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THE KENT NEWS

CHESTER TOWN, MD.

Saturday, February 24, 1849.

Secretary of State.

The Telegraph from Cincinnati transmitted a communication from Gen'l. Taylor to the Hon. John M. Clayton, offering to his acceptance the post of Secretary of State. Mr. Clayton was absent in Delaware, attending the funeral obsequies of a talented and beloved son, who recently died in Havanna, but his colleague in the Senate, opened and despatched to him at his home-stead the letter of the President elect. This is said to be the first communication that has ever passed between those distinguished men—the one renowned in War, the other in the civil and political history of his day.

The high trust, thus offered by the hand of the Soldier and the Patriot is no less creditable to the judgment and discrimination of the President, than it was merited by the veteran Statesman and Civilian.—The people, looked to Mr. Clayton to fill a place in the new Cabinet,—his age, long experience in public affairs, acknowledged lofty talents and ability, enlarged patriotic views, unblemished private character, his hold upon the popular feeling, the unshaken confidence reposed in him by the Whigs of the Union, his urbanity and address, all conspired to commend him to President for a high and important position in the Government.

We hope that Mr. Clayton will accept the invitation of our distinguished chief, and win for himself, in the Department of State, as he has secured in every other public vocation, the confidence, the applause, and the honor of his countrymen.

We know of no appointment, that could be more in unison with the feelings of the people in this section of the State, than Mr. Clayton's; many of our citizens knowing him personally, and justly appreciating his noble and generous character, and high and lofty talents.

Hon. James A. Pearce.

Our Senator, has again "won golden opinions from all sorts of men" by an able, masterly and eloquent speech in the United States Senate, on Saturday last, in reply to Mr. Benton, on the appropiation of the Coast survey. Great as was the reputation acquired by Mr Pearce, in his celebrated speech on the Mexican war, this last effort has completely established his fame as a debator and statesman of the very first order. The correspondent of the Baltimore Patriot, under date of Feb. 19, 1849 says:

"The speech of Senator Pearce, yesterday, against striking from civil and diplomatic appropriation bill; the item for the support of the coast survey operations, was a masterly effort, clear, cogent, able, convincing, and unanswereble. It showed that the corteous and gifted Senator was, in every respect, the master of the scientific subject he was discussing. The most profound attention was paid to what he said by the Senate, and many admiring listners in the lobbies and galleries—and more than this, I learn that he even satisfied Senator Benton, who had mooved to strike down the appropiation for the coast survey that the step would be impolitic and improper. By this speech Senator Pearce has added to the fame he already possessed, as a parlimentary orator.

Release of *Hyer*.—Thomas *Hyer* was brought before the Court in Baltimore, on Saturday last, and after investigation was released under bail of $3000—two thousand under his own recognizance and two securities in the sum of one thousand dollars, jointly and several. *He* was bound over to appear for trial at the March Term of our county Court. During the examination, the Court House was literally filled with people. The Clipper, of Monday, closes the report of the case in the following words:

"No hero could have excited more apparent interest among a certain class of citizens, and a more disgusting exhibition of depraved morality could not have been exhibited, than, we regret to say, was shown about the Court *House* on Saturday. May the day be far distant when we shall see its repetition."

George Thompson and Thomas O'Donnell, seconds and trainers of *Hyer* and Sullivan, have been released on bail in the sum of $1000, each, on their own bonds, and two securities, each, in the sum of $500, each, to answer at the May term of the City court.

Public Documents.—The Hon. Jas. A. Pearce, and Hon. R. Johnson, U. S. S., and Hon. Alexander Evans, H. R., will accept our thanks for valuable Public *Documents*.

Burnt to Death.—A negro girl, aged 14 years, belonging to Dr. T. H. Whaland, was burned so badly, on Monday night last by her clothes taking fire that she died about forty-eight hours afterwards.

