

**Death of Mr. Bodisco, the Russian Envoy.**

We learn by telegraph from Washington that Mr. Alexander De Bodisco, who for the past fifteen years or thereabouts, has filled the post of Russian Envoy at Washington, died yesterday, after a painful illness of some weeks. As to the precise age of the late Envoy we are not informed, but it could not have been less than seventy.—He was a Wallachian noble by birth, and first entered the public service in Russia about fifty years ago, without fortune, but endowed with some knowledge of the French language and a clean hand writing. He began in the bureau of the Minister of Foreign Affairs at St. Petersburg, in the lowest or twelfth class of the *tschin* or official hierarchy, which embraces all branches of the public service, and died in the third class, as a Privy Councillor, or in military valuation as a Lieut. General. During his long diplomatic career, he never affixed his name to any act or treaty concluded by him, nor was he ever employed by the government on any occasion of special importance. He owed his good fortune principally, to having been attached in the quality of secretary to Count Suchtelen, who, after the secret interview at Abo in 1812, between the Emperor Alexander and Bernadotte, the elected hereditary Prince of Sweden, resided in the quality of an Imperial commissioner at the headquarters of the Prince, during the campaign of 1812-13. With Count Suchtelen Mr. Bodisco went to Paris and thence to Vienna, during the famous Congress which settled the affairs of the Continent. The Count was appointed the Russian Envoy at the court of Stockholm, and Mr. Bodisco first Secretary of Legation. Count Suchtelen enjoyed great favor with the Emperors Alexander and Nicholas, and on his death-bed some eighteen years ago, recommended his Secretary to the sovereign. After the decease of his generous benefactor, Mr. Bodisco was some time Charge d'Affairs at Stockholm, for when he was sent in the capacity of Minister to Washington. A few years after his arrival here, he married Miss Williams, of Georgetown, a young American lady of remarkable beauty. By her he leaves seven small children, besides three grown up nephews, and a niece of whom he always took a paternal care.

Mr. Bodisco was distinguished by remarkable financial abilities. Through the liberality of his former patron, and of the Russian government, he accumulated a considerable capital during his long service in Europe, which joined to an intelligent economy on his large salary here—more than twenty thousand dollars yearly—enabled him in this country to carry on speculations on a large scale in lands and stocks, and especially in the loans for the Mexican war. The property left by him must exceed half a million of dollars.—[N. Y. Tribune.]

**THE END OF KOSZTA.**—We understand that the far-famed Martin Koszta is now in this city in a state of utter destitution.—An application has been made to us on his behalf by a friend of his for a petty clerkship in our establishment worth five dollars a week. We are sorry to say that we have no vacancies; but surely between Commodore Ingraham, who obtained a medal and ever so much glory, and Mr. Marey, who procured a ready-made reputation as a statesman, solely and entirely out of Koszta, something might be done for the poor fellow. He has raised two men to a pinnacle of fame they never could have reached without him—is he to be left to starve himself?—Who wouldn't be a patriot.—[N. Y. Herald.]

**PITTSBURGH, Jan. 23.**—The Western Theological Seminary, Presbyterian Church, and Allegheny City Bank, were burnt to the ground this evening. Half the Library of the Seminary, which was very valuable, was saved. The building was insured for five thousand dollars.

**PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.**—The senate has passed unanimously the bill to repeal the charter of the Franklin Canal Company. (This is the charter under which the railroad was built from Erie to the Ohio state line.)

Capt. Watkins, of the steamer San Francisco, will be presented with a service of plate, valued at \$1000, as a testimonial for his gallant conduct on that ill-fated vessel.

**The Erie Mob and the President.**

We learn from undoubted authority that the government at Washington had come to a resolution last week to forward a detachment of U. S. troops to Erie, in order to enforce the execution of the decrees of the U. S. Courts and to put a stop to the riotous proceedings of the mob. Subsequently Judge Thompson and Gov. Bigler, of Pennsylvania, arrived at Washington and obtained an interview with the President. Their representations induced Mr. Pierce to recall the orders which had been issued, and he now refuses to interfere at present. The police will be much surprised and mortified at this announcement. They will not fail to ask themselves whether this hesitation would have occurred, had Pennsylvania been an insignificant State or had her politics been whig. We venture to assert that no President has ever occupied the executive chair before Mr. Pierce, who would have suffered the disgraceful proceedings at Erie to have been carried on for one week, without taking active measures to suppress them. The Federal government is now answerable for all that occurs in Erie. If life is sacrificed, if property is destroyed, if the public are injured by the actions of the mob, the head of the government in whose hands the execution of the law is intrusted, is alone responsible. The events of the past few weeks have proved that the interference of the government is necessary, and there is no excuse for its delay.—[Buff. Adv.]

