Weekly National Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON: SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 1845. No. 192.

PUBLISHED BY GALES & SEATON.

TWO DOLLARS a year; or ONE DOLLAR for the first regular session of each Congress; and FIFTY CENTS for the final session of each Congress; and the same for each Extra Session—payable in all cases in advance.

SIXTH WEEK OF THE SESION.

[FROM THE DAILY NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER, JANUARY 13]

The history of the past week in the House of Representatives is so largely that of the Texas debate, that we know not how we can better shape our usual summary than by devoting much of it to a concise statement of the chief arguments thus far adduced in favor of Annexation.

It would appear that the Southern gentlemen urge the measure as one necessary to the preservation of slavery and its institutions among themselves; and that the Northern supporters of the policy advocate it on the ground of its being certain to bring about, better than any other device, the extinction of slavery.

The Free Trade party—inspired with a sudden tenderness for the manufacturing intrests, and alarmed at the idea of the free introduction of British goods—insist that Congress shall proceed to protect that Tariff which they are threatening at home to nullify; and, in spite of the old warning, "*Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes*," ("I fear the Greeks and those their gifts who bring,") the supposed democratic friends of home industry join in the notion and the argument.

The President, the Secretary of State, and the Texian Commissioners assure us, that, besides its soils and climate admirably suited to the production of cotton and sugar, Texas has still wider regions that afford the grain crops in profusion and can graze herds of every sort almost without end. But Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois are, throughout their democratic representation, struck with the magnificent mart which this land of plenty will offer for their bread stuffs and salted meats. In like manner, we may possibly, in the progress of the discussion, hear the cotton planters maintain that it will present a great outlet for that staple, and the sugar planters enlarge on the increased consumption for sugar and molasses.

All on that side extol the wise, the beneficent, the purely republican institutions of Texas, modelled upon our own, and rivalling them in their excellence; but to "enlarge the area of freedom" is one of the most zealous purposes of the entire plan.

All appear to agree that, while we stretch across to the Pacific, and possess, in waste fertility, a domain that will scarcely be sold in one hundred and fifty years, nor reduced to general cultivation in five hundred, we are yet greatly in want of territory. Already we rival those Germanic nations described by Cæsar in his Commentaries, who made it their highest national boast to exceed all their neighbors in the extent of desolation upon their frontiers: already our people, like objects all charged with the same negative electricity, fly off from each other, till each escapes beyond the sphere of another's repulsion. Less sociable than many of the animal creation, they seem, like the young bred from the eggs of our forest turkey, to have a natural propensity to grow wild again; and it is the politic inclination of some statesmen and legislators to nourish, by new acquisitions, this tendency.

Meantime, who are they that, by appeals to our nationality, would stimulate us to this vast and loose extent of dominion? Those precisely, all whose theories deny the use of whatever public powers can bind remote regions together. Within our present extent, they are the enemies of every thing National. If they thus stretch out this Union and invite its thin population to scatter yet more widely, what public improvements, either general or local, will any longer be practicable? And as to these already made (by the State Governments) and unpaid for, or those only begun, what must become of them? To liquidate the debt contracted for them, heavy taxes must be laid upon lands diminished in value, upon industrial pursuits checked by the withdrawal of laborers or the ruin of manufactures under a free trade policy; and the weight of taxation in the States thus improved will act as a fresh cause of migration.

These, however, are arguments of our own: let us rather return to those of others, which we set out with.

These gentlemen reason, as if, to aggrandize a country, you have but to add to its enormous wilds fresh ones as vast, and as if to disperse a people and to confound their tongues, as God did in his wrath to the presumptuous race on Shinar, were a blessing instead of a curse. In this manner they talk, sectionally, against sectional feelings, in a matter notoriously meant to strengthen one section at the expense of another; and, while dilating against local feelings and local interests, aim to multiply both, by including within our limits regions of a new soil and climate, people partly of hostile race, and language and faith, and partly emigrants from our own, who, in the mere wantonness of self-expatriation, have preferred the wilderness of a foreign country to the vast and fertile wilds of our own.

