

WASHINGTON CITY.

SATURDAY EVENING, SEPT. 5, 1857.

Mr. JAMES E. JAMES, No. 152 South Third street, Philadelphia is our general travelling agent, assisted by Wm. H. Wade, John G. ...

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

Our respected neighbors of the National Intelligencer take exception to our calling the clergymen who were parties to the correspondence published in the Union, a day or two ago, "reverend and impertinent intermeddlers;" and they think that it is no less disparaging to the President than to the gentlemen thus insulped, since it places the former in the attitude of paying undue heed to a manifesto which he would, on the theory supposed, have better consulted his dignity by leaving unnoticed.

The Baltimore Republican says: The President's new letter, the "better than thou" of New England, whose avowal of their orthodox obligation to support the constitution and laws contrasts strangely enough with their "higher law" views and total ignorance of the legislation of the United States government respecting Kansas, as well as the legal means of the "plunder party" is the public lands. That party demands that the proceeds from them shall be distributed to the States for a division among the people, either directly or indirectly.

The following is the conclusion of a long and warmly approving notice of the Richmond Enquirer: The letter is a frank and fearless exposition of the views of the administration on the disturbing topic which it treats. And it cannot fail to command the unqualified commendation of every conservative citizen in the Union.

SILK CROP IN EUROPE.

Information obtained up to August 15 by Messrs. Wilson & Pey, silk brokers of Lyons, confirms the bad accounts previously received respecting the produce of silk-worm eggs next season. It is now certain that, with a few exceptions, the whole of the continent of Europe is infected by the disease. The following table is given to establish in figures the exact position of this year's crop compared with that of former years. No data being attainable for the districts in blank under the head of deficiency, they are filled up with the figures representing full crops:

Table with 4 columns: Country, Annual average, 1857, Deficiency in 1857. Rows include France, Spain, Piedmont, Lombardy-Venitia, Parma, Modena, Tuscany, Roman States, Napoli, Sicily, and Total.

Thus, it will appear that the total deficiency for 1857 amounts to 47,029,732 kilogrammes of cocoons, which, according to the usual calculation of 12 kilogrammes of cocoons for 1 kilogramme of silk, gives 3,919,144, or 8,641,712 pounds. This equals nearly the quantity received this year from China, and exceeds the entire consumption of silk in Lyons in 1856 and 1857, which amounted only to 5,648,506 pounds.

THE NEW ORLEANS DELTA.

We hardly supposed that we should be indebted to the Delta for a favor, yet it has contrived to lay us under obligation, by calling attention to a short paragraph in our issue of the 22d of August last, inasmuch as it furnishes us with the opportunity of putting the matter right. The paragraph referred to was intended to prevent any misinterpretation of a previous article, and yet by a laudable, but at the same time, annoying blunder of the compositor, we were made to say in print exactly the opposite of what we intended, and what we wrote. We wrote, "as there was no probability of Kansas becoming a slave State," &c.—when the types made us say, "as there was a probability of Kansas becoming a slave State," &c. In other words, the compositor simply misread a cramped manuscript, and printed instead of no, and it so happened that we did not read the proof ourselves. Yet what we meant to say seemed so obvious, that we supposed that scarcely any one could mistake our meaning; we however corrected it in the weekly issue, and no one seems to have been misled by the blunder, except our amiable friend of the Delta. He, however, seizes upon it with infinite gusto, and thence infers and charges upon us free-silliness, with as much gravity and earnestness, as if he believed it himself.

PREMIUM ON SOAP MANUFACTURED IN FRANCE.

Commercial advices from Paris of the 23d of last month inform us that, by imperial decree of August 12, colored soaps, composed of oleaginous oils and animal fat, shall be entitled to a premium on exportation of 6 francs, \$1 12; per 100 kilogrammes, (220 pounds,) in accordance with the conditions determined by the law of June 11, 1855, especially the 5th article of said law. This, as a matter of course, will increase the manufacture in France of this description of soaps, and operate as an additional tax, to the extent of the premium, on their importation.

ANOTHER FOREIGN LEGION.

The Berlin Bourse Gazette, says the London Star, appears to be well informed in announcing, in a letter from Hamburg, the intention of the British government again to form a foreign legion, and to re-establish a recruiting station at Heligoland. This intention, it says, has become apparent from unmistakable facts. The Berlin Bourse Gazette, says the London Star, appears to be well informed in announcing, in a letter from Hamburg, the intention of the British government again to form a foreign legion, and to re-establish a recruiting station at Heligoland. This intention, it says, has become apparent from unmistakable facts.

