THE BEDINI RIOT IN CINCINNATI.

Examination of Judge William L. Spooner, Capt. Thos. S. Lukens Six Lieutenants and One Hundred and Four Policemen, on Charge of Riot on Christmas Evening—Great Excitement—Investigation not yet Concluded.

SIXTH DAY—MORNING SESSION.

JAN. 14.—The examination of this case it is thought will consume the whole of another week. The interest is augmented rather than diminished, both by our German and American citizens. It is probable that all the witnesses who have been subpœnaed will not be examined. After the court convened—

Mayor Snelbaker resumed the stand. I received a communication directing attention to an article in the *Hochwaechter*, and upon that information I said to Capt. Lukens to prevent a breach of the peace at all hazards; I apprehended no riot; the examination before me was altogether as to what occurred in the watchhouse; Capt. Lukens is Chief of the Police, and the police are entirely under his control; the paper I refer to was the issue of that week; don't know the exact date—probably Wednesday; it was translated afterwards, and published in the *Unionist* or *Columbian*.

Direct resumed—I said to him, after calling his attention to the article, and he had returned with a verbal translation—that if he wanted to go and see the Bishop he might do as he pleased." He has since told me that he did not go to see the Bishop.

Col Chambers—Who was this eminent lawyer?

Mayor Snelbaker—I will say that the letter was entirely confidential and between honorable men; I cannot divulge the name; it was not any gentleman connected with this case; had no intimation up to dark that the Freemen were going to have a procession.

Cross examined—Thinks the paper handed him was similar to the one containing the article.

Charles Mebner, sworn—Was in the procession, and was near Race street when the same was attacked; saw John Derner abused; saw four or five watchmen take hold of him by the shoulders; they kicked and abused him badly; one of them was Christian Shafer, (pointing him out); cannot recognise any other; I then returned to the hall.

Frederick Hassaruak, affirmed—Was in the procession; had been in the hall some two hours before the procession marched; was there in the afternoon at the public meeting; it was a public meeting; Turners, Working Men's Society, and others were invited to participate; heard no threats of violence against the Bishop, Bedini, or to any property; saw no disorder in the procession; all was good order and peaceable; it was resolved to march through sundry streets to Fifth street market place, and there burn Bedini in effigy; I marched at the head of the third division; my lady was in the procession; there were some fifty ladies in the procession; all was quiet except some exclamations on the sidewalk; I stepped out and requested them to keep quiet, that we did not wish to disturb the quiet of the city; this order continued until we arrived on the corner of Ninth and Plum streets; arriving there I heard a pistol fired, but, knowing it to be Christmas night, and hearing a number of pistols fired, supposed the attack was made by some boys, but soon saw the front retreating; not knowing what was going on, I said to them, "Stand still," soon after I was carried up Plum street, and heard pistol shots fired every few steps, and heard the balls whizzing past my ears; I saw Lieut. Phillips near Plum and Ninth streets, with a pistol in his hand; I was several times thrown down by the crowd; saw no resistance at all by the procession; saw many men there with stars on their breasts, but cannot recognize any more.

Cross-examined—The resolutions were offered verbally; a secretary took down the minutes; when the attack was made the crowd retreated in different directions, and I was crowded up Plum street; I was in the third division; there were two divisions in advance of me; was on Ninth street near Plum when I heard the firing; the people on both sides were also retreating, and I was soon knocked down by a parcel of fugitives and trod upon; the pushing was from west to east; I was crowded up Plum street, I suppose, by the military manœuvres of Lukens; I went to Plum street to see what was done, and then I was pushed by the crowd up Plum street.

Direct resumed—Did not see a rallying charge between a Swiss and a German, nor was I party to that rallying charge; I said halt for an explanation of what was the matter.

Ferdinand Wickesman, sworn—Was not in the procession; was on the sidewalk; was on the corner of Ninth and Plum streets, about two steps from the corner; saw a great mass of people coming from Western row towards Plum street; as soon as they came up a pistol was fired from the police; then twenty or thirty shots were fired, and the watchmen made the attack like wild beasts; from the position I was in I could not see, on account of the confusion and the crowd around me; saw a great many felled to the ground; saw a man struck on the corner of Ninth and Elm streets; a watchman came along and said to a man who was running, there goes one of those devilish fellows; the man said to the officer, let me go, I have done nothing; the officer took hold of him by the breast and pushed him down, and then took a stick and gave him two good sound licks across the neck; he then took him down Ninth towards Plum street; the officer was a German; cannot recognize him.

George Wolt, sworn—Was at the corner of Ninth and Plum, on Christmas night, on my way home; fuss generally all over when I got there; was walking with three men; saw Judge Spooner and three watchmen come up, and Judge Spooner said, "you must go home, you must not be standing on the corner;" I said "we will;" watchman Snowfield and another took hold of me, and said they would put me in the watch house, because I said that I believed the watchmen did not do right in not giving notice before they attacked the procession; they took me and the man I was talking to, to the watchhouse; watchman Slack I also said the same to; was within half a square of home when arrested; it was about eleven o'clock; they took my pocknife and a pistol from the other man; and then a watchman struck the other man on the side of the head; the man told me he had not been in the watchhouse; I told the watchmen that I would walk along, but they held on to me and hurried me along roughly to the watchhouse.

