





FOREIGN NEWS.

Two Days Later From Europe.

The N. York Herald, contains two days later news from Europe brought by the packet ship Oxford, which left Liverpool on the 6th ult. She was detained off the coast ten days by head winds. The following is a summary of the news: The London market is rather firmer than on the sailing of the Acadia. The corn market has declined. The famine excitement has somewhat subsided. Although but two days later, the news is important, being in effect an announcement of the repeal of the Corn Laws. In other words, Parliament is to meet early in January, and the Cabinet have agreed to recommend an immediate consideration of the Corn Laws, with a view to their total repeal. Her Majesty's government had issued orders for 42,000 sets of accoutrements for the militia of the English counties, the whole to be ready on the 1st of March next. Cooke's Circus, at Glasgow, was, on Tuesday, totally destroyed by fire. The Altered Famine in Ireland.—The market in Dublin, on Wednesday, was better supplied with potatoes, which sold at lower prices than on any day for a week past. The provincial market notes represent a decline in the price of all kinds of grain, but potatoes are some what advanced. The high quotations in the Dublin lists. At the last Limerick market, cup potatoes were only 23 1/2d to 34 pence; white 11 1/2d per stone. At Newry, on Tuesday, the prices were exactly the same as at Limerick. Repeal of the Corn Laws.—Liverpool, Dec. 6. The London Times on Thursday (4th) surprised and delighted the public by the following rather unexpected announcement: "The decision of the cabinet is no longer a secret. Parliament, it is confidently reported, is to be summoned for the first week in January, and the Royal Speech will, it is added, recommend an immediate consideration of the Corn Laws, preparatory to their total repeal. Sir Robert Peel in one hour, and the Duke of Wellington in the other, will, we are told, be prepared to give immediate effect to the recommendation thus conveyed."

Eight Days Later From Europe.

The packet ship Iowa, from Havre, with dates to the 12th ult, was boarded one hundred miles below New York, on Tuesday afternoon, by an agent of the New York Herald, to which paper we are indebted for the following interesting intelligence: The news is of great importance, as exhibiting the feeling in England relative to the opening of the ports, and the negotiating a commercial treaty with the United States. The declaration of the London Times, of the 4th ult, that the English Cabinet had agreed upon the opening of the ports, and several other important measures, created a tremendous sensation throughout England and France. Its effect in London was like throwing a bombshell in the very midst of the bankers and politicians. It appears, however, that the Times, withdraws its statement, with the important qualification that the English ministry had changed its views, and that the ports would not be opened. Late & Important from Europe! FOUR DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE. Resignation of the British Ministry. The ship Liberty, at New York, left Liverpool on the 13th December. Her news was brought over Long Island, by express, for the New York Herald. From the N. Y. Herald, Jan. 18, P. M. Another of our magnificent fleets of new clipper, the Skimmer of the Sea, bound for the splendid ship Liberty, Capt. Norton, nearly one hundred miles at sea late yesterday afternoon, obtained very late and highly important intelligence from her, and sent it by an extraordinary express to the office of the N. Y. Herald. The Liberty sailed from Liverpool on the 13th ult, and brings papers to that date. The news which we have thus received is of the highest importance—of more consequence than any we have received in the last ten years. It is no more than the resignation of Sir Robert Peel, and the organization of a new Cabinet by Lord John Russell. The announcement of this important fact is important to the United States in a commercial point of view, as well, perhaps, in a political aspect, threw the whole English public into a state of great excitement. Its effect was tremendous. In addition to this, and as a necessary consequence, Parliament had been further prorogued, as the following exhibits:—"At the Court at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, the 10th day of December, 1855, present the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council. It is this day ordered by Her Majesty in Council, that the Parliament, which stands prorogued to Tuesday, the 10th day of December, next, be further prorogued to Tuesday the 30th day of December, inst." The Corn Law question has been the cause of all this. The effect that this news will have upon the relations between England and America, cannot but be of the utmost consequence. American cotton had improved. The following statement is made in the Liverpool Mercury of the 12th:—"The Messages of Peace to America.—An inquiry has been earnestly addressed to us from London, as to whether the news touching the expected opening of the ports really left England by the Acadia, from our river, at noon, on the 4th inst. Our reply is, and we can answer for the fact—it did so. We have entitled it a message of peace, because no one can doubt the effect of the announcement, especially if followed by realization, not only upon the Oregon question, but all other matters of discussion, between the two nations." This we know is a mistake. The announcement of the London Times did not come in the Acadia, although it was evidently intended for that steamer. RESIGNATION OF THE MINISTRY. "Sir Robert Peel's Government is at an end. All the members of the Cabinet yesterday tendered their resignation, which Her Majesty was pleased to accept. It will be easily believed that we regret