KANSAS AFFAIRS.—MOVEMENTS OF THE PEOPLE.—DEMOCRATIC MASS MEETING AT WYANDOTT CITY.

Yesterday's western mail brought us, in a slip, a spirited report of the proceedings of a democratic mass meeting recently held at Wyandott city. The meeting was held in pursuance of the following call: No Nationalist! No Abolitionist! No Proslavery!—Democratic Mass Meeting!

The democracy of Wyandott City and Township will meet in mass convention at McAlpin's hall on Saturday evening, August 22, 1857, at 7 o'clock. Good speakers will address the meeting. Let every democratic elector feel it his duty to be present, as business of importance will come before the meeting.

McAlpin's the report: McAlpin's spacious hall was filled with an intelligent and appreciative audience at an early hour on Saturday evening. The number present was variously estimated at from four to five hundred. At precisely 7 o'clock Alonzo C. Davis, esq., called the meeting to order; whereupon, J. H. Miller, esq., was chosen president; Messrs. W. J. Green, J. E. Zettl, J. Collyer, N. McAlpin, R. Garrett, W. L. McMath, H. L. Bogard, E. T. Vedder, D. Killen, J. S. Forsyth, John Greigevy, A. Langelmeyer, S. B. Noller, were chosen vice presidents; and G. S. Gillick, secretary.

It was moved and carried that the committee on platform and resolutions, appointed at a preliminary meeting held previous, be called upon to report. A. C. Davis, esq., chairman of the committee, reported that the committee had unanimously agreed upon a platform, which they confidently hoped and believed would receive the sanction of every unprejudiced citizen of Kansas. The committee had desired to extenuate no wrong in the past, by whomsoever committed, or to set down aught in malice or passion. They believe that a conservative policy in the future would crown our Territory with happiness and blessing, and would secure the forbearance of those who might have insults or wrongs to overlook.

Whereas the present design of sectional agitators, as reflected through the Topeka agency in the Territory, seems to be to continue that bitterness of feeling and sectional antagonism in Kansas which have characterized the past; To ignore ordinary party divisions and divide the community into contending factions upon the one hand, and at the present time merely nominal issues of slavery; To thwart the impartial efforts of Governor Walker to bring order out of confusion and restore the blessings of good neighborhood to all law-abiding citizens; and Whereas the action taken by a body of men recently assembled at Topeka, and styling themselves a "free-State convention," in assuming legislative powers, and in arrogating to themselves the right to determine the destiny of the Territory, and seriously threaten the purity of the ballot-box; and whereas conservative men have been and are constantly assailed and traduced because they are unwilling to submit to the dictation of selfish and sectional factions and cliques; therefore, we, the democracy of Wyandott, that our position may be definitely understood, do

Resolved, That we earnestly deprecate in the past history of Kansas every violation of that provision of our organic law which left the bona fide settlers of Kansas "perfectly free to own and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the constitution of the United States," and the fundamental principle of democratic principle all who encourage or countenance a further violation of the same.

Resolved, That we cordially approve of the "Kansas-Nebraska act," and especially that feature of it which recognizes the right of the people of the Territory to self-government, and the fundamental principle of democratic principle all who encourage or countenance a further violation of the same.

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Resolved, That it is the duty of the constitutional convention about to assemble at Leocompton to submit the result of their labors to a full and fair vote of the bona fide residents of Kansas; we deem it the right of the people to pass upon the great fundamental law under which they are to live, and we do not believe that a democratic Congress will ever admit Kansas into the Union until that right shall have been practically recognized in determining her constitution.

Resolved, That the expressed predetermination on the part of the Topeka agency to vote down the constitution which may be submitted by the Leocompton convention, however unobjectionable it may be in its provisions, indicates a settled determination on their part to gratify and complicate the Kansas imbroglio, and to gratify old passions and prejudices without regard to the interests of the Territory. Our only confidence is in the honest instincts of the people; we believe the masses are heartily disgusted with these selfish leaders, and will rally to the aid of the people to secure the blessing of a good State government and of consequent peace and prosperity.

Resolved, That in all party action we will be guided by those ancient landmarks of the democracy which have so long made that party the reliable guardian of the rights of all our citizens, and have so deeply rooted in the affection of the people; we recognize no invidious distinctions founded upon birth-place or religion, but believe our country to be the legitimate inheritance of the liberty-loving sons of every land and the great conservator of all religious freedom which protects every citizen in his right to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience.

