Correspondence from Various Parts of the Country.

REGULATING GEN. PIERCE'S CABINET.

General Scuffle and Scramble Among the Office Hunters.

Political, Social, and Legislative Affairs, &c., &c., &c.

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

OUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, January 18, 1853.

The Pierce Cabinet—The Pierce Administration.

The declension of Mr. Hunter to accept the department of State, has set the cabinet-mongers and quidnuncs entirely at sea. They have exhausted conjecture on the "premiership," and have given it over for the less exciting occupation of filling up the subordinate places in the prospective cabinet. But here no two agree, except as to the probable tender of the War Department to Jefferson Davis, of Mississippi. It is well known that he will be opposed by the whole weight of those patriots who invented the defunct "Union party;" but they invested their political influence, if in a very commendable enterprise, nevertheless in a closing one, and are bankrupt in that kind of political consideration which controls future events. How little importance is put upon their opposition is shown in the almost universality of opinion that Col. Davis will come into the cabinet, if he desires, in spite of it.

A rapid comparison of the state of feeling among the different sections of the democracy now, with what it was a month ago, gives some significant and interesting results. A far better and more cordial spirit exists, and there are many indications that Young America and the conservatives are coming to an understanding. In fact, as they come to compare notes, and define their respective positions, they find that, after all, they agree in all essential respects, and that with a little concession on both sides, the party, in Congress and out, will be able to move as a unit upon most, if not all, the important questions before the country.

Mr. Soule is unquestionably the ablest man amongst the progressives of the Senate, and popular impressions have so far done injustice to Gen. Cass as to suppose that his defeat at Baltimore has so embittered him as to make him the inevitable opponent of all progressive men and measures. In this, I conceive that they have done him injustice. He has more magnanimity than that—more patriotism and more wisdom. I have reason to believe that Mr. Soule is equally prepared to co-operate with the men whom popular rumor and mischievous intriguants would place in uncompromising hostility to him on all points where the interests of the country are involved; and I believe that his speech to-day will evince that generosity of feeling which pertains, and necessarily pertains, to all truly liberal and enlightened statesmen. If my opinions are correct, the administration of General Pierce will be strong abroad and at home, and be the most prosperous and brilliant of any in our history.

If the resolutions of General Cass on Cuba are modified in some respects, and the Monroe principle more distinctly re-asserted in them, they will prove acceptable to the entire country, but more especially if the proposed contingent appropriation is made a pendant to them; for these resolutions, if passed, will amount to a practical instruction to the President, which it would be unjust to him not to afford the means of carrying into full and effective execution, should the necessity arise. A solemn declaration like this, coupled with the tangible evidences of our intention to enforce it, would do more to prevent foreign aggression than a thousand mere affirmations of principles, however solemnly made. I think there is good reason to believe that this conviction will be acted upon, and the resolution, and the means for its vindication, be passed through Congress together. It would be an act of confidence in his integrity and wisdom which General Pierce could not fail to appreciate and remember. ALERTE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12, 1853.

Speculations About the Cabinet—No Abolitionist or Free Soiler Suggested—General Pierce Pledged to the Compromise Acts—Necessity of Excluding all who have Labored to Nullify them—Abolitionists Named for the Cabinet, &c., &c.

Rumor, as is well known, has been very busy, for some time past, in arranging a cabinet for General Pierce; and how much that rumor, thus set afloat, may have been true, and how much of it false, of course the public has been left to surmise, and hence nothing like certainty could be arrived at. It has, however, been all along supposed that the President elect would select, as his cabinet advisers, men well known to the public for their ability to fill the several executive departments, and also as consistent adherents to the principles and usages of the democratic party—national Union democrats—true friends of the compromise, and untinctured with abolitionism, free soilism, or any of the other disorganising isms of the day.

Among the persons heretofore named by letter writers, editors, and others, as likely to enter the new cabinet, it is believed no one has presumed to insult the President elect by bringing forward the name of an abolitionist or free soiler; and no true friend to him, no true friend to the democratic party, and no true friend to his country, would, for a moment, think of associating him with such company. True, General Pierce was elected to the Presidency by a majority unprecedentedly large, and without pledging himself, or being called on to pledge himself, to any particular line of policy; and this fact, in the view of some people, leaves him perfectly at liberty to cast off all restraints, and to act, in all things, entirely free from party considerations. General Pierce certainly occupies a very enviable situation in this respect, and one that may continue to be such should he not forfeit the confidence of those who placed him in that position.

But the unprecedented majority by which he was elected expresses such almost unbounded confidence in the man and his principles, that a much stronger pledge is created than he could have given in words, to prove true to the trust the people have thus reposed in him. On this principle, the people who have placed him at the head of our government will hold him to a strict account; and any false move in his incipient measures, the formation of his cabinet, &c., will be certain to awaken a distrustful, if not an indignant, feeling, calculated to make his administration anything but pleasant to him.

The people of this country have suffered enough from demagogueism for many years past, and will not quietly submit to its reign for the four years to come. The President elect, therefore, if he wishes to have a quiet and peaceable administration, to secure the cordial co-operation of the democrats in Congress, and the worthy portion of the democratic party in the United States, and the respect of his political opponents, must not put himself in the keeping of such men as Senator Atherton, nor call around him, as his constitutional advisers, such men as Jefferson Davis. Such a movement will most certainly damn his administration in advance, and lose him the confidence and respect of those who have conferred on him his high office. In such men the public have no confidence. But, talking of pledges, there is one strong and solemn pledge which General Pierce gave by his acceptance of the nomination by the Baltimore Convention. That pledge was, to the Compromise acts, including the Fugitive Slave law. To this pledge the country will hold him strictly, and to the very letter. The least hesitation on his part, in regard to this subject, or the slightest objection, would have prevented his election. How, then, will the people who elected him on the ground of the Baltimore platform feel towards him, should he, as one of his first official acts, introduce into his cabinet men who have followed in the wake of Hale, Chase, Giddings, and others of the like stamp?—men who, as abolitionists and free-soilers, have done all they could to break down the compromise, to destroy the constitution, and to set up the higher law. How would the democrats of the South regard such a movement? How would the democrats of the North and the West regard such a movement, after all they have done, and all they have suffered, to purge their ranks of the foul heresy? It is not too much to say that, General Pierce having thus deceived them and disappointed their reasonable expectations, they would desert him in a body, and leave him to lean on the rotten supports which he had chosen. But will he do these things? Will he bring demagogues and free soilers into his cabinet, to the exclusion of better men? I hope not—and yet there seems to be danger of it. What I am about to say to you is not gossip—it is not rumor. It is truth, and you may safely vouch for it as such.