The Progress.—The reception of Gen. Taylor at Louisville, was of the most enthusiastic and gratifying character.—The whole city poured out to meet him and before he reached it, he was met by steamers crowded with persons who had come miles to bid him welcome. On his arrival at the Galt House he was formally tendered the hospitalities of the city by the Mayor, and in reply he spoke for half an hour. We learn by telegraph that he said in substance, as follows:

"For his success in the battles to which allusion had been made, he was alike indebted to the volunteer soldiery and the regulars, and to none more than the troops of Kentucky. In regard to his course as President, he said it was his ardent wish to dissipate all party acrimonies, and to bring the Government back to the simplicity of our Fathers, when the objects aimed at were the happiness and prosperity of the country only. He concluded amidst the shouts and cheers of the multitude."

Jonesboro' (Tenn.) is about to lose one of its peculiar attractions. Parson Brownlow announces in his last Jonesboro' Whig, that he has determined to remove his office to Knoxville, and there to publish a paper to be called the Knoxville Whig.—In making this announcement the Parson remarks:

I have edited and published a paper for ten *dreadful years*—the actual pecuniary result being a loss equal to the amount of three years' subscription out of the ten, which is to be found in small debts scattered over this Union, the mass of which those who owe them have apparently no idea of paying, nor I of getting. This result is only unpleasant, as it exhibits the misfortunes, the carelessness, or the want of honesty, on the part of my fellow beings. But I am not without the satisfaction, of having served my generation long and earnestly, without the possibility of saying it PAID me!

The Whigs of the 4th District of Connecticut, have made choice of Thomas B. Butler, *Esq.*, of Norwalk, as a candidate for Congress. This is the district at present represented by Hon. Truman Smith, who has been promoted to the Senate.

Correspondence of the Kent News.

From Washington.

February 20, 1849.

The proceedings of both Houses of Congress have become interesting, and necessarily so, as the session is now nearly at an end. I have no doubt that the bad feeling existing between Messrs. Calhoun and Benton will have the effect to produce greater difficulty in the Senate in considering questions yet to come before that body for debate. Messrs. Benton & Butler, of S. C., are now wonderful friends; the old breach is perfectly healed. "Strange how much we think of a man after we have tought him!" But Mr. Calhoun and Mr. Benton are still as snappish at each other as two cross animals could well be. Just think what an anomaly the so-called Democratic party presents just now. There are the 54 40 men,—the Polk men, (the "artful dodgers,")—the sneaks who left the 54 40 in the lurch,—the Cass men,—the anti-Cass men,—the Texas Boundary men,—the New Mexico men,—the Northern men,—the Southern men,—the Tariff and the anti-Tariff men,—&c. &c., all composing the Locofoco party. Can they ever agree to unite again? Shame to their honesty if they do. All this has been brought upon that party by its representatives in power by the weakness of its principles and its unworthy creed, its tyranical sway.—Polk & Co., being pure, rank Locofocos, of course blew up the concern, which will always be the case wherever they have those in power worthy of them. Approving Clay's Maxim, that "truth is Omnipotent and public justice certain." But the Whig party being "glorious in its origin—its operations have ever been for the public good and for freedom. Whenever and wherever it has been in the ascendant, constitutional health, and well regulated prosperity, have been its fruits." And "while other parties are known by platforms and professions, the Whig party is known by its fruits. Joyously, thankfully, then, do we hail its triumph!"

The Civil and Diplomatic Appropriation Bill of the House has been taken up in the Senate and its several provisions ably discussed. Our Senator, Mr. Pearce, has made several able, clear and forcible speeches upon two or three of its provisions, which brought out his powers more admirably to view than I have ever seen them before.—His remarks have been highly complimented in some of the leading political papers, and not too highly either. He is sufficient to his task at all times. Mr. Benton dissented from him warmly upon the coast survey appropriation, but before Mr. Pearce concluded his reply 'Old Bultion' seemed quiescent. An abortive effort was made to abolish flogging in the Navy, by an amendment to this bill proposed by Mr. Hale.

