Daily American Telegraph.

VOL. I.—NO. 257. WASHINGTON: TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 20, 1852. PRICE 2 CENTS.

AMERICAN TELEGRAPH.

PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON,
(EXCEPT SUNDAY,)
On Pennsylvania avenue, near 4½ st.,
At Ten Cents a Week, or
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T. C. CONNOLLY, Publisher.

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oct 30—dtf

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WM. INGMAN, Cabinet-maker, Carpenter, and Printers' Furniture-maker, can be found by inquiring at NOELL & BOYD'S Venetian Blind Manufactory, Pennsylvania avenue, between 9th and 10th streets, south side. jy 31—6m

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PROSPECTUS OF THE AMERICAN TELEGRAPH:

A Newspaper Published Daily and Weekly at Washington City.

It is alleged by their advocates that the late measures, called a Compromise, should be a satisfactory and final adjustment of the slavery question. They cannot become so otherwise than by uniting and consolidating the South in support of their rights, and by harmonizing the conflicting sectional interests which have arrayed the North against the South.

The result of the late elections proves that the South are attached to the Union, and wish to harmonize with the North. To reconcile conflicting opinions, and secure concert and unanimity, there must be mutual confidence and good-will. This is impossible, unless the sections deal fairly and justly towards each other. The true end of government is to protect persons and property. In the South slaves are property, and the South demand the peaceable and quiet possession of such property. Their right to hold slaves as property is denied by the Abolitionists of the North, who, that they may more efficiently control public opinion in that section, have organized themselves into religious and political combinations. They act through the press, the pulpit, and the ballot-box. Such an organization in one section makes it indispensable that there should be a counter organization in the other; because, if not resisted by such counter organization, the inevitable consequence would be that the Northern organization would absorb and control the entire public sentiment, social, moral, religious, and political, of that section. The purpose of the Northern organization is to assail the rights and interests of the South: the purpose of the Southern organization should be to protect the interests thus assailed.

Late events prove that the North are so deeply interested in preserving their present political and commercial relations to the South, that a powerful, influential, and controlling party can be rallied in that section, who will unite with the South in defence of their rights, if the South will itself become united, and, when united, act in concert with that Northern party who give the strongest and most reliable guaranties to the South. Can this be done? We believe it can. To aid in doing it, the "American Telegraph" will take an active part in the next Presidential election. It will urge the South to unite upon the republican basis of '98, and to send, in good faith, a full and able representation to the Baltimore Convention, under a belief that the Democracy of the North will unite with them in the nomination of candidates entitled to their confidence and support; and who, if elected, will exert the power and influence of the federal government to protect the rights and property of the South.

That the people may act understandingly, we invite a full and candid investigation of the merits and qualifications of those who may be presented as candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency. As the nominations, if properly made, will receive the support of the republican party, this examination of the merits of candidates must be made before the meeting of the convention; and that the "Telegraph" may give more efficient aid in that discussion, we propose to issue a weekly super-royal sheet, in quarto, at the reduced price of *one dollar* per annum. This weekly paper will become a valuable book of reference, containing the facts and arguments relating to the Presidential election, and much other political and general intelligence, with a carefully-prepared index.

Postmasters and republican committees are requested to act as agents.

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Daily, on a super-royal sheet, at *five dollars* per annum.
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Railroad Convention.

We would call the attention of the public generally, and especially of all persons immediately interested in Railroads, to the Circular to the Presidents of Railroad Companies from the committee of the meeting held in this city on the 3d inst. We understand that the meeting adjourned until the first Tuesday in March, that the great convention to be held at New Orleans on the first Monday in January may act upon the proposed modification of the laws regulating mail contracts. It is hoped that the adjourned meeting will be fully attended, and that Railroad Companies who cannot conveniently send delegates will authorize their members of Congress or some one else to represent them.

[Circular.]

WASHINGTON CITY, Dec. 10, 1851.

