THE STATE SENTINEL.

ETERNAL VIGILANCE IS THE PRICE OF LIBERTY.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1845.

☞Since our last number issued, Gov. Whitcomb has returned from Jeffersonville, whither he went for the purpose of examining into the progress and condition of the New State Prison, with the view of proposing a change in the discipline and employment of the convicts, as required by an act of the legislature. Soon after he reached that place, he was attacked by sickness, and was in consequence, detained there for the purpose of receiving medical assistance until his health should be sufficiently re-established, longer than he expected. This circumstance, it is hoped, will satisfactorily account to his numerous correspondents in the mean time, for the unavoidable delay in replying to their communications.

Indiana Bondholders.

We find the following in the Journal of Commerce of the 6th inst. We copy it as additional evidence to that which we have already presented, to show certain Whig editors that they have been mistaken in the grounds they have assumed in relation to the subject. We are indisposed to continue our remarks at present, further than to express regret that the State creditors seem so much opposed to any measure of compromise; for without some compromise, we confess we can at present anticipate no ways or means for a speedy resumption of the payment of the State obligations:

INDIANA.—It has been extensively published that the holders of Indiana bonds in this country and Europe, (to the amount of six or eight millions of dollars,) had, through an agent, made a formal offer to the Governor and Legislature of Indiana at its recent session, to take a new stock bearing only three per cent. interest, in payment and satisfaction of the bonds now held by them, and which draw five per cent; and it is stated that the agent proposed to fund the four years back interest due on the bonds, and the interest coming due up to 1848–9, at which time interest on the new stock was to commence.

These statements are liable to do great injury to the bona fide holders of Indiana bonds, and also to the credit and character of the State of Indiana.

We have the best reason for saying that no such proposition has been made to the State of Indiana, by authority of the original and bona fide bondholders in Europe, and that they have had no agent for any such purpose at Indianapolis, during the session of the legislature which has just closed. Nor do we believe that any such authority has been given by the holders of any considerable amount of the bonds in this country. The bondholders in Europe have at different times memorialized the Governor and Legislature to do something for their relief, at the earliest practicable moment; but this is a very different thing from offering to reduce the rate of interest to three per cent.

It should be borne in mind that the bonds of Indiana are held chiefly in Europe, where they were sold at an early day, and, though drawing only five per cent. interest, commanded a high price in the market. Next to Ohio, Indiana was regarded as the best of the Western States, looking to the products, position, character and population of the State; and many who purchased them at the high prices which they readily commanded before the State made default in the payment of interest, have continued to hold them to the present time, in the confident expectation of ultimate ability on the part of the State to pay the whole. It is not at all probable that such persons have any thought of making such a proposition of compromise, and subjecting themselves to a loss which they are ill able to bear, and which, in their opinion, the character and position of the State do not call for.

On the same subject, we find the annexed in the N. Y. Morning News of the 6th. The "Tribune," we need not remind our readers, has for a long time assumed a tone of the most virulent abuse towards this State, for which, we have no doubt, it has been *well paid*. The News observes:

Our contemporary, (the Tribune,) after making repeated false statements in relation to the proposition fraudulently made to Indiana in compromise of its debt, has now on the authority of one of the large bond holders receded from its position, and acknowledged its misapprehension of the whole affair. With characteristic pertinacity, however, it adheres to its remaining errors, and will yield them only one by one, as it becomes laboriously instructed in the matter. It is an old saying and a good one, "when you know nothing say nothing."

A Sensible Whig!

The Lebanon, Ohio, Star, an inveterate whig paper, does not talk so foolishly as its brethren in this State, in relation to the postponement of the election of U. S. Senator. The Star says—

"The Locofoco Lieutenant Governor of Indiana refused to permit the Legislature to go into an election for Senator this winter. Notwithstanding the indignation of our Whig brethren of the press against this act, we are bound to believe it is in accordance with the will of the people of Indiana. A majority of them voting for the annexation of Texas, for the extension of slavery, against the distribution of the proceeds of the public lands—for all the Locofoco measures and against all the Whig. If, therefore, you elect a Whig Senator, he will support Whig principles, and defeat the will of the majority. But, if there is any doubt as to the wishes of Indiana in regard to these great measures, submit them again to the people at the polls. If they return a majority of Whigs to the Legislature it will be taken as an evidence of a change of sentiment; if not, a Locofoco majority will send a locofoco to the Senate, and the voice of the majority will be respected. If the people prefer Locofoco policy, let them have it, and they *will have it* in the end if crossed in their desires. We are in favor of cramming it down their throats until like epicac it sickens their stomachs, and until like that medicine, it forces up, unbidden, all the abominations of their inner man. Pour it down them, without stint or reserve, and the day will come when they will beg lustily to be delivered from its effects.

