### Our Cincinnati Correspondence.

CINCINNATI, Aug. 11, 1856.

*Politics in South Western Ohio—The Rush of the Revolution—How the Buchanan Party is made up—The Congressional Campaign—The Fillmore Union Savers—Wire Stretched across the Ohio River, to Hold Ohio and Kentucky together—Great Cry and Little Wool of the Know Nothings—Nomination of Sam Campbell for Re-election—The German Republican Movement.*

When I last wrote to you the "Buck fever" was prevailing in this quarter. The town was full of Buchaneers, inflammatory with the excitements of of the Convention, which in its pomp and pride claimed to be the grand regulator of the concerns of the country for the next four years. The impression was prevalent here that there was not the remotest doubt of Buchanan's election. Now all this is changed. The delegates, inside and outside to the Cincinnati Convention are gone, and the people have been thinking. When Buchanan was nominated it was thought absolutely certain that he would carry Ohio. Now the most sanguine of his friends are not such fools as to bet that he will come within twenty-five thousand votes of that consummation. The fact that Buchanan "is no longer simply James Buchanan," but that he is a representative of the same corrupt and infamous influences which converted Pierce from a decent sort of man to a reproach and curse to the country and that he is eminently adapted to be the tool of Forney & Co., and improve in iniquity even on Pierce, has been powerful in producing this change.

The Buchanan party here is made up of all the effete particles of all the old parties, and is the most incongruous composition of political elements ever presented for analysis. It is remarkable that the democratic veterans of many wars are not in this fight. Those who, through the storm that raged about the time of the passage of the Nebraska bill, were firm beside the administration, and who were strong for Pierce or Douglas in convention, are, with few exceptions, indifferent spectators of the conflict; while those who were anti-Nebraska democrats, and free soilers with democratic tendencies—those who make up the soft division of the Ohio democracy—were the "original" and are excessively zealous Buchanan men.

The relative position of the soft and hard democrats is completely reversed from that which was held up to the time of the Convention. Those who, two months ago, were styled the "sore heads" are now those whose scalps are considered soundest. The ward in this city (the Third) notorious for its free soil infection is now the very citadel for the Buchaneers—the only locality in the city, or the country round about, where it is impossible to get up a respectable Fremont meeting without importing the "masses" to make up the "vast assemblage." All the democratic papers in this State of any force were advocates of the nomination of Douglas, and they make the fight for the old Buck very feebly and foolishly. Col. Medary, of the Ohio *Statesman*, threatened to make an *exposé* of the original Buchanan men of the State, saying that he felt it to be his duty to do so. But he failed to come up to the scratch, and the "foul game" which he said was "afoot" is probably on horseback by this time.

The first and second Ohio Congressional districts, which are in the county of Hamilton, the southwest corner of the State, are now represented by Hon. T. C. Day in the First and Hon. J. Scott Harrison in the Second. Day was for a long time a leading democrat, and editor of the *Enquirer*, the democratic organ: but he is a strong republican, and the democrats who assisted to elect him, during the first flash of the anti-Nebraska excitement, have since been called "Tom Day democrats." Day is not an orator, but is keen as a razor and rough in his attacks as a rat-tailed file; but his health has failed so that it will be impossible for him to consent to be a candidate for re-election. In fact, he has declined without qualification. His "regular" democratic opponent at the last election was Geo. Pendleton, a young gentleman of fine talents, who is to be placed upon the track again in a few days, and who will, almost certainly, be elected. Harrison, of the Second district, is a nice little man, of very slight force, whose principal distinction is that he is a son of President Harrison, a fact that is invariably mentioned when he is referred to, as if it attached vast merit to him. He has succeeded in becoming famous as the man named by Brooks in his resignation speech as a "noble specimen," and is essentially damned in this community. The democratic paper takes occasion to defend him by abusing others, but makes little headway, and only illustrates the "passional affinities" that exist between the democracy and the old line whigs. Harrison will be nominated and supported by the Know Nothings, but will inevitably be defeated. The democracy will put their twice defeated champion, Groesbeck, on the track again in that district. He is an able gentleman, of aristocratic family, who is quite ambitious to be a national legislator. As the hunker strength will be thus divided, the republican candidate, who will probably be Mr. R. B. Hayes, a prominent member of the Cincinnati bar, will stand a fair chance for re election. The only way in which he can be defeated is for the old line whigs and democrats to fuse on either Groesbeck or Harrison, and this, under the circumstances, they can hardly do. Not a few of the old line whigs are for Buchanan, but there are ten young democrats for Fremont for every one of them.

Since the return of Fillmore from Europe his friends here have manifested the most excessive activity. Though few, they have made more demonstrations than all other parties, and have been noisy to a wonderful degree. Being thoroughly organized and disciplined, they make a tremendous show of themselves, much to the amusement of those who understand it. They will hold three or four meetings in various parts of the city, and then march in procession from one place of meeting to another, making a hideous uproar of drums and a flaunting display of banners, and managing to hold all the meetings with the same crowd. Their system of warfare is to operate in moveable columns. Two hundred men and a rabble of boys, electrified by the sheepskin thunder, will in this way disturb the quiet of the whole city, and contrive to be reported in their newspaper as holding perhaps half a dozen large and enthusiastic meetings.

The old rowdyism of the Know Nothings, which is either constitutional or chronic with them, and perhaps both, as they were from the first a diseased organization, still sticks out. Nearly every democratic and republican meeting is disturbed by a committee of Know Nothing bullies, who have frequently abused inoffensive persons. A few evenings since a crowd of these rowdies was fortuitously knocked down, beaten and dragged into the watch-house. But it is not probable that they will ever learn anything. These fellows have an especial eye on the safety of the Union, and are making desperate efforts to ensure its permanence. The latest plan for the salvation of our glorious confederacy is thus set forth:—There is to be a grand Union Fillmore demonstration held on the opposing shores of the Ohio, on the landings of Cincinnati and of Covington and of Newport. The band of union is to be a wire stretched across the river, in the centre of which is to be a banner inscribed "Union." [Wouldn't we be in a dreadful fix if the wire should break?] The ceremony of intermarriage between the North and the South is then to take place. A steamer is to leave Covington, bearing fifteen ladies, representing the fifteen Southern States, and a steamer to leave Cincinnati, with sixteen ladies, representing the sixteen Northern States. These are to meet in the middle of the stream, and to be lashed together and proceed under the flag labelled "Union," where a circle of the State-uary young ladies is to be formed. Majestic idea! In the meantime there is to be thunder from four cannon, on the landings of each of the towns, Cincinnati, Covington, and Newport, and one on a flat boat in the middle of the river.