SIR: By the enclosed proceedings of a meeting held in this city on the 3d instant, it was made the duty of the undersigned as a committee to correspond with the several railroad companies in the United States, and to report to an adjourned meeting, to be held in this city on the first Tuesday in March next, to consider a proposition to petition Congress for a change in the law regulating mail contracts, so as to enable the Post Office Department to deliver to railroad companies United States five per cent. coupon bonds, upon permanent contracts for carrying the mail, to an amount the interest upon which, at five per cent., would be equal to the payments to be made under existing laws; and they therefore respectfully call the attention of your company to the subject, and invite your co-operation. They greatly prefer that you should send delegates to the adjourned meeting; for the opinions expressed by a convention of practical men, representing so much wealth, enterprise, and intelligence, will command, as they will deserve, the confidence and respect of Congress, and thus promote the adoption of such details as may be agreed upon in convention; but if it should not be convenient to send delegates, we would ask your company to submit, through us, your wishes and opinions upon the main proposition, and upon the details connected therewith.

It is well known that many persons are opposed to internal improvements by the general government—some denying the power of Congress to make appropriations for that object; others fearing that the exercise of such power would lead to combinations resulting in partial and unjust legislation. It will be seen that the proposition under consideration is free from these objections. It asks no appropriation of money in aid of the construction of railroads. The contracts will be restricted to the service which the several railroad companies are in condition to execute when the payments are made.

It is true that the proposed modification of the laws regulating mail contracts will give similar payments *pro rata*, as new roads are made and as old ones are extended, and will so far increase the credit and resources of railroad companies. The same effect, although to a less extent, results from existing laws, and surely it cannot be urged as a valid objection to the proposed change that it will aid in the extension of the railroad system. We claim as a merit, that the proposed modification will aid in extending the system by giving greater value to railroad investments. Under existing laws contracts are made for four years, and the payments are continued, if not increased ad infinitum. Under the proposed modification the contracts will be made, giving the United States the perpetual use of railroads; and the rate of compensation is so reduced that, at the end of thirty-three years, the payments will cease, and the department will forever thereafter have the use of such railroad free of all charge.

It is objected that old routes may be superseded by new ones, and the present service so diminished as to render it inexpedient to make permanent contracts at the rates proposed. It has also been objected that railroads now in use may be discontinued, and that such railroad companies cannot protect the department from loss. We answer these objections by assuming that the contracts will be made by a board appointed for that purpose, and that no contracts will be given unless that board be fully satisfied that mail service adequate to the payments will be amply secured to the United States.

We desire to obtain the views of your company upon these and all other matters of detail, and respectfully ask of you to furnish us such statistics as will enable us to submit to the convention and to Congress a statement showing the comparative increase or diminution, as the case may be, of the mail service performed by your company—the past, and probable future increase of the weight of mails carried over the route of your road. And in this connexion we wish to learn what, in your opinion, will be the probable increased weight of the mails, if newspapers and periodicals are sent free of postage.

We wish you also to state what is the present current price of your shares, what rate of dividend does your company now pay, and what dividend could you pay under a contract such as we propose.

The committee venture to invite the co-operation of the railroad convention to be held in New Orleans on the first Monday of January, and that the newspapers in the South and West will urge upon all those who are interested in railroads or in the extension of the system a favorable consideration of the measure proposed, and the necessity of prompt and efficient co-operation. In behalf of the committee,

DUFF GREEN, Chairman.

Proceedings of a Meeting held in Washington City on the 3d December, 1851.

At a meeting of gentlemen, assembled, at the request of Gen. Duff Green, to consider a project for modifying the existing laws regulating the letting of mails to railroad corporations—

Gen. Morton, of Florida, was chosen president, and Albert Smith, of Maine, secretary.

The meeting was addressed by Gen. Green in explanation of his proposition; after which, a desultory conversation was held by all the gentlemen present, and the following resolution was adopted:

"*Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed, with authority to correspond with the several railroad companies in the United States upon the subject of an application to Congress for a change in the mode of compensation for transporting the mails on railroads, and to digest a plan, to be submitted to a meeting to be hereafter convened by the said committee."

