Our Washington Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25, 1851.

The Presentation of the Virginia "Gold Medal" to General Scott.

This day, at eleven o'clock, the Virginia "Gold Medal" was formally presented to General Scott, in the City Hall, in the presence of a considerable number of spectators, among whom were several members of the Cabinet, the Virginia delegation of both houses, and some other members of Congress. There was also a fair sprinkling of beatiful women in the congregation. Gen. Scott came forward, accompanied by several aids, and in full uniform. Mr. Burwell, one of the committee of five sent on by the Virginia Legislature with this testimonial, made a speech to the General concerning his Mexican campaign, and the pride with which Virginia regards the heroic deeds of her children, and then presented the medal. Gen. Scott replied, complimenting the Old Dominion for her glorious devotion to the Union, and gratefully accepting this most flattering evidence of her respect, &c. The speeches were in writing, and will be printed officially. The medal is 3½ inches in diameter, five-sixteenths of an inch thick, and is, of course, very massive and rich. On one side is an admirable life-like bust of the General, with the words "Winfield Scott" in capitals above. The bust stands upon an oblong pedestal, flanked by two noble eagles, sprigs of laurel and oak touching their wings, a number of flags, (two Mexican banners among them,) guns, pikes, mortars, and field-pieces forming an appropriate background. On the pedestal is the following inscription: "The Commonwealth of Virginia presents this medal to Major General Winfield Scott, as a memorial of her admiration for the great and distinguished services of her son whilst commander-in-chief of the American armies in the war with Mexico, 1847."

On the reverse side, in the centre, stands a beautiful fluted column, with "1812" on the base, and "1848" on the capital. A spread eagle, holding an olive-branch in its mouth, is on its top, and the column is entwined with leaves of laurel, inscribed with the words "Vera Cruz, Cerro Gordo, Contreras, Churubusco, Del Rey, Chapultepec, Mexico." Above the column are the words "Fecit Quod Cogitavit;" below, "From Virginia," and an escutcheon with the coat of arms of the State. In the background are the principal buildings in or near the city of Mexico, the Castle of San Juan, (as we take it,) with the peculiar and strikingly peaked mountains, batteries at work, &c.—the whole encircled by a very rich wreath of laurel and oak intertwined. The medal is one of great beauty and magnificence, and does great credit to the exquisite skill and taste of Mr. C. C. Wright, an old soldier under General Scott, and now of New York.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25, 1851.

The President's Levee—Observations in the Crowd, Political and Philosophical—Movements for the Presidency, &c

What is a President's levee? It is a miscellaneous gathering at the White House to see his Excellency. What is the programme? You go up—go in—follow the crowd, till you get to Mr. Fillmore, shake hands with him, bow to Mrs. F. and Miss F., pass on through the adjoining rooms to the East Room—move round with the current for several turns, or drop off into an eddy, for more deliberate observation of the fashions, and when you have enough of it, evacuate the domicile, and depart in peace. Is that all? That's all. We will give an account, however, of the levee of Friday evening last, as it passed under the review of a couple of men of some observation. Time—9 o'clock, P.M.

The White House, to-night, is like Tara's hall—there is no instrumental music on hand. Taking off those marines is reducing the "levy" to its leanest proportions. Never mind the music, but get into the current, and keep your eye on that small door. The President's in there. Push ahead. Now look sharp—all right. The President, you see, is fortified by Mr. Wallack, the Marshal of the District, who introduces all strangers to his Excellency. Wallack went in strong for old Zack, and he was remembered for it. Why, I thought Wallack was a Democrat. Oh! no—that's Dug—this is Dick. The family is divided, so that whichever side wins, they can't lose in the aggregate—a very judicious arrangement. Dick is the handsomest, but Dug is considered the best politician of the family.

A.—The President is really a fine looking man. He is cut out exactly for this establishment; the office sits upon him as gracefully as his coat. Wonder if he does not expect a lease of four years on his own account?

B.—Hard to say. Parties are split up. No telling what is to come out of it. The prospect appears to be highly favorable for a scrub race and five candidates. A Union whig candidate—a Union democratic candidate—a Free soil candidate—a Southern ultra, and General Scott.

A.—And whose candidate is Scott to be?

B.—Everybody's. He is to run on the Old Zack plan, without a platform. The free soilers, to some extent, Seward among them, will support him, if he runs without a platform; but if he has a platform, he must cut Seward and company, and that operation will give New York, Ohio, Vermont, and Massachusetts, &c., to the democrats. But, by running without a platform, the chances are improved for gathering up all the loose materials, as Old Zack did. Seward thinks that Gen. Scott's splendid stock of military capital will do, without the incumbrance of a platform. And the understanding is, that the old General is to stick to Churubusco and Chapultepec, and to eschew all letter writing.