But what is the use of all this pomp and circumstance? It is now clear as sunshine that Kentucky will go for Buchanan. All the idiotic clamor and bad violence of Know Nothingism cannot prevent that; and in Ohio the Fillmore force is utterly contemptible. There are many townships already canvassed, and the votes polled, in which there will not be a solitary Fillmore vote cast.

In the Third Ohio district, composed of Butler, Preble and Montgomery counties, Know Nothingism still has some vitality, kept up by the personal influence of Hon. Lewis D. Campbell, who makes his republicanism an appendage, a sort of tail to his Know Nothingism, and who has only at the eleventh hour managed to crawl out and say that he is in favor of Fremont. The first that his constituents knew of this was from the lips of Mr. Burlingame at the great Dayton mass meeting, and they were extremely dissatisfied with him, believing that in his heart he was more of a Fillmore than a Fremont man. But at the Congressional Convention in his district the other day he was forgiven for his recent sins in consequence of his past services, and after a sharp struggle other candidates were withdrawn and he was nominated by acclamation. Previous to this, however, the Convention adopted a resolution that it re-affirmed the republican platform made at Philadelphia, and entered into the Congressional fight on the issues embodied on that platform, and upon none other. Mr. Campbell will therefore have to square himself to meet the views of his constituents. But his nomination, when he makes such boastful display of his Know Nothingism, will work injury to the republican cause among the Germans. A more sensitive people than the Germans do not exist, and they of course abominate Know Nothingism: and there are thousands of them who are excellent republicans. The appearance of fusion in the nomination of Campbell is therefore to them offensive. Campbell will be elected, but it will be by the skin of his teeth, as we say out West, and because his opponent, Vallandiognam, is hated by the liberal democrats as heartily as Campbell is execrated by those who are genuine republicans. The strong and steady German Fremont movement in the West is one of the most striking features of the campaign; and though the nomination of Campbell as a republican Know Nothing may impede, it cannot arrest its course.

### Our Albany Correspondence.

ALBANY, Aug. 11, 1856.

*Report of the Canal Appraisers on the Rochester Claims—Disallowance of the Greater Portion—A Large Saving to the Treasury, &c., &c.*

Most of the readers of the HERALD will recollect that the strongest possible efforts have been made by an organized set of Rochester conspirators, during several sessions of the Legislature, to plunder the State treasury of an enormous amount of money. This combination consisted of some one hundred and fifty individuals, many of whom are the most wealthy and influential persons residing in that city. The Bank of Auburn and the Rochester City Bank were also engaged in this plundering scheme. The pretence set forth for that formidable invasion of the treasury was, that the State of New York had taken a portion of the waters of the Genesee river, and conveyed them to the Erie canal and the Genesee Valley canal, by which means the hydraulic property of private citizens was injured to an incalculable amount.

During the sessions of the Legislature of 1854 and 1855 the conspirators besieged the members of both branches of the Legislature to enact a law under which they could obtain their pretended claims for these alleged damages. Several of the leading millers and others of Rochester were in the lobbies using every argument within their power to convince the members of the Legislature of the justness of their claims. The former session passed without granting the request. The lobby was again filled at the subsequent session with the same lusty beggars; indeed, they then had become actually ravenous, and demanded millions as a matter of right. The Albany correspondent of the HERALD, discovering the anxiety, both in the lobby and in the Legislature, in relation to this Rochester mill race, and finding also that immense sums of money were demanded to satisfy the modest petitioners, took occasion, quite frequently, in the columns of that paper, to caution members, and to admonish them in reference to their proceedings in the Rochester water claim. And, strange to say, that although the people of the whole State were aware of this attempt to impoverish the treasury from year to year, not a remonstrance was heard—not a newspaper paragraph appeared against the wholesale swindle, except the articles which appeared in the NEW YORK HERALD.

In these articles it was contended, in the first place, that if any damages were ever sustained, they were liquidated in 1826, when it was considered, on all hands, that no further demands would be made; in the second place, that all the hydraulic works at Rochester have been constructed subsequent to the completion of the Erie canal, with a full knowledge of the Genessee feeder for that canal, consequently there could be no just or equitable claim against the State by individuals erecting those works. It was allowed that the Gennesee Valley canal having been constructed since the erection of a great portion of the mills and other manufacturing establishments, there was a plausible reason for remunerating persons who owned property at that period, 1840. The lobby made slow progress even in the latter session. The honorable Senator from Rochester, since retained as counsel for the petitioners, after laboring nearly through the entire session for a bill giving the canal appraisers power, solely to adjust and pay the claimants, finally became discouraged, and attributed the HERALD articles as the *principal cause* why the bill was retarded. At the heel of the session, when it became evident that the bill which the lobby wanted must fail, it was conceded on all hands to frame a new bill, inserting the name and amount of claims of each individual, and authorize the Board of Canal Appraisers to hear and determine the claims, and to make a just and equitable estimate and appraisment of those damages. If any had been sustained, to report the same to the Canal Board; that board to review the proceedings, and then present the same to the next Legislature.