They speak much also of the moneyed value of the Texas lands—forgetting or omitting to notice the fact that, first, those lands have probably already, for every acre, two claims at least, under titles as lawful as any that can again be given; secondly, that there will, therefore, be no fund to pay the debt of Texas to be assumed; thirdly, that the wastes of Texas will nevertheless be brought, by the adventurers and speculators who hold them, into market against our own, and thus ruin the sale of our own present public domain; fourthly, that we shall thus have to pay the debts of Texas (if ever paid) from a diminished public income, and perhaps to tax lands at home to pay them; and, fifthly, that those very lands, over all the rest of the Union, must be sunk greatly in value by the migration from them that is to ensue.

They insist, also, that Texas is to afford a great market for American manufactures; but they have not thus far explained how this is to happen. The present consumers in Texas, if they can smuggle English goods, can probably smuggle American ones also. In number, they certainly are not two hundred thousand; so that their present consumption of goods is probably not greater than that of Rhode Island or Delaware, and not nearly equal to that of either of the cities of Philadelphia or New York. But let their population grow as rapidly as you please, still it will have to be peopled from our soil chiefly; so that, after all, the main difference to the manufacturer will be that of selling to men in Texas what he now sells to them in Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, &c.

Such are the main aspects of the questions, as thus far presented, in the view of *profit*—evidently felt to be the main one—the most convincing, because the most seductive; all other arguments in support of the expediency of annexation being indeed substantially given up.

On the ground of right, the reasoning is equally cogent and consistent. First, they have argued that Texas is independent; which, if we understand the word, means that she has no need of any body to fight her battles, maintain her rights, or pay her debts. Being independent (say they) she is sovereign; but we, it appears, can by a joint resolution, extinguish what is inexting[illegible], alienate what is inalienable, defeat what is indefeasible, prescribe what is imprescriptible, and turn her into a dependency, a territory. Nay, it appears that she is but a territory of ours, after all, though in 1804 we expressly decided for ourselves, by law, under the Administration making the acquisition of Louisiana, that she was no part of it; though all our subsequent acts, up to 1816, avowed the fact again and again; though we never set up any but a diplomatic claim, solemnly abandoned at the close of the negotiation with Spain, for an equivalent, now in our possession; though ever since 1824 we have, by repeated offers to purchase it merely, recognised all the rights of others and the absence of any on our part; though we confirmed to Mexico, in 1832, our original abandonment of it: though in 1837 we acknowledged its independence; though we have now a legation there; and though we say we are at peace with Mexico, while she is making war upon *our* territory of Texas.

But all this argument of annexation has, at least, a most honorable source—a great tenderness for the national honor—an invincible attachment to the faith and sanctity of treaties—no, we beg pardon, of a single treaty. The gentlemen select, for all this jealous fidelity, the utter uncertainty (as it is at best) of the treaty of 1803 with France, for Louisiana; and, upon a revived claim under that, though so often cancelled by our solemn, voluntary, and certain acts, they erect for us an obligation towards the people of Texas to admit them into our Union. Thus, for a single most ambiguous engagement towards people not then in existence, and who have only got to Texas by entering into opposite engagements to another Power, we are to break, through extreme good faith, all other treaties, however direct, however explicit, however repeated.

Such are the chief grounds taken, under plea of national law. Those of constitutional law are equally remarkable. In this part of the business it is, of course, the strict constructionists, the literalists, the Jeffersonian abstractionists, who figure the most notably.