Cross Examined.—Judge Spooner said we should go home, that we should not stand round there that evening; do not remember that he said he was afraid of farther difficulty; the other man had a pistol, and said he always carried a pistol because he was once knocked down in the street; Judge Spooner spoke not mildly but pretty fine to us to go home.

Leonidas Brickmeyer, sworn—Was not in the procession, but walked along the sidewalks to the corner of Ninth and Plum streets, from the concert in the German theatre; was standing on the north side; saw Capt. Lukens there; he said, "Kill the d—n s—s of b——s;" had a pistol in his hand; the attack was then made; the pistols had been fired, and I saw the flash, the rush was made from Western row, and saw plenty of persons struck; as soon as I came I heard "pitch in," and saw Capt. Lukens in the crowd, and heard him say, "Kill all," &c; the crowd commenced retreating; at the watchhouse I saw men kicked and abused; was not arrested; am not a Freeman; when I first saw the procession it was peaceable and quiet, and I was curious to see them, and I followed; the police hallooed and fired; saw watchmen taking the men to the watchhouse and striking them; saw men lying down in the streets, crying murder, and the policemen were kicking them; this was on the north east corner of Plum and Ninth streets; am certain that Capt. Lukens was there.

Cross examined—Was much excited; do not know how Capt. Lukens was dressed, but saw his face.

John Heilberger sworn—Met the procession on Vine street, and went along with them on the sidewalk; came down to Ninth, between Elm and Plum, when I heard shooting, and the procession commenced retreating, and as soon as they retreated the force of the crowd pushed me down; when I regained my feet I went towards Plum street, and around the corner towards Sixth, and was arrested, but don't know who arrested me; he was a policeman; was taken to the watchhouse, and saw a great crowd there; heard a man say, "he is a Freeman," and then I received a blow on the head with a piece of wood; don't know who struck me; it came from the side, but did not fell me to the floor, but made the blood run; was pushed into a cell, and after an hour was let out to have my wound dressed; there was a number of watchmen there; saw Solomon, Ertel, and others there. (He also pointed out George Carr and Habig as being there in the morning, about two o'clock, also Lieut Phillips) At the time of the procession they were quiet until the firing, which came from towards Plum up Ninth street, and the procession at the time of the first fire rushed back; saw no resistance or disposition to resist; could have easily seen it had there been any; did not at any time hear any threats of violence in or out of the procession; the procession was behaving the same way at the time of the attack that it had been all along.

Jonathan Holland, sworn—Reside on corner of Eighth and Baymiller streets; heard two watchmen, Metzker and Lieutenant Phillips, converse about the matter; Phillips said he was there, and Metzker also said he was there and had taken a man and gave him over to another watchman.

Mrs. Henrietta Heinrich, sworn—Was at meeting in Freeman's Hall on Sunday, and at night. She came down to the corner of Ninth and Plum streets, after the first attack; they then went towards the watchhouse and saw a watchman, who told her husband that the captain gave his order to fire into the crowd after he first fired; she saw the watchman in court yesterday, but he is not here to day. [She was allowed to retire until the watchman came in.]

The court here took a recess until 2 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At the opening of the court a call of the defendants was had, and all answered but nineteen defendants.

Mrs. Heinrich recalled—The watchman who made the statement as to what Capt. Lukens said to her on the corner of Ninth and Plum streets, was Lewis Drager; she said that Drager said that Capt. Lukens knew that the procession would not commit any disturbance of the peace, but would go down to Fifth street market space to burn the effigy; also that Capt. Lukens had said to take particular care to shoot Capt. Hassaruck and wife; had no conversation with other watchmen that night; conversed with Mr. Lichtendorf; he said that it was unjust for them to shoot so among the people; he said that Capt. Lukens told them all to be at the watchhouse; he said I would rather give a hundred dollars than have the name of watchman; he also said that he had his pistol but did not shoot it, and could prove that he never fired the same.

Samuel Colbey, sworn—Was at the riot and saw a large crowd of persons there; saw William Phillips, Kramer, Pendry, Redding, Capt. Lukens, Stutzman, Benjamin Smith, Evans, Snowfield, Harrell, Benjamin Phillips, Fitzpatrick, Brice, Worley, Dressell, Young, Moore, Bick, Howard, Adam Kleine, Burns, Allen, Foley, Perry, Davidson, Williams, Doran, Bateman, Johnson, Ertel, Solomon, Frank Smith, Hardin, Shattuck, Mears, Jeffries, Baldwin, Thayer, Metzker, Freeman, Starr, Norris, Weingartner, Meader, Antony Shafer; some of them by name I do not know. Witness pointed to the following watchmen as being there, Drager and Good; these men were there during the evening, though one was sent to Freemen's Hall.

