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the same period in the year 1855. At this rate the emigration of the coming year will not be over 25,000, and a striking falling off since the year 1854, when the emigration was nearly 300,000. The prospect of abolishing the commission is already agitated in the State Legislature, and it is a question whether it is advisable to maintain so extensive and expensive an establishment for the accommodation of the few emigrants that now arrive. Something must be done, and quickly too, or else the whole concern will be bankrupt.

In the United States Senate yesterday the Central American question was debated by Messrs. Mason, Butler and Crittenden, and made the special order for Tuesday next. Mr. Mason stated that all the maps of Central America now in use are of British origin, and that, in the present state of our relations with that region, it is important that a correct map be procured. Whereupon it was ordered that ten thousand copies of the map of Central America prepared by the Great Survey be published for distribution throughout the country. A bill was reported for the relief of the officers and soldiers who sustained loss by the wreck of the steamer San Francisco. The resolution calling for the record of the proceedings of the late Naval Betting Board was adopted. In the House Mr. Mace, of Indiana, reported a bill to prevent the extension of slavery in the Territories north of 36 degrees 30 minutes. It created some sensation, but the subject was laid over, pending an appeal from a decision of the Speaker as to the regularity of its presentation. The resolution asking leave to call for persons and papers relative to the Kansas contest was adopted, but afterwards reconsidered, and the Committee on Elections were instructed to report on what grounds the request was made, and also to consider the propriety of appointing a commission to proceed to Kansas to inquire into all the facts with regard to the matters involved in the dispute between General Whitfield and Governor Reeder.

In the State Senate a bill was introduced to pay the head money collected by the State from emigrants, amounting to \$150,000, to the Commissioners of Emigration. In the Assembly notice was given of a bill to oblige the New York and New Haven Railroad Company to lay a double track. A motion was made for the appointment of a committee to inquire into the condition of tenant houses in this city. The resolution authorizing the presentation of a medal to Dr. Kane was adopted. Both houses adjourned till Tuesday next, and many members departed hastily for Philadelphia and Pittsburg, to attend the Know Nothing and nigger worshippers' conventions.

The steamer Alabama, despatched in search of the Pacific, arrived at Halifax yesterday, but brings no news of the missing vessel. She was twenty-four hours in the ice on the Banks of Newfoundland. The tide of emigration towards the new republic of Nicaragua is rapidly gathering strength and volume. A New Orleans paper says that a number of enterprising young men left that city on the 12th inst. for Nicaragua, with the view of settling in that new and promising State. A large body had previously left for the same destination. These young men are of a very respectable class, not mere adventurers and speculators, but many of them sons of old and respectable citizens of New Orleans. There is a still larger number who talk of going. The Nicaragua fever is beginning indeed to assume the character and intensity of the California emigration fever, which raged so violently some five or six years ago.

A fire broke out last night about 10 o'clock in the steam saw mill Nos. 67 and 69 Forsyth street, occupied by Henry A. James, and Mr. Sigler, picture frame and looking glass manufacturer. The fire spread rapidly to the rear and adjoining premises, producing a pile of ruins. The estimated loss amounts to upwards of \$50,000. An account of the fire will be found elsewhere.

The Board of Councilmen last night debated through two sections of the proposed new city charter, in Committee of the Whole, and then getting tired of the work, referred the whole matter to the Committee on the Law Department. Nothing else of importance was done.

The Leading Statesmen and Politicians of All Parties.—The Presidential Aspirants. There has been a frightful increase of public men in this country within the last thirty years. That we have advanced in population and resources is also true. We have made railroads, telegraphs and canals; we have made States and Territories; we have made steamers, ships, colleges and schools; but we have made politicians still more rapidly, while statesmen and patriots have been of slower growth, and are few and far between.