"Reverse the question. Suppose the Whigs had a majority of the Senate of Indiana and the Locofocos a majority in the House sufficient to elect in a joint vote, and that at the Presidential election Mr. Clay had received a majority equal to Mr. Polk, we ask—would the Whig Senate, under such circumstances, go into an election and thus set aside the clearly expressed wishes of the people? If the Indiana Whigs want a Whig Senator let them go to work and revolutionize the State. First make the State Whig, and then, and not till then, will she be entitled to a Whig Senator."

MICHIGAN SENATOR.—General Cass was elected U. S. Sena or for Michigan on the 4th inst., in place of Mr. PORTER, whose term will expire on the 4th of March next. He received the vote of all the democrats of the House, and all but two of the Senate.

☞A sixth trial for the election of a Mayor of Boston has been unsuccessful. The Whig and Native vote has increased; the democratic fallen off a little.

The *Nashville Union*, which has recently been put under the editorial arrangement of the Hon O. A. P. Nicholson, has been greatly enlarged and improved, and is now one of the ablest newspapers of the West.

☞It is presumed that a certain person, morally and politically defunct, who recently edited the State Journal, has *resumed* the editorial management of the New Albany Gazette, one of the most filthy papers in this State. Another evidence of the "fitness of things."

☞The New Castle Courier confesses the untruth and injustice of its charge against Gov. Whitcomb, but so far from repenting of it, reiterates its ungentlemanly imputations. His malice, however, we consider too impotent to be worthy of more than a passing notice.

☞Many newspapers seem to be printed principally for the purpose of advertising quack medicines, and prospectuses of mammoth weeklies or monthly magazines. What an immense quantity of paper is wasted in this country!

☞The people—the Democracy of Ohio are already rising against the federal bank bill recently passed by the legislature. Meetings are being held and indignent resolutions adopted denouncing the measure.

More Good News.

The Postage Bill passed the Senate.

We are highly gratified to be able to state that the reform postage bill passed the U. S. Senate, on the 8th, by a vote of 38 to 12. No measure was more imperatively demanded by the public interest, convenience and welfare, and though the present bill may be imperfect in some respects, it nevertheless must be better than the present laws, for the very good reason that it could not possibly be made worse. If the new bill does not answer public expectation in every respect, it can be easily amended. The main features of the bill, as engrossed, are given by the N. Y. Journal of Commerce as follows.

"1. All single letters, without regard to distance, shall pay the uniform rate of postage of five cents.

2. Every lettter weighing more than half an ounce shall be deemed a single letter, no matter how many pieces it may contain, and if weighing one ounce, shall be deemed double, and so on.

3. Members of Congress to receive and send letters free, all the year round.

4. No one else to frank, except Ex-Presidents and their widows.

5. All letters and packets, &c., which pass free through the mail, and all Government postage to be paid for out of the Treasury.

6. Newspapers to go out of the mail, without subjecting the senders or carriers to any penalty.

7. Private posts for carrying newspapers to be allowed.

8. All deficiencies between the revenue of the Department and the expenses (limited to four and a half millions,) to be paid out of the public Treasury.

The danger is, that the five-cent postage will not break up private expresses on the principal routes. But it will be seen that, though nominally five cents, the postage is not two cents: for three letters can be put under a cover, of half an ounce. Again, the bill imposes heavy penalties for a violation of the law."

The N. Y. news observes:

"Incomplete as is the Bill which has passed the Senate for the reduction of postage, it is yet a measure of inappreciable value, sufficient in its self to signalize the session of Congress which will have given it to the country. We trust that the House of Representatives will pass it promptly, *totedim verbis*, as it has gone to them from the Senate. Leave amendments to the future. It is enough for the outset to secure so much. Let it not be endangered by Sending it back to the Senate.

These three great and noble measures passing at the present session:—

1st.—The Annexation of Texas;
2d.—The Occupation of Oregon;
3d.—The Reduction of Postage;

will make the 28th Congress an era in the history of the country."

Milton Brown's Texas Resolutions.

We extract the following paragraphs from an article in the Nashville Union of Feb. 6. The opinions expressed by the Union, correspond precisely with those expressed by ourselves in the Sentinel of the same date.

"There is a feature in the resolutions, however, which may prevent several Northern democratic Senators from supporting them. We allude to the adoption of the Missouri compromise line as applicable to the question of slavery in the territory. By reference to the map it will be seen that a very small portion of the territory lies North of 36 deg. 30 minutes. Our fear is that on this point an influence may be brought to bear which will deprive the measure of the support of several democratic Senators from the North. In the House, it will be remembered, there were 28 democrats who voted against the proposition, and their opposition was based upon this feature. It will be recollected that when we first announced the new position of Mr. Foster, we said *we should rejoice to see his resolutions adopted*, but deprecated his remark that he would vote for no proposition which did not contain the conditions of his resolutions. We had our eye then on this difficulty, and we freely confess that we cannot now see the way clear for the removal of the obstacles suggested. Relying upon the assurances of our correspondents on the spot, we have cherished and expressed strong hopes of the success of the measure, but when we calmly look over the ground we are full of doubt and apprehension. We should rejoice most heartily in the adoption of the House resolutions, as we should in any scheme which will put the question to rest.