At certain hours, through all the Mahomedan countries, the votaries of the Prophet, no matter where they are or how they may be employed, are bound to face, as well as they can, towards his tomb, (the Kaaba,) drop on their knees, and put up a prayer. But, as few but astronomers can tell the exact direction, and the men of science are the least particular about the place where the Prophet lies, it happens that no two Moslemites look the same way to send their vows to the sepulchre, and that many turn their backs precisely upon it. Such, nearly, is what has happened throughout this search of the faithful for the constitutional authority to annex Texas. Many of them turn at once to the provision of the Constitution allowing the admission of new States: but there, unluckily, they are met at once by the decisive authority of their prophet himself, who avers, unequivocally, in his letter to Mr. Breckenridge, that there is in the Constitution no authority whatever for incorporating a foreign territory. The disciple who claims to overthrow his master is, of course, ill-advised. Others, therefore, shunning that direct struggle, appeal to precedent; but forget, when they do so, that there are more precedents for a Bank of the United States, or for internal improvement, or for protection of manufactures, or for many other things which they dispute, than for annexation. Others declare that the power of acquiring territory is an inherent faculty of all sovereignty—forgetting that they themselves have often maintained, or their doctors for them, that the Federal Government is only an agent of sovereignties, and that, at best, it is a sovereignty limited to express powers. Another sort refer the constitutional power to that of making war; for (say they) territory may be acquired by conquest; and, as this Government can make war, it has, of course, the right to acquire territory! A very curious way, this, of passing by the principal, from the exercise of which alone the incidental can flow, and making the latter substantive, independent, and original. But this is strict construction. Yet another sort deduce the power from a supposed analogy to the power "to borrow money!" How, we leave all adepts and philosophers who have not heard the method, to imagine the solution.

Whilst upon this subject—being reminded, by the appearance just at this moment of *another* letter from General JACKSON, of the pertinacity with which he and others have maintained that, in the negotiation and conclusion of the treaty of 1819 with Spain, TEXAS was as unjustly as unwisely surrendered to that Power, and *therefore* ought to be now reclaimed and re-annexed—we cannot help expressing our surprise that none of those friends of Gen. JACKSON who rely upon his authority for this view of the case, have taken any notice whatever (as far as we have heard) of the publication made by the "personal representatives" of the late President MONROE in the National Intelligencer of the 24th of last month, in which it is distinctly and emphatically stated that the boundary between the United States and Spain—the present boundary between the United States and Texas—had "the written approbation of JACKSON, well versed in the localities," &c. But let us quote the exact words, apparently well weighed, of that publication, as follows:

"It is eminently due to the memory of Mr. MONROE explicitly to state that, in the execution of "the high duties involved in this measure, he did "not fail to avail himself of all the lights which patriotism and experience could shed upon it. Its "provisions were the subject of friendly consultation with JEFFERSON and MADISON, names identified with no concession unworthy of their country; and *the policy dictated*, ESPECIALLY AS TO "BOUNDARY, *has the written approbation of Jackson*, well versed in the localities of a territory to "which they refer, then lately the scene of military "services distinguished by high personal responsibility, which gave him new claims to the grateful "recollections of his country.

"It will be apparent, nor is there any disposition "to conceal the fact, that these remarks are the production of a near personal friend of Mr. MONROE, "*sensitive to the further progress of error*, and "impelled by a sincere desire that, in doing justice "to others, at least some portion should not be "withheld from him. Dictated by a conviction of "right, they are offered in a spirit of moderation "and candor, inviting the calm consideration of all, "controversy with none, but *distinctly* CHALLENGING CONTRADICTION *from any*. The materials on "which they are founded are taken from a depository tainted with no selfish considerations, and "regarded as of sacred trust. Dedicated to the "cause of justice and historical truth, they are preserved to promote at the proper time the full triumph of both, and only accessible now, when just "cause of complaint seems to exist that the just "limits of both have been seriously invaded."

Why, we repeat, has no notice been taken of this public statement, apparently discrediting entirely the allegations on this subject which have been made by those who claim to have the authority of Gen. JACKSON to support them? Not that it would, in the view which we take of the case, in the least add to or detract from the force of the argument whether the disputed fact were settled in one way or the other; because we stand up for the faith of treaties, and hold all arguments of interest or convenience in the way of excuse for violating it to be utterly unworthy and unbecoming a civilized people. But those who are able to compromise with their consciences on this head, upon the idea of the existence of some lingering remains of half-extinguished title—why do not *they* call upon the legal representatives of the late JAMES MONROE for *a sight* of this written approbation by Gen. JACKSON of the act of that great patriot, for which it has suited certain persons to hold up Mr. ADAMS, the Minister who negotiated the treaty, as mainly responsible? Let a copy of this letter be demanded and published, that we and all the people of this country may know what is *the truth* in regard to this matter.

