

On motion of Mr. KING, of Alabama, the Senate took up the bill for the relief of Arthur Bronson; which was discussed at considerable length & was rejected—yeas 9.—nays 19.  
The Senate then adjourned.

From the Washington Globe.  
SURPLUS REVENUE—RAILROADS  
MR. GBUNDY'S BILL.

Among the projects for disposing of parts of the surplus revenue, there is none which promises more public utility than the proposition to contract for the freedom of the rail roads for all Government purposes. In a practical point of view, the following advantages are to be anticipated:

1. It will give conveyance to the mails without charge, on the routes where it is heaviest and most expensive, enabling the Government to reduce the rates of postage, or largely to increase mail facilities to the interior of the country.
2. The mails on these routes will be conveyed more frequently, more rapidly, and more safely.
3. It will incalculably diminish the expenses attending the means of defence to peace and in war.

By enabling the Government rapidly to concentrate the public force, it is unnecessary to keep up so great a standing army as might otherwise be required. With rail roads at the service of the Government along the whole sea board, and on the principal routes of the interior communication, the defective power of our present army would be more than doubled.

By affording on those routes free transportation for officers, men, stores, and other public property, it would lessen the expenses of the Government in time of peace, and obviate one of the heaviest items of charge in time of war, thereby distinguishing the necessity of taxation or loans, in a degree proportioned to the perils and efforts of the country.

It will incalculably increase the power of the country to defend itself in cases of invasion or insurrection. City can rush to the defence of city in a few hours, and States to the defence of States in a few days. Before a hostile fleet could approach and land its forces near one of our great maritime cities, the whole power of several of her sisters would be at hand to defend her. Before an attack could be planned and executed, the interior country would send down its thousands and tens of thousands by every rail road.

Forts are useful in certain positions, but the surest defence of the country is an invincible array of armed men. To avoid invasion, we have but to have the means of concentrating at every important point for defence, a more formidable force than our enemy can bring to the assault.

As auxiliary to the public defence, therefore, this project deserves the most favorable consideration.

5. All the benefit of free roads will be secured to the Government, at the cheapest possible rate, and without touching any of those constitutional questions, involved in a system of internal improvements by the general Government. It will be a mere matter of contract. The original power of making contracts for the General Government is vested in Congress. This body has delegated to the heads of departments, the power to make contracts for limited periods, and has generally prohibited advances of money until the articles be delivered, or the service performed. But that body can make, or authorize to be made, unlimited contracts and pay the whole consideration in advance. Whether they will do so, is a question of expediency only.

It is not proposed to advance money to any company for the purpose of enabling them to make a road. The money is to be paid only when the road is completed, and the public service has commenced upon it. Sections of a road, however, may be contracted for, and the consideration paid separately. Thus, the road from Washington to Baltimore, is a part or branch of the Baltimore and Ohio rail road. The use of that section may be immediately contracted for and the consideration paid; so of the section from Baltimore to Frederick, &c. Nor does it affect the principle if the company allow that their purpose is to finish other sections of the road with the funds so procured. The Government does not pay them for that purpose, but to obtain the free use of the sections already made. It matters not whether the company make other sections or other roads with those funds. The Government will pay the considerations for the use of those other sections or other roads, only when they may be completed.

Finally, This project, if adopted, will put to rest forever, all questions as to the power of Congress to make roads within the States, by receiving all the benefits of the power without exercising or usurping it. The Government will have throughout the country, for its own purposes, free rail roads, at an expense immeasurably short of the cost of making them, without assuming any jurisdiction over the soil, without affecting any State rights without exercising a power in the least doubtful.—Even in case the owners of the road fail to perform the contract service, it is not proposed to give to the Government any power to keep the road in operation, or to exercise any authority over it, other than to sell it as they now do private property, for the payment of debts to the public.

Government to make roads and canals within the States.

