

**ADVANCE IN RAILROAD FARE AND FREIGHT.**—A convention of Railroad Presidents was held in New York, last week, to take into consideration a proposition to increase the rates of fare and freight on the N. Y. & Erie, N. Y. Central, Hudson River, Pennsylvania Central, and Baltimore & Ohio Railroads. The result of the deliberations involves a general advance of charges on freight and passengers, and a reduction of speed and amount of service. Freight for the present is to be advanced about ten per cent., with a further increase later in the season. An immense saving to all the roads is anticipated from the discontinuance of the system of runners and agents. The free pass system has been abridged, and the total abrogation of the practice is recommended to the executive officers of the respective companies. A uniform classification of freights on the four great lines has been adopted, and the charges equalized. Measures are to be taken to obtain an adequate increase of compensation for the mail service, it having been found on examination that this service is performed twenty-five per cent. cheaper than freight of the lowest grade. The fare on the Erie and Central roads to Buffalo is to be advanced on the 1st September to eight dollars, and in the winter to nine dollars. The recent rise in prices and fall in the value of railroad stock have rendered retrenchment necessary, and the convention probably concluded these measures to be the least objectionable as well as the most compatible with convenience and safety.

**SOW YOUR WHEAT EARLY.**—In view of the experience of late years with the weevil and Hessian fly, our farmers should be admonished of the importance of getting in their winter wheat early. It generally happens that the ravages of insects as well as other plagues, have their day, and then for a time disappear. The surest protection against the wheat midge seems to be in a hardy variety of grain and an early ripening of the crop. For this purpose no variety has succeeded so well as the Mediterranean, both against the midge and fly—the latter on account of its strong stalk, by which it is kept from falling, even when pierced by the little trooper. With early sowing and warm land the white blue stem, may still retain its popularity, but when it comes to a choice between dark wheat and none, the farmer will shrewdly prefer the Mediterranean, even though it sells for sixpence less on a bushel.

**VERMONT SLATE FOR TILES.**—The editor of the Albany Journal has been on a trip to Vermont, and in a late article, thus describes the valuable slate quarries that are now extensively worked:

Immediately after breakfast on Wednesday, the party were again seated in the cars and conveyed to Granville, for the purpose of inspecting the slate quarries. Here was found about one hundred men employed in forty quarries, including that belonging to the Warren Company, of which Wm. H. Aspinwall, of New York, is President. This company have already got out this season, 20,000 squares of slate, which, when laid on roofs, is valued at seven dollars a square. Some of the other companies are doing nearly as well. The operators are principally Welchmen, who understand the business thoroughly. The slate is of a variety of colors, but principally purple, green and red, and pronounced by those acquainted with the article to be of better quality than the best of Welch slate. There are buildings in Boston now covered with slate from these quarries, which have stood the test of a hundred years, and we are informed that the slate taken from one that was recently demolished was sold at eight dollars per square.

There is another establishment here that is just coming into notice, where the slate by means of saws is cut into tile for flooring. The red, green and purple, when cut into blocks of six inches square, make a beautiful flooring, having the appearance of a checker board. This company has contracted for laying the floor of the new Assembly building in New York with the slate.

The charter election in Mobile has resulted in the complete triumph of the Know Nothing ticket.

**THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.**—A little work entitled "Sandwich Island Notes," has just been published by the Harpers. It is by a Harole, who avows himself to be an advocate for annexation, because, to use his own language, "the islands once possessed by our government, would form a nucleus from which would radiate the blessings and advantages of American civilization over the whole of Polynesia." The geographical position and extent of the group are thus stated:

A mere glance at the map of the Western Hemisphere will show that the Sandwich or Hawaiian Islands—as they are officially termed—are situated in the North Pacific Ocean, between latitude 18 deg., 12 min. and 23 deg. 20 min. North, and longitude 154 deg. 53 min. and 160 deg. 15 min. West. They are nearly equidistant from Central America, Mexico, California, and the North West Coast on the one side, and the Russian dominions, Japan, China, and the Philippine Islands on the other. From their relative position to the above countries and Australia on the South, they have been termed the "Half-Way House," on the "Great Crossings of the Pacific." Vessels bound from San Francisco to China or Australia, stop at these Islands or pass within sight of them on their outward and return voyages.