This report has just appeared in print. The appraisers met in the city of Rochester on the 17th of July, 1855. The claimants had for counsel Henry R. Selden, Selah Matthews, E. Darwin Smith, W. S. Bishop (the aforesaid named ex-Senator), and Alfred Ely. On the part of the State appeared Joshua A. Spencer, John H. Martindale, and Canal Commissioner Frederick Follett. A number of witnesses were examined, and the case was finally submitted to the appraisers on the 26th of November last. The claims amounted to about two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. The appraisers decide that the original appropriation of Genesee river for canal purposes was permanent, and that the State has been simply using its own waters, and no liability can attach therefor. "It was a large river, and favorably situated for feeding the canal, both east and west, and whose whole current, if necessary, could be turned into it. The Oak Orchard creek, the Tonawanda creek, and other streams and lakes west of the Genesee river were taken and permanently appropriated by the same process, and the State has had an absolute fee to the soil, and an equally absolute easement in the water for canal purposes. In all the original surveys and different routes proposed for the Erie canal it was always in contemplation to make the waters of the Genesee river subservient to its supply. Three-fourths of the whole line of the Erie canal is now held by the same tenure as the Rochester feeder. Will it be seriously pretended that the State has no title—that the fee has never passed? In our own judgment it was clearly the intention of the State officers to make this feeder and the necessary volume of water from the Genesee to flow through it as permanent as the life of the Erie canal."

We quote further from the appraisers' report:—"There is not one of the claimants who claims compensation on the ground that he had any right to or interest in the water power when the appropriation was made in 1822. Most, if not all of the three proprietors long ago parted with their entire interest, on, it is presumed, valuable terms. New parties have taken their places. These new parties have taken, subject to the rights of the State, and with notice that those rights existed and might be enforced. If the State had never paid a farthing for this water, in the way of money, it has paid an ample and remunerative consideration in the way of benefits. The Erie canal has been the very life of Rochester. To it, more than all other influences combined is attributable its present proud position as an inland city. Rochester is said to be the greatest flouring city in the world. Would it have been so without the Erie canal transporting wheat to its mills and its flour to market?" The appraisers conclude the case, so far as the waters of the Genesee flow into the Erie canal, by rejecting all the claims on that account, in these emphatic terms:—"These claims, therefore, so far as they relate to the Erie canal, must be rejected. The State has been simply using its own property, and whatever the damage to the parties may be, there is no just or equitable demand on the State for redress. The losses subsequent to 1832 have been but the legitimate consequence of the rightful and permanent appropriation of 1822."

The appraisers then review the claims on the Genesee Valley canal, and come to the conclusion to award certain damages to persons who held title in 1840, when the canal was opened, and who still hold the same. To all those who have disposed of their interest they award nothing. To sixteen persons they award the sum of $25,519 08, one-half or more being for fifteen years' interest, $6,150 being the highest, and $253 12 the lowest to any individual. These awards will undoubtedly be confirmed by the next Legislature, and the Canal Auditor be directed to pay the same out of the canal fund.

Perhaps a more systematic attempt was never made to swindle the State out of an immense amount of money than this effort of the Rochester mill owners and others. The men employed in the scheme are among the richest, strongest and most influential in Western New York. Backed up with banking, commercial, manufacturing, legal and lobby influence, without measure or stint—wielding a combined power supposed to be irresistible—artful, sedate, liberal, and munificent in their lobby appliances—it is truly a wonder that, under all the circumstances, they did not succeed in compelling the State to pay their exorbitant demands. The Canal Appraisers are entitled to something more than mere empty thanks from the people of this State for resisting the mighty pressure made upon them, and for saving nearly a million and a half of the canal fund.

### United States Commissioner's Court.

Before George W. Morton, Esq.

Andrew Wilhelms was examined on a charge of stabbing the mate of the ship J. H. Elliott, and committed for trial.

### Our Toronto Correspondence.

TORONTO, Aug. 9, 1856.

*Upper Canada Politicians—Their Sympathies and Hostilities—Personalities of the Party Press—Jobbing in High Places—Ministerial Defeat in Huron County—New Line of Steamers to Connect the Northwest Coasts of the Great Lakes with Toronto and the Ocean—Outrages Perpetrated by Toronto Firemen at the Falls—Decline of the Produce Markets, &c., &c.*

"*Parva leves capiunt animos.*" "Little things influence or control weak minds," is an old and trite, though universally applicable truism, and one which has been found peculiarly suitable to the present politicians of Upper Canada. Up and down, here and there they go. Like the pudding bag, with the quicksilver in its rotundity, as told in one of Carleton's inimitable Irish tales, they go "bobbing round and round," without apparently any definite purpose in view, except picking a hole in their neighbor's coat, and making political capital from their brazen faced assertions of their neighbor's fancied shortcomings. One minute tooth and nail in England's wool, the next in their own with equal virulence and animosity. One instant venting their foul mouthed ravings against Yankee notions and doodleisms, the next extending the hand of fellowship and promising all sorts of good behavior, deprecating the vicious looking glitter of the bowie knives, or the more deadly form of the revolver, heaping, at the same time, on our fortunately sturdy shoulders the choice epithets of murdering rascals, ill mannered blackguards, blusterers, thieves, rowdies, roysterers and filibusters, to the end of the Billingsgate calendar.

Such are the Upper Canada politicians at present, without aim or purpose, hanging, like Mahomet's coffin, between Heaven and earth. Their great points of difference have been allowed a little repose for these few weeks past, and from striving to amend the national affairs they have now directed their attention more particularly to blackguarding, in the most approved style, each other. The Ishmaelites, running a muck through the ancient Judea, could not have exhibited their divine authority for kicking up rows in a more effectual manner.

The *Globe* goes smash into the *Colonist*, the *Colonist* into the *Globe*. The *Leader* assumes a highly moral and elevated position, superior to all sublunary emotions, and administers its castigations in a most scientific and gentlemanly manner. It puts one in mind for all the world of a doctor in black clothes, white shirt, white gloves, and glazed boots, superintending the "forty-five" at the "triangles." The *Catholic Citizen* forgets Shakspere's estimate of the value of a good name, when it speaks of a certain individual, not insinuating but affirming, that that commodity has always been a scarce coin in his pocket. In the train of these journals follow all the yellers and snarlers of the province. To an uninterested spectator this petty warfare is rather amusing, although with our mirth is mixed a little of pity for such folly. Their conduct is unworthy of men assuming to be gentlemen.