Resolved, That the course pursued by Gov. Walker in the discharge of his duties as territorial executive meets our cordial approval; his wisdom and moderation are endeavoring him to our citizens, and promise a speedy and peaceful solution of all our difficulties. We hereby pledge him our earnest support in his patriotic efforts to secure all bona fide settlers in the enjoyment of their rights, and confidently believe that posterity will award him a meed of highest praise for his invaluable services in our unfortunate Territory.

Resolved, That as the convention to frame a constitution meets next fall, and will probably continue its important labors until the close of October, all who are bona fide settlers at or before that date, as advised in the inaugural of Gov. Walker, should be permitted to vote on the adoption of the constitution; and that in our opinion the convention ought to give at least six months between the date of submission and the vote thereon, which would thus embrace the present settlers and the bona fide emigration of next fall, and, at the same time, provide a previous revision of six months before the vote, which would be ample.

Resolved, That, sovereignty being vested in the people alone, and not in conventions, who are but delegates, exercising delegated power, such as is involved in the people's constitution, the constitution should be submitted to the vote of the people, as required by the Constitution of the United States, as recently construed by the Supreme Court of the Union; by the provisions of the Kansas-Nebraska bill; by the recent decision of Congress in the case of Minnesota; and by every principle of justice which would thus embrace the present settlers and the bona fide emigration of next fall, and, at the same time, provide a previous revision of six months before the vote, which would be ample.

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THE REAL FATHER OF THE PROPOSED NEW GOVERNMENT.—PLUNDER PARTY.

We have abundant evidence from all quarters of the Union of a wide-spread intention to form a "plunder party." The purpose to do so has manifested itself in numerous ways, and from those of every faith except the democracy. That good old party maintains its integrity in favor of honest economy, and in opposition to every expenditure not constitutional and warranted by public necessity. Wherever the enemies of democracy have had control they have rushed headlong into expenditures upon the State treasury, in a manner corresponding with assaults upon the federal exchequer when they controlled the national administration. Gov. Seward once endorsed a recommendation in New York to borrow forty millions to construct railroads and canals, so as to pass within fifteen miles of every door within the Empire State. Similar extravagant notions seem to be deep-rooted wherever anti-democratic principles prevail. Although Governor Chase, of Ohio, at first shrunk from the extravagances of this anti-Masonic demagogue, he now bows to his superiority, and humbly follows as one of his train, fighting for the highest possible extravagance in State as well as national expenditures, and, in effect, acknowledges himself an obedient lieutenant to an imperious and dictatorial captain. All the enemies of democracy, whether they call themselves black republicans, know-nothings, or anything else, go in for the greatest expenditures, whether State or national, either derived from direct taxation upon property or indirectly from foreign importations. But the great source of available means of the "plunder party" is the public lands. That party demands that the proceeds from them shall be distributed to the States for a division among the people, either directly or indirectly. This differs essentially from the deposit act of 1836, which committed public money for safekeeping to twenty-eight States. Of this deposit, some of which, in penny quantities, went to individuals, long since lost and forgotten, not one farthing has yet, or ever will be, returned to the national treasury. The authority empowering the national government to collect money for distribution, as now proposed, has never been pointed out.

Although the necessities of whiggery forced the unconstitutional precedent of the distribution of moneys derived from the sales of the public lands in 1841, the better-considered act of August 30, 1842, annulled its provisions. Until every other hope failed the sufficiently quibbled of the opposition, no mind was so foolishly bewildered to recommend another unconstitutional distribution like this attempted in 1841. But close observers of human nature have noticed that what delighted the imagination in the noonday of life has charms for its evening. The distribution of 1841, which then absorbed the affections and commanded the active exertions of the most reckless and unscrupulous of the old National Bank whig party, is now the idol of all enemies of the democratic party, and is looked to as the nucleus of a new combination now being organized, which may fairly be denominated the national plunder party. Such a party is soon to be formed, and upon the plunder principle alone. For a very long period the "National Intelligencer" has been actively engaged in the formation of such a party, of which it desires to be the head and organ. It sought to induce Virginia to adopt its theories and carry them out in practice, and, although it failed, it has not abandoned its purpose. It still urges distribution, and, in order to organize its new party, it will doubtless not object to association with black-republicanism and know-nothingism, but readily swallow both. Of such materials are the enemies of democracy made.

SUEZ CANAL.