Gen. Duff Green, Mr. Blunt, of Florida, Albert Smith, of Maine, Robert H. Gallaher and Col. Fontaine, of Virginia, were chosen said committee.

Voted, that the meeting be adjourned.

ALBERT SMITH, Secretary.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, Washington, December 31, 1851.

PROPOSALS, in writing, will be received at this office up to the 1st day of February next, inclusive, for making Pumps, Hydrants, Logs for conveying water, and for sinking Wells, including all necessary materials and workmanship, in digging, laying, fixing, and completing, in the best manner, and for keeping the same in perfect repair for constant use, for the term of two years, commencing on the 1st day of April, 1852, agreeably to the following specifications:

FOR WELLS.

Digging and walling wells, including materials and removing the dirt, per foot, lineal.
Cleaning out wells, each.
Sinking old wells deeper, per foot.
Taking out old walls, and putting in same, per foot.
Cases of eight feet length, per foot.
Cases of more than eight feet length, per foot.
Covering new wells, including materials.
Paving new wells, including brick and pump stone.
Opening old wells, and covering same with old materials, each.
Opening old wells, and covering same with new timber.

FOR PUMPS.

Keeping the pumps in repair, viz: stopping all leaks, &c., when it can be done without taking out the pump, each.
Taking out and putting in old pumps, each.
Making new joints in old logs.
New logs put in old pumps, each.
New boxes and spouts in old pumps, each.
New pumps, per foot.
Boxes and spouts for new pumps, each.
Copper chambers for pumps.

FOR HYDRANTS.

Keeping the hydrants in repair, viz: stopping all leaks, &c., all new valves and spouts, repairing the old ones, and repairing the old irons belonging to them, when it can be done without taking the hydrant out, each.
Taking out hydrants and putting in same, each.
New hydrants, per foot.
Spouts for hydrants, each.
Spout stones for hydrants, each.
Painting pumps and hydrants, each.

IRON WORK.

Handles, axles, plates, bands and repairs, per lb.
Spout and lower box-irons for pumps, each.
New joints to old spears.
New spout and valve irons for hydrants.

WALTER LENOX, Mayor.

☞ The Mayor reserves the privilege of dividing the city into two districts, and of giving the lowest competent bidder the choice of districts, and to the next lowest the other. [jan 3—td

LADIES' Magnificent Papier-Mache Fancy Boxes, beautiful Glass Fancy Boxes and small Toy Boxes; a full assortment of each, for sale by A. GRAY,
dec 22—tr Bookseller, 7th st., opp. Odd-Fellows' Hall.

SPLENDID Port-Folios, suitable for holiday presents, just opened by A. GRAY, Bookseller,
dec 22—tr 7th st., opp. Odd-Fellows' Hall.

AMERICAN TELEGRAPH.

[From Dickens's Household Words.]

Mr. Bull at Home in the Middle Ages.

We all know what delightful times the mediæval times were. We all know, on undeniable authority, (if we would only believe it and act accordingly,) that to restore the mediæval times is the only hopeful and thoroughly sensible thing left us to do in these degenerate days. Let us be middle-aged or perish!

We will present the reader with a sketch of Mr. Bull at Home, after the manner of the Middle Ages. Mr. Bull's home shall be a mediæval home; but our sketch of it shall not be, after the manner of the middle ages, false in drawing and extravagant in color. We will sketch correctly; coming fresh from the instruction of an able master, Mr. Hudson Turner, who has lately published an elaborate work on the "Domestic Architecture of the Middle Ages."

