

"Well, I did see that," said he, "but I thought it was an error of the press, or that the owner couldn't spell."
"Oh," said he, "don't take me for one of your Dutch bores, I beg of you. I can spell, but you can't read that's all. You remind me," says I, "of a fellow in Sickliffe, when the six cent letter stamp came into fashion. He licked the stamp so hard he took all the gum off, and it wouldn't stay on, no how he could fix it, so what does he do but put a pin through it, and writes on the letter 'Paid if the darned thing will stick.' Now if you go and lick the stamp eternally that way, folks will go and put a pin through it, and the story will stick to you forever. But come on board, and let's liquor and I'll stand treat."

"I felt sorry for the poor critter, and told him how to feed the boss, and advised him to take him to Saratoga, and advise him and sell him the same way; and he did, and got rid of him." The rise raised his character as a lawyer amazingly. He was elected governor the next year.

Bloody Battle in Mexico.
It may be remembered that some time ago, a body of mounted Texian rangers, under the command of Captain Callahan, were, with the approbation of the Executive, mustered in the western part of the State. The object contemplated by them, was to destroy the encampment of Lipan Indians on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande, and to exterminate the warriors of that tribe, which had so long infested the frontier—murdering their wives and children and despoiling upon our property—and such Mexicans and negroes as would be found allied with them.

Captain Callahan in an address to the people of Texas, dated Eagle Pass, the 4th inst., gives a narrative of the campaign. The Indian camp, he had learned, was situated about thirty-five miles west of the river, near the city of San Fernando, in the State of Tamaulipas. Towards the second inst., about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and when within about ten miles of San Fernando, the Indian camp, lying on the other side of the town, they desisted three horsemen approaching them from a mound of timber about a mile to the northward.

"At first," says Captain Callahan, (for we now quote his own language,) "these men were not noticed, we supposing them to be herdsmen, but on their approaching within two hundred yards of us, we discovered them to be Indian chieftains, ready dressed and painted for battle; and they were evidently striving to decoy us from our position. Forming my men into a line along the road, I waited for them to begin the battle, for by this time large numbers of them had emerged from the timber, seemingly with intention of attacking us; they soon spread out in front of us, and to our right and left, to the amount of several hundred horsemen, and commenced to fire on us. About this time one of my men fired on a chief, about two hundred yards distant, and broke a leg of a horse. Perceiving that the enemy, composed of both Indians and Mexicans were trying to outflank us, I ordered my men to charge, which was executed in fine style, and many of the enemy were slain."

"While making our charge, the left flank of the enemy, which extended for nearly half a mile, came in our rear and opened on us a very severe fire, during which four of our gallant men were killed. The front and right flank on which we charged, after a gallant fire fled before us, leaving us in possession of the position which it was our object and determination to obtain."

"Then we discovered that our enemy numbered some 6 or 700, and their footmen were concealed in the timber and had not advanced in view on the prairie. My men formed in a strong position beneath the bank of a small creek, on which the enemy had been encamped, and their whole force coming up against us, we continued the battle for about three hours, when they fled in the direction of San Fernando, leaving as we heard this evening some 95 killed with the loss of 100 wounded."

"This we learn from some Mexicans who were engaged in the battle, and from other sources since my report to his Excellency, the Hon. E. M. Pease. The same Mexicans have also informed me that the actual number of our enemy was seven hundred and fifty men."

"After the retreat of the enemy, which was about dark, we supposing they would come on us again before day, fell back to the Rio Grande, where we would be safe from the attack of any number of men and of any quantity of artillery they might bring against us."

Approaching the town of Piedras Negras about sunrise, we took possession of it, and now occupy a position opposite Eagle Pass on the west bank of the Rio Grande.

ABOLITION OPINION OF THE FREE BLACKS AT THE NORTH.—The New York Tribune thus betrays the character of the free blacks of the North:

"Nine tenths of the free blacks have no idea of setting themselves to work except as the hirelings and servitors of white men; no idea of building a church, or accomplishing any other serious enterprise except through beggary of the whites. As a class, the blacks are indolent, improvident, servile, and licentious; and their inveterate habit of appealing to white benevolence or compassion whenever they realize a want or encounter a difficulty is eminently baneful and enervating. If they could never more obtain a dollar until they shall have earned it, many of them would suffer, and some of them, perhaps, starve; but, on the whole, they would do better and improve faster than may now be expected."