Mr. Atherton informed certain senators, that General Pierce had fixed on the members of his cabinet, and of the number to compose it, he named Jefferson Davis for the War Department; Dix, of New York, for the Navy; and Medary, of Ohio, for the Post Office. What degree of credit or support these three men could yield to the administration, or what degree of confidence the democratic party could place in them, is a matter easy to be understood. That Jefferson Davis, democrat though he is, is a man at all suited to the post of Secretary of War, or indeed to any other cabinet office, is an idea at once ludicrous and preposterous; and that the other two, with their free soil affinities, would be tolerated by democrats who stand on the Baltimore platform, is not to be thought of. A cabinet made up of such materials must be short lived. It is a little singular that in this business no senator from New England has been consulted except Mr. Atherton, who communicated the information, which has created a great deal of feeling and disgust. Is not Mr. Norris a senator from New Hampshire as well as Mr. Atherton? SPECTATOR.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15, 1853.

Further About the Cabinet—Scrambling for Office—Lectures at the Smithsonian Institute—Pas de Fascination before Congressmen, &c.

The assignments, by the "knowing ones," of the different prominent individuals, in different sections of the country, to different places in the cabinet, are, as yet, merely speculative, no one being a whit more wise than his neighbor. Mr. Hunter has steadily refused all positions; Mr. Bright does not wish to change his relation to his constituents, being satisfied that he can benefit them to a greater extent by retaining his seat in the Senate than by occupying one in the cabinet. The visit of Mr. H. to Concord, however, may effect a change of opinion in the minds of both of these gentlemen. The name of Hon. R. W. Johnson, of Arkansas, has recently been named, as has also that of Hon. Jere. Clemens, of Alabama, for the War Secretaryship, either of which would, I imagine, be acceptable to the democracy of all sections of the country; but the fact of the Vice President being from Alabama would be an insuperable objection to the appointment of Mr. Clemens. The friends of Mr. Cushing in Massachusetts are sanguine that he will be invited to the Premiership; while those of Hon. A. G. Penn, of Louisiana, are equally confident that he, being so eminently qualified, will be called upon to preside over the Post Office department. Mr Slidell, of Louisiana, is also named as the probable Secretary of the Navy.

The offices in this district are great bones of contention; the District Attorneyship, the offices of Marshal, Commissioner of Public Buildings, and Navy Agent, are all valuable, and claimed by many who, of course, are "all honorable men," and entitled to some reward for services rendered during the last campaign. For the first named position, P. B. Key, Esq., who held it during the administration of Mr. Polk, would probably be the most acceptable to the democrats of the district, for which same reason J. D. Hoover, Esq., the presiding officer of the Jackson Association of this city, and who has rendered such efficient services in behalf of the cause, will probably receive the appointment of Marshal. There are numerous other applicants for the office, but not one of them has been so uniformly democratic, nor so zealous in the support of the President elect, as Mr. H., in addition to which, the democratic clubs in the city of Baltimore, and other places contiguous to this, have made unanimous requests for his appointment. For the next named, that of Commissioner of Public Buildings, I hear of no one named in place of Mr. Easby, the present incumbent; but as he is a whig, I suppose he will undoubtedly be put aside. There will undoubtedly be a strenuous effort made to displace Mr. Walter, the architect, and reinstate Mr. Robert Mills who so ably performed the duties of his office under Mr. Polk, and who was removed solely on party grounds. For the Navy Agency, I hear of but one applicant among the democrats, Capt. J. Maguire, late of the United States Marine Corps, who certainly deserves well at the hands of the incoming administration. His popularity among the Catholics, and his successful labors in person, as well as with his pen in the columns of the *Truthteller*, in your city, are appreciated, and will, doubtless, meet with a proper reward.

Aside of these matters, there is but little else of interest in Washington. The lectures at the Smithsonian Institution, do not promise much for the winter; but the city at present is filled with attractive gayeties and places of amusement, which are frequented by members of both Houses, who, finding legislation at eight dollars per diem exceedingly laborious, are generally seeking recreation in the evening; there was not an evening during the performances of the ballet *troupe* of Soto, de Melisse, etc., when a quorum of either House could not have been found at the theatre, admiring the artistic grace and agility of those charming *danseuses*. GOSSIP.

NEW YORK.

OUR ALBANY CORRESPONDENCE.

ALBANY, Jan. 19, 1853.

Legislative Industry—Railroad Toll Bill—The New York and Erie Line—Struggle for a Cabinet Place—Bill to Increase the Number of Harbor Masters—Candidates for the Post.

Seldom, if ever, have prior Legislatures shown such an industrious spirit, or a desire to enter immediately upon the discharge of their duties, as the present one. A great number of important bills have already been reported, which are in the hands of appropriate committees for investigation. The bill seeming to attract the most public attention is the one for restoring the tolls upon railroad freight. There seems to be little or no difference of opinion as to the justice and propriety of this measure; the only question discussed is whether all the railroads of the State ought to be included, or whether it should apply only to those roads which have been heavy recipients heretofore from the bounty of the State, and whose large profits can enable them, without injury or inconvenience, to make some return. At the head of this class is placed, by apparent general consent, the New York and Erie Railroad. There are numerous causes of complaint stated against the managers of this road, which serve to heighten the feeling for the re-imposition of the tolls. The altering of the terminus of their road, and running it into the State of New Jersey, thus diverting a large portion of trade from the city of New York, is urged by many as not only ungenerous to their benefactors—the State—but as a violation of their charter, and a valid reason for its abrogation. But, whether all the railroads, or the Erie and one or two others, are again to be subjected to tolls, it is generally agreed, both in and out of the Legislature, that something of this kind must be done in order to provide against the great depletion in the treasury caused by, and likely to occur hereafter from, the remission of the tolls. As to direct taxation, that is entirely out of the question, and is scarcely mentioned.

