THE NEW YORK HERALD.

WHOLE NO. 6700. MORNING EDITION—FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1854. PRICE TWO CENTS.

AFFAIRS IN WASHINGTON.

Mr. Marcy's Reply to the Minister of Costa Rica.

THE PACIFIC TELEGRAPH BILL.

THE OCEAN STEAMSHIP POSTAL SERVICE.

INTERESTING CORRESPONDENCE, &c., &c., &c.

Our Washington Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27, 1854.

The European News—Russia Still Invincible—Peace Propositions—Our Mediation—Congressional—The Mosquito Question—Kansas on the Floor—Railroad Assistance—General Shields—His Re-Election Secured—Uncertainties of Political Life—Supreme Court, &c.

Quite a difference of opinion exists here, among our statesmen as to the conclusions to be legitimately drawn from facts as given in the late news from Europe. The better opinion seems to be that although the allies, including Austria, have largely the preponderance in numerical numbers, yet Nicholas is more than a match for them all in effective forces, and whilst acting on the defensive is perfectly impregnable. The allies have a population of upwards of a hundred millions, while Russia numbers only seventy millions—yet, the latter can bring into the field nearly double the effective force of England, France and Austria combined. Additions to the assailants can, at best, but prolong the war—for the dismemberment of the Russian empire is an idea not to be seriously contemplated by any one.

The peace propositions of the Czar are regarded as a ruse for delay—as delay only is necessary for the entire destruction of the allied armies in the Crimea. In this conviction I would add that the rumor of an early report from the Committee on Foreign Relations on Mr. Clingman's resolution is unfounded. They may so report, but if they do they have yet to determine it. That such a step would be peculiarly appropriate none can doubt. Russia was mediator between England and the United States, and Napoleon was lately an umpire between this government and Portugal, and William IV. offered to mediate between the United States and France. Why, then, should we not now step into this breach and arrest this bloody and destructive war? I hope the Committee on Foreign Relations may change their present notions, and report in favor of Mr. Clingman's resolution.

The two houses of Congress assembled yesterday, and many members exhibited a disposition to go to work. Mr. Houston, the chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, thought that several of the appropriation bills might be passed, and urged action. Others thought as Christmas came but once a year, this idea of work was a palpable violation of a time-honored custom. The Senate soon adjourned without doing anything, and the House followed suit, doing less. The new delegate from the virgin soil of Kansas, availed himself of this auspicious moment to catch the Speaker's attention for the first time, to submit his maiden motion. A general anxiety seemed to prevail to ascertain the subject matter of the first motion coming from the new-born Territory, and a burst of laughter followed the Clerk's reading—"A bill to aid Kansas in the construction of a railroad." Many think the present facilities for travelling from Missouri into Kansas are already excellent.

The public press for the last few days has been very active in circulating the news of an expedition that is being prepared in this country to colonize the "Mosquito territory." The want of foundation, the injustice, the absurdity, the illegality of the thing, has already been clearly demonstrated by the most prominent organs of the press. However, it seems to me that the subject has not been considered under its true light, and under this impression I beg to submit the following remarks, which, perhaps, you will find not uninteresting.

1. We are told that the "Mosquito Land and Mining Company" is composed of several respectable Americans, who have bought a grant of thirty *millions acres*, made by the late King of Mosquito to Messrs. Shepherd and Halley, (in exchange for a few barrels of rum). This grant would cut off almost one-half of Nicaragua, as much from Costa Rica, and a large portion from the Republic of New Granada. I am not sure whether the State of Honduras would also be dismembered by it.

It is well known, however, that the present king of Mosquito, acting under the advice of the British government, his protectors, revoked and annulled, in 1845, the grant made by his august and deceased father to the above named parties, on the ground that no consideration had been given by the grantees, and that the late king was prevailed upon to sign the act when in a state of intoxication.

2. No European nation, nor their descendants, have ever recognized in the tribes of independent Indians existing in the territory to which such a nation claimed dominion, the power to alienate the lands such Indians may possess in behalf of private individuals. This has been and is the ruling principle with the government of the United States, with Great Britain, with Spain, and with all the Spanish American republics that were formerly colonies of the latter. If we assume, therefore, that the territory called Mosquito belongs to Central America—as the American government has always asserted to be the case—it will follow that the grant in question is against the laws of the Central American States, whom it concerns, and cannot therefore be admitted as valid by them. If, on the other hand, we assume that the British protectorate exists, then we must allow that the grant has no value at all, the act of revokation having never been reversed or quashed up to the present day. As regards the American government, we have these simple facts: It *ignores the* existence of the Mosquito King; it professes that no Indian tribes can sell their lands to private individuals, and it has always appeared as supporting the rights of the Central American States.