"If the House resolutions are rejected in the Senate, an important enquiry arise—can no other plan be adopted? Our deliberate judgment is, that there is more hope of the success of a plan which will make a more equal division of the territory between slave and non-slaveholding. Such a proposition we believe would command the entire democratic vote in the Senate—this would require the votes of four whig Senators to carry the measure. Mr. Henderson will probably vote for it—the two Louisiana Senators are instructed—this would bring the Senate to a tie, and then the two Tennessee Senators would have either to pass the measure or take the responsibility of the defeat.

"In the House we believe the entire northern democracy would unite with the southern democracy and carry the measure by a larger majority than that by which it passed the House in its present shape. After all, we sincerely trust that our fears as to the fate of the House resolutions are unfounded and that we shall have cause to make the acknowledgement."

Wabash Express.

Thos. Dowling, Esq., has disposed of his pecuniary interest in the Wabash Express to David S. Donaldson, Esq., by whom the paper will be hereafter edited. In his retirement Mr. Dowling will carry with him the best wishes of the Editorial fraternity of Indiana, of which he has been for fifteen years a distinguished member. They will not fail to remember that, how muchsoever they have differed with him in matters of political principle or opinion, they are generally indebted to him for the promptitude which has ever marked his endeavors to sustain and contend for the dignity and just rights of a profession second to no other in importance in this country, but which, through the negligence of those engaged in it to cultivate a proper *esprit du corps*, has been essentially degraded. The best we can wish his successor, Mr. Donaldson, is that he may prove himself equal in all respects to Mr. Dowling, and that he may have the pleasure of plucking more of the roses, and avoiding more of the thorns of the life editorial, than has fallen to the lot of even his comparatively fortunate predecessor.

A few of the Whig editors of this State are puffing and blowing at a great rate about Mr. Defrees, and what wonders his connection with the State Journal will probably work. They may be right; and wind is a very cheap commodity—for Whiggery has never been able to tax it. But if we recollect rightly, these same editors were quite as liberal with their puffs of a certain other notorious person, who "was prevailed upon by liberal offers" to take the editorial charge of the State Journal some two or three years since. How did *he* answer their expectations, and *where* is he now? Can any of them tell!

☞A new cotton factory is about being put in operation in Cincinnati, to be worked by steam power. It will contain about 10,000 spindles, besides other necessary machinery, and is estimated to be able to make 40,000 yards of shirting per week, or about two million yards per annum.

MURDER.—We learn that about two weeks since, a man by the name of E. Cason, residing near Cynthiana, in Harrison county, shot his father. It appears that the father and son had a severe quarrel, which ended in a fight. The father threatened to kill his son, and went to the house for his gun. The son also went for his. They met behind the house and both took aim at the same moment. The father's gun flashed: the shot in that of the son's took fatal effect near the heart of his father, who fell, exclaiming "you have killed me." The mother of the deceased was the only witness of this horrid deed.

INAUGURATION BALLS.—There are to be two Inauguration Balls at Washington on the 4th March,—one, managed by democrats, the other by Tyler office holders and seekers and whigs. The matter is creating quite a war of words in papers.

T. W. DORR.—The Legislature of Rhode Island adjourned on Saturday. One of their last acts was to *refuse* the petition of Sullivan Dorr, for leave for himself and his family physician to visit his son in prison.

"NEW FASHION.—The dress makers of New York have started a new style of dresses very high in the neck, to which they give the name of *Onderdonks*. They require a *bishop* to make them set well."

CONGRESS.

Mr. Benton's new bill for Texas Annexation.

The Committee on Foreign Relations having reported against the resolutions for annexation which passed the House of Representatives, on the ground of their unconstitutionality, Mr. Benton on the 5th inst., as noticed in our last paper, introduced a new bill, which appears to avoid all objections whatever. We copy from the Globe the new bill of Mr. Benton, together with his remarks on its introduction. They will be read with interest and pleasure, manifesting as they do, the profound knowledge and statesmanship of their author. If we are not greatly mistaken, those who have so hastily condemned the course of Mr. Benton on this measure, will find in the end, that, as in all the important questions which have agitated the public mind for twenty-five years, HE IS RIGHT. It now seems to be a conceded point that no other Texas proposition as yet made, can pass the Senate this session except it be Mr. Benton's. Read his remarks:

Mr. BENTON remarked that the Committee on Foreign Relations having reported yesterday upon the subject of annexation, which brought back all the propositions before the Senate, he asked that the bill submitted by him a short time back be taken up for the purpose of enabling him to withdraw it from the Senate, and to submit another in its place.

The bill was accordingly taken up, when Mr. Benton, on leave, withdrew it, and submitted the following in lieu thereof, viz:

A BILL to provide for the annexation of Texas to the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That a State to be formed out of the present republic of Texas, with suitable extent and boundaries, and with two Representatives in Congress until the next apportionment of representation, shall be admitted into the Union by virtue of this act, on an equal footing with the existing States, as soon as the terms and conditions of such admission of the remaining Texan territory to the United States shall be agreed upon by the government of Texas and the United States.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the sum of one hundred thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated to defray the expenses of missions and negotiations to agree upon the terms of said admission and cession, either by treaty, to be submitted to the Senate, or by articles to be submitted to the two Houses of Congress, as the President may direct.

