

APPAINTS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

Our Washington Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11, 1851.

The Public Lands for the Insane—The Branch Mint and the Pennsylvania—French Spoliations.

Oh, yes, the Senate were expected to pass Miss Dix's bill, of ten millions of acres of public lands for the support of the lunatics of the United States.

When a lady's case is brought before the Senate, it is not unusual for her to be accompanied by a retinue of attendants.

And ten millions of acres divided among thirty-one States, will be a paltry fund for all their lunatics, considering the vast increase of that unfortunate class of persons within the last two years.

Miss Dix is benighted de la patria; she deserves well of her country. Day after day, there she is, in the library of Congress, working at a correspondence with the various lunatic asylums of the United States.

The principle of the bill, we may trust with a good deal of confidence, is to divide the old plan of dividing all the proceeds of the public lands among all the States, big and little, young and old.

The House have yet to decide upon Miss Dix's bill, however, and they may commit the same surgery upon it as they have done upon the Branch Mint and the Board of Accounts.

By the way, speaking of the Branch Mint, the Pennsylvania are justly skittish about it. The Pennsylvania are justly skittish about it.

The Keynote delegates must make up their minds to one of two things—either to concede a concession to the North, or to insist upon the mint itself in its removal to the centre of business.

And furthermore, they can hardly expect much support from the New Yorkers, woolly heads, or silver greys, upon coal or iron, after the deplorable fate of the tariff for this session.

French spoliations seem to be on a decline. The French spoliation bill, which was introduced in the House, is now in the hands of the committee.

The Lobby Members at Washington—President Making, &c.

The legislation of the country is made second in importance to President making, and even legislation would stand still, were it not for the army of lobbyists and miners, who compose what are called lobby members, a class of shrewd men, made up of Utah Judges, Private Secretaries of deceased Presidents, ex-officials, retired upon dismissals from office, &c.

As to President making, there is no end to the matter. Cass still holds his own amazingly, notwithstanding his emphatic letter to Stevenson, and the evident signs of disaffection with which a large portion of the democratic party at the North look upon his great re-election.

Gen. Foote, (out of the Senate a General of the militia,) though the arguer of the most consistent in itself. Strange, rather for Foote. Seward urged the resolution, because Gen. Scott had been somewhat censured by the late administration.

Mr. Webster, we may say, is a Presidential case out of it. It is clear, Gen. Scott is in the field; and very likely the Northern whig candidate; but still more likely the Northern whig candidate. It is clear that he is to be entered for the race.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11, 1851. The Case of Father Ritchie—The Patent Law—Delay of Business, &c.

Father Ritchie will be relieved, and if he gets what the resolution before the House proposes to give him, he will make, at least, \$20,000 out of his ruinous contract for the public printing.

There has been some approach to the Cheap Postage bill, to-day. Mr. Rank moved that the amendments be printed—and that's all.

Mr. Webster in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has been crowded, both yesterday and to-day, in consequence of the fact that Mr. Webster was engaged in the argument of a case.

It involved a question of public importance, being merely a suit for the recovery of certain lands seized in fee, in the year 1800, by the State of New York, in the case of the State of New York vs. Philip Kearney and Frederick De Peyster, trustees and executors of John Watts, deceased.

Mr. Webster's argument is considered to have been a masterpiece—one of those profoundly logical discussions which have made his name renowned as a lawyer.

Wood, of New York, also made a most powerful argument. It is usual for members of the cabinet to finish the cases they may have been engaged in previous to their appointment as cabinet officers.

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Among those present to-day was Senator Halle, doing the amiable to Miss Davyport, the actress. The hon. Senator appeared to be quite at home in his location.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11, 1851. The Creation of a Lieutenant Governor—Gen. Scott and the Senate—The President.

The resolution of Mr. Clemens, providing to bestow upon Gen. Scott the brevet rank of Lieutenant General, for distinguished military services, was rather unexpectedly called up by Mr. Shields this morning, and quite as unexpectedly there followed a very lively and interesting debate upon it.

Mr. Shields (they are all Ministers in the Senate) was general himself, under the chief command of Gen. Scott, of the southern column of our armies in Mexico. At Cerro Gordo he received an accepta ball, which passed through the middle of

his body, entering below the breast bone and passing out at the back, from which he miraculously recovered in time to take an active part in the splendid operations before the city of Mexico.

Mr. Clemens, as a colonel, was attached to the same army, as he was previously attached to the column of Gen. Taylor. Mr. Shields and Mr. Clemens are both democrats of the ultra school, on general politics; but their participation in, and their experience and observation of the glory of Gen. Scott, in his conduct of the southern column, from the island of Lobos to the grand plaza of the city of Mexico, override with them all political differences.

They regard Gen. Scott as the very epitome of military glory, and the fellow countrymen in his glorious achievements, they are disposed to remember him and reward him. Hence, while we have Mr. Clemens as the originator of the resolution, and Mr. Shields, by the prevalence of the attention of the Senate, to the precedence of all other business.

Mr. Atchison, as a test question, moved to lay the resolution on the table, which was lost, 23 to 28. And here we had Gen. Cass and Gen. Houston voting in favor of the motion. But whether this vote was the result of military jealousy, or of considerations of legislative caution, it is not for us to say.

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and he knew the rules. He was not going to submit to a mutilation of his rights. Not he. He must have the whole or none. But the Chair held the session. Jefferson Davis submitted a motion of leave, which was adopted, and he was to give the same leave to Clay to reply.

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Our Virginia Correspondence. RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 10, 1851. Notes of a Traveller—Industrial resources of Richmond—The Convention—Death of Mr. Myers who shot Hoyt, &c.

In journeying quietly from Philadelphia to New Orleans, it has more than once occurred to me that an occasional letter from a cosmopolitan, might prove interesting to some of your readers.

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appeal to the Legislature, who created this corporation, for redress from their grievances.

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AFFAIRS AT THE STATE CAPITAL. Our Albany Correspondence. ALBANY, February 11, 1851. Can a State Senator, elected to the next Congress, retain his seat after the third of March?

A question will soon arise in the Senate, which will involve a legal and constitutional point of much importance. Mr. Schoonmaker, a Senator from the Ulster district, was elected a member of Congress at the last election. The Congress to which he was elected commences with the 4th of March next. Can he, therefore, hold his seat in the Senate of this State, and be a representative in the Congress of the United States at the same time? The Constitution of this State, article three, section eight, is explicit upon the subject. It is as follows:—