

THE WASHINGTON UNION. ... to see their ... upon the Postmaster General to do so under existing circumstances.

TO adopt at this time such a course or system of policy as that of reducing the rates of the postal service to a mere self-sustaining rate and leaving our great commercial system the tender mercies of the British steamers, and to abolish the franking privilege, which is really the great means of political intercourse, would bring the administration and the party into disgrace, and the whole country into a position most contemptible.

Whether the cause of liberty has been advanced, or the social happiness of mankind increased, by the substitution of the anxiety of independence for the disposition of old Spain, and whether British interests have been benefited by the alteration, may be judged of by the fact that while the exports of Spain to her colonies before the war of independence began exceeded \$15,000,000, the greater part of which consisted of British manufactures, conveyed in Spanish bottoms, the whole amount of our exports to these colonies now, (1857,) thirty years after their independence had been established, is only \$5,000,000, and that the republic of Bolivia, called after the liberator Bolivar, has entirely disappeared from the chart of British exports.

A SELF-SUSTAINING POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT. There is no greater fallacy than that which has been recently started for a self-sustaining postal system in the United States at the present time. That the Post Office Department will ultimately sustain itself and yield a revenue to government, when the whole country becomes densely settled, no one can reasonably doubt. Without resorting to the postal statistics of the densely-peopled countries of Europe to sustain this belief, we have the evidence for it in the returns now made from the States of Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. Although these States are not developed to more than half their capacity for population, they yield a surplus or profit to the Post Office Department of about seven hundred thousand dollars beyond the expenditures. They are, therefore, more than self-sustaining.

On the other hand, several of the less-peopled western and southern States require appropriations from the treasury of about three and a half millions of dollars to meet the actual deficiency in their returns, their receipts falling that short of the expenditures made within them for postal service. This appropriation, large as it may appear, is really insignificant when measured by the results it is producing. It is the rapid means of communication established by this expenditure, which is peopling the West and supplying purchasers for the public funds, thus extending agricultural products and exports, and forming the basis for that commerce the impost duties upon which supports not only the whole system, but all other departments of the government.

The present able head of the Post Office Department fully comprehends its uses and duties to the country, and, when called upon by the committees of Congress for plans of "self-sustainment," he has frankly told them that such attempts may be made by reducing the service to a mere skeleton of routes, raising the postage and abolishing the franking privileges; and that when they have accomplished this they will have but a skeleton, without sinews or flesh, that must drop out of existence for want of vital principle. He has extended the same statesmanlike views to the ocean mail service, pointing out such as may be made self-sustaining by proper care, and those which must receive direct appropriations. Those which can sustain themselves are the lines to Europe, so arranged as to give departures which will secure both on this and the opposite side of the Atlantic the bulk of the American letters; but it can only be by a term of contract sufficiently long to make this an object, and by making the three or four first years of such a contract a certainty, that able parties can be induced to enter upon the service. Such a contract might provide that whatever was advanced beyond the receipts of the first four years should be deducted from the last years of the contract, thus making the service self-sustaining for the contract term.

Direct appropriations should be given to lines upon well-chosen, but new routes. The most important of these are on the east coast to South America to Rio and the west coast to Valparaiso. These routes would open up a commerce to our people, the profits of which would more than four-fold repay the necessary mail appropriation. There is now sufficient data to show that a mail pay of about three dollars per mile is absolutely required to sustain the extra steam expense for ocean mail service—the contractor even then being obliged to look exclusively to his freight and passenger receipts for general expenditures and for any profits upon his investment and enterprise—and it requires at least ten years to fully develop a new ocean mail route to a self-sustaining point.

Let Congress, then, act upon the ascertained data. Renewed. That the resolutions passed by the Democratic National Convention at Cincinnati, in June, 1856, and accepted by James Buchanan, the nominee of that convention for the presidency, contain no provision of developing the country, and we predict that in less than ten years' time the department will prove self-sustaining in all its branches.

To abolish the franking privilege would be to cut off all communication between the representative and his constituents, thus licensing a corrupt course of action in the halls of Congress, and enabling the representative to pursue it with but little chance of detection.

To longer neglect fostering our mail service, is to abandon it to Great Britain and France; thus making our merchants subservient to, and our Post Office Department dependent upon, their steamers. The people will not tolerate any such experiments, and it is therefore useless to attempt them.

