered, sawed, and stowed away in the vaults on or before the first day of July ensuing.

RICHARD M. YOUNG,
Clerk House of Representatives U. S.

Ap 6—dt4thMayif
[Intel., Republic, & Southern Press.]

NEW AND DESIRABLE GOODS.—Just received—

20 pieces handsome China silk
10 do do China silk grenadines
25 do do silk tissues, new style
50 do do plain and figured berege
10 do Donna Isabella, entirely new
10 do Donna Maria, do
20 do India silk
5 do printed marques, for dresses, new and pretty
50 do berege de laine
12 do French figured foulard silk
20 do French de laines, very superior
25 do black silk, every quality and price
15 black lace mantles
30 do scarfs
30 do shawls
50 pieces black lace, all widths
50 superior plain and figured white and colored crape shawls.

Together with a large and very handsome assortment of mourning dress goods, of all sorts, embroidered lace and muslin capes, chemisets, collars, sleeves, handkerchiefs, silk mits, kid and silk gloves, silk, thread, and cotton hosiery. Also, a large stock of French and English cloths, cassimeres, drillings, vestings, cravats, &c., to which we solicit the attention of buyers.

Ap 10—2wif P. H. HOOE & Co.

NOTIFICATION.—The subscribers beg leave to inform their customers and the public that they have just opened a large and well-selected stock of the following articles, to which they invite attention, viz:

Linen sheetings, 6 4, 8-4, 10-4, and 12-4, Irish
Do 6-4, 8 4, 10-4, and 12-4, German
Pillow-case linens, all widths, Irish and Scotch
White and brown cotton, do 6 4, 8-4, 10-4, and 12 4
White and colored Marseilles quilts, some very large
Allendale quilts, very cheap
Richardson's super family linens
Gray and Son's soft-finish do
Scotch Hollands for family use
Damask table-cloths, all sizes and qualities
Table damasks, by the yard, all widths, some very superior.
Also, a superior lot of silk warp and gauze flannels
Gentlemen's and ladies' gauze merino under-garments.

Together with a general assortment of house-furnishing goods.

Mar 26—4wif P. H. HOOE & CO.

For Norfolk.

The Steamer OSCEOLA, having undergone thorough repairs, will resume her trips to the above place. Leaving Washington every Wednesday and Saturday at 9 o'clock, a. m. Returning, leave Norfolk every Monday and Thursday at 4 o'clock, p. m. Touching, going and returning, at Cone river and the usual landings on the Potomac for signals or to land.

Passage and fare, $5.

April 1—tf JAMES MITCHELL, Captain.

TO OWNERS of Lands in Texas.—A gentleman in Virginia, who is a good surveyor and lawyer, desires to remove to Texas the present season, and would like to become the agent for some owner of lands in that country, with a view to bring them into market.

He has a family and small capital, and is desirous of engaging in agriculture. He can give the most satisfactory testimonials of capacity, integrity, and responsibility, and his general acquaintance is such as to enable him to control a considerable emigration to Texas.

Any owner of Texas lands who would be inclined to avail himself of such an arrangement can be placed in correspondence with the advertiser, and get suitable responses, by addressing, post paid,

WM. GOULDIN,
General agent and collector, Richmond, Virginia.

Mar 13—tf

TWENTY DOLLARS REWARD.—Ran away from the subscriber on the 2d of March, 1851, my colored woman CATHARINE, *alias* Kitty Francis. She is supposed to be about five feet one or two inches high. She is of rather delicate appearance, and about 30 years of age. She is supposed to be hiring out in Washington as a free woman, or secreted by some free persons of color.

All persons are forewarned against hiring or harboring her. The above reward will be paid on her delivery to me.

Mar 25—3awtf J. P. HILTON.

FARM AT PRIVATE SALE.—We have for private sale a farm containing about 109 acres, lying on the Marlboro' road, two miles from the Eastern Branch bridge. Forty acres are in a good state of cultivation. There is a good dwelling on the premises. For further information apply to DYER & McGUIRE,

Feb 27—dtf Auctioneers and Commission Merchants.

C. B. CLUSKEY, Architect and Civil Engineer, has removed his office to Travers's buildings, north side of Pennsylvania avenue, between 12th and 13th streets west.