The bill having been read—

Mr. Benton said he would avail himself of the indulgence of the Senate to state the reasons which induced him to offer it. It was a copy, he said, substantially, of the bill which he had previously offered, with the omission of all the terms and conditions which the bill contained. He had been induced to omit all these conditions because of the difficulty of agreeing upon them, and because it was now clear that whatever bill was passed upon the subject of Texas, the execution of it must devolve upon the new President who had just been elected by the people with a view to this object. He had confidence in Mr. Polk, and was willing to trust the question of terms and conditions to his untrammelled discretion, certain that he would do the best he could for the success of the object, the harmony of the Union, and the peace and honor of the country. He had, therefore, withdrawn all the terms and conditions which his previous bill contained, and only retained its cardinal features, namely the admission of a Texan State by law, the cession of the remaining Texan territory to the United States, and the adjustment of the terms and conditions of this admission and cession by envoys, or commissioners, subject to the confirmation of the two governments. This seemed to him to be the natural, practicable way of proceeding, and was certainly the most respectful to Texas.

The Joint Resolution sent up from the House of Representatives was nothing but a *proposal*, and a proposal clogged with conditions, and limited as to time. If it passed both Houses of our Congress, it might be rejected by Texas; and then the process of making proposals would have to commence again. Legislative propositions, interchanged by two Legislative bodies, sitting in two different countries, at the distance of near two thousand miles apart, was a slow way of coming to conclusions; and, unless some more practicable method was adopted, the annexation of Texas might be looked upon as an event deferred for years. Commissioners, or envoys, to discuss propositions face to face, with a right to give as well as to take—with power to yield as well as to demand—can alone be competent to the successful termination of such a business. He therefore adhered to that part of his former bill which proposed to send ministers to settle the terms of annexation.

The occasion (said Mr. B.) is an extraordinary one, and requires an extraordinary mission. The voluntary union of two independent nations is a rare occurrence, and is worthy to be attended by every circumstance which lends it dignity, promotes its success, and makes it satisfactory. When England and Scotland were united, at the commencement of the last century, no less than thirty-one commissioners were employed to agree upon the terms; and the terms they agreed upon received the sanction of the Parliaments of the two Kingdoms, and completed a union which had been in vain attempted for one hundred years. Extraordinary missions nationally constituted, have several times been resorted to in our own country, and always with public approbation, whether successful or not. The first Mr. Adams sent Marshall, Gerry, and Pinkney to the French directory in 1798: Mr. Jefferson sent Ellsworth, Davie and Murray to the consular government of 1800: Mr. Madison sent Adams, Bayard, Gallatin, Clay and Russell to Ghent in 1814. All these missions, and others which might be named, were nationally constituted—composed of eminent citizens taken from each political party, and from different sections of the Union; and, of course, all favorable to the object for which they were employed. An occasion has occurred which, in my opinion, requires a mission similarly constituted—as numerous as the missions to Paris or to Ghent—and composed of citizens from both political parties, and from the non-slaveholeing as well as the slave holding States. Such a commission could hardly fail to be successful not merely in agreeing upon the terms of the union, but it agreeing upon terms which would be satisfactory to the people and the governments of the two countries. And here to avoid misapprehension and the appearance of disrespect where the contrary is felt, I would say that the gentleman now in Texas as the charge of the United States, is, in my opinion, eminently fit and proper to be one of the envoys extraordinary and ministers plenipotentiary which my bill contemplates.

The bill which I now propose (said Mr. B.) is brief and plain, but comprehensive and effectual. It proposes to admit one Texan State—to obtain a cession of the remaining Texan territory—and to settle the terms and conditions of the admission and cession by the usual and practicable mode of negotiation.

The admission of the State, or rather its right to admission, is to be complete under the bill. It is to be admitted by virtue of the act! so that no future legislation will be necessary for that purpose, and the possibility of a Missouri controversy will be entirely avoided. The admitted State is to have all the rights of the existing States from the moment of her admission, not only theoretically, but practically; for the bill fixes her representatives in the federal Congress and avoids all delay or debate upon that point. It says nothing about Senators, for there the Constitution alone is sufficient: it both gives the right to Senators, and fixes the number. To Representatives it gives the right, but leaves it to Congress to fix the number. This bill fixes it, and gives to the first Texan State two members—a number to which her present population will entitle her, and which will be sensibly increased before the process of admission can be accomplished, and doubled or trebled before the new apportionment under the census of 1850 can be extended to her.