A.—That will do. Make your bow to Mrs. Fillmore and daughter, and let us pass through this suite of little rooms of seven by nine, to the East room, for a turn round with the dear people. Ah! see that elegant gray hound-shaped young looking gentleman, with his amiable lady upon his arm. He wears the brilliant star of some royal order. Her Britannic Majesty's representative here, Sir Henry Lytton Bulwer, brother, by a transposition, to Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, and the confidential adviser of Chatfield down there in Central America. What they are going to make out of that business does not appear; but you see he is completely at home with the President and his family. He is the complete *diplomat* in his manners and address; and in that winning cordiality of conversation, which settles, often, the knottiest questions, after oceans of bloodshed have failed. There is some reason to fear he is pulling wool over the eyes of our cabinet respecting the proceedings of Chatfield. But let us pass on. Very full house here, to-night; but not a great deal of beauty—too much "pale face," as the Indian would say, or too much paint. Great deal of good taste in the dressing; very little gauze; very modest display of jewelry and artificial head dressing; good warm clothing prevails, and but little flummery. Quite a republican exhibition. The ladies are, a large proportion, strangers; but all appear to be perfectly at home. But here comes Gen Houston—what is he doing here on all occasions?

B.—Getting the hang of the school house. He is up for '52. He has signed the Round Robin. He will probably be the Southwestern independent Union candidate, with "Cuba and another slice of Mexico," emblazoned on his banner, as an offset to "Scott and Canada" in the North. Old Sam is making the acquaintance of the people at large. This is the place to catch 'em. The only wonder is that Scott, Clay and Webster, are not here to-night, for there is something so delightful in the flattering welcomes of every body and the ladies, and especially to men with their prospects, that they may be reasonably looked for on all such agreeable occasions. But there are very few members of either house here to-night. How do you account for that?

A.—There is a dinner or two round town; and our M. C.'s are always on hand for a good dinner. Generally, they are from the "rural districts;" and your men raised among the honest yeomanry of the country have large stomachs for good fare, given in a complimentary way. Besides, the circus is in full blast; and we pledge you there is a quorum of the House at the circus, if not of the Senate. It is edifying to see the gusto with which our honorable gentlemen from humbug and Buncombe split their sides at the gingerbread buffoonery of the clowns. All well enough; but there is a great deal of claptrap in the stuff of our upper ten here in Washington. There are M. C.'s here, sir, who can scarcely read or write, without any pretensions to education, refinement, or extra common sense, who would take the precedence of yourself, in this city, even among those circles that command your esteem; but all this can be excused, when we consider that Washington is at the mercy of Congress, and that every member has a vote. Hence the "area of freedom" to an M. C. in this dependent metropolis, is large, and we can look on and excuse it. It has to be so. You must yield the wall to the M. C. We are at his mercy, and must admit his privileges. But what busy looking gentleman is that?

B.—Mr. Snethen, late of the *National Whig*. That paper did good service for old Zack, and poor Fenton, the publisher, was rewarded with a consulate to "Cowes and a market," which proved a dead less—Snethen got nothing. That's the way sometimes good services are paid for. Both these men ought to be remembered by Mr. Fillmore, if he believes in the doctrine of rewards and punishments.

A.—But come, let us depart. Reverdy Johnson looks well after his trip in the Ohio. Seldom you see a member of old Zack's cabinet here in these days, and not often you see the Austrian minister, and even Bodisco keeps himself unusually scarce, probably jealous of the favor with which Sir Henry is received. Croswell, of the *Argus*, keeps the run of the establishment. Steamships are the secret. Good many young office seekers here; and did you mark how mechanically the officeholders were received? That's the misfortune of officeholders. Their sincerity is regarded as bosh, though no men are more sincere in their desires to be considered indispensable to the government. Call 347 and let us go. God bless us—what a dull business!

Affairs at the State Capital.

OUR ALBANY CORRESPONDENCE.

ALBANY, January 25, 1851.

Appeal Court Reporter.

The failure of the late Governor and Lieutenant-Governor to re-appoint Geo. F. Comstock as reporter of the decisions of the Court of Appeals—whose term expired on the 23d of December—or some other whig, has caused, for a small affair, a large amount of bickering between the sections. The law creating the office was enacted by a united whig legislature, giving the power to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General, all three of these offices being then in their own hands. Mr. Comstock's term expired while Gov. Fish and Lieut. Gov. Patterson were yet in office; and as in duty bound to the party they should have supplied the vacancy by the re-appointment of Mr. C., or the selection of some other gentleman of the party. But those gentlemen suffered their terms to expire without filling the vacancy; and I have the authority of a whig paper for the assertion that "Gov. Fish was willing to re-appoint Mr. C., but Lieut. Gov Patterson swore that no Fillmore man should have the place; and in that determination he persisted until he left the office, though he knew that a democrat must, as a consequence, be the successor of Mr. Comstock." Thus, a violent stab was made by Mr. Patterson upon the party to which he owes all his political importance. Mr. C. came to the city, and by all the influence which he could bring to bear, implored the then Lieut. Governor who was in the city also, during the last week of his official existence, to re-appoint him, but without any effect, and his term expired, leaving Governor Hunt, Lieut. Governor Church, and Attorney General Chatfield, to fill the vacancy. The *Register* stated one reason why the appointment was not made was, because Mr. Chatfield refused to meet Gov. Fish and Lieut. Governor Patterson. This is no reason whatever, because those two gentlemen, constituting a majority, could have decided the question without consulting Mr. Chatfield.