Cross-examined—I saw them in the watchhouse; I saw very little of the attack; don't know whether my name was on the original warrant or not; I am a member of the police; I went to give bail, and asked the magistrate, who told me I was not on the list; did not know I was a witness until to day; I was subpœnaed; these men were in the watch house, under the special orders of Captain Lukens; as far as I know the regulations of the police are to meet every evening; know nothing of what was going on; the Captain said he wanted every man to do his duty; somebody observed, "they are coming," and we were marched into the street and up to Plum street, and the "spree" then took place; I was in the rear, when I got up they were scattered a good deal; I helped to get one man to the watchhouse; when the firing commenced they met, and several men were arrested before I got up; neither Capt. Lukens nor any one else gave orders to shoot in my hearing; I presume if he had spoken loud enough I should have heard him; saw some persons arrested before there was any firing.

Francis Batchelor sworn—Was at home on Western row, between Eighth and Ninth; saw officer William Phillips early after dark; said nothing to me about any difficulty; came to me to borrow a pistol; think Phillips came into my barroom after the fracas, and had a pistol in his hand; he was conversing with my barkeeper, Leroy Bernard.

The evidence for the State was here concluded.

Mr. Groesbeck gave notice that as the State rested, he wanted it understood that it was a final rest. He desired that no testimony but that which would be strictly rebutting may hereafter be submitted.

Col. Chambers said that they did not expect to introduce any but rebutting testimony.

Mr. Groesbeck asked that all who were not identified be discharged.

Col. Chambers objected, until the close of the trial.

The Magistrate said that he could not make out the list until Monday, and the Court adjourned until Monday morning, at 9 o'clock.

MONSIGNOR BEDINI AT WASHINGTON.

[Correspondence of the Freeman's Journal.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13, 1854.

Monsignor Bedini is now in our city, and is the guest of the French Minister. He has been invited to dine with the President at the White House, and has been received and treated with great consideration by both the President and Secretary of State, who have seen the propriety and necessity of recognizing him in his official capacity as Envoy Extraordinary of his Holiness Pope Pius IX. This illustrious servant of God utters not a word against the cruel persecutions he has received in this country from the European Jacobins, and the enemies of religion and order, but breathes nothing but kindness and charity to all. Though his stay in this country will now be but short, there will be malfested before his departure a reaction in his favor, which I am gratified to see has already commenced here at the seat of government, and will thence communicate to the country.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths in Massachusetts.

The eleventh report of the Legislature relating to the registry and returns of births, marriages, and deaths in Massachusetts, for the year ending December 31, 1852, prepared by the Secretary of State, has been printed. From this report we learn that the whole number of births in the State during the year was 29,802—an increase of 1,121 over the previous year—of which 15,246 were males, 14 452 females, and the sex of 124 is unknown; 17,255 were of American parentage, 10,991 of foreign, and of 1,556 the parentage is unknown.

The whole number of marriages was 11,678, of which 7,702 were Americans, 3,767 foreigners, and 109 unknown.

The whole number of deaths 18,482; males 8,973, females 9,396, unknown 108. The average of age throughout the State is 27 78-100—the highest being in Dukes 40.57, and the lowest in Suffolk 26.44; next to Suffolk comes Middlesex, 25.88.

In relation to births, the report says that during the three years preceding 1852 the number of births of children of foreign parents amounted to 24,823, or 29.87 per cent of all the births in the commonwealth. The year 1852 shows an increase in the births of this description, and also an increase in the per cental. There were four cases of triplets during the year 1852—one in Hampden, all females; two in Middlesex in one instance males, the other females, and one in Worcester, comprising two males and one female. There were 590 plurality cases during the year, of which 285 were males and 305 females. The largest number was in Suffolk, 120. Worcester had 87; Norfolk, 70; Middlesex 86; Essex, 60.

Of the deaths, (18,482,) 4,155 (1,663 males and 2,482 females) were of consumption, 1,018 of dysentery, 126 of apoplexy, 293 of inflammation of bowels, 249 of disease of do., 327 of inflammation of brain, 193 of disease of do., 75 of burns and scalds, 267 of casualties, 180 of cancer, 160 in childbirth, 60 of cholera, 377 of cholera infantum, 429 of croup, 81 of delirium tremens, 163 of erysipelas, 191 drowned, 617 of typhus fever, 561 of other fevers, 120 of fits, 2 of gout, 435 of disease of heart, 166 of hooping cough, 19 of heat, 440 of hydrocephalus, 1,160 of infantile diseases, 45 of intemperance, 27 of insanity, 124 of disease of liver, 80 of disease of lungs, 11 of malformation, 157 of marasmus, 3 of malpractice, 141 of measles, 960 of old age, 283 paralysis, 64 pleurisy, 821 pneumonia, 13 poisoned, 69 rheumatism, 843 scarlatina, 90 scrofula, 31 smallpox, 40 diseases of spine, 27 suddenly, 16 suffocation, 76 suicide, 309 teething, 27 thrush, 59 tumor, 162 ulceration, 420 unknown, 20 worms, &c.

