

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Fourteenth Street.—ITALIAN OPERA.—LA TRAVIATA.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway.—EUROPEAN GYMNASIUM AND KATHARINE PERFORMANCES.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—TIGBY ROSE FEARS-KATY, THE VIVANDIERE—GREEN MONSTER.

ROBERTY THEATRE, Bowery.—DREED, OR THE DISMAL SWAMP—FOUR LOVERS—WILD BEAST.

BERTON'S NEW THEATRE, Broadway.—CLARI, THE MAID OF MILAN—DAUGHTER OF THE ROSEBUD.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway.—BUNCH FOR SCANDAL—HILL AND CHERRY.

LARA KERN'S THEATRE, No. 62 Broadway.—OUR AMERICAN COUSIN—TWENTY MINUTES WITH A TIGER.

THEATRE FRANCAIS, 55 Broadway.—RAINS A DOMICILE—LE FOLLET NOCTURNE—LE PIANO DE BERTHA.

BARON'S AMERICAN THEATRE, Broadway.—AFRICO AND KYRIELE—PARTISAN SUPR-LE VITE DANZON—NATION'S THEATRE—CANTON PERFORMANCES.

WOOD'S MINSTREL BUILDING, 561 and 563 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, &c.—SOUTHERN LUTE ILLUSTRATED.

MORGAN'S HALL, 42 Broadway.—RETURNS MINSTREL.—NEGRO SONGS AND BURLINGUES.—I AM NOT TIME TO TRAVEL.

CAMPBELL MINSTRELS, 414 Broadway.—THEATRE CHARLESTON, SONGS, &c.—ARAB BROTHERS.

New York, Friday, December 3, 1858.

The News.

General Paetz left the city yesterday, on his way to Laguna, on board the government steamer Atlanta, and his son by the Caledonia, both steamers having been placed at their disposal by the government.

The Chamber of Commerce met yesterday, and transacted considerable business. A report was adopted in favor of the early introduction of steam on the canal.

The Police Commissioners in secret session yesterday elected Mr. Lefferts B. Ward to fill the vacancy in their Board.

An elaborate and highly interesting lecture was delivered last evening before the Geographical and Statistical Society, on the "Geographical Position of the Northwestern Territories," by Hon. Isaac J. Stevens.

In another column will be found a document of a remarkable character, being no less than a decree of the Ottoman government for the encouragement of emigration to its dominions.

Over and over again the claims and pretensions of all other aspirants for the next four years' lease of the White House? What is there in the public history of Seward that gives him the precedence over all other men on the opposition side, as the man best qualified for the administration of the affairs of the general government?

We find him commencing his political career upon the anti-masonic excitement raised in Western New York over a dead body represented to be that of one Morgan, a recanting and book-publishing Freemason, who had been mysteriously spirited away.

Recent accounts from Paraguay represent that our squadron is not likely to have very smooth work of it. The dictator Lopez cannot see, though he must be made to see, the error of his ways, and he consequently puts on an air of defiance, strengthens his forts, erects batteries, marshals his troops, displays his famous cocked hat, and rows destruction to all Yankees.

Under ordinary circumstances, a decision, one way or the other, in half a dozen or a dozen contested seats in Congress, would be a matter of comparatively trifling importance; but when we come to consider the point that the next House of Representatives may be called upon to elect the next President of the United States, every man on both sides whose seat is contested, in a close division between the democracy and the opposition, may, possibly, to his party, be worth ten times over his weight in gold.

The Council for the promoters in the slave States, to-day petitioned for a writ of habeas corpus to bring the prisoners before the court to show the reason why they should longer be detained in custody. The Court granted the writ, and made it returnable on Saturday at ten o'clock. This will bring up the evidence and argument of the case before the Grand Jury, who have been further discharged until Monday.

The steamer Boston arrived here at eleven A. M. She left Burlington at 3 P. M. yesterday, breaking up for ten miles. She is probably the last boat of the season. The sea is three inches thick.

The schooner Specter in Distress. The schooner Specter, from New Bedford, bound to Savannah, has put in here in distress. She encountered a violent N. W. gale on Thursday night off Montevideo Point, and commenced to leak at the rate of three thousand strokes per hour. Her cargo was damaged, and part of it had to be thrown overboard.