After the first of January, the power of appointment departed from the whigs. Then a score of applicants appeared. The candidates, after a contest of ten days, all withdrew, or were driven off, with the exception of Mr. Godwin, a friend of Mr. Chatfield, and Mr. Selden, the favorite of Judge Gardiner. The contest between them was very animated. Neither the Judge nor the Attorney General would yield an inch.

While this state of things existed, Mr. Benedict, a whig gentleman of the House, introduced a bill amending the law, by making the Governor the appointing power, and the Senate to confirm—thus placing the office again in the hands of the whigs. This movement drove the other gentlemen to action, and Selden was finally selected by Messrs. Gardiner and Chatfield, without the approbation of Governor Hunt. Since then, we have heard nothing of Mr. Benedict's bill. Mr. Comstock, not satisfied with being thus ousted, appealed to the Appeal Judges as to whether himself or Selden was the legalized reporter; and was informed that, as the certificate presented to the judges bore the signatures of a majority of the gentlemen constituting the appointing power, they considered Mr. Selden as the reporter. Thus stands the matter at present, although it is said Mr. Comstock intends to apply for a writ of *quo warranto* to test the question—upon what grounds, however, is not divulged.

ALBANY, Jan. 25, 1851.

The Code in Danger.

The lawyers in the Legislature manifest a determination to reject a large portion, if not the entire report, made to the Legislature of 1850 by the Commissioners on Practice and Pleadings. While the subject of referring it to a committee was discussed in the Senate, on Thursday, the report was attacked with much force and ferocity by Messrs. Johnson, Mann, and Schoonmaker. The latter gentleman referred to Mr. David Dudley Field, personally, as "prowling about the Senate chamber," endeavoring to induce the Senate to appoint a select committee to examine the report, and invite his attendance during their sittings, to explain and elucidate any passages which might be considered obscure or unintelligible. Mr. S quoted the following paragraph from Mr. Field' pamphlet, distributed on the desks of Senators and considered it a piece of insolence in Mr. F. to ask an association with a committee of the Legislature:—

It was because of an unfortunate reference made early in the winter to separate committees in the two houses, and these the Committees on the Judiciary, with some additional members in the Assembly, instead of a Joint Select Committee, instructed to call in the aid of the commissioners and sit from day to day. Another session, near at hand, will bring the completed codes forward again. May we not reasonably hope that they will no longer be postponed; but that the Legislature will take them up without delay, and pass them into laws?

Mr. S. thought the Legislature could dispose of the report without "calling in the aid" of the late commissioner.

Senator Stanton, another lawyer, spoke upon the subject, and also alluded to the writings of Mr. Field, in the shape of "five articles," which had been distributed among the members. Mr. S. read the following extract; although bearing heavily upon lawyers, he still felt willing to acknowledge its truth in a great measure. Mr. Field says:—

If we are to wait till the majority of the legal profession become favorable to all the changes made and proposed, we may wait forever. Lawyers have never been, and they will never be, in favor of any great change in the law. Whether that law be of England, or France, or Sweden—Norman, Roman, or Gothic—it is a sacred thing to the greater portion of its students and practisers. When change is proposed, they resist it, and their resistance has been, in all ages and countries, in proportion to their power. The Scotch lawyer resists the introduction of the trial by jury, as the English lawyer resists the taking of it away. This is not owing to any sinister motive; it is the fault of education and habit. The French codes were resisted and delayed by such influences.

* * * Laws the most burdensome, the most unjust, the most inhuman, have found ready apologists and defenders among that class of lawyers, always the most numerous and the most busy, who study and reason upon the past alone, and whose fundamental legal maxim it is, that "whatever is is right." And it is but announcing an historical truth, to say, that all the great reforms in the law which have ever been carried, have been carried with scarce an exception, against the wishes, the advice, and the resistance of most of the professors of the law; and thus I doubt not, it will ever be.

Mr. Stanton, although favorable to law reform in general, to the modifications introduced in the report he expressed himself averse to that portion relating to the rule of evidence.

There are eight lawyers in the Senate—one quarter of the entire body—and, from present indications, they will make a strong and united effort to prevent legalising the report. It was stated, during the debate, that the commissions had exceeded the power conferred upon them, and transcended the authority granted by the constitution, in attempting to reform the practice in criminal proceedings, and in interfering with the long-established rules of evidence. Notwithstanding the opposition of the legal Senators, the report was referred to a joint committee of both houses, the members on the part of the Senate being Messrs. Mann, Stanton, and Geddes—the two former whole lawyers, and the latter "half a lawyer," as remarked by Senator Stanton.