"Liar" is the most polished word, and elegant epithet in the Catholic organ's vocabulary. Robbery and perjury are the least objectionable traits in its opponent's characters, according to the *Globe*. If all the charges, however, alleged by each party were true, we are certainly *governed* by a set of the greatest scoundrels that ever tasted the sweets of office—and those who seek to replace them are not a whit better. It is a queer world we live in, when a government lends itself to a transaction like the following, which is stated to be one of the minor peccadilos of our immaculate ministry.

An extra charge had been imposed on saw logs exported from the provinces, for the encouragement of saw mills. Formerly a great many logs were taken across the lakes in rafts, and cut in American mills, and this charge was intended to put a stop to the practice, and induce sawing on our side of the lines. However, on the 17th July, an order in Council was published, abolishing this impost. Wherefore? All the opposition organs say that the measure was uncalled for and injudicious. The secret has leaked out. Mr. David Robbin, an M. P. P., (which letters indicate equally Member of the Provincial Penitentiary and Member of the Provincial Parliament) obtained a timber limit from the government, near the Bay of Quinte. He cut and drew his logs, and when all were ready for export, by a special order in Council, the duty on saw logs was withdrawn. Strange coincidence, considering that the aforesaid gentleman is a strenuous adherent of the ministry. It is not meet that a faithful servant should go unrewarded; and so the public, as usual here, are sold.

I am glad to see, for the sake of old John Bull himself, that the people through the country are universally becoming conscious of their position. There seems to be a peculiar something in the American political atmosphere (in the term American I include, as I hope one day more authoritatively to do, both Canada and the States) which hinders almost every honest, upright man from soaring in its baneful ether. It is but seldom that they attain any eminence among the crowd of schemers who fill nearly all our high places; however, there is, I hope, a glorious change in store for both of us; and may the same wind that bears Fremont triumphant on its wings to the Capitol waft new men and new laws into our own small world over here, where we need them fully as much, though the interests at stake are not so important.

The ministry received a telling defeat in Huron last week. Mr. Cayley, the Inspector General, member for Huron county, spent about ten days canvassing his own county, and then convened a meeting, at which to address his constituents, in Goderich and its vicinity. After his lengthy defence, during which he was listened to with respectful silence, resolutions condemning his conduct in the strongest terms were carried by overwhelming majorities, and the defeated Minister retired crest fallen and abashed. The gentleman who has got no seat, Mr. Philip Vancoughnet, has appeared now in the awful disguise of a Minister of Agriculture. Think of that, a puny, delicate law scrivener and pendriver taking upon his delicate shoulders the weighty bovine interests of all the Canadas!

However, leaving off the ministry and their doings (for my spending so much time for them I solicit the pardon of your readers), I will now turn your attention to something much more worthy of consideration, as it concerns the interests not only of Canada but also of that far Northwest, whose boundless wealth has yet to be opened up by the exploring hand of man. I allude to the projected line of steamers connecting the northwest coast of the great lakes with Collingwood, Toronto and the ocean. What the merchants of the Northwest chiefly require is the transmission of their goods with cheapness, quickness and safety to the great produce marts. This will be effected more satisfactorily by this route than by any other, as it is shorter by 55 hours in time than the Welland canal route from Chicago to Montreal, and has an advantage of 91 cents per ton over the route from Chicago to Boston via Buffalo. Its advantages over the Lake Erie route are still further exemplified by the difference in insurance made in favor of the Toronto route, one-quarter per cent having been made of difference in its favor during the past year. Of course, this route can never claim the patronage of the travelling community in point of time when placed in comparison with the continuous railway lines to the same point; but in comfort and convenience the patronage already extended shows how it is estimated. A preliminary meeting was held last Monday in the Exchange for the purpose of establishing a permanent line of steamers on these lakes, and I have little doubt but that this undertaking will receive energetic support.

Bishop Charbonnel, the archbishop of Canadian Catholics, is now on a visit to Rome, as is believed, for the purpose of importing a few more priests and nuns. As if we had not already got plenty of them!

On Monday last, a body of our firemen departed upon a visit to the Falls, and, it is said, raised a terrible rumpus there, having beaten Mr. Cummings, of the National Hotel, half murdered Mr. Booth, the zoological artist, and finished by pillaging his house and destroying what they could lay their hands upon. Returning to the suspension bridge, they attacked the bridge keeper, and forcing their way on to the bridge, broke the windows of the office at the west end of the town. A company of firemen from Buffalo were near by, and had they not obeyed their leader, I believe the consequences might have been fearful.

A general dullness has pervaded the produce markets during the past week. The wheat market has been almost deserted, and good wheat has sold at 7s. a 7s. 6d per bushel. Fruit of all kinds is very scarce, and in great demand for preserving. Wool is not coming forward so rapidly. 1s. 3d. a 1s. 4d. for washed, and 10d. for unwashed, are the quotations.

MURDER OF A WIFE BY HER HUSBAND IN CHICAGO.—Night before last, a woman, named Margaret Maguire, residing on Illinois street, near the lake shore, was killed by having her neck broken by her husband, Patrick Maguire, who threw her, while she was in a state of intoxication, with great violence upon the floor. The woman was aged 58 years, and her husband says he is 64 years old. They have had twelve children, seven of whom, five daughters and two sons, are now living. Two of the daughters are married, and live in Milwaukie, one is married in California, another in New York, and one married and one single lives in this city. One of the sons is in California, the other in New York.—*Chicago Times, Aug. 9.*

### Prince Jerome's Marriages.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

I perceive in your paper an extract from the correspondence of the Belgian paper *Le Nord*, stating that the special commission appointed by the Emperor Napoleon to examine into a delicate family matter, has now decided upon the important question of the validity of Prince Jerome's first marriage with Miss Patterson, in America; that the result of the investigation is the validity of the marriage, and the consequence that a young sous lieutenant in the French army, the grandson of Prince Jerome and Miss Patterson, must be recognized as a legitimate member of the Napoleon dynasty, and that Prince Napoleon, the son of Jerome by his second marriage, would be excluded.