Of the other subjects which have occupied the attention of the two Houses of Congress during the last week, little need be said in addition to the notice already taken of them by our Reporters.

That which has in the Senate attracted most attention is the bill concerning the Smithsonian Institute, upon the bequest accepted by the United States several years ago from an enlightened and benevolent Englishman. The knot of this question is, in what way can the intention of the donor to diffuse knowledge among mankind by such an institution be best accomplished? The opinion of the Senate seems to favor the plan of Mr. CHOATE, for building up here, at the seat of the National Government, a great Public Library, to be open to all the world, with such adjunct means of diffusing information as may be deemed advisable. The subject has, however, for the present, been recommitted to the Senate's committee, who, we trust, will soon report it back; for the fund bequeathed by SMITHSON has been already too long diverted from its legal use, and it concerns the national character that it receive its right appropriation before the close of the present session of Congress.

In the House of Representatives, the several appropriation bills have been reported by the Committee of Ways and Means. When they will be acted upon we might be able to form some conjecture if we could tell how long the Texas fever would run in that House.

"ANNEXATION" IN MAINE.

Resolutions were introduced into the Senate of the State of MAINE on the 7th instant, for declaring that the Presidential Election had settled the question in favor of the "annexation" of Texas, and for instructing the Senators and requesting the Representatives of the State of Maine in Congress to give their support to an immediate annexation accordingly. These resolutions came up for consideration on the next day (the eighth of January) and underwent debate upon a motion to lay them on the table, resisted by the advocates of annexation as equivalent to rejection. The question, being taken upon this motion, was decided *in the affirmative*, by yeas and nays, 24 votes to 7: so that the Senators and Representatives from Maine are left at full liberty to pursue the dictates of their own consciences and common sense on this question.

The statement so often made that the amount of the debt of Texas is unknown, has been corroborated by the newly-elected President of that Republic in his recent message to the Texan Congress. One of his recommendations to that body is "the 'passage of a law for *ascertaining* and classifying 'the public debt of the country, by requiring all 'persons having claims against it to present the 'same to the Treasury Department within a definite 'period."

MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL RETURNS FOR 1843 AND 1844. The whole number of children in the Commonwealth between the ages of four and sixteen, is 192,027. Amount raised for the support of schools, including the income of the surplus revenue, $558,197 23, being nearly $41,000 more than was raised the previous year; $37,951 90 are contributed for board and fuel, making an aggregate for common school purposes of $596,149 13.

OREGON.

In a casual conversation which took place in the Senate yesterday on the subject of Mr. ALLEN's call upon the Executive for information of the progress of the negotiation concerning the Oregon Territory, Mr. ARCHER (chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations) took occasion to intimate that the negotiation on that subject between the Secretary of State and the British Envoy was drawing to a close, and that the results of the negotiation might be expected to be laid before the Senate in a few days, so as to give time, before the expiration of the present session, for Congress to take any action which it may deem expedient in relation to the controversy that has been depending.

The Legislature of Pennsylvania on Tuesday last re-elected the Hon. DANIEL STURGEON a United States Senator from that State, for six years from the 4th of March next, when his present term of service will expire. The votes of the Whig members of the Legislature were cast for the Hon. JAMES COOPER.

The newspaper correspondence from this city having led the public to anticipate a hostile meeting between Mr. CLINGMAN and Mr. YANCEY, of the House of Representatives, we think it proper to mention that such a meeting is understood to have taken place between those gentlemen on Monday last, a few miles from this city; when, after exchanging one fire, fortunately without injury to either party, the difficulty was honorably adjusted, through the intervention of friends, and the parties reconciled.

DELAWARE.

The Legislature of Delaware assembled on the 7th instant, and was organized by the choice of Dr. JOSEPH MAULL to preside over the Senate, and WILLIAM TEMPLE as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

It appears from the message of Governor COOPER that the finances of the State continue to be in a prosperous condition. She is not only out of debt, but has a surplus in her treasury. The message expresses gratification at the good which has resulted from the Tariff of 1842, and laments the increasing disposition to lawlessness, disorder, riot, repudiation, and other kindred vices, which seem to be springing up in different sections of the country, but from which, as yet, Delaware has been happily exempted. Her system of public schools, which is now in successful operation in almost every district in the State, is represented to be most salutary in its character.