The House has passed the bill of Mr. Vinton, to establish a department of the Government, to be called the Department of the Interior. It is to have a Secretary and Chief Clerk, the power to receive $6,000 per an. and the clerk $2,000. It will be supplied with officers of less grade from other departments.

The war has been productive of a great deal of mischief, the details of which your space would not easily admit of a mention. A great many remarkably able speeches have been made upon matters bearing thereto. Messrs Hillard, Thompson, of Ind. Taylor, of Ohio, Smith, of Ind., and others are among the wise and good men who have delivered speeches in course of debate, upon the Bill to pay the instalments due to Mexico under the treaty, Mr. Stephens, of Ga., the little "wise grass boy," as Major Jones would call him, made a speech on Saturday in opposition to the appropriation that thrilled the House and the galleries and drew forth a breathless attention. His attack upon Polk & Co. was most effective. Every ground he assumed was correct, but we have gone too far to recede now, and we are compelled to act wrong from necessity in having to choose between the least of two evils. To-day the bill for Commissioners to settle the claims against Mexico; provided for in the late Treaty will be taken up in the House. These claims were limited by the unrighteous recommendation of Polk & Co. and this Bill, if passed,—and should it not, I would question the honesty of the *House*,—will annul that portion of the Treaty which provides for the full payment of some while it limits others.

Our city is full of strangers of all grades and conditions. We are beset and infested by rogues. Many acts of violence have been committed by them. Measures of precaution have been adopted by the Mayor.—A number of these midnight assassins and pickpockets are following Gen. Taylor to the Capitol and robbing on the way. Senator Westcott says he intended to get up a meeting in Washington, upon Gen. Taylor's arrival to express in a set of resolutions the disapprobation felt at Gen. Taylor, for keeping such bad company!

It appears to me that the National Whig, of this city must be paid by the Locofocos in office to write down the principle of removals from office that they may keep their places. It talks of but little else; and its Editor, having always been a dodging Locos! I am not surprised at the consternation he seems to evince in contemplating the removal of his friends from office as March comes in.

The President will be here this week of course. Judge Clayton will certainly be the Secretary of State, and Geo. Evans, of Me. for the Treasury; Thos. Butler King, of Ga., for the Navy; Reverdy Johnson, Attorney General; Mr. Mangum, Secretary of War; Francis Granger, P. M. Gen., are by some strongly spoken of. Truman Smith, for the Navy has been spoken of too, and Wm. C. Rives, it is confidently asserted will receive a Cabinet appointment.

I have seen the name of Col. George P. Kane, of Baltimore, mentioned as the Collector of that port in the strongest language.

Dr. Williams, the celebrated lecturer upon, and teacher in, Human Magnetism is astonishing our wisest and best citizens, and at the same time convincing them entirely of its truth and importance. The Doctor is an uncommonly scientific man; and I have the honor to be one of his pupils.

OBSERVER.

A GOOD SIGN.

The House of Representatives agreed on Monday last, by a vote of 139 to 39, to make the bills to establish territorial governments for California and New Mexico, the order of the day, after the passage of the bill to pay the indemnity to Mexico—and, as the last named bill was passed the same day, the subject of establishing territorial governments will come up at once for consideration. We do not know whether the Wilmot Proviso is or is not attached to the bill reported by Mr. Smith, of Indiana—nor do we consider it practically of any great importance,—as we have no idea that slavery will ever be introduced in either of the territories—but to prevent dissatisfaction it would be well to omit it. Indeed, the best course, in our opinion, would be, to substitute the bill reported by Judge Douglass to the Senate, so as to avoid the subject of slavery altogether. But any kind of government which will afford protection to the people of California, would be preferable to leaving them in their present condition.