The Canada Outward Bound. The Canada Steamship Company, from Boston, passed Rugged Islands at noon, and will be here at about eight o'clock this evening. She will discharge her Liverpool cargo before midnight.

Navigation Closed on Lake Champlain. The steamer Boston arrived here at eleven A. M. She left Burlington at 3 P. M. yesterday, breaking up for ten miles. She is probably the last boat of the season. The sea is three inches thick.

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at the recent election for State officers and members of Congress, may be found in our advertising columns to-day.

In consequence of the ice running in the Connecticut river, the steamboats plying between this city and Hartford and the intermediate stopping places have ceased their trips for the winter. The navigation of the canal is also closed for the season.

There was a lull in the cotton market yesterday, as usual after a period of excitement. The sales were confined to a few hundred bales, closing without quotable change in prices. Flour was steady, with a fair demand from the local and Eastern trade for the better classes of brands, while there was some inquiry for low grades of State and Western flour.

Wheat was firm, while transactions were made at 74c. 74 1/2c. for Western mixed, new Southern white at 76c., and New Jersey yellow at 75c. Pork was better, with sales of about one hundred and fifty cases at \$18 25, prime sold at \$17 75 a \$17 75. Lard was again active, with free sales, both on the spot and at arrival, at former rates. Sugars were quite steady, with sales of 700 hhd. and 600 boxes. Coffee was quiet. Freight were firm. Among the engagements were 2,500 bbl. flour to Liverpool at 1s. 7 1/2d. a lb. 9d.

Mr. Crittenden on the Presidential Question.—Seward, Douglas and General Scott.

Mr. Crittenden, in his speech to the Whig General Committee of this city the other evening, in denouncing the mischievous consequences of the slavery agitation, thus freely delivered himself concerning the rotten party organization of the day, and their corrupting caucus and convention machinery, to wit:—

I think that but for the dissensions of parties the people themselves would rectify the grievances. Our government is the result of the intelligence and sense of the people for self-government, and I believe it fully; but such has been the course of events that but little of the liberty is left to the people. From what is called "organization"—that is, to make a mighty machine, by which a great multitude of the people are to be controlled, and no of three are to manage the machinery—the people's voice is not heard. It is a machine, an end to all that is in the least touched, self-government falls to the ground. I believe, gentlemen, that the old whigs could do nothing better than to propagate that sentiment, as I believe the hearts and minds of the people are the source of all political truth.

The identical views we have been urging upon the Independent people of all parties for some time past. So completely have the people been subjected to this miserable despotism of party machinery, that at this day, two years in advance of the next Presidential election, we find that many of our leading party managers and organs—democratic and opposition—have virtually decided upon the caucus and convention nominations which are to exclude all others from the contest.

Of the two dozen politicians—republican, democratic, American, Northern men, Southern men, slavery and anti-slavery, sectional and conservative—that are known to be in the field for the next Presidency, the political accident and issues of the slavery agitation have placed W. H. Seward and S. A. Douglas in the most conspicuous position—the former as the great anti-slavery champion of the republican party, and the latter as the victorious leader of the Illinois democracy. On the one side, we are told that the election of Mr. Morgan as Governor of New York, upon the platform of Seward's Rochester manifesto, is tantamount to a positive declaration of the republican party in his favor, as their standard bearer for 1860; and on the other side, the accidental election of a Douglas Legislature in Illinois upon his rickety hobby of "popular sovereignty" is accepted by his followers as almost equivalent to his nomination by the Charleston Democratic Convention.

And while the partisans of Douglas will not recognize the probability of any other man than Seward as the republican candidate, the devoted organs of Seward seem to be equally confident that Douglas will be their inevitable democratic competitor.

Thus, in the harmonious rejoicings of the newspaper organs, politicians and party managers of both sides, the claims of all other candidates, of every party, are completely cast in the shade by the paramount claims, respectively, of Seward and Douglas. Neither the teachings of the past, nor the delusions of the present day, nor the uncertainties of the future, will be listened to on either side. Seward, we are boastfully told, must be the candidate of the republicans, and that there is no hope for the reunion of the democracy at Charleston but upon the name and under cover of the saving Northern popularity of Douglas.