A State of proper size being formed, the cession of the remaining Texan territory to the United States becomes indispensable; and here the Joint Resolution from the House of Representatives is essentially defective. It admits the whole republic of Texas as one State, and provides no means of reducing her limits without her consent. In fact, when once admitted as a State, she never can be reduced without her consent: the Constitution of the United States forbids it; and the equilibrium of our system will not admit of such overpowering preponderance in any one member of the Union. This is not a new point in our history; it has occurred before, and has been decided. The early history of our confederacy is full of instruction upon it. Many of the States at the close of the revolution were found to be too large for the safety of the rest, and the most persevering efforts were made to reduce them. As early as 1780, they were called upon by the Continental Congress to reduce their limits, and cede their surplus territory. Some yielded readily from feelings of harmony and conciliation—those feelings being rather stronger then than they are now. Virginia ceded gratuitously all her territory beyond the Ohio river. Connecticut did not cede for twenty years, and then got two and half millions for her small claim on the shore of Lake Erie. Georgia held out until 1802 and then got a million and a quarter in money, five millions of acres of land scrip, and an obligation to extinguish Indian titles and remove Indians, which has cost tens of millions, for the territory alone which forms the single State of Mississippi. It required the most persevering exertions, as we all know, aided by the kindly spirit which then prevailed, and the overpowing necessity to provide for the revolutionary debt, to obtain from the great States the contraction of their limits and the cession of their surplus territory to the Union. Our ancestors accomplished the work, and they took care as they believed, to guard against the like danger in all time to come. They took care, at once, and in the very acts of cession to fix the number and extent of the new States, making them of proper number and size, so that the danger of overshadowing States, to predominate in the House of Representatives, or of small ones, to rule in the Senate, was equally avoided. This was wise: it was a necessary precaution against future dangers and difficulties. And shall such an example be lost upon us? Shall we voluntarily throw ourselves back into a condition far worse than that from which our fathers, with so much care, wisdom, patriotism and even money, succeeded in extricating us? Texas is far larger than the Northwestern territory; yet our ancestors would not risk the danger of a single State there, nor even of a multitude of small ones: they wisely fixed the number of the whole, and the extent of each, so as to avoid the danger of both extremes.

Gentlemen suppose that Texas will voluntarily reduce herself: it is a supposition contrary to all human experience. But suppose she does; what then? Consequences immediately result which it is impossible to encounter. By the Joint Resolution Texas is to keep her lands, and pay her own debts. These lands would lie within the limits of the reduced State, and are covered by Indian tribes. To pay her own debts out of these lands would, therefore, involve the administration of a land system in a different State, or in a territory belonging to the United States. It would also involve the management of Indian affairs in the State or territory where Indian tribes held the lands. All this would be impossible. Nobody could think of such a thing. State quarrels, Indian wars, distraction and confusion, and the involvment of the United States in the difficulties that would ensue, would be the inevitable consequences of such protrusion of State authority into another State, or into a territory, and among the Indian tribes. Reduction of limit would be about as calamitous as retention of limits; it would be for Texas to decide which calamity she would inflict; for the United States would not even have the poor privilege of choosing between them. All would be at the option of Texas.

I say this upon the assumption that Texas would accept our proposal, and come into the Union upon the terms of the Joint Resolution: but I have no idea that she would do any such thing, *except for the purpose of prescribing her own terms as the price of reducing her limits and relinquishing her claims to her remaining territory*. By the terms of the resolution she is to surrender her custom-houses—her main source for money—and pay her debts out of lands which are in the hands of the formidable Camanches, and other savage Indians, and which will cost their value in money, and more than their value in blood to obtain from these Indians. She never can accept annexation on such terms, except to make her own terms afterwards for the reduction of her limits and the cession of her remaining territory; and that is the precise reason why the United States should settle these terms beforehand.

I do not dwell upon the other objectionable features in the Joint Resolution; but it is impossible to overlook the defect in relation to naturalization. We may be willing to receive the people of Texas as aliens, living within one of our States, and trust ourselves to naturalize them hereafter; but in a matter so essential to their rights and honor, they may wish it settled beforehand. The Joint Resolution is silent upon this point: commissioners, under the plan I propose, can settle it; and without a settlement of that point, or power to settle it, I should deem it useless to send our proposals to Texas.

In withdrawing from my bill the terms and conditions which had been proposed as a basis of negotiation, I do not withdraw them from the consideration of those who may direct the negotiation. I expect them to be considered, and, as far as judged proper, to be acted on. The compromise principle between slave and non-slaveholding territory is sanctioned by the vote of the House of Representatives, and by the general voice of the country. In withdrawing it from the bill, I do not withdraw it from the consideration of the President: I only leave him free and untrammelled to do the best he can for the harmony of the Union on a delicate and embarrassing point.

The assent of Mexico to the annexation is judged to be unnecessary, but no one judges her assent to a new boundary line to be unnecessary: no one judges it unnecessary to preserve her commerce and good will; and, therefore, every consideration of self-interest and national policy requires a fair effort to be made to settle this boundary and to preserve this trade and friendship; and I shall consider all this as remaining just as fully in the mind of the President as if submitted to him in a bill.