this determination of Her Majesty's advisers; but we should much more regret their unanimous determination to strip the industry of the country by stopping it of all protection. The important fact now announced proves how completely wrong the Times was when it stated that the Government had decided upon proposing to Parliament as a cabinet measure, the repeal of the corn laws.—Lon. Herald, Dec. 11. The Ministry of Sir Robert Peel has resigned. The country at large may be startled by a circumstance so unexpected, but such is the fact. Yesterday morning the Duke of Wellington, the Duke of Buccleuch, Sir Robert Peel, Sir James Graham, the Earl of Aberdeen, Lord Stanley, Mr. Goulburn, the Earl of Lincoln, and Mr. Sidney Herbert—in all, nine out of twelve or thirteen composing the entire cabinet, proceeded by a special train to Southampton, and were conveyed by the royal steamer Fairy to the Isle of Wight. At a court held at the Osborne House they tendered their resignation to Her Majesty, which was graciously accepted! Here is a sudden and abrupt termination of the Conservative cabinet, and that, too, at the very moment they were supposed, and even semi-officially announced, to have become the converted organs of free trade policy in all parliaments. Should a war take place with America, neither Aberdeen nor Hamilton could have carried it on with the spirit and skill suited to such a serious contest. The downfall of this heterogeneous Cabinet will be the worst news for Polk that he has received since his installation in office. The Syrian affair made an impression in America, which established the character of Palmerston for decision and personal spirit, and Polk would rather see any man in the Foreign office than a nobleman, who, since the days of Canning, is the only minister that has asserted the honor of the country in all her foreign relations.—London Sun, Dec. 11. On Wednesday last, at the council that assembled at Osborne House, Sir Robert Peel and every member of his cabinet tendered the resignation of their respective offices, and these resignations Her Majesty was graciously pleased to accept. The Queen has since entrusted to Lord John Russell the duty of forming a new cabinet. His Lordship appears to have received the very earliest information that his services were likely to be required, since we find that on Tuesday morning, immediately after the arrival of a messenger from London, the noble Lord quitted the neighborhood of Edinburgh on his way south. Yesterday Lord John Russell was honored with an audience by the Queen, at Her Majesty's residence in the Isle of Wight.—London Post, Dec. 11. London Corn Exchange, Dec. 11.—The downward movement in prices of agricultural produce continues, and if the purpose of the articles which have appeared in the Times has been to create a state of uncertainty and doubt, alike injurious to the farmer, the merchant, and miller, it has succeeded to admiration.

Twenty-Ninth Congress.

First Session. WASHINGTON, JANUARY 13, 1856. U. S. SENATE. Mr. Allen notified his intention at an early day to introduce a joint resolution declaratory of the principles by which the United States will be governed in regard to the interference of Foreign powers with the independent government of America. Mr. Benton and Mr. Dayton severally presented documents relative to the Washington National Monument Society, which were referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia. The Senate then proceeded to the orders of the day, and some few bills were passed over informally. The Senate then went into Executive session, and after some time spent therein adjourned. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. The Speaker announced the reception of reports from the Standing Committees to be the first business in order this morning. A resolution was offered, calling upon the Secretary of War for information as to the state of relations with the tribes of Indians in Texas, and all information in relation to the same. Several bills were reported for granting lands for internal improvement purposes in Michigan, Indiana, Arkansas, Missouri, &c. A large number of private bills were also reported. Mr. Tibbatts reported a bill in favor of certain improvements in the Harbor at Cincinnati, and for the protection of public property. A resolution was offered calling upon the Revolutionary Pension Committee to report as to the propriety of giving a pension to the widows of Revolutionary soldiers married between the years 1794 and 1800. The resolution was objected to and lies over. Mr. Andrew Johnson, of Tenn. offered a series of resolutions declaring that in the opinion of the House rotation in office is a Democratic principle and that no person should hold office more than eight years—also that those now in office should be divided by lots into four classes, one class to go out every two years, and that all appointments hereafter shall be appointed equally among the several congressional districts. Laid over. The rest of the session was consumed in receiving resolutions, of no particular interest, after which—

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January 14. Governments of Europe and the United States. Mr. Allen, in accordance with notice given yesterday, asked leave to introduce a joint resolution declaratory of the principle by which the United States will be governed in regard to the interference of the powers of Europe in the affairs of the independent governments of America. The resolution was read for information, and embodied the principle of Mr. Monroe, as set forth by Mr. Polk in his message, and declares that the United States will deem the interference of any European power with the social or political affairs of the independent nations of America as dangerous to its own safety and will resist accordingly. Mr. Calhoun said that every Senator must be aware that in the present condition of the country, this resolution was

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of grave importance. It will, said Mr. C. be a matter for us to reflect, if the resolution should be adopted, how far we will be prepared to carry out the measures it will render necessary. No man can view with stronger feelings than I do the improper interference of foreign nations with the independent governments of this continent. I look upon the intermeddling of the British and French governments in the affairs of Buenos Ayres as a gross outrage. But it is a question whether we are prepared to take care of all the republics of South America. If, said Mr. Calhoun, we are prepared, the entire energies of the country must be put forth to accomplish it. The subject requires time. I am sorry that it is put forth. It must have an unfavorable effect upon our foreign relations. The declaration of Mr. Monroe had a mischievous bearing on the questions we then had, of foreign policy. We are approaching great events, and I am afraid we are not approaching them with that solemnity which they demand. I regret that the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations has thought proper to introduce his resolution, and I hope he will not press it.

