From the National Intelligencer.

THE HARRISBURG QUESTION.

We received, in the course yesterday, the subjoined letter, which we give to our readers with the single remark, that we stated the case which has arisen in the Pennsylvania Legislature, as we were enabled by publications at Philadelphia to comprehend a matter of which we had no personal knowledge.

TO THE EDITORS.

WASHINGTON, December 10, 1838.

GENTLEMEN: In your editorial of this morning, under the title of "The News from Harrisburg," you have entirely mistaken a material fact upon which the controversy depends. It is to correct this mistake, doubtless unintentional, that I take the liberty of addressing you the present note, which you will please to publish.

After stating the rejection of the vote of the Northern Liberties by the return judges, and the consequent return by them of Mr. Ingersoll as a representative to Congress, you say that "by thus annulling a Naylor majority of upwards of thirteen hundred in one district, [the effect is] to secure the pretended election of Charles I. Ingersoll to Congress, and the whole Loco Foco county ticket to the Legislature."

Every man who reads this paragraph must infer that if the return of the district of the Northern Liberties had been received, the Whig, and not the Democratic county ticket would have been elected to the Legislature; and yet such an inference is directly at variance with the fact. I now write with copies before me of the returns of the majority as well as the minority return judges, as they were transmitted to the Secretary of the Commonwealth. In order to be brief, I shall merely refer to the votes given to the first candidate on the Democratic, and the first on the Whig ticket, for the State Senate.

In all the seventeen election districts of the county of Philadelphia, including the Whig return of the Northern Liberties, C. Brown, the Democratic candidate, received 10,036 votes. And his opponent, J. Hanna, the Whig candidate, received 9,465 votes.

C. Brown's majority 571 votes.

The exclusion of the district of the Northern Liberties had no effect but that of increasing C. Brown's majority over J. Hanna from 571 to 1,550 votes. Whether this district be admitted or excluded, the whole Democratic ticket for the county of Philadelphia is elected by a handsome majority.

The six of the seventeen return judges who met after the regular official return had been made out and signed by ten of their number, in order to furnish a return which would elect the Whig candidates, rejected all the votes given in ten of the seventeen election districts of the county of Philadelphia. These rejected districts are, Kensington, Southwark, Passyunk, Kingsessing, Roxborough, Lower Dublin, Byberry, and Moreland, Unincorporated Northern Liberties, North Penn Township, South Penn Township, and West Philadelphia. It is upon this return, made by six only of the seventeen return judges of the county of Philadelphia, and embracing the votes given in seven only of seventeen election districts, that the Whig candidates are now claiming seats in the Legislature at Harrisburg.

There are other matters in your editorial liable to objection; but my purpose is merely to put you right upon the the important fact which is at the root of the unfortunate controversy.

Yours, very respectfully,
JAMES BUCHANAN.

MESSRS. GALES AND SEATON.

FROM HARRISBURG

HARRISBURG, DEC. 12th.

REINFORCEMENT.—Several companies, we understand from York and Cumberland are quartered on the opposite bank of the river, not being able to obtain lodgings in town.

The volunteers who are here we believe are quartered in the arsenal, the exchange, the court-house, the Lancasterian school house & the presbyterian church. It is expected that large reinforcements will be here to morrow.

Citizens are flocking from all quarters, so that in the course of a week we presume there will be from twenty to fifty thousand persons here.—Keystone.

THE TRUE CAUSE.—The Harrisburg Key Stone, gives the following as the true cause why the desperate attempts of the office holders about that place have been made to cheat the people out of their rights, and why they are endeavoring to place in office those who have not been chosen by a majority of the votes:

"The true secret of all the manœuvres and tricks of Stevens and Co. is that if the *frauds*, yea, the HEAVEN DARING FRAUDS, which have been committed on the public works the last year, and which if unvieled by a democratic legislature, would astound every honest man in the state of all parties, Mr. Stevens would be unable to live in the state.—He would be regarded as a MONSTER OF INIQUITY, and public indignation and everlasting infamy would be his portion. He knows this, and knows that his situation cannot be worse. He would rather the government were dissolved, than that his acts as canal commissioner should be examined. The *five hundred thousand dollars borrowed and spent without authority*, haunts him by night and by day. The missionary fund of $175,000 rises up in judgment against him, and he exclaims like Lamech of old, 'If CAIN be AVENGED SEVEN FOLD—truly I shall be PUNISHED SEVENTY AND SEVEN FOLD.'"