During the four years ending 1852, there were born in Massachusetts 3,961 more males than females, the totals being 57,661 males, 53,700 females.

In Middlesex, in the year 1852, the excess of births over deaths was 2,081; in Suffolk, 1,736.

Marine Court.

Before Judge Thompson.

CAUTION TO STAGE PROPRIETORS—ACTION FOR DAMAGES CAUSED BY A LAMP BURSTING IN AN OMNIBUS.

JAN. 19.—*John Wilkie vs. Henry B. Bolster and others.*—This action was brought to recover damages done to the person and property of the plaintiff, on the 17th day of December last, by the bursting and explosion of a lamp in a Fifth avenue omnibus belonging to the defendants. The facts are briefly these:—The plaintiff resides in Brooklyn. On the evening of December 17, 1853, the plaintiff, together with his wife and two daughters, had come over to New York with a view of going to one of Jullien's concerts. After reaching this side of the river, and when near the corner of Fulton and Pearl streets, Mr. Wilkie, his wife, two daughters, and a young gentleman, a relative of the plaintiff, got into an omnibus, No. 327, belonging to the Fifth avenue line of stages, of which the defendants are the owners and proprietors. As the omnibus was proceeding up Broadway, and when opposite Barnum's Museum, the lamp in the forward part of the vehicle exploded and set on fire the dresses of the ladies, burning the face of the plaintiff, Mr. Wilkie. The dresses of Mrs. Wilkie and one of her daughters, were destroyed, the lower part of the daughter's dress being burnt entirely off. The daughters were both minors, living with their father. It was proved that the damage to wearing apparel amounted to near thirty five or forty dollars. It further appeared that the omnibus was a new one, having been running only two or three weeks; that the lamp was made of double tin and was in perfect order; that it was filled as was usual with camphene, and that the omnibus was going slow at the time of the accident. There was no dispute whatever, about the facts. The defendants counsel contended that the plaintiff could not recover, on the ground that no negligence had been proven against them.

DECISION.

To the conclusion of the defendant's counsel I have no hesitation in opposing an unqualified dissent—the more readily because, notwithstanding the fact that the lamp in question was regarded as a perfect security against an explosion, yet it had not been used scarcely three weeks before it burst, endangering the lives of at least five innocent and unsuspecting citizens. The defendants proved that this was one of the most perfectly constructed lamps in use, and that at the time of the accident the omnibus was proceeding at a very slow rate. If, then, notwithstanding all this care and caution such fearful explosions cannot be avoided, who will pretend to say that the defendants in this case were not guilty of gross negligence in filling their stage lamps with so dangerous a fluid as camphene—especially when we consider the fatal accidents so frequently occurring within the precincts of our city from similar causes. A line of omnibuses, the owners of which will continue the use of such material, should be shunned as a stalking pestilence; and when the unsuspecting are injured, as in the present case, the perpetrators of the outrage should not be permitted to escape from the ensuing consequences. It is fortunate for both the plaintiff and the defendants that in this instance the results of the explosion were no more serious. I will not say that the defendants even anticipated this most shocking accident, yet I do say, that if they see fit to take the hazard of such results they must meet the issue of the venture. Nor can the defendants plead that the inflammable nature of the camphene was unknown to them. The record of accidents daily published in our midst has furnished them with proofs too unequivocal in their character to justify such a pretence. Nor will I attempt to pass judgment upon our municipal authorities for failing to banish the use of camphene from the public omnibuses and other vehicles used in our city. One thing, however, is quite apparent that while a spirit of reform is said to be abroad, it is to be hoped that it will not omit to suggest to the authorities, that in their endeavors to legislate for the protection of property, they do not forget the protection of human life. Without intending in this case to give the conclusion I have come to the effect of rendering it an example to deter others from the continuance of a practice so fearfully dangerous to the lives of citizens, as the one under advisement, yet I cannot refrain from awarding against the defendants what seems to me to be near the real damage sustained by the plaintiff in this cause. With that object in view, judgment is given to the plaintiff for one hundred dollars and costs.

Court of Common Pleas.

PART I.

Before Judge Woodruff.

JAN. 16-17-18.—*John F. Heinrichs agt. Nicholas Buhsen.*—Action for false imprisonment. Plaintiff complained that on the 5th July, 1853, defendant caused him wrongfully to be arrested, conveyed through the streets of New York, and imprisoned in the Tombs upon a false, frivolous and pretended charge of having committed a certain criminal offence. Defence—That the alleged arrest and imprisonment were not procured without a reasonable and probable cause, as plaintiff had cheated defendant out of a horse valued at $270, and moreover, that plaintiff went to prison voluntarily, to submit the difficulty.

Evidence was contradictory, and the Jury were unable to agree upon a verdict.

Before Judge Woodruff and a Jury.

