THE TRIBUNE.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1846.

☞ **Whig General Committee.**—A regular meeting of this Committee will be held on TUESDAY Evening, January 20, at 7 o'clock, at the Broadway House. By order,
J. PHILLIPS PHŒNIX, Chairman,
ABRAHAM R. LAWRENCE, Vice-Ch'n.
JAMES H. PINKNEY, CHARLES CHAMBERLAIN, } Secretaries. j19 2t

OUTSIDE—*First Page*—Philharmonic Concert; Mike Walsh; Temperance Anecdotes; The Excelsior; The Effects of Contamination; Country Life; China; Lawyers' Fees; The Wild Cattle of Texas; German Love; Miscellaneous Items. *Fourth Page*—The Seasons; The Goddess of Poverty; Sales of Stocks; Marine News.

Legal Reform—The Convention.

The following article is from the pen of one of the soundest and most respected Lawyers in our State, yet it speaks as boldly and forcibly in favor of a Radical Reform in our Judicial institutes as any man out of the Profession. This affords us an opportunity to say that our correspondent who, a few days since, objected to Ansel Bascom as a law-reformer on the ground that he is a *lawyer*, seems to us to cherish a very narrow and mischievous prejudice. How can the Laws be properly reformed without the aid and counsel of those who thoroughly *understand* the laws? For our own part, though ardently favorable to Judicial and Legal Reform, we seldom attempt to amplify thereon because of our imperfect acquaintance with the subject. Mr. Bascom we know to be a thoroughly honest and earnest Reformer (although a Lawyer,) and there are hundreds like him in the profession, some of whom we hope will be elected to the Convention, there to aid in reforming our Legal System. It is a most mistaken though common supposition that Lawyers are all adverse to Reform, or even that they profit by the abuses and defects of the present system. A few of them may do so; but the better class are injured and aggrieved by whatever makes Justice dear, uncertain and difficult of attainment. A conscientious lawyer (and there are very many such) loathes the necessity which drags him through successive years to Albany, to Utica, and perhaps to Rochester in prosecuting a just claim or defending his client against an unjust one. Knavish, incompetent pettifoggers may be glad of any business which will enable them to charge heavy bills of costs; but the Bar of our State comprises many very different men from these. Thus the bill just introduced by Hon. JOSHUA A. SPENCER in our Senate (to which his election will prove something more and better than a mere Party triumph) embodies the excellent provision that Trials in our Courts may be had without a Jury by consent of the parties. This will prove an immense saving of the time of Courts, Jurors, and all hands. We wish it had gone a little farther, and proposed that a Jury shall be empanelled only when one of the parties shall request it. The Trial by Jury is one of the most precious rights of the Citizen; but there is no need of resorting to it—no sense in such resort—when both parties are perfectly willing to abide the verdict of the Court. Lawyers often spin out the 'linked sweetness' of their harangues in the hope of touching the sympathies of the Jury, when they would be far briefer if their only appeal was directed to the understanding of the Judge. Very often, the time of the Jurors wasted in trying a perfectly simple case is worth more than the sum in controversy. We trust Mr. Spencer will press his proposition, and will follow it by other propositions, where his extensive practice and ripe experience have indicated the practicability of Reforms. Let the People realize the truth that there are as earnest friends of Judicial melioration in the Legal Profession as any where else. We should regret to see the Convention made up mainly of Lawyers or of any other class or vocation; but we should equally regret their rigorous exclusion, and should apprehend that a Legal Reform effected without the aid of Legal Experience and Science would prove of doubtful utility. But hear our Correspondent:

To the Editor of The Tribune:

The commendable interest your widely circulating Journal takes in constitutional reform induces me to submit for your consideration a few brief remarks on this important subject.

It is a law of human nature that the more any faculty is exercised the stronger it becomes. The greater the facility therefore for such exercise the more rapid will be its growth. Hence Napoleon's brilliant military career made war the ruling passion of his time. It was peace and the occupations of peace that allayed this passion.

Those entrusted with the formation of Government should reflect deeply upon these principles.—For political constitutions ought to harmonise with the human constitution. A thorough knowledge of the latter is therefore highly requisite for a skillful construction of the former. Tendencies to violence should be avoided, for the more the passions are aroused the stronger they grow. The obvious tendency of all human laws should be to restrain the animal propensities and strengthen the moral sentiments.

In view of these principles, permit me to make a suggestion in relation to judicial reform.

Under a pretence of obtaining speedy justice our judicial system has been from time to time greatly enlarged. Still we now find ourselves farther than ever from this desirable object. The truth is that the passion for litigation has kept pace with the extension of the system. Its administration is made the most honorable and profitable employment, and the present judicial arrangement seems admirably adapted to inspire the community with a litigious spirit. Such gigantic and imposing legal facilities tend more and more to increase the number of litigants and to make litigation the predominating passion, and with many the main business of their lives.