This morning the resolution for a joint committee was taken up in the House, and discussed for an hour; but there was not that ferocity displayed against the code by the lawers there, that there was by them in the Senate. After several speeches from the "rural" lawyers, upon the propriety of a reference to a committee of both houses, Mr. Thompson, from the city, ended the debate by stating that the "profession were eager for necessary amendments to the existing code, (meaning that part legalized in 1848) a code which, in his opinion, mystifies, rather than simplifies, practice." The Senator's resolution was then agreed to, and a committee of five members of the House will be announced by the Speaker, on Monday morning, to meet the Senate committee in overhauling the report of the Commissioners on Practice and Pleadings, made to the Legislature of 1850. It is certain that this report will not be adopted *nem. con.*, as was that sent into the Legislature in 1848. The lawyers will resist its adoption with all their combined power.

Our Curacoa Correspondence.

CURACOA January 6, 1851.

The New American Agent.

The newly appointed American Commercial agent, Mr. John McKelnay, Jr., of Trenton, N. J., arrived here some three weeks ago, and bids fair to make himself very popular with the Americans who visit the island, as also with the merchants of the place. Since the death of the late incumbent, Col. J. E. Young, (which took place in July last,) an American agent has been very requisite on several occasions.

Virginia Reform Convention.

OUR RICHMOND CORRESPONDENCE.

RICHMOND, Va., Jan. 25, 1851.

Richmond, its Gaiety, &c.—The Convention—Its Proceedings and its Composition—Mr. Wise and his Course—The Past, the Present, and the Future of Virginia—The Slavery Compromise, &c.—Politics—The Weather.

I do not believe there is a town in the Union, of equal population and dimensions, that can rival this, the metropolis of the "Old Dominion," in the gaiety and animation which enlivens it at the present moment. The State Legislature and the Convention to revise the constitution of the State are both in session, and they have drawn together here an unwonted concourse of learned statesmen, beautiful women, and interested and curious spectators, and "outsiders" generally; the effect of which has been to give an unusual animation to the social and the business circles of this hospitable and thriving city.

On the 6th instant, pursuant to the adjournment of the 4th of November, the Constitutional Convention again assembled. Thus far, owing to the fact that none of the committees to whom the various subjects of constitutional reform were referred have reported, but little has been done in the actual discharge of the duties for which the convention was convened. The first two weeks of the session was consumed in deciding upon a place for the permanent session of the body—the capitol being in possession of the Legislature—and in determining upon a plan for the publication and distribution of its debates and proceedings, full reports of which are being made by the official reporter, Mr. William G. Bishop, and his corps of assistants. The Universalist Church, a spacious edifice, conveniently located, was, after the rejection of the courteous proffer of accommodations in Norfolk, Alexandria, and Petersburgh, selected as the place for holding the sessions of the Convention, and has been most comfortably fitted up for the purpose. The debates and proceedings, it is decided, are to be published at the expense of the State, in a supplemental sheet to be furnished regularly to the subscribers of the six political journals of Richmond, and in an octavo form for binding and preservation. By this means, a full report of the proceedings and debates of the body will be regularly distributed among a majority of the voters of the State, while the publication in book form will secure it a place in the public and private libraries, for future reference. This preliminary business being disposed of, the Convention, on Monday last, adjourned over until to-day, with a view of giving the committees ample time to perfect their labors and prepare their reports. Some of them are expected to report on Monday next; and by the close of the week, the Convention will doubtless be fully engaged in the prosecution of its arduous and perplexing labors.

The Convention is composed of 135 members, and although not an extraordinarily able body, is still far above mediocrity in point of talent. There are quite a number—perhaps a majority—of young men among the members, most of whom upon this occasion enter for the first time the arena of the politician and the statesman. There are also in the course, a number of veterans in public life, men not unknown to fame,—such for instance as the President, John Y. Mason, late Secretary of the Navy, Henry A. Wise, the eccentric and the erratic, John M. Botts, of "head him or die" memory &c., &c., just enough to leaven it favorably with their experience and knowledge of parliamentary proceedings. There is a good deal of what is styled "speaking talent" in the Convention, but judging from the indications thus far, it is possessed by few of the members to such a degree as to promise much display of brilliant oratory during the session. The peculiar system of electioneering characteristic of Virginia, in common to all the southern and southwestern States, which forces the candidate for popular favor "upon the stump" during the canvass, is, however, a certain guarantee that every member is competent to the expression of his views and opinions with fluency, at least, if not with elegance and precision. This fact and the well known obstinacy and perseverance which is almost a characteristic of the Virginia, controversialist, renders it certain in view of the many important and difficult questions that are to be discussed and decided that the session of the Convention will be a protracted one.