Now, I think the correspondent of *Le Nord* must be mistaken. The marriage contracted between Prince Jerome and Miss Patterson was, and is, void according to the French laws, and cannot have (contrary to article 201 of the French civil code) any civil effect.

At the time the marriage took place the French laws relating thereto enacted, first—That a son under twenty-five years old and a daughter under twenty-one could not marry without the consent of their parents; second—that such marriage should have been preceded by publication, and some other legal formalities.

It is true that the article 201 of said code says that "any marriage which has been declared void does, however, produce civil effects, so far as the husband, wife and children are concerned, when such marriage has been *bona fide* contracted." But in the present case Miss Patterson's family cannot take advantage of that article, for her marriage took place in spite of the urgent and reiterated opposition of M. Pichon, the French Chargé d'Affairs at Washington. The friends of the Patterson family were informed of the invalidity with which the marriage would be regarded by the French civil laws. If, notwithstanding, they chose to have the marriage ceremony performed, the consequences must remain upon them.

In no case the Prince Napoleon, the son of Jerome by the second marriage, can be considered as illegitimate, and deprived of any eventual right he may have to his imperial cousin's succession. The second marriage of his father took place with all forms required by law, after the first marriage had been annulled.

And further, supposing that the first marriage with Miss Patterson be declared good and lawful, could not the children of the second marriage have availed themselves of the article 201 related above? If any marriage was contracted *bona fide*, is it not the second one?

A. P. M.

### The Philadelphia Opera House.

[From the Philadelphia Ledger, Aug. 11.]

The immense building intended for the American Academy of Music, or Opera House, at the corner of Broad and Locust streets, is now so rapidly approaching completion that there can be no doubt that it will be ready for inauguration on or before the coming first of January. The stage portion begins to present to the uninitiated an insight into all the mysteries of stage construction, with its ghost traps, falls and tackling; and many of the wonderful changes of scenery, as presented from the auditorium of a theatre, become very simple when the machinery to produce them is examined. A space of about fifty feet, under the front of the stage, has been excavated to the depth of twenty-six feet. This is divided into two stories, the floors of each being ingeniously constructed in sections, so as to allow of their being entirely removed and replaced in a very short space of time. A great part of the area thus covered is likewise formed in such a manner as to be raised above the ground level of the stage floor, so as to form bridges, &c., for the actors, when mountain scenery is required. The whole area of the stage is ninety feet wide by seventy-two feet deep, exclusive of the proscenium, which is eighteen feet wide, making a total depth of 90 feet, which will certainly make a magnificent area for the most splendid dramatic representations.

The main doors on each side of the stage are made large enough for the admission of horses, chariots, and even elephants, which may be required, as these huge animals have lately taken part in a piece represented in Paris, where oriental scenery was introduced. The dressing rooms on either side are very numerous, well lighted and commodious. The green room and the retiring room for the dancers are quite large.

The platforms for the seats in the auditorium are finished, and it is quite evident from a personal inspection that the promises of the architects that all the audience, no matter in what part of the house, would have an unobstructed view of the stage, are about to be fully realized. The dome over this part of the house is of novel construction, being formed of light ribs of wrought iron, with the spaces between them filled with iron net or wire work, upon which the plastering is laid. This fire proof construction was deemed necessary on account of the great heat that will be generated by the three hundred gas lights attached to the main chandelier, suspended immediately beneath it.

The main vestibule along the Broad street front is thirty feet by ninety, with stairways at each end fourteen feet in width. The promenade saloon, immediately over the vestibule, is forty feet by ninety, with a ceiling thirty-five feet in height. This room will be truly magnificent, and will far exceed in architectural beauty and proportion any other room in our city. The numerous Ionic columns intended to decorate the walls, are ready to be placed in their positions as soon as the scaffoldings are removed, which will be shortly, as the ceiling is now nearly completed. This room is to be lighted by ten chandeliers, suspended from the intersections of the groined ceiling, in addition to the brackets on the walls. This saloon is well adapted for banquets, balls or morning concerts: one can judge of the large scale on which this establishment is constructed, when it is stated that there will be over 30,000 feet of steam pipes through the building for heating and ventilating purposes alone. The contract for this work has been given to Messrs. Walworth, of Boston, who have been highly successful in the numerous large public buildings they have warmed and ventilated. The ventilation will be forced by means of a steam engine, and a fan twelve feet in diameter, by means of which pure tempered air can be forced in or out as required. The gas lights along the walls also aid the ventilation by having openings alongside into flues connecting with the main ventilating shaft above the chandelier of the auditorium, which will carry off all the heat without at all diminishing the light. The gas pipes which have been introduced measure about fourteen thousand feet, and are calculated to supply over two thousand jets or burners, and provision has also been made to place four additional chandeliers upon the stage, when grand balls are given. On these occasions the parquette will be floored over and brought on a level with the stage. The saloons, drawing and retiring rooms, contiguous to the lobbies in the several stories, are nearly finished, and are to be furnished with all the modern conveniences. The stairways for the audience are very numerous, wide, and of easy ascent, and distributed in the most convenient manner possible. Mr. John D. Jones, the contractor for building, has displayed much energy and fidelity in carrying out the designs, and expects to complete his part of the contract in about one month. Already the artists are engaged in painting some of the scenery. Altogether, the building seems to give the highest satisfaction to all concerned, and promises to realise the desires of the directors, in having one of the most perfect and extensive opera houses in the world, and when successfully completed the architects may well be proud of their achievement. The building committee are anxious to complete their task as soon and as complete as possible, but much will depend upon their success in raising the balance of $30,000 still unsold of the eight per cent preferred stock.

### The American Ship Isaac Webb in Liverpool—Captain Bryar Fined.

[Liverpool (July 25) Correspondence of Manchester Examiner.]