The remedy proposed is to cut down the system to the smallest possible dimensions, and simplify it in all its details. Instead therefore of increasing, to lessen the number of the courts, for the more terms held in the several counties the greater would be the calendar of causes at each court. A general discussion of the various plans by which this reform could best be accomplished would lengthen this communication beyond a readable article. All that now is intended therefore is to suggest the bases of a judicial improvement.

Manifold are the evils of litigation, and with us it is fast becoming an absorbing passion. It engenders bad feelings, keeps the community in a perpetual state of warfare, and is a fruitful source of crime. The more the people are engaged in it the more the desire increases for this kind of strife and its attendant excitement. Their minds should therefore be as much as possible turned from it. The system is a dead weight on the body politic, and its enormous expense is maintained by the hard labor of millions. Hence it should be made as economical as possible. This great subject opens a vast field for investigation, involving human progress and the best welfare of the people. My experience and reflection has led to the belief that a radical change ought to be made in our judicial system upon the principles suggested. B.

FRAUD ON THE PRESS AND ON THE PUBLIC.—The tricks performed by the New-York Pilots for the benefit of the *Herald* are such as cannot fail to subject them to the censure of all honorable men. We learn that on Saturday the Pilot boat New-York boarded the ship Liberty, Capt. Norton, at sea, and took from the ship her letter bag, with the promise to deliver the same to her consignee, Mr. J. W. Phillips; but, instead of delivering the letter bag, the Pilot delivered on Sunday, at about 3 P. M., a letter only from Capt. Norton, stating that he had just sent up the bag. Mr. Phillips applied at the Herald office, and at a place in Rosevelt-street, where he was informed the owner of the Pilot Boat lived, but he could get no information as to the bag.

On Moday morning a Mr. Cisto, belonging to the Pilot Boat, brought to the office of the Consignee the letter bag, with all its contents, having kept the same from the owners from Sunday to Monday, thus depriving the owners of their letters, and all the newspaper offices, except the Herald, of their packages. The bag, we understand, contained a letter for the President of the United States and a dispatch for the Secretary of State, beside which there were 200 letters for merchants and others. This was a scandalous fraud on the newspaper press and the public, and it ought to excite universal indignation. The Pilots may be profited by tricks like this, but we doubt it.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.—That part of the Message of the Governor of Massachusetts recommending the abolition of Capital Punishment in all cases except for murder in the first degree, has been referred to a joint special committee, on the part of the House, composed, it is understood, of members favorable to the recommendation of the Governor.

☞ We have received the third number of 'The Argus,' a semi-weekly journal devoted to literatere and politics and published by John Stewart at Kingston, Canada West.

General Incorporation.

That laws should, so far as possible, be general and not special in their character, all men agree; the difficulty lies in reducing the principle to practice. For years the business of Incorporating Companies to construct this or that public work or pursue some branch of business has engrossed a good share of the time of our successive Legislatures. Why should this continue? Nobody desires it—all know it to be wrong. Yet the old mischief drags on; and the People are called to pay several thousands of dollars per annum for time spent in incorporating private companies to pursue legitimate and laudable enterprises or avocations.

And this is not the worst aspect of the matter. A gross denial of justice often results from this patchwork legislation. For instance: The Skaneateles Community is a little band of ultraists who have undertaken a settlement in Onondaga Co. on the principle of Common Property. They have bought a large farm and partly paid for it, giving a mortgage for the balance due. But our existing laws do not allow them to hold their property as a Community, so that they lie at the mercy of every unprincipled sharper who can get possession of any part of their goods, and have thus lost a considerable portion of their slender means—at one time by a great sacrifice narrowly escaping utter ruin. They laid their case before the last Legislature and asked a charter to enable them to hold and protect their property, but the cry of 'Infidel, 'Fanny Wright,' &c. was raised against them, and their prayer was rejected. This winter they are asking again, at much expense and trouble, and will very likely encounter a similar repulse. Meantime they are compelled to pay taxes to a Government which practically denies them rights.

Now all they ask ought to be given them by the general laws of the State. Where a company asks the interposition of the State sovereignty to give them the privilege of taking private property which is not its own at a valuation, it is right to require an express act of legislation in its behalf. But the Skaneateles folks do not ask to be empowered to take other men's property—they only desire the privilege of holding their own in such way as they deem most conducive to their own welfare and the good of mankind—and this right the laws of our State unjustly deny them. Who can uphold such denial?

We have heard that Mr. TILDEN of our City meditates the introduction of a bill calculated to prove the basis of a comprehensive and beneficent General Law of Incorporation, and we hope he will do so. If not, we trust some other Member will do so at an early day. With a Senate containing such men as J. A. SPENCER and S. YOUNG—with an Assembly wherein, to say nothing of the dominant party, there are in the ranks of the minority several men fully competent to originate a General Incorporation Act which shall be thoroughly guarded against frauds and yet obviate the necessity for special acts of incorporation, we trust the Session will not pass without witnessing the passage of such an act. We call upon the eminent Jurists in either House to give early and earnest heed to this subject. There will be hardly another such opportunity for accomplishing a general and lasting good.

