NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

GEN. CASS AND THE PLATFORM.

When we published the Review of "the Democratic Platform" on Saturday last, we had not seen the Letter of Acceptance by Gen. CASS of the Democratic Nomination, which we have placed in our columns to-day. We could then only *infer* the assent of Mr. CASS to the conditions and pledges under which the nomination had been tendered to him by the Baltimore Convention. We are glad to be ourselves relieved, and to relieve all others, by the terms of his Letter, from any doubt that might linger on their minds, of his adhesion to the "Platform." The following extract from his Letter shows that, with a full comprehension of the import of the pledge, he binds himself to an adhesion to *every part* of "the Platform:"

"I have *carefully read* the resolutions of the Democratic National Convention, laying down the platform of our political faith, and *I adhere to them as firmly as I approve of them cordially.*" "If called upon hereafter to render an account of my stewardship in the great trust you desire to commit to me, should I be able to show that I had truly redeemed THE PLEDGE THUS PUBLICLY GIVEN, and had adhered to the principles of the Democratic party with as much fidelity and success as have generally marked the administration of the eminent men to whom that party has hitherto confided the chief executive authority of the Government, I could prefer no higher claim to the favorable consideration of the country, nor to the impartial commendation of history."

DORRISM IN FULL BLOSSOM.

We are indebted to our contemporary at Baltimore for the subjoined pregnant article. If any one of our friends has thought that, in our allusion, some days ago, to the wild and disorganizing views and principles avowed of late years by the Democratic Nominee for the Presidency, we dealt rather harshly with him, or that we overrated the danger of his principles obtaining ascendency in the Government, let him read this article, and then sit down and calculate how far, under the Presidency of such a Fatalist as he, this Government will be from the Despotism of the Mob, and how long—how many years, months, or days—we may expect it to survive its fell dominion!

FROM THE BALTIMORE AMERICAN OF JUNE 6.

In the concluding paragraph of his letter of acceptance addressed to the President of the Baltimore Convention, Gen. CASS uses the following language:

"As a party, we ought not to mistake the signs of the times, but should bear in mind that this is an age of progress—of advancement in all the elements of intellectual power, and in the opinions of the world. The General Government should assume no powers. It should exercise none which have not been clearly granted by the parties to the federal compact. We ought to construe the constitution strictly, according to the received and sound principles of the Jefferson school. But, while rash experiments should be deprecated, *if the Government is stationary in its principles of action*, and refuses to accommodate its measures, within its constitutional sphere—cautiously indeed, but wisely and cheerfully—to the advancing sentiments and necessities of the age, it will find its moral force impaired, and THE PUBLIC WILL DETERMINE TO DO *what* THE PUBLIC AUTHORITY *itself should readily do*, when the indications of popular sentiment are clear and clearly expressed."

Whenever the Public determines "to do what the public authority itself should readily do," a crisis arrives not much different from a revolution. It is not unusual with some who claim to be statesmen to magnify the power of the people to the depreciation of the Government which the people themselves have framed, which they sustain, and in the body of which they have a political existence. Such appeals to the turbulent propensities of civilized men imply a most derogatory estimate of those to whom they are addressed.

To discriminate between the people as a mass and the people as a body politic, formed into an organization of nationality, with institutions and laws, and rights and duties, is to make a distinction between chaos and order; which the mind may readily do in an abstract way; but to make that distinction real, would be to dissolve all elements and leave civilization to begin her work anew.

General CASS probably wrote the paragraph we have quoted without having any particular meaning other than to say something in eulogy of democracy, which he understands about as well as a courtier comprehends a King, where the one is a parasite and the other a despot. He has played desperately for the nomination by virtue of which he is now a candidate for the Presidency; and, should he be unfortunately elected to that office, he would go into it committed to all those ultraisms by which he has courted popularity, and which are so dangerous to the peace and prosperity of the country.

COMMISSIONER TRIST, when at St. Louis, informed the editor of the *New Era* that he was a military prisoner by order of the Government—as such he returned to the United States, and as such should report himself to the President on reaching Washington. This summary proceeding, says the Era, does not rest upon verbal testimony, but Mr. TRIST has it in black and white, under the hand of the present General-in-chief of the American army in Mexico. Mr. TRIST speaks with the utmost confidence of his ability to have concluded a treaty of peace with Mexico, had he been permitted to remain for that purpose.

The news of the probable ratification of the Treaty with Mexico is certainly of the most agreeable complexion, and the close of the war will be hailed with universal rejoicing. After all its successes and the glory with which it has covered our arms, it cannot be denied that the country has long been heartily tired of a contest pursued at an expense of treasure and blood infinitely beyond the value of all the territory it has enabled us to conquer or to purchase. It has been a heavy drain on the national prosperity, absorbing all the profits of the great temporary market so suddenly opened to our agricultural products by European scarcity; and it has introduced new and dangerous causes of contention among the people of the United States, from which the wisest and best citizens have been disposed to apprehend the greatest evils to the republic. Such are not the trophies for which prudent rulers and intelligent communities rush into war; and accordingly it is not astonishing that the return of peace is hailed with equal pleasure by the authorities and the people of the United States. May it be a peace lasting and happy!—*North American.*

SOUTH CAROLINA.—The Richmond Enquirer contradicts the statement of Mr. Thompson's election, copied by us from the Columbia (S. C.) Telegraph. It says:

Mr. DANIEL WALLACE has been elected Representative from the Pinckney Congressional district, South Carolina, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr. J. A. BLACK, by a majority of five votes. The vote stood as follows: Daniel Wallace 2,139; H. H. Thompson 2,134; F. W. Davie 1,525—all Democrats.