As the whole subject of slavery in all its phases, has been discussed and examined in the House in all its bearings, it may be reasonably hoped, that it will not be opened on this bill. The time is so short, that if any thing is to be done for the benefit of the territories, it must be done at once. The bill has to be acted on in both houses, and must be pressed through in silence, if at all. The vote of the *House*, as given above, is indicative of an intention to act on the matter; and we therefore look with hope and confidence to the passage of some bill which will extend the protection of our laws over the new territories, and especially over California, which is becoming the resort of people from all parts of the world.

We are not among those who would restore California to Mexico—for independent of the gold mines discovered or yet to be found, we consider that territory an acquisition of the greatest importance to the future commercial enterprise of the country. We can see, "in our mind's eye," an immense commercial city raised on the Pacific Ocean, with thousands of steamers playing between it and China and the East Indies; whilst their rich cargoes find any easy and speedy passage by railroad to the cities of the Atlantic, to be thence transported to the markets of the world. It is a valuable addition to our country, and deserves to be immediately taken under the care and protection of the general government. Give the people laws—lay out a railroad to connect them with the States, and establish a branch mint to coin the gold ore that is or may be gathered—and in a comparatively few years, California will become the heart of the commercial world, diffusing unexampled prosperity on the States of the Union and blessings to all nations.—*Clip.*

Slavery in Kentucky.—The omens seem to presage the continuance and perpetation of slavery in Kentucky. Standard papers there, which have hitherto been distinguished as the friends of emancipation, have now condemned it, and discouraged its advocates. Conventions and meetings in its favor have proved failures.—The lower House of the Legislature, in addition to its unanimous vote at in any shape, have enacted a law allowing slaveholders to bring into Kentucky slaves from other States, which was before prohibited. This is taking the back track.

The Gold Dollar.—We observe by the proceedings of the House of Representatives, that the bill authorising the coinage of gold dollars, was passsd yesterday by a large majority. It also authorizes the issue of $20 gold pieces, or double eagles.

LOSS OF LIFE BY FIRE.

AN AFFECTING SPECTACLE.

The following additional particulars of the burning of Mr. Miller's house at Hempstead, L. I., early on Thursday morning, are furnished by the Brooklyn Daily Advertiser:

There were four lives lost, a mother and three children. They all slept on the same floor (the second.) The mother in one room, a girl of about 16 in another, and two boys, one about 10 and the other 6 years old, in another. When the roof fell in, it carried away the floor on which the unfortunates slept, and it would seem that they never awoke after the fire broke out, by the position in which the bodies were taken from the ruins and placed in a barn adjoining, and a more awful sight was never witnessed. Mrs. Miller had the flesh of her lower limbs burnt off, and only the bare bones left. Her body was parched, but only a portion of her burnt off. A portion of a comb in her hair was very much burnt. Her features were placid and calm, and it was evident she never felt a pang. The eldest of the three children was a girl of 16 years of age, and a very interesting girl she was. She slept alone, and her body was burnt to a crisp. It was not possible for an inmate friend to recognize her as the girl they had seen the day before. Two interesting boys slept in another bed and their remains were shocking to look at. A more heart rending scene was never witnessed. They were roasted and looked more like mummies than remains of human beings.

THE NEW CABINET.

SECRETARY OF STATE.

The New York correspondent of the Philadelphia Inquirer says:

The announcement that Gen. Taylor has selected Hon. John M. Clayton of Delaware, as his Secretary of State, has given a great deal of satisfaction to the friends of the new administration. He stands A. No. 1 here in the list of Whig statesmen, and every confidence is reposed in him.

Gen. Taylor and Mr. Clayton have no personal acquaintance. They are in that respect entire strangers, and the honor is greatly enhanced from the fact that Mr. C. did not seek or expect the appointment.—The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia American, who has seen Gen Taylor's letter to Mr. Clayton, says:

Like all General Taylor's productions it is brief, pertinent, and explicit. It consists of one hundred and twenty-two words. Gen. Taylor opens by stating that he had been unable, before the period of writing, to determine definitively upon any arrangements for his Cabinet, (which explains why Mr. C. was not addressed upon the subject previously,) and that he places at at Mr. C.'s disposal the Department of State, and hopes it may be accepted. He closes by saying, that in offering Mr. Clayton the first position in the Cabinet, his acceptance will be equally as gratifying to the wishes of the country as it will be agreeable to him who tenders it.