A hard contest seems to be going on among the three sections of the democratic party, in procuring recommendations from the members of the Legislature for their respective candidates to a place in Gen. Pierce's cabinet. The barnburners have abandoned Gov. Marcy, and are moving all together for Gen. Dix. The second section—the soft shell hunkers—are urging Gov. Marcy, and are principally represented by Comptroller Wright; while the third section, and the most powerful—the hard shell hunkers—are making a formidable demonstration for Daniel S. Dickinson. Which of these parties is likely to succeed, of course it is impossible to say, but the contest here is an exciting and—to the lookers on—a funny one.

A bill was introduced yesterday, by a member from your city, to increase the number of harbor masters, and to reduce or apportion the fees so that the revenue shall not exceed, in the aggregate, about the present amount.

There are only about five hundred candidates for the ten offices of harbor master to be filled this winter. If all that these gentlemen and their friends represent of them as having done for the party be true, it is astonishing how the democracy was ever defeated. Political services enough are alleged, not only to have saved the State, but have carried the Union. OBSERVER.

ALBANY, Jan. 15, 1853.

Cabinet Manœuvring—Scramble for Office—Discussion of Claims and Chances on all Sides—Bills Before the Legislature—Running a Tilt Against Gov. Seymour—The Slave Transit Bill and the Abolitionists—The Railroad Toll Bill, &c.

The Legislature is getting fairly under way, and we can begin to see a little of the course of the channel. The shoals and quicksands jut out at every elbow, and for one to stem the current for a single day, without being thrown high and dry, he must be indeed most fortunate.

On the first of the present month, the prevailing opinion ran decidedly for Gen. Dix for the cabinet of Gen. Pierce, and to this end the four abolition State officers, viz.:—Wright, Chatfield, Randall, and Welsh, bent their united and determined force. Being backed in this action by Cassidy, of the *Atlas*, Cagger, the Metternich of that wing, Col. Crain, of Herkimer, Gen. Nye, of Madison, and others, to bring up the rear, they made desperate havoc among the untaught. It was currently rumored that Mr. Hunter, of Virginia, whose will was law, had signified his willingness—yea, his desire—to be associated in the cabinet with Gen. Dix. This story ran the rounds, gathering strength at every turn, for about one week, during which time the Legislature was duly organized, and everything put in readiness for business. Then commenced the counter movements. For all the leading government appointments, petitions were in circulation among the members of both branches of the Legislature. "This is the regular hunker candidate," "this is the regular radical candidate," was the constant rallying cry and recommendation. When the Electoral College met here, a petition was busily circulated for signatures by the members of that body, recommending Gen. Dix for the cabinet; and just as the College was about to adjourn, the friends of Daniel S. Dickinson started a similar one for him. Thus matters stood until a few days ago, when it was announced that Mr. Hunter had declined having his name used in connection with the cabinet; and, further, that all the talking, blowing, and puffing for Gen. Dix was for Buncombe; that the only real authority that ever existed for it, was that he was a native of Hillsborough, the same county in New Hampshire as Gen. Pierce, and besides which a warm personal friendship existed between the two; as had also been the case with Daniel Webster, and many of the leading whigs of the country. But cabinet selections are governed by a far different rule.

Well, what next was to be started? No one named Mr. Marcy, nor does any one speak of him in Albany, any more than though he had been in his grave a hundred years. Perhaps the reason for this is to be found in the fact that the original barnburners have rewarded soft shells long enough. For the last three years the cream of their dish has been almost wholly given to these auxiliaries; and hence the old line barnburners have concluded that it is time to look after their ancient household. Comptroller Wright would have liked to open the ball for Marcy, but he met with two stumbling blocks. First, he has his eye fixed thus early upon the gubernatorial chair of this State; hence, to take an open stand now would surely kill his prospects. Secondly, he knows that Gov. Seymour is anxiously looking to the chances for a compromise candidate for the cabinet from this State; and to that goal his (Gov. Seymour's) ambition zealously strives. Therefore, to meddle with the gun, his (Mr. Wright's) brains might suffer. Erastus Corning has also an inanimate dose of Marcyism in his composition. The friends of Mr. Dickinson, thus surveying the elements, took courage, and at once started a petition, recommending him to Gen. Pierce's especial favor. Up to this time a clear majority of the democratic members of the Senate and Assembly have signed it. It has been also signed by a majority of the State Convention for the nomination of Presidential electors, by a majority of the electors themselves, and a majority of members of Congress elect from this State. How Gen. Pierce can disregard Mr. Dickinson's claims remains to be learned. The history of the Baltimore Convention must be consulted by Gen. Pierce in every political action; and from that it clearly appears that for three days Mr. Dickinson held the nomination in the hollow of his hand. Virginia kindly placed it there, and the whole South stood ready to defend him with it. Finally, he passed it back untarnished, to be bestowed to other keeping; and when it fell to Gen. Pierce, no acclaim was more sincere than that of Mr. Dickinson. Well, a few short weeks and all will be known. Certain it is, that Mr. Dickinson possesses a noble endorsement from the Empire State.

Many of the important bills before the Legislature will soon reach their final action. In the House, General Burroughs, the independent member from Orleans county, and father of the unconstitutional nine million canal bill, has just commenced his argument against the Governor and his message. Against the Governor he is very personal, and against his message he takes two strong points—one of them, that the message is not what the Governor preached in the canal districts, whilst stumping the State for his election. That in his speeches before the election he plainly declared himself in favor of a change of the constitution, so as to secure and raise funds for the enlargement and completion of the canals, whilst his message nowhere even squints at such a measure, but only recommends the raising, by legislative enactment, of about one million of dollars annually, for the deepening of the canals and lengthening of the locks, so as to enable boats of 240 tons to be navigated in them.