WM. K. GORDON, Esq. has been appointed Cashier of the Branch Bank of Virginia in Fredericksburg, in place of WM. I. ROBERTS, deceased.

THE TREATY OF PEACE IN MEXICO.

The mail of yesterday brought us New Orleans dates of May 30th, containing the details of the latest news from Mexico. That which promises a speedy Peace is all that possesses immediate interest, and will be most joyfully welcomed. Though the positive information now received is confined to the ratification of the Treaty by but one branch of the Mexican Congress, yet all accounts agree in stating that there existed no doubt whatever of its receiving the prompt approval of the other branch—the Senate—in which body the vote was to have been taken on the 21st ultimo. In anticipation of a favorable result, Gen. BUTLER was about issuing orders for calling in his outposts, and expected to have our army in movement towards the coast early in the present month.

FROM THE NEW ORLEANS DELTA, EXTRA, OF MAY 30.

The steamship Edith, Captain Coulliard, arrived this morning from Vera Cruz, having left there on the afternoon of the 23d.

The final vote on the Treaty was taken in the Chamber of Deputies at 6½ o'clock on the evening of the 19th. It was ratified by a vote of 51 to 35—a vote which completely settles the question of peace. The action of the Senate will be had with little or no delay; in fact, its decision was looked for every moment at the city of Mexico before our express left, and not the slightest doubts were entertained that the treaty would pass that body with little or no opposition.

The *Monitor Republicano* of the 21st contains the subjoined letter from Queretaro:

QUERETARO, MAY 19, 1848.

At last this population is relieved from that state of mortal anxiety in which it has been kept by a debate of a graver character than any which has engaged its attention since the establishment of our independence. At a quarter past six in the evening the ratification of the treaty was voted by FIFTY-ONE TO THIRTY-FIVE who were for war. Señors Lacunza and Rosa were the last speakers: both displayed immense power, and have proved themselves consummate statesmen.

The danger has passed; the Senate will immediately take up the business, and, less numerous, less turbulent, without comprising in its bosom a single man who has in any way shown a disposition to mutilate the national representation by keeping away from the session, it is IMPOSSIBLE *that the affair can be left undecided, or that it be not decided happily and opportunely.*

I do not wish by these remarks to cast any obloquy on the Chamber of Deputies; it has conducted itself with dignity and magnanimity. The warmth which has been displayed in the discussion will ever do it honor; and, with rare exceptions, good faith has shone out conspicuously in each party, among those advocating peace and those contending for war. On both sides of the question there are illustrious men; all defended their opinions with all decorum and due self-restraint.

MEXICO.

There are curious rumors from Mexico of ulterior designs on the part of certain conspirators or projectors, including some speculating Americans, to revolutionize and dismember that unfortunate republic as soon as peace is restored, by forming some of the Northern States, with perhaps the State of Vera Cruz, into an independent Government; and equally curious reports of a plan entertained by the Mexican authorities to form an army—a Mexican army, be it observed—of American volunteers, who are to be enrolled, nominally for the purpose of preventing Indian insurrections, but, more probably, to counteract and restrain the intended revolutionists. We shall be sorry to see either of these projects attempted. Mexico deserves now the forbearance and pity of all Americans, who should magnanimously refuse any and every project of adding to her harassments and distresses, as they should also refuse to enter her military service, forming bands of soldiers whom the world will be sure to consider and call mercenaries unworthy the name of American freemen.—*North American.*

PUTTING THE SCREWS TO THEM.—A writer from the city of New York to the Albany Argus contradicts the statement that an anti-Cass meeting was lately held in Tammany as follows:

"In the first place it would be in violation of the lease of the proprietors to permit any meeting for political purposes to be held in that hall, without the consent of the Tammany Society, and it cannot be possible that the Grand Sachem, Elijah F. Purdy, the Surveyor of the Port—*he who holds one of the most valuable offices in the gift of the Administration*—would ever consent that any part of that sacred edifice should be used for a meeting of conspirators convened for the purpose of distracting and defeating the Democratic nominees. That's impossible!"

That hint about "one of the most valuable offices" is especially delicate. The writer knows how to touch some people's sensibilities. The *Democracy* of that lease stipulation is very peculiar.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

"NOT EXACTLY IN ORDER."

We copy from the report of the last day's proceedings of the Democratic National Convention, as published in the Baltimore Sun:

"Mr. EVANS, of Texas, offered a resolution, declaring as the sense of the Convention that it is highly improper for members of Congress to accept office from the Executive: *that no delegate of this Convention will so accept office from its nominee, if elected*; and that the people be requested to appoint no member of Congress or officeholder to the next Convention.

"The Chair said *the resolution contained excellent doctrine, and he had no doubt the new President would pursue it to a liberal extent, but it was not exactly in order.*"

What a pleasant gentleman was Mr. EVANS! so tender, so verdant, so unsophisticated! Really, the "youngest sister" must have sent her very youngest son to bear part in the great council of the sages! Imagine the smile of incredulous commiseration which must have passed around that wise, disinterested, harmonious body, when the idea of not accepting office was disclosed to their astonished minds! If it had been proposed that they should not ask office, it would have been bad enough, but not to accept it! It would have been a refusal to serve their country in her need; and what true Democrat would have the heart to be so cruel?