Feb 4—dtf

C. W. BENNETT,

A Commissioner for the State of New York.

Office on 15th street, nearly opposite the Treasury.

Jan 25—eod3m

REMOVAL.—DE SELDING & WYLIE have removed their General Agency and Law Office to Seventh street, between D and E streets, opposite Odd Fellows' Hall, and two doors from the National Intelligencer office.

Mar 29—3awtf

ROSE Douglas—an Autobiography of a Minister's Daughter; by S. R. W.

Byrne's Dictionary of Engineering, No. 27.

Appleton's Mechanics' Magazine, No. 4, for April.

Just published, and for sale by

TAYLOR & MAURY,
Booksellers, near 9th st.

Ap 12

MR. and Mrs. HLASKO have the honor of informing the ladies and gentlemen of Washington that their Dancing Academy, at the saloon of Temperance Hall, E street, is and will be opened every day from 10 o'clock, a. m., to 6 o'clock, p. m., (excepting Sundays.)

Parties and soirees will be furnished upon demand with two excellent musicians for a moderate price. Applications to be made at Parker's Fancy Store, National Hotel.

Feb 7—eotMl

CITY OF WASHINGTON.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, APRIL 16, 1851.

To the Public.

The public was informed on the 15th ultimo that I had purchased of Mr. Ritchie the Washington *Union*, and that I was to become the editor of this paper one month afterwards—allowing to myself that period of time to visit Tennessee and arrange my private affairs, so that they should not interfere with my residence at Washington. I am accordingly at my post; but I do not enter upon its duties without a deep sense of the responsibility devolved upon me, and the fear that I may fail to meet the expectations of the generous friends to whose counsels I yielded in undertaking a task which has been usually assigned to men practically familiar with the management of a newspaper press. Unlike the veteran whom I succeed, I have no previous acquaintance with the duties of an editor—no training on any theatre like that at the capital of the old Commonwealth of Virginia, where success was not only a passport to the confidence of a great State, but a warrant for the expectations of a party whose foundations are as broad as our national Union, and upon which rest, in a considerable degree, the vast interests of our wide-spread republic. It is due to Mr. Ritchie that I should not take leave of him without saying that in his arduous duties at Washington as the organ of the democratic party he has justified the confidence previously acquired, and that he retires to private life with his escutcheon not only untarnished, but marked by such services as to entitle him to be remembered along with the great men, headed by Jefferson and Madison, under whose auspices, forty-seven years ago, he commenced his career.

But, although unacquainted with the management of a newspaper press, I am not without some experience in the public affairs of the country; and it is this experience which the friends of the democratic party have persuaded me could now be beneficially employed in the editorial chair.

It is proper that I should declare the leading principles which will guide me. This is an obligation due not less to the public than to myself, and, to be properly performed, will require more time and reflection than could be commanded within the few days which have elapsed since my arrival here. I take this occasion, however, to say that this paper, whilst under my control, will never become the organ of any combination of aspiring individuals, banded together to promote their own selfish or ambitious purposes; nor will it ever be the organ of any single individual whose hopes are fixed upon and concentrated in the desire to elevate himself to power by abandoning or opposing the long-established usages of the ancient, and honored, and great democratic party of this Union. Of that party it shall be the organ in that sense alone which aims at the accomplishment of truly national measures by constitutional and just means.

This seems, also, a proper place for me to remark that I shall cordially sustain the recent compromise measures enacted by the constituted authorities of the land. I shall never cease to urge upon my fellow-citizens of every quarter of the Union that it is their indispensable duty, in all lawful ways, to promote the honest observance and enforcement of these measures, and that their destinies are wrapped up more especially in the faithful execution of the fugitive-slave law, since nothing less than this can or ought to satisfy the slaveholding States. It is fortunate that this Compromise is the joint work of both the great political parties of the country, and that it may therefore be referred to in all time to come as a monument of patriotism which towers above the ordinary spirit of party when the safety of the Union is threatened.