And what has either of these men done thus to overshadow and eclipse the claims and pretensions of all other aspirants for the next four years' lease of the White House? What is there in the public history of Seward that gives him the precedence over all other men on the opposition side, as the man best qualified for the administration of the affairs of the general government? In his history, as we have read it, and in his progress, as we have watched him for the last thirty years, we can find nothing beyond the artful tricks and dodges of a scheming political demagogue.

We find him commencing his political career upon the anti-masonic excitement raised in Western New York over a dead body represented to be that of one Morgan, a recanting and book-publishing Freemason, who had been mysteriously spirited away. From that day to this, upon the anti-rent question, the liquor question, the common school question, and upon all the slavery issues of the last quarter of a century, we find this cunning and scheming politician consistently devoting himself, not to the interests of the State, nor to the prosperity and harmony of the Union, but to the demoralizing local, partisan and sectional excitements of the day, to the single end of his own political advancement, through the corrupt machinery of the party caucus and the Albany lobby. Such, reduced within the limits of a brief paragraph, is the record of the public life and services of W. H. Seward, for which he and his dependents have been abundantly compensated from the public Treasury, or from the Albany or Washington lobby.

Nor does the public career of Mr. Douglas furnish the necessary materials for a more exalted character. Beginning his political life in Illinois upon the stump, in those debating expedients which appeal to the lowest instincts and prejudices of a frontier population, he has consistently followed this rôle throughout. With a stronger predilection for land jobbing than Seward, the most prominent measure introduced into the Senate by Mr. Douglas, at the first opportunity, was that famous bill granting the area of a little kingdom of the richest public lands of Illinois to the Central Railroad of that State. In that act, Douglas became the founder of the railroad land grabbing system, from which the Treasury has suffered spoliation (including all the railroad land grants from that day to this) amounting to many millions of dollars. From this land grabbing system, too, the Washington lobby, through its multifarious appliances of Congressional bribery and corruption, has become the third estate in the government—an

estate held in check at present by Mr. Buchanan, but hopefully waiting for a change.

The only other measure of Congressional legislation which gives to Mr. Douglas a pre-eminently conspicuous position is that Kansas-Nebraska bill and its appendages; and here his position is pre-eminently that of a bold and reckless demagogue and disorganizer. The fearful slavery agitation of the last four years, the horrid atrocities and crimes committed in Kansas, the disgraceful scenes in both houses of Congress, the bitter spirit of sectional hate and sectional revenge, North and South, which has thus been created, and the sharply defined sectional organization of our political parties, are among the consequences of that Kansas-Nebraska experiment for the Cincinnati nomination. And yet this man, the boasted author of all this mischief, after following it up with a rebellion against a democratic administration, and with an active alliance with the opposition, which has defeated and well nigh destroyed the democracy in every Northern State—this man, it is claimed by his partisans, has suddenly become the only available man for the Charleston Convention.

Contrast the public services and public character of such a man as Gen. Scott with these two ephemeral politicians, Seward and Douglas, and we may well shudder at that disorganizing corruption of our political party machinery which does not hesitate to give the impudent and unworthy demagogue the precedence over the modest but deserving patriot. For nearly fifty years, in all sections of the Union, and in our foreign wars, Gen. Scott has been the defender of the country and the visible embodiment of law and order. Let the Canadian frontier, our Western and Southern frontiers, Florida, Mexico, Charleston, &c., at different epochs, answer for him and for the country.

It is in behalf of this or some such man, whose public life and services have been better and higher than the grovelling tricks of dirty demagogues or the schemes of sectional mischief makers, that we appeal to the American people for our next President. Let them fix upon Gen. Scott or some such truly national and Union man, and proceed in every city, county, town and school district of every State to nominate him and agitate his claims, and the work of our rotten party caucuses and juggling conventions will be superseded and defeated. In any event, we apprehend that the party trumpeters of Seward and Douglas have commenced to blow too soon for 1860, and that in the sequel the late events upon which they pin their faith will be the ruin of both. Neither the leading demagogues in the Kansas agitation nor the defunct issues of the past will avail for the new epoch of the future, upon the threshold of which we stand.