3. It must be remembered that soon after the occupation of the port of San Juan was effected, in 1848, by the Mosquito Indians, with the assistance of British forces, the government of Great Britain declared that the Musquito claim would be limited on the south side to the eastern branch of the river San Juan, thereby annulling again a large portion of Shepherd's land grant.

This portion would fall precisely within the limits of Costa Rica; but the character of the country is very little adapted for purposes of colonization, on account of the extreme unhealthiness of the climate.

4. Considering the scheme, in abstract, as a matter of business, it is difficult to perceive what the persons engaged in it can accomplish in a low, intertropical, flat country, which has always been almost uninhabited for its insalubrity, and where white people can hardly exist.

5. It is said, that there is an abundance of mineral wealth, and such may prove to be the case; but until the present we possess no positive evidence of its existence. To reach mineral districts, it would be necessary to go so far into the interior as Chontales and Segovia, in Nicaragua, or Yuscaran and Guayape, in Honduras, which districts are respectively undisputed portions of those States, settled from time immemorial.

A private despatch received in this city, reports a singular democratic triumph in the Springfield (Ill.) district. It appears that, on joint ballot, in the Legislature, Gen. Shields was one vote in the minority. This gave the opposition the election of a United States Senator. Their choice fell upon Mr. Lincoln, a whig member of that body. As he could not very modestly vote for himself, and as a single whig vote could not be lost without the United States Senator, too, Mr. Lincoln resigned, to let another whig be elected in his place. As his (the Springfield) district was strongly whig, and as the democrats were supposed to be divided, they ventured to run two whig candidates for the vacancy. The result was the union of the democracy, the defeat of the whigs, and the certain re-election of Gen. Shields. Mr. Lincoln may exclaim—"Alas! for the uncertainties of life." Instead of reaching a seat in the United States Senate, which seemed within his very grasp, he loses his place in the State Legislature, and can now retire to the quiet walks of private life to enjoy his *otium cum dignitate!*

A very important case—important from the amount of money and the facts involved, not the principles of law—has occupied the attention of the Supreme Court yesterday and to-dyy. The case is No. 32—Frederick Clark, appellant, Benjamin C. Clark and W. H. Y. Hacket, appellees, from the United States Circuit, of Washington; Lawrence and Nelson for appellants, and Johnson and Carlisle for appellees. Messrs. Lawrence and Carlisle addressed the court yesterday; Messrs. Nelson and Johnson, to-day. The object of the suit is to defeat the proceedings in bankruptcy, or be admitted as a beneficiary in the assignment. The appellees are Boston merchants. E.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28, 1854.

A New Chapter in the Gibson Affair—Marcy Backing Out—Miserable Afterthought—Shirking Responsibility—Subterranean Telegraph—Grant of Land in Aid of its Construction—Veto Message—Mr. Orr, of S. C., &c., &c.

The public has at last been favored, or rather soon will be favored, with Mr. Marcy's reasons for withholding from Mr. Belmont the "special and definite instructions" asked in regard to Capt. Gibson's claim on the Dutch government for indemnity. Mr. Marcy has already prepared the document, in which he says: "This government cannot enforce the claim of Capt. Gibson, without going behind the forms of judicial proceedings in the Netherlands India. If we claim that right, we must necessarily yield to other nations the right to go behind the judicial proceedings of our own courts. This we can never do." Here is the whole case in a nutshell. Mr. Marcy has just discovered the sacred character of the proceedings against Capt. Gibson, when it is ascertained that pressing the matter "temperately but resolutely upon the Dutch government" amounted to moonshine. If we have no right to go behind these beautiful judicial forms, why was Mr. Belmont instructed to press the claim at all? If we had no claim, why press it? If we have a just claim, and such Mr. Marcy has fully recognized this to be, why shrink from enforcing it in this craven manner?

But is the position of Mr. Marcy sound, that we cannot go behind the forms of judicial proceedings, in the enforcement of Capt. Gibson's claim for indemnity? I think not, even though it lead to a similar privilege on the part of other governments, to go behind the judicial proceedings in our courts. What have we to fear from such a privilege? Our motto is, to "ask nothing but what is right, and submit to nothing that is wrong." Should we attempt to protect our judicial proceedings from public scrutiny, or should we not rather court investigation? If courts have been erroneous, tyrannical, or cruel in their action towards the subjects of a friendly power—if, under the cloak of legal forms, outrages are perpetrated upon them, will not our government grant proper redress, and punish the evil doers? Such, it seems to me, would be the course of our government. If this be not so, then treaties for the protection of the citizen or subject are made but to deceive. If a government wishes to maltreat the subjects of another government, it would only be necessary to clothe the outrage in a judicial form, and then laugh with impunity at the demand for redress. Such may be international law, in the judgment of Mr. Marcy and Mr. Cushing, whose opinion was had upon the subject; but such is not the law of humanity. Nor could Mr. Marcy have so considered it when he instructed Mr. Belmont to "press the matter temperately but resolutely upon the Dutch government, urging immediate and ample reparation for the outrages committed;" nor did Mr. Belmont think so when he said to the Dutch Minister: "It now only remains for my government to take such measures for the enforcement of Mr. Gibson's claim as it may deem fit and proper in the premises;" but, above all, such was not the view taken of it by the Dutch government when refusing the demand for redress. M. Von Wall placed his refusal upon the distinct ground that "Mr. Gibson himself was the author of the evil," he sought not to protect his government with the cloak Mr. Marcy, in his charity, would throw around it, but met the issue fairly upon its merits. It remained for our Secretary of State to discover that the Dutch Indians, under judicial forms, could arrest and imprison our citizens, confiscate their property, and inflict upon them every indignity with perfect impunity.