JAN. 18.—*Schlesinger agt. Craven.*—Action for work and labor. Plaintiff was a short hand writer, and by contract with defendant in June, 1853, the latter agreed to pay him six dollars a day and twelve and a half cents per folio for reporting the proceedings of a committee of the Common Council. The plaintiff claimed $91 60, balance due. The defendant answered that the work was badly performed, and that the speeches were reported in an unintelligible manner.

The Court rose before the trial was concluded, and adjourned for the term. The case will have to be re-heard.

PART II.

Before Judge Daly and a Jury.

JAN. 19.—*Hull vs. Carnley, ex Sheriff of New York.*—Action for an escape. On 12th December, 1847, plaintiff recovered against Arnold $132 03 in an action of slander. An execution was issued on the judgment so obtained, which was afterwards returned by the Sheriff unsatisfied. A *capias ad satisfaciendum* was issued in consequence on 14th March, 1848, by virtue of which, Westervelt, then Sheriff, took Arnold into his custody, and transferred him afterwards to the custody of defendant. The plaintiff now alleged that defendant permitted Arnold to go at large against will of plaintiff, and claimed $132 03, with interest, as his damages in the premises. Defendant answered that Arnold entered into a bond on 7th January, 1850, with defendant, that he (Arnold) should not escape, and on this condition he was admitted to the liberties established for the jail. Defendant denied that Arnold was transferred to him in any other manner. On the evidence of Arnold the Court directed the jury to give their verdict for the defendant, as no case had been made out. It seemed that the supposed escape of Arnold consisted in his absence from the city for only one hour, and that he returned before the action was commenced, which was a complete bar to the suit.

A boy of eleven years, named Thomas Daley, died in East street, Boston, a few days since from injuries received by being struck with a snowball.

THE ERIE RAILROAD WAR.

Our Special Correspondence.

ERIE, Jan 17, 1853.

Hostilities Recommenced—Destruction of Railroad Property—Two Bridges Torn Down and Consumed—Female Incendiaries—Triumphal Procession of the Women—Meeting of Ladies, &c., &c.

I sent you a brief telegraphic despatch this afternoon, giving you an account of the destruction of two railroad bridges. The first intimation that the people of State street had of the designs of the people to destroy the bridge, which was recently re-erected over their street, under the protection of the Marshal, was the appearance of about a hundred women armed with axes and saws. As soon as the news spread, between one and two thousand people assembled to see the "fun." Some of the women mounted the bridges with an activity that would have astonished our New Yorkers, and wielded their axes with the skill and dexterity of wood cutters. I should, however, state, that many of those engaged in the work of destruction were men dressed in women's clothes, and that a few of them evidently ashamed of the part they were playing, had disguised themselves by blacking their faces. It was about ten o'clock when they commenced tearing down the bridge, and by half-past twelve about a hundred feet of it was removed. As the beams were large and heavy, three team of oxen, all yoked together, were employed in pulling them down. The scene, if it could be divested of its serious features, would have been amusing in the extreme. The women worked away on the unoffending timbers with an energy that showed their heart was in their work, while the men encouraged them by their cheers. The falling of each beam was greeted with a hurra that made the welkin ring. When the work of destruction was complete all the timber was piled in one large heap and set on fire.

A most shameful outrage was perpetrated on Thomas Walker, a son of Mr. Walker, one of the railroad directors, who has rendered himself obnoxious to the anti-railroad men by the course he has thought fit to pursue in this affair. It appears that young Walker was looking quietly on, when he was pointed out to one of the women who, in company with two or three others, made an onslaught upon him and threw him down. Not content with this mark of their displeasure for being "the son of his father," they tore his clothes from his body and then bedaubed him all over with rotten eggs. When they had wreaked their vengeance upon him in this way they allowed him to leave. His shirt collar was afterwards borne aloft on a pole by one of the Amazons, as a trophy of her victory I presume. The mere relation of such an outrage as this is the best comment that can be made upon it. I must state, however, that the conduct of these women, who appear to have lost all sense of decency or shame, is not countenanced by the respectable portion of the population. I think, however, that the city authorities—at least such as are in the city—should have prevented, or done what they could to prevent, such an act of vandalism. It was unprovoked, for the railroad men did not make any attempts to continue the reconstruction of the track after the Marshal left.

After the Amazons had set the fragments of the bridge on fire, they proceeded to French street, where they destroyed the other bridge. As it is much smaller than the other, it took them but an hour to pull it down. The fragments of this bridge were also consigned to the flames. Their triumph complete, the next thing to be done was to celebrate it with a grand ovation. All the women, and about as many men, formed in order and marched in procession through the streets, with a band of music in a large wagon at their head. From this wagon the American flag and the German tri color were displayed, while smaller banners bearing the inscription

"Six feet, and four feet eight inches and a half,"

were borne by those in the procession. One individual, with long beard and flowing hair, who looked exceedingly like paintings I have seen of old Rip Van Winkle, had a tin label on the front of his hat bearing, in flaring yellow letters, the ominous words

"Six foot."