The bill which I now offer is the same which I have presented heretofore, divested of its conditions, and committing the subject to the discretion of the President to accomplish the object in the best way that he can, and either negotiate a treaty to be submitted to the Senate, or to agree upon articles of union to be submitted to the two Houses of Congress. I deem this the best way of proceeding under every aspect. It is the safest way; for it will settle all questions beforehand, and leave no nest egg to hatch future disputes. It is the most speedy way; for commissioners conferring face to face will come to conclusions much sooner than two deliberative bodies sitting in two different countries, at near two thousand miles apart, and interchanging categorical propositions in the shape of law. It is the most satisfactory way; for whatever such a commission should agree upon, would stand the best chance to be satisfactory to all parties of the Union. It is the most respectful way to Texas, and the mode for which she has shown a decided preference. She has twice sent envoys extraordinary and ministers plenipotentiary here to treat with us; and the actual President, Mr. Jones, has authentically declared his willingness to engage in future negotiations. Ministers sent to confer and agree—to consult and to harmonize—is much more respectful than the transmission, by mail or messenger, of an inflexible proposition in the shape of law, to be accepted in the precise words in which we send it. In every point of view, the mode which I propose seems to me to be the best; and as its execution will devolve upon a President just elected by the people with a view to this subject, I have no hesitating in trusting it to him, armed with full power, and untrammelled with terms and conditions.

The debate was continued by Messrs. Berrien, Morehead and Bagby, in favor of committing, and by Messrs. Walker, Rives and Colquitt, against that motion. The question was finally decided against committing by a vote of 22 to 23; a favorable result. The ayes and noes were as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Barrow, Bayard, Berrien, Clayton, Crittenden, Dayton, Evans, Foster, Francis, Huntington, Johnson, Mangum, Merrick, Miller, Morehead, Pearce, Phelps, Porter, Rives, Simmons, Upham, White, and Woodbridge—22.

NAYS—Messrs. Allen, Ashley, Atchison, Atherton, Bagby, Benton, Breese, Buchanan, Colquitt, Dix, Dickinson, Fairfield, Hannegan, Haywood, Huger, Jarnagin, Lewis, Niles, Sevier, Sturgeon, Tappan, Walker, and Woodbury—23.

On motion by Mr. Benton, the bill was then ordered to lie on the table, and be printed.

ANNEXATION.—Messrs. R. P. Dunlap, Hannibal Hamlin, Joshua Herrick and Benjamin White, democrats, representatives of Maine, have, it is said, written a letter to their constituents, explaining their reasons for voting against the passage of the annexation bill. Their chief objection to the bill was that it secured "the institution of slavery in nearly all the territory." They would have voted for a bill that would secure a fair division of the Texan Republic as regards freedom and slavery.

Terrible Storm in the East.

The papers last received contain accounts of a severe snow storm in New York and Eastward. The railroads, stage roads, and streets were greatly obstructed. Destructive fires occurred at the same time in New York and Albany, and it is supposed several vessels on the coast have been lost. We copy a few particulars from the papers:

THE LATE SNOW STORM AT NEW YORK—*Incidents and Accidents.*—The tremendous snow storm, the effects of which have for the last two or three days shut off all communication between New York and Philadelphia, is described by the New York papers as the severest snow storm, that has visited that city for years. It opened upon them about 4 o'clock on Tuesday morning. The extreme cold weather of the previous days had prepared the ground for it, so that every flake that fell, was of use in filling up the streets. The snow was accompanied by a gale of wind from the E. N. E., which blew up plenty of drifts, and made the walking horribly disagreeable. Throughout the entire day, the snow filled the air so completely, that no one could see to the distance of two rods. Broadway, it is said, was pretty well blocked up with snow banks; to the depth of three or four feet in some places.

It is stated that on Long Island, snow has fallen to the depth of two feet, and drifted very much. In New York, it was about 18 inches deep, on a level, at 3 o'clock on Tuesday night. At an early hour on Wednesday morning, as we learn by the Herald, the wind changed to W. N. W., the clouds broke away, and the sun came out, making all look happy again on the face of New York, after a storm unequalled in severity.

The gale must have been severe on the coast. We learn from the officers of the vessels that arrived yesterday that it was a perfect hurricane.

The twenty-three new houses in 26th street, New York, belonging to Commodore De Kay were injured by the gale. The houses had only their fronts and two sides up, the rear wall not having yet been commenced, which caused the disaster. The wind had full sweep upon the front and side walls as upon the sails of a ship. The workmen very fortunately had left the buildings at dinner time, and had not returned, finding it too cold to work.