"Oh! what a fall was here, my countrymen!"

from the high tone of the inaugural of President Pierce, in which he declared that the American citizen could never stray so far from home as to be beyond the protecting power of his government! Mr. Marcy's whole article is a miserable afterthought, unworthy the man, disgraceful to the character of the nation, and the offspring of a criminal shirking of official responsibility.

The report yesterday from the Committee on Territories, in favor of granting two millions of acres of public land to aid in the construction of the subterranean line of telegraph from the Mississippi or Missouri rivers to the Pacific ocean, is now the topic of speculation among the business classes. This report urges the passage of the Senate bill, and but little doubt exists that it will pass by a large majority. The provisions of the bill are such as to meet the views of the Executive, so that a veto need not be apprehended. I send you a copy of the report itself, as it is a matter of univeral interest.

Mr. Orr, of S. C., again promised the President's veto message, and predicts that when it comes in it will come a full grown Hercules, which will demolish the arguments of the friends of internal improvements by the general government. Mr. Orr is one of the ablest men and most forcible debaters on the floor of Congress. E.

[Correspondence of the Pennsylvanian.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27, 1854.

The Proposed Mediation—United States Senator from Pennsylvania—The Albany.

Mr. Clingman's mediation resolutions will pass the House, and the question is already asked, who will the President send across the Atlantic to pour oil on the troubled waters of Europe? Will it be a commission of one, two or three? The names of Van Buren, Tyler and Fillmore are seriously mentioned here in connection with the proposed peace commission. The ex Presidents of the great model republic settling the Eastern question with loss only of a little breath and ink! What a spectacle for the old fogies of Europe to contemplate. If we are to have a commission, let us have such a commission. The whole country would endorse their pre-eminent fitness for the delicate work allotted to them.

It is not probable that Dr. Gwinn will be in his seat in the Senate during the present session. The election for United States Senator in California takes place on the 15th of January.

There is a report in this city that the Rev. Mr. Tiffany, of Carlisle, is to be supported by the Know Nothing members of your Legislature as their candidate for United States Senator. If he should be elected, the Senate will then be able to save eight dollars a day by dispensing with the services of the present worthy and popular chaplain, Rev. Mr. Sheer. Or couldn't Mr. Tiffany make an arrangement to exchange pulpits—I mean places?

We have a report here that the United States sloop-of-war Albany did not stop at Carthagena; but proceeded direct from Aspinwall for New York. But very, very slight hopes of her safety are now entertained at the Navy Department.

The Rights of Citizenship Abroad.

The following is the bill passed by the House last session, and the Senate this session, to secure the right of citizenship to children of citizens of the United States, born out of the limits thereof:—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That persons heretofore born, or hereafter to be born, out of the limits and jurisdiction of the United States, whose fathers were, or shall be at the time of their birth, citizens of the United States, shall be deemed and considered, and are hereby declared, to be citizens of the United States: Provided, however, that the rights of citizenship shall not descend to persons whose fathers never resided in the United States.

The Ocean Steam Mail Service.

By the following it will be seen that the Committee of Ways and Means have recommended that notice shall be given the Collins line of the termination of the increased allowance after 30th June, 1855:—

Mr. HOUSTON, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported the following bill:—

A BILL

Making appropriations for the transportation of the United States mail, by ocean steamers and otherwise, during the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated, to be paid out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

For transportion of the mails from New York to Liverpool, and back, eight hundred and nineteen thousand five hundred dollars; and that the Secretary of the Navy is hereby directed to give the notice provided in the first section of the act entitled "An act to supply deficiencies in the appropriations for the service of the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two," approved the twenty-first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, to terminate the arrangement for the additional allowance for the transportation of the United States mail between New York and Liverpool, in the Collins line of steamers, as therein provided.

For transportation of the mails from New York to New Orleans, Charleston, Savannah, Havana, and Chagres, and back, two hundred and sixty-one thousand dollars.

For transportion of the mails from Panama to California and Oregon, and back, three hundred and twenty-eight thousand three hundred and fifty dollars.