The Latest Mare's-Nest.

From the Express of last evening.

IMPORTANT, IF TRUE, FROM ALBANY.—Passengers from Albany report that the Whig members of the Legislature, or some of them, have agreed to introduce resolutions for "*the whole of Oregon or none*" If we understand the projected movement aright, and if are rightly informed, the intention is to *under-bid* and *under demagogue* Loco-Focoism, and to steal its thunder from it, according to the new ideas that have sprung up of late in Albany—that the way to put down a bad party is to appear *worse* than that party is,—that the way to get the people's votes is to outlie the lies of the Loco Foco leaders! We need not say we protest against and we abhor this new mode of electioneering. When we second it we will join the party with which it has its natural affinities, and become Loco-Foco in grain, as well as in profession.

But we reserve the proper remarks till we are better informed. We do dot know what the Whigs of the interior may have determined to submit to in the way of Albany dictation, but for the Whigs of this section of the State we speak, when we say such action or any warlike, juggling, demagoguing action on the part of the Whigs of the Legislature, is calculated to shake the party here to its very centre. Let New York stand in the position of Whigs in other parts of the Union, and their ascendancy will be maintained. It is by stooping to the passions of the moment, that we have fallen.

☞ The *Express* has such a peculiar way of 'backing its friends' that we rather rejoice, on the whole, that we are not of the number. We are not apt to be mealy-mouthed in speaking of our opponents, yet we rarely judge the Loco-Focos so harshly as the Whigs of our Legislature are here judged by the Express. On the mere gossip of some anonymous caves-dropper at a meeting of Whig Members, they are charged with the most unprincipled and wicked conduct and with abject servility to some irresponsible dictation! Where is the warrant for this?

We employ no caves droppers, and know nothing whatever of the confidential deliberations and decisions of the Whig Members of our Legislature. But we know many of THE MEN, however, and we are sure they *cannot* have been guilty of the conduct nor actuated by the motives here imputed to them. Very possibly, they have resolved to support the Government of their Country in the assertion and maintenance, by all proper and necessary means, of our National Rights in Oregon; but we confidently affirm that they have *not* asserted the right of this Country to '*the whole* of Oregon,' nor proposed to introduce any resolutions insisting on '*the whole or none*.' Time will show who is right in the premises, and whether the aspersions of the Express are not utterly false both with regard to the conclusions of our Whig Legislators and their 'intentions' in propounding them.

—As to the Whig party here being 'shaken to its centre' by any acts of our Legislators, we apprehend that the Whigs of the interior are a good deal oftener 'shaken' by the Native and similar tantrums of a part of our City Whigs than we are by what is done in the Counties which send Whigs to the Legislature. Our shakings, for the last ten years, have rarely had their origin above the Highlands.

New Publications.

☞ "A true description of the LAKE SUPERIOR COUNTRY; Its Rivers, Coasts, Bays, Harbors, Islands and Commerce, with Bayfield's Chart; Also, A Minute Account of the COPPER MINES and Working Companies,—accompanied by a Map of the Mineral Region, showing by their No. and Places all the different Locations, and containing a Concise Mode of Assaying, Treating, Smelting, and Refining Copper Ores: By JOHN R. ST. JOHN," has just been issued by Wm. H. Graham, 158 Nassau-st. We have read two-thirds of this work carefully, and believe it the best now attainable on the subject it illustrates. The narrative is rapid, but clear, though lacking all pretension to finish or Literary excellence—even grammar and spelling have been frequently left awry in the hot haste of bringing out the book. Yet its descriptions of the whole Southern coast of Lake Superior and the country adjacent to it, of the Mining District, Mining Operations, &c. &c. are good, while the two Maps therewith given are worth, to every one who is interested in the Copper region, more than the price of the book. We gave a fuller account with extracts some days since, and have some farther extracts to give when we can find room for them. The author appears to have visited Lake Superior determined to give an honest and candid account of what he should find there, and he has done it.

☞ THE NEW CLERK'S ASSISTANT, or Book of Practical Forms, comprising Numerous Precedents and Forms for ordinary Business Transactions, &c. &c. for the use of County and Town Officers, Merchants, Professional Men, &c. by JOHN S. JENKINS, Counselor at Law, is a large 12mo. of 568 pages, (price $1.50,) just published by J. C. Derby, Auburn, and M. H. Newman, 199 Broadway. Without time to examine it carefully, we believe it a good work of its kind, and calculated to meet the wants of that large class who are compelled to use legal forms without having time thoroughly to study law. It is cheap also—as law-books are apt not to be.

☞ THE MORNING EXPRESS is a neat and spirited Whig Daily of moderate size just commenced at Buffalo by A. M. Clapp & Co. It looks healthful, and gives promise of longevity.