NORTH CAROLINA.

The Legislature of the Old North State has adjourned *sine die* after a session of fifty-three days, in the course of which (says the Raleigh Register) much has been done for the people and the State.

The bill to provide for the election of a Lieutenant Governor by the people, in the same way and at the same time that the Governor is now elected, was rejected just before the session closed—every Democratic Senator voting against it. This bill was introduced for the purpose of enabling the people to choose a presiding officer of the Senate, and thus preventing another such delay in the organization of that body as occurred at the commencement of its late session, on account of a tie between the two political parties.

At a late meeting of the Maryland Historical Society, Mr. G. B. COALE presented the following autograph letter from Gen. GEORGE WASHINGTON, which exhibits him, as he did not often exhibit himself on paper, in a playful mood:

MOUNT VERNON, MAY 16, 1785.

DEAR SIR: In for a penny, in for a pound, is an old saying. I am so hackneyed to the touches of the painters' pencil, that I am *now* altogether at their beck, and sit "like patience on a monument" whilst they are delineating the lines of my face.

It is a proof among many others of what habit and custom can effect. At first I was as impatient at the request, and as restive under the operation, as a colt is of the saddle. The next time I submitted very reluctantly, but with less flouncing. Now, no dray-horse moves more readily to the thill than I do to the painter's chair. It may easily be conceived, thereforet hat I yielded a ready obedience to your request, and to the views of Mr. Pine.

Letters from England, recommendatory of this gentleman, came to my hand previous to his arrival in America, not only as an artist of acknowledged eminence, but as one who had discovered a friendly disposition towards this country, for which, it seems, he had been marked.

It gives me pleasure to hear from you. I shall always feel an interest in your happiness; and, with Mrs. Washington's compliments and best wishes joined to my own for Mrs. Hopkinson and yourself, I am, dear sir, your most obedient and affectionate humble servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

FRANCIS HOPKINSON, Esq.

DESTRUCTION OF FISH ON THE COAST.—We are sorry to hear that the mortality among the fish on our shores is spreading with alarming rapidity. The infected district already embraces the entire coast, from near the east end of Long Island to the Capes of Virginia, extending out into the ocean for a distance of one to three miles. We learn from several intelligent citizens, some of them Sandy Hook pilots and captains of coasting vessels, that the shores of Long Island, New Jersey, and Delaware are lined with millions of dead fish, while thousands are found floating in every direction. The cause of this strange calamity is yet unexplained. It has been noticed that the water in the infected district is discolored, and looks blacker than the ordinary sea water. Immediately on entering the brown water, the fish are seized with convulsions, rise to the surface, and die in a few minutes. The great volume of fresh water from the Hudson and other rivers in this vicinity, seems to have kept the infected water of the ocean from entering our bays and harbors.—*N. Y. Sun.*

THE WHALE FISHERY.

The New Bedford Whalemen's Shipping List of 7th instant publishes its annual statement of the Whale Fishery, including the imports and exports of oil and whalebone, average prices, progress of the Fishery, &c. From it we learn that the imports into the United States, during the year just ended, have been 139,594 barrels of sperm oil, 262,047 barrels whale oil, and 2,532,445 pounds of whalebone. This product was brought in by 199 ships and barques, 23 brigs, and 16 schooners and sloops.

The average price of oil during the year 1844 has been 90½ and 90¼ cents per gallon for sperm, and 36½ and 36¾ cents per gallon for whale oil, and the average price of bone 40 cents per pound.

The quantity of crude sperm oil in the country out of the hands of manufacturers, on the 1st of January, 1845, is estimated at 32,992 bbls; and the amount of crude whale oil at 12,950 bbls.

The number of vessels employed in the whale fishery on the 1st of January, 1845, was 643 ships and barques, 35 brigs, 17 schooners and sloops, in all 218,655 tons. In 1844 the number engaged were 595 ships and barques, 41 brigs, 9 schooners and sloops—tonnage 200,147.

HONESTY AND COMMON SENSE.