For carrying out the contract entered into by the Post Office Department, under the provisions of the act approved thirtieth August, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, establishing a tri-monthly mail by steam vessels between New Orleans and Vera Cruz, via Tampico, sixty-nine thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated for the service of the Post Office Department for the year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, out of any moneys in the treasury arising from the revenues of said department, in conformity to the act of the second of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six.

For transportation of the mails, in two steamships, from New York, by Southampton to Bremen and back, at one hundred thousand dollars for each ship; and in two steamships from New York, by Cowes, to Havre, and back, at seventy-five thousand dollars for each ship, under the contract with the Ocean Steam Navigation Company of New York, three hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

For transportation of the mails between Charleston and Havana, a sum not exceeding fifty thousand dollars.

For transportation of the mails across the Isthmus of Panama, one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

Subterranean Line of Telegraph to the Pacific.

Mr. Farley from the Committee of Territories, made the following

REPORT.

The project contemplated in the Senate's bill is of transcendant public concern, and possesses the merits of practicability and early completion, if it can have the encouragement of the government. It provides—

1. That a right of way shall be given through the public lands of the United States for the construction of a subterranean line of telegraph (of at least two independent conductors,) from the Mississippi or Missouri rivers, to the Pacific ocean at San Francisco, in California.

2. That it be constructed by individual enterprise and at individual expense.

3. That after its completion, in a specified and most permanent manner, the free use thereof, to the extent of eight thousand words per month, shall be tendered to the general government, and the enjoyment of that privilege secured to it in perpetuity, with the reservation to the government of the further prior use to any extent within the capacity of said line, at such rates of compensation for messages transmitted as Congress may by law provide.

4. That thereupon, and in consideration of such free use and said reservation, the government shall permit the parties to select from the public land, not before sold or appropriated, in the Territories, along and within fifteen miles of said line of telegraph, any quantity not more than a section, and in alternate sections, two millions of acres, which shall then be conveyed to them.

The citizens of the United States residing upon the Pacific coast have the strongest ties connecting them with the older States. They have established themselves there, or organized a powerful State, and are rapidly creating a commerce reaching to the Islands and the Asiatic coast. Their peculiar position gives them claims of an imperative character upon the protection and care of the government. Europe is extending lines of telegraph into Asia and Africa, and lines of great length have been constructed in India. When this proposed link shall have been completed the Pacific Ocean will be touched upon either shore by lines which, spanning continents, reach the opposite shores of the Atlantic Ocean, and are destined to cross the latter and unite together. * * * * * * *

The benefits which will follow the execution of this enterprise cannot be partial or sectional—they must necessarily be of incalculable national importance, and the moral influences resulting therefrom will be co-extensive with the world of civilization and commerce. The results of such a work can hardly be over-rated in the enlivening spirit which it will infuse into the business and other relations existing between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts; in its influence upon the varied interests of that vast population which is destined so soon to occupy every part of the territory embraced within the limits of the Republic; and in the facilities it will be able to render the government in peace and in war. * * * * * * *

The line is to be constructed in the most permanent manner, with two independent conductors, placed under ground, where they will be exempt from all the causes which operate to prevent the efficiency and reliability of lines constructed in the ordinary way. The wires are to be so completely protected by the insulating material—itself imperishable—that they will not corrode; and being securely placed in the earth, no accidental breaking can occur. The electrical state of the atmosphere or the most violent storms can have no effect to interrupt the working of the lines thus laid down. The plan proposed, also includes the location of testing tubes at intervals of five miles, and working stations at average distances of one hundred miles. Under such arrangements should the line from any cause be interrupted, it could be speedily repaired. * * * * * * *

A subterranean line of two wires, such as the bill provides for, is estimated to cost $1,150 per mile. Calling the distance 2,400 miles, the entire cost of the line, including buildings, fortifications, and incidental expenses, would not be less than $2,760,000. The annual cost of operating the line is estimated at $350,000. Fifty operators will be necessary, and a force of 250 other men will be constantly employed in repairing and protecting the line. These men will be posted in small parties at the different working stations. It is proposed to have a double set of operators, so that the line may be worked by night as well as by day.

The value of the lands located along and near the telegraph line, if estimated as the government valued its bounty lands given to its soldiers in the Mexican war, when it commuted with them, giving one hundred dollars in script, or one hundred and sixty acres of land, would be only at the rate of sixty-two and a half cents per acre. Valuing the proposed grant of two millions of acres at the same rate, it would be worth $1,250,000—considerably less than one-half of the estimated cost of the line.

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The value to the government of the privilege of transmitting without charge 8,000 words per month, is, at the rates named in the bill, equal to a yearly interest account of $100,000, a sum equivalent to an annual interest of eight per cent on the value of the two millions of acres of land according to the foregoing statement." The Senate's bill was reported, with a recommendation that it should pass.

The Kinney Expedition Endorsed by the Secretary of State.