**THE COURT HOUSE.**—Mr. John Freeman has taken the contract for the erection of the Court House and Jail in this city. The following are the dimensions of the buildings:

Court House—52 by 65 feet; three stories high; portico in front, 10 by 36, height 42 feet, with a dome of 24 feet in diameter. County offices on first floor; Clerk's, Probate's, Sheriff's and Jury rooms on second floor. Court room on third floor. Building of brick, the basement of cut stone. The style, Grecian and Doric.

Jail—37 by 78 feet; brick; and two stories.—[Toledo Blade.]

**INCREASE OF THE RUSSIAN FLEET.**—The London News says: "We have the best authority for stating that the Russian High Admiral having recently inspected the Czar's Baltic fleet, one-half of the ships were at once condemned as worthless, and it was determined to build, on contract, a number of screw line-of-battle ships—one account says, no less than thirty! We may possibly find some of the contracts taken in the Clyde, or the Thames, and may safely calculate upon a portion of the vessels being built by the Americans. But it will take at least two years to get so large a fleet fit for sea—even if the cash is forthcoming."

**DEATH OF A SON OF PATRICK HENRY.**—The Virginia papers chronicle the death of Capt. A. S. Henry, a son of Patrick Henry, and long a resident of Lynchburg. His death took place on the 6th. The Lynchburg Virginian describes him as a man of quick impulses, strong feelings and high spirit.

**TONNAGE DUTIES.**—When the Constitution of the United States was formed, one of the controlling motives, was the annoyance caused by the interference of one State, with the commerce and trade of other States. The system of tonnage duties, now revived, by Senator Douglass, was obnoxious even under the old confederacy, and the idea was supposed to be extinguished by that instrument.—[Toledo Blade.]

It is announced by letter-writers at Havana that five vessels, fully equipped for the slave service, will shortly leave Cuba for the coast of Africa. No slaves had lately been landed, but there were rumors that a vessel, loaded with negroes, had arrived and was cruising off the southern shore awaiting an opportunity to run in and discharge her cargo. She had made two attempts to get in, but had been baffled by the vigilance of the officers, who had been so aroused by the recent anti-negro decree, that no contract could be made with them, as was formerly the custom by the slave-traders.

If every man had a window in his breast, blinds would be in great demand.

**Erie Rioters on their Knees.**

At the opening of the Circuit Court at Pittsburgh yesterday morning Sherwin, Jacks and the two Kilpatricks presented their humble petition to Judge Irwin, stating that they are in jail for contempt of Court.—"That they intend no contempt of Court and WILL OBEY ITS ORDER AND INJUNCTION, AND SUBMIT TO AUTHORITY."

And they pray the Court to discharge them. Judge Irwin said:

I shall direct the prisoners to be discharged, under such an order as will protect the dignity of the Court.

With regard to the disavowal of the prisoners of their guilt, in the offence for which they now stand committed, I can only say that that will be a subject for consultation hereafter. The disavowal, however, is sufficient for the present purpose, and I therefore order,

That you severally enter into recognizances in the sum of five thousand dollars, that you appear at the next term of the United States Circuit Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, then and there to answer to any order which this Court may make in the premises; that you do not depart the Court without leave; and that in the meantime you keep inviolate the injunction issued by this Court at the suit of the Buffalo and State Line Railroad Company in reference to the property of the Erie and North East Railroad Company, and be of good behavior.

Thereupon, the prisoners complying with this order, they were discharged from custody.—[Cleve. Herald, 25th.]

The total number of militia in the United States, is about two millions. Of these, Ohio has 176,455, Indiana, 53,918, Illinois, 83,134 and Kentucky, 89,620.

The Chinese, when brought into court as witnesses in California, are sworn in the manner peculiar to their country. An oath, written in Chinese characters upon tissue paper, is subscribed with their names and burned to ashes. The purport of the oath is, that if the witness does not tell the truth, he hopes that his soul may be burned and destroyed as the paper he holds in his hands. Notwithstanding the severity of the oath, the evidence of the Chinese taken in court is not generally of a very reliable character, and the recorder is often obliged to discharge prisoners against whom there is nothing but Chinese evidence, on account of the contradictions and discrepancies which are always discovered in their testimony.