No political compact between States, however close the union which it forms, nor any series of measures intended to obviate difficulties arising out of the construction of such a compact, can long endure unless each party does perfect justice to all the rest. If it were otherwise, the condition of the public sentiment and the prospects of the country would be deplorable in the extreme. No free people can or will endure, for any great length of time, a palpable violation of their rights to their property. Ten years elapsed from the time when Grenville introduced into the British Parliament the first act vitally affecting the rights of the American colonists until blood was shed at Lexington; but throughout these ten years the parties became every day more and more estranged from each other. Former kind feelings and affectionate regards were succeeded by alienation, by angry complaints, and finally by hatreds, which it has required more than half a century to eradicate, after peace was concluded between the parties.

If a vast majority of those most deeply interested in the Compromise are willing, for the sake of peace, to abide by it in perfect good faith and to sustain it, and if a vast majority of those least, if at all, interested in it will not honestly assist in the execution of its provisions, or will, by acts done both openly and covertly, render the part for the delivery of fugitive slaves utterly null and useless for all practical purposes, it requires no prophet to foresee that the hopes of every patriot and every friend to human freedom must soon be extinguished in the destruction of our constitution and the utter dissolution of our Union.

The fugitive-slave law, which is but the expression of a constitutional injunction, must be honestly enforced. The constituted national authorities must see it enforced. The true owner of a slave must be permitted to proceed without harassment to produce his proof before the proper judicial tribunals, and, if a judgment is rendered in his favor, he must be permitted without any molestation to return to his own domicil with the property which has been finally adjudged to belong to him under the constitution and the laws of the land.

Every calm observer must see and feel that the question of slavery must be withdrawn from the political arena, or that the preservation of the Union will become an impossibility. To accomplish this sacred object, it shall be my constant endeavor to place before my fellow-citizens such statements and views as will be calculated to disarm those fanatics who imagine that the institution of slavery, though recognised by the federal compact, can be modified or annulled by a political power unknown to that compact.

The constitution, as administered and expounded by Washington, and the authority of those great minds which afterwards effected the civil reformation of 1800, shall be my guide—on the one hand, in insisting on the love of Union, and the avoidance of whatever can tend to the alienation of one portion of the people from another; and, on the other, in guarding against the dangers of consolidation. In this spirit the resolutions recently adopted by the members of the Virginia convention appear to me to have been well conceived. They steer clear of those ultra positions which have been occupied both at the North and the South, and they claim for the constitution that supremacy which our forefathers intended to confer upon it, at the same time that they recognise to the States and the people the sovereignty which has not been delegated. Regarding these resolutions as imbodying the public sentiment of the State which in all the great crises of our history has seldom made a mistake as the flag-bearer of the republican party, they are here recommended as the platform on which the same party may still be rallied, and may bury the agitations which have grown out of the slavery question. These resolutions agree, also, substantially, with those of Tennessee and Georgia, and with the Union platform of the democracy in all portions of the country.