Mr. Henry A. Wise is likely to attract no little attention, not only in Virginia but in other States, from the course which he seems to have determined to pursue. The regeneration and reinvigoration of the old commonwealth, and her awakening from the lethargy in which for years she has slumbered, is his constant theme—his darling object—to promote and secure which, he seems prepared, if necessary, to uproot the very foundations of the present form of State government. He is a thorough reformer and an ultra radical, and may be regarded as the leader—the very head and front of "Young Virginia," or the party of progress and improvement. He is the strenuous advocate for the prosecution of a comprehensive sytem of internal improvements, of a thorough and general scheme of public education, and of a complete and entire reconstruction of the judiciary, elected in one of the largest slaveholding counties in the State. He is the ardent advocate also, of the "White Basis," as it is called, or of the apportionment of representation according to white population. With his restless, untiring energy—his persevering industry—and his fiery eloquence, Mr. Wise may be regarded as the ajax of the reform party in the convention. The proceedings of the body have not been of a character, thus far, to indicate the standard bearer of the conservative party; but there can be no doubt that Mr. Wise will find among the many that cling to the past, and its traditions and recollections, a foeman worthy of his steel. *Lausez aller.*

There is much in the present condition of Virginia that is little understood or appreciated at the North; and indeed which the people of Virginia themselves are only beginning to understand and appreciate. "It is an ill wind that blows nobody any good," and the abolition agitation, with all the evils it has produced, and the calamities it still threatens to produce, has had, at least, this beneficial effect. By forcing upon the consideration of the Southern people the question of what should be done to resist the progress, and defend themselves from the encroachments of northern fanaticism, it has revealed to them the nakedness of their land, and lead them to the ascertainment of the real causes, and the devising of remedies for that deficiency and tardiness in the developement of all the elements of State and national greatness, which, it must be confessed, has been in too a great degree their characteristic. Hence the general "arousing," so to term it, which is now going on among the Southern people, and which is manifested in the recent appropriation of $125,000, by the Legislature of South Carolina, for the establishment of a line of steamships from Charleston to Liverpool direct, in the daily establishment of manufactories in Georgia, and in a hundred other instances. No State has suffered more from the policy of the past, or is more thoroughly aroused to the necessity for its abandonment, than Virginia. With a soil as fertile, and a climate as genial as the most favored land upon which the sun shines, with her mountains teeming with mineral wealth, literally forcing itself from its prison in the bowels of the earth, to the surface, with a motive power sufficient to propel the machinery of a world, leaping from her hills and gushing through her ravines, and with an extent of river and bay navigation capacious enough to float the products of Christendom, Virginia has remained almost stationary in the march of this Union to power and greatness. Starting in the outset of this triumphant progress in the very van, she has seen her sisters, far less endowed by nature, outstrip her in the march, until now her position is almost in the very rear guard of the column. Her people have, at last, began to realize this state of things, and are now shaking off the chains and shackles with which pride and prejudice have so long encumbered them. Let but the spirit which is now awakened, animate them for a few years, and the Old Dominion will have resumed again her once proud position in the American Union. So mote it be.

Public feeling in Virginia has subsided into a general acquiescence in the compromise measure, and if they are preserved intact, her loyalty to the Union can never be shaken. The recent evidence of the disposition of the North to sustain the Fugitive Slave law, furnished by New York in the case of Long, has had a most beneficial tendency in strengthening that feeling, and in restoring cordiality towards the North. A strong sentiment of dislike and distrust of the Northern, and particularly of the Eastern people, still exists, and to such a degree, that no Northern man can find employment here in any branch of business, where it is possible to secure the services of a Southern man, or even of a foreigner. For this, thanks alone are due to the abolitionists and "higher law" advocates.

The political waters here are in a dead calm, with scarce a breeze to ruffle the surface. President Fillmore is deservedly popular, with the whigs, and in despite of the movement making by the friends of General Scott, I think is decidedly their preferred candidate for the next canvass. The democrats are great admirers of the gallant and intrepid course of your Senator, Daniel S. Dickinson, and a vast majority of them, I am assured, will hail his nomination for the Presidency with the greatest joy and enthusiasm. Indeed, I have been told that a movement was contemplated here, on the part of the democratic members of the Legislature, before its adjournment, having for its object, if not the nomination, at least the expression of the preference of the democratic party of Virginia for the nomination of Mr. Dickinson to the Presidency. It is, at any rate, a compliment richly the due of that distinguished statesman.

The weather here is truly delightful. We are enjoying a genial atmosphere, and a bright sunshine, far more appropriate to the season of buds and flowers than that of frosts and snow.

SIMON.

Our Harrisburg Correspondence.

HARRISBURG, (Pa.) Jan 17, 1851.

Election for U. S. Senator—How it was brought about—Brodhead and Brewster—General Cameron and his Allies—The General's Speech to Mr. Brodhead.