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Mr. Allen said he had not been without apprehension that even this proposition might encounter opposition in the Senate, but he had not supposed that the mere introduction of it would meet with opposition. It was not his intention to enter upon the subject at this time farther than to make a single remark in reference to what had fallen from the Senator from South Carolina. Mr. A. said that gentleman appeared to think that Congress ought to remain silent and leave the President unsupported in the declaration he had made in his message on this important subject. What would then be the case? The President communicates certain facts and announces the principle which he proposes to govern the U. S. in the matter. Having addressed himself to Congress, as required by his oath, if Congress should remain silent, that silence would be a proclamation to all the powers of Europe that the principle laid down is not recognized by the people of the United States. The subject is before Congress under circumstances which will make the silence of Congress amount to a negation of the principle laid down by the President. Mr. Calhoun objected to the manner in which the resolution had been introduced, being on the responsibility of the Chairman alone, and not emanating from the Committee on Foreign Relations. He thought this was sufficient reason for not receiving it. All of the Committee on Foreign Relations were appealed to one by one to sustain this position. Mr. Jarman moved that the motion for leave to introduce the resolution be laid on the table. The yeas and nays were ordered, and leave to introduce the resolution was refused, 28 to 23. All the Whig Senators, 23 in number, (Mr. Morehead being absent,) voted against receiving the resolution, as did also Messrs. Calhoun, Chalmers, Haywood, McDuffie and Westcott.

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A New Oregon Resolution. Mr. Crittenden, on leave, introduced a preamble and resolution, setting forth that it is desirable to terminate the treaty of joint occupancy, and giving authority to the President to give the twelve months' notice whenever in his opinion the public interest demands it; but giving it as the sense of the Senate, however, that the notice ought not to be given until after the present session. This Resolution lies over to the 10th of February with other Resolutions of the same character already before the Senate. The rest of the session was occupied in the consideration of a private claim, after which the Senate adjourned. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. The reading of the journal was omitted, and the House on motion of Mr. Pettit, went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union. Mr. Chase, of Tenn. addressed the House, in favor of giving the notice to Great Britain. He argued that it was not a war measure, and expressed his opinion that it would lead to war. Mr. C. defended the notice to Great Britain, and said that to give the notice would lead to a speedy and specific settlement of this question. The only effect would be to lead to a more speedy settlement of this question. Mr. Gordon, of New York, next addressed the House. We were as much prepared for war now as we ever were, and he trusted we ever should be. We have two millions of fighting men, and eighteen millions of people, and he trusted that we should never be better prepared for war than we were at present. Standing armies were not our policy, and he had rather suffer for one year if war came, than to have a standing army—Our title to the whole of Oregon was as clear and unquestionable up to 54° 40'.

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Mr. Brinkerhoff of Ohio addressed the House in favor of the notice, and in vindication of our title to the whole of Oregon. Mr. B. was not the advocate of war, but of war measures, though he did not believe that war would come. Mr. Wentworth next addressed the Committee for the whole of Oregon or none—now or never. Mr. Wentworth, in the course of his speech cast some aspersions on the South for her course on this question, which were indignantly repelled by Messrs. Houston, Chapman and Yancy. Mr. Chipman followed, and kept the House in a roar of laughter for more than an hour. The House then adjourned. JANUARY 15. U. S. SENATE. Sundry resolutions of inquiry heretofore offered were taken up and adopted. When the Senate went into Executive Session at an early hour, and after some time spent therein, adjourned over until Monday next. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. Private bills were reported, when the House went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union. The Oregon Debate. Mr. Tibbatts of Ky. took the Chair, and the debate was resumed upon the merits of the Oregon question. Mr. Cooke of Tenn. addressed the Committee in a very sensible speech against the notice. He argued that if given, it would lead to a suspension of negotiations, and inevitably, in his view, to a war with England. Mr. C. descanted at length upon the horrors of war, and pronounced a warning