It is known that strong influences have for a long time been at work in England prejudicial to the proposed canal connecting the Mediterranean and Red-seas. This opposition and the grounds on which it is based have recently been officially declared in Parliament by Lord Palmerston, on the occasion of replying to some queries addressed to the government on the subject. The French press and people, on the other hand, see in this opposition a feeling of apprehension lest the proposed canal might, in the progress of time, jeopard British interests in India, by the creation of a formidable power in too close proximity to their India possessions, or by some other equally alarming contingency which this Gallic inter-communication might call into being. A late number of the Debats contains the following on this subject:

The opposition manifested by Lord Palmerston to the canal of Suez does not proceed from conviction—from a political bias, in the real sense of the word—but from an antiquated and pre-emptive prejudice which dates from 1805. We should consider it an insult to M. Ferdinand de Lesseps were we to defend him against dishonest insinuations which can neither affect his reputation nor character. To the meaningless sentences of the Premier we might oppose the language of an excellent authority as Mr. Gladstone. The question of the isthmus of Suez is now well understood, appreciated, and judged in every point of view; the commercial world, which is mainly interested in its fortunes; the political world and the world of science, have come to the same conclusion on the subject. It may be said that the public opinion of Europe, and even of England, has pronounced itself definitively in favor of the canal, and that the French press and people, on the other hand, see in this opposition a feeling of apprehension lest the proposed canal might, in the progress of time, jeopard British interests in India, by the creation of a formidable power in too close proximity to their India possessions, or by some other equally alarming contingency which this Gallic inter-communication might call into being. A late number of the Debats contains the following on this subject:

FULFILLMENT OF A PROPHECY.

Two years ago, (says the Atlanta Intelligencer,) during our late State canvass, the Hon. A. H. Stephens said repeatedly, in discussing the principles of the Kansas-Nebraska act, that in two years the know-nothing party in Georgia would be found in open opposition to it. How much do they lack of it now? Let those who read their papers and hear their stump orators answer.

RESIGNATION OF JUDGE CURTIS.

According to the Boston Courier, Judge Curtis was led to resign his seat on the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States from reasons growing out of his private affairs. He received his appointment from President Fillmore in 1851.

A TELEGRAPH DISPATCH FROM TUNIS TO THE LONDON STAR STATES:

Very serious religious disturbances have broken out. A derisive having in the public streets denounced an Israelite as a blasphemer, the populace fell upon the unfortunate Jew, who was, however, rescued from their hands, and taken for safety to the barracks. But the populace broke into the building, and knocked to pieces everything they could by their hands upon. They then went to the office of the Messageries, crying "Death to the Jews!" "Death to the Franks!" The French consul went in all haste to the Bey at Marsa, and demanded troops for the protection of European life and property. The greatest excitement prevails in the town. Another despatch, says the Christians themselves had been threatened. Several persons were killed. The British consulate was taken. Military measures for repressing the outrage were issued very tardily.

DEPARTMENT NEWS.

Commercial Intelligencer Between the United States and Mexico.—A correspondent at Funchal, Madeira, writes that there is now a very little commerce between the United States and Madeira, owing to the total failure of the vintage in Madeira since 1851, and to there being only one article of export—namely, wine.

The District and Circuit Court Room, San Francisco.—The Interior Department received information yesterday morning that the proper officers at San Francisco have taken a new lease of the building heretofore occupied by the district and circuit courts of that city, of Mr. Parot, the agent of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson, & Co. The rent has been reduced from \$27,600 to \$16,000. The use of furniture is included.

Location of Land in Iowa.—There were located at Fort Dodge, Iowa, during the month of June, eleven hundred and one land warrants, covering about one hundred and thirty-seven thousand acres of land.

Naval.—The steam frigate Rarokoa, now in Boston, will shortly be taken out of commission, and her officers detached.

Court-martial. J. B. Bly, who was recently tried by a court-martial, has been dismissed from the service.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

The Fight with the Cheyenne Indians on Solomon's Creek.—Newspaper accounts have already been published of the fight which took place between the United States troops, under command of Lieutenant Colburn, and the Cheyennes, at Solomon's Creek. The War Department received this morning an official despatch, dated Headquarters of the Cheyenne Expedition, Camp on Walnut Creek, August 3, giving the particulars. The fight took place on the 29th of June. About 300 warriors were opposed to the United States troops. Six companies of cavalry advanced upon them immediately, when two companies were detached to turn their flanks, and the whole then made a headlong charge upon them, broke through them, and pursued them seven miles. A large number of warriors were killed and wounded, but it was impossible to ascertain how many. Our troops lost two privates killed, and Lieut. Stuart and seven men wounded. It is believed that they will all recover. Lieut. Stuart was not dangerously wounded. A post was established at this point, and garrisoned by one company of infantry to take care of the wounded, and the command immediately started in pursuit. After a march of fourteen miles, they came to the principal town of the tribe, where they found 171 lodges standing, and nearly as many more which had been hastily taken down, and most of the poles were left on the ground. A large amount of dried meat and other property was found in the town, the Indians evidently having taken nothing but what could be gathered up hastily in their flight. The town and everything which it contained was immediately burned to the ground. The next morning the trail was again taken, and the troops at last accounts were still following it. It leads them in the direction of the Arkansas river.

