



Evacuation of Island No. 10.
A telegram received here states that Commodore Foote has telegraphed to the Navy Department, that Island No. 10, the supposed rebel stronghold, has been evacuated. There is nothing said of the capture of any prisoners, but it was supposed that munitions of war would be found in the late encampment of the rebels, which they are said to have left in haste.

The Rail Road Law Suits.
As there seems to be some misunderstanding in regard to the nature of the application for a writ of Quo Warranto, against the Bedford Rail Road Company, recently refused by Judge Nill, we would say, for the information of our readers, that the failure of that application does not touch the question of liability on the part of the original subscribers of stock, who are now rejecting the efforts of the company to enforce payment, upon several grounds independent of the Quo Warranto.

We are for the Rail Road, and will continue to do, as we have already done, our very best to advance the interests of the road. But we do not desire to be understood in anything we say in favor of the road, as attempting to pre-empt any question in litigation between the Rail Road Company and the subscribers of stock. The persons whose names appear upon the subscription books, are among our best and most upright citizens, and it is only unfortunate that their differences with the Rail Road Company, could not have been adjusted without an appeal to the law. Without taking sides in regard to the pending suits between the subscribers of stock and the company, it shall be our object, if possible, to bring about a better understanding between the parties, and to do what in our power lies to further the interests of the road without doing injustice to the subscribers of stock, or any body else. It is our earnest desire—as it ought to be that of every enterprising citizen of the county—that the Bedford Rail Road may be completed as soon as possible. We care not who furnishes the means to do this—whether the original subscribers of stock, the Pennsylvania R. Co., or any other moneyed corporation—so that the means are obtained and the road brought to an early completion. We look upon the completion of the road as the harbinger of the dawn of a new era in the history of the county—when the thunders of the locomotive shall awaken from their chronic slumbers the Nip Van Winkles of our ancient borough, and the steaming shall breathe the breath of life into the nostrils of business and fill its phlegmatic lungs with a new and vitalizing energy. So mote it be!

Glorious Rhode Island!
Amid the desert waste of New England fanaticism, the little Island State stands forth an oasis of patriotic conservatism. The gallant Gov. SPRAGUE, the Democratic and Conservative nominee for Governor, has been re-elected, almost without opposition. In the Legislature, for which the Republicans made a desperate contest, the Democrats and Conservatives have a majority, on joint ballot, of 36! This result secures the return of a Democratic U. S. Senator, in place of Simmons, Republican.

A Post office has been established on the route from Bloody Run to Hopewell, at Hamblinton, a thriving village at the junction of the Plank road and the Bedford Railroad. Thomas M. Richey has been appointed Post Master. All our subscribers living in the vicinity, who wish their papers sent to the above designated office, will inform us by letter or otherwise. Can't our friends procure fifty new subscribers to our paper, to be sent to Hamilton?

The school-house at Sloan's Hollow, in St. Clair tp., was destroyed by fire a few weeks ago. All the desks and school-books in the house were consumed. It is not known how the fire originated, but it is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary, or that it resulted from the carelessness of persons who had no right nor business within the house after night.

Raised a breeze—the problems in our School Column. Solutions and answers are as plenty as black-berries, and from the peep which we got at them, through the kindness of Mr. Syntax, we should judge them to be about as different from each other as the colors of that fruit when beginning to ripen.

We have on hand a large assortment of well printed blanks, consisting of Summonses, Subpoenas, Executions, Constables' Sales, Informations, Warrants, Judgment Notes, Promissory Notes, (with waiver) Eas Bills, &c., &c., also, a large lot of new, beautiful and convenient DEEDS, all of which we sell very low.

The soldiers of our county, are requested to read the advertisement of Messrs. MAIR and DAVISON, of Pittsburg, dealers in Saddlery Hardware, &c. There establishment is one of the most complete in all its departments to be found in the State.

Capt. P. G. Morgart, of Bloody Run, will offer for sale, at his residence, on Tuesday, 20th inst., a lot of fine horses, cattle and hogs; parlor, kitchen, bedroom and bar furniture, and other personal property in great variety, also, forty-five acres of excellent land, situated a few miles East of Bloody Run. Persons desiring of bargains will consult their interests by attending this sale.