The majority of the persons who have been engaged in this outrage are Germans, who, I am certain, do not understand the real cause of the quarrel which has convulsed this community for the past two months, and who are evidently laboring under the impression that they are struggling against a tyranny equal to that from which they fled in their own country. The excuse—if excuse it can be called—that is given for the attack on young Walker is, that he was engaged in taking down the names of the ringleaders; but this, he informed me himself, and I believe him, is false. Dr. Falconer attempted to save him, but was driven off by a shower of rotten eggs.

When the procession came to the court house, a man, who is said to be the editor of a German paper here, got up in the wagon and addressed the crowd, after which they dispersed quietly to their homes.

In the afternoon, about 3 o'clock, a meeting of ladies was held in the session rooms of the Presbyterian church, for the purpose of obtaining signatures to a letter addressed to Mrs. McGill, the wife of the Sheriff who has charge of the prisoners in the Pittsburg jail, thanking her for the kindness of herself and husband towards the imprisoned Erians. There were about two hundred ladies present, all of them women of respectability and high character. It was certainly a very different assembly from that which had destroyed the railroad property.

The meeting was organized by the appointment of Mrs. Alfred King, the wife of the Mayor, who is now in prison, and Mrs. Polk, as secretaries. One of the ladies explained the objects for which the meeting had been called, after which Mr. Stephens, a gentleman from Harbor Creek, who had followed the prisoners to Pittsburg, was introduced to the audience. He gave a statement of the condition in which he found the prisoners on his visit, and of the kind manner in which they were treated by Mr. McGill and his wife. At the conclusion of his remarks, which were very brief, the following resolutions were read and adopted unanimously, with the exception of the last, which received one negative:—

Resolved, That we, ladies of Erie, feel a deep interest in the affairs of our city; that we will bind ourselves to aid and assist our husbands and brothers and friends in carrying out the great work which is begun for the interests of our city; that we will never yield to the insults which have been heaped upon us by the railroad directors and their employes.

Resolved, That we, ladies of Erie, do wish to show our gratitude in some way and that we will send a letter of thanks to Mr. McGill, of the city of Pittsburg, for his kindness to our citizens who have been taken from their homes and friends without any cause whatever; and that we would, as a body of ladies, present Mrs. Gill, for her trouble and kindness, with a handsome testimonial of some kind, whatever may be thought of by the majority of the ladies here this afternoon.

Resolved, That we, ladies of Erie, do join together with one voice, and will bind ourselves to purchase no article of merchandise from any merchant who favors the 4 feet 10 inch track.

After the adoption of the foregoing resolutions, the following letter to Mrs. McGill was read:—

ERIE, Jan. 17, 1854.

DEAR MADAM—With full hearts, the mothers, the wives, the sisters of Erie address you to express their grateful sense of the disinterested kindness which has marked your conduct towards those whom the mistaken decrees—as they sincerely think—of a high court, have placed in unfortunate circumstances. Proud as we feel that brothers and husbands, our natural protectors, our nearest and dearest on earth, possess the moral courage to maintain, at personal risk, those rights guaranteed to them and to us, by the noble declaration made by our grandfathers; and strong as we feel in the protection of men who prefer loss and suffering, and, what is still harder to bear, the misconstructions of an intelligent and free, but uninformed people, we yet feel that we are women, and that our hearts can be wrung with anguish when power and oppression lays upon those brave souls their weighty hand. As a wife and a mother you will well understand that no language we can employ will express to you and to the daughters growing at your side, the joy and the sense of relief with which we learned that female watchfulness, female kindness, and female accomplishments had thrown their soothing care and softening influence around those whom stern necessity and duty had withdrawn from our embraces and our firesides. As a true hearted republican woman, as we cannot doubt, an humble and devoted Christian, we feel that your confidence in the approbation of a virtuous people, and yet more, in the favor of our common Heavenly Father, surpass any feeling you could experience from our expressed gratitude and thankfulness. But our hearts are full, and we need not tell you that the full heart of a wife, a mother, will find expression. Strangers as we are to you this common sympathy binds us together, and we are no longer strangers. Our prayer for you is that those acts of spontaneous kindness to ours, and we doubt not shewn also to others, may return in blessings upon those who derive from you their being, and that to the third and fourth generation, they may be numbered among those who "love them" who "sheweth mercy to thousands."

TO MRS. SHERIFF MCGILL, Pittsburg, Pa.

This letter was signed by the officers and all present. A subscription was then made, the proceeds of which are to be devoted to the purchase of a suitable testimonial for Mrs. McGill. Soon after the meeting adjourned.

It is reported here that the United States Marshal has gone to Washington to make his returns at headquarters, but no one believes that United States troops will accompany him.

An election of the directors of the Northeast Railroad was held here this afternoon. The following gentlemen were re-elected for the ensuing year:—John H. Walker, John A. Tracy, M. Courtright, P. Mitcall, A. Scott, Dean Richmond of Buffalo, G. Palmer.

This shows that the railroad men have no intention to compromise matters. What the result may be no one can tell, but I am afraid that there will be more serious disturbances here than any that have been recorded. The end is not yet. J. M.