The subjoined remarks, by the New York Evening Post, on the renewed parade of Gen. JACKSON as dictator upon the Texas question, are characterized by independent spirit and practical wisdom. We do no more than justice to the Editor of the Post, and many of his Democratic associates in and out of public life, when we say that they have stood up against the attempted seizure of Texas, in violation of our plighted faith and of public law, with a fidelity and a steadiness which reflect honor upon the party to which they belong.

FROM THE NEW YORK EVENING POST, JAN. 13.

Proceedings in Regard to the Texas Question.

They keep pestering General Jackson still on the Texas question, and, with the flame of life yet flickering in its socket, the brave and honest old man writes letters in favor of the annexation scheme. The zealots for that scheme know the esteem in which General Jackson is held among the people, and hoping that the expression of his partiality to the measure will help to do away its unpopularity in certain parts of the country, they make his last moments uneasy with alarms about its fate in Congress, and succeed in getting him to write a letter about Texas once in about three weeks. We yield to no man in admiration of the character of General Jackson, but we used to tell him in the palmiest days of his popularity that he had his infirmities and committed his mistakes; and one of the saddest of his infirmities is the hurry he is in to add Texas to our Confederacy. We can easily imagine how Gen. Jackson is besieged—intrusion and importunity are too much the habit of our dear countrymen—besieged in the chamber to which ill health and the debility of old age have confined him; and we suggest to their sense of humanity that he has been worried enough about this affair, and should be allowed to pass his last moments in peace.

The letter which we publish to-day urges the necessity of immediately annexing Texas, inasmuch as, if the measure be postponed, all hope of effecting it is lost. The only ground for saying this is the opinion of Mr. Donelson, an agent of the American Government now in Texas. We heard the same story last winter. Mr. Tyler was very emphatic in the assertion that Texas must be annexed then or not at all. Mr. Upshur said the same thing, the Government agents in Texas said it, and the Madisonian repeated it in daily echoes. Texas was not then annexed to the Union, and now, when another attempt is made to carry the measure, the same spur is applied to hasten a tardy and unwilling Congress. "Now or never" was the cry last winter; "now or never" is the cry this winter; and, if the matter be postponed, "now or never" will be the cry next winter.

Dr. Wallcott, in some of his earlier verses, relates a story of certain blooming female cousins from the country whom he was accompanying to look at the majestic edifice of St. Pauls. In their way they were attracted by a riband-shop, into which they rushed with squalls of delight, and in a moment were deep in discussions on the many-colored tissues on the counter. The poet, after a long delay, began to be impatient, and reminded them of the object of the walk, to which they coolly replied—

"Don't be afraid, St. Paul's can't run away."

We say the same of Texas. It did not run away last winter, notwithstanding the predictions of those who were in such haste to annex it to the Union, and it will not run away next winter. The members can take time to pass the appropriation bills and go quietly home on the fourth of March, and allow the whole interval between March and December to pass over without the least apprehension that Texas will run away. If it be so important, as many pretend, for the welfare and prosperity of the two countries that they should be under the same Federal Government, a little delay will not alter their interests or their inclinations.

"Marry in haste and repent at leisure" is an old proverb, as applicable to communities as to individuals. Here is a union destined to endure to perpetuity. Let us not rashly take any steps that may draw on a subsequent repentance. Let us weigh its expediency with the greatest deliberation, and settle its conditions with the greatest circumspection. General Jackson thinks that there are too many projects of annexation before Congress. This very fact is a reason for deliberation and postponement. It shows the perplexity and disagreement of men's minds on the question.

THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA.