the party who plunged the country unnecessarily into a war. Mr. Badinger of Va. next addressed the House. Though a friend of the administration he opposed the notice. He claimed the Oregon and every rood and acre of Oregon up to 54° 40'. To secure this he was for delay, and believed that delay alone would secure the whole of Oregon. Having once offered the forty-ninth degree as the line we should have to accept if when offered by England unless we should choose to say to her, as in his judgment we should, that we were not prepared to settle this question, and therefore we would delay it. Mr. B. argued at length, and earnestly, that delay would secure us the whole of Oregon, and that he was not therefore for any "masterly inactivity" but that which would secure us our whole claim. Mr. Badinger deprecated the assaults and insinuations from Western men against the South. They were called for, and unnecessary. Mr. B. then addressed himself very personally towards Mr. Giddings, of Ohio, calling him a "peevish" and less of a statesman and a patriot, for faithfulness to his country and its manifold interests than were the Slaves of the South to their masters. The Slaves would scourge the member home if he were to go among them. Mr. B. was called to order by the Chairman, but not until he had said all he wished. Mr. Morse of Va. addressed the Committee in favor of giving the notice, regarding this as at least the commencement of action upon this subject. He was for notice, because negotiations were suspended. The British Government had rejected a peaceful proposition from us for the fourth and he trusted for the last time. He desired to give the notice before England would have time to accept it again or to offer it to us. If England should propose it to us, we should be bound in honor to accept it. Mr. Dobbin of N. C. addressed the House in favor of giving the notice. He regarded it as a peace measure, and as such defended it at some length. The policy proposed by Mr. Badinger he regarded as ungenerous, and for a magnanimous nation like ours, unjust. Our first duty was to put an end to the treaty which tied up our hands. This done, negotiations would be resumed, and the question settled within the year. Hitherto it had baffled the master-minds of the country, such men as Calhoun, Buchanan, Clay, Gallatin and others. Mr. D. said nothing against the compromise of 49, and is probably for it. The floor was given to Mr. Rockwell, of Conn. after Mr. Dobbin had closed, and the Committee rose. After which the House adjourned.

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January 16. The Senate was not in session to-day. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. After various Reports from Committees the House went into Committee of the Whole when the debate upon the Oregon Resolution from the Committee on Foreign Affairs was resumed. Mr. Rockwell of Conn. addressed the Committee. The district which he represented was deeply interested in the subject before the House. From his constituents without distinction of party he had received a memorial asking that Pacific measures might be adopted for the settlement of this question. They had some 120 ships in the Pacific and elsewhere, worth three or four millions of dollars. They were not timid men, as if history of the country would show, and if it was necessary, they pledged themselves now to spill the last drop of blood in defence of their country. It became such men to talk about fighting, much better than it did us, but all these men asked for peaceful measures. They asked it without distinction of party, and he was glad that this was not to be a party question, at least among the people. Mr. Pollock of Pa. a Whig member, addressed the Committee in defence of the superiority of our title to the whole of Oregon. To 49° it was clear, and ought to be unquestionable. Beyond that he was willing to admit there was room for cavil. Our Government in 1818, 1824, 1836 and 1845, had recognized in the most marked manner that Great Britain had rights to a portion of the Oregon. It was idle, therefore, to say she had no claim. We had made it to by too many offers of compromise from the time of Albert Gallatin to our present Secretary of State. Mr. Pollock said that this question assumed a grave importance, and it became so promptly, immediately, to meet the danger, even if it should remotely come upon us. He would vote to-morrow for an expenditure of fifty millions of dollars and for forty steam vessels. A Voice from vessels. A Voice from vessels. Yes, from vessels and thereby afford identical protection to Pennsylvania Iron. The best way, said Mr. P. in conclusion to avoid danger is to meet it plumply. Mr. Goodyear of N. Y. next addressed the Committee in favor of the notice, and discussed the question with a higher sense of true national honor than any man of the dominant party from the free States. The floor was given to Mr. Pendleton of Va. upon whom motion the Committee rose and the House adjourned.

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January 17. The Senate did not sit to-day. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. Mr. McConnell made an ineffectual attempt to introduce a resolution directing the Committee on ways and means to report on the expediency of repealing the duty on salt and iron. The House then went into Committee on the bill to carry into effect the convention between this government and Peru. At 9 o'clock, the Committee rose. Mr. Dromgoule then took the floor, and announced that early this morning the Hon. William Taylor, one of the representatives from Virginia, departed this life. He died at his boarding house, in F. street, where he has been sick for many weeks. His death was remarkably sudden. He was walking about yesterday, and half an hour before his death cast a hearty meal. Mr. Dromgoule concluded by offering the usual resolutions; after which, as a testimony of respect to the memory of the deceased, the House immediately adjourned.

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January 19. Both Houses of Congress attended the funeral of the Hon. WILLIAM TAYLOR, a member of the House of Representatives, whose death was announced on Saturday last. The New York papers mention the death of Mr. HENRY INMAN, the celebrated portrait painter.