The group consists of twelve islands, eight only of which are inhabited, the others being but barren rocks. Those inhabited are as follows:

Names.	Ms. long.	Ms. wide.	Sq. Miles.
Hawaii,	88	73	4,000
Maui,	48	30	620
Oahu,	46	25	530
Kanai,	42	25	500
Molokai,	40	6	190
Lanai,	17	9	100
Niihau,	29	7	90
Kahoolawe,	11	8	60

The whole embrace a superficial area of about 6,100 square miles. The value of the group may be argued chiefly from their geographical position. Their equidistance from the chief ports—especially San Francisco—on the western shores of the two continents of America, places them in a natural position to command the North Pacific Ocean. Gibraltar is not more the key to the Gates of Hercules, nor the island of Cuba to the Gulf Stream, than the Sandwich Islands are the natural defence of the North Pacific.

**JAPAN AND THE RUM TRADE.**—A correspondent of the New York Tribune thinks that extensive preparations will be made to open the "liquor trade" in Japan, next year, as no business in the world pays better, especially in a new country. It is one, too, that is easily and cheaply established, and, if we may credit the published accounts of the entertainments given on board our squadron to "the Commissioners" and their attendants, the way is pretty well opened for the introduction of champagne, rum-punch, and brandy-smashes into that country.—Truly it seems that if something be not done in this matter, Japan may yet curse the day that Commodore Perry's flag first appeared in its waters. It is a curious fact that the first evidences which Pagan countries receive of civilization and Christianity are Missionaries and whiskey barrels, and that they often go in the same ships. The morals of trade are sadly below the Christian standard, and the mischiefs which the latter inflict by sending whiskey among a people to whom it is unknown, or with whom it is unused, must be a great obstacle to the efforts to propagate the principles of a pure religion among them. Rum, the curse of the world, seems to destroy the moral sense of those who deal in it, and a nation will be debauched that a few dealers may revel in the profits of such ill-gotten wealth.—[Public Ledger.]

**NUMBER OF SLAVEHOLDERS.**—De Bow, of the bureau of statistics at Washington, states that the total number of slaveholders in the United States is 375,000. And yet we permit this little handful of men to rule this Union, or to threaten its dissolution if they are not permitted to have everything their own way. It is our impression that this day of retribution has about come to an end.

Will any of the democratic journals, which insist that the president's veto of the river and harbor bill was on account of some unconstitutional appropriations therein contained, point out those obnoxious appropriations? The veto message affords us no light on this subject; and the people would like to know something about the matter. Such vague and indefinite insinuations will not satisfy those who have such important interests at stake. Where does Mr. Pierce locate the "constitutional" line between legitimate and illegitimate appropriations?—[Sandusky Register.]

**A Letter from Gen. Bierce.**  
AKRON, July 20, 1854.

DEAR SIR:—I see by the papers that you have come out boldly for freedom, and, in opposition to the infamous schemes of Douglas, to enhance the price of his slaves by extending the curse of slavery over the immense territories of this "model republic"! I am truly gratified to see the "old guard," the democracy that fought the battles of the party while the race of Nebrascals were in swaddling clothes, vindicating the doctrines of Jefferson in 1784 and 1787.

The miserable devils who now seek to rule the party, and read us out, know about as much about Jeffersonian democracy as they do about the principles of liberty. That miserable liar Gray, who edits the Plaindealer, when he failed to be appointed postmaster by Cave Johnson, came out an abolitionist, abused the south and the administration and slavery. Now, he has got the appointment, and he is all for the south and slavery; and, in his abuse of all who are opposed to slavery, reads me out of the party as no democrat, when I have voted nothing but a straight democratic ticket for the last 23 years, with no exception but Judge Bliss.

Because I will not go for Nebraska and slavery, I am no democrat! You will be read out—DeWolf will be read out, and any other democrat who dares to think and speak as Jefferson did in 1787.

I am happy to see the real democracy uniting on this question. As the slaveocracy say the Missouri compromise is unconstitutional, away with all compromises. Let liberty be the watchword through the land, and the glorious principles of our declaration of independence be the principles of the democratic party. No more compromises with slavery, but let the "old guard" move on to victory under the banner of freedom. No more slave territory, no more slave states, no more doughfaces in office. "Let us," in the language of Jefferson, "swear eternal hostility, upon the altar of our God, to any form of tyranny." Yours,

ISAAC COLES, Esq. L. V. BIERCE.