OUR RELATIONS WITH SPAIN.—Our Government, it is stated, has recently been occupied with the consideration of the undisturbed subjects of disputes between the United States and Spain, and particularly the El Dorado affair, with the view to again strongly press their prompt settlement. Our Minister, Mr. Dodge, has by the destruction of Government, been endeavoring to effect a new treaty with Spain to supersede that of 1795, with provisions regarding our intercourse free from complicity, but he has been mortified with the Spanish Government's procrastination.

The County Court is still sitting.

From the Richmond Enquirer.

An Admirable Letter.

It gives us great pleasure to lay before our readers the following sensible and excellent letter from Senator James M. Mason; and we feel satisfied that the people of Virginia will heartily approve the solid grounds upon which his bases his determination not to accept the invitation of the Boston Committee to deliver a lecture on slavery in that city. It is proper that we should state, that a valued friend in Winchester had seen the letter, and observing that the Committee had not published it, obtained from Mr. Mason a copy thereof, and enclosed it to us for publication.

SELMA, FREDERICK CO., VA.,
October 9, 1855.

To Messrs. S. G. Howe and others, Boston: GENTLEMEN:—I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 5th inst., inviting me "to deliver a lecture on Slavery," in Boston, on the evening of the 13th of March next; or at such other time as may be convenient to me, between the middle of November and the middle of March—and as an inducement to the service, you inform me, "that a series of lectures upon the subject; was instituted, and very successfully conducted here, (at Boston) during the past winter," and further, "that during the next season, a large number of gentlemen from the South, will be invited to favor us, (you) with the views prevalent in their vicinity; thus, in connection with others, presenting during the course, every shade of opinion on this question."

I am at some loss to know, what useful end it is thought will be attained, by the series of disquisitions, you thus propose before the people of Boston.

Slavery of the African race as a form of domestic servitude, in the earlier history of the country, had no geographic line of demarcation. Climate, and climate only, gradually caused its discontinuance at the North; and the same controlling influence, is gradually concentrating it at the South. Until the climate be reversed, it will not be practicable to restore this form of servitude at the North. The advantages, or disadvantages, therefore, attending it, must remain with you a matter of speculative enquiry only; and whilst such speculations must necessarily be without profit to you, experience is not wanting to show, that they are (to say no more of them) worse than useless to us. What effect either for good or ill, the loss of African slavery has worked on the superior race at the North, either as regards their social, or political condition, whether to elevate, or to depress, both or either, we at the South do not think it becomes us to determine. We may have our opinions, but it would be justly deemed intrusive, if not offensive, to express them. Yet we might, with as much propriety, challenge you to discuss such topics, with a view to affect or modify your social institutions, as you can challenge us, in reference to ours.

When, therefore, it has been ordained by physical laws that domestic servitude, as it exists at the South, must remain peculiar to that section; and when it is conceded, (as I must take for granted it is,) that the States in the respective sections, North and South, are alone to determine what is best for themselves, in regard to such institutions, I can see no propriety, far less wisdom, in the people of either section seeking to inquire into or to cavil at the social relations of another.

An experience of two centuries and a half has done much to enlighten the public judgement at the South, on the institution of slavery in the African race, as it exists there. We are satisfied not only to retain it, but, as far as we can by fundamental law, to insure its perpetuation amongst us. That experience and its results (for the reason assigned) can be of no value to you; and, considering that, that the people at the North cannot want information on the subject of slavery, for the purpose of determining what is best for themselves, there should be no seeming concession even, of their right so to determine for others. And lest such should be in any way implied, I deem it proper to decline (though I do so courteously as it was given,) your invitation to participate in the lectures proposed at Boston.

Very respectfully, I am, gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
J. M. MASON.