Letter from Hon. S. P. Chase—Opinion of the Secretary of War.

[From the Cincinnati Gazette, Jan. 17.]

The following letter was written by our Senator, Mr. Chase, in reply to several letters from gentlemen of this city, enclosing the proceedings of the meeting here.

Since this letter was written, it seems to us that all proper doubts of a proper case for action having arisen, must have been dissipated by the action of the infatuated and infuriated people of Erie; and if the President acts in the spirit of the conversation quoted, when the recent facts are presented to him in an authenticated form, a speedy termination will be put to these widely deplored difficulties.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11, 1854.

DEAR SIR—I received yesterday from you, a copy of the proceedings of the citizens of Cincinnati, expressing their just indignation against the lawless conduct of the rioters in Erie county, Pennsylvania, in the destruction of the bridges on the track of the Lake Shore Railroad; and laid the same before the Senate without delay. I received, also, copies of the same proceedings from several other gentlemen.

Having been informed of the rescue, by the mob, from the custody of the Marshal of several rioters arrested under process from the United States Court at Pittsburg, I called this morning, with Mr. Wade, on the President, to ascertain what course would be adopted by the Executive in case the rioters should persevere in their lawless violence and in resistance of federal process. The President informed us that he should act with promptness and decision whenever a proper case for intervention should be presented; but that, as yet, the necessary evidence of obstruction to the execution of the laws, by a combination too powerful to be suppressed by ordinary judicial proceedings, or by the Marshal in the exercise of his legal power, had not been submitted to him.

The Secretary of War, Colonel Davis, in conversation with me, expressed the same views. He thought that in a matter of such moment the action of the government, while decided and energetic, should be guarded, and fully justified by existing facts.

At the President's we met Mr. Hopkins, a member of the Pennsylvania Canal Board. This gentleman informed us that the report of the rescue of the arrested rioters was probably unfounded, and that he believed that no further resistance would be offered to the execution of federal process at Erie or in its vicinity.

I sincerely hope this may be so. No one would regret than myself the existence of an occasion for the forcible intervention of the national government in the suppression of combinations against the laws, but I cannot doubt that the course of illegal violence, which has shocked the country and dishonored the communities which have countenanced or suffered its perpetration on the Lake Shore, should be arrested at all hazards, and by all necessary and lawful means.

Yours truly, S. P. CHASE.

The Erie Riot Case at Pittsburg.

JAN. 16.—Circuit Court of the United States, before Hon. Thomas Irwin.

A rule was read to show cause why Alfred King, Mayor of the city of Erie, M. B. Lowry, and A. J. Morton, should not stand committed for contempt of said Court, for certain charges then and therein alleged to have been committed against them, as follows:—

That on the 6th day of January, 1854, they resisted, aided and abetted in restraining the Deputy Marshal of said Circuit Court, in the execution of the duty enjoined on him by said Court, &c.

The counsel for the defence asked the Court to postpone the proceeding until next Monday, alleging that they were not prepared—that they had not sufficient time to procure testimony. This was objected to by Mr. Stanton. The time asked by the counsel was too long; if it was simply to allow the counsel to prepare themselves for argument, a postponement should not be made. If affidavits are filed to show that testimony should be procured, he would not object to giving them reasonable time. Mr. Hepburn stated that they did not wish for a postponement for argument, that the law in the case was clear, but they wished to get the facts; they wished time to procure testimony.

Mr. Black—I wish to know if any affidavit has been filed on which the motion for commitment should be made.

Mr. Stanton said no affidavit had been filed; we wish to give every possible chance for the defence to show they are innocent.

Mr. Loomis said that no affidavit was necessary.

Mr. Hepburn asked the Court that proceedings be deferred until next Monday, which was objected to.

Col. McCandless then asked postponement until next Thursday, which was agreed to by opposing counsel.

Court then adjourned to meet on next Thursday, at 10 o'clock.

TELEGRAPHIC.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE AND THE TROUBLES AT ERIE.

HARRISBURG, Jan 19, 1854.

In the House to day, Mr. Stockdale offered a preamble and resolutions relative to the troubles at Erie—admitting the difficulties attending the controversies the dangerous character of the interruptions to travel, &c.,—that the Legislature is desirous of doing justice to the citizens and to redress wrongs, and requesting the citizens of Erie to respect the laws and decisions of the courts until matters are adjusted.

The matter was tabled for the present.

The bill forfeiting the charter of the Franklin Canal Company passed a second reading in the Senate, and was then laid over.

INVESTIGATION OF THE CONTEMPT CASES BEFORE THE UNITED STATES COURT AT PITTSBURG.

PITTSBURG, Jan. 19, 1854.

The United States District Court has been engaged all day in taking testimony in the cases of Sheriff Lowrey and Mayor King, for contempt of court at Erie. A large mass of evidence has been offered in the case, but presents no new features of marked importance. Although the testimony of Deputy Marshall Sproull is considered rather favorable to the accused. The decision of the court will not, probably, be given before Friday or Saturday.