The Chambersburg Repository and Transcript, in a recent very luminous and perspicacious article, gives, as the deliberate and solemn conviction of the editor, that LINCOLN will be a "glorious" President! We think he is even now "grand, glorious" and peculiar.

An esteemed friend desires us to present the name of ISAAC KESSENER, Esq., of this county, as a suitable one to be placed upon the Democratic State ticket during the coming campaign, for the office of Surveyor General. Mr. Kessinger is an excellent man, a good Democrat and deserves the office.

COMPARISONS.—It is useless to deny that the masses of the people have a deep-seated and settled confidence in "Sarsaparilla," as an alternative remedy. Notwithstanding this confidence has of late years been abused by many preparations claiming to possess its virtues but really with none at all, still the people believe in its intrinsic value as a remedy, because they have known of its cures. The rage for large bottles at a low price, has called into market many compounds of Sarsaparilla which contain scarcely any of it, or even any medicinal virtues whatever. Yet everybody knows that Sarsaparilla is the great staple antidote for Scrophulous, Eruptions and cutaneous diseases, and for the purification of the blood, when they can get the real article, or an actual extract of it.

Such we are now able to inform them they can obtain. Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., the celebrated chemists of the East, whose reputation assures us they do well whatever they undertake, are selling a Compound Extract of Sarsaparilla, which, although the bottles do not contain quarts, for a dollar, do contain more of actual curative power than whole gallons of the stuffs which have been in use. It is asserted that one bottle of Ayer's Sarsaparilla contains more than double the amount of medical virtue, which is afforded by any other. This fact is not only apparent to the taste, but its effects and cures afford incontestible proof that it is true. Such a remedy has been long sought for, and is everywhere needed by all classes of our community. [Ages, Cynthia, Ky.]

Township Officers.
The following is a carefully compiled list of Township and Borough officers chosen at the late Spring elections:
Bedford Borough—Constable, A. Wayne Mowbray; Assessor, Hanna Lentz; Judge, John Boor; Inspectors, J. A. Mowbray, Isaac Mowbray, Job Mann, Job M. Shoemaker; Supervisors, John Miller, John Remby; Town Clerk, P. H. Pencil.

Bedford Township—Justices of the Peace, W. C. Wisegarver, E. Koontz; Assessor, J. T. Gephart; Judge, Daniel Hellzell; Inspectors, M. Holderbaum, Wm. Keefe; Supervisors, Jacob Fetter, Alex. Gilson; School Directors, Sam'l. Walter, O. McGirr; Auditor, Samuel Reighard; Township Clerk, John Brown.

Bloody Run Borough—Constable and Assessor, James Ross; Judge, Alexander Waring; Inspectors, Henry Rindar, James A. Horton; School Directors, Lemuel Evans, Jesse Wright; Supervisors, Henry Waring, Wm. P. Hazard; Auditor, M. W. Ford.

Columbia Valley—Justice of the Peace, James Cessna; Constable, John Hoke; Judge, Henry Hite; Inspectors, John Mink, Peter Darrinos; Assessor, Josiah Bruner; Supervisors, James A. Hiney, John Dickner; School Directors, Wm. Anson, Samuel Boor, Samuel Whip; Auditor, J. C. Vickroy; T. Clerk, Jacob Wentling.

Harrison—Justice of the Peace, Daniel Metzgar; Constable, John G. May; Judge, John H. Wertz; Inspectors, John Keyser, Samuel Berkhardt; Supervisors, George Elder, Joseph Tily; School Directors, Jacob Hardman, Wm. J. Kerr; Auditor, Jon. Hyde; T. Clerk, John Smith.

Hopewell—Constable, Joseph Hinish; Assessor, John Disher; Judge, John P. Smith; Inspectors, Wm. Flake, John Richey; Supervisors, Joseph Gates, Jacob Richey, of A.; School Directors, William Gorsuch, Benjamin Fink; Auditor, James Fink.