VIRGINIA FREE PRESS.

CHARLESTOWN: THURSDAY MORNING, January 22, 1856. Virginia Legislature.

Correspondence of the Free Press.

Richmond, Jan. 17. I shall not attempt to give the business of the week in detail, as this would cover too wide a space for the little interest contained in it. Among the local measures which I deem of interest, I may mention the passage of the bill to incorporate the Harpers-Ferry and Shenandoah Manufacturing Company, with a capital of from three to three hundred thousand dollars. I consider this one of the most important measures that has occurred (or is to occur) for many years. The Island of Virginia is to be the location of this establishment, and from the great facilities afforded for carrying on a manufactory with a capital of twelve millions of dollars, to construct a Railroad from Richmond to the Ohio River. The bill proposes to allow the company to expend two millions of dollars in the purchase of lands and in the establishment of manufactories. This feature meets with the strongest opposition. No money is asked on the part of the State. The friends of the Northern Road, connecting with the Louisa Road at Gordonsville, and running by way of Staunton and the Virginia Springs, are also active in behalf of their scheme, which they contend to be entirely practicable, and 50 miles shorter. Besides, they present the part already constructed, 45 miles beyond Richmond, as an inducement of no little magnitude. The South Western Road Bill was reconsidered during the week, and passed on Friday by a handsome majority. This affords great joy to the members from that region, who anticipate no difficulty in the Senate. The Road is to be commenced at Salem in Botetourt, and the bill appropriates \$75,000 to begin with. The Small Note Bill was debated earnestly on Friday, in the House, and passed by a majority of 11. Its fate in the Senate is doubtful, unless there have been changes in a quarter little expected. In the Senate, on Thursday, an earnest debate took place on an amendment to a bill, proposing to abolish all musters, except of volunteers. There were found to be too many military men in the body to allow any change for the better. And so the old system stands. The subject of Education was discussed to-day, on the adverse report of the Committee of Schools and Colleges. This report is against the District System, and for an enlargement and extension of the Primary School plan now existing. Messrs. Southall and Barwell sustained the old system. Mr. Yerby wished to add \$100,000 annually to the Literary Fund, whatever scheme might prevail, as a foundation for the work; and Mr. Edgerton battled gallantly for the District plan, reported by the Education Convention.—The subject is laid over for a week. I fear nothing substantial will be done.

MR. WALKER ON THE TARIFF.

Washington letter writers state that Mr. Walker, Secretary of the Treasury, will soon make a special report to Congress for the reduction of the Tariff. What would the "Democracy" of the olden time have thought of a Federal officer of the Government, who would frame a certain bill in a certain way, and command them to pass it *no less* voters? Yet in this age of pure democracy, it is not only countenanced by a tacit submission, but absolutely sanctioned by the party. This is the age of progression, and the "democracy" are truly profiting by the spirit of the times. They adopt all manner of new theories, and the resolutions of '93. We have seen a letter published from the Hon. C. Hudson, who thinks the fate of the Tariff settled. To save it in the House, we must have every Whig vote, and about 36 of the Democratic votes, and Mr. H. says he thinks he cannot reckon on more than 25. In the Senate, if the two Texas Senators, who will be before the subject is acted upon, be free trade men, as they without doubt are, of course no hope can be entertained of arresting the suicidal policy of Mr. Walker there. If Mr. Hudson is correct in his calculations in the House, we will of course soon be under the influence of a Locofoco Tariff. Of one thing, however, we are very certain—the principle of protection will be recognized—and if this principle is retained, then Whig doctrine will still constitute its elementary part, and the hot-spots of the Palmetto State will again receive "the cold shoulder." This principle must be retained, both on iron and sugar, else the iron men of Pennsylvania with their 250 furnaces and numerous forges, and the dependants upon these works, who number thousands, will raise such a "fiare-up" in the camp as will be neither a "cold wind" nor a "cold breeze" to the ears of Mr. Polk, or his prime minister—Robert J. Walker—who imagines himself to be in the line of preferment. Though a Pennsylvanian by birth he has alienated himself by his opposition to her cherished principles, and under no circumstances whatever can he expect the support of those with whom he is at open variance on principles, in the maintenance of which, depends her future greatness and glory. The sugar planter of Louisiana will make it a "hot seat" for Mr. Polk whenever he or his agents meddle with their peculiar interest—and in the middle, we are inclined to believe that the President will be forced out of choice, to support the principle of discriminating duties.

THE OREGON QUESTION.