In respect to the tariff, or the duties on the imports of foreign goods, a few general observations can only be offered here. A subject affecting so delicately the great interests of our agriculture, commerce, and manufactures cannot be discussed in an article like this. It may be safely affirmed, however, that the democratic party is pledged to a tariff for revenue as contradistinguished from one for protection, and that it must stand or fall by this principle. Able as the United States now are to compete with Great Britain in many important branches of manufacture, it is obvious that in a few years the difficulty to be solved by the American statesman will be to find articles of foreign importation, in competition with our own productions, upon which a sufficient revenue may be raised to meet the necessary expenses of government without resorting to direct taxation. There is, of course, a generally incidental protection resulting from any tariff which can be framed; and the democratic party has invariably treated this incident in the manner the best calculated to foster those articles of domestic growth which are essential to our national independence and safety in time of war. But still this party has always encountered bitter opposition in its efforts to diminish high duties, and to meet the movements of other nations, made in good faith, towards a liberal system of exchanges, and the exemption of the navigation and commerce of the world from selfish legislation and harassing discriminations. Thus the efforts of this party from 1829 to 1832 are in bold contrast with those of the opposition, which insisted on a rate of protection that could not have been continued without begetting a spirit of discontent that would have been dangerous to the stability of the Union. But, just as those remarks are when applied to the condition of the country under the administration of General Jackson, how obvious and striking do they appear as an index of parties in the great struggle which terminated in the passage of the tariff of 1846, when, for the first time in our history, our revenue policy was disencumbered of the logic of the protectionists, and we took our stand on the practical results to be exhibited by a liberal experiment on the side of unrestricted commerce! It was alleged by the opponents of that tariff that our foreign trade would fall off—that our manufactures would perish, our banks stop specie payments—that, in short, all the calamities would follow which are the result of unemployed capital and unpaid labor. It was contended by the democratic party that, in the place of such prophecies, we should realize an expansion of all our great industrial interests—that our imports and exports would augment—that labor would be better paid—that our manufactures would receive an impetus corresponding with the additional markets which commerce would open to the products of our agriculture. The experience of the country confirms the accuracy of the calculation on which the friends of that tariff rested the revenue system; and this experience warrants the assertion that no reactionary or backward movement will be made by the great party which assumed that responsibility. Never, since the foundation of the government, have we witnessed a more prosperous foreign commerce—never have the domestic exchanges been more cheap, nor our banks been in a sounder condition. That tariff has reduced one-half the taxes of the people, and it has more than doubled the revenue. The average annual revenue under the tariff of 1842 was twenty-three million eight hundred and ninety thousand dollars, whilst this year, under the tariff of 1846, it exceeds fifty millions. Nor is this all. It is admitted by the organ of the whig party that the tariff of 1846 repealed the British corn laws, and opened their markets to our breadstuffs and provisions, by which our exports of these articles have been doubled. Under the tariff of 1842 our revenue, annually decreasing, had reached the low point of twenty-two millions, and, at the same rate of decrease, would scarcely now have realized twelve millions—a sum not more than sufficient to pay the interest of the public debt, which, under such a state of revenue, would have amounted by this time to about two hundred millions. From such impending ruin the democratic revenue system has saved us. It has doubled our revenue, augmented our exports, and increased our tonnage, foreign and coastwise, in a ratio unparalleled in the annals of trade. It is thus that successful results vindicate the revenue standard of a tariff, as they do the disposition made by the democratic party of the United States Bank, and the adoption of the constitutional treasury. This doctrine is a part of the system which aims to confine the federal government to its limited functions. It is a part of that true conservative system which desires to make this government what the constitution created it—the guard of our foreign relations, guarantying peace at home and abroad, a uniform currency, the inviolability of contracts, the diffusion of intelligence, and to the States and the people the uncontrolled exercise of their reserved powers and rights.

The subject of internal improvements by the federal government opens another wide field of discussion, and serves, not less than the tariff and other kindred questions which touch the boundary of implied powers, to mark the distinction which has constantly existed between the democratic and whig parties. Both parties acknowledge the importance and necessity of internal improvements; but the difference arises out of the contrariety of opinion as to the point where federal agency should begin, and State or local authority cease, so as to give to the subject that development which is best suited to the genius of our institutions and the permanent prosperity of the people. It is scarcely possible to enter upon a general system of internal improvement by the federal government without bankrupting the treasury and endangering the republican principle. This will be apparent if we take up the items of the late river and harbor bill, which was defeated by democratic votes. Appropriations were made in that bill for many objects that have no more claim to nationality than would an appropriation for deepening the channel in any of our small rivers; and if the plea of nationality in such obects be acknowledged by Congress, then there is not a locality in the United States which cannot be improved by the application of the money and labor of the federal government. If the general proposition that the whole is made up of parts, and that to improve a part is, therefore, to improve the whole, be asserted by Congress as the measure of its discretion in appropriating money, it would more effectually destroy the limitation of power which the framers of the constitution intended to place on Congress than all the other acts yet performed by it. This argument would lead to the subversion of the State governments; for how could there be local interests where all interests are considered fractions of a national interest, and where, the nationality being once established in this manner, the right of the federal government to act upon it would necessarily follow? It was in opposition to reasoning like this that General Jackson placed his veto on the bill authorizing a subscription of stock in the Maysville road; and it is believed that the people who sustained him in that critical period of our public history will sustain the same reasoning, which is now far more applicable to the same subject; for it cannot be doubted that at the present moment our Union is in far greater danger from the prevalence of views which are undermining the constitution than it was at the date of this veto, when only a small portion of the country was complaining of the unequal operation of the tariff. Our public debt was not then greater than it is now. No law higher than the constitution was then looked to for political guidance. No discontent so menacing to the preservation of the Union was so wide-spread, or calculated to create such despondency, as now exists in the breast of every American patriot. Abolition had not then raised its fanatical head; nor had secession put on its armor, as the last preparation of a brave and gallant people to vindicate their admitted right of property and preserve their equality as members of the republic. Of all the periods that have occurred in our national history, this is certainly the most unpropitious to put into execution such a system of internal improvements; and I am confident that the great mass of the people will think so, when they consider the many causes that are operating to weaken the bonds of national affection.