Junata—Constable, Casper Stroup; Supervisors, John Sites, Joseph Boyer; School Directors, Joseph Garber, John Metzgar; Assessor, John Corley; Auditor, C. K. Hillegas; T. Clerk, Joseph Long; Judge, John Kegg; Inspectors, B. Housel, Wm. Harley.
Liberty—Constable, John Long; Judge, David Brumbaugh; Inspectors, Daniel Stoler, S. F. Shoup; Supervisors, Levi Patt, Sam'l. Harvey; School Directors, Samuel F. Shoup, Samuel A. Moore; Auditor, Joseph Crisman; Assessor, Joseph Crisman.
Londonberry—Constable, William Bonnell; Judge, Jesse Burket; Inspectors, Wm. Burket, John Boor; Supervisors, Daniel J. Miller, John Wilhelm, sr.; Assessor, S. S. Miller; School Directors, (the three highest are Levi Devore, D. B. Troutman, and Wm. Bonnell); Auditor, Jesse Conner; T. Clerk, Caius Devore.
Monroe—Constable, George Weimer; Judge, Wm. O'Neal; Inspectors, Jesse O'Neal, E. Robinson; Supervisors, Wm. Cornell, David Amick; School Directors, Samuel Mixell, Wm. Stuckey; Assessor, Gideon Williams.
Napier—Constable, Nicholas Sleek; Judge, Geo. W. Bowers; Inspectors, John Whetstone, Wm. J. Smith; Assessor, Richard E. McMullin; Supervisors, Joseph Souser, Robert Taylor;

School Directors, Wm. Cuppet, Wm. Crisman, Auditor, Chas. Crisman; T. Clerk, Levi Otto.
Providence E.—Justice of the Peace, Simon Nyman; Constable, Samuel Manspaker; Supervisors, John Karas, Simon Hinish; Assessor, Harrison Brison; Judge, Charles McLaughlin; Inspectors, William Lysinger, D. Eschelman; School Directors, Anthony Fetter, David For; Auditor A. H. Bottomfield.

Providence W.—Constable, William Sparks Assessor, John Riley; Judge, Jacob J. For Inspectors, Joseph Weverling, M. H. Price Supervisors, Jacob Wheatstone, Solomon Sparks; School Directors, Asa Williams, (A. L. M.) and E. Black ran a tie vote; Auditors, Dan Sparks, Asa Williams, E. F. Kerr; T. Clerk, George Richey.

Schoelburg Borough—Constable, John Ott Assessor, A. J. Snavely; Judge, George Stot Inspectors, George W. Wertz, E. F. Garding; School Directors, Daniel Miller, John Smith Supervisors, David Borden, W. J. Ruck; Auditor, J. S. Scheil; T. Clerk, Jacob Dall.

St. Clair—Justice of the Peace, Jacob Water; Constable, George Yeager; Judge, Thoma Allison; Inspectors, Samuel M. Sleek, Sam'l. Clark; Assessor, Thomas B. Wisegarver; Auditor, A. M. Horn; Supervisors, Robert Kurt, Sol. Shradar; School Directors, Joseph Griffith, Isaiah Morris; T. Clerk, John Albstadt.

Snake Spring—Constable, David Jamies; Judge, Andrew Mortimore; Inspectors, George Snouse, sr., John S. Baker; Supervisors, Harry Reed, (Michael S. Richey and Jonathan B. Tompkins ran a tie vote); School Directors, Solomon Reighard, (two next highest tie vote); Auditor, Jesse Hoffman.

Southampton—Constable, John Cavender; Assessor, Elijah Shipley; Judge, David Waiter Inspectors, Jesse Hovsuro, Denton Stevens; Supervisors, George Miller, Archibald Castled Auditor, John Mars.

Union—Constable, Gabriel Burket; Judge, John Wyssong; Inspectors, George J. Carr, A. McGirr; Assessor, George W. Poates; Auditor, A. H. Hall; School Directors, George Staff, Joseph C. Dall; T. Clerk, A. P. McKeen; Supervisors, John Richey, Joseph Inler.

Woodberry M.—Constable, Henry Fluke; Judge, Jeremiah Mentzer; Inspectors, E. D. Barnett, Daniel Barley; Assessor, Frederick Kaufman; Supervisors, Jacob Baulzer, Daniel Baker; School Directors, Wm. M. Pearson, M. F. Stook; Auditor, J. B. Miller.

Woodberry S.—Justice of the Peace, John B. Fluke; Constable, Thos. Watson; Judge, John L. Meloy; Inspectors, Daniel Bayer, Aaron Reed; School Directors, Levi Biddis, S. B. Eury; Supervisors, Sam'l. Nicodemus, David Ditz; Assessor, Alexander Holsinger.