CHINESE VIEW OF INDEMNIFYING NEUTRALS.

The Prussian consul at Hong-Kong lately addressed a communication, in the name of his own government and in that of the smaller German States, to Commissioner Yeh, demanding indemnification for the losses they suffered by the bombardment and blockade of Canton. We append the reply received from that Chinese functionary, and would add that Prussia, as well as the other German States, now seems inclined to base a claim of the same nature upon England—the British authorities on the spot having actually omitted to declare their intention to bombard the town. We find the communication of Yeh in the London Star of August 20, as follows:

"Reply of Yeh, governor, &c. to the note of some consuls, &c. dated, received on the 25th of the 4th month, and of which he took cognizance: "From the time that the merchants from your illustrious kingdom have come to Canton for the sake of trade down to this day they have always been peacefully engaged with their affairs, and have never had any collision with the Chinese. Ever since the 25th of the 3d month of the present year the English began to make war upon the Chinese without any motive whatsoever, and have burned down, without reason, Chinese offices and warehouses. In consequence of this aggression commerce has come to a stand-still, and the Chinese market has been closed.

"In reply to the note of the honorable consuls, concerning the goods of the merchants, it ought to be kept in mind that it was neglected to make a declaration of them in the course of last year. Why, at the moment the turmoil began, were the goods not removed on board ships? Since the English have begun the war, the subjects of all realms have suffered from the state of things. The goods cannot be taken away from their place now. The honorable consuls ought to have come to an understanding with the English about them. Now, when all commercial transactions are suspended, and the goods cannot be removed, it is no longer possible that permission should be granted to persons coming to purchase the goods and take them to Mexico. Lastly, it must be observed that, according to the existing stipulations, the commercial relations concerning the goods left in Canton can be resumed as soon as peace shall be established."

John Mitchell is on his way to the North for the purpose of purchasing the necessary materials for the establishment of a new paper, in connexion with the Atlanta Intelligencer, at Knoxville, Tennessee, to be called the Southern Citizen. The following from his prospectus indicates the political character of the paper:

"Holding that the institution of negro slavery is a sound, just, wholesome institution, and therefore that the question of reopening the African slave trade is a question of expediency alone, the conductors of the Southern Citizen will, in view of the late action of the Southern Commercial Convention at Knoxville, apply themselves to search out and impart to light all accessible information bearing upon that important subject—on the whole industrial condition and necessities of the South, on the actual state of the negro race in Africa, and on the policy and action of European powers in reference to the slave trade."

BOOK NOTICES.

The Wanderer. By James A. Maitland, author of "The Wanderer," "The Old Doctor," "The Lawyer's Story," &c. Philadelphia. T. B. Peterson.

We are indebted to Shillington, corner of 41 street and the avenue, for a copy of the above work, which, by the way, is creating no little sensation among that class of readers who delight in the stirring incidents of the darker shades of life. The mechanical execution of the work is highly creditable to the publisher.

There is no talk of a three-months residence as a prerequisite to voting. It is a six-months residence which is to be exacted; which, in effect, a disfranchisement of more than half the bona fide inhabitants of Kansas, and nearly two-thirds of the free-State men. [N. F. Tribune.]

The Tribune answers its own question by saying that it is "the necessities of slavery" that have required this disfranchisement.

Now, the constitutional convention has as yet made no provision in regard to the residence of voters; and all this anxiety and agony is premature; but the Topeka constitution—that humbug and swindle instigated and upheld by the Tribune and its allies—does require the six months residence before voting. What say you to that? [Atlanta Intelligencer.]

VERMONT'S FIRST TELEGRAPHIC DISPATCH TO MR. BUCHANAN.—"President: On earth peace—overboard—other piece. Tont a tel. Y. R.—Bates Post.

Mrs. Lydia Barnard, of Amherst, New Hampshire, completed her 100th year on Sunday last. She is a sister of the late Jeremiah Barnard, and of a family noted for longevity. Her mother lived to the age of 161. Mrs. Barnard is still bright.