At Quebec, on the 24th ult., a small ferry canoe, containing a woman and two men, was carried by a mass of ice thirty-five miles down the river, during the most intense cold, and all efforts to save them were unavailing. With the rising tide they were brought back some distance the next day, and by great exertion were rescued from their perilous situation, after spending twenty-four hours on the river, including one of the severest nights of the season. Their escape was altogether due to the exertions of the woman, who from time to time encouraged them to work to keep themselves warm, and this she had to do repeatedly, as the two men believing all exertion vain, laid themselves down in the canoe, frequently during the night, at the risk of being frozen in their slumbers.

Capt. Lukens, of the Cincinnati Police, who was instrumental in making the murderous attack on the Freeman Society, has resigned. Public opinion has been much against him since that event, which is perhaps the cause of his resignation.

On Wednesday afternoon, some drunken fellows in Cincinnati went down to the tunnel near that city and circulated a report that the Freeman contemplated turning out in procession, with the intention of attacking the Cathedral and Archbishop's house, and destroying those edifices. Soon after dusk, in the vicinity of the Cathedral, there were assembled over two thousand Irishmen, armed with clubs and pistols, and some with guns, to protect the property from being attacked. There was no truth whatever in the statement that an attack was contemplated by the Freeman.

**European Affairs.**

The news by the Niagara is more conclusive than any received before, respecting European affairs. It indicates that the position of most of the powers of Europe and Asia, in the contest, is most positively defined.—The British people are determined to array themselves on the side of Turkey. The indications are, that the ministry will be overthrown, and a new one substituted, who will at once act vigorously in unison with France for the assistance and protection of Turkey.

France threatens Austria that on her conduct depends the question, whether she will let loose Hungary and Italy.

The Czar on the part of Russia, and the people of the Sultan, without regard to the government, declare against any further negotiations. France boasts that she has a million and a quarter of soldiers ready for land service. The Czar is making warlike preparations to a wider extent than would be required by hostile demonstrations toward Turkey. England and Turkey are strengthening their amicable relations with Persia, and less apprehensions are entertained from that quarter. Denmark and Sweden declare that they take a position of neutrality. Austria plays fast and loose, and the alternative is presented to her of abandoning the Czar, or waiving her power over Hungary and Italy.

A general, bloody, and desolating war seems more inevitable than at any previous moment, though for some time past the great powers seemed inextricably involved. The general rise in breadstuffs indicates that the opinion is deep seated and settled among the mercantile world that supplies from the Black Sea and the Baltic must be entirely cut off, and that the general war is certain. The stock market and trade, are more unerring barometers in such a question than the press or politicians.—[Toledo Blade.]

**Bank Taxation—Decision of the Supreme Court.**

Chief Justice Bartley, this morning, gave the decision of the Court on the validity of the tax law, commonly called the "crowbar" law, as regards the tax levied on banks. The decision holds: That Section 10 of the Tax Law of 1852, which provides that in making up the amount of moneys and credits which any person is required to list for taxation, he may deduct from the gross amounts of moneys and credits the amount of bona fide debts owing by him, is unconstitutional.

The effect of this, must be to drive capital from the State, and probably to close the doors of every bank, and compel them to wind up their business. "Personally, we have no objection." Let the experiment be fairly made.

But the decision goes equally far as to private individuals. Right again. It is due perhaps to the people of Ohio that they be taught the ultimate end of taxation. They are in a very fair way to learn this very necessary lesson.

Judges Thurman, Corwin and Raley gave separate opinions; the two former concurring, and the latter dissenting.—[O. Journal.]

**A GREAT CRASH.**—Yesterday afternoon, at about half past 3 o'clock, the new temporary roof on the rotunda in the new State House, gave way, and fell with a terrific crash. The timber and planks were literally ground up by the fall. Fortunately, no one happened to be in the rotunda at the time, though several visitors were about the building, besides a number of workmen. This is the second time this roof has fallen this winter. We do not know whether it will be covered again, but trust no other attempt will be made, until some better plan can be devised. It is a heavy expense, beside being a very dangerous man-trap, that ought not to be encouraged in these latter days.—[O. S. Journal.]

**JUDGE SPOONER, CAPT. LUKENS AND 61 OTHERS BOUND OVER.**—The examination of the judge, captain of the police, and 61 watchmen, in Cincinnati, charged with unlawfully arresting the German Freeman who proposed to burn Bedini in effigy, has resulted in binding defendants over for trial.