A Pleasant Surprise.
Mr. Editor:—It is known to many of your readers that the Presbyterian church of this place has recently completed a beautiful and commodious parsonage, located in one of the pleasantest parts of the village, and commanding a view of scenery which, for picturesque beauty, is almost unsurpassed.
On the last Thursday of March, the pastor of the church, having just removed to the new parsonage, his people came early in the morning to extend their congratulations and bring their gifts to their minister and his family. Soon after sunrise a wagon drove to the door bringing a load of wood, sent by "a lady," whose name the wood and put it away. Then several ladies took possession of the dining-room, and spread three large tables, which were soon laden with a great variety of provisions, such as hams, dried beef, corned beef, fruit, butter, eggs, fish, coffee, tea, sugar, canned fruit, pickles, vegetables and the like, together with clothing for the children, stair-carpet, and many miscellaneous articles of much value. Some of the ladies, knowing the tastes of a certain member of the family, sent a large supply of ginger nuts; several ladies furnished tea for their minister, a gentleman supplied a vessel to make it in, and another gave sugar for the same. From an esteemed brother was received a gold pen, with which this communication is written. Several children and young persons of the congregation also brought contributions which were received with great pleasure. One pleasant feature of the surprise was the exhibition of kind feeling on the part of members of other churches. One Methodist brother sent articles of furniture for the table, another a handsome cut iron mangle, a lady sent a box of sundries; one brought a "new broom to keep the new house clean," another two cans of preserved fruit, and still another a valuable donation for the parsonage. From members of the Lutheran church, money was received for the parsonage, also a hymn, and other provisions. May all these dear brethren be rewarded by our common Lord, and any other ministers, who serve them so faithfully and acceptably in the gospel, "never want any good thing."

The selection of articles sent was remarkably judicious. If the people had been told just what their minister needed most, they could not have met his wants more exactly.
Then followed the presentation of a purse, containing forty-two dollars, to the minister's wife, by John Mowbray, Esq., in behalf of the ladies. The speaker remarked at the close of his address, that the congregation had given abundant evidence of their kind regard for their pastor, and the ladies now wished to give a substantial expression of their affection for their pastor's wife. The grateful recipient regretted that she could not make some suitable reply through her husband, who, entirely ignorant of all that was transpiring in the manse, was busily engaged elsewhere.

These kind friends having deposited their gifts and spent a few hours very pleasantly together, all delighted with the perfect success of the surprise, returned with gladness to their homes, leaving the minister and his family to call down heavenly blessings on the heads of those who had ministered so abundantly to their temporal wants. The contributions in money, provisions, and miscellaneous articles amounted to one hundred and thirty dollars. This pleasant surprise was projected in view of the additional expense which would be incurred in furnishing the manse. Its success was gratifying to all concerned.

It is a pleasant reflection to the writer that the Master whom he imperfectly serves will reward these dear friends for their kindness to him and his family. For these temporal gifts they shall receive spiritual blessings—blessings flowing onward in an ever deepening and widening channel forever. And when with these beloved of the Lord we shall appear at the gate of immortal life, the blessed Lord will give them a glad welcome, saying: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."
ROBERT F. SAMPLE.
Bedford, April 1, 1862.

The greatest battle of the war, was fought at Pittsburg Landing, on the Tennessee river, on Sunday and Monday last. We give below an account which will place our readers in advance of those receiving city dailies.—Ed.

BLOODIEST BATTLE OF THE WAR.
60,000 Men Killed and Wounded!!
Pittsburg Landing the Scene of the Conflict!!
Two Days' Fighting!
GENS. WALLACE & PEGRAM & FIVE U. S. COLONELS KILLED!!
Gen. A. S. JOHNSTON KILLED.
BEAUREGARD'S ARM SHOT OFF!
The Rebels Retreating.