☞ SNOWDON: A Novel: By THEO. HOOK, Author of 'Sayings and Doings,' 'Fathers and Sons,' &c. is just issued by E. Ferrett & Co. 237 Broadway, (25 cents.) If it be not rich and racy, it is unlike any thing of Hook's we ever read.

☞ The Baltimore Visitor publishes the speech of Cassius M. Clay at the Tabernacle in this City.

Cassius M. Clay and the Members of our State Legislature.

During the recent visit of CASSIUS M. CLAY to our City, a letter of invitation to Albany was drawn up in that City and hastily submitted for their signatures to a part of the Members of our State Legislature and a few other gentlemen who happened to be collected there from different parts of the State. We believe every Whig gladly availed himself of the privilege of signing, with a considerable number of the opposite party. But for the necessity (in order to reach MR. CLAY in this City) of despatching the letter on the evening of its preparation, and before opportunity had been afforded for a more general signing, the invitation would have been given by a majority of the Members, of whom *fifty-eight* are among the signers below. The letter reached this City after MR. CLAY's departure, which will account for the delay of the answer.

LETTER TO MR. CLAY.

Delavan House, ALBANY, Jan. 12th, 1846.

CASSIUS M. CLAY, ESQ.—*Dear Sir*: We are gratified to learn that you have consented to address the citizens of New-York on the subject of Slavery. Many persons from various parts of this State are now in this City attending the sittings of the Legislature and of the Supreme Court. Born and educated as you have been in a Slave-holding State, and by your position recently placed in trying and peculiar circumstances, we cannot doubt but the citizens and strangers here of all parties would be glad to hear you in relation to an institution affecting so deeply, for weal or woe, all portions of our common Country.

If consistent with your engagements, will you not consent to visit this city at an early day and deliver a public address. We think we may safely assure you of a cordial reception and of a large audience.

If you will consent to this, have the goodness to address a line to one of us at this place, that the necessary arrangements may be made.

With the highest respect, we are, dear Sir,
Your obedient servants,

William C. Bloss,	Ira Harris,	Arden Woodruff,
E. W. Chester,	L. I. Tefft,	N. Coe,
John Miller,	H. Howk,	A. W. Young,
H. S. Wallridge,	M. L. Angle,	J. G. Collins,
Jas. M. Foster,	J. T. Bush,	Henry Tibbats,
James C. Brown,	D. G. Porrance,	Levi Pitts,
D. Kingman,	W. S. Fullerton,	Valorus Lake,
M. Johnson,	Elisha Ward,	E. L. Phillips,
S. B. Gardiner,	James Wood,	G. Searl,
Thos. Smith,	Elnathan Haxtan,	O. F. Marshall,
Aaron Long,	W. S. Sherwood,	W. C. Rogers,
Cha'cy Boughton,	C. D. Barton,	Wm. I. Cornwell,
N. K. Hall,	Mitchell Sanford,	G. T. Pierce,
Jas. R. Thompson,	L. S. Viele,	M. Burnell,
J. T. Rathbun,	Weare C. Little,	D. W. Dean,
A. Bennett,	L. Clark,	E. Cost,
A. G. Chatfield,	Benj. F. Cooper,	Chauncey C. Cook,
Heman Blodgett,	Nelson J. Beach,	W. L. Benedict,
W. E. Heermance,	Ebenez'r Blakeley,	Geo. W. Wolcott,
Wm. G. Sands,	E. A. Rice,	G. O. Chase,
A. Worden,	J. M. Ward.	

MR. CLAY'S ANSWER.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 15, 1846.

GENTLEMEN—I have received, since my arrival here, your highly flattering letter, inviting me to address you and other distinguished Americans in Albany.

The purpose I had in view on leaving home has been accomplished, and many reasons of a private nature urge my return to Kentucky, where I hope also to be best able to perform those duties which every citizen owes his own State first and the General Government next.

I have before me now, in addition to your invitation, requests from many of the most distinguished men of Boston, of Brooklyn, of New-Haven, and other places in the Free States, and from Wilmington and Baltimore in the Slave States, for me to address them also, so that as there seems to be no limit to these flattering evidences of public confidence and sympathy, I must break away at once.

This request on the part of sixty-two American citizens so distinguished, encourages me to hope that the true issue between Liberty and Slavery is beginning to be understood and felt—that Slavery is indeed "an institution affecting deeply, for weal or for woe, all portions of our common country."

If Labor be the basis of the rights of property, Slavery violated that law.

If Justice, and Virtue, and Intelligence are the foundations of permanent Liberty, Slavery saps them!

If Constitutional Republicanism be the only guaranty of National Freedom, Slavery has utterly trampled it under foot!

If they are not Freemen who tamely submit to the loss of one right, then are the American people Slaves!

This is the doctrine of '76 and the law of common sense.