To begin with house-building. The Romans in Britain scattered a few villas here and there among our woods; but the Romans were very far from British in their habits. They were accustomed to the warm sky of the south; but, for all that, they were John Bullish, too, in one respect; what it was the custom to do, they thought could not be wrong. They built houses in Italy, of which the grand apartment had no roof, and had a rain-cistern in the middle of the floor; with little bed-rooms, very much like penitentiary cells, leading out of it. The grand apartment was the sitting-room, and study, and dining-room, and also kitchen: to do the Roman justice, however, we must add a bath to this ground-plan of his family mansion. It is very doubtful whether the Romans in Britain often allowed it to occur to them, that in our climate a parlor without a roof is open to wind, rain, fog, and other inconveniences. Sometimes, no doubt, a spirited proprietor roofed himself in; but we can imagine more than a few Romans of the true hereditary breed who scorned to let effeminacy lead them to the breach of a time-honored custom. Roof or no roof to his hall—*atrium* he called it—the ground-plan of a Roman's house remained the same, and it was always very solid in its structure. The remains of Roman towns and houses greatly edified the Saxons, whose taste ran for a less solid kind of house property. The Romans having made roads over the country, conveyed stones from distant quarries, to give strength to the massive buildings, which the Saxons called emphatically works, and honored with their verbal admiration by such names as the Ald-wark in York and the South-wark in London.

The Romans gradually went, the Saxons gradually came; and where the Saxon chieftain found a Roman house vacant, he would not object to become its tenant. Why should he? He had been accustomed, in his home by the Baltic, to a two-roomed establishment, of which one was the cooking, feasting, and promiscuous sleeping room; the other was the private council chamber, and the place in which he and his chief retainers were littered down at night, in a more select and exclusive manner. The old Roman house still left him a feasting-hall, and gave him increased private accommodation. The family mansion of a Saxon thane was built of the same wood that overspreads the country, and was thatched with reeds or straw, and roofed with wooden shingles. It was the usual two-roomed "compact residence;" there was the hall, with a fire lighted in the centre, and a hole in the roof above to let the smoke out—that is to say, when the owner had a spice of foppery about him; generally, the smoke found its way out as it pleased. It was wood smoke, of course.

Wood, and mud, and thatch, therefore, were the building materials of our forefathers, the Saxons; their chiefs may have added a few daubs of paint, by way of ornament, or a little gilding, and a few pinnacles. Moreover, in the latter centuries of Saxon dominion, stone buildings were raised, undoubtedly. Churchmen and traders out of England saw the world, and brought some wisdom home with them. The clergy cried for "churches in the Roman manner," and, being spoiled children, of course got them. Mansions, however, in the Roman manner, did not include chimneys. In 1368, a Prince of Padua visiting Rome, took with him masons, who built a chimney in the inn at which he stopped, "because," says Muratori, "in the city of Rome they did not then use chimneys; and all lighted the fire in the middle of the house, on the floor." Chimneys, probably, were understood in principle, centuries before custom gave way, and permitted them to be introduced into common practice. For Saxon fortresses, they probably were not worth much; the fortresses of England in those times were supplied by Nature—fens and forests. Alfred retired for protection to the woods and marshes of Somersetshire; and the last stand of the Saxons against the Normans was made among the fens of Ely.

The Normans, prevailing, introduced their style of house, in which the accommodation still consisted of a great hall and a single bed-chamber. They used more stone, and paid more attention to the Roman manner, than the Saxons had done. Still, however, wood and mud clay were employed by the vast majority of house-builders: still, the carpenter might answer, as he answered in the colloquy of Ælfric, "that he made houses—and bowls." To the end of the middle ages, the great bulk of the house property in England was of this character. We talk glibly, in these present times, of the slight manner in which houses are run up in London. In the most flourishing period of these dear Middle Ages, it was the duty of a London alderman to be provided with a hook and chain, that he might be ready to pull down any house that sinned against existing regulations.

Travelling over the twelfth century, and a step farther, over the days of of Cœur de Lion, and John, and Magna Charta, we do not find that there was much improvement in the houses of the people. Let us see what sort of house the King inhabited. It will help us to test the amount of comfort enjoyed by Mr. Bull.