The Tribune office and adjoining buildings destroyed.—About 4 o'clock on Wednesday morning, a terrible fire was discovered to be raging in the block of buildings occupied as the Tribune establishment, corner of Spruce and Nassau streets. Every effort was made by the fire companies to master the raging element, but to no purpose, and in the course of a couple of hours after the first notice of the blaze, the Tribune newspaper concern, the periodical depot of Mr. H. Graham, the bookseller and stationers' establishment of Jansen & Bell, the liquor store occupied by Mr. Kennedy, and the German establishment of the Deutche Schnellpost, a German journal published in that city for the last three years, with a large stock of books, &c., were totally consumed with all they contained. Mr. Graham lost not only his stock, but $400 in cash and his gold watch, and narrowly escaped with his life by leaping out of an elevated window upon the deep snow beneath. A boy employed by him, who was asleep in the room below, followed Mr. G., but fell on his head and was severely hurt. Just before retiring to bed, Mr. G. had taken $475 and his gold watch from his drawer and had placed them under his pillow, where they were destroyed. Mr. G. estimates his total loss at about $2,500, and was not insured.

The Tribune lost all their type, materials, &c., with a large quantity of paper, a great number of books of their own publication, besides their valuable presses in the basement. Messrs. Greely and McElrath were insured for $10,000, partly in the Williamsburgh and partly in the Trust company of that city. The presses alone in the basement cost upwards of $9,000, and the amount of their loss, over and above insurance, is estimated at $18,000. There were several offices in the same building, among them that of V. B. Palmer, General Newspaper Agency, and Ensign's Map Engraving establishment, and in no case was any thing saved.

The Germans, who had a ball in Tammany Hall, which adjoined the burned buildings in the rear, were alarmed in the midst of their revelry. Old Tammany got a severe scorching. Some insurance is effected upon these buildings, but nothing like the actual loss. Kennedy had no insurance, and the *Deutsche Snellpost* very little. Jansen and Bell's loss is over $10,000; Greeley and McElrath's at least as much.

The origin of the fire is attributed to the negligence of a boy who, in kindling a fire in one of the rooms of the Tribune establishment, made use of a newspaper to promote the draft, which not only took fire, but took wing to some other apartment, and set fire to a mass of papers, and as the petition walls in the interior were composed of wood, the progress of the flames was rapid in the extreme. The pressmen were at work in the basement, and on being informed of the fire, rushed up stairs with water in buckets, but the flames had then made so much progress that they could do nothing. Owing to the great quantity of snow in the streets, the engines were long in reaching the fire, and by the time they commenced working the whole building was in flames.

FIRE AT ALBANY.—We learn from Messrs. Livingston & Co.'s Express, that an extensive fire was raging at Albany as the Express left for this city. It was supposed to have originated in the Knickerbocker Hall, situated on the east side of Broadway, between the Mechanics' and Farmers' Bank and the City Hotel, and had already consumed several large buildings occupied by the following merchants:—G C. Treadwell, fur store. Chapman & Sargent, tobacco store. Bleeker & Bogart, hardware. Knickerbocker Saloon. Carpenter & King, merchant tailors. Boston Clothing Store.

☞The Salem county Poor House (West Jersey) was burnt on Saturday Feb. 8, by a fire which originated in a chimney. The 100 inmates were rescued in safety. Several of the Paupers were Lunatics, chained in their cells! One who had been bound for 20 years! was so ferocious that the citizens were afraid to touch him—but two or three bold spirits knocked off his chains, when he dashed off with Indian rapidity. He was subsequently re-taken with his fellow sufferers and put in jail!

THE POST-OFFICE BILL.—*The Franking Privilege.*—In the discussion in the Senate on the Post office bill, Mr. Buchanan advocated the abolition of the franking privilege. He referred to the practice in England, where even Queen Victoria cannot frank a note.

"Members of Parliament," (said Mr. Buchanan,) "were called upon to forego a privilege for the sake of advancing a great public object; and they agreed to do so. Will an American Congress refuse to do that which a British Parliament has done in the accomplishment of a great advantage to the people? For my own part, I find the franking privilege rather an inconvenience than an advantage; scarcely a day passes during which I am not asked for franks. Letters come to me under blank covers, very often from ladies; what am I to do with them?" "Take them to the ladies yourself," [said a voice on the floor.] "Yes," (said Mr. B.) "and make my bow, I suppose."

"You must either restrict the franking privilege, or keep up the high rates of postage. Fifteen thousand deputy postmasters and both Houses of Congress retaining the franking privilege, will destroy the bill. He saw no fear of not keeping the offices well filled with competent postmasters without the franking privilege."

PATENTS FOR 1844.—The annual report from the Comissioner of Patents from the year 1844, shows that during the year 502 patents have been issued; that 539 patents have expired; that 1045 applications have been made for patents; that 380 caveats have been filed; that the receipts of the Patent Office have in amount $41,220, from which are to be deducted $10,040 repaid on applications withdrawn; that the ordinary expenses of the office have been $34,228 04, to which is to be added $2,076 49 for library and agriculture, and leaving a net balance of $7,175 73 to the credit of the patent fund for the year, that $2,822 66 has been paid for the restoration of models, records, and drawings, under the act of 3d March, 1837; the number of applications for extension of patents was 12; two were granted and ten rejected; seven patents have been extended since the act of 4th July, 1836; the whole number of patents issued up to first Jan. 1845, is 15,025.