And then Mr. STEVENSON! What a jewel of a presiding officer! He was not Speaker of the House fourteen years for nothing. He was not soft enough to put the question—not he! He knew a thing or two better than that. It was "excellent doctrine!" capital preaching, however silly in practice! He had no doubt the new President would pursue it to "a liberal extent!" A nice phrase that! It hit the thing exactly. Mr. Cass was to be "liberal," in spite of Mr. Evans. But, notwithstanding the excellence of the doctrine, and the liberal extent to which Mr. Cass would pursue it, it was, nevertheless, "not exactly in order." It was quite out of order to muzzle the oxen that had trodden out the grain. There was scripture for that. The laborer was worthy of his hire. There was scripture for that too. And so Mr. Stevenson would not "exactly" let himself and the Democracy be caught with chaff. He was too old a bird. He and his friends had not travelled so far with any idea of dropping their claim for mileage and services. No wonder that the members of the Convention returned thanks to Mr. Stevenson for his able, dignified, conciliatory, impressive, and profound manner of presiding over their deliberations. It was but proper gratitude.—*Buena Vista.*

Father P. J. DE SMET, the philanthropic and devoted Jesuit missionary to the Snake, Flat Head, and Black Feet Indians beyond the Rocky Mountains, is on a visit to Albany, New York. This good man, who some ten years ago went alone thousands of miles beyond the frontier of civilization, has since supplied the wildest and most savage tribes of Indians with seeds, farming implements, cows, oxen, sheep, &c. He has taught them to sow, plant, and harvest. He has induced them to erect school-houses and chapels, and turned thousands from their wanderings and wars to agricultural and peaceful habits.

FROM THE WASHINGTON UNION.

INTERESTING CORRESPONDENCE.

We have the pleasure of laying before our readers the letters which have passed between the Committee of Correspondence appointed by the Baltimore Convention, and the Presidential Nominee of that Convention.

LETTER TO GEN. CASS.

BALTIMORE, MAY 28, 1848.

DEAR SIR: You are doubtless apprized of the fact that a National Convention of Republican Delegates from the various portions of the Union assembled in this city on the 22d instant, for the purpose of selecting candidates for the two highest Executive offices of the United States. We are gratified in having it in our power to inform you that the Convention, with great unanimity, agreed to present your name to the country for the office of President, and requested us to communicate to you this nomination, and solicit your acceptance. In performing this duty, which we do with great pleasure, it is proper that the resolutions adopted by the Convention, and containing the principles upon which they believe the Government ought to be administered, should be laid before you. These constitute a platform broad enough for all true Democrats to stand upon, and narrow enough to exclude all those who may be opposed to the great principles of the Democratic party. That these principles will meet with your cordial assent and support, and be illustrated in your Administration, if called to this high office by your country, we do not for a moment doubt; but feel assured that whilst you exercise forbearance with firmness you will not fail to exert your faculties to maintain the principles and just compromises of the Constitution, in a spirit of moderation and brotherly love, so vitally essential to the perpetuity of the Union and the prosperity and happiness of our common country. We offer you our sincere congratulations upon this distinguished mark of the public confidence, and are, with sentiments of high esteem and regard, dear sir,

Your friends and obedient servants,

A. STEVENSON,
President National Convention.

[Signed also by the twenty-nine Vice Presidents.]

To Gen. LEWIS CASS, Washington.

GENERAL CASS'S REPLY.

WASHINGTON, MAY 30, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th instant, announcing to me that I have been nominated by the Convention of the Democratic party its candidate for the office of President of the United States at the approaching election.

While I accept with deep gratitude this distinguished honor—and distinguished, indeed, it is—I do so with a fearful apprehension of the responsibility it may eventually bring with it, and with a profound conviction that it is the kind confidence of my fellow-citizens, far more than any merit of my own, which has placed me thus prominently before the American people. And fortunate shall I be if this confidence should find, in the events of the future, a better justification than is furnished by those of the past.

I have carefully read the resolutions of the Democratic National Convention laying down the platform of our political faith, and I adhere to them as firmly as I approve them cordially; and, while thus adhering to them, I shall do so with a sacred regard to "the principles and compromises of the constitution," and with an earnest desire for their maintainance "in a spirit of moderation and brotherly love, so vitally essential to the perpetuity of the Union and the prosperity and happiness of our common country:" a feeling which has made us what we are, and which, in humble reliance upon Providence, we may hope is but the beginning of what we are to be. If called upon hereafter to render an account of my stewardship in the great trust you desire to commit to me, should I be able to show that I had truly redeemed the pledge thus publicly given, and had adhered to the principles of the Democratic party with as much fidelity and success as have generally marked the administration of the eminent men to whom that party have hitherto confided the chief executive authority of the Government, I could prefer no higher claim to the favorable consideration of the country nor to the impartial commendation of history.

This letter, gentlemen, closes my profession of political faith. Receiving my first appointment from that pure patriot and great expounder of American Democracy, Mr. Jefferson, more than forty years ago, the intervening period of my life has been almost wholly passed in the service of my country, and has been marked by many vicissitudes and attended with many trying circumstances, both in peace and war. If my conduct in these situations and the opinions I have been called upon to form and express from time to time, in relation to all the great party topics of the day, do not furnish a clear exposition of my views respecting them, and at the same time sufficient pledge of my faithful adherence to the practical application, whenever and wherever I may be required to act, any thing further I might now say would be mere delusion unworthy myself, and justly offensive to the great party in whose name you are now acting.