Another popular point which Mr. Burroughs makes against the Governor is, that he recommends in his message that the labor on the canals be procured at times and seasons of the year when the same is cheap. Now, it is a serious question, whether it is not, as Mr. Burroughs argues, for the best interest of the State to set the example to other employers, by having the public work done by labor paid for at a full and reasonable price, and not to have the State depress the working man by its own example. The Slave Transit bill, introduced by Mr. D. B. Taylor, of New York, is calling down the anathemas of all the abolition and free soil papers in the Union. Nevertheless, the bill will in a very few days be brought out of the Judiciary Committee and put upon its final vote. No doubt, as many of the barnburners and soft shells as can conveniently will dodge; but I should not be surprised, notwithstanding all that has been said against it, to see it pass.

A powerful effort is already being made to restore the canal tolls upon the railroads. This will meet with fierce opposition, not only from the railroad interests of the State, but by the representatives of the cities, whose local railroads would seriously suffer by this retrograde movement. The most healthy spirit seems to indicate that "every tub should stand upon its own bottom," and that no good reason can be given for taxing the citizens double price for bringing provisions and commerce to market by railroad, simply because the canals are frozen up, and this excess of price is given to keep alive the canals. ALPHA.

OUR SYRACUSE CORRESPONDENCE.

SYRACUSE, Jan. 1, 1853.

Cabinet Speculations in this Quarter—Insinuations Against the Washington Letter Writers—Hostility to Mr. Dix—Slap at the Southerners—Hard Hitting all Round.

The suggestions from the various letter writers from Washington and elsewhere, that the President elect proposed to call Mr. Dix into his cabinet, excites in this quarter very general surprise and incredulity. It is not believed that it has any other authority or foundation than the wish of some interested persons, who seek, by paid feelers of this kind, to suggest and promote what they most desire.

To suppose that such a purpose is seriously entertained by Gen. Pierce, is to impute to him an entire obliviousness, in respect to the past course and position of Mr. Dix, and of public men in this State and in the nation, very far from complimentary. Can it be so soon forgotten that Mr. Dix was the chief advocate, in the Senate, of the Wilmot proviso, occupying then the same position with his successor, Governor Seward—that he was made, and has always been used by Van Buren—opposed the election of General Cass, in 1848, at his bidding, and became Mr. Van Buren's candidate for Governor, to help out the treason of that campaign, and to aid in the election of Gen. Taylor, by giving this State to the Whigs? What else, in effect, would it be than restoring the Van Buren dynasty, so far as the President could do so. It would be strange, indeed, if the democratic party, defeated in the nation by the treachery of the Van Burens and Dix in 1848, should immediately on its restoration to power, take one of the chief leaders in that memorable bolt—the leading preacher of abolitionism in the Senate and on the stump—and place him in a distinguished position in the cabinet. Low, indeed, must the national democrats have sunk, to do, to suffer or submit, to such dishonor and indignity. Its self-respect, if such a thing is predicable of a political party, will have departed when that event happens; it would be paying a most remarkable premium upon party infidelity. Sectionalism would have achieved thereby a most encouraging triumph. All party men would learn a new lesson—that party treachery is a passport to favor and to distinction—that fidelity in the support of party nominations is no longer to be required or expected, or at least is no recommendation to a political aspirant—that those who expect promotion or honor in the party should be guilty of no such weakness or simplicity.

But it is said, by some of the letters writers at Washington, that Southern men will not object to Mr. Dix. Doubtless there are mean scamps among Southern men as among Northern, who will stoop to anything for office or pay; and it is not surprising that such men should infest the capital of the nation; but there are large numbers of men of character and honor at the South, who would scorn to make or assent to any such bargain—who would as soon go into the cabinet with Frederick Douglass as with Mr. Dix. Not that Mr. Dix is not a gentleman and a man of courteous bearing and decent behaviour, and of respectable talents—not that he or those who acted with him in 1848 should be proscribed—not that they should not receive office from the national government, provided their repentance is sincere, and they promise to sin no more; but that their defection from, and their return to, the party is too recent to entitle them to the highest seats in the synagogue. Either he and they have fallen from grace, and sinned against the party, and return as penitents seeking forgiveness, or else they are coalitionists, or Swiss, working for pay without regard to principle. If they come back to the national party in the former capacity, let them be kindly treated—let them share with the rest at the common table, and be promoted as they shall deserve hereafter—not placed at once, without trial or proof of their sincerity or good behavior, at the head of the church.

But it may be said, perhaps, that there had been a union of democrats in this State, and that the bolters of 1848 have been taken back, and have faithfully supported General Pierce, and that these reminiscences ought not to be revived. This is true. There is a union, which the sound national democrats made, and have observed in good faith, with the bolters of 1848. This union was made by the sound democrats, who had strongly resisted the efforts of the bolters to denationalize the democratic party, from motives of patriotism, to stay the tide of abolitionism and recall many old democrats who had been deluded back to their duty and fidelity, in sustaining the Union by sustaining the national character of the democratic party. This union of democrats, in this State, will doubtless be maintained, unless the party is distracted by untoward influences at Washington. As nationalism has prevailed in the election of the President, national men must be sustained and preferred, else nothing has been gained by success in the nation. Much is due to the national democrats of this State. Firmly they breasted and resisted the storm of abolitionism and fanaticism which pervaded the State, sweeping in its swelling current of passion the whole whig party of the State, and nearly half of their former associates, under the lead of the Van Burens, Dix, Gardiner and others, whom the democracy had honored and placed in positions of influence and distinction. When the election of '48 had passed, the "old hunkers," as they were called, because of their inflexible adherence to old principles and their resistance to abolitionism and other new elements of party and social distraction, were left alone in this State, as the supporters and defenders of national principles of political action, and the opponents of sectionalism. With much personal reluctance, and a great sacrifice of personal feeling, and almost of self-respect, they made the union of '49, to check free soilism and restore the democratic ascendancy in this State, and save the Union from the dangerous agitation of a most exciting local question. The fruits of their doings is seen in the settlement of the dangerous question alluded to, and in the restoration of the democratic party in the Union. The storm has passed, and the principles of the abused "old hunkers," *alias* the old democrats, have prevailed and have triumphed in the election of General Pierce. Can it be, that the first salutation which they are to receive upon this joyous event is an invitation to witness honors bestowed, by the President elected so triumphantly upon their principles, upon one of the leading rebels in the bolt of '48, and the freesoil candidate for Governor of this State in that year, nominated and supported with a leading whig abolitionist for Lieutenant Governor? Could any greater wrong and insult be offered to the national democrats of New York? Could party degradation descend to any "lower deep," or party ingratitude perpetrate any greater injustice? *Nous verrons.* ONTARIO.