How delighted is the prospect presented in another respect! Other Governments are saddling posterity with debts which generations will be unable to extinguish. We propose to apply our present abundance as to lessen the legitimate demands on posterity. We propose to pay in advance for the conveyance of their mails, the transportation of their public property, and their armies—some of the heaviest items of expense in all their wars, and considerable charges upon them in times of peace. How beautiful the contrast with all other Governments of the world, ancient or modern! It will be the first example—we hope it will not be the last.

Why then should not a liberal portion of the surplus revenue be devoted to this object? Give enough to the navy—enough to forts—enough to the preparation of the munitions of war—and we shall have enough left for this great purpose.

LATEST FROM FLORIDA.  
WASHINGTON, April 8, 1836.

Despatches from Maj. General Scott's headquarters in Florida, dated Fort Drane March 20th, have been received by the last mail at the Adjutant General's office, of which the following is an extract:

"For the information of the Secretary of War, and General in Chief, I addressed you a hasty note of the 14th. Nothing material has since occurred. This wing is waiting to give time for Brigadier General Eustis and Colonel Lindsay to gain their respective positions, Palakleka and Chichockaty, for the arrival of the wagons sent hence to Gray's Ferry for subsistence the last of which may be expected by the 24th, with (it is hoped) some additional teams from Savannah, and for the troops from New Orleans to re-enter their strength. All these objects I have good reason to hope will be accomplished by the 26th or 27th inst., although I have not had a line from Col Lindsay later than his letter dated at Mobile, the 13th ult. In the mean time, it is confidently believed that the great body of the enemy remains in the swamp or cove of the Wylthacochee, about the junction of its three branches—say twenty-five miles from this place.

I send a topographical sketch of that vicinity may by my aid, Lieut. Johnston, from information received here, and principally from Col. Gadsden, the Quartermaster General of Florida, whom I have taken into the service of the United States, as my staff, with that rank. His minute knowledge of the country and the hostile Indians, together with his general military intelligence, render him a valuable acquisition. I also expect to derive much valuable assistance from Col. Fitzpatrick, the President of the Territorial Legislative Council, particularly if the war should be carried into the Peninsula, with which he is, perhaps, better acquainted than any other individual in the Territory. He is with me, and is well disposed to render himself generally useful."

THE LAND BILL.

A member of Congress from Ohio (says the Springfield Pioneer) writes home that Mr. Clays land bill will certainly pass both house of congress.—This news is most gratifying. It will be a proud day to our country, when thirty or forty millions of the people's money lying uselessly in the vaults of the pet banks, shall be returned to the public as this bill provides, spreading abroad all over the face of the Union the blessings of education, and the boundless wealth and comfort that in eternal improvements so certainly bestow.

It is said that the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars has been charged by Mr. Livingston, for the management of the great case between the United States and the city of New Orleans, by which the latter gained one million of dollars.

At a late term of the court of Common Pleas in Butler co., John Spenser was found guilty of murder in the first degree! The murder was perpetrated on the 1st of last August; and the victim, (Allen McLoughlin) was the murderer's son in law.—Adv.

The Convention to alter the Constitution of Pennsylvania, is to consist of 133 delegates, who are to be elected at the presidential election next fall, and to meet in May, 1837.

The Bucyrus Intelligencer of the 5th instant, says that a tract of land situated at the foot of the rapids of the Maumee river, and has water privileges of great value, was on the 4th instant, sold at public sale at the Land Office, for one hundred and four dollars and sixteen cents per acre.

From the New Orleans True American.  
LATE AND IMPORTANT FROM TEXAS.

We learn by a passenger of the schooner Camanche, eight days from Texas, that the war has assumed a serious character.