HUNT'S MERCHANT'S MAGAZINE.—This sterling and standard periodical for January is richly freighted with articles of value and interest to the merchant and statesman, and, indeed, all who desire solid and profitable information. The following is an extract from one of its articles referring to the future prospects of the nation in regard to our trade in the Indian and China seas:

"There is but little doubt that the United States are destined ultimately to command all the trade in the Indian and China seas. The supply of cotton in the United States, including Texas, is far beyond what the wants of Europe require. The wants of China are, however, such as will absorb almost a limitless quantity. The cotton goods manufactured in the United States already supersede those of all other countries in those markets, and American lead has entirely supplanted the English. The English Government hope, by commanding the exclusive route to China over Egypt, by way of the Nile and the Isthmus of Suez, (to effect which a negotiation is now pending between that Power and the Pacha,) to obtain news several weeks earlier than it can be had in the United States; an advantage which will give her merchants control of the markets. The diplomacy may succeed temporarily in this, but the march of events will ultimately give the United States the mastery. Her population is pushing, with a vigorous, rapid, and unceasing march, along a line twelve hundred miles in extent, westward, towards the shores of the Pacific. The occupation of the vast territory known as the Oregon, is already going forward, and twenty years will not have elapsed before a powerful State will have sprung up on the shores of the Pacific. The great tract of the Oregon is drained by the Columbia river and the San Francisco, which debouch upon the ocean at a point six days, by steam, distant from the Sandwich Islands—a group the independence of which is guarantied—whose population is 100,000, mostly American; the surface 8,000 square miles; of a soil the most fruitful, and a climate unsurpassed in salubrity. These islands are situated in the middle of the Pacific, on the great highway from Oregon to China. The great whale fishery of these regions is conducted mostly by Americans, numbering two hundred vessels, whose annual product is about $5,000,000. This fleet in the summer months cruise between the islands and the coast of Japan for sperm whale, and carry on a large trade in furs, &c., which are now sold in China, and the proceeds, in tea, sent home to the United States. The whole of this vast trade and that of China, via the Sandwich islands, will be commanded by the State of Oregon. Those persons are now living who will see a railroad connecting New York with the Pacific and a steam communication from Oregon to China. For the last three centuries the civilized world has been rolling westward, and Americans of the present age will complete the circle, and open a *Western* steam route with the *East*.

We stated some time ago that the Whig Ladies of Cincinnati intended to present to Gov. CORWIN, of Ohio, a massive silver pitcher as a testimonial of their regard for his services during the Presidential campaign. The presentation took place on the 8th instant, in the presence of a very large company, Mr. GUILFORD acting as the organ of the ladies. Gov. CORWIN's reply is spoken of as "fervid and full of poetic fire and beautiful imagery, but tinged with sadness at the disappointed hopes of patriotic millions."

NEW YORK CORRESPONDENCE.

NEW YORK, JANUARY 14, 1845.

The message of Governor PORTER, of Pennsylvania, appears to have imparted but a momentary confidence to the holders of the stocks of that State. There was a slight improvement in the *fives* on Thursday, but yesterday they fell back a quarter per cent. The decline in most other securities was, however, much greater. Money continues scarce. Flour is something of a drug, the market being overstocked. Cotton maintains its prices much better than was anticipated after the unfavorable accounts by the last steamer. All the freighting vessels and packets for Liverpool have full cargoes engaged.

Specie continues to be shipped in considerable quantities by every packet for Europe. The Ashburton takes out $123,668 to Liverpool, and the Albany $40,355 to Havre. While this tendency exists, our banks will, in self-defence, be cautious how they expand their paper issues. Stocks have declined on an average about four per cent. during the last week. There was no change for the better to-day. A slight advance has taken place in the rates of domestic exchange; but this is one of the natural consequences of an increased scarcity of money.

General STORMS, commander of the forces recently sent to Hudson to protect that city against the anti-renters, returned here on Friday with news that a detachment of our troops have arrested a ringleader calling himself Oceola. General STORMS obtained possession of two field-pieces, which had been brought out by the malcontents. Every thing was quiet at the last advices, and no more serious troubles were apprehended.

Mr. DALLAS, Vice President elect, left us on Thursday last, and the same evening Mr. POLK (brother of the President) arrived and put up at the Astor House. The former of these distinguished members of the Democratic party left and the latter arrived under the personal protection and patronage of the president of the Empire Club.

There has been great inquiry for the Intelligencer of Thursday last, containing the admirable speech of Mr. CLINGMAN, of North Carolina. His remarks in regard to practices in this city at the late Presidential election can all be substantiated. His eloquent exposition of the causes that led to the defeat of the Whig party will become matter of history. His tribute to our venerated leader and candidate will find a response in every Whig heart.