An investigation, which took place before our magistrates to-day, disclosed an amount of swindling and roguery on the part of shipping masters and captains, in connection with emigrant vessels, which goes far to account for the loss of several ships, laden with a freight of human beings. The plaintiff in this case was Captain Schomberg, the senior emigration officer at this port, who summoned Captain Bryar, of the American ship Isaac Webb, for an infringement of the 28th section of the Emigration Act, which provides that, prior to sailing, all emigrant vessels shall be inspected by the emigration officer of the port, who is to see that the crew shipped on board is sufficient, both in number and capacity, for the safe and proper working of the vessel. In the case under notice, the Isaac Webb was cleared by Lieutenant Prior, the second emigration officer, on the 5th of July, when he adjudged that forty-nine men would be required for the crew. He inspected that number of seamen, and having signed all the necessary documents, the Isaac Webb sailed on the 7th for New York, with 200 passengers on board. On the 8th, during a heavy gale, she was driven ashore at Amlwch. Some circumstances came to the ears of the emigration officers which led them to make further inquiry about the vessel, and the result of these inquiries and of the evidence before the magistrates to-day is, that of the forty-nine men mustered before Lieutenant Prior twelve had been subsequently put on shore; and it was stated by several witnesses that it is a common practice on the part of emigrant vessels for "dummy" seamen to be paraded before the emigration officers, the men receiving a fee of 2s. 6d. each for such services. In this case only two of the twelve men who were put on shore are known, and though summonses have been served upon them, they have been kept out of the way. The magistrates observed that though the evidence was not quite so clear as they could have wished, the spirit of the act had been grossly violated. As it was the first case of the kind, however, only half the full penalty (£25 instead of £50) would be imposed.

### The Cuban Press on American Affairs.

CESSION OF MEXICAN TERRITORY TO THE UNITED STATES.

[From El Diario de la Marina, of Havana, July 30.]

Amongst the more or less credible rumors which have been lately circulated in the press relative to Mexico, the NEW YORK HERALD, in one of its last numbers, speaks of a proposition addressed by the Cabinet at Washington to the government of Mexico, referring to a new acquisition of territory from that country. The project alluded to concerns the defining of the limits fixed by the treaty made on the acquisition of the Messilla Valley, in such a manner that the frontier line between the two nations should run from the Rio Bravo to the Gulf of California along the parallel of 31 degrees of latitude. For this privilege six millions of dollars was offered, a pretty high price, apparently, considering the small revenue which, under present circumstances, Mexico is enabled to draw from those districts. But, notwithstanding this seeming insignificance, the cession involves a very important point, so far as it implicated dominion over the upper part of the Gulf of California, including the mouth of the Rio Colorado and its tributary, the Gila. For this and other reasons, it is said that the government of Mexico resolutely rejected the offer. We do not know what degree of credit is to be attached to the alleged fact, but admitting the correctness of the proposition, the refusal appears to us as probable as it would be honorable to the government of Senor Comonfort.

Another more positive occurrence connected with the same matter, and which goes to strengthen our opinion, is the recent dismissal or resignation of General Gadsden, representative of the government of Washington near that of Mexico.

The strange conduct (implicitly condemned at present by his government) of this diplomatic agent, during his residence in Mexico, is of public notoriety. He did not only, in an ostentatious manner, separate from his other European colleagues, but openly attempted to interfere in the domestic concerns of the country, and to exercise an influence favorable to certain ideas. Neither is it less clear, so far as matters of such a nature can be fully ascertained, that the retreat of Mr. Gadsden was originally brought on by the complaints and reclamations of the actual Mexican government, which, as is quite reasonable, was not very favorable to such intrigues. This act of moral protest against the tendencies of foreign domination deserves likewise our praise, on account both of its immediate consequences and its signification for the future.

To all these antecedents may be added not only the honorable and convenient arrangement of the differences pending between Spain and Mexico, but also the expressive language used by Sr. President Comonfort within the interval of a few days. We well know what custom prescribes in such cases, and what is the real value of official phrases; still, the form of expression always changes much of the sense, either to partly annul it, or to lend it additional strength. This last intention is purposely carried out, and shines through the speech of Sr. Comonfort. This conduct is equally honorable to his sentiments as a man, and to his foresight as a politician. The Mexican government, by regulating the conditions of an arrangement which puts an end to disagreeable differences, but limited to questions of dignity, caused by interests of a material character, judiciously showed that it never allowed itself to be dazzled by the declamations of the foreigner, nor never lent itself to serve as an instrument to projects which are well known.

Such symptoms, viewed one with the other, and justly appreciated by a sound judgment, lead us to inferences highly satisfactory, and such as throw light on the international relations which may exist between these two countries. We may, for example, entertain merely individual opinions, more or less stable, relative to the interior policy which might suit Mexico; but, as Spanish writers, we never expressed, nor can express, a single judgment or idea contrary to the fundamental interests of that country, or leading to its ruin. Even when we in an abstract way condemn this or that doctrine in opposition with our own general principles, we do so, mainly actuated by our fear lest their application might contribute to enervate the vigor of Mexican nationality. This, our personal position, which we cite only by way of an humble example, represents exactly and completely the Spanish interests. By sympathy and for our own interest, we wish to see Mexico happy, but what we desire above all is the existence of Mexico; for thus the high interests of race will be guaranteed, while the germs of strength and progress which exist in that society cannot but develope themselves sooner or later.

The political interests which prevail in Mexico do not differ nor could not differ substantially from this very model.

Doctrines more or less democratic may exist as well under their rule as under that of the last dictatorship, but the end which every good Mexican proposes to himself has no other object. The idea of nationality circles all other considerations, apart from the manner of sustaining it. Therefore, Mexican statesmen, whatever may be their political character, will not let themselves be deceived so as to believe in imaginary dangers; nor will they cease to oppose whatever attempt will be made for fomenting real danger. The democratic school, in the largest expression of the word, governs to-day the destiny of Mexico, and notwithstanding its conduct it shows that the idea of national suicide rouses in the breast of her sons the deepest feeling of repugnance to such a cause.

THE CONDITION OF CALIFORNIA—FUTURE OF THE LATIN RACE ON THE AMERICAN CONTINENT.