My immediate predecessor in the nomination by the Democratic party, who has since established so many claims to the regard and confidence of his country, when announcing, four years ago, his acceptance of a similar honor, announced also his determination not to be a candidate for re-election. Coinciding with him in his views, so well expressed and so faithfully carried out, I beg leave to say that no circumstances can possibly arise which would induce me again to permit my name to be brought forward in connexion with the Chief Magistracy of our country. My inclination and my sense of duty equally dictate this course.

No party, gentlemen, had ever higher motive for exertion than has the great Democratic party of the United States. With an abiding confidence in the rectitude of our principles, with an unshaken reliance upon the energy and wisdom of public opinion, and with the success which has crowned the administration of the Government when committed to its keeping, (and it has been so committed during more than three-fourths of its existence,) what has been done is at once the reward of past exertion and the motive for future, and, at the same time, a guaranty for the accomplishment of what we have to do. We cannot conceal from ourselves that there is a powerful party in the country differing from us in regard to many of the fundamental principles of our Government, and opposed to us in their practical application, which will strive as zealously as we shall to secure the ascendency of their principles by securing the election of their candidate in the coming contest. That party is composed of our fellow-citizen as deeply interested in the prosperity of our common country as we can be, and seeking as earnestly as we are to promote and perpetuate it. We shall soon present to the world the sublime spectacle of the election of a Chief Magistrate by twenty millions of people, without a single serious resistance to the laws or the sacrifice of the life of one human being; and this, too, in the absence of all force but the moral force of our institutions; and if we should add to all this an example of mutual respect for the motives of the contending parties, so that the contest might be carried on with that firmness and energy which accompany deep conviction, and with as little personal asperity as political divisions permit, we should do more for the great cause of human freedom throughout the world than by any other tribute we could render to its value.

We have a Government founded by the will of all, responsible to the power of all, and administered for the good of all. The very first article in the Democratic creed teaches that the people are competent to govern themselves: it is indeed, rather an axiom than an article of political faith. From the days of Gen. Hamilton to our days, the party opposed to us—of whose principles he was the great exponent, if not the founder—while it has changed its name, has preserved essentially its identity of character; and the doubt he entertained and taught of the capacity of man for self-government has exerted a marked influence upon its action and opinions. Here is the very starting-point of the difference between the two great parties which divide our country. All other differences are but subordinate and auxiliary to this, and may, in fact, be resolved into it. Looking with doubt upon the issue of self-government, one party is prone to think the public authority should be strengthened, and to fear any change, lest that change might weaken the necessary force of the Government; while the other, strong in its convictions of the intelligence and virtue of the people, believes that original power is safer than delegated, and that the solution of the great problem of good government consists in governing with the least force, and leaving individual action as free from restraint as is compatible with the preservation of the social system, thereby securing to each all the freedom which is not essential to the well-being of the whole.

As a party, we ought not to mistake the signs of the times; but should bear in mind that this is an age of progress—of advancement in all the elements of intellectual power, and in the opinions of the world. The General Government should assume no powers. It should exercise none which have not been clearly granted by the parties to the federal compact. We ought to construe the constitution strictly, according to the received and sound principles of the Jefferson school. But while rash experiments should be deprecated if the Government is stationary in its principles of action, and refuses to accommodate its measures, within its constitutional sphere—cautiously indeed, but wisely and cheerfully—to the advancing sentiments and necessities of the age, it will find its moral force impaired, and the public will determine to do what the public authority itself should readily do, when the indications of popular sentiment are clear and clearly expressed.

With great respect, gentlemen, I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

Hon. A. STEVENSON, *President of the Democratic Convention, and* The VICE PRESIDENTS of the same.

TO THE EDITORS.

WASHINGTON, JUNE 6, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I hand the enclosed note, from a sound and uncompromising Democrat, as an illustration of the opinion entertained by the wise and virtuous of his own party of the Democratic nominee for the Presidency, for insertion in your valuable journal. Very respectfully, yours, &c.

LETTER ENCLOSED IN THE ABOVE.

SANDY SPRING, JUNE 3, 1848.

DEAR SIR: You inquire if I am not delighted with the nomination of Mr. CASS? No, sir. Mr. Cass was not my first choice. He is too bellicose for me: *his voice is still for war.* Now I consider war as one of the remains of barbarism, disgraceful to the age of civilization which we boast of having attained, and to be justified only by stern necessity. When the Oregon question was agitated, he declared repeatedly that if Great Britain persisted in her claim, war was inevitable, and that we ought to prepare for it. War for a strip of worthless land north of the Columbia! and with a nation with whom above all others we ought to cultivate peace and amity. In urging the prosecution of hostilities with Mexico, he has been before the foremost. His organ of acquisitiveness, too, appears to be preternaturally developed. He announced his belief that to *swallow the whole of Mexico would not hurt us;* and in a recent debate contended that we ought to take permanent possession of Yucatan, and enter into negotiation with Spain for the purchase of Cuba. War, and the acquisition of foreign territory, I do not believe to be our "mission," though they may be our "destiny."

From my observation of the course of Mr. CASS, I have been induced to fear that he cherishes, and has long cherished, a deadly hatred towards England, which, if he were in power, might endanger our peace and prosperity. You are not to be informed, my dear sir, how much it is in the power of the President, who has entire control of our foreign relations, to involve us with any nation he may choose, so inextricably as to render *war inevitable.*

Throughout my long life I have been an unwavering Democrat, and shall continue so to its close. But if the Whigs bring out Gen. TAYLOR, innocent and ignorant as he professes to be, I shall be pretty much in the predicament of the good woman whose husband was engaged in conflict with a bear: "Let them alone," says she, "it is the first fight I ever witnessed that I did not care which whips."