New York, April 9.
The Herald's special dispatches give many particulars of the terrible conflict at Pittsburg Landing. The rebel general, Albert Sidney Johnston, was killed by a cannon ball; General Beauregard's arm was shot off. From eighteen to twenty thousand U. S. forces, and from thirty-five to forty thousand rebels, either killed, wounded, or missing. Our loss in officers is very heavy, but it is impossible at present to procure their names. There are among the number Brig. Gen. W. H. Wallace, killed; Col. Pegram, acting Brig. Gen., killed; Col. Ellis, 10th Illinois, killed; Maj. Goddard, 15th Illinois, killed; Lieut. Canfield, 72d Ohio, mortally wounded, since dead; Lieut. Col. Kyle, 41st Indiana, mortally wounded; Col. Davis, 6th Illinois, mortally wounded; Gen. W. T. Sherman wounded in the hand by a cannon ball; Col. Sweeney, 52d Illinois, acting Brigadier General, wounded. He received 2 shots in his only arm, (having lost one in Mexico) also a shot in one leg. Col. Sweeney kept the field until the close of the fight, and he excited the admiration of the whole army. General Prentiss, (with several hundred of our men) was taken prisoner, on Sunday morning.

We have gained a great and bloody victory. The Dept. is without details, but the press' special correspondence, states our loss at from 18 to 20,000, and that of the enemy from 35 to 40,000. Our victory is complete, and the enemy is being pursued.

SECOND DISPATCH.
Pittsburg Landing, via Fort Henry, April 9th—3.20, P. M.—One of the greatest and bloodiest battles of modern days, has just closed, resulting in the complete rout of the enemy, who attacked us at daybreak, on Sunday morning. The battle lasted without interruption during the entire day, and was again renewed on Monday morning and continued undecided, until 1 o'clock in the afternoon, when the enemy commenced to retreat, and are still flying towards Corinth, pursued by a large force of our Cavalry. The slaughter on both sides has been immense; we have lost in killed and wounded and missing from 18,000 to 20,000. That of the enemy is estimated at from 35,000 to 40,000. The fight was brought on by 300 of the 25th Missouri Regt. of Gen. Prentiss' division, attacking the advanced guard of the rebels which they supposed to be the pickets of the enemy.

The rebels exhibited remarkably good generalship, at times engaging the left with apparently their whole strength, they would suddenly open a terrible and destructive fire on the right or centre. Even our heaviest fire upon the enemy did not appear to discourage their solid columns. The fire of Maj. Taylor's Chicago Artillery raked them down in scores, but no sooner had the smoke dispersed, than the breach was again filled. The most desperate fighting took place late in the afternoon. Gen. Buell's forces had by this time arrived on the opposite side of the river, and another portion was coming up the river from Savannah. At 5 o'clock the rebels had forced our left wing back so as to occupy fully two thirds of our camp, and were fighting in their efforts to drive us into the river, and at the same time heavily engaged our right. Up to this time no reinforcements had arrived. Gen. Wallace failing to come to our support, until the day was over, having taken a wrong road from Crump's Landing and being without other transports than those used for the ordnance and commissary stores, which were too heavily laden to bring any considerable number of men. Buell's forces crossed the river, the boats that were here having been sent to bring up the troops from Savannah. We were therefore contending against considerable odds our forces not exceeding 30,000 men, while that of the rebels was upwards of 60,000. Our condition at this moment was exceedingly critical. Large numbers of our men were panic-stricken, and others worn out by hard fighting, with the average percentage of skulkers, had struggled towards the river and could not be rallied. Gen. Grant and staff, who had been recklessly riding along the lines the entire day amid an incessant storm of shot and shell, now rode from the right to the left, inciting our men to stand firm until the reinforcements could cross the river. Col. Webster, the chief of the staff immediately got into position the heaviest pieces of artillery formed on the enemy's right, while a large number of batteries were placed along the entire line, from the river bank North West to our extreme right, some 2 1/2 miles distant. About an hour before dusk, a general cannonading was opened on the enemy from a long our whole line, with a perpetual cracking of musketry.

For a short time the rebels replied with vigor and effect, but their return shots grew less frequent and destructive, while ours grew more rapid and terrible. The gunboats Lexington and Tyler, which lay a short distance off, kept raining shell on the rebel train. This last effort was too much for the enemy; ere dusk the