In the Van Buren division of the House on the 10th.

Mr. Hopkins (Speaker of the House) rose and stated, that he would take this occasion to remark—not, however, that he had any thing official to communicate to the House—that on this morning, he was called upon by a gentleman who was a personal friend of his and informed that the Governor desired to have an interview with him.

He accordingly proceeded to the dwelling of Governor Ritner, when that gentleman informed him that he desired to say to him, that the troops brought here under his (the Governor's) requisition, had received his express order that no soldier, either armed or unarmed, would be permitted to enter within the walls which surrounded the Capitol, unless under the requisition of the Legislature, or either branch thereof.

The Governor had informed him, further, that there was no intention, on his part, to dispossess any representative of the people of his place, and that it was not his intention to interfere in the remotest degree, with the rights of the members of the Legislature, in the performance of their duties.

The Governor had also assured him, that he had not made any communication to either branch of the Legislature, nor would he, until he was officially informed that the Legislature was properly organized, and he (Mr. Hopkins) had informed the Governor that he would state these facts to the body over which he presided.

Congress.—We present to our readers the resolutions submitted to the House of Representatives on the subject of Abolition by Mr. Atherton, an administration member from N. Hampshire, together with a sketch of the proceedings at the time of their adoption.—The adoption of these resolutions, will have a tendency to prevent the business of the House being interrupted by the introduction of the perplexing question of Abolition, and prevent a repetition of the excitement which it has so frequently given rise to on the floor of Congress. Mr Wise refused to vote on the second resolution. Indeed he was not the only Whig that seemed uneasy under the action of the House on these resolutions. A slight circumstance will sometimes lead to important developements, and a man's sincerity is never better tested than when it is put to a fair trial.—*Easton Whig.*

1. Resolved, That this Government is of limited powers, and that by the Constitution of the United States Congress has no jurisdiction whatever over the institution of Slavery in the several States of the Confederacy.

2. Resolved, That petitions for the abolition of Slavery in the District of Columbia & the Territories of the United States, & against the removal of slaves from one State to another, are a part of a plan of operations set on foot to affect the institution of Slavery in the several States and thus indirectly to destroy that institution within their several limits.

The third resolution was read as follows:

3. Resolved, That Congress has no right to do indirectly which it cannot do directly; and that the agitation of the subject of slavery in the District of Columbia or the Territories, as a means and with the view of disterbing or overthrowing that institution in the several States is against the true spirit and meaning of the constitution, an infringement of the rights of the States affected and a breach of the public faith in which they entered into this confederacy.

Mr. Waddy Thompson asked to be excused from voting for this proposition Refused

The 3d resolution was divided so as to take the question first on the first clause, viz—"That Congress has not the power to do *indirectly* what it cannot do *directly*"

The question being taken this was decided in the affirmative—yeas 173, nays 30

Mr. Adams being first called, raising his voice to its highest pitch, answered "No! The constitution does not embrace any such proposition."—[Loud laughter followed this sally.]

The remaining clause of the resolution was agreed to—Yeas 164, nays 39. It is as follows—

4. Resolved, That the Constitution rests on the broad principle of equality among the members of this Confederacy, and that Congress, in the exercise of its acknowledged power, has no right to discriminate between the institutions of one portion of the States & another, with a view of abolishing the one and promoting the other.

The second branch was agreed to, yeas 180, nays 23.

The fifth resolution was then as follows:

Resolved, Therefore, That all attempts on the part of Congress to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, or the Territories, or prohibit the removal of slaves from State to State, or to discriminate between the institutions of one portion of the confederacy and another, with the views aforesaid, are in violation of the Constitution, destructive of the fundamental principles on which the Union of these States rests, and beyond the jurisdiction of Congress, and that every petition, memorial, resolution, proposition or paper, touching or relating, in any way, or to any extent whatsoever, to slavery as aforesaid, or the abolition thereof, shall, on the presentation thereof, without any further action thereon, be laid upon the table without being debated, printed or referred.

The first branch of this resolution was agreed to—yeas 156, nays 57.

Mr. Potts moved to lay the latter branch of the proposition on the table—lost—yeas 55—nays 129.