On the 25th February the Texian garrison in Bexar, of 150 men, commanded by Lt Colonel B. Travis, was attacked by the advance division of Gen. Santa Ana, consisting of 2,000 men, who were repulsed with the loss of many killed, between 500 to 800 men, without the loss of one man of the Texans. About the same time, Col. Johnson, with a party of 70 men, while reconnoitering the westward of San Patricio, was surrounded in the night by a large body of Mexican troops. In the morning the demand of a surrender was made by the Mexican commander unconditionally, which was refused, but an offer of surrender was made as prisoners of war, which was acceded to by the Mexicans; but no sooner had the Texans marched out of their quarters and stacked their arms, than a general fire was opened upon them by the whole Mexican force. The Texans attempted to escape, but only three of them succeeded, one of whom was Col. Johnson.

Between the 25th of February and 2d March, the Mexicans were employed in forming entrenchments around the Alamo, and bombarding the place; on the 2d March Col. Travis wrote that 200 shells had been thrown into the Alamo without injuring a man. On the 1st of March the Garrison of Alamo received a reinforcement of 32 Texians from Gonzales, having forced their way through the enemy's lines, making the number in the Alamo consist of 180 men.

On the 6th March about midnight, the Alamo was assaulted by the whole Mexican army, commanded by Santa Ana in person. The battle was desperate until daylight, when seven men belonging to the Texian garrison were found alive, who cried for quarters, but were told that there was none for them. They then continued fighting until the whole were butchered. One woman (Mrs. Dickenson) and a negro (col. Travis) were the only persons whose lives were spared.

We regret to say that Colonel DAVID CROCKETT, his companion, Jesse Benton and Col. B. Williams, of South Carolina, were among the number slain. Col. Bow was murdered in his bed, sick and helpless. Gen. Cos, on entering the fort ordered the servant of Col. Travis to point out the body of his master, he did so, when Cos drew his sword, and mangled the face and limbs with the malignant feelings of a Comanche savage. The bodies of the slain were thrown into a heap in the centre of the Alamo and burnt. The loss of the Mexicans in storing the place was not less than one thousand killed and mortally wounded, and as many wounded; making, with their loss, in the first assault, between two and three thousand men. The flag used by the Mexicans was a blood red one, in the place of the constitutional flag. Immediately after the capture, Gen. Santa Ana sent Mrs. Dickinson and servant to Gen. Houston's camp, accompanied by a Mexican with a flag, who was the bearer of a note from Gen. Santa Ana offering the Texians peace and a general amnesty if they would lay down their arms and submit to his government. Gen. Houston's reply was: "True, sir, you have succeeded in killing some of our brave men, but the Texans are not yet conquered."

The effect of the fall of Bexar throughout Texas was electrical; every man who could use a rifle, and was in a condition to take the field, marched forth with to the seat of war. It is believed that not less than 4,000 men were on their way to the army when the Comanche sailed, determined to wreak their vengeance on the Mexicans.

Gen. Houston had burnt Gonzales and fallen back on the Colorado, with about 1,000 men; Col. Fanning was in the fort at Goliad, a very strong position, well supplied with munitions and provisions, with from 400 to 500 men.

The general determination of the people of Texas is to abandon all their occupations and pursuits of peace, & to continue in arms until every Mexican east of the Rio del Norte shall be exterminated.

WESTERN INDIANS.—We have for some time past had painful forebodings that the war spirit and the conflicts with the Indians, in Florida, would have a contagious influence on the Indians West of the Mississippi; & that the people of the frontier might, sooner or later—we hope the day is far distant—be severely tried by the reaction produced by the removal of the reluctant Indians from east of the Mississippi. From the West we received yesterday the subjoined intelligence of hostilities between the aboriginals of the prairies and the traders and emigrant Indians, which cannot, indeed, be traced to the Florida excitement, but which, by reviving and giving employment for the warrior feeling of the Indians, may prepare their minds and nerve their arms for other encounters hereafter. We hope the Executive will think well before determining to send out troops into the prairies again to look after roving Indians, whom they may never find, and, if found, had perhaps better let alone; for in such wars few laurels can be won by civilized man.—Nat. Int.

"NEAR FORT GIBSON, A. T. }  
MARCH 14, 1836. }  
"Things in this quarter look as if we were to have trouble ere long with the Indians on the Grand Prairie.