Mineral Resources of Virginia.
In the article upon the mineral resources of this State the Bedford Sentinel says: Lithographic Marble of superior quality, has recently been discovered in Giles county, Va., by Dr. P. F. Caldwell, lately a resident or practitioner in this place. It is yellow, very compact and admits of a beautiful polish. This kind of Marble has been found only in one location in North America, viz: near Lake Simco, in Canada. The Lithographic marble now extensively used by our printers is imported extensively from Germany and Holland.

In Giles, Montgomery, Wythe, and Carroll, other varieties of fine variegated marble are found, including the finest gray, blue and others mixed with colors of red, blue, white, green, black, &c. Ocher is also abundant.

Burr Mill-stone (such as is imported from France,) of fine quality is found in Giles; and Agate in great variety abounds in nearly all the South Valley counties. A conglomerated quartz stone, suitable for mill-stone for chopping grain or grinding plaster is found in the counties of Washington, Smythe, Montgomery, Monroe, Greenbrier, Albany and Pocahontas. A very superior quartz stone, valuable for mill-stones which cleaves in every direction is found on the land of Mr. Hawkins in the northern part of Campbell county.

A specimen of fine stone, suitable for sharpening razors, and other fine-edged instruments, has been found near Giles Court House by a Welch miner residing there. It is superior to any imported. Very fine stone suitable for similar purpose, is found about the Red Sulphur Springs in Monroe county; and other varieties, equal to the Hindostan or Turkey Oil stone abound in the same county; while the almost entire region of South western Virginia contains within its area inexhaustible beds of Gypsum, Salt, Iron and other valuable mineral products.

In short, our State is rich in mineral wealth, which when properly developed, will in a great measure, supersede the necessity for foreign importation.

Cooper's Clarksburg Register.



"Equal Rights and Equal Laws!"

CLARKSBURG, WEDNESDAY, NOV. 21, 1855.

Religious Notices.

INSTALLATION.—The Rev. Wm. Eaton will be installed Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Clarksburg, by permission of divine Providence, on Friday the 30th inst., at 11 o'clock. In this service the Rev. Mr. Biggs, of Morgantown, will preach the sermon; the Rev. Mr. Howal, of Kingwood, will deliver the charge to the Pastor; and the Rev. Dr. Fairchild, of Smithfield, Pa., will preside and deliver the charge to the congregation. Dr. Fairchild is expected to remain and assist in the administration of the Lord's Supper, on the Sabbath following the installation, viz: the first Sabbath of December.

The funeral sermon of B. C. Bartlett will be preached by Rev. A. J. Garrett, at West Milford, on the 1st Sabbath in December next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

REMOVAL.

The office of the Register has been removed to DESPARD'S ROW, on Kincheol street, four doors from the corner.

Benevolent Secret Societies and Know-Nothingism.

The following article appeared in the Age of Progress some time since. As we frequently do not receive the Age, and at other times give it only a cursory glance, we did not observe it at the time.

"In the procession of yesterday, which was altogether a splendid affair, we recognized the features of acquaintances belonging to one, two, and we believe three secret benevolent orders; and among them, some who are violent, to all appearances, to secret political societies."

"For our own part, regarding secrecy as criminal, so far, only as it conceals known crimes, we are not opposed to the Benevolent or the political Orders on that ground. Our conclusion is drawn from the belief that Benevolence, and sound political justice, are both branches of morality, and equally obligatory on the consciences of men."

"Will some one, show us our error if any in this conclusion."

"We have had specimens of the Register's wit, shall we be greeted with its logic."

This article is evidently intended as a hit at us, it being well known to our citizens that we are, or have been, a member of three secret benevolent societies.

We accept the banter of the editor of that paper and will endeavor to show him the "error" of his "conclusion."