The King's houses at Kennington, Woodstock, Portsmouth, and Southampton, were all built after one fashion. There was the great hall, with a high-pitched roof and a very muddy floor littered with rushes. The house had a door large enough for wagons to pass through, and window-holes unglazed, with badly-fitting wooden shutters; these windows being placed high, that the wind rushing through them might be kept as near the ceiling as possible. The walls were whitewashed, and the great hall, altogether, very much resembled a large barn. Where the hall was too broad for a roof to cover it, in a single span, pillars were raised of wood or stone; so halls, sometimes, were divided into three aisles, like a church. Out of the hall, a door at one end led into a small stone chamber on the same floor—the cellar. At any rate (say you) they kept a cellar. Yes, and they put into it a terrible quantity of *vin ordinaire*, supplied by the wine-merchants of Bordeaux. Over the stone cellar was built a wooden chamber, also small, which was called the "solar." This was the royal sanctum, the loft in which his Majesty reposed. A British housemaid of this age would refuse to sleep in such a place. There was a clay floor, a window with a wooden shutter that let in the wind through all its chinks, (an extra charge was made to his Majesty, at Kennington, "for making the windows shut better than usual,") and there was a clumsy lath-and-plaster cone projecting from one wall, to serve the purpose of a chimney. To complete the picture of the royal cabinet at this period, we may as well put in the furniture. There were sometimes hangings on the wall. There was a bed; that is to say, there was a bench fixed in the ground, upon which were placed a mattress and bolster of rich stuff; so that his Majesty's sleeping accommodation may be likened, very fairly, to that sort of bed which is, now and then, in our own day, improvised by housewives for a supernumerary male guest on the sofa. In addition to this bed, the King's chamber contained also a chair, with its legs rammed into the ground—a moveable chair being a special luxury, occasionally ordered. Nothing else was contained in the King's apartment, except his box, in which he kept his clothes. This bedroom for a single gentleman had to be shared by the Queen; and it was not only a bed-room by night, but it was a parlor by day, when their Majesties had a desire for privacy, or when any state business of a private nature had to be transacted. In 1287, Edward the First and Queen Eleanor were sitting on their bedside, attended by the ladies of the court, when they narrowly escaped death by lightning.

The solar, generally, was the only portion of the building not on the ground-floor; having been originally elevated probably out of a desire, on some King's part, to escape ague and rheumatism. It was reached by stairs from the hall, or, perhaps oftener, by an external staircase; in which last case his Majesty had to go out of doors to climb into his cockloft. These external staircases frequently were covered. Two other little chambers, a larder and a sewery, opened by doors into the great hall. In the sewery were kept household stores, and so forth. What a larder is, we know. But in the great days of feasting, was there not a kitchen? Why, sometimes there was a door which led from a temporary shed or lean-to, on the outer wall; or there were two or three wooden enclosures, without roofs, in the court yard; or, quite as frequently, the cooking took place in the court-yard in the open air. There were two courts, with pigs and fowls in one of them: and a fence or wall outside all, with a moat Posts and chains were often fixed round the hall porch, to keep out cattle. We must add the idea of a separate shed, used as a chapel.

So lived the King, and so lived English Gentlemen, in the days of Magna Charta. Some houses, however, were at that time raised; being the habitable part, all placed on the second story, and approached by a staircase, generally external. The hall furniture was very simple, consisting of a long table, sometimes of boards laid upon tressels, with the legs rammed well into the ground, and forms fixed into the ground in the same manner—now and then having backs. The floor was covered with dry rushes in the winter, and with green fodder in the summer. The lower part of the hall, below the dais, sloppy enough, was often called "The marsh." In this hall, guests and domestics of both sexes slept upon the forms, or upon the fodder. And for centuries the practice continued, after the itinerant minstrels and romancers had well stocked themselves with ribald tales, based on the results of this arrangement.

In towns, the desire which men had to reside within the protection of their walls made space valuable, and led to the frequent erection of second stories. The houses were here and there of stone, but, in the great majority of cases, of wood and mud clay, thatched, perhaps plastered—certainly whitewashed, both inside and out. It was considered "only proper," as a precaution against fire, "that before every house there should be a tub full of water."