When Northern citizens are imprisoned and *habeas corpus* denied, and Northern embassadors ignominiously driven away from seeking redress under the National judicature;

When Northern citizens are torn from their own once free soil and hurried by force into Southern dungeons!

When Northern citizens are hung in the South without a trial by a Jury of their peers, and without having violated any law, for the freedom of speech;

When Northern blood and Northern treasure are expended for the acquisition of Slave territory destined to increase the capabilities of oppression;

When Slave-Texas has about four representatives to one among the Free—thus trampling under foot the revolutionary doctrine that taxation and representation should be coördinate;

Who shall be so base as to ask any more in servile tones, "What has the North to do with Slavery?"

The Liberty of the Press in the South is gone to-day! Will it live in the North to-morrow?

By Heavens, this is no longer a question about Africans—whether they be beasts or men?—a debate about maudlin philanthropy!—*but whether we, the eighteen millions of white men of these States, shall be Freemen or Slaves!*

Know, Americans, that the sword and the chain enter not the flesh till the spirit—ay, the spirit—of a people is dead!

Heaven help us to feel, to see, to dare—now—to-day—"Awake, arise, or be forever fallen!"

Pardon the warmth of my language, for I and mine are in chains, and silence is a crime! My constitutional rights are borne down by violence and perverted judicial decision, and remembering that we were once free, we must vindicate them, or die!

I have the honor to be,
Your obedient servant, C. M. CLAY.

To Messrs. *Wm. C. Bloss, E. W. Chester, J. Miller, &c.*

Destructive Fire in Philadelphia.

We learn from the Philadelphia Ledger that, on Sunday evening about 8 o'clock, a fire broke out in the store of Messrs. Lewis & Stirling, South Wharves, between Chesnut and Walnut sts. It raged furiously, and soon caught to the store adjoining, occupied by S. Morris Waln & Co. The sparks and flakes of fire were carried by the wind, (which was blowing fresh from the Westward,) far into the river, and it became necessary to warp the new packet ship Wyoming from her berth, nearly abreast of the fire, to the pier of the Camden and Amboy Railroad Company, below Walnut-st.

The scene presented as she glided gracefully out into the stream, lit up by the flames of the burning stores and the myriads of sparks falling into it, was grand in the extreme.

It soon became evident that the flames could not be confined to the two stores mentioned above, and the one on the south, occupied by A. H. Hinckle, was soon enveloped in flames, despite the exertions of the firemen, who labored with their accustomed energy and perseverence. While the flames were spreading to the South, they also caught to the store of Messrs. Penrose & Burton, adjoining that of S. Morris Waln & Co. on the North.

The store of A. H. Hinckle & Co. ship chandlers, immediately below that of Lewis & Sterling, has been preserved by the firemen with but little injury. To the North, however, the fire has extended, and from Penrose & Burton's store has caught to that above, the lower story of which was occupied by E. Lincoln & Co. and the upper stories by Peel, Stevens & Co. sail-makers.—As Ton alley separates the latter from the Bath Coffee House of the Messrs. McMakin, it is probable that the firemen will be able to fix that as a limit to the ravages of the flames.

The firms of Penrose & Burton, E. Lincoln & Co. and Peel, Stevens & Co. were enabled to save their books and papers, and the sails in the lofts of the latter were near at hand carried to a place of safety. The extreme cold causing the water to freeze on the galleries of the engines and thereby impeding their operation, as well as the scarcity of water, from no plugs being placed along the wharves, were seriously felt by the firemen. It is probable that much less damage would have ensued if there had been a plentiful supply of water.

Twelve o'clock.—The fire is still raging, but is confined to the stores of Penrose & Burton and E. Lincoln & Co. A vast amount of water is being thrown upon these buildings by means of side streams from the engines. Several of them have become useless by being frozen up, and there are now none playing directly upon it. The firemen are completely fagged out, and should the wind change, much farther damage will be caused from their inability to man the engines.

A member of the Friendship a few minutes since fell through a trap in Penrose & Burton's store, and was carried off seriously hurt.

The following are the stores burned:

No. 37, occupied by Miller, Sterling & Co.
Nos. 36 and 37, S. Morris Wan & Co.
No. 35, occupied by Penrose & Burton; on the first floor Messrs. Benseil & Allen, public weighers, had an office.
No. 34, E. Lincoln & Co. and the upper parts occupied by the sail lofts of Peel, Stevens & Co.

The back of the Mariner's Church, situate on Water-st. was only separated from Lewis & Sterling's store by a narrow alley, and it was at first feared that the flames would extend to it. The wind, however, assisted the firemen to restrain its progress in this direction.

☞ Our Correspondent sends the following

POSTSCRIPT!—*7 o'clock A. M.*—The flames are still raging with great violence, and several other stores have caught fire. The firemen are worn out with fatigue, and it is difficult to tell where the element will cease. The shipping were obliged to haul out into the river.