**KALAMAZOO, Oct. 25, 1847.**

MY DEAR SIR:—A statement of my views upon the subject of slavery generally, will, I think, answer satisfactorily both branches your interrogatory.

So far as the Slave States have rights under the constitution and laws of the Union, they should in my opinion, be held inviolate. But in the organization of Territorial Governments, whether out of our present possession or such as we may hereafter acquire, a provision ought, in my opinion, to be incorporated prohibiting Slavery.

Upon this subject we have an undoubted right to act, and I also think that the Spirit of Philanthropy, in addition to our interest, requires every good citizen to act in favor of LIBERTY!

I am, Sir, your obedient serv't,  
CHAS. E. STUART.

To C. S. WHEELER, Flowerfield, St. Jo. Co., Michigan.

The above letter was written by one of the present Senators from Michigan, a voter for the Nebraska infamy.—[Toledo Blade.]

**WILD LANDS FOR SALE IN CANADA.**—The Hamilton Gazette says about two thousand lots of land are offered for sale by the government in the counties of Wellington, Perth and Huron. Part of them are school lands, and will be sold for \$2 an acre; the others are crown lands, and will be sold for \$1.50 per acre; in both cases payable in ten annual installments, with interest. The sale will be conditioned upon actual settlement.

**THE ROCK ISLAND RAIL ROAD BRIDGE.**—It has been supposed by many that the work on this structure has been suspended in accordance with the recent order of the government official to that effect. This is not the case. The grading on the island is being rapidly completed, and the stone abutments and piers on the Illinois side of the river are already finished. On the Iowa side the abutment is very nearly completed, and coffer dams are now being placed in the main river to begin on the piers. With favorable weather and water these can be finished by the 1st of January next. As an order from the war department cannot reach the work in the river at all, some other measures must be taken if it is stopped. We understand that it is the intention of the company to proceed with the contract until arrested by actual intervention of law, or the interposition of providential difficulties. Nothing short of these will effect the case.—[Rock Island Advertiser.]

**FORT DES MOINES IMPROVEMENT.**—The Warsaw (Illinois) Express states that the difficulties attending the consummation of the Des Moines improvement have been removed. The Hon. Alvah Hunt was sent there as agent for certain eastern capitalists, who, after examining the river, told the commissioners that the work could not be undertaken, unless the use of the improvement was granted to the contractors for 75 years. The commissioners were loth to come to these terms, having already made a contract with Mr. O'Riley for a much shorter period. Mr. Hunt was firm in his demands, and the commissioners finally gave in, and a contract has been entered into with responsible parties, for the completion of the entire work, the contractors to have the land and all the proceeds of the improvement for 75 years.

Congress has granted about one million of acres of land for the benefit of this work. The distance to be made navigable is about 175 miles, being from the mouth of the river, near Keokuck, to Fort Des Moines, in the center of Iowa. The works are to be after the general plan of those on the Muskingum. There are 29 dams and locks. It is a heavy work, but the trade of the river must be immense; and, as it is in the midst of one of the finest tracts of land in the world, the water power which the dams will afford will be of immense value, both for flouring mills and manufacturing purposes of all sorts. The people will be sure of the benefit of the work, and the company must make money.—[O. S. Journal.]

**THE DROUGHT.**—We are receiving fearful accounts of the drought from almost every section of the country. The earth is literally dried and burned up. It is estimated that the wheat crop of the country will fall 80,000,000 bushels short of the usual mark, and other crops are cut off proportionately. It is now fifty-four days since rain fell in any quantity in the vicinity of Rochester, and the drought is equally severe in other places; so that it is regarded as unprecedented in severity as well as in extent. It is some consolation to hear that Texas has been blessed with rains and an abundant harvest, and that California has grown so much wheat that she will be able to export. But with the prospect of potatoes at \$1 or more a bushel, and other things in keeping, what are the poor to do? If it would but rain now, some evil might be averted.—[N. Y. Mirror.]

**WHAT FLORIDA RESTS ON.**—A writer in the Floridian & Journal says the upper stratum of Florida rests on one vast network of irregular arches of stupendous magnitude, through which innumerable rivers, creeks and mineral waters in silent darkness perpetually flow. The creeks of this denomination are too numerous to mention; most of them afford fine mill sites. The number of mineral and thermal springs in Florida is more than two thousand. The theory of Prof. Agassiz is, that Florida was built by the coral worm, and other marine animalcules, and that it took them upwards of 200,000 years to accomplish it.