BISHOP ONDERDONK.—Major Noah, speaking of the case of Bishop Onderdonk, says:—"What is the origin of this calamity? High living. The Episcopal church is too rich—owns too much property, is two avaricious, and screws and pinches its tenants, to swell its revenues, and the money unjustly extorted from the citizens, works to the injury of religion. Ministers must have large salaries, great perquisites, and live high; the church can afford it, and they must have it. Good dinners and rich wine thicken the blood, producing impure desires—then there is intrigue for place, and ambition for preferment; and all this arises from the church having too much money, and paying too high salaries. Enrich your churches—make them elegant in honor of God, but let it always be borne in mind that the great master himself was poor and humble, indulged in no sensualities, and was meek in spirit; he rolled by in no carriage, nor did he indulge in the luxuries of the table, or the pleasures of the wine cup. Those who believe in his divinity, and preach his doctrine, should endeavor to follow his example.

The stock for a steam Cotton Factory at Charleston (S. C.) has all been taken.

Protective Tariff.

The grand argument of all the advocates of a high "protective" Tariff, is one addressed to the cupidity of those classes whom it professes to benefit, and in fact, its friends pretend that it benefits all classes. But such arguments, if only weighed for a moment, must appear utterly absurd, and in truth an insult to any intelligent community. If all are benefited alike—if the prices of the farmer's produce, and the wages of the mechanic and others, are raised in the same proportion, as the manufacturers' goods, then all are just as well off as if there were no Tariff, and no better. If the price of a bushel of wheat is doubled, and the price of what the farmer wants to buy with his wheat is also doubled, he neither gets more nor less with it—so with the mechanic as to his wages; if they are doubled, and he has to pay double for his clothing, his provisions, and every thing else, what better off is he? But has this been the case under the present Tariff, or under any other high Tariff? Every farmer, every mechanic in the State, knows that it has not; but that whilst the prices of goods have advanced, the prices of wheat, flour, pork, beef, &c., and also the wages of mechanics generally, and even of the operatives in the very factories, where these goods are made, have been reduced.

But to benefit all classes alike, never has been and never can be the effect of any protective Tariff; and such never was the intent of any Tariff law. The idea that "protection," such as is afforded by a high Tariff, can add any thing to the wealth of any country is perfectly preposterous. Its only possible effect is to enable certain classes, or the producers or manufacturers of certain articles, to obtain higher prices for their goods than they could if the like articles were imported free of duty. And of whom do they get the higher prices? Not from abroad or from other countries, for our tariff cannot prevent the importation of foreign goods where they can buy them cheapest. No! it is at home, where these higher prices are obtained—it only causes the classes which consume the protected articles to pay more, to give more of the products of their labor, for what they want of such articles, than they would otherwise have to pay. Nine-tenths and more of the *labor*, and a large proportion of the capital of this country are invested or occupied in the production of articles, which it is impossible to benefit by a Tariff. How can the raiser of wheat, or the planter of cotton, or the producer of any of our other agricultural staples, be benefitted by laying a duty on wheat, cotton, and such articles as we can raise cheaper than they can be raised any where else? How are any of the ordinary mechanical trades to be benefitted by a tariff? We cannot send our horses abroad to be shod, or import our houses, nor send out of the country for common household furniture, or wagons, or ploughs. Such articles as are made by the great bulk of our mechanics must always be made at home, and mostly in the vicinity of where they are wanted. Our ordinary mechanics are in no more danger of having to compete with foreign labor, than the owners of our saw or grist-mills, that is, just in no possible danger at all.

JOHN JACOB ASTOR.—Hunt's Merchant's Magazine contains a memoir of the octogenarian merchant, John Jacob Astor, to whom the writer gives the somewhat magnificent appellation of the Napoleon of commerce. We take from it a passage or two. The voyage of Mr. Astor to this country in 1784 was marked by this characteristic incident:

It is said that, in a storm off our coast, which threatened the destruction of the ship and crew, while the other passengers were lost in apprehension, and regardless of aught save self-preservation, Mr. Astor appeared upon deck, arrayed in his best clothes. This excited some surprise, and when asked his object in discarding the more appropriate garb he had worn during the voyage, he replied—"That if he escaped with his life it would be with his best clothes, and if he perished no matter what became of them." Luckily the storm passed over

The growth of Mr. Astor's fortune is thus related:

The treaty with Great Britain, of 1794–5 removed the restrictions on our trade with her colonies, and surrendered the above outposts, and then Mr. Astor, having the trade with the Canadas and with our western country, both open to his enterprise, proceeded rapidly to realise the fortune, the foundation of which was laid in more than ten years of thrift and patient industry.

By the first year of the present century he had amassed something like $250,000. Forty-four years have since elapsed. By the natural course of accumulation, this sum would have amounted, at the end of such a period, to nearly $6,000,000; but, in Mr. Astor's hands, it has increased to nearer four times that amount, for we should be moderate in estimating his actual wealth at $20,000,000. In 1830, the