"An Express arrived at head quarters a few days since, announcing to Gen. ARBUCKLE that the Camanches and Pawnees had murdered all the Traders at Coffee's Trading House on Red river, in the Pawnee country. One man only escaped; he has arrived here, and described the massacre as dreadful; 50 or 60 Americans & some Creeks and Osages were butchered.

"It was near Coffee's trading house that the treaty last year was made with the Camanches and Pawnees, but owing to Col. Dunge not being there agreeably to promise, the treaty was torn up, and TABAQUINA, a fierce and Savage Comanche warrior, warned Gen. CORPES & his men to leave their country; his not complying has been fatal to them all. Our men who saw the Camanches last summer describe them as a fierce, warlike race of men, well-mounted, and armed with a lance and shield. They are a wandering tribe, and we may look for them all next summer without crossing their trail. There is no doubt that the United States will resent these murders, and we will march from here as soon as the grass will admit of our horses living on it. The whole regiment of Dragons will concentrate & be joined by the 7th Infantry, now at Fort Gibson. CHIEF McINTOSH, the Creek warrior, swears vengeance against the Pawnees and Camanches, and he will no doubt add six or seven hundred warriors to our command. We are making every preparation, and we shall get off, I suppose, by the 1st of May, or sooner.

"Gen. ARBUCKLE has put Fort Gibson in good repair, and mounted field pieces in the block houses."—Bill Patriot.

THE DUTY ON WINES.

By the bill reported by the Committee on Commerce, and which has passed the Senate by a unanimous vote, the duty on Wines, after the 30th June next, will be substantially as follows:

Red Wines of France,	
in casks,	1 cent a gallon.
White do do	2 cents a gallon.
French Wines, in bottles,	1 cent a bottle.
Wines of Germany,	
Spain & the Mediterranean, unless otherwise specified,	1 cent a bottle.
Red wines of Spain, in casks,	2 cents a gallon.
Wines of all countries in bottles unless specially enumerated,	3 cents a bottle.
Sherry and Madeira Wines,	10 cents a gallon.

The above duties will be gradually still further reduced at the rate of 10 per cent a year, under the compromise act. This summary view of the effect of the bill is but a forecast of the committee's report upon the subject, which we shall have the pleasure to publish at an early day.—Nat. Int.

The severe and almost unprecendented storm of Saturday evening last has been productive of extensive injuries. From all whom we have heard speak of it the expression is that the streams were never known to be so high. Walnut creek, we understand, overflowed its bank, sweeping off fences, corn—wherever ungathered—and a great many sheep and hogs. Clear creek was also very high, doing great damage to the mills, bridges, &c. and entirely sweeping off a great quantity of fence, produce &c. Hocking, at this place, from an incalculable stream, was spread out to a broad sheet of turbid water, and serious apprehensions were entertained for the Lateral Canal—which, however, has sustained no material injury. We anticipate extensive damages along the whole extent of the Hocking bottoms. The Chillicothe "Gazette" says—"Early on Sunday morning, the bank of the Ohio canal, between Main and Fourth streets, gave way, and the south-east part of the town was presently flooded. By spirited exertions, however, the breach was repaired, before essential damage had been done, except to gardens and fences. Paint creek on Sunday morning showed an exemplification of the Egyptian figure of "bread cast upon the waters. Hundreds of stocks of corn were floating on its foaming tide the sight of which awoke apprehensions of the serious losses farmers abroad must have sustained. We have heard of but few particulars of the effects of this freshet; though the loss occasioned by it must have been great. 20,000 bushels of corn, the property of a gentleman near Waverly in Pike county, were entirely destroyed, and a merchant of this place has just informed us of a large quantity of the same article belonging to him, which was stored in a warehouse, several miles above this place, which is ruined by the flood. The bridge over the Scioto, on the Lancaster road, is impassable for horses and wagons, so that the mails to and from the north and east are conveyed in boats."