It would be about as wise for Congress to require the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH. CITY INTELLIGENCE. THE BERRY FURNACE last evening was a most successful affair. Senator Fessenden and Mr. Speaker Orr presided, and every eye at the table was fixed. The fare reflected great credit upon the National Hotel, and the punch was most capably brewed.

Financial. New York, Jan. 25.—Stocks are firm—Chicago and Rock Island, 60; Michigan Southern, 20; New York Central, 24; Reading, 19.

Markets. New York, Jan. 25.—Cotton is firm, sales 1,000 bales. Flour is firm—sales of 9,000 bushels; State, \$3 00; Ohio, \$1 10 to \$1 20; 30; 50 to \$1 25. Wheat is buoyant—sales of 4,000 bushels; southern white, \$1 25 to \$1 40; corn is quiet—sales of 50,000 bushels; new yellow, 42 cents; mixed, 42 cents; fork is quiet—old mess, \$17 50; new, \$18 12 1/2. Lard is firm at 11 1/2 to 12 cents. Whiskey is heavy at 20 1/2 to 21 cents. Sugar is steady at 7 1/2 to 8 cents. Coffee is firm at 5 1/2 to 6 cents; prime 11 1/2 to 12 cents. Molasses is quiet at 42 1/2 to 43 cents. Spices of turpentine is firm at 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 cents. Beeswax is firm at 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 cents. Rice is steady at 5 1/2 to 6 cents.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS. Gen. H. Wilson, of Ohio, is at Brown's Hotel. The Rev. Dr. Nathan Bangs, of the Methodist church, had a surprise party on Saturday evening, when a cake containing \$2,000 in half-gold was presented to him. The sum was raised in one week.

Dr. Hudson, of the navy, died on Sunday afternoon in Brooklyn. It is said that he had been animal poison from the negroes during the voyage to the Nicaragua to Montevideo. He was thirteen years in the service, and a Pennsylvania boy.

The Rev. Mrs. Antoinette Brown Blackwell has appeared as a lecturer and clergywoman at Rochester, N. Y. She was recently married, and her time has consequently been somewhat occupied, but she is now able to resume more important duties.

Mr. Stronach has organized a company for opera and musical entertainments, and Chicago. Among its principal assets are Messrs. Cona de Wilton, Mine Colson, Mine Pavoni, Mine Stronach, Mine Simon, Signor Brignoli, the genre Terza, Mr. Squires, Signor Amadio, Signor Bauli, Junca, and Nicola.

Professor Mitchell's astronomical lectures are exciting great attention in New York. The New York Courier says of the discourse on Friday evening: "Thousands of people flocked through the rain to the Academy of Music to hear about Comets. The lecturer was inclined to sustain the nebular hypothesis, and said that the evidence in favor of it was growing now as that of gravitation was of the death of Newton, and predicted that the time would come when that hypothesis would be proved to be the true cosmogony of the universe."

GLEANINGS FROM THE MAILS. The receipts of the Piccolomini concert in Richmond are \$1,531. A music friend suggests that type set up must be a secondary occupation. A great many said it, though!

The Florida legislature adjourned on the 4th inst., until the 4th of November next. Serious fears of a forthcoming famine in Mexico are entertained. For over a year very little corn has been planted or gathered.

There are 722 convicts in the Ohio penitentiary—seventeen more than there are cells. The extraordinary large number the warden regards as an evidence of his popularity.

The case of James Stephens, the alleged wife-poisoner, has been postponed to the New York courts until February, 14th, to give the chemists time to complete their analysis of Mrs. Stephens's body.

A lady, when told that Mr. Beecher was about to deliver a lecture on Burns, suggested the equal necessity of a lecture on scalds. Mr. Beecher is so constantly in hot water that he ought to be pre-eminently qualified to handle such a theme.

We often hear of this and that city called the City of Churches, but we think the term is more applicable to Baltimore than to any other city with our knowledge. The population of Baltimore the American of that city says down at \$25,000, while the number of church edifices is 150.

A letter from Florence, in the Providence Journal, says that during the carnival in that city, "in the operations of the Truvaros, by decent performers, may be heard for a month or less three or four times a night!" and the way they give it is just worth the money.

An able editorial in Harper's Weekly is devoted to the subject of "How to Invest One's Money." An expedition to the more difficult question how to get the money to invest would suit the case of a much larger number of readers.