The time will never come, in my judgment, when it will be safe to resort to a legislation which tolerates appropriations that have no relation to any regular system of improvements—a legislation that carries in its train a boundless expenditure of money, and a series of abuses that may sap the foundation of public virtue, and surround the administration of government with an influence far more demoralizing than was that of the United States Bank. The people have never yet preferred their local interests to the principles of the constitution; and they will continue to withhold their approval of a general system of internal improvements until there can be a plan matured which will give general satisfaction, and which can be put into operation when there is no danger that the plain constitutional compacts of the Union can be observed and enforced. Important as is the improvement of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, and their great tributaries, I believe that the people of the West will bear with the postponement of appropriations for this object as long as they are coupled with others which have not the slightest claim to nationality, and which can never be justified, unless expediency be made the rule of construction in interpreting the powers of Congress. Those people know that with this plea the general government becomes omnipotent; they know that it is with this plea the tyrants of the Old World oppress all localities, and make the many work for the few; they know that with this plea no free constitution ever was or ever will be maintained.

Since the date of the Maysville veto, how great are the developments which have been given by the separate States to their internal resources! Instead of seeing the money of the federal government given to make a road like that from Lexington to Maysville, how grateful is the contrast with the noble enterprises which have been since completed, or are in a rapid state of progess, not only of innumerable turnpikes, paying profitably the capital necessary to their construction, but magnificent railroads, cutting through the mountains and levelling the valleys of all the sections of our glorious Union, which, aided by an immense series of telegraphic lines, place the United States far in advance of any other nation of the earth in the frequency, cheapness, and extent of interior communication! And yet this has taken place without the aid of the federal government, and justifies the wisdom of that cardinal maxim of the old republican party, that all improvements of a local character are safest in the hands of the States and the people. With such facts before us, which prove that there is an irresistible energy in the progress of our republican system that stands in no need of questionable contributions from the federal treasury, why should we not abstain from all resorts to power that engender the spirit of sectional jealousy, and convert the inevitable diversities which enter into our confederacy into the means of its overthrow? It was not that General Jackson and Mr. Polk were unfriendly to the internal improvement of the country that they vetoed several bills professing to have this object in view: it was that those bills were brought forward as parts of a system that was calculated to impair the useful agency of the separate States, and laid a foundation which, if built upon, would crush by its great weight the less imposing but more useful fabrics of local authority and enterprise. In some of these bills the general government instituted a partnership with private companies; in others, the blending of national and local objects was undisguised—the result of a scramble in which one locality had the appearance of bargaining with another for benefits to be paid by people who had no interest whatever in the expenditure of the money appropriated. In all these vetoes it is believed that the potential voice of the American people—even of the portions directly interested in the appropriations—recognise a patriotic forecast, and a policy far more effective for promoting the real improvement of the country than that which was arrested. The works surveyed at the time of the Maysville veto required one hundred millions to complete them, and they were but the beginning or entering wedge of the system. To have progressed with them would have brought upon us all the evils of an irredeemable national debt, and the final abandonment of the improvements as insufficient and unsatisfactory. But this was not the greatest of the calamities which would have followed. The taxes necessary to support this debt could not have been borne, because it was impossible that the improvements could have been extended to all sections alike, and it is undeniable that unequal taxation is inconsistent with the preservation of the Union. If not checked then, as it was, by the democratic party, the system would have produced results as fatal as those which are produced by the misguided men who undertake to make the federal government the instrument for the abolition of slavery. All such effects spring alike from false views of the true character and design of our federal system of government.