OUR ROCHESTER CORRESPONDENCE.

ROCHESTER, Dec. 30, 1852.

Importance Attached to the Home Organ of General Pierce—Homily on Consistency and True National Democracy—Pleading for the Spoils of Office.

You must have noticed what essential importance a certain class of papers of this State attach to an article from the Concord *Patriot*, which purports to indicate the policy of the President elect, in the formation of his cabinet. They elevate it to the head of their editorial columns—let it occupy the very place from which the Baltimore platform was carefully excluded during the late presidential campaign; to make room for it, they suspend their laudations of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," their exultations over the Lemon Slave Case, their flings at the compromise measures and the "peculiar institution," and even neglect those dear friends and co-operators over the ocean, "The Women of England."

Well, and what of it? Why, a democratic paper printed in the city of General Pierce's residence, has astonished and delighted them, since they construe it as meaning that they are subjects of political grace!—more than they expected, as would seem from the surprise they manifest, and they betray, too, palpably, a consciousness that it is more than they deserve.

It may be very properly questioned whether the President elect has any home organ to be the exponent of his policy; and yet there is nothing in the *Patriot's* article new or startling, or objectionable. It but announces what was well known of General Pierce before his election—that he is eminently national in his views; will "know no North, no South"—in short, that he is a national democrat, the embodiment and personification of the Baltimore platform—every plank and stanchion of it. If all this is news to those who would seem to regard it as such, it is not so with those who stood side by side with the President elect throughout the stormy period when the Union was assailed by sectional factions. Not to have known where General Pierce has always stood, battling manfully in his own State, and upon the floor of Congress, against abolitionism in all its phases, pretexts and disguises—one of a national phalanx that breasted the torrent of disunion and sectional fanaticism—is almost a confession of having been wanderers away from the national democratic fold—followers after strange gods, even to the foot of Lake Erie.

It needed not the assurance of the Concord *Patriot* that General Pierce's cabinet will be made up of those who are "imbued with the same national ideas" that he entertains himself, or that it must be a "unit, harmonizing in all its views." The best security for all this would be the selection of a cabinet who, like himself, have had no other than "national ideas," when it cost something to entertain them; when faction was howling, and the spirit of disunion was hissing; when in some portions of our country—even here in New York—it was encountering political, and almost social, martyrdom to espouse the integrity of the Union—to raise a voice or a pen against its assailants. This is the language of reality, not of fiction. An eminent citizen of New York, whose voice and influence in Congress were potent in slaying the hydra of sectionalism, was made the subject of personal insult. Invited to Western New York in the heat of the contest of 1848, to be the speaker at a democratic meeting, on retiring through the crowd he was assailed by hisses, and insults in other forms, from a motley gathering of abolitionists, Seward whigs, and those who claimed to be democrats. Some of those hissers will claim a right to insist that this same gentleman they then insulted shall not have a place in General Pierce's cabinet. They fear that it will disturb the "harmony" of the democratic party of New York.

The best guarantee for sound "national ideas" is, never to have entertained any other, nor never to have compromised with any other. If a member of General Pierce's cabinet is to be taken from New York, the national democrats of the State, of 1848, the trying period, and now, will be quite likely to insist that it be one who has never faltered; and in these views they will be seconded by the democrats of other States.

It will be said in some quarters that these views are proscriptive. They are not so. With reference to the democratic party of the nation, to the harmony of the incoming administration, to exigencies that may soon occur, and are likely to occur, they are simply prudential.

I am not the advocate of proscription; rather am I in favor of a great latitude of indulgence and forgiveness with the really cured and healed of the badly diseased of 1848. There are many such, while there are many others that were so much attainted with the virus, that but small hopes may be entertained of them. I would have little of discrimination in the distribution of federal patronage in this State, in the ranks of those who act fully up to the faith of national democrats. But in the formation of a national cabinet, the selection of such as have never entertained other than "national ideas" would seem to be clearly indicated as what the democracy of the nation will ask of the President elect, and as what will be likely to be his own views.

But are those who seem to be delighted and surprised with the comfortable assurances of the Concord *Patriot*, free, themselves, from a proscriptive spirit? They can see what would be proscriptive on the one hand, but are blind to it on the other. At this very moment they have a league among themselves, as strong as was that they made with the abolitionists in 1848, its aim being to keep out of the cabinet a prominent national democrat of this State; and even threaten a repetition of bolting, if their prejudices are not consulted and gratified. They have one voice for the syren song of "peace, harmony, union;" another, hoarse and harsh one, which demands a sacrifice on the part of national democrats, that they will not feel willing to make. MASON.

OUR UTICA CORRESPONDENCE.

UTICA, N. Y., Jan. 7, 1853.

The Beginning of a New Political Era—Gov. Seymour's Appointments—Hunker Majority in Caucus—Defeat of Hunker Congressmen by the Barnburners—Van Burenites Praising "Gag Atherton"—Mr. Taylor's Bill in the Assembly—Soft Shells Puzzled what to do—W. E. Robinson's Speech, &c. &c.

The commencement of a new year, ushering in a legislative session at Albany, and producing invariable changes in the *personnel* of the State government, is, with the politicians of the rural districts, a season of considerable excitement and anxiety. You of the great city, with other important and daily recurring political events transacting in your midst, can scarcely comprehend the interest with which the entire centre and west of the State look to Albany about the beginning of each year, when a change, or at least a renewal, of the administration is taking place. In the canal counties this feeling of interest is particularly strong, and perhaps Utica, which geographically seems to have been marked out for the capital city of the State, has of it more than her share.