There are prominent interests represented more or less faithfully by the leading men, and of these, that which is headed by Gen. Cass is perhaps the most conservative. He is a kind of connecting link between the past and the present—a statesman of comprehensive views, patriotic, but timid—sincere, but cautious. General Cass' greatest fault is to be found in his exceeding amiability. He has never been able to separate his personal affairs from the political concerns of the party of which he has been a representative for twenty-five years. He is no politician; knows nothing of intrigues, and not enough of the character of those with whom he has been associated. He stubbornly refuses to be instructed regarding the motives of those around him. He is honest in all the relations of life, but makes few personal sacrifices, not enough to keep his friends within hailing distance. Mr. Hunter, a Presidential aspirant, is a Virginia statesman of the Calhoun stripe—a class of men who travel but one road, which they thoroughly understand. Perhaps the country never produced more honest men than those educated and promoted in that school. They have a ceaseless hatred of all mere politicians—all mere managers; hence, until within a few years, Mr. Hunter has been regarded as a shoot from the main trunk, deriving sustenance from independent roots. There is little use in describing a Virginia public man, for they all have a certain impress of statesmanship, and if not always right in their measures they are honest in their convictions. Mr. Wise, with hopes of higher executive honors, is a brilliant luminary not yet fixed in the constellation. He is an able man, honest in purpose, bold in speech, fearless in action, tinctured in about equal parts with mental philosophy, political prejudices and Virginiaism.

Mr. Douglas, an aspirant for the Presidency, is so famous and so recently made, that to mention him is to describe him. He is a natural growth, full grown, requiring a little taming and halter breaking only to render him into a statesman of the very highest rank. Mr. Douglas' general information has been acquired generally. What he has gained outside of the exercise of his own native powers has been of little use to him. His education was perfected when he discovered that he was a man of intellect.

Mr. Buchanan, who is on his way to the White House with his friends, is undoubtedly an able statesman, besides being something of a politician. Perhaps no prominent man in the Union possesses as much of what is known as common sense as James Buchanan. As long ago as 1825, when Mr. Clay was hargled with "bargain and corruption,"

and there were no charts for politicians to steer by, Mr. Buchanan managed in that bitter controversy to make his position quite satisfactory to both parties. It must not be inferred from this that we regard him as a trimming politician. Far from it. Few men have expressed more prompt and decided opinions. Even when the Oregon bill, with the Wilcox proviso, was before President Polk for approval, Mr. Buchanan strongly advised a veto, regarding the restriction as unconstitutional. As a man of great abilities, common sense, fearless energy and bold enunciation, Mr. Buchanan is no more of the first statement of the Union.

General Pierce, who wants to be re-nominated, is the President, and has some friends who claim for him the distinction of a statesman. He is perhaps the best and least known of any man in the country—it was the latter that put him into office, and the former that will carry him out. He is a made man also, exceedingly anxious to please everybody, and allowing the last man who sees him to take him captive. He is wholly without moral courage.

Gov. Marcy, who has long held some over-ruled Presidential stock which he has tried hard enough to have the people recognise as genuine, is a man of considerable ability and judgment, but not overburdened with either political morality or personal attachments. He is the author of what is known and practised as the Spoils System, and if not the originator, at least the chief engineer, of national conventions on the present plan. He is pre-eminently a politician, cunning, obdurate and inflexible. His career has been marked rather by low intrigues than by any positive statesmanlike qualities of mind or heart. His philanthropy has always been kept in subjection to his interests. He copied Mr. Van Buren as a politician with vastly more ability, but not a tith of the courtesy of his exemplar. Mr. Marcy, like all his class of leading men, will have the satisfaction of outliving his friends, and dying in the midst of those whom he has neglected and deceived. He is an old fashioned sort of man, with a lively, quaint humor, strangely united to most uncouth manners. As a reformer, his reputation is wholly confined to his diplomatic circulars on coats and panalogs—a brilliant idea, which was to raise the character of our representatives abroad, and by a kind of coup de main, throw into utter ridicule and disgrace the whole system of court costumes all over the world. The effort was a failure, except as evidence of the ambitious foreign policy of Mr. Pierce's administration, and of the dubious fact that Mr. Marcy did sometimes allow his mind to regard the forms of the toilette. Despite all these things, however, we concede that Gov. Marcy is a man of ability, and if he had had a heart as well as a head, there is no reason to doubt but he would have enjoyed a greater share of public confidence than he can now rightfully claim.

General Houston, of Presidential hopes, was once a planetary star, and still occupies a degree of prominence. He is General Houston, which, after all, is his best description. Gov. Cobb, of Georgia, in the Presidential line, is one of the ablest, as he is decidedly the best natured politician in the South. He is, in truth, an exceedingly good type of a citizen of the United States under the federal Union. Colonel Jefferson Davis, Secretary of War, also Presidential inclined, may be said to occupy the extreme Southern seat, beyond that of Howell Cobb, and pretty near the utmost Southerly point of the United States. He is a clever man, of considerable ability, great firmness, kindly, friendly, social and honest. Mr. Guthrie, Secretary of the Treasury, is an upright, candid and able officer. So is Mr. Dobbin, though of an inferior stamp.