The same difference exists between Know-Nothingism and all the secret benevolent societies of which we have any knowledge—the Masons, Odd Fellows and Sons of Temperance—that there is between Truth and Falsehood, Benevolence and Proscription, Universal Good-Will and Strife, Hatred and Violence. Masonry teaches us that Truth is a divine attribute and the foundation of every virtue; while it consecrates the efforts of every Odd Fellow, and leads him to victory in his war against vice in all its forms. A Know-Nothing is taught to dissemble upon his first entrance into the Council room—taught to deny the existence of the order and his membership therein. Within the walls of a Lodge-room we are taught a Benevolence which requires us to do unto others as we would that they should do unto us, and that it is our duty to assist the distressed, relieve the poor and put the misguided traveler on his way, without stopping to inquire his nation, tongue or creed. Know-Nothingism, on the contrary, is proscriptive, and claims for itself peculiar virtues; it says, not only to the foreigner and catholic, but to every American protestant who does not believe as it believes, "stand aside, I am holier than thou!" Our benevolent secret societies teach us that as we all sprang from the hand of one common parent, it is our duty to unite in offices of human benevolence, and cherish feelings of universal brotherly-love. Know-Nothingism is fruitful of strife, hatred and violence, not only with the rest of the world but among its own members.

The greatest objection that has been urged to the secret benevolent societies, is that they might be used for political purposes; and yet every member of them knows that while they inculcate a veneration for religion and subordination to civil government and its laws, it studiously avoids all affinity with systems of faith or sect, whether religious or political, and that no political, sectarian or other improper debate is permitted in a Lodge-room, under penalty of fine, suspension or expulsion. The difference of opinion on politics, religion, &c., among the members, is sufficient guaranty that these orders will never be prostituted to political or sectarian purposes. They meet for mutual counsel, the relief of the distressed and to assist each other in those ills which are incident to human life. We are charged to adhere to the essentials of religion, in which all men may agree, leaving each brother to his own judgement as to particular forms; to be quiet and peaceable citizens true to our government and just to our country, and to extend the open hand of charity to all, but especially a worthy brother. No atheist is ever admitted into a Lodge. Know-Nothingism, on the contrary, is an avowed secret political society, and is thus subject to all the objections which have been urged against Masons, Odd Fellows and

Sons of Temperance, by those who feared political action by them, with the addition of such as would naturally spring from the hypocrisy of those members that have opposed the benevolent orders for that reason; as it is well known that there are members of the Know-Nothing party, who all their lives have opposed secret societies, avowedly through fear of their being used for political purposes. One of the objects of Know-Nothingism is the proscription of a portion of the christian church, for worshipping God according to the dictates of the conscience of its members, while some of those engaged in that work, are themselves unbelievers, in revealed religion.

The secret benevolent societies, in their rules and regulations, seek to control only their own members; the action of Lodges does not affect those outside of them, but all who are interested, have a voice in their transactions. Know-Nothingism seeks universal dominion—in fact the very object of the organization is to give it an advantage over those who are outside the order—and the changes it proposes, affect all alike, whether members or opponents.

The secrets of the benevolent societies are only such as are necessary to prevent being imposed upon by those who have not shared their portion of labor and expense. We pay a certain amount of money which creates a fund to be used in the relief of each other, and our secrets are only such things as enable us to make ourselves known, that we may prove ourselves entitled to that relief. The secrets of Know-Nothingism, on the contrary, are for the express purpose of deceiving the balance of the world, and obtaining an advantage over them by that deception.

These are some of the differences between the secret benevolent societies and Know-Nothingism, and we submit it to the dispassionate consideration of the world if they are not very material differences. To our mind they are so great, that we cannot see how a person whose heart is sufficiently capacious or whose mind is sufficiently liberal to be a Mason or an Odd Fellow in spirit, and in truth, and embrace the wide range of universal benevolence and brotherly-love there inculcated, can bring himself down to the sordid, proscriptive and narrow-minded principles of Know-Nothingism.

We may advert to this subject again, as we feel that not half the differences have been told.

PRACTICAL JOKING.—A case of practical joking came off in town, last week which is too good to be lost. A young attorney, Mr. L., disguised himself and got the jailer to place him in one of the cells of that public institution, and then sent word to Col. W., that there was a man in jail who wished to employ him to defend him. The Col. went to the jail with bright visions of fees floating in his brain, but when he arrived at the cell in which the anticipated client was to be found, and discovering that he had been victimized, he shut the outside door of the cell, locked it, and putting the key in his pocket, walked off, leaving the joker tight enough "in jail," to meditate upon the propriety of playing pranks upon older members of the profession. He, however, in the course of the evening, gave up the key, and the young man was released from "durance vile."