The very machinery upon which the agents and drummers of Seward and Douglas depend will inevitably fall under the new order of things which is before us. But still the will of the people, and the man of the people, will continue subject to these juggling party conventions until they are superseded by the independent action of the people. In regard, then, to this party machinery, these party caucuses and convention spoils gamblers, we fully concur with Mr. Crittenden that "there should be an end of all this." The crisis, too, is eminently favorable for a popular revolution. The democratic and opposition party organizations are demoralized, crippled, disjointed, and tumbling to pieces. In this condition a popular movement against them in the shape of little independent clubs here and there and everywhere, in behalf of some truly national patriot like General Scott, would accomplish a glorious work of popular reform. Thus the combined influence of these popular clubs, by the year 1860, would form a volume like that of the mighty Mississippi, whose sources are among the little springs of the Alleghanies, the little lakes of Minnesota and the little rivulets of the Rocky Mountains.

PARAGUAY AND VENEZUELA.—PEACE AND WAR.—Our harbor witnessed yesterday a curious and novel spectacle, and one which may well draw our attention for a moment from the dirty scenes of politics in which we are engaged in this city. Two vessels of the fleet destined to act against Paraguay, and to assist in causing American rights and the American flag to be respected and honored throughout the southern half of this continent, departed yesterday from this port on their mission. That mission was one, however, not wholly of war; for on board one of these vessels were conveyed, as guests of the nation, the distinguished South American soldier and statesman, General Paetz, and the deputation of Venezuelan gentlemen who were sent by that republic to invite back to his native land one of her best and bravest citizens. Thus, the same expedition that is charged with exacting apology and reparation from one South American State has been made use of to pay a high compliment to another South American State. It was an incident that we hope will ever be characteristic of our country's readiness to pay, as well as to exact, respect.

Recent accounts from Paraguay represent that our squadron is not likely to have very smooth work of it. The dictator Lopez cannot see, though he must be made to see, the error of his ways, and he consequently puts on an air of defiance, strengthens his forts, erects batteries, marshals his troops, displays his famous cocked hat, and rows destruction to all Yankees. We rather think, however, that his braggadocio will not have the effect of scaring the brave men to whom the honor of our flag is entrusted in that quarter. The demands which our Commissioner is instructed to make of him are not very exacting. They are simply these:—In the first place, an apology for firing into the United States surveying steamer Water Witch; in the second place, the ratification of the treaty of 1853, which Lopez refused to sign because the title of this country was given in it as "the United States of America;" in the third place, the making of a treaty throwing open the rivers of Paraguay to American commerce; and lastly, the settlement of the claims of the American Navigation and Manufacturing Company, which was established some four or five years since at Assuncion, but the business of which is said to have been ruined by Lopez. If the first three questions be amicably discussed and settled, the last will not be allowed, we suppose, to stand much in the way of terms of peace; for, after all, it is merely a question of accounts, which might be fairly left to a referee.

Some of the journals of this city have shown themselves so illiberal and vindictive against Mr. Buchanan that they have not hesitated in condemning him for sending out this expedition to Paraguay, and for the compliment which he paid, in the name of the people, to General Paetz. Congress authorized him to do the one, and would, had it been necessary, have authorized him to do the other. A power greater than Congress itself—the people of the United States—

will commend and support his action in both. Now that Paetz has started on his return to Venezuela, and that all but one or two vessels of the Paraguay expedition have departed, we will probably hear no more of the one or the other for months to come. The public voice will join with us, however, in wishing success to both.

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION.—FROM BAD TO WORSE.—We publish in another column a statement of the Receiver of Taxes relative to the taxes collected up to the first of this month, since the opening of the books for 1858. The tax levy for this year is eight millions and three-quarters; and if we are to judge from the prospects which the candidates for office at the charter election present to us, it is evident that the financial affairs of the city are going from bad to worse.