This hasty sketch of the leading points that interest the old democratic and republican party at this moment leads me to another, which is not less important. I refer to the necessity of the reunion of this party—a necessity which is so apparent, that I trust I may be pardoned for treating it as a national rather than as a party consideration. If we are indebted to Washington and to Jefferson—the two great minds that founded and reformed our system—for the true principles which teach the love of union, and an abstinence from all resorts to powers calculated to imbitter one section of the country with another—if we are under the same obligations to Jackson for later expositions of the same principles, which were equally successful in destroying the dangerous monopoly of the United States Bank, in correcting a vicious system of internal improvements, and in restoring taxation to its safe, constitutional limits—if, in truth, under every democratic administration, from the days of Mr. Jefferson to the close of Mr. Polk's, we have had one unbroken evidence of the safety with which democratic principles have always been appealed to to bring back the ship of State, when blown from its safe track by the storms of faction—what should now prevent the rally of this great party to bring about the same results in this most critical and alarming juncture of our public affairs?

Every member of this party must see that the cause of popular self-government is involved in the inquiry, forced upon us by the existing circumstances of the country, whether the plainest constitutional compacts in our system of union can be executed or not. In the midst of such an inquiry, will the South not pause, and unite once more with their true friends to strengthen the party which has never failed heretofore, with constitutional means, to foil all serious assaults upon the rights of the people and the States—the same party that triumphed in 1800, and afterwards destroyed that progeny of evils engendered by high tariffs, corrupt banks, and unwise internal improvements? Can it be wrong for me to say to the South that the remedy is still in your hands, if you will co-operate, as in former days, with your brethren in other portions of the Union, who discredit the intimation that you will carry into execution the threat of secession, at the same time that their best efforts are employed to put down the evils of which you complain? Grant that it was a spirit hostile both to you and the constitution that sought, through the instrumentality of the Wilmot Proviso, to deprive you of equal rights in the territory acquired from Mexico: cannot a noble and generous forbearance look this spirit in the face, and await the verdict which the interposing voice of a patriotic people will soon render? Would not the Rutledges, Pinckneys, and Sumpters, if they were now alive, say to you that honor, patriotism, and duty require you to stand by your old friends, whose cause at this moment is that of the world, so far as the principles of popular self-government are involved?

So, also, with the great mass of those at the North who, stopping short of abolition, have yet abandoned their party connexions, under the mistaken idea that slavery was an evil to be remedied by federal legislation: do you not see that you have caused a greater evil than the one you proposed to mitigate, and that the present distractions in the land imperiously call upon you to retrace your steps, and restore harmony to the various members of the confederacy? It is confidently believed that this is your disposition, and that it will be more pleasing to you to follow its dictates than to pursue an experiment which cannot benefit you, but will certainly injure a large portion of your countrymen, whose destiny is linked with yours in the cause of the Union. In so doing, you but pay another tribute to the wisdom of your fathers, who left the subject of slavery to be regulated by those on whom Providence had cast its use, not as an evil, but as a necessity—not as a reproach, but as a tie of brotherly concession and compromise.

But the old democrats—those who, through good and through evil report, have stood by their flag, lamenting the extreme action of other portions of the people, but confident that time would only confirm the truth of the maxims which they inherited from Washington, Jefferson, and Jackson—in what language shall I address you? In none that can too much honor your consistency, and the energy with which you have defended both the constitution and the Union. Acting upon the conviction that equal justice was due to all the States, that the functions of the federal government should be confined to the objects of its strictly-delegated and limited nature, and that the fraternal affections of the American people constitute the only sure guarantee of the Union of the States, this party can felicitate itself not only upon what it has done, but upon what it is now doing and is ready to do, to heal the wounds which have been inflicted on the peace and harmony of their beloved country.

But I fear that I am extending these views too far. I bring them to a close by repeating my conviction that the new career on which I have entered will require powers far greater than any I possess. That I shall commit errors—that I shall make mistakes in judging of both men and measures—must be expected of one who has been thrown into a position which is so new to him, and where there is so much to study and to learn. But, however great my deficiencies, I trust that they will not furnish a ground for reproach from any quarter of the absence of good intentions. It shall be my endeavor at least to acknowledge error where it has been committed, and to deal with others as they should deal with me. With truth and justice for my support, and the spirit of candor, frankness, and courtesy for those who differ with me, I shall hope that the new bark which is to carry me over the wide ocean before me will not founder, or, if it does, that it will not do so from collisions with the others, produced by any attempt on my part to interfere with their just rights.