THANKSGIVING DAY.—Thursday last was generally observed by our citizens, in accordance with the proclamation of the Governor, "in freedom from business or care," with the exception of a few who appeared either to have nothing to be thankful for or not disposed to be thankful for anything. Religious services were had in all the churches except the Baptist, the pastor of which was absent, which were well attended. The County Court adjourned over, the stores were closed and business generally suspended. Whatever may be done in future, the first Thanksgiving was properly observed in Clarksburg.

AN INDUSTRIOUS JUDGE.—Judge Camden at the recent session of the Circuit Court in Randolph county, sat early and late. On one occasion when a jury was out deliberating upon a case he gave directions upon the adjournment of Court in the evening, to ring the bell when the jury agreed upon a verdict, and he would convene the Court and receive the verdict. Accordingly at about 12 o'clock that night, the bell rang, and his honor repaired to the Court House and received the verdict of the jury.

POSTMASTER AT FETTERMAN.—We copied from an exchange last week, a paragraph stating that Isaac Carder had been appointed postmaster at Fetterman in place of David C. Norris, resigned. We have since been informed that such was not the fact.

THE ELECTIONS.—The Democrats have carried the States of New Jersey, Mississippi and Louisiana; the latter having been almost uniformly a Whig State.

The Know-Nothing have carried Maryland, which has almost always gone Whig heretofore.

In the States of New York, Massachusetts and Wisconsin, it is a good deal mixed up—each party carrying a portion of the offices.

LETTER FROM EUROPE.—Just previous to going to press we received one week's later news from Europe, the most important of which is the excited state of feeling among the English people upon the anticipated war with the United States. We copy the following, which is all we have room for this week, but would say in the mean time that the probability is that John Bull will cool down and that the war will end in words. Our minister at London, Mr. Buchanan, has acted very creditably in the premises.

The following is from the second edition of The Liverpool Journal:

"We have received a telegraphic message from London, conveying the most serious intelligence, and we do not vouch for its importance, for the information comes from a source which excites the possibility of doubt. We are anxious to be considered emphatic, for the country is on the eve of a war with the United States, unless public opinion is brought to work immediately on Her Majesty's ministers."

"An active interchange of diplomatic notes has taken place this week between the Earl of Clarendon and the American minister."

"The cause assigned by the British government for the appearance of our ships of war at Bermuda was the report of a Russian privateer being now fitted out in the port of New York, but the fact is denied; and it is well known that this is a mere pretext, for the real cause refers to the affairs of the Mosquito territory."

"The enlisting business never gave a moment's uneasiness; never occasioned an angry word from the government at Washington; never caused a solitary complaint against Mr. Crampton."

"The Mosquito question is the one which imperils the peace between Britain and the United States. It has been for some time a source of diplomatic disquiet between the two countries, and now to an open rupture. The American government considers a war highly probable, and the probability proceeds from certain conceptions of views entertained by Lord Palmerston."

"Mosquito territory extends from Cape Honduras to the river San Juan, and is proximate to Honduras and Nicaragua. It was a trouble to us in 1848, and is that part of Central America where different national and local interests now concentrate. To quarrel about it would be madness."

"THE DUTCH HAVE TAKEN HOLLAND."—Our Know-Nothing friends are very much rejoiced over their victory in Maryland. When with the exception of the Presidential election of 1852, did she go clearly Democratic? Sam appears to be very thankful for small favors for a man who last spring claimed everything.

For the Register.

MR. EDITOR:—I was much gratified with the quiet, orderly observance by our citizens, almost without an exception, of Thursday, the 15th inst., as a day of public Thanksgiving and relaxation from all worldly avocations, cares and employments; thus carrying out to the letter in spirit and truth, the wise and appropriate proclamation of the Governor, in recommending that day as above.

There was religious service, I believe, in every church, with good congregations, on that day, with the exception of the Baptist—their pastor residing in Pruntytown it would hardly be expected he would be up. The merchants and mechanics with one accord closed their stores and shops, with one, or possibly, two exceptions.