Since the organization of our municipal government we never had a worse set of candidates presented to the people for the various important offices of the Corporation—the Finance department, the Almshouse, and the government of our public schools. There are three hundred and fifty candidates before us for these offices, comprising the most vital ones in the whole city government. And what class of men are they? Old hack politicians, the pets of grogshops and gambling houses, loafers and bullies, with a sprinkling of decent men among them too small to prove of any account as a counterbalance to the horde of office seekers whose only object is plunder. Out of the 350 candidates, 166 contribute not a penny in the shape of direct taxes to the expenses of the city. On the contrary, they are many of them large tax consumers, and desire to consume, when elected, with a greater voraciousness than ever. And there is no help for it: the city is to be hopelessly delivered over to "condottieri"—an organized gang of plunderers. The occupation most numerous represented in the list is that of grogshop keepers; they stand twenty-six. Next come the lawyers, snuffing the spoils from afar, numbering twenty-five; clerks—the most of whom are subordinates in the public offices, and know to a quarter what is to be made out of them—come next, rating at nineteen; builders, who are mostly contractors, also, are fairly represented; but the largest representation of any one class is that of persons who have actually no occupation and no local habitation at all—they numbering fifty-one.

Judging from the hungry character of this array of candidates, it is not too much to predict that the taxes, which have now reached to nearly nine millions, will be swelled to thirteen or fourteen before this fresh gang of bloodsuckers is satiated. Verily the grogshops, houses of infamous repute and gambling halls are in their glory, for they have succeeded in making the nominations for city offices, and the government of the city, the disbursing of its funds, the education of its youth, the selection of its school teachers, and the lives and fortunes of its people are in their hands for another year.

Meantime, God help the city!

FEMALE PATRIOTS.—THE MOUNT VERNON GALA FESTIVAL.—The ladies who constitute the Executive Committee of the Mount Vernon Association deserve immortal honor for their spirit and energy. They seem determined to leave no stone unturned to carry out the patriotic object which they have in view, and the expedients to which they resort deserve as much credit for their ingenuity as for their noble purpose. One time it is a bazaar, another time it is a lecture, and again it is a concert or a ball. These appeals, multiplied over a number of localities, and pushed with untiring perseverance, are naturally advancing them rapidly towards the completion of their fund. The effort, however, from which they anticipate the most fruitful results is the grand gala festival which is to be given on the 14th, 16th and 18th of this month. This monster affair is to combine all the varied attractions of concert, lecture and ball, in which the most distinguished artists and orators will play a part. To those who have not patriotism enough to be stirred by the occasion, the temptations which this festival holds out must prove a strong inducement. It is difficult at all times to resist appeals from ladies, but couched in the seductive forms in which they will be here presented they will prove irresistible. Covering as they will a period of three days, and including every variety of amusement and entertainment in vogue amongst our citizens, they will afford to persons of different tastes and leisure an opportunity of contributing to the furtherance of the patriotic scheme which the ladies of this Association have in hand.

THE NEXT CONGRESS AND ITS CONTENTED ELECTIONS.—It is exceedingly doubtful whether the democracy or the opposition will have the control of the next House of Representatives at Washington. It will be a tight fit, and possibly the final judgment upon contested elections will determine the question of ascendancy. Thus far five members have been declared elected whose seats will be contested, viz.—French (republican), Maine; Haskin (opposition) and Sickles (democrat), New York; Florence (democrat), Pennsylvania; and Barret (democrat), elected over Blair (republican) in the St. Louis, Missouri, district.

Under ordinary circumstances, a decision, one way or the other, in half a dozen or a dozen contested seats in Congress, would be a matter of comparatively trifling importance; but when we come to consider the point that the next House of Representatives may be called upon to elect the next President of the United States, every man on both sides whose seat is contested, in a close division between the democracy and the opposition, may, possibly, to his party, be worth ten times over his weight in gold.

Of course, the loss or gain of a member or so to the opposition, in the Pennsylvania, New York or Missouri delegation, would make no difference in the actual vote by the delegation for President, which is carried by the majority; but in the preliminaries, the House, with a positive democratic ascendancy in the aggregate vote, though the opposition may have the House by States, the Presidential election may be staved off till the 4th of March, when the Vice President (who, if not elected by the people, is to be elected by the Senate) will become President of the United States.