Truly yours, L. G. R.

TEN MONTHS' WAR EXPENSES.

FROM THE NEW ORLEANS "DELTA."

U. S. QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT IN NEW ORLEANS.—"Nota Bene," the New Orleans correspondent of the Concordia Intelligencer, furnishes some interesting statistical information respecting the operations of the Quartermaster's Department in this city from the 1st of July, 1847, to the 30th April, 1848. It appears that eight steamships, ten steam propellers, two ships, one barque, two brigs, and twenty-seven schooners have been owned and employed by the Department in the transportation of troops, munitions of war, subsistence for the army, quartermaster's stores, forage, fuel, &c. to the principal ports in possession of our forces on the Gulf of Mexico, viz. Brasos Santiago, Tampico, and Vera Cruz. In addition to these vessels belonging to the Department, it has chartered at different periods twenty-two steamships, seven ships, nineteen barques, thirty-nine brigs, and seventy-five schooners for the purpose of transporting troops, &c., when its own vessels were engaged in active service or undergoing repairs. From Nota Bena's letter we make the following extract:

Statement of the principal articles of domestic stores shipped to Mexico for the army from July 1, 1847, to April 30, 1848.

Oats, bushels	465,542	Oils, assorted, gallons	11,600
Corn, bushels	117,606	Nails, assorted, lbs.	102,973
Hay, pounds	6,105,637	Rope do	116,738
Coal, barrels	149,226	Wagons	475
Horses	3,735	Mule shoes	83,000
Mules	615	Horse shoes	31,000
Iron, assorted, feet	732,062	Mississippi water, g'ls.	98,470
Lumber, do	775,148	Copper, pounds	36,064
White and Black Lead, pounds	28,925	Leather, pounds	50,000
		Tar, barrels	500

In addition to the above about 25,000 barrels of subsistence stores have sent forward, and 200,000 packages of quartermaster's stores, camp and garrison equipage, ordnance stores, and clothing for the army, which it would be impossible to enumerate in this brief statement.

The amount of fuel and forage purchased in the city of New Orleans during the period stated is as follows:

Coal, barrels	290,000	Corn, bushels	100,000
Oats, bushels	440,000	Hay, pounds	6,050,000

During the same period some 15,000 troops and 3,000 teamsters, with their arms, ammunition, camp equipage, &c. have been sent out from this point, besides the provisions for the army, ordnance, military stores, &c.

The foregoing statement exhibits the most important transactions of the department in New Orleans, during the period stated, under the immediate direction of Major Daniel D. Tompkins, Quartermaster, U. S. army.

ATMOSPHERIC RAILWAYS.

The London Mining Journal contains the following notice of a proposed system of atmospheric propulsion, patented by Mr. LAWES, of Old Kent road and the city road. The idea of using atmospheric air as a locomotive agent has for years been familiar to many minds, but great difficulties were anticipated in reducing the very reasonable theory of the work to practice, a principal one consisting in the extreme rarity of the fluid sought to be employed. These difficulties, however, we are led to believe, are not insuperable, and we are fortified in our own opinion by that of engineers of talent and experience. We trust that a year not very remote may witness a splendid triumph of art in this direction, and that the air, as well as the fire and water, may be made a minister of the public convenience, as the assistant of public travel:

"The invention of Mr. Lawes consists of a truly cylindrical tube, closed throughout, divided into sections of about two miles each, one end of each section being closed, the other open; in each of these sections is a truly fitted piston, which we will suppose to be at the bottom or closed end of the tube; at the open end is a drum, around which a rope is wound by proper gearing; the action of this drum sets in motion another drum the reverse way. The piston having arrived at the open end of the first section, a perfect vacuum is formed in the tube; and the piston being set free the atmospheric pressure forces it down the tube with great velocity, of course drawing the train attached, and as one rope is wound up the other is unwound. The patentee proposes to have stationary engines, of about ten-horse power, at every two mile section of tube, which he considers would be sufficient to raise the necessary power to drive heavy trains at any required speed every half hour. He proposes that the lines should be laid down on the natural surface of the ground, on the unused portion of turnpike roads, and working without any interruption to the usual traffic. The diameter of the tube would be about three feet; one foot in the same would drive twenty to thirty feet on the road; consequently one hundred and fifty to two hundred feet of tube, in one or more lengths, would drive a train one mile. The piston moves slowly, whilst the train would run with great velocity. The plan proposed for the formation of a company is, in the first place, to raise by subscription sufficient to lay down two miles of railway, and thus truly test its capabilities; these subscribers to have the preference in the choice of shares, with a good bonus should a company be formed, and the remainder to be submitted to the public. The cost of such a line, including propelling power, with all accessories complete for driving a heavy train every half hour, is estimated at £2,500 per mile."

SMALL NOTES IN VIRGINIA.—The following is the provision in relation to small notes of foreign banks, which was passed at the last session of the General Assembly of Virginia:

"Any free person who shall bring into this State any bank note of less denomination than five dollars, issued by a banking association or company in another State, with intent to put the same in circulation, or who shall pass or receive such note in payment, shall be punished by a fine of not less than twenty nor more than one hundred dollars: Provided that nothing herein contained shall extend to any person not a citizen or resident of this State, who may be travelling through or temporarily sojourning in the same."

This is the same law which has existed for a number of years, with an increased penalty.