There was one thing, however, observable, on that day that brought to my mind an anecdote I had read many years ago, the moral of which, in subsequent life, has often been brought to my mind. With your permission, I will relate it. "It appears that many years ago, there lived in a certain neighborhood, a professor of religion—a member of the church, and if I mistake not, a Deacon or Elder in the Presbyterian Church. It seems also, that the Elder was a strict observer of the Sabbath and the ordinances of the Church, but with a great lover of fresh fish. It appears also, that on or near the Elder's premises was a small lake or pond, in which were an abundance of the finny tribe. It also appears that this Elder had a son rejoicing in the cognomen of John, who was much given to the sports of hook and line—or, in other words, whilst John was an obedient son, he was remarkably fond of fishing. Perhaps as fond of the sport as the Deacon a lover of the fish. Now it so happened on a fine Sabbath morning, early in the spring, when the fish began sporting near the surface of the water as if rejoicing at the dissolution of winter and the icy chains that had bound nature and covered the surface of the watery deep so long, that the Elder summoned John into his august presence and addressed him after this wise. 'John,' said the dignified and staid Elder, 'John, my son, this is Sunday—you will remember, John, this is the Sabbath and father is going to church, and you will remember to be good, as it is the Sabbath day, but you must remember John, that Father loves fish.'"

Automatic Hand Press.
This invention, for which a patent was obtained by Messrs. E. Mathers & W. D. Siegfried is now ready for market. Mr. M. has put up a working model, exhibiting the perfection to which the patentees have brought their improvement, and we may as well acknowledge that its beautiful operation has upset our skepticism as to its practical utility, cherished through the earlier progress of their work. Besides showing the operation of feeding sheets to the hand press and inking the form, (which is the design of the machine and which it performs with astonishing accuracy) the working model is a credit to the genius and mechanism of its builder. If the automatic feeder can be gotten up to such perfection of action on so small a scale as is represented in the model, there can be no difficulty in applying it to the ordinary hand press; and when so applied, a little practice will enable the pressman to throw off double the amount of work to the hour. The improvement, dispensing as it does, with the tympan, fricket and ordinary roller, can be put to the Washington, Smith or Columbian

press at a cost not of over \$50. As its typographic fraternity will soon have an opportunity to test its merits for themselves.—Morgantown Advertiser.

General Pierce.

"ACCIDENT OF AN ACCIDENT."—Rather than break their relations with such creatures as direct the slavery policy of President Pierce, they have consented to alienate from their organization Democrats like Preston King and Abijah Mann, either of whom is more valuable to whatever party they connect themselves than a wilderness of an accident who now dispenses the patronage of this government at Washington."

"We clip the above paragraph (says the New Hampshire Patriot) from a violent abolition article which appeared in the New York Evening Post of the 20th ult. It is but a specimen of that system of deliberate, but impotent, mendacity which has been so persistently and unscrupulously directed against General Pierce. The Abolition and Whig press, in this State and out of it, has expended a vast amount of its ammunition within the last ten years in assaults which have proved very harmless upon 'the accident of an accident,' as the trifler in the Post chooses to call the Chief Magistrate of the Union."

It is no part of our purpose now to speak of the President's attainments—of his admirable qualities, intellectually and morally—or of his distinguished services rendered to this State and to the country, in peace, and in war. New Hampshire long since, and through many successive years, and the people of this nation more recently, have attested their appreciation of his character, and their estimate is one which impartial history will pronounce just and well earned. If such language as we have quoted above has any just application to Franklin Pierce, his life certainly presents a very remarkable "chapter of accidents." Let the libellers look at a few brief facts among many, and compare his own life, or that of any gentleman in the whole range of his acquaintance, with the consistent, useful, brilliant career of the object of malevolent detraction."