Mr. Seward, a frantic aspirant to the Presidency, is the embodiment of a keen, sharp politician. He is overrated in intellect, having substituted ceaseless energy for that quality. Mr. Seward, perhaps, more than any man in the country, is a representative man. There is little use of severe logical powers for such a man, for he deals in abstraction and fancies. He is the head of the abolitionists, and doubtless believes that the Union diserved, with himself at the head of a Northern republic, would be a measure of genuine humanity. Mr. Chase, of Ohio, is Mr. Seward's competitor, bidding against him for the rewards of treason. Chase, in reality, is a man of more solid intellect than Seward.

Massachusetts is really the most interesting State in the Union so far as her leading men are concerned. Mr. Everett is a precise, well instructed, and, in his way, an exceedingly able man. How he has kept out of the currents of fanaticism, which are now overrunning the State, it is not easy to see, but so it is; he is thoroughly anchored to the Great Expounder's ideas, and, with the brilliant Choate, stands like a rock in the midst of the storm. In the active field of politics in the Old Bay State a new race of men have sprung into life. Charles Sumner, a scholastic man, who has the happy faculty of telling all he knows and a little more which he borrows, never to be repaid, is actually prominent. He is the most noted man in the world, of his real abilities and merits—the connecting link between American and European abolitionism. Mr. Wilson is an adventurer who has won a seat by the side of Mr. Sumner—a man of some force, but yet to be educated. Cushing is another man of Massachusetts, with many of Sumner's characteristics, but after all a man of erudition. He is the exact antipode of Stephen A. Douglas. Mr. Banks is prominent as Speaker. He is now between two fires, and in the hands of two sets of graceless men. Banks is a man of ability, and exceedingly judicious. His present position makes him a Presidential aspirant. Henry J. Gardner is the Know Nothing Governor, and wants to be Vice President, and is now engaged in proving the nationality of his position, by asserting that he and his friends are something besides abolitionists.

There are many others, like ex-President Fillmore, George Law, Governor Seymour, John Crittenden, John Bell, Jesse D. Bright, John Van Buren, Commodore Stockton, John M. Clayton, General Russ, General Quitman, Senator Mason, of greater or less pretensions and notoriety, and all modest aspirants for the Presidency. After the elevation of General Pierce, there may be said to be no limit to the supply of candidates.

THE LAST CHANCE.—The American Organ editor at Washington was a candidate for the House printing. He didn't get a vote for it. He was next a candidate for the book-binding of the House; but that was given to an Ohio Nigger Workshopper. Now our Washington temporary is at the Philadelphia Council, waiting, like Micawber, for something to turn up. It is the last chance.

RESTORATION OF THE MISSOURI PROHIBITION.—THE BILL INTRODUCED.—Mr. Mace, of Indiana, introduced yesterday in the House of Representatives a bill to prevent the extension of slavery into the Territories of the United States north of 36 deg. 30 min. If we mistake not, this is a very material modification of the Seward programme of "no more slave States, no more slave Territories;" for this line of 36 deg. 30 min. would leave all our Territories already acquired, or which may be hereafter acquired, including Cuba and the whole of Mexico, open to slavery. Why this awful letting down? Has the election of a Speaker disclosed the important fact that "no more slave States, no more slave Territories" is an utterly impracticable crotchet with the present Congress? We suppose so. Thus, the sweeping schedule of the Seward Holy Alliance is reduced to the solitary anti-slavery plank of General James Watson Webb, viz the restoration of the Missouri prohibition.

The success, too, of this project, even in the House of Representatives, will probably depend very much upon the issues of this week's anti-slavery and Know Nothing conventions at Pittsburg and Philadelphia. There may be danger—we don't know—human foresight is limited and uncertain; but we still adhere to the idea that the Union is safe. But what a theme will this bill of Mr. Mace be for Buncombe agitation, and Presidential electioneering, and the profligate wasting of time and the public money, gas, types, ink and paper; and what an infliction upon the reading community of the whole Union, in windy speeches thrust upon them at the expense of the public treasury. Mr. Mace has introduced, for the North and the South, the veritable bill for Buncombe, and we dare say that Buncombe is the extent of his ambition and his expectations in starting this impracticable experiment.