The loss of Haskin and French, therefore, is the gain of Ryan and Blair, or either of them may possibly turn the scale of the next Presidency in the House against or in favor of the opposition. In this important view of the matter, our readers will understand the secret of Greeley's remarkable tenacity and devotion to Haskin. Hence the half dozen libel suits, more or less, instituted in the name of Haskin, against certain newspaper editors of Westchester and the adjoining counties, are suits under cover of which Greeley is operating to stave off the in-

vestigation and ventilation of the actual facts and figures of Haskin's alleged election. But this device will not do. Greeley's stakes in the next Congress, and the lobby thereof, may be very heavy, and they may be lost or won, possibly, with the loss or gain of Haskin; but for all this case, if passed upon favorably by the State canvassers, will have to pass the ordeal of a searching examination by the House. Greeley is thus making a fool of Haskin to no purpose. The game will not pay for the candle.

THE LATEST NEWS.

Our Special Washington Despatch. THE RICARDELLA FLEET.—SOME OF THE LATEST.—THE PROGRAMME OF DOUGLAS ON OUR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, &c.

Information has been received here, last, contrary to the report published from Panama, the steamer Hermann would call at San Juan del Sur for the Washington's passengers. Much anxiety is felt about the success of this effort for opening the Nicaragua route. Captain Greedy's conduct in leaving the Hermann is looked upon with suspicion.

Architects, contractors, superintendents and pretenders of all sorts, who claim to have had, or to have, something to do with the design or execution of the work of the Capitol extension, are lying in wait for a grand row when Congress meets. What with the shortness of the session, the large amount of really important work, the difficulty to know who is right or wrong in their pretensions, and the general disgust with the whole subject, Congress is not likely to trouble itself much about the matter.

The impression is that no recommendation will be made to Congress for a change in the tariff. A full and clear statement will be made of facts, with data, leaving it to Congress to take whatever action may be deemed necessary.

It is said that Senator Douglas' visit to Louisiana at this particular time is to aid Mr. South in his contest for the Senate. The Douglas men intimate that should the President be what they term "slow" in his foreign policy regarding Mexico and Central America, the "Little Giant" will dash in with a bold programme, to be in advance of the administration.

Despatches from Minister Lamar to the State Department, speak of the astonishing effect on the Central American of General Guas' dispatch to him, and as a consequence the exhibition of a better feeling than this country.

There is no truth in the report that ex-Secretary Guthrie would accept the Presidency of the Southern Pacific Railroad. He positively declined.

The death of Brevet Major Brooke, of the Marine Corps promotes Brevet Captain Fassell to be a full captain.

Second Lieutenant Browning will also be promoted to a first lieutenant. There are many applicants for the vacancy, but it is believed the appointment has been conferred on George Butler, of Arkansas, that State being heretofore without a representative in the Marine Corps.

By information received from Kansas, dated 21st ult., I learn that Judge Conway, who has been figuring in making constitutions for Kansas, applied to Acting Governor Walsh for a certified copy of a bill which he alleged had passed the Legislature last winter, calling a Convention to frame another constitution, now known as the Leavenworth constitution. Mr. Walsh told him he would give a true copy of the paper, but would not certify to anything but the facts. Conway said he would be satisfied with that, and it was accordingly given. The certificate shows that the bill was presented to the Governor after eleven o'clock on the 10th of February last; that Governor Denver neither approved or disapproved of it; that the session terminated on the 12th, and that the journal of the Council does not show that the bill ever passed that body, but that it was on the table on the 8th of February and not afterwards taken up. The certificate of Acting Governor Walsh also shows that the words "February" and "1857" in the certificate of the Secretary of the Council, is written in ink different from that of the body of the certificate.