From Washington.

Things in Washington.

From our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18, 1846.

Last night was one of the coldest of the season, and to-day, though clear and sunny, is extremely cold.

To-morrow the funeral of Mr. TAYLOR of Virginia will take place. It will be a solemn occasion to those who shall witness it. Yet how few will lay it to heart!

ALLEN and CASS will be there. The President and his Cabinet will be there. The Bonanerges (I mean "sons of thunder," plural,) of the West will be there, to join in hypocritical grief over one death, while they are straining every nerve to cause many thousands of deaths.

Mr. TAYLOR died in the quiet and comfort of his own home. His spirit winged its flight from downy pillows and from richly furnished apartments. His body is decently watched and tastefully dressed, till dust is returned to dust. A nation is in mourning and the whole government—Executive, Legislative and Judicial—meet in solemn mourning over one human being who has died peacefully by the laws of Nature.

Yet there are many men who will pretend to be in affliction, to-morrow, who are doing all they can to produce ten thousand deaths, ten thousand times more awful than that which they pretend to deplore.

He who dies on the field of battle feels no tears of sorrow falling upon him from the eye of sympathy. The hot life-blood of his heart are the tears that fall upon him. The roar of cannon is the requiem of his soul. For him no helping hand is near. He dies unknown and unhelped by any human being, while his voice of agony is prolonged in the groans of those who are unfortunate enough to live a few moments longer. The cold earth or flinty rock is his couch—the first ditch his grave—his knapsack his pillow—his garments of blood his shroud. Oh what a world of hypocrisy do we live in! when men can weep over the death of one member of Congress and gloat over the murder of ten thousand of the people.

This is an appropriate time and this an appropriate day to look into such things, and ask why rational men will be so inconsistent? Is not the life of one man as dear in the sight of his friends, and his soul as precious in the eyes of the great Benefactor of mankind, as the life and soul of another man? and yet these rampant war-men talk of a hundred thousand swords leaping from their scabbards—for what? To be sheathed in the hearts of a hundred thousand breathing, rational, souled men.

There are contradictory rumors to-day, and for some time past, of the prevalence of small pox in this city. I hear to-day that two members of Congress have been attacked with it. I presume these reports are only the creation of excitement and fear. There are undoubtedly some cases of it in town, and the alarm is pretty general. Good may spring out of it, if it will only keep office beggars away.

You will see an important article in the Union of this morning about rumors from Mexico. As I mentioned last night, the Cabinet had an anxious meeting yesterday. The Administration are now reaping the harvest of trouble which they scattered abroad over the land in their braggadocia and bluster which carried Polk's election. They have sown the wind, and must reap the whirlwind. The Administration are like the quack Doctor, who boasted that he was "death on fits," and always tried to get his patients into "fits" before he could cure them. They are now trying to work the country into "fits" by talking of the 'Notice,' &c. It is time for the Whigs to go for the Notice of the termination of this quackery, and by the Notice bring the controversy to an end. The disease can be easily cured under Whig doctors, if the Loco-Focos do not insist on trying to drive it into fits.

I understand that Senator BENTON is in favor of a settlement by renewing the negotiation for a settlement on the 49th parallel of North latitude.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS has expressed himself in favor of CRITTENDEN'S Resolution for the Notice. I think the best thing for peace is for the Whigs to go for the Notice, in some shape, and thus force the demagogues to act instead of bluster. The man must be wilfully blind who does not see that, but for the course of J. Q. ADAMS, and other Whigs, in going for the Notice, the Country would have been inflamed by a universal outry against 'British Whigs' and 'Hartford Convention men.' By forcing them to take a position, the Loco-Foco guns have been spiked, and the Country, if not now, soon will be ready for overtures of an honorable and amicable settlement.

The rumor of Allen's purchase of the old Madisonian, which I sent you yesterday, is confirmed by the Notice in that paper last night that the old partners have dissolved and a new Editor is shortly expected to appear. Father Ritchie is too timid for the Hotspur of the West. He is not as 'ardent' as even a *Western* Sun could make him.

The city was full of rumors last night. We had a rumor here from New Orleans that war *had been* declared against this country by Mexico. We had another rumor that an arrival at New York, later than the Iowa, brought the news of the English ports being opened to our breadstuffs. The latter is not confirmed by the last arrivals from your city, the former needs farther confirmation, before being believed.

There are some men here trying to give circulation to the rumor that England is engaged in the affairs of Mexico. This is intended to strengthen our National hatred of England. Much depends on the news from England by the next Steamer. The news will be sent from New-York to this city by Telegraph, probably, with the exception of the distance from Philadelphia to Baltimore, which will be Expressed by steam. RICHELIEU.

Death of Mr. Taylor of Va.—The U. S. Journal Sold out, &c. &c.

From our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17th, 1846.