We are now in the good time of the Edwards; to which Harrison, the author of a "Description of Brittaine," written in Queen Elizabeth's days, looked back with much regret, as the real good old times of *his* time. At the time of the coronation of Edward the First, there were two halls in Westminster, a greater and a less. But, furthermore, on that occasion, all the vacant ground within the enclosure of the palace at Westminster was entirely covered with buildings. Several halls were raised on the south side of the old palace, in which "tables, firmly fixed in the ground, were set up, whereon the magnates, and princes, and nobles were to be feasted on the day of the coronation, and during fifteen days thereafter." All, poor and rich, who came to the solemnity, were to be welcome to the feast. "And innumerable kitchens, also, were built within the said enclosure, for the preparation of viands against the same solemnity. And lest those kitchens should not be sufficient, there were numberless leaden caldrons placed outside them, for the cooking of meats. And it is to be remembered, that the great kitchen, in which fowls and other things were to be cooked, was wholly uncovered at the top, so that all manner of smoke might escape. No one can describe the other utensils necessary for the sustentation of so great a court: no one can tell the number of barrels of wine which were prepared for it." Yes, certainly, the antiquary can. There were three hundred barrels of *vin ordinaire*, of which one hundred and sixteen were emptied on the coronation day. They cost six hundred and forty-three pounds, fifteen shillings, and fourpence; which sum you must multiply by fifteen to bring it to the value of money at the present day. A shilling in the days of the Edwards corresponds to fifteen shillings in the days of Victoria.

The kitchens, as we have said, were merely sheds. In the seventeenth year of Henry the Third, the royal kitchens at Oxford were blown down by a strong wind. A large shed, to contain wood for the kitchen fires and for any other fire that might be made, was of course necessary. The Londoners, at first, living in little whitewashed boxes, made a strong objection to the use of sea-coal, on account of its being impossible to keep their walls white in the smoke it made.

To the King's houses there were now attached "wardrobes:" a set of windy lofts or store-rooms, in which were kept the heavy cloths and stuffs for the apparel of the household. Here, the King's tailors worked. The court attendants being all clothed at the King's expense, he was a wholesale purchaser of drapers' goods; and, at that period, such quantities as he required of fur and cloth could be had only at the great periodical fairs. Hence the necessity of wardrobes, in which also were stored, by the by, almonds, sugar, spice, and all things nice which came under the title of stomatica.

In the year 1245, the predecessor of Edward the First had only one glass cup, which Guy de Roussillon had given to him. He sent it to Edward of Westminster, a famous goldsmith in his day, with orders to take off the glass foot, and to mount it on a foot of silver gilt; to make a handle to it answering to the foot; to surround it with silver-gilt hoops; and, having done this with all haste, to present it in his name to the Queen. Glass was first applied to windows in the churches and the monasteries; and although the Edwards and some of their chief nobles introduced glass into their own windows also, they did so sparingly, using it as so rare a luxury, that, in the best of palaces, there was but a glass window here and there, the other windows having wooden lattices or wooden shutters. The glass in a man's windows was a portion of his personal estate.

The Romans made good glass, and knew the use of it in windows. Brittle as glass is, it stood firm under the blows that crushed the Roman empire; and, from the beginning of the middle ages, the island of Murano, near Venice, was celebrated for its works in this material. In Italy, church windows were glazed in the seventh century. The art spread into France and Germany long before England practiced it. It used to be obtained by us, in England, from the Flemings, in exchange for wool; some came from Normandy; that being all, or chiefly, window glass; the drinking glasses were made in Venice, after patterns sent out by the English dealers. After the age of the Edwards, in 1386, glass was so scarce, that, to mend the broken windows in a chapel at Stamford, the King issued his writ to one Nicholas Hoppewell, to take as much glass as he could find, or might be needful for his purpose, from the counties of Norfolk, Northampton, Leicester, and Lincoln. Yet, though scarce, glass was not very dear; and from this fact we fairly may deduce, that it was not, on the whole, much cared about. Even in the reign of Edward the First, it cost but three-pence-halfpenny a foot, including the expense of glazing; three-pence-halfpenny being, it is remembered, equal to about four shillings and fourpence of our modern currency.