[From the Diario de la Marina, Aug. 5.]

From the beginning of the unaccountable occurrences of which California has been the theatre to the date of our last advices, we have derived a lesson both clear and useful for the instruction of our race on the neighboring continent. Never will Christianity be able to boast of obtaining material results more brilliant or more apt to dazzle the mind by silencing criticism. Riches, progress in the ostensible developement of society, extemporized population and civilization—all are found there, and to a degree such as to shut the door upon further hope. However, under this brilliant surface there is something frightful. The lot of the oppressed race was spoliation, violence, and humiliation; neither was the ruling race less afflicted by the like violence pushed to a last extremity, so that in order to secure or to re-establish guarantees for the protection of life and property, it was necessary to have recourse to heroic remedies. Neither does time promise to bring along with it any cure. Rather on the contrary, the evil becomes chronic, and, in a city such as San Francisco, which, from the number of its inhabitants, its commerce and other conditions may be already counted among those of the first class, in order to maintain the spirit of the laws the people began by trampling on them with acts which at least we must qualify as illegal, and which admit of no other excuse but that of an imperious necessity. These are the logical and unavoidable consequences of all the civilization which is accomplished by bands of adventurers, who, in their numbers are a reckless set of men, without any other motive but avarice, and without any other rule but their own appetites.

But even taking into consideration these circumstances, or allowing the turbulent portion of the population of California not to be the exact or right standard of the nation to which it belongs, nevertheless, it is permitted us to infer from it the existence of a very serious phenomenon, which is pregnant with dangers for the future. It is certain that the allurements offered by that wonderful country were likely, at the first moment, to attract to its shores a motley crowd of adventurers, and that amongst this multitude the social dregs were necessarily to occupy a place without any legitimate proportion to its numerical importance. However, a little later, the necessities of commerce and the ostensible forms of an organized society, at once drew to it another element, more worthy of praise and respect. Labor, respectability and intelligence count already, without any doubt, mighty representatives there; and it would be the greatest injustice to measure the whole population of California by the type of those hordes under whose tyranny it lay enslaved.

The very desperate effort the city of San Francisco has just made to get rid of so heavy a burden gives evidence of this, without recurring to new arguments. There is, then, a constant and latent antagonism between the two principles of evil and good; but the irregularity exists, or rather is being aggravated, considering that in the ordinary course of things the mischievous principle has a marked tendency of overpowering its adversary. If there were in the situation of things any sign of spontaneous improvement, it would furnish some reasons for hope; but we doubt very much that, if in such a hypothesis, the respectable portion of the inhabitants of San Francisco would have resorted to such desperate measures. For experience proved to them how erroneous was their belief, and how, from day to day, the evil was increasing; for this reason, and exclusively for this reason, we may pardon their conduct, although we do not perhaps approve of it.

So far so well. The social problem being laid down in these terms, the importance of its solution is enhanced beyond all measure. And, as to the appreciation of this class of phenomena, the study of analogous facts is of the greatest utility; it is to our purpose to mention here another series of facts which may, perhaps, throw some light on the matter. Already, we have remarked that, as regards the populations of the Latin race, inhabiting the southern part of the new continent, there can be, with full exactness, traced out a gradual progress in their prosperity, and by establishing it to that degree they proved themselves truthful to their old traditions and the fundamental conditions of their previous existence. The monarchical Brazil opens the march, and the utilitarian Chile, with a strong government and semi-aristocratic institutions which have been cemented by a law admitting the right of primogeniture, is the republic which, amongst all the rest, follows it the nearest. From here we descend the scale in a very rapid progression until arriving at those populations who, in an instant of delirium, adopting the federal organization, unfortunately allied themselves to the domination of European democratic ideas. In order to attain the last extremity of prostration and discontent, we must pursue our course of examination until we stumble over the wreck of the Argentine Confederation, where the licentiousness of legislators terminated by ranging in battle array the theoretical, red democracy of the *porteños* against the retrograde material democracy of the *gauchos*. And in order that nothing may be wanting to complete our picture, we observe that even amongst the excesses of evil the slightest reaction in favor of conservative ideas produced wonderful efects. The obscure history of Guatemala, which would deserve to be better known, proves the advantage of a dictatorship which not limiting itself to material facts, tries a reorganization upon the basis of the past, accommodating itself to the exigencies of the present. In fine, wherever the Latin-American societies knew how to preserve the impulse to which they owed their existence, their adherence to the spirit of the old European civilization rewarded them with proportionate benefits.

Essentially the same, although under a different form, is the picture presented by Anglo-Saxon society in the great confederation of the North, from the States of New England, where the English type shows itself better conserved to our eyes, to the extreme West, which, like California and Kansas, is the last expression of the purely national developement.

This picture, perhaps, less familiar to the foreigner in its leading feature, than it ought in all justice to be, is worthy of being more fully examined.

### Shipment of Silver from England to the East.

[From the London News, July 24.]

The constant efflux of silver to the East continues to form one of the most remarkable monetary phenomena of the time, and is attracting increased attention at present on account of a well founded belief that coupled with and acting as auxiliary to the bullion purchases of the Bank of France, it operates as the chief check to the otherwise strongly improving tendency of the money market. Of the extent of the influence thus exercised a good idea will be afforded if we make use of the tables compiled by Mr. James Low, showing the total shipments of the precious metals from England by the Indian steamers during the first six months of the present year. The results are as follows, viz:—In January, £532,948; in February, £979,4[illegible]; in March, £882,118; in April, £843,718; in May, £1,182,444; and in June, £679,920; making a total of £5,100,633 in the six months, of which £201,725 was gold, and £4,898,908 silver. The proportion despatched to the three Chinese ports was £937,288, the remaining £4,163,345 being sent entirely to India, with the exception of a small sum to Alexandria. In the corresponding six months of last year, the total shipments were £2,514,806. These figures exhibit an increase of £2,585,827, or more than 100 per cent over those for the corresponding half of 1855. But the increased velocity with which the current of the precious metals has lately set towards India will be best shown by a recapitulation of the total exports from England by the Eastern steamers during the last five years. These remittances amounted in 1851 to £1,818,380; in 1852, to £3,551,977; in 1853, to £5,590,867; in 1854, to £4,306,302; and in 1855, to £7,358,161. In the present year they are proceeding at the unprecedented rate of nearly ten millions and a quarter sterling per annum.