The inauguration of a new Governor, and the assembling of a Legislature which is democratic in both branches, have given to January, 1853, peculiar attractions for politicians of all stamps. The last strongholds of whiggery have capitulated; their most available resources have failed; and nothing remains of the late struggle except the division of the reeking spoils amongst the victors. This process has already begun, as it were, and promises to be a proceeding scarcely less interesting than that of winning them.

You will have perceived that Governor Seymour had appointed and made public his military staff, with the exception of the Inspector General, considerably in advance of the commencement of his term of office. Great is the wrath of the hunkers at the selections made; all of whom, with one single exception, are barnburners and soft shells; and all of whom, with two exceptions, are said to be relatives or connections of Mr. Seymour. To my mind, the Governor has done exactly as he should have done; for is it not the part of a good Christian to do good, first of all, to the household of his faith? The sole military appointment which is yet undetermined, and which is the most lucrative of them all—the Inspector Generalship—is rumored to be pending between Col. Thomas C. Nye, of Madison county, and Col. Philip S. Crooke, of Kings—both barnburners and freesoilers of the most bitter and unmitigated breed.

The proceedings of the Assembly democratic caucus, on Monday evening, have demonstrated the perhaps unexpected fact that the hard shelled hunkers are in a majority of the democratic members of that House. Had they been able to unite upon a candidate for Speaker they would have elected him. By dividing their strength between Taylor, Shaw and others, they were unable to prevent the choice of Ludlow, upon the second ballot. Mr. Ludlow is a man of respectable talent, and will, in all probability, make a very respectable Speaker. Upon the first ballot for clerk, Mr. Nafew, hard shell hunker, was triumphantly elected over the candidate of the Marcy and Van Buren coalition, Mr. Church, by a majority of twelve votes—Mr. Corey (hunker) receiving five votes. The result is an undeniable triumph for the hards, and proves that the arrangements so carefully made by the barnburner and softshell heads of departments at the seat of government, by no means met with the approbation of the members direct from the people. It is the first hard shell hunker majority of democratic members of the Assembly for six or seven years.

The Senate retains its old officers, the Lieutenant-Governor being its president, and its clerk and his deputies ranking as hard shells. A majority of the democratic senators are also firm friends of the compromise measures, and of the eminent defenders of the same in Congress. These things look well for the ascendancy of the national democracy in this State.

Certain remarkable facts are elicited by the official canvass of last fall's election, lately published over the certificate of the State canvassers. In your province, as a neutral paper, which is at liberty to publish the truth, without partizan fear or favor, I have thought it well to communicate these items to you, for the sake of placing the same on record. It will be remembered that, in several districts giving strong Pierce majorities, whigs, independents, and free soilers, were elected to Congress, by considerable majorities; so that, while these sections of the State put themselves in a position to demand offices of the incoming President, for services rendered, they were at the same time embarrassing his administration by electing representatives known to be hostile to its policy. Your correspondent has already referred to this matter, before the official canvass was published; but as the figures are now in the possession of the public, the circumstances of these disgraceful acts of party treachery can be the more clearly manifested. It will be remembered that the democratic candidates for Congress who are thus defeated, are, without exception, hunkers of the strictest school; and it may as well, also, be known that each and every one of them was a supporter of Daniel S. Dickinson and Lewis Cass throughout our late and present factional struggles. That they were destined to defeat was well known in this city before the election, the intention being to prevent a hunker majority of the democratic delegation to Congress from this State, and consequently any recommendation of Mr. Dickinson for the cabinet by such a majority. The result has proved at once the potency and impotency for mischief of the contemptible faction which aimed the blow. Pierce loses at Washington the support of true democrats, whose opposition to sectional agitation would have been as manly and consistent as his own has been; but, for the rest, the treachery has availed nothing, since there is even yet an actual majority of the delegation favorable to Mr. Dickinson, in spite of the defeat of the half dozen hunkers I have alluded to.

The most amusing things of the day, in the political line, are the eulogies showered upon Hon. Charles G. Atherton, since his re-election to the Senate, by the free soil press. The days when the same prints used to stigmatize him as "Gag Atherton," "the great doughface," are fresh in our minds; the resolutions passed through our Legislature in 1840, (by the combined forces of the whigs and of those who were afterwards barnburners,) vituperating his course upon the anti-slavery petitions, are still upon our statute book; and, as late as 1849, similar abuse and obloquy, levelled at him, was a daily treat to the fanatical readers of the Van Buren newspapers. But times have changed, and Mr. Atherton is now supposed to have the ear of the incoming Executive. How quickly their words are eaten by the utterers! The *Concord Patriot's* eloquent and, what is better, well deserved praise of "the great doughface," as a statesman "enjoying the confidence of the democracy of the Union," is echoed by every cur of the pack; and no honeyed compliment in addition is wanting from the presses which, only a few years since, printed his name encompassed with wide black lines, and never alluded to him but in terms of ridicule and contempt. Times have changed—but he has not changed, nor have they; they are only wanting office.

A test of the sincerity and fortitude of the democracy of this State is already at hand, in the shape of a bill, brought into the Assembly a day or two since by Mr. Taylor, of your city, providing for the repeal of the law by which our ports are shut to citizens of other States, travelling with their slaves. Mr. Ely, of Broome county, it wil be seen, has introduced resolutions having a similar purpose, and the paternity of which we can guess at, when we remember that Broome county is Mr. Dickinson's residence. These projects will, of course, be opposed by the remnants of Sewardism, while the disciples of Van Buren will be obliged to prove whether they love better the party of good feeling and harmony throughout the Union, or that which adopts the black flag of avowed abolition, preaches crusades against the constitutional rights of the South, and ignores the somewhat antiquated commandment, "Thou shalt not steal." The subject has already caused much tribulation to the leaders of the soft shell and barnburner coalition, who, being puzzled as to how to dispose of the question, pretend to see in it a deeply laid plot to disturb the "union and harmony" of the party. Fortunately, we have heard the cry of wolf so frequently of late years, that nobody now heeds it in the least; and the "union and harmony" existing between national men and abolitionists, in both great parties, will, I much fear, outlast the tenure of office of these anxious coalitionists. The result of their deliberations has not been, as yet, made known in this quarter.