"Much remains unsung!" particularly in regard to the combinations which brought about the election of the Hon. Richard Brodhead to the United States Senate, and the results which are likely to follow his elevation to that high office. That Mr. Brodhead is of the right stripe—a consistent democrat, and a Union man, of the Cass and Clay platform—none will deny; but how, in the name of all the Winnebagoes and Kickapoes in this great State, came it to pass that one so unexceptionable in every respect should have carried off the prize? Fortunately, I have it in my power to make all the necessary explanations, and for the benefit of the readers of the *Herald* in general, and posterity in particular, shall do so. Let me commence at the commencement:—

Just three weeks ago, Mr. Brodhead was sitting in the office of that gifted, eloquent, and impetuous gentleman, Benjamin H. Brewster, Esq., of Philadelphia. After chatting for about one hour, in a very listless manner, Mr. Brewster turned suddenly round and slapped Mr. Brodhead violently on his knee.

"My God, Ben!" exclaimed the man of Northampton, grinning a ghastly smile.

"Never mind, my friend," soothingly responded Mr. Brewster. "A thought has struck me."

"Something else has struck me," was the natural response.

"A thought has struck me, Dick," continued Mr. Brewster. "You must go to Harrisburg, and take your chance for the United States Senate."

"But I am not a candidate."

"So much the better."

"I have not been spoken of by the press or politicians for the office."

"Better still. Will you go?"

"Yes."

"Immediately?"

"Yes."

And go he did, and so did Mr. Brewster, and so did all the friends and opponents of all the aspirants for Dr. Sturgeon's old shoes. When Mr. Brodhead arrived at Harrisburgh, his chances for success looked rather slim. With the exception of twelve, the democratic members were disposed to sustain in caucus either Judge Black or Judge Woodward. These twelve members were pledged to sustain General Cameron, caucus or no caucus, and, as Governor Johnston had promised the entire whig vote to the General, in case of a flare-up, his re-election seemed almost certain. Well, the night for the caucus arrived. Nine of the Cameron men staid out of the caucus, while the remaining three joined their unsuspecting brethren, to kick up (to use a westernism) "a particular d——d fuss." The caucus meeting was soon organized, and the ballotting commenced. It became evident that neither Judge Black nor Judge Woodward could be nominated. In this emergency, one of the members called upon Mr. Brewster, and solicited his advice.

"Mr. B., it is impossible to nominate either Black or Woodward, and if nominated, defeat would follow, as a matter of course. How would it do to take up Brodhead?"

"The very man."

"In two more ballots his nomination is certain."

"Go ahead, then."

And in two more ballots Mr. Brodhead was nominated. Here, then, was a fix for Gen. Cameron. His own fate was in his own hands. Under all circumstances, he could count upon the entire whig vote of the Legislature, and twelve democratic votes, which were quite sufficient to ensure his election. But, then, he had been fighting against Black, and Foster, and Woodward, but not against Brodhead. The three former were his enemies, the latter his friend; and, more than all, Brodhead had been nominated fairly, and in accordance with the strict usages of the party. There was not the slightest excuse to get up a fight. If he persisted, and was elected, things would be still worse; for it could only be accomplished by the self-immolation of his friends, and the consequent success would place him before the democracy of Pennsylvania in the light of a selfish, soulless disorganizer.

With certain success—so far as his re-election was concerned—before him, Simon listened to the promptings of his better nature. He sent for Mr. Brodhead. Mr. Brodhead was not slow in obeying the summons.

"Mr. Brodhead," exclaimed the General, on his arrival at his (Simon's) head-quarters, "I am glad to see you. You have been fairly nominated by the caucus. When in Congress, I could always rely upon your assistance. You are a good tariff man, a good democrat, a Union man after my own heart, and sound to the core on the nigger question. You will find, to-morrow, that all my friends will go in for your support."

The sequel is already known. LYCOMING.

HARRISBURGH, Jan. 26, 1851.

The Reading Railroad—The Lebanon Valley Road—New Genral Banking Law, &c., &c.

The bill relative to the Reading Railroad Company, introduced by Mr. Simpson, of the county of Philadelphia, in the House of Representatives, a copy of which appeared in your columns, after a reference to the Judiciary Committee, was reported, yesterday, with a negative recommendation. Only one gentleman of the committee (Mr. Cassiday, of Philadelphia county) voted in favor of the bill as committed. An effort was also made to introduce the individual-liability principle, by tacking the following amendment to Mr. Simpson's bill:—

And if the said company shall have declared any dividend since the passage of the bill of the 2d February, 1846, to which this is a supplement, the director or directors consenting thereto shall be liable, in their personal capacity, for the payment of any or all of the bonds due and unpaid on the first day of January, unless the said director or directors shall protest against the payment of any such dividend; and if a majority of the board of directors shall permit any dividend to be paid, they, and each of them permitting the same, shall be liable for the payment of any of the said over due bonds or unpaid obligations matured.

I have very little hope of the passage of Mr. Simpson's bill, although there appears to be a disposition to handle the subject, ere the close of the session, without gloves.