In considering the effects of this heavy drain of silver, it must be borne in mind that, no large stocks of silver existing in this country, any special demand for the metal in the East can only be met by purchases of silver on the Continent and elsewhere. This operation materially disturbs the exchanges, and we believe we should not be far wrong in assuming that, for the whole of the silver which is drawn from the Continent for shipment to India and China, the Continent requires gold in payment. This view is corroborated in a remarkable manner by the recently published official returns of the commerce of France, which, under the head of the precious metals, state the total imports of silver into France during the three years 1853-4-5 at £13,332,000—we take the exchange at 25f. to the pound—and the exports at no less than £32,440,000, indicating a balance in favor of exports over imports of silver of £19,108,000. During the same period the aggregate imports of gold into France were £47,216,000, and the total exports £10,272,000, showing a balance on the side of imports over exports of gold of £36,944,000. The gold sent into France, it will be noticed, exceeds greatly in value the silver drawn from it. Part of this excess is probably due to the French transit trade in the precious metal, whilst part is very likely hoarded in the provinces. It is evident from a general comparison of these figures that, under the influence of the Eastern demand for silver, the stock of this metal circulating in France and in other continental countries is being gradually drawn away and replaced by gold. If additional proof be required, however, it is afforded by the returns of the operations of the French Mint, which indicate an enormous coinage of gold, and a comparatively trifling coinage of the less precious metal, although a few years ago the direct reverse was the case. Seven years ago, viz., in 1849, the total coinage of the Paris Mint was £1,080,000 in gold, and £7,360,000 in silver. In 1854 it was as much as £20,480,000 in gold, and only £80,000 in silver. The exact figures for the year 1855 are not at present before us, but the gold coinage was nearly as large as that of 1854, while the value of the silver coined was little more than a quarter of a million. These facts account to some extent for the constant disappearance of the gold yielded in such abundance by California and Australia. We are able to point to an enormous aggregate of gold which has passed into circulation in France merely in lieu of the previously existing silver coin, the latter having been absorbed by India. The same process has caused a great change in the relative stock of gold and silver in the possession of the Bank of France. At the end of 1849 the Bank held £17,170,800 in silver, and only £162,400 in gold, whereas at the end of 1854 the proportions were nearly equal, the gold standing at £7,733,480, and the silver at £7,948,920. The change made still further progress in 1855, the Bank's stock of gold being estimated at the close of the year at £4,500,000, whilst the silver had diminished to about £3,500,000.

The influence exercised upon the European money markets by the flow of silver to the East being thus powerful, it would be peculiarly interesting if any reliable estimate could be formed as to the extent of the capacity of India to absorb silver. He must be a bold man, however, who will venture upon positive assertions on this point. From time immemorial India has been notoriously a complete sink of the precious metals. In a most interesting paper, recently read before the Statistical Society, from the pen of Colonel Sykes, some valuable details bearing upon this subject are given. Taking, for purposes of illustration, a period of eight years, from 1834-5 to 1841-2, Colonel Sykes shows that the aggregate imports of all goods into India were valued at £61,211,044, and the aggregate exports at £108,052,293, and that, consequently, there was a balance in favor of India, or debt due to it, of £46,841,248. This, he remarks, was partly liquidated by a net import of bullion of £15,184,720, leaving an unpaid trade debt of £31,656,528. Doubtless, this apparently heavy discrepancy was made up in some other way—in part, perhaps, by the pecuniary and other transactions between the Indian government and its dependencies; but the general inference to be deduced from the figures is, that the balance of trade was constantly in favor of India. Taking next a period of five years from 1849-'50 to 1853-'54, Colonel Syke's statistics exhibit results of a kindred character. The aggregate value of the imports into India in these five years was £55,292,688 against £95,115,476 of exports, leaving an apparent balance of trade in merchandise in favor of India of £39,822,788. This shows a much larger annual balance in favor of India than during the eight years of the preceding period. The total imports of bullion in these five years were £18,993,865, by which the balance was reduced to £20,828,923.

These and similar details conclusively prove what has long been believed, viz.—that whilst the export trade of India has been gradually increasing for the last twenty years, the balance of trade in favor of that country has also annually augmented. The natural consequence is, as Colonel Sykes points out, that merchants and manufacturers trading with India have been compelled, in addition to their manufactures, to transmit thither large and increasing amounts of bullion, which have been absorbed locally, and have not again left the country.

THE ATTEMPT TO ENTER KANSAS VIA NEBRASKA.—We make the following extract, says the Boston *Traveller*, from a private letter received in this city from one who is connected with the expedition about to attempt to enter Kansas by the way of Nebraska:—

CIVIL BEND, IOWA, Aug. 1, 1856.

I have only time to report myself as about to start for the Territory to-day, in company with the great emigrant train, which proposes to force its way into Kansas through Nebraska. It numbers about 500. It will take us ten days to go. I trust it may go in safely; but it is prepared for any emergency—it is bound to go in. A messenger was sent some ten or twelve days since to ask of Gen. Smith an escort, but none has arrived, and the messenger is missing. If the government troops keep out of the way the Missourians can't stop us. I would go in alone, but it is not deemed safe to cross the border unprotected. We shall move on to-day or to-morrow, and with the greatest caution. The camp is now about twenty miles from here, in Nebraska, near the little Nemeha. I am here in Iowa, nearly opposite the mouth of the Platte river, or rather six miles above Nebraska city, on the Iowa side. Reports reach us that the enemy are collecting along the line to oppose our passage, but they must be smart to do it.

It will be the crisis in this great question. If we are beaten back by violence, then look out for commotion. I trust, however, that they will not be so mad as to attempt any such thing.