A collection of the partisan pamphlets published during the late campaign, beginning with "Why I am a Whig," and concluding with the dignified reply of Fillmore to the dignified resolution of the Senate, giving the items of Pierce's and Scott's pay while in public service, would be an instructive lesson to posterity. In looking over one the other day—a speech made by W. E. Robinson—I fell upon the charge applied to Gen. Pierce, of being "perhaps the most bigoted and brutal lump of stupidity in the universe." Depend upon it, that fellow will be a candidate for office before Pierce gets warm in the Presidential chair. Oneida county has seen as sudden somersets as that.

PENNSYLVANIA.

OUR HARRISBURG CORRESPONDENCE.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 3, 1853.

Abuse and Persecution of Prominent Cass Men in Pennsylvania—Faction Boiling Over, and Raising a Smoke in its own Eyes—The Wounded Harpies of the Pennsylvanian—Unexampled Meanness of the Pennsylvanian towards the Honorable Richard McAllister—Buchananism Going Blind or Insane with Spiteful Rage—Meeting of the Pennsylvania Legislature—Indignation of the Members Against the Recent Developements of Spite and Spleen—The Press of the State, &c., &c.

The following characteristic piece of blindness and spite appears in the *Pennsylvanian* of Saturday last; and as it reflects upon the Hon. Richard McAllister so unjustly, and in such low and mean terms, I cannot, in justice to that honorable gentleman, refrain from noticing it. It seems that my letter endeavoring to do justice to the recent ferocious outbreaks of Mr. Buchanan, through the *Pennsylvanian*, has called out a new burst of rage against Mr. McAllister, and in the blind, reckless gabble of that paper he is charged with being the author of the letter to the HERALD, from this place, dated Dec. 23d, 1852. This last piece of Buchanan spite, spit out through "the organ," reads thus:—

> The letter in the NEW YORK HERALD on Tuesday last, from Harrisburg, about Richard McAllister and the *Pennsylvanian*, is evidently from McAllister's own pen; it bears his indelible mark on its face. This is blowing ones' own trumpet with a vengeance.

"It bears his indelible mark on its face," says the *Pennsylvanian*. Oh! how wise—how penetrating—is the *Pennsylvanian!* Its natural sagacity is quite as limited as "its knowledge of prominent public men in the interior of the State." Did the editor of the *Pennsylvanian* ever read, or hear, that "whom the Gods intend to destroy they first make mad?" Is not the hopeless editor mad? What can be the matter with him? Is he insane, blind with spite—or what is the matter? This editor—or these editors—or the harpies of the *Pennsylvanian*, are blind with vengeful spite, and a little delirious in their trouble—their wounded fluttering—how they do flutter! Yes, they are a little insane in their rage; they see "indelible marks" that do not exist—I should say spectres, perhaps, of "his indelible mark on its face." Has Mr. McAllister's *exposé*, his plain truth-speaking letter, which the *Pennsylvanian* refused to publish, driven the *Pennsylvanian* crazy? Or is it hell-haunted for denying an innocent man the privilege of making his reply to their malicious attacks in its own columns? The *Pennsylvanian* sees ghosts, mania sights, "indelible marks," &c., none of which exist—what can be the cause? It is becoming uneasy, too, in the smoke its overboiling factious spirit has raised. Perhaps standing so long in the shadow of the sage of Wheatland has enchanted the *Pennsylvanian*. Does the *Pennsylvanian* attempt its wonders by enchantments? Egyptians and Ishmaelites of old did, and it would be quite becoming in "the organ"—quite characteristic. But let me assure the alarmed—haunted—enchanted—crazy *Pennsylvanian*, that "the letter in the NEW YORK HERALD, &c." is not "from Mr. McAllister's own pen;" that Mr. McAllister never saw or knew anything of it till it appeared in the HERALD—indeed, not to this hour, so far as my knowledge goes. I had not seen Mr. McAllister before writing "the letter in the HERALD" for a month at least, nor have I seen him since. The truth is, that the fierce howl set up by the Buchanan tigers, has brought an echo back to them in their own dens, and their malignant scratching has raised a dust not altogether fragrant in their nostrils. They are now snapping and growling at this echo, caused by their own harsh notes. Let them blame themselves when they get sick of it. The press of the whole State is stirred up by this late developement of Buchananism through the columns of the *Pennsylvanian*. The same—the very same impulse which dictated "the letter in the HERALD" so annoying to the *Pennsylvanian*, has spoken out from every point in the Commonwealth where a tongue or pen existed capable of being moved by such flagrant injustice—such black vengeance shown upon peerless men—for having loved Gen. Lewis Cass.

The voice raised by the press of the State has now frightened the *Pennsylvanian*—if not Mr. Buchanan himself—and they have drawn in their horns in a very ungraceful article, attempting to show themselves the only true friends of General Cass, and denying that Mr. Buchanan will oppose Cass men for appointments under General Pierce—violently abusing prominent Cass men in the same article. What strange hallucinations possess their minds. But we will leave them for the present.

The members of the Legislature are now nearly all in Herrisburg. They organize to-morrow. I hear many of them, from different points in the State, express the utmost indignation against the persecution of the friends of General Cass by Mr. Buchanan, lately developed in such a disgustingly malicious shape. The Sage of Wheatland has not as much influence in his own State, at this hour, as has General Cass, either among the people or in Congress.

This fact I have heard mentioned within a very few days, in the political cirles here, in their conversations relative to the cabinet of Gen. Pierce. Mr. Buchanan's friends now declare that he would not, under any circumstances, accept a place in the cabinet. That he will not, most well-informed persons readily believe. You are at full liberty to give my name to Mr. Buchanan, or any of his clique, who have opened their abuse upon the most conspicuous friends of General Cass in this State, and I will wait for their malice, only asking to have an opportunity to tell the truth when my time shall come. I have written you through the plain dictates of justice alone, and a desire to have the real truth appear in relation to the facts I have stated. Neither Mr. McAllister, nor any other man attacked by the *Pennsylvanian*, as yet needs any vindication before this country. They are highly honorable men, whose only fault has been their love for General Cass. For a Pennsylvanian to love this great leader of American statesmen, is a crime in the bleared vision of "the favorite son," as his eye is cocked just at this time. Does the *Pennsylvanian* now think it has done any wrong to Mr. McAllister? Will it now do him justice? We shall see. FOGY.