SECRETARY MARCY'S REPLY TO MR. MOLINA, MINISTER OF COSTA RICA.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Washington, Dec. 19, 1854.

The undersigned, Secretary of State, has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the note of Mr. Molina, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the republic of Costa Rica, of the 13th inst., in relation to the expedition which, as Mr. Molina has learned from the newspapers of the day, has been organized in the United States, "for the purpose of colonizing certain lands in Central America under an alleged title granted by a Mosquito king;" and, in the name of his government, Mr. Molina protests against the validity of "any title or grant made by the king or chiefs of the Mosquito Indians," and avows that the *government of Costa Rica* "will not allow any colonist or party of colonists, from whatever country they may proceed, to occupy, locate or take possession of lands belonging to Costa Rica, for the purpose of agriculture, mining, or any other, unless he or they shall have previously applied to the government of Costa Rica, and duly *obtained* a permission and legal title to that effect."

In the absence *of any information that* the alleged company contemplate occupying any lands which are claimed, or have ever been claimed, by *Costa Rica*, the warning contained in Mr. Molina's note would seem to be premature. From the tenor of that note, however, the undersigned does not infer that the government of Costa Rica apprehends any hostile intention on the part of the organization in question, but that it simply declines to recognize the validity of any title which this company may have obtained from other sources than from the government itself.

In this view of the case, Mr. Molina will permit the undersigned to observe that he does not perceive upon what grounds the government of the United States can interfere with the proposed expedition, which appears to be a peaceful enterprise, involving, possibly, agricultural, mining, and commercial speculations, but contemplating no measure which will render them amenable to the neutrality laws of the United States.

When the parties to this expedition shall have withdrawn from their allegiance to their own country, and voluntarily placed themselves within the jurisdiction of another power, their conduct must be in conformity to the new relations they have assumed, and they are responsible to the laws of the land in which they have sought domicil. The question of validity of title to lands is, then, between them and other claimants, to be adjudged not by the government of the United States, but by the tribunals of the State within which the dispute shall arise.

Mr. Molina will understand, from the foregoing remarks, that while this government does not feel called upon to interfere with the projected peaceful expeditions of its citizens to other countries, it promptly disavows any intention of justifying those citizens who may contemplate a wilful violation of the rights and laws of a friendly nation.

As, however, the government of the United States has no official information in respect to the movements of the company alluded to, the undersigned would suggest to Mr. Molina the propriety of communicating the views of his government on this subject to the authorized agents of the company. The undersigned avails himself, &c., &c., W. L. MARCY.

To Senor DON FELIPE MOLINA, &c., &c.

Court of Appeals.

The January term of the Court of Appeals commences on Tuesday next. There are 288 causes on the calendar. The following are the first thirty:—

1. William F. Durham and wife, appellants, against Caleb Watkins and others, respondents.
2. Foster Reynolds and another, appellants, against Charles A. Davis and another, respondents.
3. Henry L. Smith, receiver, &c., appellant, against Charles Minott.
4. Foster Reynolds and another, respondents, (cross appeal,) against Charles A. Davis and another, appellants.
5. William C. Ely, appellant, against Emery Ormsby, respondent.
6. Alexander Kelsey and others, appellants, against Dunford N. Barney and others, respondents.
7. The Mayor, &c., of the city of New York, respondents, against James Price and others, appellants.
8. Philip Freeman, ex'r, &c., respondent, against Lyman J. Spalding, appellant.
9. Sarah Gardiner, by her next friend, &c., appellant, against James Brown and another, respondents.
10. Clark Crary, respondent, against William Goodman, appellant.
11. Ezra Miller, respondent, against James C. Church.
12. Richard Decker, respondent, against Charles D. Mathews, appellant.
13. Theodore B. Blanchard and others, respondents, against James S. Thayer, admr., &c., appellant.
14. Samuel A. Tucker, appellant, against Oramel Griffin and others, respondents.
15. Charles D. Thomas, respondent, against Andrew B. Dickinson, appellant.
16. Charles Marvine, respondent, against James Stewart and others, appellants.
17. John Taylor, respondent, against Stephen W. Cadwell, appellant, and others.
18. Lorenzo Taylor, appellant, against Chauncey B. Laird, respondent.
19. Samuel Westcott, respondent, against John Kerr, appellant.
20. Peter Dorsch and others, appellants, against Andrew Beller and others, respondents.
21. Benjamin Brandreth, appellant, against Chas. W. Sandford, respondent.
22. Blanchard, Fosgate and others, respondents, against the Herkimer Manufacturing and Hydraulic Company and others, appellants.
23. Danford N. Barney, appellant, against the City of Buffalo, respondents.
24. Horatio Holbrook and wife, respondents, against The Utica and Schenectady Railroad Company, appellants.
25. Charles H. Green, appellant, against Festus Clarke and others, respondents.
26. William Cornell, respondent, against Casper B. Vercilius and wife and others, appellants.
27. Wellington Clapp and another, respondents, against Platt Rogers, appellant, and others.
28. Oscar F. Calkins, appellant, against Horace F. Long, respondent.
29. Henry Steadman and another, appellants, against Jared Pratt and another, respondents.
30. William H. Appleton, appellant, against William H. Rose, respondent.