THE STEAMER NIAGARA experienced some rough weather on her first passage across the Atlantic, having had but one day of moderate weather, when she showed her sailing qualities by making three hundred and one miles. On the 26th ultimo, in a gale, she shipped a heavy sea, which stove in her bulwarks and washed four men overboard, two of whom were drowned. Three others were considerably injured, one having his leg broken. The ship behaved handsomely during the passage, and exceeded the expectations of all her officers. With fair weather she can probably accomplish the voyage in ten days.

NEW YORK CORRESPONDENCE.

NEW YORK, MAY 30, 1848.

When the earth is almost deluged with book-publications that are useless, and a large portion of them worse than useless, a work of real value often makes slow progress in attracting public attention. A work by HENRY C. CAREY, (son of the late Mathew Carey,) entitled "The Past, Present, and Future," published some three or four months ago, appears to me to come under this category. It seems to me to be a work of ability and decided merit, full of thoughts, suggestions, and philosophical reasoning, of great value to individuals, to society, and to nations. And yet it seems so far to have been but little noticed. I have not studied it so minutely as to venture an opinion that nothing in its reasoning may be found to be erroneous; but I must say, it appears to me a more common sense view of the whole vexed subject of political economy than I have before met with. It overthrows Ricardo's theory of Rents, which has prevailed in England for the last forty years; and, if it does not entirely remove, it indefinitely postpones all apprehensions of human calamity from the theory of Malthus on population.

Ricardo *assumes* the fact that the best and richest soils are the earliest cultivated. At first they command no rent; but when population increases, and more land is brought into use, the soils of second quality begin to be cultivated, and then the soils of the first quality will begin to command a rent in proportion to the returns they yield to labor above the soils of second quality. Again, more land is wanted, and soils of third quality are brought into use. Then the rent of the first quality rises, and the second quality also begins to command a rent, and so on.

Mr. Carey's theory is directly the reverse of this. He denies the truth of Ricardo's assumed premises, and, overthrowing his premises, his conclusions necessarily fall. Mr. Carey says the *poorer* soils are the first cultivated; that, in the infancy of society, without the aid of the arts, man is unable to clear away the heavy growth from the rich soils, and to drain the productive low-lands, and is compelled to betake himself to the hill-sides and plains, where the soil is light and thin, and the native growth easily removed, and there with rude implements scratch the surface of the earth for a scanty subsistence. As population increases, and arts improve, and the comforts and powers of society accumulate, the approach is gradual and constant to the use of the better soils: the rich valleys are occupied, the heavy growth on the strong soils is removed, the low-lands are drained, the soils are mixed, the marl and the lime are brought into use, and at last the best soils are reached and the highest state of cultivation produced. Mr. Carey proves, by a conclusive course of reasoning, that this must necessarily be so, and adduces innumerable facts to show that it *is* so, and has been so in all ages and all countries.

The whole book is a strong argument in favor of industry and the arts of peace, and against the devastation and desolation of war. I have marked several passages in turning of the volume which I may refer to again. I quote one here, having reference to the wealth and power of our own country:

"If the view we have thus offered be correct, as we believe it to be, it will be obvious that the people of the United States have done in commerce as they have elsewhere done, and that they have engaged in no war of any description, except for self-defence. [The author in another part of the book also excepts the present Mexican war.] The consequence of this is, the great fact that the poor and scattered colonists of sixty years since now constitute the wealthiest nation in the world. They have accumulated, within a very brief period, a larger property than is possessed even by the United Kingdom, [of Great Britain,] the wealthiest community of the eastern hemisphere. They make a larger dividend on a larger capital, and that dividend is made among twenty-one millions; whereas that of the other is the portion of twenty-eight millions. The consequence is, that they are better fed, better clothed, better lodged, better warmed, and better taught than any other community. Such is the result of peace abroad, combined with abstinence from interference at home." * * *

"To many the correctness of this assertion of the superior wealth of the Union may appear doubtful, but a little examination will satisfy them of its truth. That of Great Britain appears greater, because more centralized. The Government can borrow money more readily; but that it can do so is only evidence that capital is not invested as fast as it is produced: that it stagnates, which it never does except where there is some error in the system. At no period during the last sixty years was she so poor as in 1813; and yet at no period did the Government make larger loans or more readily.

"In the history of France we are constantly struck with the facility of obtaining loans, while the country appears to be in a state of universal misery and wretchedness. That misery was the result of enormous taxation, by which the few were enriched, and *they* were always ready to lend to the party by whose aid *their* taxes were collected. The people were too poor and miserable, and property was too insecure, to permit the existence of a demand for capital; and therefore it was that the Government could borrow at five per cent. at a time when failure in the payment of interest was a matter of frequent occurrence." * * * "But this is an evidence of poverty, and not of wealth.

"Of a thousand or ten thousand men, or even hundreds of thousands, each occupying a farm of fifty acres, scarcely one will have, at any time, a thousand dollars to lend, because *each appropriates his profits as fast as earned to the improvement of his farm;* to bringing the better soils into operation. Had they a landlord they would be steadily engaged in laying up that which they would otherwise thus promptly have invested; and on rent-day the proprietor might have $20,000 or $50,000 to lend to Government. But the fertile soils would remain inactive, unless he chose to make them active, and he might not choose it. Had they a debt of hundreds of millions, quarter-day would see accumulated the large sums required for the dividends, and it would then rest with the public creditors to determine upon the mode of investment, and governments would borrow without difficulty. Whereas, had no such debt existed, each workman, each laborer, each farmer, and each manufacturer would have invested for his own advantage, as fast as it was made, the amount that otherwise he would have contributed to this fund. In Great Britain both these causes of disturbance may be found, and hence she appears richer than she is; while in the United States neither exists, and hence they are richer than they appear. And the rapidity of increase, where every man invests on the instant, and on *his own* property, his otherwise spare labor, or surplus proceeds of labor, is so prodigious as to defy calculation. They are now the wealthiest nation in the world; and their annual accumulations are at least double those of Great Britain and Ireland, although their average expenditure is greater. They spend more, and yet economize a greater *proportion* of their earnings than any people in the world."