fring had nearly ceased, when night coming on, the combatants rested. Our men rested on their arms, in the position they had at the close of the night, until the forces under Maj. Gen. Wallace arrived, and took position on the right, and Gen. Buell's forces from the opposite side, and Savannah, now being conveyed to the battle ground. Gen. Nelson's division was ordered to form on the right, and the forces under Gen. Crittenden were ordered to his support. Early in the morning, Gen. Buell having arrived, the "ball was opened" at daylight, by Gen. Nelson's division on the right, and Gen. Wallace's division on the left. Gen. Nelson's force opened a most gallant fire on the rebels, and advanced rapidly; as they fell back, the fire soon became general along the whole line and began to tell with terrible effect upon the rebels. Generals McClelland's Sherman's and Hurlbut's men, though terribly jaded from the previous days fighting, still maintained their honor won at Donelson, but the resistance of the rebels was terrible, and worthy of a better cause; but they were not enough for our undaunted bravery, and the dreadful destruction produced by our artillery, which swept them away like chaff. But knowing defeat here would be the death-blow to their hopes, their generals still urged them on in the face of destruction, hoping by flanking us to turn the tide of battle. Their success for a short time was cheering, as they began to gain ground on us, appearing to have been reinforced, but Gen. Nelson was driving them back with wonderful rapidity. Gen. Buell's forces had succeeded in flanking them, and capturing their batteries of artillery. They, however, again rallied on the left, and recrossed, and the right force themselves forward in another desperate effort, but reinforcements from Gen. Wood and Gen. Thomas coming in, regiment after regiment, which were sent to Gen. Buell who had again commenced to drive the rebels. About 3 o'clock, P. M. Gen. Grant rode to the left where a fresh regiment had been ordered, and finding the rebels to be wavering, he sent a portion of his bodyguard to the head of each of the five regiments, and then ordered a charge across the field, himself leading, the cannon balls were falling like hail around him. The men followed with a shout that sounded above the roar and din of the artillery, and the rebels fled in dismay, and never made another stand. Gen. Buell followed the retreating rebels, driving them in splendid style, and at half past five P. M. the whole rebel army was in full retreat to Corinth, our cavalry in hot pursuit. We have taken a large amount of artillery, and a large number of prisoners. We lost a number of prisoners yesterday; among them is Gen. Prentiss. The number has not been reported yet, but is said to be several hundred. Gen. Prentiss is reported wounded. Among the killed on the rebel side, is their General in Chief, Albert Sidney Johnston, by a cannon ball in the afternoon of Sunday. Of this there is no doubt, as it is corroborated by several rebel officers taken to-day. It is further reported that Gen. Beauregard had his arm shot off this afternoon. Gen's Bragg, Breckinridge and Jackson were commanding the rebel forces. There never has been a parallel to the gallantry and bearing of our officers, from the commanding general to the lowest officer.

FRANKLIN PIERCE AND THE K. G. G.'S
The Secret Letter a Practical Joke.
The correspondence laid before the senate by Secretary SEWARD, in compliance with the resolution offered by Mr. LATHAM and adopted by that body, has been published in official form. One letter from ex-President PIERCE, dated January 7, and addressed to Mr. SEWARD, but not included in the copies sent to the Senate, was placed upon the record by Mr. LATHAM. The correspondence began on the 20th December, 1851, with the following note from Mr. SEWARD to Mr. PIERCE, requesting an explanation concerning the ex-President's connection with a secret league:—

WASHINGTON, December 20, 1851. "SIR—I enclose an extract from a letter received at this department, from which it would appear that you were a member of a secret league the object of which is to overthrow the Government. Any explanation upon the subject which you may offer would be acceptable."
I am, &c., WILLIAM H. SEWARD.
"FRANKLIN PIERCE, Esq., CONCORD N. H."
Mr. PIERCE replied in the following sharp letter:—

Mr. PIERCE to Mr. SEWARD.
"ANDOVER, Mass., December 24, 1851.—SIR:—A package, endorsed 'Department of State U. S. A.,' franked W. HUNTER, Chief Clerk, and addressed to FRANKLIN PIERCE, Esq., Concord New Hampshire, was received by me to-day, having been forwarded from the place of my residence. But for the stamped envelope and the handwriting of Mr. Hunter, with which I am familiar, I should probably have regarded the enclosure as an idle attempt at insinuation, in which your name had been surreptitiously used. I must, I suppose, though I do it reluctantly, now view it in a different light. In the note bearing your signature, you say:—'I enclose an extract from a letter received at this Department, from which it would appear that you are a member of a secret league, the object of which is to overthrow this Government. Any explanation upon the subject which you may offer would be acceptable.'"