MISSOURI LEGISLATURE.—The Missouri Legislature commenced its biennial session at Jefferson city, on Monday last. The first business will be the election of a United States Senator, to succeed Mr. Atchison. The latter is in Washington, where Mr. Benton also is at this time, from which it would seem that they have given up the hope of being elected to the post designated, or are content to leave their fortunes in the hands of their friends, to manage as chances may occur.

Pennsylvania Politics.

MEETING OF THE STATE DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

There was quite a full attendance of the members of the Democratic State Committee in this city on the 26th instant, and the proceedings were conducted with spirit and unanimity. The meeting of the Committee will, no doubt, produce the happiest results. Mr. Bonham presided, and E. B. Chase, of Susquehanna, acted as Secretary *pro tem.* After a full and free interchange of opinion in relation to the present position and duties of the democratic party, the following resolutions and address were unanimously adopted:—

Resolved, That the immutable truths embodied in our principles, which have been faithfully and successfully carried out by the democratic party, and by which the glory, honor and prosperity of the country have been upheld and secured, forbid and preclude the possibility of our making any treaty with error, or forming alliances for the sake of expediency or temporary party triumphs.

Resolved, That the allegations against the democratic party, of using influences to obtain the votes of naturalized citizens, and of favoritism towards them in the distribution of offices, are unfounded and unjust; that, while there has been no proscription on account of religion or birth place, no negation of constitutionally guaranteed privileges, there has not been any deviation from that principle of justice that regards equally the rights of every citizen.

Resolved, That our faith in the great fundamental democratic doctrine has not been diminished by the fortuitous combination of circumstances that occasioned the temporary defeat of the democratic party in this State, confidently believing that the people will perceive in the first attempt to incorporate into our system of government principles and measures inimical to the rights of any, the beginning of a policy dangerous to the rights of all.

Resolved, That the idea that the old issues on which the democratic party triumphed, have been abandoned by our opponents, and are obsolete, is false and deceptive—all experience proving that on the acquisition of power by our adversaries, they seek to overthrow the democratic and substitute the antagonistic policy.

Resolved, That as the battle of the democracy is a battle for measures, not men—principles, not place—the defeat of their candidates produces no evils or discouragements, except so far as it may enable their opponents, for a time, to carry out obnoxious measures; and being fully aware of this truth, a sense of duty and patriotism will constrain them with unrelaxed zeal to advocate, and unabated vigilance to guard, those principles of government to which the country is indebted for its unexampled growth and prosperity.

Resolved, That a State convention of the democratic citizens of this commonwealth, composed of a number equal to the Senators and Representatives of the General Assembly, to be selected in the usual way in the respective representative and senatorial districts of the State, be held at Harrisburg, on the Fourth day of July, A.D. 1855, to nominate a suitable person for the office of Canal Commissioner, transact such business and adopt such measures as the exigencies of the times may seem to demand.

TO THE PEOPLE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

FELLOW CITIZENS—The State Committee of the democratic party have thought proper to address you briefly on the present aspect of public affairs.

A full conference with one another, and a careful review of the facts connected with the late election, have satisfied us that we have nothing to fear in the future. The constitution of the country is not yet under the feet of those who would trample upon it. The civil rights of our citizens are not yet overthrown. The democracy has weathered a storm, and rode it out in triumph. We have encountered many an enemy, but never one that did not in due time fall before us. We are armed from head to foot in all the strength of a just cause, and truth has thrown her broad shield over us. We stand up, as we have ever stood, for equal laws and equal rights; for that liberty of conscience which the constitution guarantees to all men; and fighting for such principles as these, we are and must continue to be invincible. The idea that the American people will ever deliberately consent to see the great doctrines for which their fathers fought and died in the revolution, overthrown for the sake of giving office to a few politicians, is simply preposterous. If any true democrat sees anything to fear in the signs of the times, let him add to his faith courage.

The good sense, the honesty and love of justice, which characterize the public mind, will scatter the present combination of adverse elements to the wind. In a very short time the democracy will be stronger than ever. We can afford to go into a minority for a season, and then emerge, as we shall do, with brighter hopes and prospects for the future. We will soon teach anew, and in a manner more impressive than ever, the lesson so often read and so fully known and understood, that the policy and principles of the democratic party can alone make the institutions of a free country safe.