In 1824 General Pierce left college with a high reputation for scholarship, in 1829 he was elected to the Legislature as the representative of his native town; in 1831 and '32, being one of the youngest among two hundred and fifty members, he was speaker of the house; in 1833 he was re-elected a member of Congress; in 1835 he was elected again by more than 9000 majority; in December, 1836, he was elected to the United States Senate, and took his seat in that body March 4, 1837; in 1842 he resigned his seat in the Senate, and until 1847 devoted himself exclusively to a vast and lucrative practice, holding a position of undisturbed pre-eminence at the bar of this State; in 1845 he was appointed to fill the vacancy in the United States Senate occasioned by the resignation of Judge Woodbury upon the transfer of the latter to the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States, but declined the appointment; in 1846 he declined the appointment of Attorney General for the Mexican war were called for during the same year, he enrolled himself as a private "for during the war."

In February, 1847, he was appointed colonel of the 9th infantry, and promptly raised that regiment. Soon afterwards he was commissioned brigadier general, and commanded a brigade during the stirring campaign of the valley of Mexico. In 1848, after the close of hostilities, he resigned his commission in the army and resumed his place at the bar of this State, and during the same year, was tendered by the unanimous voice of the Democratic party a nomination as its candidate for governor which he declined. In 1850 he was a member of the convention for the revision of the constitution of this State, and by that body, comprised of such men as Levi Woodbury, Charles G. Atherton, Ichabod Bartlett, Levi Chamberlain, William Plumer, James Bell, Daniel M. Christie, George W. Nesmith, Daniel Abbot, George Y. Sawyer, Edmund Parker, Andrew Pierce, Edwin D. Sanborn, and other gentlemen of eminence, General Pierce was elected its presiding officer by a vote of 257 to 7. In 1852 he was unanimously nominated as the Democratic candidate for the Presidency, and was elected (being then less than forty eight years of age,) by a larger majority than had been given for any of his predecessors."

This is but a glance at dates and facts extending over a period of nearly thirty years, but it is sufficient for our present purpose. Is such a life "the accident of an accident?"

FIRE AT THE WESTERN LUNATIC ASYLUM.—Our community was thrown into a state of great excitement and alarm on Thursday evening about dark by the appalling cry of fire. In a few moments the town was illuminated by a brilliant light which proceeded from one of the buildings of the Western Lunatic Asylum. Fires in a small town are always painful, but the idea of the burning of the buildings of the Lunatic Asylum, with its large number of poor, helpless inmates, caused a feeling of the most exquisite horror we have experienced. On arriving on the ground, we found the roof of the female ward building, situated in the rear of the main building and occupied by the worst class of patients, (27 females,) in full blaze. The poor creatures were speedily and safely removed to the other buildings of the Asylum, together with the crowd of anxious citizens who had hastily assembled, set to work with a hearty good will, but poor success, to extinguish the flames. The water from the asylum pipes was found to be wholly inadequate. Indeed there was not sufficient head to throw the water into the lower floor of the building by means of the hose. After an hour's delay, or more, the reservoir was filled from the town pipes, but even then there was not sufficient water to reach the eaves of the house. The result was, after burning for several hours, this beautiful building was almost entirely destroyed—the lower floor being saved and the second partially.—Staunton Vindicator.

The reason why man was made after everything else, was because if he had been created first, he would have annoyed the Almighty by endless suggestions of improvement.

Border Troubles.
For some time past the Lipan and Seminole Indians, who live in Mexico, have been committing depredations upon the citizens of Texas, murdering the people and carrying off a great deal of property. Finding the United States troops on the border, under Gen. Smith, inefficient in restraining the marauders, the people determined to take the matter in hand themselves. Captain Callahan raised a company of Rangers, and with the consent, it is said, of the Governor of Texas, and also of the Mexican Government, crossed over into Mexico to chastise the Indians. If the Mexican authorities at first gave consent to the pursuit of the Indians, it was subsequently withdrawn and succeeded by actual hostilities against the Texans. On the 3d of October, Callahan, with one hundred and thirteen men, encountered about one thousand Indians and Mexicans, and a fight ensued. The Texans lost five killed and wounded, and the enemy one hundred. Although successful in the engagement, Callahan was obliged to cross back to Texas, and to make good his retreat burnt the Mexican town Piedras Negras. The enemy therefore, instead of being chastised, are only exasperated, and further aggression upon the settlers are anticipated. Great excitement prevailed in Texas, and volunteers were assembling at Seguin and other points, to aid Callahan in a second invasion. Gen. Smith, in the mean while without orders from Washington, merely looks on, and Gov. Pease is accused of inefficiency from a fear of compromising the General Government.