In addition, we are informed by a gentleman direct from Chillicothe, that the above is a mere trifle compared with the actual loss of corn and other produce on the Canal and River. It is supposed that not less than 150,000 bushels of corn in shock, crib, and ware houses, have been either damaged or entirely swept away. The loss of hogs, cattle, sheep, &c. is also very great.

The Zanesville Gazette states that the Muskingum river rose higher, in consequence of the rain, than it had been known at that place since the great flood of 1832.

There are several breaches in the Ohio Canal—one above and one below Circleville—one at Waverly, &c.—we are informed, which it will require some three or four weeks to repair.

Of the happy effects of temperance in food and drink upon the health and upon the bodily feelings, any one can have personal experience, who will put his life upon a stem of diet and exercise similar to that prescribed for the English boxers and foot-racers. Jackson, a celebrated trainer, describes one of its effects to be to render the skin clear, smooth, well colored and elastic, showing that temperance and exercise are the best of cosmetics. But a Mr. Walker of London has lately discovered that they have a still higher virtue, and that they will keep the skin clean without the aid of water. In a work just published he thus describes the effect of an abstemious diet.—Baltimore Amer.

"I once felt a dull rent being, light and vigorous, with all my senses sharpened, I enjoy an absolute glowing existence. I cannot help mentioning two or three instances in proof of my state, though I dare say they will appear almost ridiculous, but they are nevertheless true. It seems that from the surface of an animal in perfect health there is an active exhalation going on which repels impurity; for when I walked on the dustiest roads, not only my feet, but even my stockings, remained free from dust. By way of experiment I did not wash my face for a week, nor did any one see, nor I feel the difference."

"LOCO FOCO."

Some controversy has been noticed in the New York Whig papers, on the cutting claims of two or three of them to the merit of having originated the name of "loco loco" party, which has been so generally adopted, and with an implied admission of its applicability. The New York Courier and Enquirer and Daily Advertiser, each claim the honor of first applying the appellation; and if we are not mistaken, the Evening Post, through its acting editor or some of its correspondents, has expressed great satisfaction at the name, and adapted it with a strong sense of its propriety. But we believe all authorities agree that the derivation of the cognomen, was the use of the "pock of light," known as "loco loco matches," on one occasion in Tammany Hall, with out reference to the philosophical or literal signification of the term. As some attention has lately been directed to the definition of the word which has been declared to be so happily descriptive of the principles of this "new light" party, it may not be inappropriate to present the following generic origin of the phrase "loco loco," taken by a correspondent from Newman and Barrett's Spanish and English Dictionary:

"Loco, c. 1. Mad, crack brained. 2. Fool, A' tonias y a' locas, Inconsiderately, without reflection."

"Foco, 1. Focus; the point of convergence in a glass, &c."

"Taking the first and of course the most generally received definitions of the two words, the phrase would be literally translated thus: "The point of convergence for mad or crack brained persons;" or briefly "the focus of folly."

"I have lived," said Dr. Adam Clark to know that the great secret of human happiness is this: Never suffer your energies to stagnate. The old adage of "too many irons in the fire," conveys an abominable lie. You cannot have to many—poker, torgs, and all; keep them all a going.

"SIX SLIM SLICK SAPLINS."—It is gravely asserted by some folks that there is no Yankee in the land that can upon the first trial, "of a cold from y morning," pronounce these words in quick succession without making a mistake. Try it.

A lady by the name of Caroline H. Sheepshanks has applied to the Legislature of Pennsylvania to have her name changed. There is an easier way for ladies to get their names changed than an application to the legislature.—W. Va. Times.

NEW ORLEANS AND NASHVILLE RAIL ROAD.—In consequence of a disagreement between the two Houses, the bill to incorporate this road, has been lost in the Legislature of Mississippi. It seems the House wished the road to pass east of Pearl river, and the Senate were bent on locating it nearer the Mississippi river.