GEORGIA VS. OHIO ON THE KANSAS QUESTION.—We publish to-day a report of some recent proceedings in the Legislature of Georgia, in opposition to the late movements of Governor Chase, of Ohio, and his partisans in the Legislature of that State, on the Kansas question. It was proposed in the Ohio Assembly, in answer to the appeal of the Governor, that five regiments of men be raised in the State for the "aid and comfort" of the abolition agitators of Kansas; and we now find it proposed in the Legislature of Georgia to send out from that State a force of five regiments, as reinforcements to the so-called border ruffians. This prompt retaliatory movement on the part of Georgia against the rampant fanaticism of the Ohio abolition Governor and his legislative instruments indicates what the contest for "squatter sovereignty" would be in Kansas if brought to the issue of gunpowder. It would be a war between the North and South, in which the Union would be shattered to atoms as one of the first results of the collision. In this view, we should try to be grateful that our Pierce administration has at last condescended to enforce the laws and to preserve order, even to the extent of interposing the United States army between the border belligerents, if necessary. Mr. Pierce is a candidate for the succession, and in this view he has found it an extremely delicate and difficult task to do his duty in regard to these Kansas troubles, one way or the other. But now that he has "screwed his courage to the sticking point," we trust there will be no necessity for the five Ohio or the five Georgia regiments in the disputed Territory.

CURIOUS STATISTICS.—We find a paragraph in circulation in which it is estimated that the clergy cost the United States six million dollars per year; the criminals, twelve millions; the dogs, ten millions; and the lawyers, thirty-five millions. But the most interesting and suggestive item of all has been omitted, to wit, the Corporation expenses of New York City, amounting to over six millions a year, in addition to federal and State taxes, with a substantial assurance from our retrenching Comptroller Flagg that the evil "has increased, is increasing" and will not be diminished.

THE LATEST NEWS.

BY MAGNETIC AND PRINTING TELEGRAPHS.

From Halifax.

ARRIVAL OF THE ALABAMA.—NO TIDINGS OF THE PACIFIC. HALIFAX, Feb. 20, 1856. The steamer Alabama arrived here at ten o'clock this morning, her search for the Pacific having proved fruitless. She crossed the Grand Banks in latitude 45 deg.—was twenty-four hours in the ice. She left Cape Race for this port on the 19th, short of coal, and will leave here on her return to New York this evening. The United States propeller Arctic is still here.

From Washington.

THE CASE OF SENATOR TRUMBULL.—A GOLD MEDAL FOR MR. RUST.—THE CHALLENGE. WASHINGTON, Feb. 20, 1856. The contested seat of Senator Trumbull came up in the Senate to-day. Senator Douglas, notwithstanding he refused to give an opinion until the committee had taken action, clearly indicated what course he will pursue. He will oppose Senator Trumbull taking his seat, and it is thought he will be successful. Notwithstanding the Court of Claims had decided in favor of Nicholas and Perry the twenty per cent claim, amounting to twenty thousand dollars, it will not, it is believed, pass Congress. A very strong feeling is already growing up against it. In case of the districts in Mississippi the people, without distinction of party, have forwarded a large gold medal to Mr. Rust, of Arkansas, for thrashing Greeley. The clergymen who have been importing Congress for the last two months received a severe rebuke to-day, by the indefinite postponement of the resolution to elect a Chaplain.

THE CONTESTED SEATS.—ILLNESS OF THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20, 1856. The House Committee on Elections has before it three cases of contested elections from Illinois, and one each from Louisiana, Maryland, Iowa, Kansas and New Mexico. Those of Nebraska and Maine will soon be submitted. Mr. Cullom, Clerk of the House, was seized yesterday evening with illness, owing to his severe business duties. His condition this morning was such as to inspire hopes of his early recovery.

The Texas Debt Bill.

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 20, 1856. It is said that there is great uneasiness and uncertainty among the creditors in New Orleans concerning the shape in which the Texas debt bill was passed by the Legislature of that State. No copy of the bill has yet been received, but a rumor prevails that it contains a proviso to the effect that a renunciation by the State of Texas is not to be construed to affect the right of citizens to apply to Congress for indemnification for losses and injuries sustained. This, it is thought, may create obstacles at Washington to a recognition of the act of Texas as a sufficient acceptance of the act of Congress.

The Cumberland Coal and Iron Company.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 20, 1856. The Cumberland Coal and Iron Company's bill for a reduction of the tax on the purchase of 25,000 shares of its stock, has passed the Maryland Senate.

Statistics of Western Hog Packing.