Mr. D. H. B. Brower, whig member from Butler, read, in his place on the 10th, a bill which strikes at the root of the evil; as nothing short of the repeal of the objectionable supplement will ever stay the agitation of the subject. The bill is as follows:—

An Act entitled an Act to repeal the further Supplement to the Act authorizing the Governor to incorporate the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that a further supplement to the Act entitled an act to authorize the Governor to incorporate the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company, approved the second day of February, one thousand eight hundred and fifty, be, and the same is hereby repealed.

Very great efforts have been made by those in the interest of the company, to stave off any action, as its unconstitutionality is not denied; nor was it at its passage. It was clearly an *ex post facto* law.

The subject of true banking is attracting more than ordinary attention. Petitions are pouring in from all sections of the State, and a great struggle will be made to carry the project. The scarcity of small notes and the lack of silver, is very severely felt, more particularly in Philadelphia, where it is bringing 2½ to 3 per cent premium; and this may have a tendency to bring about an entire change in our banking system. The following is a copy of the petition in circulation, which certainly is highly complimentary to New York:—

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF PENNSYLVANIA:—

The undersigned, citizens of —— county, respectfully pray for the passage of a General Banking Law, based on the deposit of State or United States stocks, for the redemption of the notes to be issued under such law.

The complaints urged against moneyed monopolies would be entirely obviated by the proposed system. In no event could a bank be started without actual capital, nor could the circulation ever exceed the amount of the security placed in the hands of the proper authority for its redemption. The business of banking would be thus thrown open to all, upon the true republican principle, and upon a sure and firm foundation.

The experience of New York and Ohio, where both systems have been fairly tried for a number of years, has demonstrated the great superiority of the free or general, over the old system, and your petitioners conceive it to be the part of wisdom for a community to profit by the experience of its neighbors.

Your petitioners, therefore, respectfully pray for the passage of a General Banking Law, similar in its provisions to that of New York, with such improvements as the wisdom of your honorable bodies may suggest, inasmuch as it is almost universally conceded that additional banking facilities are required by the commercial, mechanical, manufacturing and agricultural interests of the Keystone State.

The Lebanon Valley Railroad Company, incorporated at the last session of our Legislature, to construct a railroad between Reading and Harrisburg, have taken up their charter, a sufficient amount of stock having been subscribed. A survey has been made of the proposed route, of which the following is a description:—

The road commences nearly opposite the freight depot at Reading, curves to the left, and encounters some heavy cutting; crosses the Schuylkill below the Tulpehocken, seventy-one feet above water, by a bridge spanning the river Schuylkill and the Union canal. Thence it passes westward, ascending at the rate of twenty-six and a half feet per mile, with intermediate levels for five miles, and crosses the Harrisburg turnpike near the first toll gate, and reaches the subordinate valley between South Mountain and Slate Hill, near the village of Sinking Springs, where undulated grades commence and continue until the table lands of the Susquehanna are reached, a distance of forty-four miles. After leaving Sinking Springs, the line continues south of the turnpike, crossing a number of small tributaries of the Tulpehocken; passes near Reading Furnace, Womelsdorf, and Newmanstown, crosses Milbach at the eastern slope of the main dividing ridge, and follows the summit to within three miles of Lebanon, leaving Myerstown two miles to the right, and Schaefferstown three miles to the left. From the summit the line crosses the turnpike and passes through North Lebanon, crossing Market street about midway between the borough line and Benjamin Zeller's hotel. It continues on very favorable ground to Millerstown, where the Quitapahilla is crossed and a direction taken towards the turnpike company's Swatara bridge, passing midway between Palmyra and Campbellstown. The Swatara is crossed by a bridge spanning both it and the Union Canal near the centre of the great bend. Five and a half miles further on, the summit dividing the Swatara and Susquehanna is passed, and the table lands of the latter river reached, leaving Middletown three miles to the left. At the summit the main westward descent commences at the rate of twenty-one feet per mile, and continues, with intermediate levels, seven and a quarter miles to the western terminus, passing within one mile of Highspire, and the precipitate slopes dividing the Susquehanna flats and table lands four miles below Harrisburg.

The length is fifty-six and three-quarter miles, four and a quarter miles longer than the turnpike and makes the distance to Philadelphia from Harrisburg, with the Reading railroad, 114¼ miles, or seven and a half miles longer than the route by way of Lancaster.

The cost of work, grading, masonry, laying track, bridges, &c., is estimated at $1,333,045 45; land damages, engine houses, water stations, &c., $129,531 25, making the entire cost of the road $1,462,574 70.

The friends of the road are quite sanguine that sufficient stock will be taken to warrant operations next spring.

A bill passed the Senate, yesterday, giving power to the Pequa Railroad and Improvement Company to sell out their entire interest to the Dauphin and Susquehannah Railroad Co. A large amount of stock of these two companies is held in New York, and the direction of its affairs is, also, principally from that quarter. SUSQUEHANNA.

Interesting from Nicaragua.

OUR SAN JUAN CORRESPONDENCE.

SAN JUAN DE NICARAGUA, Dec. 19, 1850.

The Returning Californians—The Duties at San Juan—The Decree, &c., &c.