The New Bedford Mercury says of the oil market there: Sales of sperm oil have been made this week to the amount of about 2,200 barrels in parcels, at an advance on previous rates—350 barrels at \$1 35, and the balance at \$1 40 to \$1 45 per gallon.

The Indians at the West give occasional evidences of becoming civilized. The St. Paul Times says that a young Indian girl committed suicide by hanging herself to a tree near Belle Plaine, on Tuesday last week. Cause—disappointment in an affair of the heart.

According to a statement in the Stockholm Aftonblad, the authorities of the old university town of Upping have granted elective franchises to fifty seven young real estate, and to thirty one doing business on their own account. The representatives that their votes assist in electing will sit in the House of Burgesses.

The pattern of pork and beef at Chicago, Ill., have decided that hygienic salt answers their purpose better than imported salt. This decision agrees with the result of some experiments made by order of the general government some years ago.

THE OVERCAST BETTERS are recommended by physicians in their practice. A distinguished clergyman, who had taken his doctor by direction of his physician, writes that he has cured him of dyspepsia of twenty-five years' standing. Try this remedy, dyspeptic!

HOLLOWAY'S PAIN-EXPELLER is twin curatives, derived from one origin—the vegetable productions of the soil. They act in unison on the system; the one internally upon the secretions of the body, and the other externally through the countless orifices of the skin, cleansing and reorganizing the vital organization. Sold at the manufactory, No. 80 Maiden Lane, New York, and by all Druggists, at 25c., 50c., and \$1 per box or pot.

MADAME LABORDE AND CARL FORMES. MILES PINNEY, GIBSON. MADAME DE BERKELEY, SIO. FLORIANZA. ART. 100. (Articles, consisting of the most players of the Academy of Music, will give.

ONE GRAND CONCERT AT PHILHARMONIC HALL. On Thursday, February 1, 1857. The name of tickets will commence on Friday, at the music store of W. G. Motzner.

WASHINGTON THEATRE. This (Wednesday) Evening, January 25. The brilliant success of the new comedy of "FRANCE, in the LADY OF LYONS."

UNAWAY NIGRO.—Was committed to the Washington Jail on Monday, the 17th day of January, 1857, on a charge of stealing a pair of shoes in Baltimore. The said negro is black about 5 feet 7 inches high, and says he is about 25 years of age. On each breast, coat and vest, a cross and pair of hands, and on each wrist, a black iron nail, and both his wrists are much worn. He has two scars on his left hand, and a much scarred on the back. The owner or owners are requested to produce the said negro, and he will be charged by the court of law.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE. Washington, January 25, 1857. Information has been received at this department from the Legation of the United States at Lima, Peru, of the decease of Mirza Duman, a naturalized citizen of this country, who is represented to have left a considerable estate for his heirs. The wife and family of said deceased are believed to be in the city of New York, in sufficient circumstances. It is upon application that the Legation of the United States at Lima, in order that proper measures may be taken to secure their rights.

AUCTION SALES. BY JAS. C. MCGUIRE & CO., Auctioneers. STOCKS AT AUCTION.—On Thursday afternoon, January 25, at 4 o'clock at the auction room, we shall sell at public sale the following securities:

By JAS. C. MCGUIRE & CO., Auctioneers. PEREMPTORY SALE OF EPLENDIL SILVER-PLATED WARE.—On Thursday afternoon, January 25, at 10 o'clock at the auction room, we shall sell without reserve a large lot of silver-plate ware, consisting of the following articles:

By A. GREEN, Auctioneer. EXECUTIVE SALE OF AN EXTENSIVE AND EXCELLENT ASSORTMENT OF HOUSEHOLD AND KITCHEN FURNITURE, also silver, &c., by order of the Orphans' Court of the County of New York, at the residence of J. H. W. Jones, Esq., No. 299 D Street, near the corner of Seventh Street, on a Saturday afternoon, at 10 o'clock, A. M., the property of the late John O'Brien, Esq., of New York, to-wit:

By JAS. C. MCGUIRE & CO., Auctioneers. PEREMPTORY SALE OF LOT OF DRY GOODS.—On Wednesday evening, January 25, at 10 o'clock, at the auction room, we shall sell at public sale, without reserve, a large lot of dry goods, consisting of the following articles:

By A. GREEN, Auctioneer. GOVERNMENT SALE OF PROVISIONS, &c.—By order of the Navy Agents, on Saturday, the 25th of February, at 10 o'clock, at the auction room, on the corner of Seventh Street and D Street, at 10 o'clock, A. M., the following goods, by order of the Navy Agent, to-wit:

By JAS. C. MCGUIRE & CO., Auctioneers. TRUSTEES' SALE.—By virtue of a deed of trust from James Crotwell, dated October 14, 1837, and of a power of sale therein contained, the undersigned, J. H. W. Jones, Esq., on Thursday, the 27th day of January instant, at 10 o'clock, P. M., on the premises, lots 4 and 5, in the Block and Ohio Railroad Company's subdivision of lot 12, in the Block of the City of New York, containing about five hundred and seventy-four (574) fronting each twenty-five feet six and a quarter inches on Indiana avenue. The property is valuable as a building site, and likely to be sold in the extension of the Capital ground.

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NEW YORK ADVERTISEMENTS. JOHN C. HENDERSON, SMYTH, & CO. HAVE removed their sales-room to the loft of 312 BROADWAY, and are ready to exhibit their samples of FINEST FLOWERS, which exceed in variety any speculation yet made, numbering various novelties, the larger part made in our factory in Paris, and others imported.

ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS. under the management of Mr. E. V. WELCH. FEATHERS. under the management of R. B. BELL.

THE FRENCH FLOWER DEPARTMENT. Ostrich and Fancy Feathers, French Materials, French Dresses, Ornaments, &c.

AMERICAN DEPARTMENT IN FLOWERS, FRUIT, & PANTRY GOODS. under the management of Mr. E. D. HOWELL.

J. C. HENDERSON SMYTH & CO. No. 312 Broadway, New York.

HENDERSON, SMYTH & CO. No. 102 Rue de Richelieu, Paris.

NEW YORK WIRE RAILING CO. The most extensive ORNAMENTAL IRON MANUFACTURERS in the UNITED STATES.

IRON RAILING. IRON VERANDAHS, IRON GATES, WIRE RAILING, WIRE FENCES, IRON FURNITURE, IRON BEDSTEADS, IRON WORK FOR STORES AND HOUSES, IRON CASTINGS, &c., &c.

Composite Iron Railing. A catalogue containing several hundred designs of Iron Work mailed to any part of the United States on receipt of four three-cent postage stamps.

HUTCHINSON & WICKERSHAM, 312 Broadway, New York.

COOPER'S NOVELS. ELEGANTLY ILLUSTRATED EDITION. VIGNETTES ON STEEL AND WOOD.

W. A. WYNNES & CO., Publishers, 377 Broadway, N. Y.

LIFE INSURANCE. BRITISH COMMERCIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF LONDON AND NEW YORK.

UNIFORM WITH "WOMAN'S THOUGHTS." Published by the American of Unmarried Life—A Companion to a Woman's Thoughts About Women.

JACOB ON Precious Metals. 2 volumes. The first volume is devoted to the treatment of an interesting theme as it is connected with the treatment of an interesting theme as it is connected with the treatment of an interesting theme.

CHECK-BOOKS, CHECK-BOOKS OF "THE BANK AND THE MERCHANT." A new and beautiful check, bound in one and two quarter books, just published and for sale by BLANCHARD & MOHRN, Corner of 11th and Park avenues.

BRADY'S COLLECTION OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS DEAD. An exhibition for a short time in BRADY'S GALLERY, 262 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE.

MADAME MENAGER, DE PARIS, F STREET. No. 465, two doors from 7th Street, dress-maker and milliner. The MEXICAN dress, the latest fashion, is now equalled in Washington. Careful attention given to the making of full dresses, head-dresses, and the general decoration of a lady's evening toilet. Ladies' under-dresses made up in silk and satin. Ladies' robes, with everything connected with this department, tastefully prepared. The houses department will consist entirely of the latest importations (not every season) from Paris. Whatever orders Madame Menager may receive will be promptly and carefully executed. Dec 24—11m

Portrait of ROBERT BURNS, engraved on copper, from Murray's original print, published in 1796. The artist who has given the poet a more perfect and more equalled in Washington. Careful attention given to the making of full dresses, head-dresses, and the general decoration of a lady's evening toilet. Ladies' under-dresses made up in silk and satin. Ladies' robes, with everything connected with this department, tastefully prepared. The houses department will consist entirely of the latest importations (not every season) from Paris. Whatever orders Madame Menager may receive will be promptly and carefully executed. Dec 24—11m

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