CRUEL ROBBERY.—Three immigrants were robbed on the night of the 2d instant on the steamboat Admiral—Mrs. Ruggleswoth of $110 in gold, Mrs. Little of seven sovereigns, and William Burgess of eight sovereigns and one Queen Anne shilling. These persons were on their way West, and are left nearly destitute. An effort is making to detect the robber, but it has thus far failed. Suspicions attach to one or more persons on the boat, but nothing has yet transpired to prove these suspicions well-founded. Mr. Nelligan, the immigrant agent, has taken hold of the matter, and it is possible the money may be found.—*Albany Evening Journal.*

HOMICIDES.—At Louisville, Arkansas, about the middle of May, Judge Hightower was shot by a young man named Garland, against whose father Judge Hightower was engaged in a suit as counsel. In the course of the trial the Judge or ex-Judge made free with the character of Mr. Garland, the son took up the quarrel, and the result was fatal, as above noted.

Rowland Robinson was shot dead by Elijah Adams, at a ball in Point Coupee, Louisiana, on the 9th of last month. Cause, an old family quarrel.

POST OFFICE ROBBERIES.—The Hartford papers complain of repeated robberies of letters mailed at Hartford for Boston. The last case was that of a letter containing $4,000, in regard to which the robber addressed a polite note to the owner informing him that it was a convenient amount, and that he (the robber) wanted it for his own use. This letter was postmarked at Springfield. The four bills were presented at the Suffolk Bank, Boston, and other bills were given for them. This was done before the loss was known at the bank. The teller could not recollect any thing about the person who presented the four $1,000 bills that had been stolen. Another case of recent occurrence is one in which a large sum of money was sent to Boston, or in that direction, in two letters. The bills were cut in two—one-half being sent one day and the other half the next. The rogue got both letters, and secured the money. This shows that the mails are watched closely by some rogue, who helps himself at pleasure. This system of villany has been carried on for about six months, during which time over seven thousand dollars have been plundered. In a communication in the Hartford Times Mr. Holbrook, the post office agent, denies that the robberies have occurred in the post offices, and says that the postmasters and their clerks have done their duty honestly, and that the letters and contents were stolen after they had been taken from the post office in Boston.

NAVAL.—The U. S. surveying schooner *Nautilus*, Lieut. J. R. GOLDSBOROUGH commanding, attached to the coast survey, arrived on Saturday at the New York station. She is expected to sail in a short time on a surveying expedition along the eastern coast.

THE BRITISH NAVIGATION LAWS.

MESSRS. EDITORS: I find in the papers received by the last British steamer the report of a preliminary debate in the House of Commons, on the 15th May, 1848, on the proposed abrogation of the Navigation Laws. In the speech of Mr. LABOUCHERE, the President of the Board of Trade, I have observed at least two paragraphs which are worthy of our attention, and which I ask permission simply and without enlarged comment to quote in your columns. The first relates to what may be called the personal character of the British mercantile marine, and is as follows:

"Our mercantile navy suffers exceedingly in comparison with the mercantile marine of other countries, not from the want of protection, but I regret to say from evils inherent in its constitution, which no amount of protection will cure, but which, on the contrary, I believe the removal of protection will have a great tendency to eradicate. We find that while the character of British sailors, so far as skill in the handling of ships goes, stands as high as ever, the character of British shipmasters is at a low ebb, partly on account of their want of nautical skill, and partly owing to their low moral characters. Owing to these causes, our ships are fast losing their character in the commerce of the world. I must say, I think it is better to look these evils in the face, than endeavor to dismiss the truth from our minds. The consequence is, that merchants prefer in too many instances to trust their cargoes to American, Bremen, Swedish, and other vessels, rather than to British ships, because of the injurious effects produced in respect to the latter by the want of professional capacity and of proper moral conduct on the part, in too many cases, of the shipmasters. One can scarcely read a page of the document I have just referred to without being struck by the painful description of those masters."

The other extract describes the agency of the American Minister, Mr. BANCROFT, on this subject. Without determining whether Mr. BANCROFT be right or wrong in his views of commercial policy, one cannot help being struck with the contrast of his positive executive tone with that of the British Minister. Mr. BANCROFT at once pledges his Government to a given course of conduct. "*We are ready,*" he says, "*to do any thing you like;*" while, on the other hand, Lord PALMERSTON cautiously declines the overture, on the ground that the previous sanction of Parliament is necessary. Congress seems never to have occurred to Mr. BANCROFT. The extract speaks for itself. Mr. LABOUCHERE says:

"I have reminded the House that a voice of warning came from Prussia, and now let me state that from another quarter proceeded not a voice of warning, but of invitation. I allude to that great republic of the British race which is second only to ourselves in commercial and manufacturing industry, the United States of America. [Hear, hear.] In the autumn of last year, the American Minister, Mr. Bancroft, came to my noble friend, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and informed him that the Government of his country, believing it was the disposition of Parliament to make a large and liberal alteration of the navigation laws, was most anxious to co-operate with us in that work, [hear, hear,] and in conjunction with us to give an example to the rest of the world, which he hoped would be productive of the most important and salutary effects. [Hear, hear.] Mr. Bancroft's language was, "We 'are ready to do any thing you like. If you can do but little, 'we must do little; if you can do much, we will do much; if 'you shall do all, we shall do all." [Hear, hear.] My noble friend requested Mr. Bancroft to put his views in the shape of a formal communication, and the consequence was that he addressed a letter to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, which I will now read to the House:

"'AMERICAN LEGATION, Nov. 3, 1847.