The General Land Office is in receipt of the following approved surveys from the Surveyor General of California, viz.—Plat of the Tameo rancho, finally confirmed to Thomas O. Larkin and John S. Misroff, situated in townships 13, 14 and 15, north of range 1 east, 14, 15, 16 and 17, north of range 1 west, and 16, 17, north of range 2 west of the Mount Diablo meridian, containing 58,791 13-100 acres; this claim is bounded on the east by the Sacramento river. Also, plat of the Goba rancho, finally confirmed to R. D. Sempie, situated in townships 15 and 16, north of range 1 and 2, west of the Mount Diablo meridian, containing 2,855 54-100 acres. Also, plat of the rancho Bari-Bari, finally confirmed to Jose de la Cruz Sanchez, &c., situated in townships 3 and 4, south of range 5 west, and township 3, south of range 6 west of the Mount Diablo meridian, containing 15,729 acres; this rancho is bounded east by the bay of San Francisco. Also, plat of part of the rancho San Antonio, finally confirmed to Antonio Maria Peralta, situated in townships 2 and 3, south of range 3 west, and 1 and 2, south of range 4 west of the Mount Diablo meridian, containing 16,067 acres. Also, plat of the rancho La Purissima Concepcion, finally confirmed to Juana Briones, situated in townships 6 west, 7, south of range 2, and 6 and 7, south of range 3 west of the Mount Diablo meridian, containing 4,436 acres.

THE GENERAL NEWSPAPER INSURANCE. WASHINGTON, Dec. 2, 1858. It was recently extensively reported that Secretary Obb had accepted the appointment of Minister to France, and now it is rumored that he is going to England in a similar capacity, but there is the highest authority for saying there is no truth whatever in these statements; and, further, that since the formation of the present Cabinet it is not known that any member thereof has had the remotest idea of withdrawing from it for any purpose.

The President's Message is in type, and will be ready for the press to-morrow. Advanced copies will, according to the President's design, be sent only to Richmond, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York.

The report of the Postmaster General is printed, and those of the other heads of the departments are in the hands of the compositor. Copies of the message, with these accompanying documents, will be distributed to the press, as heretofore, by the respective postmasters of the above named cities, as soon as they shall be notified by telegraph that the reading of the message has been commenced in Congress, which will probably be on Monday next about ten o'clock.

But few members of Congress have yet arrived. The great rush will be within the next two days.

THE SLAVE ECHO CASE. CONCORDIA, S. C., Dec. 2, 1858. The counsel for the promoters in the slave States, to-day petitioned for a writ of habeas corpus to bring the prisoners before the court to show the reason why they should longer be detained in custody. The Court granted the writ, and made it returnable on Saturday at ten o'clock. This will bring up the evidence and argument of the case before the Grand Jury, who have been further discharged until Monday. The impression appears to be that the prisoners will be held, and the case taken to another district.

Choice of a United States Senator in South Carolina. CONCORDIA, S. C., Dec. 2, 1858. In the Legislature to-day, Hon. James Chesnut, President of the State Senate, was elected United States Senator on the tenth ballot. This is a signal triumph of the conservative. On the ninth ballot the vote stood 45 for Manning, and 55 for Adams. On the final ballot Chesnut received 92 votes and Adams 54.

Senator Hammond was in town to-day, and his presence and wishes doubtless had an influence on the result.

THE CANADA OUTWARD BOUND. HALLOW, Dec. 2, 1858. The Canada Steamship Company, from Boston, passed Rugged Islands at noon, and will be here at about eight o'clock this evening. She will discharge her Liverpool cargo before midnight.

Navigation Closed on Lake Champlain. The steamer Boston arrived here at eleven A. M. She left Burlington at 3 P. M. yesterday, breaking up for ten miles. She is probably the last boat of the season. The sea is three inches thick.

The schooner Specter in Distress. The schooner Specter, from New Bedford, bound to Savannah, has put in here in distress. She encountered a violent N. W. gale on Thursday night off Montevideo Point, and commenced to leak at the rate of three thousand strokes per hour. Her cargo was damaged, and part of it had to be thrown overboard.

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Virginia Democratic State Convention. PENNSYLVANIA, Dec. 2, 1858. The Democratic State Convention assembled here to-day. The attendance is immense, and the hall was crowded nearly to suffocation. Delegates from nearly every city and county of the State are present.

After a stormy time a temporary organization was effected by the choice of Col. A. C. Hess, of Petersburg, as chairman.