The Senate was not in session to-day. After some unimportant transactions in the House, of which a discussion of the bill to carry out the provisions of the Treaty of 1841 with the Republic of Peru, formed the principal part, Gen. DROMGOOLE of Virginia, in a brief and eloquent speech announced the death of his colleague, Mr. TAYLOR.—He died this morning at 4 o'clock. Mr. TAYLOR was a native of Alexandria, in this District, but has lived in the Virginia District, (which he so faithfully represented in Congress) since an early period of his life. At the conclusion of Mr. Dromgoole's address the usual resolutions were adopted; after which the House adjourned. The funeral will take place on Monday at half past 12 o'clock; of course no public business will be transacted by either House till Tuesday.

I understand that the *United States Journal*, formerly the Madisonian, is bought out for $4,000, and that Mr. BROUGH, formerly of the Cincinnati Inquirer, is to be the Editor. The purchaser is said to be Senator Allen of Ohio. Look out for strange times. More by next mail. I give you the rumor now. The Cabinet have had an important meeting to day. RICHELIEU.

Senators Turney and R. Johnson—A Passage.

From an Occasional Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16, 1846.

"Full many a flower is born to blush unseen," sang the poet Gray; and full many a glorious burst of eloquence, gushing fresh from the heart to the lips, is doomed to waste itself within the walls of the Legislative chambers, because it chanced to be a mere incident in the discussion of a private claim, and therefore never passed through the reporters of the public press. Something of this kind occurred in the Senate on Wednesday last, and I send you a brief notice, believing that you will regard it as quite as well deserving a place in your columns as many other of the topics which are transmitted to you.

The subject before the Senate was a bill purporting to be a Bill for the Relief of Nathaniel Goddard and others; in other words, to refund to the parties the value of a cargo of flour shipped at Baltimore in September, 1812, for Cadiz, and which, because a British passport was obtained for its protection, was seized by one of the United States vessels and condemned. It appears that Mr. Perkins of Boston is one of the "others," for whose benefit this bill is intended. Mr. Turney (of Tennessee notoriety) seized on the name of Perkins, as a text from which he launched forth a most undignified tirade of abuse and calumny against this venerable merchant, intimating that he had belonged to the Hartford Convention—that he was an old Federalist,—and that this was *prima facie* evidence that he intended this cargo of flour for the British troops, and that as we were at war with Great Britain the flour was rightly forfeited, and the money should not be refunded.

Mr. REVERDY JOHNSON took ground in favor of the claim, and in the course of his remarks, gave Mr. TURNEY a rebuke, the wound from which will not be quickly healed. "I know not, (said Mr. Johnson,) whether Mr. PERKINS was connected with the Hartford Convention or not, nor do I know the bearing which this fact, if so, can have on the principle of abstract justice in which this claim rests. As a merchant of high integrity, as a man eminent in all the virtues which give dignity and beauty to human character, Mr. Perkins is universally acknowledged to be preeminent. Perhaps he was a Federalist. But I have yet to know that is was an offence to be a Federalist. I never belonged to the Federalists of that day, although I shall probably be stigmatised as a Federalist in our new nomenclature of parties. But I should blush for myself if I thought it an offence to be a member of that party which the Senator from Tennessee holds in such abhorrence.—Yes, sir, I should blush, when I remembered that Washington was a member of that party—that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court who has shed such lustre around our Judicial reputation abroad and at home, was a Federalist. I should blush, sir, when I called to mind that the best blood which was shed in defence of our rights, during the Revolutionary struggle flowed from Federal veins! I regret, deeply regret, that the Senator should have indulged in a strain of remarks so uncalled-for, so undignified and so unjust, for the purpose of reviving prejudices which ought to have been left undisturbed in the oblivion to which they have so long been consigned.

The bill was interrupted in its progress by the arrival of a message from the President requiring Executive action. It will properly be taken up again on Monday, when Mr. Turney may have recovered himself sufficiently to make a defence.

Of all other topics you are doubtless kept apprised by your regular correspondent, with whom I have no intention to interfere.

City Items.

☞ The Board of Assistants, last night, concurred in the application for a law to divide the Sixteenth Ward into two Wards.... They also concurred with the Aldermen in appropriating $1000 as a charitable donation to the Fire Department.

A SPECK OF WAR.—The Board of Aldermen were greeted with a Message from Mayor Havemeyer referring to the threatening aspect of our foreign relations, and recommending that the City be fortified. The Message, together with a resolution on the same subject, was referred to a Special Committee.

☞ The adjourned meeting of the New-York City Society for the Abolition of Capital Punishment, which was held last evening at the building corner of Broadway and Lispenard-street was respectably attended, but not full, owing to the weather. A number of resolutions apposite to the occasion were passed, and some animated remarks made by Rev. Mr. Parker, Mr. Buffum, and Mr. Ellis, the President. Blank petitions to the Legislature, praying for the Abolition of Capital Punishment, were circulated and numerously signed. Mr. Parker stated that in Albany a similar movement was completely successful, the petitions having been signed by a majority of the city voters. The meeting adjourned about 9 o'clock, to reassemble at the corner of Grove and Hudson sts. next Monday evening, P. M.