The question was next taken on this portion of the resolution, and it was agreed to, yeas 126, nays 78.

Mr. Pope, of Ky. asked to be excused from voting for the above. The House refused to excuse him.

Mr. Chambers, of Ky. asked to be excused, on the ground that he could not vote for the resolution consistently with his opinion that Congress had no power to *receive* petitions. Refused.

All the resolutions having been adopted,

Mr. Kennedy, of Md. asked leave to offer a resolution amending the form of the 4th resolution. Objections were made. Mr. K. moved to suspension of the rule.

The House then adjourned.

The annual meeting of the American Colonization Society was held last Wednesday night at the Capitol, and was very numerously attended.

FROM CANADA.

A Commission of inquiry has been appointed in Montreal, to examine into the cases of many prisoners, against whom it is said no evidence can be adduced.—Among the six or seven hundred, for a portion of whom it has been found necessary to fit up a store as a jail, it is said that quite a large number are innocent persons, whose arrest was caused by the excitement of the times. The Commission of Inquiry will report upon the cases of such persons; and they will probably be discharged without the formality of a trial.

There are abundance of rumors in the Montreal papers of risings in Upper Canada.—Among these reports, it was stated that fresh incursions had been made in the extreme West, and that they had got severely beaten at Malden, by the loyalists.

The following notice of the Prescott court martial proceedings, is extracted from a letter to the Commercial Advertiser, dated Watertown, N. Y. Dec. 3.

I have just seen a gentleman from Kingston, who left there on Saturday the 1st inst. The court martial had organized, and had proceeded in the trial of the prisoners. Col. Von Shultz had pleaded guilty, and had handed to the court a paper stating his reasons for going to Canada, &c. Dorphens Abbey and Daniel George, from this county, have both been tried and found guilty. Three of the prisoners have turned Queen's evidence. The court was proceeding to try the remainder, and they will probably all be found guilty; and the general opinion is that a small number will suffer death immediately, and that the remainder will be respited until they hear from England.

From the Cleveland Intelligencer, 6th inst.

IMPORTANT IF TRUE.

Hostilities commenced in the West—Ft. Malden in possession of the Patriots—175 persons taken prisoners.

The way bill from the west this morning contains the important announcement that the Patriots had taken Fort Malden, with *one hundred and seventy five prisoners*. It is represented that there was immense slaughter on both sides.

A gentleman who came in the Western stage confirms, in a measure, the above intelligence. Before leaving Toledo, information had been received at that place stating the Patriots had crossed over at the river St. Clair, and on Sunday night took possession of the Fort. The burning of some of the houses was the signal for the commencement of hostilities and the descent upon the town was made while a portion of the loyalists were engaged in extinguishing the flames. Our informant states there was great destruction among the red coat negroes.

The next mail will probably give us correct intelligence in relation to the reported rising.

IMPORTANT FROM MEXICO.

Bombardment and capture of the Castle of San Juan de Ulloa by the French Fleet.—By our slips from New Orleans, we are informed that the French steam-ship of war Meteor, arrived at that port on the evening of 6th inst. bringing intelligence of the bombardment and capture of the celebrated Castle of San Juan de Ulloa, after an action of four or five hours. This castle has heretofore been deemed impregnable, and the presumption is, that had it been garrisoned by almost any nation than Mexico, would have withstood all attempts on the part of France to subdue it. The blockading squadron, according to the French account lost but four men, killed, while the loss of the Mexicans in killed and wounded, amounted to from five to six hundred. The United States Revenue Cutter Woodbury was in sight, and her crew witnessed the whole action. The action took place on the 27th of November, commencing at 2 o'clock. On the part of the French, it was sustained by three frigates, a sloop of war, and two bomb ketches, and so well directed were their bombs and heavy artillery, that in less than four hours they had silenced the fire of 160 pieces of Mexican artillery, demolished all the outworks, including the famous redoubt called El Caballero, and killed and wounded 600 men of the Mexican garrison. About 6 o'clock in the afternoon, the Mexican commander in the castle hung out a signal for the cessation of hostilities, and begged to be allowed time to withdraw his wounded from the ruins of the fortification. The French admiral replied that he could consent to no truce, but would allow the Mexicans to retire from the fort if they capitulated. To this the Mexican General agreed and withdrew his troops from the castle, which was immediately occupied by the French soldiers and marines. The Mexican army near Vera Cruz, was 5,000 strong, but their officers did not consider themselves able to hold the town, commanded as it was by the guns of the castle, until the French Admiral consented that one thousand of the Mexican troops should remain in the city, to preserve order. It was believed that negotiations had been commenced between the Mexican Government and the French Admiral, for the re-establishment of peace, but some time may elapse before the result is known. The French Admiral, it was thought, would no longer hinder the vessels of all nations from trading to Vera Cruz.