Political Intelligence.

THE COALITION IN VERMONT.

The *Liberty Standard* contains the "History of the sale and transfer of the free democracy of Vermont into Fugitive Slave law hunkerism, by Barber, Field, Needham, McLean, and others, during the last Legislature." The substance of this history is nothing especially new, but it gives names and the particulars of the transaction more fully than has hitherto been done. The facts stated are as follows:—

The representatives of the free democracy went to Montpelier on the opening of the session, of course full of zeal for freedom and hatred of slavery, and supposing themselves, to number some eighteen all told. To their surprise, however, on enrolling their names in their first caucus they found themselves numbering forty eight, and feeling doubtless very much as Adam did when he awoke from his deep sleep and found himself doubled. Like Adam's fair but frail better half too, the new converts, while professing to be "bone of their bone and flesh of their flesh," commenced immediately with the encouragement of the free soil leaders to treat with the old line adversary, who soon "snaked" the whole party out of their free soil paradise.

The process was this. A Committee of Conference was appointed to confer with the whig and democratic parties relative to some arrangement for the distribution of the offices, which conferring proved to be the accepting with eagerness the propositions of the old liners, and the refusing to receive any proposition from whigs. "In all the caucuses," says the history, "the democrats were extolled and the whigs run down to the lowest degree possible, while Field exclaimed in his wrath that 'whiggery was a stench in his nostrils, while democracy was a savor of life unto life.' Of course whigs were excluded from their caucuses, while avowed old line democrats mingled in their deliberations. In the meantime the leaders made thrilling and pathetic speeches, proclaimed loudly their intention of sticking by their party, urged their followers to keep united and let the old parties take care of themselves, and thus kept their party together "until (we quote from the History) enough had been labelled with Robinson and Kicker upon their backs, and then no flock of sheep ever went over a stone wall any faster than they went into slave holding democracy." On the final result it is useless to dwell.

Two prominent facts are made evident by this *expose*. One is that the free democracy were not betrayed by some sneaking traitor in their camp, but were sold by their own leaders. The other is that those who now head the scanty remnant of their party, not with the sale of their party but because it was sold so cheaply. The close of the History lets this fact out of the bag. It winds up thus:—

The conclusion of the matter is, had the offices which the old line democrats conferred upon us borne of any real importance, we should not feel like judging our leaders so harshly.

THE BENTON PLATFORM IN MISSOURI.

At a meeting of the Benton democracy held in St. Louis on the 10th inst., the following resolutions were passed and announced as the future platform of the party:—

Resolved, That we reaffirm the great democratic principles inculcated by Jefferson and the statesmen of the best days of the republic, and illustrated by Jackson in his administration, believing that the preservation of the government in its strength and purity depends upon their maintenance.

Resolved, That we are in favor of the immediate construction of a railroad to the Pacific by the general government upon the territory of the United States; that we believe the measure to be constitutional, demanded by the exigencies of the times, and absolutely necessary for the military defence of the States and territories upon the Pacific coast; that the route selected should be central in order to be national; and that such a route would be best for the whole nation, best for our own State and best for our city.

Resolved, That we are in favor of the immediate organization of a territorial government for Nebraska, and that we regard all who oppose it, upon whatever pretext, as hostile to the best interests of the State.

Resolved, That we, as democrats, believe that the territory of Nebraska, in all parts not now occupied by Indian Reservations, is just as subject to pre-emption and settlement, by the citizens of the United States, as Oregon, Utah, California and Minnesota.

Resolved, That we are in favor of the abolition of the license system as a revenue measure; that we deem it unjust and anti democratic in principle to tax the business or occupation of any one, and that we consider the ad valorem tax upon the property of all the only fair and equal method of taxation.

Resolved, That the great issue before the democratic party in the elections of 1854 is the re election of Thos. H. Benton to the Senate of the United States, his policy and his principles being identical with those of the democratic party, and that we do not recognize as democrats those who have seceded from those time honored tests.

The following resolution was also offered to the meeting, but was immediately voted down:—

Resolved, That we have unlimited confidence in the present Chief Magistrate of the nation, and in his firmness, integrity and devotion to the cause of democracy, and that his administration deserves and will receive, the support of all good democrats.

UNITED STATES SENATORS FOR GEORGIA.

Another effort has been made in the Georgia Senate to carry out the resolution, some time since passed by the two houses, to elect a United States Senator. In the afternoon session of the 12th, (we learn from the correspondence of the *Journal*,) a motion was made by Mr. Smith, of Coweta, to take up his resolution, the United States Senator, which had been lying on the table. Great excitement was produced both on the whig and democratic side. Mr. Anderson, of Chatham, said he hoped the motion would be withdrawn, as many members were absent. Mr. Dunnagan concurred with him. Mr. Anderson said rather than go into what he knew was adverse to a majority, he would unite with any to retire from the Senate. Mr. McGehee replied that any who wished to retire from the Senate could do so. Mr. Miller moved to adjourn the Senate. The yeas and nays were sounded, and the result was 43