Remember that the democracy has completely quelled its most dangerous enemies. The political superstitions and greedy infatuation which threatened to put the industry of the people under the dominion of banking and manufacturing capital, are almost entirely extirpated. The party that advocated those dangerous doctrines with so much energy, talent and boldness, and with which we struggled for seventy-five years, has been crushed to death in the folds of a new organization, that *has not a single* element in it to give strength or endurance. Its secrecy is calculated to give it temporary success, but that very feature will insure its speedy and final repudiation.

The party that has beaten federalism in so many shapes will not be conquered by an enemy which avows no political principles at all, or which is ashamed to make that avowal publicly and in the face of the people. The eagle will not be hawked at and brought down by the mousing owl.

We regard the defeat of Governor Bigler as a great misfortune to the State, and we feel sure that history will so record it. Nevertheless, let us give the measures of his successor a *fair* and impartial consideration. The tree will be known by its fruits. If he boldly uses the veto against the corrupting influence of incorporated wealth; if he does not prostitute the prerogative of the pardoning power to the use of his political friends; if he economizes the public treasure; if he keeps the oath which he takes at his inauguration, and disregards that which he took in the Know Nothing Lodge, on the 15th of June last, at the corner of Ninth and Arch streets, in this city, we will be bound *to confess* that his administration is a better thing than we hoped. But if, on the other hand, the influence of his office shall be lent out to the *evil purposes* of bad men—if he stirs up religious bigotry and strife among the people—if he squanders the money of the tax-payers, or despoils the Commonwealth of *he* public works, without adequate consideration—if he acknowledges the sworn obligations he owes to his subterranean party for services rendered in his election, as being more binding than the fealty he owes to the constitution—then he is entitled to no forbearance—his name will become a hissing and a by-word, and the short period of his power will be remembered hereafter as we remember the blights and mildews, the times of famine and drought and potato-rot, when all the years of plenty and prosperity are forgotten.

We ask you, fellow-citizens, to consider and reflect carefully upon the political topics which the present condition of things suggests. Our opponents work in secret. They prefer darkness rather than light. They have no principles which they are not ashamed to discuss. But the democracy rely on a fearless, frank and full avowal of their sentiments. The contrast between such a course and that of a party which shrinks from all public investigation, is alone sufficient to give the democracy an enviable moral superiority which must in a very short time secure them the political ascendancy among a people so marked by the manly virtues of truth and boldness as are the freemen of Pennsylvania.

E. B. CHASE, Secy. J. ELLIS BONHAM, Chairman.

Philadelphia, Dec. 26, 1854.

Interesting from Acapulco.

U. S. MAIL STEAMSHIP EMPIRE CITY, NEW YORK, Dec. 28, 1854.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, Esq., EDITOR NEW YORK HERALD:—

DEAR SIR—A gentleman who came on with us from Havana, and who was a passenger on board of the steamer Sonora, from Acapulco, having despatches for the Secretary of State at Washington, reports that at Acapulco the forts were in possession of General Alvarez, who was expecting an attack by Santa Anna, he being then (9th Dec.) within eight miles of Acapulco with a large force, and it was thought that the attack would be made next day (10th).

The U. S. steamer Susquehanna was at Acapulco, coaling, when the Sonora left. R.

Personal Intelligence.

A despatch from Washington states that the most intimate personal and professional friends of Col. Steptoe deny that he has been consulted in relation to the Governorship of Utah, and say that he will decline it.

Major John Crawley, of this city, has been appointed by Governor Seymour Military Secretary, in the place of Major John Bleecker Tibbets, transferred to Gen. Cooper's staff.

ARRIVALS.

At the St Nicholas Hotel.—Hon. S. J. Vinton, Ohio; C. P. Wood, Auburn; Hon. John Williams, Rochester; W. H. Fowle, Virginia; G. Lathrop, Lockport; E. M. Frener, Dr. E. P. Eastman and lady, Boston; E. W. Howard, Providence; H. Doolittle and lady, Dayton, Ohio; A. Wild, Valati; J. F. Sappenny, Troy; Capt. Simpson, Washington; A. Lockport, Lockport; Hon. D. Thills, Wisconsin; Hon. J. Meachem, Vermont; A. P. Conant and lady, Boston; G. Beers, Buffalo; E. W. James, Texas; H. W. Bostwick, Conn.; N. M. Smith, Watertown.

From Havre, in ship Irene—Louis Z Eisinger.

From New Orleans and Havana, in steamship Empire City—From New Orleans—Dr R Stuard, U S A, James C Humes, A Magnan, Capt Pendleton, S Oriol, Mr Waymouth, Mrs Whitney, A B Starks, H Organ, H Roberts, B Home, Mrs Sarah Ray, J Fisher, G Clark, R Ludrate, D Toll, R Haggerty, J Tracey, J Kinney, J Blanor, A B Rahler, E Hayard, J McDonald, Mike Judge, Mr Newbery, H Nerin, J Hickr, W Grun, D Fallar, F Casabianca, W G Forster, and two others. From Havana—Mr Domingo Ring, F Valdez y Martinez, E M Fessen, S Gramatges, F Varona, G W Smith, J Koeffinger, A Jane, A Eliss and child, H A Muller, F Nagel, A Vidal, F Freeman, Mrs Evans.