Movements for California.—General Anderson, formerly U. S. Senator from Tennessee, is to take out a party to California, from Independence, in March.—Gen Darcy, of Newark, N. J. has been tendered a public dinner by his friends, previous to his departure for the gold region Mrs. Farnham, whose husband died in California last fall, is compelled to go out there, and proposes to take out from New York a company of respectable unmarried females, not over 25 years of age. The steamer Panama, which sailed from New York on Saturday, took out 100 passengers; and the ship Henry Lee had 125.—The schooner Mary sailed from the same port on Friday with 20 passengers, and barque Guilford, on the 15th instant with 34.

Small Prize Fight.—Two pugilistic characters, on Sunday, accompanied by their friends, proceeded to the vicinity of Bolton Depot of the Susquehanna Railroad, and engaged in a fight, on the recent popular plan. We learn that they fought seven rounds, but neither one sustained any damage, when the difficulty was arranged the principals shook hands and adjourned to a neighboring public house, where they had liquor all around. Boxing and fighting appear to be disgustingly popular in these latter days.—*Clipper.*

Malformation.—The College of Dental Surgery has recently received a valuable and interesting addition to its museum or anatomical curiosities, in the shape of an infant, born it is alleged in North Carolina, having two distinct heads, with full proportion of hair and perfect faces, and having all the various lineaments of an ordinary infant, with the exception however, that but three ears are visible, whilst it has four eyes, two nasal organs, and two mouths. The heads are joined together at the neck, and present a most singular appearance. This curiosity has been received through Dr. Harris, a member of the College, and has excited a great deal of curiosity. The mother of the infant is in good health.—*Sun.*

Marriage of Two Giants.—A *tall* wedding in *high* life was to have taken place at the American Museum in New York on Friday evening—being no more than the marriage of the Giant and Giantess who have been exhibiting there for some time past. The former is 27 years of age, stands 8 feet in his stockings and weighs over 500 lbs. The latter is 21 years of age, is nearly 8 feet high and weighs 387 pounds

Comptroller.—Hon. Washington Hunt has been elected Comptroller of the State of New York, an office recently held by the Vice-President elect.

INTERNAL ROUTE TO CALIFORNIA.

FROM THE MISSOURI EXPOSITOR OF JANUARY 13.

Highly Important to Emigrants.—The attention of those intending to go to California next spring is directed to the following letter of Colonel Gilpin for important facts in relation to the trip:

CORRESPONDENCE.

Independence, (Mo.) Jan'y. 1, 1849.

Dear Sir: Within the last few months many letters have been received by our postmaster, and other citizens of our town, from various parts of the United States, making inquiry relative to the best route from Missouri to Oregon and California, and the facilities here for furnishing outfits to persons going to either place.

The individuals to whom those letters have been addressed, not considering themselves capable of rendering the necessary information, are desirous that some person here should make a reply; and as we anticipate a large emigration from our State to the Pacific the approaching spring, we have taken the liberty of calling upon you, sir, being the person, of all amongst us, best qualified to give satisfactory information. You have explored those distant regions, and must be well acquainted with every thing connected with the journey.

Will you, sir, at some leisure hour, be kind enough to prepare a circular for publication, under your own signature, which may serve as a reply to the numerous inquiries above alluded to?

With sentiments of respect and esteem, we are, sir, truly yours,

SAMUEL RALSTON,
SAMUEL D. LUCAS,
SMALLWOOD NOLAND.

Col. William Gilpin.

ANSWER OF COL. GILPIN.

Jackson County, Missouri, Jan. 8, 1849.