☞ Mr. Colton made some interesting and amusing experiments last night before quite a large audience at the Tabernacle—chiefly with Galvanism and its various modifications. He afterward gave a clear, practical description of the Magnetic Telegraph, which he illustrated by experiments with one of Professor Morse's Telegraphs, with a wire extending round the room.

☞ The following statement gives the number of Foreigners who have arrived at the Port of New-York during the years 1843, 1844 and 1845, showing the number bonded and commuted:

	—1843—		—1844—		—1845—	
Months.	*Bond.*	*Com.*	*Bond.*	*Com.*	*Bond.*	*Com.*
January	876	365	263	305	1096	284
February	295	92	1188	129	382	31
March	396	41	552	119	1748	193
April	2563	104	2093	171	2928	153
May	6863	537	6610	240	10740	579
June	4053	655	13 24	1815	14550	1778
July	7931	1413	7807	1070	11802	1082
August	4231	574	6274	985	9981	1196
September	4938	453	7182	1134	5748	1124
October	3415	606	2934	600	5372	975
November	965	205	1176	84	3537	362
December	1112	376	2487	396	2255	164
Total	37638	5351	52790	7048	71068	7721

RECAPITULATION.

Bonded in the year 1843	37,638
Commuted " "	5,351
Bonded in the year 1844	52,790
Commuted " "	7,048
Bonded in the year 1845	71,068
Commuted " "	7,721
Total	181,616
Increase in 1845 over 1843	35,800
Increase " " 1844	18,951

The number of applicants for relief received by the Superintendent since the 1st day of January, 1846, to the 17th instant, amounts to five thousand one hundred and fifteen, making an average of 341 per day.

In addition to this number there are one thousand five hundred families who receive weekly aid and their chief maintenance from the Alms-House Department.

☞ On Sunday afternoon a fire occurred in a house in Market-st. near the East River, but was put out before much damage was done. This fire, however, furnished occasion for another disgraceful fracas between two engine companies. It appears that Companies 41 and 44 met in East Broadway, when a general row took place between them, when engine 41 was upset and considerably damaged. Stones and brick-bats were freely used by both parties.

☞ The steamers Champion and New-York will leave New-Haven at 7 o'clock, P. M. every evening, instead of 10 o'clock. The Globe will clear on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings, at 10 o'clock. The day line is discontinued.

☞ The Express says—As one of Kipp & Brown's stages was going up Broadway, on Thursday evening, a boy, with a basket of trinkets on his arm, got up on the box with the driver and rode as far as 24th-st. In the 9th-avenue, and soon took another stage bound down, from which he dismounted at the corner of Broadway and Canal-st. Both drivers found that their young companion had managed to rob them of all their change. Shortly afterward one of them saw him looking into a shop window in Canal-st., and jumping off his seat he took him prisoner and carried him to the stage office, where he was searched and all of the lost money, some three or four dollars, found in a secret pocket at the bottom of his sack coat, behind. He then confessed that he had robbed both drivers, but said that he never did so before.

☞ Wm. B. Jenkins, Esq. one of our most respected merchants, died on Sunday morning at his residence in Jersey City. He was 38 years of age, and leaves a wife and two children.

☞ The body of an aged man, Abraham Crocheron, was found on Staten Island. He attended a sale of some property on Saturday, and is supposed that, benumbed by the cold, he fell into a creek where he was found frozen to death.

☞ We learn from the New-Haven Herald that the whole amount of the stock of the Magnetic Telegraph, apportioned for New-Haven, has been subscribed. A meeting of the stockholders was held on Saturday evening, at the Canal office, and a Committee appointed to report the best place for the Telegraph Office. We are glad to learn that the Trustees of the Telegraph Company of New-York and Boston line have appointed Winthrop Atwill, Esq. formerly of the Northampton Courier, their Manager for the station. We are pleased that the choice has fallen on so enterprising and capable a gentleman. He is exactly the man for the place.

☞ We stated a few days ago that a Mr. Pastacoldi, a boarder at the U. S. Hotel, had been robbed of $500, and that one H. D. Champion who was staying at the same hotel, was arrested on suspicion. He was discharged because none of the property was found upon him. He was, however, closely watched by the Police, and it was found that, while professedly boarding and lodging at the United States and other hotels, he had a lodging in a different part of the City. The Chief of Police appointed officer Bowyer to the duty of watching this house, who on Saturday afternoon observed a small box removed from the house in one of the Express wagons belonging to Adams & Co. Bowyer immediately posted off, stopped the box, which was directed to Philadelphia, and informed the Chief, who upon this information, accompanied by officers Bowyer, Leonard, Brown and Floyd, went to the place, surrounded the house and found the young man just