It must be evident to every one who takes with the people that they are decidedly averse to any hostility between this country and Great Britain—and that while the matter left to the peace-loving, intelligent, and patriotic of our countrymen, that it might be settled fairly and amicably by negotiation—the great pacificator in christian countries. It must be perceptible, also, that Mr. Polk, who declared with so much boldness that our title was "clear and unquestionable," is now flinching from the responsibility incident to the maintenance of such an assertion. He and his Cabinet have avowed this war spirit, and now they would be most happy could they charm it to slumber. This perplexity of affairs—this running up of passions and firing an excited public mind, might all have been avoided, had Mr. Polk been satisfied with his party triumph, and omitted the bluster about Oregon in his inaugural—and now in his uncomfortablest hour, is respecting the natural fruit of his first production—he has blown to the wind and is now reaping the whirlwind. Many sound and patriotic men have been convinced by the arguments furnished, of our clear title to the whole of Oregon, and it will be no easy matter to induce them now to tack about and follow the example of paid drivellers and political demagogues. The agitation of this subject was doubtless considered a master stroke of political policy by Mr. Polk, designed to work on the people of the West who are excitable on the subject. But he has wisely mistaken his mark. Instead of the question assuming a party hue, it has to all intents and purposes, become one that implacable and unappeasable demand—party fury. In the language of Mr. Giles, of Md., "it has outdone all party distinction, and swept over all party lines." The purpose of Mr. Polk was to make it a strictly party question, in which he has been foiled most signally by the action of the Whigs—first in the Senate, on Mr. Cass's resolutions; secondly, by the course Mr. Calhoun and his friends have marked out; and thirdly by the action of John Quincy Adams and other prominent Whigs in the House, who manifest a disposition to go for the notice, and of Mr. Rhet and other Southern Calhoun men who oppose it. The whole game of the Administration is shown up by the following article, from one of the most ultra and rabid Locofoco papers of the West, and which is said to be under the influence of Mr. Allen.—Speaking of the possible postponement of the notice, or rather the opposition to it from Mr. Calhoun and others, says:—"We are prepared to see our wishes thwarted in the present Congress. It will then, enter our next elections, in a clear and unequivocal manner, forming an element of importance not to be exaggerated. In the West we expect with us numerous adherents to the notice, and we are confident of jealousy of our advances in numbers, wealth and political power." This was the ground work of the whole affair—expected opposition from the Whigs as a party—and the expected capital to be made therefrom for the campaign of 1848. Defeated in this, the plotters stagger under the responsibility they have assumed, and are alike chagrined and mortified at the result thus far. Were these same demagogues satisfied that it would be popular, and political capital might be made therefrom, they would not hesitate to change their position and oppose the measure with all the asperity of new converts—despite their cant about patriotism and love of country.

THE MILITIA SYSTEM.

We had complaints in the other States as well as our own, against the miserable system of dragging men from their homes to muster, without arms or any thing else to raise the exhibition above a farce of the most disgusting order. The New York Evening Mirror says of the system of that State what may be justly said here, that it "is a laughing stock and a by-word," and that "it is hardly fair to subject those who refuse to be made laughing stocks also, to a fine for the offence." Yet we doubt not most of the militia men would willingly pay a regular tax of a small amount, than engage in a business so utterly useless. How is it we can get no remedy? Why is it that the people do not speak out in a body every year, until their representatives are compelled to make a change. PUBLIC DEBT OF PENNSYLVANIA. The history of the financial condition of Pennsylvania, furnishes a striking illustration of that sound maxim, "that a state should never add to its debt while its faith has been forfeited." Pennsylvania is now burthened with an enormous State debt of \$40,956,393.22—exclusive of the amount received from the General Government on deposit, which, however, it is not likely she will be called on for. Should the General Government refuse the refunding of the money given by the distribution act of Congress, Pennsylvania will not prove the only defaulter. We fear that even the Old Dominion would not be ready to "square up," notwithstanding the chivalric specious of her chivalrous sons, who are ever ready, with bombastic strains, to eulogize her as in the zenith of her glory. The debt of Pennsylvania has increased in ten years, \$16,396,649.90, although she has received in the meantime \$2,567,514.78 of surplus revenue from the General Government, as well as \$3,446,780.21, as premium for Bank Charters.—We here find an aggregate of \$22,750,000 legislated away, and no meritorious objects of State policy, of any magnitude, bettered or more progressed. The Governor in his message, urges in strong terms the necessity of maintaining the faith of the State, by the prompt payment of the interest which falls due from time to time.

THE ADMINISTRATION IN TROUBLE.