[TO BE CONCLUDED TO-MORROW.]

[Communicated.]

Flogging in the Navy.

To the Editor of the American Telegraph:

DEAR SIR: Permit me, through your paper, to say that I greatly admired the generous conduct of Commodore Stockton while he was a commandant in our navy; and I make my most profound acknowledgments to him for his noble defence of the rights of American seamen recently made in the Senate of the United States. I declare, in all sincerity, that I owe him a great debt, and I wish to say so before all my countrymen.

Tyranny is always execrable; but tyranny in the public service of a great and free people is a gratuitous and outrageous kind of wickedness, deserving the loudest reprobation. It is intolerable that, in the nineteenth century, freemen of America, who on shore vote for our Chief Magistrate, should on shipboard be subjected to the passions of one man, and, without offence proven before a competent tribunal, or without even the form of trial, be tied up, lashed and lacerated, until the recital of the scene makes the heart of a humane man bleed.

Respecting Mr. Stockton's position in the Senate, if I should borrow the language of personal address, I would say to him, as Mordecai to Queen Esther, "Who knoweth but thou hast come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" I am glad that he is not the man to be flattered, intimidated, or driven to despair in a righteous cause. I trust—yea, I know—that he will hold on and yield nothing. The country will honor the man that will do his duty towards the poor sailor.

I love a sailor. I never asked a sailor to do me a favor that he did not do it. I have even heard of his giving a part of his hard earnings to pay the bills and cover the dishonor of the very officer who had at sea maltreated him. But whether he is generous or selfish, it is an outrage not to be endured to deliver him over to the tormentors without witness, judge, jury, counsel, or defence.

Though I am a clergyman, I am an American citizen, and the son of parents who taught me to put God *first* in my affections, and my country *second*. I love this land. I love it all. I honor the great men of America; but I do not despise her poor; nay, I honor the poorest man in this nation. Poor men have as nice sensibilities as rich men; and I bless God that there is one man in the Senate who has shown that he so believes. He can well afford to say what he has said. In exposing himself to obloquy and false accusation, he has shown that he does not despise the cause of the poor. I trust many Senators think as he thinks. I am free to say that, with my present views, I never will vote for any man for any office if I know that he favors the lashing of freeborn American citizens at the will of one man, whether that man be an officer in the army or navy.

Mr. Editor, I felt constrained to say thus much. I wish, before Heaven and earth, to bid God-speed to the man who has shown an unflinching purpose to hold steady the ægis of the law between the whip and the muscles and nerves of American sailors. I am but one man, and a very obscure one, too; but I know something of public sentiment in this country. I have uttered in this letter, I firmly believe, the sentiments of millions.

I never spoke a word to Captain Stockton in my life. I should not know him, nor he me, if we were to meet. But I rejoice that he will never sit silent and see laws passed which degrade his countrymen below the brute.

Very respectfully, yours,
WM. S. PLUMER.

BALTIMORE, January 17, 1852.

A New Test.

In the election of a President of the Common Council yesterday, a new test was applied, which is worthy of being noticed. Our neighbor Riddle, of the "Journal," who represents the First Ward in that branch, was a candidate for presiding officer, and, owing to the strange course recently pursued by his paper in regard to Gov. Kossuth, many of his old personal and political friends determined that they would not vote for him. Accordingly it was agreed to run Thomas M. Marshall (Whig) as the *Kossuth candidate for President*, and he was elected by a large majority. [*Pittsburg Post*, 17th.

Dr. Cogswell, the Superintendent of the Astor Library, has returned from his foreign tour, after having purchased 30,000 volumes of the most rare and valuable works.