A very able report has been just made by Alderman W. S. MILLER, Representative elect to Congress, and chairman of the Committee on Charity and the Almshouse, in relation to an abuse connected with the emigration of foreign paupers and convicts. It appears that a law of this State authorizes the Mayor to require bonds for every alien passenger, in a sum not exceeding three hundred dollars, from the master of the vessel, with two sureties, to provide for the support of any such person as shall become chargeable to the city at any time within two years from the date of such bond. In lieu of such bonds, the Mayor has authority to compound for alien passengers on such terms as may be agreed upon with the master or consignee.

Under these provisions the importation and bonding of passengers have become matters of speculation, in which many individuals on both sides of the Atlantic are extensively engaged. The bonds of nine firms in this city exhibit the immense liabilities of sixteen millions of dollars. The opportunities for fraud under this system are very great; as, by bonding passengers under false names, the consignee may evade his liabilities. The pauper may swear to the ship, and the time of his arrival; but if his name does not appear on the manifest, his oath is considered insufficient to establish the liability of the bondsman, and the burden of his support is thrown upon the city.

As an illustration of the present bonding system in its application to children, the committee state that the whole number of children under the support of the Almshouse is 821. Of these, 626 are of foreign parentage, and 195 American; exhibiting the average of more than three foreigners to one native! Of the latest born infants, 32 are foreign, and only two American; showing the ratio of the more recent births to be *seventeen foreigners to one American!*

The committee declare that they have satisfactory evidence before them that extensive contracts have been made and are now making in Europe to ship off to this country and to Texas whole classes of refuse population—the lawless and depraved, as well as the destitute; vagabonds and thieves as well as paupers. It is also well ascertained that Botany Bay contributes her annual quota of individuals who have served their probationary term in that interesting settlement. "Such," says Mr. MILLER, "are the seeds of American commonwealths, by the toleration of American legislators! The evil is urgent, alarming, and on the rapid increase, and demands the prompt interference of our National Government in the passage of remedial laws."

The number of immigrants commuted and bonded arriving in this city the past year exceeds 60,000; and the agents of the speculators have made arrangements for larger importations than have ever before been made. We may expect thousands of paupers and felons thrown upon us this year at an earlier period than heretofore. (In time probably for our Spring election!)

The report concludes with recommending that Congress be memorialized for the passage of a law instructing our Consuls abroad to adopt certain precautionary measures in regard to the shipment of emigrants and the registering of their names; also giving the city of New York and other commercial cities power to ship back at any time any and all immigrants to the country whence they came, whether certified by the Consul or not, on discovering that such immigrant has been imposed on us contrary to the rule established, and that he or she had ever been the tenant of a poor-house as a vagrant or pauper, or of a prison as a criminal, or had been supported as a beggar by any town, commune, individual, or charitable society.

There are other remedial suggestions in this report, which concludes with a resolution to memorialize the State Legislature and Congress for speedy legislation on the subject to which it calls attention.

The city news of the day is somewhat scanty. Gen. ALMONTE, the Mexican Minister, is to leave for Washington this week. He denies that any one has been "authorized" to declare that Mexico will not resist the annexation of Texas by all the means, hostile or diplomatic, in her power.

A report of our Alms-house Commissioners to the Board of Aldermen exhibits a series of abuses not very creditable to our previous city administration. Among other things, it is shown that our late rulers were in the habit of sending out the male paupers of the establishment to vote on election days, when they would be furnished with extra provisions, and generally come home drunk and in tatters. The commissioners say it can be proved that, at the charter election last spring, several convicts from the penitentiary on Blackwell's island were allowed to escape, *on condition that they would vote as the officers wished.* Prisoners, whose terms have expired, have been kept on the island at the public expense till the day of election, in order to secure their votes!

Another practice countenanced by the predecessors of the present Corporation has been that of expending large sums in sumptuous dinners at the alms-house for the entertainment of partisans—a strange place, truly, for such symposia. Dives drinking his champagne and Lazarus his adulterated tea under the same roof!

Many other abuses of a gross character are unmasked by the Commissioners' report; and measures have been taken that must lead to a permanent reform.