Those who have marked the progress of affairs, must have long since observed that the Administration has been in trouble ever since its organization. And that its troubles have only been increased by the agitation of the Oregon question. At the time Mr. Calhoun consented to return to the Senate, and after his arrival in Washington, the impression was general that he was to be the Administration leader in that body, which impression was strengthened from the fact of his being placed as chairman of the committee of Finance, one of the most important offices in the Senate. There exists but little doubt of his having given his consent to the arrangement—and that the President would have been gratified and his private wishes carried out by the appointment.—As his feelings and sympathies are all on the side of Mr. C., and he would have been perfectly willing to have followed in his lead on the Oregon question. The Western members were opposed however, in toto, to the temporizing course Mr. Calhoun had marked out for them, and with one accord, they "slipped the cable," and presented the bold front of "Oregon—war, or no war." Mr. Polk was thus placed in a strait from which he could not easily extricate himself, preferring the influence of the hardy West, inasmuch as it is of more political consequence to him than the "chivalry" of the South; he flinches, and prettily to have left Mr. Calhoun to work pretty much "on his own hook." These statements receive strong confirmation from the fact of Mr. Calhoun's having lately been excused from serving on the Committee of Finance at his own urgent request. The Administration has many vexatious cares also on account of the various aspirants for the course in 1848. Each are vying with the other for the propitious smiles of "the President," and he, being the stern principle so regarded for one in authority, is harassed and vexatious almost beyond endurance. Gen. Cass, Secretary Buchanan, Secretary Walker, and a score of "small fish" are all "trimming" in order to be in proper light.

THE LOUDOUN SENATORIAL DISTRICT.

We are gratified to find, says the Richmond Whig, that Gen. ASA REXAS is a candidate for re-election in the District composed of the counties of Loudoun and Fairfax. If experience in legislation—uniform calmness, dignity and courtesy—added to an intelligence equal to any subject presented for consideration—are qualifications for a Senator, then we have no hesitation in saying that Gen. R. is, in all respects, a most suitable representative of the steadfast and reflecting people of his District. Opposition is spoken of, both from the opposite party and from a Whig, but we have no doubt the Whig party of the District will take prudent measures to prevent injury to the cause. A NEW SECT. The New York correspondent of the Philadelphia Star states that a new religious society has been started in that city, under the title of the Gladiators. They have some curious forms and ceremonies both in church and out of it. One of their oddest peculiarities is their mode of saluting people in the streets. They are practical physiognomists, and profess to know a man's character, and the state of his heart, by the expression of his countenance. If they like a person's looks, they salute him by saying, "Give your love to the Lord." If they see anything that displeases them in a stranger's face, they merely say, "The devil is in you," and pass on.

HEART-RENDING EVENT.

The Norfolk Herald contains an account of the wreck, on Tuesday the 6th, of the schooner Comet, on the North Point of the Breckers, near Ocracoke, by which all on board perished. A letter to the editors says:—"Besides the crew, there were two young men, the sons of Mr. Stephen Long of Williamson, promising, interesting youths, in the very morning of manhood, the pride and hope of their heart-stricken, unfortunate parents. "But, O sir, how shall I describe the awful calamity which the news of the death of her commander, Captain Thomas S. Chase, our townsman has brought to his poor disconsolate widow and two helpless babes; so intense and overpowering was her distress, at the unhappy fate of her affectionate husband, that it is impossible to say how long she has been in the dreadful trial. Last night between one and five o'clock, she arose from her bed, and though severely cold, plunged into the river with both her children. The body of Mrs. C. has been recovered, but as yet neither of the poor innocents."

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VIRGINIA FREE PRESS.

CHARLESTOWN: THURSDAY MORNING, January 22, 1856. Virginia Legislature.

Correspondence of the Free Press.

Richmond, Jan. 17. I shall not attempt to give the business of the week in detail, as this would cover too wide a space for the little interest contained in it. Among the local measures which I deem of interest, I may mention the passage of the bill to incorporate the Harpers-Ferry and Shenandoah Manufacturing Company, with a capital of from three to three hundred thousand dollars. I consider this one of the most important measures that has occurred (or is to occur) for many years. The Island of Virginia is to be the location of this establishment, and from the great facilities afforded for carrying on a manufactory with a capital of twelve millions of dollars, to construct a Railroad from Richmond to the Ohio River. The bill proposes to allow the company to expend two millions of dollars in the purchase of lands and in the establishment of manufactories. This feature meets with the strongest opposition. No money is asked on the part of the State. The friends of the Northern Road, connecting with the Louisa Road at Gordonsville, and running by way of Staunton and the Virginia Springs, are also active in behalf of their scheme, which they contend to be entirely practicable, and 50 miles shorter. Besides, they present the part already constructed, 45 miles beyond Richmond, as an inducement of no little magnitude. The South Western Road Bill was reconsidered during the week, and passed on Friday by a handsome majority. This affords great joy to the members from that region, who anticipate no difficulty in the Senate. The Road is to be commenced at Salem in Botetourt, and the bill appropriates \$75,000 to begin with. The Small Note Bill was debated earnestly on Friday, in the House, and passed by a majority of 11. Its fate in the Senate is doubtful, unless there have been changes in a quarter little expected. In the Senate, on Thursday, an earnest debate took place on an amendment to a bill, proposing to abolish all musters, except of volunteers. There were found to be too many military men in the body to allow any change for the better. And so the old system stands. The subject of Education was discussed to-day, on the adverse report of the Committee of Schools and Colleges. This report is against the District System, and for an enlargement and extension of the Primary School plan now existing. Messrs. Southall and Barwell sustained the old system. Mr. Yerby wished to add \$100,000 annually to the Literary Fund, whatever scheme might prevail, as a foundation for the work; and Mr. Edgerton battled gallantly for the District plan, reported by the Education Convention.—The subject is laid over for a week. I fear nothing substantial will be done.