This is the account given by a citizen of Seguin, who writes to the National Intelligencer. On the other hand it is feared that the affair will assume the form of a filibuster assault upon Mexico, and result in serious difficulties. The General Government will, no doubt, promptly interfere to punish the Indians, if necessary, and to prevent the Rangers, inflamed by passion and uncontrolled by competent and authorized officers, from the commission of unjustifiable acts towards the Mexican people.

The latest news from Western Texas contained in a despatch dated New Orleans, the 2nd inst., Capt. Callahan had disbanded his company. But seventy-eight men then remained at the rendezvous at San Antonio; and if this number was not increased to seven or eight hundred by the 15th of the expedition would be given up.

FROM OREGON AND WASHINGTON TERRITORY.—The Oregon papers are filled most exclusively with accounts of Indian depredations in Washington and Oregon territories.

General Palmer the Indian Superintendent, publishes a letter in which it is stated that the chief of the Wacoos reports that proposals have been made to all the tribes east of the Cascades to unite in a general war for exterminating the military to fight the Americans. The Oregon Standard (extra) of the 19th, under the head of "To Arms, To Arms," has the following: "The Belle has just arrived, and brings the startling intelligence that the troops under command of Major Haller have been surrounded by the Indians at a point about twenty-five miles from the Dalles. Haller's position is upon a hill with ravines and brush around him. His troops and animals have been without water for 48 hours. The Indians are constantly firing upon them. Haller calls for a thousand men to aid him."

The report of the death of Mr. Boland the Indian agent, is confirmed. A letter from Mr. Palmer, the Superintendent, says: "He was shot by the son of Shom-al-way, and then by the head of three others, seized and cut his throat. They then shot his horse, and made a fire over both and burned them up."

Among the current rumors is this: That Mr. Stuart, Capt. Wabass and 18 others have been murdered by them, on the White Salmon River. It was said that there were 500 Indians assembled within 15 miles of the White Salmon. The citizens at St. Helena and vicinity, and at the Cascades, fearing an attack from the Indians, some of them sent their women and children to the Willametta Valley for safety.

The Puget Sound Courier, of the 5th ult., is taken up with the Indian disturbances in that neighborhood. We copy the following from the Courier of the latest dates:

"By persons from Seattle we learn that five citizens of that place, who left in different companies for the Colville mines, have been murdered on the east side of the Cascade Mountains. We have the particulars concerning two, Messrs. Walker and Jameson. The names of the others are Stevens, Fanjoy and Eaton."

IMPORTANT MOVEMENT.—Our readers have been made acquainted with the exciting intelligence from Nicaragua, in regard to the imprisonment or detention of the United States Charge d'Affaires at Rivas, and of the outrage committed at Virgin Bay upon some of the California passengers on an American steamer, by which several persons were killed or wounded. The Government, we learn, has received dispatches from Mr. Wheeler relative to these unfortunate events, and it is rumored that they are of such a nature as to require prompt and serious attention. It is said, indeed, and to us the rumor has the air of probability, that the Administration has already ordered Commodore Paulding to proceed to Nicaragua in a ship-of-war, with special instructions to inquire into the circumstances attending these outrages.—Natl. Intel.

THE AMERICAN OFFICERS IN THE OREGON.—In the general orders issued from the British head-quarters at Sebastopol, October 9th, signed by Gen. Barnard, chief of the staff, we find the following item which was imperfectly reported by telegraph from Halifax: "No. 4.—The undersigned officers of the United States army will receive from the commissariat rations for themselves and servants, and forage for their horses, during their stay in the Crimea." Maj. Delafeld, United States Engineers; Maj. Mordecai, United States Artillery; Captain M. Clellan, United States Cavalry.

A wise man knows his own ignorance; a fool thinks he knows everything.