CONNECTICUT.

OUR HARTFORD CORRESPONDENCE.

HARTFORD, CONN., Dec. 30, 1852.

More Advice for Gen. Pierce—Cabinet Speculations Over the Left—Names of Sundry Gentlemen Not to be in the Cabinet—Matters at Home—Whig Expectations and Results—Truman Smith and the Whigs of Connecticut.

In the HERALD of yesterday (Dec. 29) your correspondent suggested that it would be a much easier task to tell who would not be member of the cabinet of Gen. Pierce than who would. Since, then, he has taken another squint through his political telescope, but has seen nothing to induce him to correct the prediction made at that time; and as all the correspondents of the HERALD have volunteered their advice to Gen. Pierce, (they probably supposing that he reads the HERALD,) regarding the proper persons to compose his cabinet, may he (your correspondent) also be allowed to name a few individuals, who, in his enlightened opinion, will not be invited to take pews in the governmental church of the incoming President. A few words by way of preface.

O. P. Q., (the Connecticut correspondent of the HERALD,) has ever had a very good opinion of Gen. Pierce. He has ever regarded him as a sound, unwavering democrat, and a man every way worthy of, and competent to fill, any office under the heavens. When he heard of his nomination for the Presidency, he was unanimously of the opinion that it was a *coup d'état* second to none within his recollection, and that he (the General) would be triumphantly elected. On or about the 2d day of November last, your correspondent learned that such was the case, and thereupon he concluded General Pierce would make a good President. Reason for this was, that as the principles of General Pierce had always been liberal, and progressive in their tendencies, it was fair to presume his administration of the government would be; and, secondly, from his well-known prudence, that the men he called about him for advisers and co-workers would be men who were not, and never had been, identified with any cliques—men who, in the household quarrels of the democracy, had never taken any part—but men who, like himself, were open, fearless, deserving, competent, and politically pure. This opinion, also, your correspondent has seen no good reason for changing, and consequently he is of the opinion that the following gentlemen will be invited to stay at home:—

From Mass., Hon. B. F. Hunker.
do. do. do. Chas. G. Anti-coalition, Esq.
do. New York, Hon. Daniel S. Hard-shell.
do. do. do. William L. Soft-shell.
do. do. do. John A. Barnburner.
do. Pennsylvania, Hon. J. Cuba Buchanan.
do. Georgia, Hon. Howell C. Union.
do. Mississippi, Hon. Jefferson Secession.
do. do. do. Henry S. Anti-secession.
do. Illinois, Hon. Stephen Y. Fogy.
do. Michigan, Hon. Lewis O. Fogy.

The above are only a few among thousands, *et id omne genus*, that General Pierce will leave to scheme and plot for themselves, rather than for him and his administration. He stands in no need of their services or assistance. With such men as Hunter, Cushing, O'Conor, Butler, Gwin, Black, &c., about him, he and the country will be safe.

Matters here, since my last, have undergone but little or no visible alteration. Our worthy P. M. is preparing to pack up his duds and decamp about the 1st of April. He is a good man, and were it not for one big fault, he would probably be allowed to remain. He had been shaking in his boots for some weeks prior to the election, and until Truman Smith wrote him: "All is safe! We shall carry the 'Empire State' with a rush. Ohio is ours; and the majority of Scott and Graham in the 'Keystone State' will be counted by thousands. We are tolerable sure, also, of carrying Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Virginia. Mr. Botts writes me, that he thinks Virginia is certain. In short, have no fears. Unless our friends here greatly deceive themselves, we are sure of electing Scott and Graham." This was balm in Gilead to his faint heart when he little expected it, and forthwith his courage revived. Truman was believed to be a demi-god, and his predictions were ever known to be correct. The letter was shown to some of the initiated, and Scott stock took a sudden rise. Sundry officials walked the streets with quite a consequential air; and even their spirits underwent such a change that, for the first time during the season, they forgot that betting was a sin, and offered one thousand against five thousand on the general result. This offer was quickly accepted, which, by the way, was a sort of hydropathic dose for them; yet the speech of W. E. Robinson put them to rights again on the evening before the election. Tuesday at length came, with its "rain and mud," to remind them of Waterloo and General Scott; and they took the field and fought well, and, as the result, gave sixty-five majority in the city for Scott. This, too, was encouraging, and their spirits rose still higher. Returns from Wethersfield, and other of the adjoining towns, came in with majorities for Scott and Graham. Whig powder-dealers smiled; betters grinned and chuckled; leaders and expectants strutted pompously in the streets; and the rank and file swarmed. The telegraph office was crowded, and the excitement ran high. The first despatch—"at least ten thousand majority for Pierce in New York city"—came upon them like a clap of thunder out of a cloudless sky. To describe their looks, repeat their sayings, and give any idea of their actions then, would be beyond the power of my pen; and when that despatch was followed up by "Boston, six hundred majority for Pierce," one would judge they had severally been struck with a slung-shot. Not "slowly and sadly," but quickly and madly, they beat a retreat, and left the democrats masters of the field. They manifested but little surprise, and appeared disposed to view the matter very coolly. Being believers in the doctrine of political fore-ordination, they had probably forgotten that it was necessary to kick up a row over a matter-of-course event. This is much the spirit they have manifested before and since the election. They are beginning, however, to discuss the claims of candidates for various offices, although, as yet, very temperate in all their movements and sayings. The excitement will, however, wax greater soon, and as the HERALD is expected to contain everything of interest, occasional letters will be found therein from O. P. Q.

OHIO.

OUR COLUMBUS CORRESPONDENCE.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Jan. 10, 1853.

Scramble for Office—The Parties and their Leaders—Political Episode.

I would that you could have been here on the 8th, to have witnessed one of the richest and most exciting political scenes which had transpired in many a day. The "Buckeye" democracy were out in their strength. "Old hunkers" in abundance were here for days before the convention, bowing and scraping, and tottering around the "young 'uns," dropping the promises of crumbs into their open mouths with great liberality. It is said that every office in this State in the gift of