"It is not easy to conceive how any person could give credence to, or entertain for a moment, the idea that I am now, or have ever been, connected with a 'league,' or with any league, the object of which was, or is, the overthrow of the Government of my country. Surprised, however, only increases as I pass from your note to 'extract' to which you refer as a sufficient basis for an official communication. Incoherent and meaningless as this 'extract,' from the vapours of an anonymous correspondent seems to me to be, it is not a little singular that it should have been sent for explanation to one who, during his whole life, has never belonged to any secret league, society or association. My name does not appear in the 'extract,' and as there is not the slightest ground for any reference to me in the connection indicated, I take it for granted that your inference is wholly erroneous, and that neither I, nor anything which I ever said or did, was in the mind of the writer.

"Nothing but the gravity of the insinuation, the high official source whence it emanates, and the distracted condition of our recently united, prosperous, and happy country, could possibly lift this matter above ridicule and contempt. Not therefore because 'explanations would be acceptable,' but because this correspondence is to hold a place upon the files of the Department of State long beyond the duration of your life

and mine and because I would leave, so far as I am concerned no ambiguity upon the record, it is proper, perhaps it is my duty, to add that my loyalty will never be successfully impeached so long as I enjoy the constitutional rights which pertain to every citizen of the republic, and especially the inalienable right to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation, and to be confronted face to face with my accusers.

"Love for our whole country, respect for the reserved rights of the States, reverence for the Constitution and devotion to the noble Union, which for so many years, reposed securely upon that sacred instrument, have been interwoven with my best hopes for civil liberty—my deepest emotions and my sternest purpose, from youth to age. If I have failed to illustrate this in official station, in private life, and under all circumstances when it became me to speak or act, I have labored under a singular delusion, consciousness of which would emulter, more than anything else, the present hour and such remaining hours or years as may be in reserve for me.

"I am, sir your obedient servant,
FRANKLIN PIERCE.
"Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State, Washington, D. C."
MR. SEWARD'S REJOINER.

Mr. Seward rejoined as follows:—
"WASHINGTON, December 30, 1851.—MY DEAR SIR:—An intemperate aspersion your fair fame and loyalty came into my hands. Although it was in an anonymous letter the writer was detected, and subsequently avowed the authorship. The document must become a part of the history of the times.

"I desired that you might know how your name was made use of by a traitor to increase the treason he was encouraging. Unable to prepare a note to you personally, I devolved the duty on the chief clerk of this department.

"The manner in which it was done has pained you. I regret it, and apologize for it as the only excuse I can make, namely, the necessity of employing another hand to do what ought to be done, and which I had not time to do, personally.

"I place your answer on the files of the Department of State as an act of justice to yourself.

"And I beg you to be assured that all the unkindness of that answer does not in the least diminish the satisfaction with which I have performed, in the best way I was able, a public duty, with a desire to render you a service.

"I am, with great respect, your obedient servant,
W. H. S. S.
"FRANKLIN PIERCE."
"It may be proper to state that adopting the form of address to ex-Presidents of the United States used by the late Mr. WEBSTER, I have invariably left off all titles of address, as being most respectful."
MR. PIERCE TO MR. SEWARD.

CONCORD, N. H., January 7, 1852.—DEAR SIR:—I have the honor to acknowledge the reception of your letter of the 29th ult. It could hardly have surprised you to learn that I failed to discover in your official note a desire to render me a service. You will excuse me if I regard even the suggestion, from a source so eminent, that I am a member of a secret league, the object of which is to overthrow this Government, as rather too grave to have been sent off with as little consideration as a mass of rubbish might have been addressed to a subordinate clerk of one of the departments.

The writer of the anonymous letter, it seems, "was detected and subsequently avowed the authorship," and yet I am not advised whether he disavows reference to me, or whether there was an attempt to implicate me in his disclosure. These were the only facts connected with him, his treason, or his confession, at all material for me to know: I suppose I am left to infer the latter, because although my name does not appear in the "extract" to which my attention was particularly called, you still state, that an aspersion upon my "fair fame and loyalty" came into your hands. I think you will, upon reflection, arrive at the conclusion that the whole ground upon which the allegation is repeated should, as a simple act of justice, have been placed before me.

It was not the manner of your official note, as you seem to suppose, nor any form of address, which awakened on my part a deep sense of wrong. These whatever they may have been, were not worthy of serious notice. The substance was what I intended as carelessly as I could, but very distinctly, to read.