Williamsburg City News.

BODY [OF AN INFANT FOUND—Yesterday afternoon, two young men residing in New York, while hunting in a lot on the Newtown road, came across a small box, which, on opening, was found to contain the body of an infant. Coroner Hanford was notified and will investigate the affair to-day.

MAYOR'S VETO—At the last meeting of the Common Council the Mayor vetoed the bills of the Board of Health, on the ground that its members were also members of the Common Council, which prevents them from holding any office, the emoluments of which are paid from the city treasury. The motion to re-adopt was lost.

Police Intelligence.

THE OCEAN BANK EMBEZZLEMENT CASE.

This case, which was set down for a further investigation yesterday, was adjourned by consent of the counsel on both sides, on account of a previous engagement on the part of James T. Brady, Esq., counsel for the accused, Wm. B. McGuckin. The case was set down for one o'clock to-day, when it is hoped the matter will be concluded, as the official term of Judge Beebe, before whom the examination is taking place, is fast drawing to a close. The prosecution having rested their case, the defence alone will be proceeded with to-morrow.

CHARGE OF FALSE PRETENCES—FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS ALLEGED TO BE INVOLVED IN THE TRANSACTION—A PATENT RIGHT DIFFICULTY.

A few days ago a complaint was made before Justice Osborne, by Ossian Gregory, one of the stockholders in the American Magnetic Sewing Machine Company, against Mr. Thomas C. Thompson, of Ithaca, N. Y., for obtaining $50,000 worth of stock from this company by false pretences and fraudulent representations. It appears, from the affidavit of the complainant, that the accused, in November, 1853, sold him and the other stockholders of this company certain rights and improvements in the sewing machine, by which the business could be carried on with greater facility. Of this improvement it is alleged Mr. Thompson claimed to be the original inventor and patentee; whereupon the company examined the patent, and, seeming to be perfectly satisfied with the working of the new invention, paid Mr. Thompson in stock of the company $50,000 for the right of its use. It is now contended, on the part of the complainant, that the most important part of the invention, claimed to be original on the part of Thompson, is an old one, and has not been invented by Mr. Thompson. They, therefore, on these grounds, made a criminal complaint against the accused, who, on being taken before Justice Osborne, was held to bail in the sum of $5,000 to answer the charge. Mr. Gregory also complains that he has been personally a loser of $1,250 by the representations of Mr. Thompson.

CHARGE OF PERJURY—CASE OF LANDLORD AND TENANT.

Yesterday officers Moore and Underhill, attached to the Second district police court, at Jefferson Market, arrested a man named James G. Atridge, charged with having committed the crime of perjury, in having falsely sworn in a civil case between him and his landlord, Walter Seely. It appears from the affidavits made in the case before Justice Clark, that the complainant, Mr. Seely, who rented the premises No. 106 avenue C, to the accused, wished to eject him, on account of the non-payment of rent; and for the purpose of doing so, applied to the Justice's Court, corner of Thirty-third street and Broadway, for an ejection. Justice Willis, of this court, notifying the defendant of the suit, he appeared and swore that he did not owe Mr. Seely any money, although his landlord had just previously made an affidavit quite to the contrary. The civil court decided, however, against Atridge, and Seely then made a complaint against him for perjury, before Justice Clark, who, upon the evidence adduced, held Atridge to bail in the sum of $1,000, to answer the charge.

CURIOUS CASE OF GAMBLING.

A man named Robert Willis, keeping a drinking house at 510 Broadway, was arrested yesterday afternoon on a warrant issued by Justice Osborne, wherein he is charged with winning at the game of faro the sum of $35 from Charles Flemming, of 66 avenue D. The complainant states that, on the 24th inst. he went into the premises of the prisoner, and was induced while there to join in a social game of faro, at which he lost all the money he had then in his possession, namely, $35. He also stated that with other parties, while in an intoxicated condition, he was induced to gamble away his clothing, and all that was valuable in his house. Even the coal that he had laid in for the winter, was, he says, claimed by the winners as having been lost by him at play on that night.

AN ALLEGED POCKETBOOK DROPPER.

Lewis Lawson was arrested yesterday afternoon, in the neighborhood of Washington Market, by officer Latty, of the reserved corps, charged with having obtained $10 from Gaston Schott, of 372 Sixth avenue, by the pocket-book game. Just as Lawson obtained the money from Mr. Schott, and was about to start off with it, the officer arrested him. He was locked up for examination by order of Justice Osborne.

GRAND LARCENY.

Two young men, named William Hanson and George Maloy, were arrested yesterday, charged with stealing four overcoats, of the value of $40, the property of Franc