Gentlemen: You are correct, gentlemen, in anticipating an immense conflux of emigration from our own country and from Europe to the delicious new territories of our western seaboard, which peace and legislation have, for the first time, now opened to the enterprising citizens of all countries

Independence, now for twenty years the emporium of the commerce of the prairies, possesses indisputable and peculiar advantages over all other places, as the point of rendezvous and final embarkation for emigrants and travellers going to the Pacific. It is upon the bank of the Missouri river, but beyond that river—just where the Indian line divides the populous and timbered country from the expansive, open prairies that extend to the Rocky Mountains—the great river here deflecting to the north, makes it the extreme available landing for steamerr towards the west; and *hence* depart the great land routes, passing by the Upper Arkansas, unto Western Texas, Mexico, and *Southern* California, and by the Platte to Upper California, Oregon, and the sources of the Missouri.

Apart from the decided excellence of Independence as a geographical point, it recommends itself from the unlimited abundance of supplies to be had at all times their excellent quality, and adaption to the journey of the plains and mountains. The habitual annual departure and arrival of emigrants and travellers has created a body of skilful mechanics, and all kinds of complete manufacturing establishments in every department of the trades, combined with stores filled with supplies for all wants and tastes. Here are manufactured (of all sizes) the peculiar wagons, strongly ironed, adapted to resist the dry climate of the high altitudes; harness, *saddles*, and packsaddles, for mountain use; tin were, *riveted*, to resist fire and accidents—in short flour mills, rope mills, wagon manufactories, tinners, leather manufactories, saddle and harness makers, hatters, farriers, clothing establishments, assorted goods for the Indian trade, (such as vermillion, red cloth Mackinaw blankets,) gunsmiths, are all here established on a permanent and ample scale, and furnish articles of a substantial and durable chacter, calculated to carry the traveller safely beyond the wilderness, without the necessity of repair or renewal. We have, perhaps, as good a stock market as any in the world. Here may be had the small tough horses and mules, brought from California, Mexico, and the Indian tribes of the mountains and prairies, as well as the horses, cattle, and mules, of larger size and good blood, raised upon the prairie grass of the settlements. Let me here state that every article of equipment, not destroyed or consumed, is of greatly enhanced value at the end of the journey, and indespensible to the agriculturist. Experienced hunters, guides, and teamsters abound in the neighborhood, and many of our citizens are veterans of the mountain life.

By the recent census the population of Independence is 1,646, and of Jackson county 12,609. Provisions, forage, and pastures are infinite in quantity and of the best quality. Only twelve miles to the west also is the beautiful country of the Shawnee Indians, abounding in delightful camps, and after the first of May covered with nutritious grasses.

The only road practicable for wagons, at present known from the States to the Pacific, is the one through the South Pass beyond which it branches near the Salt Lake; the right-hand fork decends by Snake river to the Columbia; the left-hand traverses directly west, through the Great Basid of High California, crosses the Sierra Nevada by the sources of Salmon Trout river, and the Rio de los Americanos, descending the latter to the Sacramento, and down it to San Francisco Bay.—These roads, which four years ago were uncertain, difficult, and dangerous, are now become permanently established, easy, and safe. The large and prosperous settlement of the Mormons at the Salt Lake affords a central point to rest and recruit.—Families travelling with horned cattle accomplish the trip in one hundred and twenty days, and, if judicious in the management of their animals, at no expense but the small cost of provisions and groceries, so excellent are the roads, the climate, and the pastures.

The following table of latitudes and longitudes shows the directness of the routes and the distances.

	Latitude.	*Longitude.*
Independence.	39° 07	94°
South Pass.	42 29	109
Mormon City.	40 26	112
N Helvitia, (Califa.)	39 48	120 34
Astoria, (Oregon,)	46 19	124 30

These roads are, therefore, direct and straight, only excepting the deflection in the South Pass. The distances, roughly estimated, being 1,850 miles to Francisco and 1,950 to Astoria.