An officer of the U. S. cutter Woodbury, writing to the editors of the National Intelligencer, gives some interesting particulars—He says that the interior of the castle, and almost all the lower batteries, are destroyed by the explosions and the effect of the bombs. The bursting of a single bomb of 82 lbs. destroyed the observatory, burying a great number of troops in its ruins. The Prince de Joinville, in command of a sloop of war, behaved in a most gallant manner. The number of shot fired from the squadron was estimated at five thousand, and from the castle about seventeen hundred. The frigate Ephigonic alone received upwards of one hundred balls. The French vessels still continue to cruize in the neighborhood of the Mexican coast, to prevent the entrance of vessels in any port than that of Vera Cruz.—*Baltimore Sun.*

From the N. O. True American.

Further particulars of the loss of the Gen. Brown.

This dreadful calamity occurred at Helena in Arkansas, on Sunday last, at noon, the 25th November.—Few, if any of the many frightful accidents which have of late years happened to steamboats on the western waters, have been attended with circumstances so exciting, and so reprehensible, as those which marked the destruction of the *General Brown*, Capt. Saml. Clark. By this most deplorable event between thirty and forty individuals have lost their lives from what appears to be the most wanton and unnecessary risque. From information we have received from several who witnessed the calamity, it appears that the "Gen Brown" rounded to on Saturday night, about 60 miles above Helena on a signal from the *Empress*, owing to a flat boat with 52 horses in it, which she had in tow, having sprung a leak. The ill fated Captain Clark took on board about 30 of the animals and proceeded on his way down, as Capt. Russell, of the Empress, had expressed his determination not to make any race then, or ever, and the Capt. of the Gen. Brown stated that his boat was crippled from the "Washington" having run into her and carried away part of her wheel and wheel-house. On the following day, Sunday, about noon, the Empress approached Helena where she saw the "Brown" holding on to her steam for the purpose of a contest, but just as the Empress came abreast of her she exploded with such fearful force as to jar the Empress to an extent that frightened many of her lady passengers. On witnessing the calamity, Capt Russell, with the best feelings of humanity, ordered his boat to be rounded to in order to render every possible assistance, but as he approached he was warned off on the plea that there was powder on board the ill-fated "Brown." But Capt. Russell was not to be scared from his duty as a man and a christian, so making his boat fast above the wreck, he headed his whole force in entering the burning heap of ruins which the exploded steamer presented, and rescued from inevitable destruction six beings who were pent up in the forcastle.

Without food, without refreshment, without even a coat to cover him, he worked with might and main until 3 o'clock on Monday morning, and no eulogy can be too warm for the noble conduct he displayed throughout.—Of the 18 cabin passengers (males) known to be on board five only were saved. The captain, mate, two pilots, one clerk, carpenter, and barkeeper, are known to have fallen victims. The first clerk was the only officer saved, in consequence of his running up to the post office. One way passenger, an inhabitant of Helena, had scarcely put his foot on board, before the explosion sent him into eternity, even while his wife, family, and friends were bidding him 'farewell.' Owing to the fact that but few of the passengers had registered their names, it is impossible to come at an accurate list of the sufferers; the best we could obtain will be found below.—Among them is Mr. Horace Blanchard, an estimable citizen of Vicksburg, whose body was found stript to the waist and floating near the bank, about a mile and a half below. On his person, sewed into his linen, was found a sum of money amounting to $11,000, which with other valuables were given to his friend and townsman Mr. George who was himself severely scalded. Dr. Pryce, of Vicksburg, whose body was not found, had with him $7000. During Sunday afternoon the steamers Emperor, Gen. Harrison, and Commodore came up but none save the former rendered any assistance to the sufferers.