"'The undersigned, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America, has the honor to inquire of Viscount Palmerston, her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, if her Majesty's Government is inclined to remove existing restrictions on international commerce? Universal reciprocity, in the widest sense, is held by the American Government as the only thoroughly appropriate basis for intercourse between two great nations. The prohibition of the indirect trade has but restrained enterprise; it has done good to neither country. To abrogate it would at once set free dormant commercial wealth, without injuring any one. Should her Majesty's Government entertain similar views, the undersigned is prepared, on the part of the American Government, to propose that British ships may trade from any port in the world to any port in the United States, and be received, protected, and, in respect to charges and duties, treated like American ships; if, reciprocally, American ships may in like manner trade from any port of the world to any port under the dominion of her Britannic Majesty. The removal of commercial restrictions, while it would be of mutual advantage to the material interests of both countries, could not but give openings to still further relations of amity between them, and by its influence on the intercourse of nations create new guaranties for the peace of the world.

"'GEORGE BANCROFT.'

"I will not read the reply of my noble friend to that communication, but simply observe, that he stated to Mr. Bancroft, that though he was not authorized to enter into negotiations on the subject, and that such a course, with a view to any final arrangement, would not be justifiable on the part of the Government without the previous sanction of Parliament, yet that Government were prepared to make such a proposal to Parliament as would meet the views expressed by Mr. Bancroft on the part of the United States." [Hear.]

The delegation of Chickasaw Indians, consisting of their principal chief, MCLAUGHLIN, and Messrs. PITMAN COLBERT, ISAAC ALBERTSON, JAMES GAMBLE, EDMUND PICKENS, DAVIS JAMES, Capt. MCGILVAY, and Capt. SHEPAWNEY, arrived in this city on 29th ult. and on the 2d inst. called on the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, who, together with the Acting Secretary of War, accompanied them on a visit to the President of the United States. They were received by the President, and severally introduced to him by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. After the introduction took place, the President was addressed by Col. ALBERTSON, on behalf of the delegation. The speaker alluded to the pleasure which it afforded the delegation, after their long and tedious journey, to greet and be received by the successor of WASHINGTON. That many years ago their fathers visited Gen. WASHINGTON, and were most kindly treated by him. That, although it was a long time since any of their people had visited the city of Washington, still the visit of their fathers was remembered by the Chickasaws with pleasure. That business of importance to their nation rendered it necessary that they should now visit the seat of Government, and he asked the favorable action of the President on the business which, at a proper time, they should present to his notice.

To this the PRESIDENT responded briefly, that he was most happy to meet the Chickasaw delegation; that the Chickasaws had always been the friends of the white man; and that when engaged in a foreign war they had been our friends and allies. That many of them had served the country most faithfully under Gen. Jackson; and that the delegation might rest assured that their business should be attended to promptly, and he trusted to their satisfaction.

After a pleasant interview, the delegation took their leave of the President and returned to their lodgings at Willard's Hotel.

Col. PITCHLYNN, of the Choctaw Nation, accompanied the delegation, at their request, and acted as interpreter between the President and the Chickasaws.

RAILROAD ACCIDENT.

We gather from a letter in the Baltimore Sun the annexed account of an accident which happened to the train of cars on their way to Frederick last Saturday morning:

"A few minutes after twelve o'clock the iron-horse came snorting along, nearly an hour after its regular time, with a gentleman named Richard Wood, of Philadelphia, with one of his legs injured so severely that it will, in all probability, have to be amputated. He was conveyed to the City Hotel, and medical aid instantly called in.

"The accident which resulted in this serious injury to a worthy gentleman on his way, in the morning cars, from Baltimore to Cumberland, was caused by the breaking down of the tender. Several others were slightly injured. The point at which it occurred is called Reel's Mills, and is three miles east of the Monocacy, six miles from this city. Those who were in the cars describe the scene as frightful in the extreme. Every car was thrown from the track, and more or less injured. A number of ladies fainted, and for a while the greatest confusion prevailed. Mr. Wood was standing in the door of one of the cars, and was thrown between the one he was in and the adjoining car. Another warning to travellers. Will they heed it? I fear not.

"Leaving the passengers, among whom are a number of military men from Washington, at the Mills, the conductor hurried off with Mr. Wood, with as little delay as possible.

"General Scott was not in the cars. He is sick at Washington. A general officer is said to be among those detained at Reel's Mills."

A later letter states that Mr. Wood is mortally hurt, and cannot survive under any circumstances.

The corner-stone of the Washington Monument being yesterday afternoon raised without accident from the Fourteenth street bridge, was afterwards safely transported to the site of the National Monument. There was a great number of spectators present, who laid hold of the ropes, besides [illegible] y yard and the marines detailed [illegible] The Marine Band also attended and [illegible]