The outfit for travellers may be classified under two heads:

1st. That necessary for emigrants with families and for merchants with goods.

2d. That for light and expeditious travelling, either with packs or wagons.

Carriages of all kinds, wagons, and cars have successfully performed the trip.—Teams of horses, mules, and oxen are promiscuously used, often teams of bulls and cows. Stock of all kinds, driven loose, and especially cows and sheep, furnish a reliable supply of food, and bring very high prices.

The expense of an outfit under the first head will fall within the following estimate:

TRANSPORTATION.

Large wagon.	$100
Oxen, $40 per yoke.	160
Or mules, at $60.	480
Harness.	60
Extra rope, leather, tools, axes, spades, tar, &c.	25

PROVISIONS.

Flour, at $2 per cwt.	150 lbs. each.
Bacon, at $2.50 per cwt.	75 lbs. each.
Coffee, at 8 cents per lb.	20 lbs. each.
Sugar, at 8 cents per lb.	50 lbs. each.
Salt, pepper vinegar, &c,	

MESS.

Skillets, oven frying pans of *iron*.
Kettles, cups, &c. of *tin*.

BEDS.

Mackinaw blankets, at $10 to $16 per pair.
A small assortment of Indian goods.

The expense for a single traveller under the second head may be thus averaged:

Riding horse.	$ 60
Two mules, at $60.	120
Saddle, bridle, and spurs.	12
Two pack saddles, $4.	8

Provisions and other supplies the same as above.

Should parties of six or ten unite their mean and substitute a four horse or six-mule wagon, this would be equivalent to ten pack-mules in so long a journey.—These wagons cost $75 the harness six a set.

I have stated a hundred and twenty days as the length of the journey but parties of young men have packs and good animals and guides, may easily reach the Sacramento in forty-five or fifty days, nor need such confine themselves to the wagon road, but may take the route of the Arkansas, or by Sante Fe,

Independence has been the point selected by the State and National Governments for the departure of the military and exploring expeditions to Oregon, Mexico and California, both before and during the war, and of their return and discharge—Other points higher up the Missouri—as Western St Joseph, and the Mormon settlement near the Council Bluffs,—have occasionally been selected by emigrating parties. These places have all the disadvantage of being on the eastern bank of the Missouri, and, yet far behind Independence in the abundance, adaption, and cheapness of supplies.

Allow me to repeat some facts stated by me on my return from the Pacific in 1841.

The maritime country on the Pacific extends along the ocean from San Diego to Vancouver's Island, and is confined between the snowy ridge of Sierra Nevada and the beach. Its average width exceeds one hundred and one hundred fifty miles, its length twelve hundred. This Sierra Nevada is the prolongation of the Andes of Chilli, Peru, Columbia, Central America, and Mexico—preserving all its characteristics unaltered of great height, volcanoes, volcanic rock, and lava. It is grander here than in South America, because receding from the coast, it is accompanied by this maratime region, room for a series for fine rivers—the Bonaventura, San Joachim Sacramento, Shasty river, the Tlamatha, Umpqua, Walamette, Columbia, and Puget's Sound.

This whole region, therefore, abounds with the same mineral productions as Spanish America, whilst it has its own grand excellencies for commerce, agriculture, both *arable* and *pastoral*, infinite fisheries, forrets, internal navigation, and position between the valley of the Mississippi and China. A delicious and tranquil climate, and sublime scenery, make this most incontestably the finest new country of which the human race has yet any where possessed itself.

Yours respectfully,
W. GILPIN.

To Messrs. Samuel Ralston, Samuel D. Lucas, and Smallwood Noland.

A Man Eaten by Rats!—The St. Louis Organ of the 8th inst., has a paragraph in its first columns, stating that a man had been taken to the calaboose in that city, in a state of intoxication, and left alone during the night. He died, and when the body was found in the morning, it was *more than half devoured by rats!*

Valentines.—About 50,000 valentines were distributed in Philadelphia last week, and about 25,000 in Baltimore.