MR. WALKER ON THE TARIFF.

Washington letter writers state that Mr. Walker, Secretary of the Treasury, will soon make a special report to Congress for the reduction of the Tariff. What would the "Democracy" of the olden time have thought of a Federal officer of the Government, who would frame a certain bill in a certain way, and command them to pass it *no less* voters? Yet in this age of pure democracy, it is not only countenanced by a tacit submission, but absolutely sanctioned by the party. This is the age of progression, and the "democracy" are truly profiting by the spirit of the times. They adopt all manner of new theories, and the resolutions of '93. We have seen a letter published from the Hon. C. Hudson, who thinks the fate of the Tariff settled. To save it in the House, we must have every Whig vote, and about 36 of the Democratic votes, and Mr. H. says he thinks he cannot reckon on more than 25. In the Senate, if the two Texas Senators, who will be before the subject is acted upon, be free trade men, as they without doubt are, of course no hope can be entertained of arresting the suicidal policy of Mr. Walker there. If Mr. Hudson is correct in his calculations in the House, we will of course soon be under the influence of a Locofoco Tariff. Of one thing, however, we are very certain—the principle of protection will be recognized—and if this principle is retained, then Whig doctrine will still constitute its elementary part, and the hot-spots of the Palmetto State will again receive "the cold shoulder." This principle must be retained, both on iron and sugar, else the iron men of Pennsylvania with their 250 furnaces and numerous forges, and the dependants upon these works, who number thousands, will raise such a "fiare-up" in the camp as will be neither a "cold wind" nor a "cold breeze" to the ears of Mr. Polk, or his prime minister—Robert J. Walker—who imagines himself to be in the line of preferment. Though a Pennsylvanian by birth he has alienated himself by his opposition to her cherished principles, and under no circumstances whatever can he expect the support of those with whom he is at open variance on principles, in the maintenance of which, depends her future greatness and glory. The sugar planter of Louisiana will make it a "hot seat" for Mr. Polk whenever he or his agents meddle with their peculiar interest—and in the middle, we are inclined to believe that the President will be forced out of choice, to support the principle of discriminating duties.

THE OREGON QUESTION.

It must be evident to every one who takes with the people that they are decidedly averse to any hostility between this country and Great Britain—and that while the matter left to the peace-loving, intelligent, and patriotic of our countrymen, that it might be settled fairly and amicably by negotiation—the great pacificator in christian countries. It must be perceptible, also, that Mr. Polk, who declared with so much boldness that our title was "clear and unquestionable," is now flinching from the responsibility incident to the maintenance of such an assertion. He and his Cabinet have avowed this war spirit, and now they would be most happy could they charm it to slumber. This perplexity of affairs—this running up of passions and firing an excited public mind, might all have been avoided, had Mr. Polk been satisfied with his party triumph, and omitted the bluster about Oregon in his inaugural—and now in his uncomfortablest hour, is respecting the natural fruit of his first production—he has blown to the wind and is now reaping the whirlwind. Many sound and patriotic men have been convinced by the arguments furnished, of our clear title to the whole of Oregon, and it will be no easy matter to induce them now to tack about and follow the example of paid drivellers and political demagogues. The agitation of this subject was doubtless considered a master stroke of political policy by Mr. Polk, designed to work on the people of the West who are excitable on the subject. But he has wisely mistaken his mark. Instead of the question assuming a party hue, it has to all intents and purposes, become one that implacable and unappeasable demand—party fury. In the language of Mr. Giles, of Md., "it has outdone all party distinction, and swept over all party lines." The purpose of Mr. Polk was to make it a strictly party question, in which he has been foiled most signally by the action of the Whigs—first in the Senate, on Mr. Cass's resolutions; secondly, by the course Mr. Calhoun and his friends have marked out; and thirdly by the action of John Quincy Adams and other prominent Whigs in the House, who manifest a disposition to go for the notice, and of Mr. Rhet and other Southern Calhoun men who oppose it. The whole game of the Administration is shown up by the following article, from one of the most ultra and rabid Locofoco papers of the West, and which is said to be under the influence of Mr. Allen.—Speaking of the possible postponement of the notice,