I avail myself of a direct means of communication by the Victoria, which sails to-day. There is nothing very startling on the coast at present, although the great influx of California adventurers makes it quite a stirring place just now. The attraction in every way produced by the transit of passengers, by this route, is singular. Every thing is on the rise. Lots, or plots of ground, which could be bought a few months since for a song, sell for $200 and $300 each. Every house is filled with boarders; and the only hotel in the place is at present overflowing. The natives are reaping a harvest; and I assure you they make hay whilst the sun shines. The owners of anything that floats also come in for a share of the "dust," and the "bungoes" which convey passengers from the Lake to the British steamer to Chagres, are gathering gold in all shapes from the toil worn travellers on their way to the States. The scenes daily presented here are highly picturesque and interesting. As the "bungoe" are seen winding round from the mouth of the river, loaded with a very motley looking lot of passengers, you perceive the change which the search for gold has made—torn and worn, wretched in apparel and appearance, many sick, and all wearing the lines of care written on their sunburnt brows. It strikes the beholder with wonder that men should be lured from home to suffer the privations too plainly visible in almost every one of the many hundreds at present here. Within one month, no less than 810 passengers have passed through this place for the United States, *via* Realejo; and this month the number will exceed 1,000.

You will see from this the necessity of an American steamer to convey passengers to a home port, who now have to go to Chagres and pay an exorbitant price for even a deck passage. There is necessity, too, of an American Consul at this port. Many cases occur among the passengers where his services would be valuable. At present, the English Consul, James Green, Esq., acts as far as possible, in lieu of an American agent; but it seems unaccountable to Americans here, that a recognized government officer has not been appointed. Mr Livingston has never been so recognized, it appears, and at present is located at Leon Nicaragua.

I enclose a copy of a notice issued yesterday, by which you will perceive that the oppressive and ridiculous custom restrictions are to be removed after the 1st day of January, 1851. The duties have been paid under protest, in many instances, and will be contested. Here is the document:—

BRITISH CONSULATE,
GREY TOWN, Dec. 9, 1850.

I, the undersigned, acting under the authority of his majesty the King of Mosquito, and with the approval of her Britannic Majesty's government, hereby issue the following notice:—

On the 1st day of January, 1851, the authorities at the port of Grey Town will cease to levy duties on any vessels or goods belonging to citizens of the United States, or of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, as well to British subjects which may arrive at this port on and after that date. (Signed) JAMES GREEN.

Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Agent and Consul General.

The Bremen bark Virginia, arrived at this port yesterday, after a passage of 45 days from Bremen. She was taken up immediately for New Orleans, and will sail soon with some two hundred passengers. Everything is chartered as soon as arrived for the same purpose.

The proposed canal remains in *statu quo*. The loss of the Orus has rather dampened the enterprise. The steamboat "Director," has not succeeded yet, in getting up. I enclose a draught of the rapids of the San Juan river, drawn by Capt. E. Meny, who has had much experience on the route.

Should anything of moment occur I will forward a letter by the steamer of the 15th. R. D. P.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

The remarks on the "Handsome Conduct of the English at San Juan," which appeared in your columns yesterday, over the signature of "A Passenger," in effect deny the disinterestedness of that act, while, at the same time, "the motive for this kindness" is explained as follows:—"In order to save the town, the commander of the Inflexible politely volunteered to take the Americans down to Chagres."

Now, sir, so far from this being the case, the commander of the Inflexible was influenced solely by the common dictates of humanity; and with feelings alike honorable to himself and the other British residents and officers, who advocated the measure, he placed H. M. ship at the disposal of a parcel of half famished and home sick individuals, who must have otherwise perished, or at least, have suffered severe privations.

These remarks of "A Passenger" are very much out of place, and it would be well if he was taken back from whence he was so kindly delivered, and left to the fate he and all such ungrateful persons deserve. But the name of an Englishman is, in the opinion of some individuals, unworthy the notice of so highly favored a personage as an American citizen, and anything "English" must be, as a matter of course, connected with something disgraceful or clandestine. If Americans abroad were treated in like manner by these "miserable English," they would learn a lesson in human nature they do not at present seem to understand. FAIR PLAY.

NEW YORK, Jan. 25, 1851.

Another Scheme for a Railroad to the Pacific, through Canada.

The Hamilton (Canada) *Spectator* of the 22d inst., in commenting on the Canada and Pacific Railroad project, observes that there is nothing novel in the proposition, nor in the mode by which it is to be carried on. Both English and Canadian writers have contended, years ago, that the shortest and cheapest route from England to the East Indies and China lies through the North American colonies, and the placing as viceroy over the British possessions in this quarter of the world, of a member of the royal family, has been suggested time and again. The attempt to revive these schemes at this particular juncture is, however, deserving of attention. The recent discoveries in California, the immense importance of the trade of the East, and the efforts which are being made by the leading nations of the world to extend their commerce, especially on the Pacific, are quite sufficient to cause an inquiry into the merits of suggestions