A. J. DONELSON.

The Clay Festival Association of the city of New York celebrated the 75th birthday of that eminent citizen on the 12th instant, by a sumptuous repast at the Apollo Rooms. Several songs were sung and speeches delivered, in which the advocates of the higher law were handled without gloves. The following letters were read during the evening from Mr. Clay and Mr. Webster:

"Havana, March 31, 1851.

"Gentlemen: I have great pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of your obliging letter, stating the purpose of the Clay Festival Association to celebrate, on the 12th proximo, my birthday, in the city of New York, by a supper, and inviting me to be present and partake of the festival.

"Language, gentlemen, is inadequate to express the grateful feelings and the extent of my very great obligations to my friends in New York for the strength, constancy, and fidelity of their attachment to me, of which they have given so many signal proofs.

"In this last you have found an additional motive, arising out of my recent public service. In all the trials and struggles of that service it was a high consolation and stimulating encouragement to me to know that, whatever differences of opinion might elsewhere exist between my friends and me, there was none, there could be none; for the question involved was the integrity and harmony of the Union to the preservation of which we stood voluntarily and unanimously pledged. If there be any remaining in our country (I hope there are not) who would seek or desire to overthrow it, let them go abroad and contrast the numberless blessings and our wonderful advancement in prosperity with the condition of any other people on the habitable globe; and if they do not return with profound gratitude for our admirable institutions, they must have hearts not derived from the common parent of mankind, but perverted by the same evil spirit which destroyed his repose in the garden of Eden. Temporary as is my absence from the United States, during my short sojourn on this delightful island, almost in sight of the shores of our own country, I feel that sentiment in full force.

"I shall return, gentlemen, in a few days to Ashland, by the route of New Orleans and the Mississippi; and I regret, therefore, that it will not be in my power to be in the midst of my friends on the occasion to which you have done me the honor to invite me.

"I need not assure them that wherever I may be—at home or abroad—in heart, in spirit, and in sympathy, I am with them.

"With high respect, I am your friend and obedient servant,

"H. CLAY.

"Messrs. Brewer, Wood, Blunt, Bradford, and Carroll."

"Washington, March 28, 1851.

"Gentlemen: You may well say that you never approached the anniversary of Mr. Clay's birth with 'more profound respect' for this 'illustrious and venerated statesman' than you do now.

"Having entertained high regard for Mr. Clay for many years, and heartily co-operating with him on many occasions in public life, I have great pleasure in saying that at no period did he ever render more important service to his country than when he took part in favor of the compromise measures of the late session of Congress.

"I thank you, gentlemen, for the kind notice you take of my efforts on the same subject.

"It would give me true pleasure to attend your dinner; but an excursion for that purpose would be inconsistent with my engagements at that time."

Before and after these letters were read, a number of toasts were drunk. Among them we notice the following as the tenth regular toast:

"The Colleagues of Henry Clay in the Compromise of 1850—in the Senate and in the House: Patriots—brothers in a holy cause—they buried party differences over the altar of a common country."

The Negro Simms.—Throughout the late violent display of abolitionism in the State of Massachusetts, the public press there, with very few exceptions, sustained the law nobly. The Boston Traveller of Saturday "congratulates its readers that the fugitive slave case has at length been brought to a conclusion which the great mass of the community will pronounce to be just." It adds the following facts:

"Relative to the story of the purchase of Simms by a periodical dealer of this city, we learn from an authentic source that such is not—as yet, at least—the fact. The party in question has been told by the agent of the claimant, J. B. Bacon, that he can probably purchase Simms after his arrival in Georgia for $1,500. The orders of the master were not to sell him *here* at any price.

"Though the city will have to pay a greater share of the expense of preserving the peace, yet it is thought that the expense which will fall upon the master in recovering the slave will be very large—perhaps as high as $1,000 or $2,000.

Pittsburg, April 12.—George Woodson, the fugitive slave who was taken from this city about a month since to his master in Louisville, has returned a free man—his freedom having been effected by contributions from philanthropists in this and Alleghany City.