CHICAGO, Feb. 20, 1856. The total number of hogs packed during the last season was 408,390, an increase over that of last year of 49,400. The increase in weight is equal to 7 1/2 per cent, and in the yield of lard 5 1/2 lbs. per hog over last year.

Arrival of the Florida at Savannah.

SAVANNAH, Feb. 18, 1856. The steamer Florida arrived here to-day, Tuesday, from New York. Experienced strong head winds during the passage.

Marine Disasters.

CHATELAIN, Mass., Feb. 20, 1856. The vessel heretofore reported in the ice off this place, the schooner Cabot, Capt. Jackson, James Lawrence from Boston for New York, and the Plymouth Rock, from New York for Boston.

Markets.

PHILADELPHIA STOCK BOARD. PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 20, 1856. Stocks steady. Pennsylvania State five, 83 1/2; Reading Railroad, 47; Long Island Railroad, 17 1/2; Morris Canal, 10 1/2; Pennsylvania Railroad, 43 1/2.

New York, Feb. 20, 1856.

The sales of cotton to-day amounted to 4,500 bales at an average price of 15 1/2 cents. The market was quiet and steady. The sales of sugar to-day amounted to 1,500 tons at 15 1/2 cents. The market was quiet and steady. The sales of coffee to-day amounted to 1,000 tons at 15 1/2 cents. The market was quiet and steady.

WEST-INDIES CONGRESS.

WEST INDIES CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20, 1856. Mr. DOUGLASS (dem.) of Ill., on his own request, was excused from sitting on the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MAP OF CENTRAL AMERICA.

Mr. MASON (dem.) of Va., stated that the existing maps of Central America are nearly all of British origin; therefore, in view of conflicting opinions between this government and England, the Committee on Foreign Relations consider it eminently important that a correct map be procured for distribution throughout the Union.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20, 1856.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.—THE KANSAS CONTROVERSY.

By Mr. MACE (dem.) of Ind.—To repeal the act to promote the efficiency of the navy.

By Mr. COBB (dem.) of Ala.—To extend the time for the payment of duty on railroad iron.

By Mr. MACE.—To prevent the extension of slavery in the Territories north of 36 deg. 30 min. (Sensation.)

Mr. MACE moved its reference to the Committee on Territories.

Mr. MULLIN (dem.) of Va.—Has the gentleman given previous notice of his intention to introduce this bill?

Mr. MACE.—If the gentleman will examine the Journal he will ascertain.

Mr. MULLIN.—I propounded a respectful question, and I think it entitled to a respectful answer.

The SPEAKER.—The gentleman has given notice. His motion is in order.

Mr. SMITH (R. N.) of Va., appealed from the decision of the Chair, and was supported in this by Messrs. Houston, Jones of Tennessee, and Craig; pending which the House resumed the consideration of the resolution from the Committee on Elections, asking power to send to Kansas for persons and papers in the contested election case.

The House refused, by three majorities, to table it. The resolution was passed by three majorities.

A motion to reconsider was then adopted by nine majorities, and on motion of Mr. OGDEN of S. C., the request for power to send for persons and papers was referred back to the committee, with instructions to report the grounds on which the request was made, and to consider the proposition of Mr. Dunn to appoint Joseph H. Bradley and Sidney S. Baxter, of Washington, Commissioners to take depositions, and clothed with full power to procure evidence, and to report thereon to the truth on all controverted matters suggested by Messrs. Reeder and Whitfield.

Mr. OGDEN said that when the committee report the House can select either the propositions.

CLERKS OF COMMITTEES.

The Committee on Elections and Military Affairs were each authorized to employ a clerk.

THE CHAPLAIN.

The election of Chaplain was indefinitely postponed 1/2 by six majorities, with the understanding that all of the members of the city be invited, meantime, to officiate alternately.

NEW YORK LEGISLATURE.

ALBANY, Feb. 20, 1856.

REPORTS.

By Mr. C. P. SMITH.—Favorably increasing the stock of the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute.

By Mr. SENECA.—To establish a poor house and hospital at Syracuse.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

By Mr. SENECA.—To pay the Commissioners of Emigration the money collected by the State from emigrants, amounting to \$150,000.

By Mr. NIXON.—To amend the city charter of Syracuse. Also, to prevent abuses in the appointment of receivers of insolvent corporations.

NATURAL HISTORY OF NEW YORK.

The report of the Regents of the University on the natural history of the State was presented.