Ten of those severely, dangerously wounded, were found and taken care of. Mr. Long, one of the victims, fell through the skylight of a boat at the wharf, and died on being picked up. The greater number of the horses were killed. From the second state room in the cabin forward all was blown up, and all parties agree in the fact that the explosion arose from the Engineer holding on to the steam with the intent, it is supposed, of overtaking the Empress which was passing quietly on her way.

A DARK TRANSACTION.—A man calling himself Wright Allan, was arrested yesterday, by Cook, Zell and Ridgely, on a charge of having conspired with a colored girl named Mary Riddley, to defraud James F Purvis of a certain sum of money. An examination was held before Squire Bryerley, from which we gather the following facts. It appears that some time during last week, this Mr. Allan sent a note to Mr. Purvis, stating that he was desirous of raising some funds, and proposed to mortgage a negro girl who was his slave, for a certain amount of money. Mr. Purvis subsequently waited on him, and the girl was present when Mr. P. agreed to advance $100 on the girl, the sum to be returned in ten days, or in case of failure in payment on or before that time, Mr. P. was to become owner of the girl on the further payment of $700.—The arrangement was concluded on Saturday, and the girl was transferred to the charge of Mr. Purvis. On Sunday, Mr. Allan wrote him another letter, requesting an advance of $100 more, and stating he was going to Richmond. The girl was informed of this request, and she seemed surprised at his intended departure. She declared she must see him before he went, and in answer to the questions of Mr. P, finally declared she was a free woman, and advised him to give no more money on her. In proof of her freedom, she ripped out of her dress, where she had it sewed up, a paper recommending her as a free woman of color and of good character, and which paper was signed by several citizens of Fayetteville, North Carolina. This denouncement led to Mr. Allan's arrest. In defence, he declared that he had purchased her at Fayetteville, N. C., for one thousand dollars and that he did not believe her to be free. He is an elderly man, of staid and sober demeanor, and represents himself to be a married man with five children. The girl, who is a very fair mulatto, or rather mustee, of about eighteen years of age, told as her version of the affair, that she was free born, that she became acquainted with Allan in Fayetteville, her native place, and that she had come on to this city as his wife. They had, she stated taken boarding at a respectable house in this city and lived together in that relation. He became sick, and his funds being exhausted, he proposed to her to mortgage her as a slave, and after some time consented on condition of his redeeming her at the time specified. The arrangement with Mr. Purvis was the consequence, and she exposed the conspiracy because he had played her false. He admitted the fact of the mortgage, &c. but denied the cohabiting, and maintained that she was his slave, and in proof requested an examination of his trunks for the purpose of procuring the requisite documents. The trunks were examined, but no such documents could be found. This, he intimated, might be accounted for by the fact of his trunks having been left open, during his sickness, and the girl having access to them. They were both committed to prison to answer the charge at the next term of the City Court, where it will be shown whether the affair is a daring scheme of an intelligent, quick witted female to gain her freedom, or the collusion of an amalgamating swindler with an ignorant but affectionate *cheramic.*—Balt. Sun

The Mississippi Senator.—Col. Williams is well known in the State. He represented Hind county in the Legislature 3 or 4 years ago, since which time he has resided in this county. He is a man of strong and vigorous intellect—possessing a mind of great discrimination, a sound judgement, and correct knowledge of the fundamental structure of our Government and its policy. He is a democratic republican of the Jeffersonian school, holding to the letter, the genuine principles of democracy and the doctrine of State rights as contended for in the celebrated Virginia and Kentucky resolutions. He therefore supports the present administration of the federal government in all its leading measures and is of course opposed to Mr. Clay for the Presidency, and a National Bank. Col. Williams has always been a democrat. His flag has always been planted on the outward wall. He is no *fair weather* politician. Satisfied that the principles of his party are right, he will stand by that party if he dies in the ditch. Of unimpeachablo moral character and the strictest integrity, he is as much respected by his political opponents as by his friends. He is a planter—a man of easy fortune, and he can therefore afford to serve this State with usefulness to her, and credit to himself.—*Pontotoc Intelligencer.*

ILLINOIS.

Extract from a letter, dated

CHICAGO, Nov. 25, 1838.

GENTLEMEN: The special election in this Senatorial district, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the death of the Honorable Peter Pruyne, terminated on Thursday last in the election of Ebenezer Peck, Esq. an ardent supporter of the Independent Treasury system, and one of the ablest speakers in the State as our present member of Congress (by recurrence to his last visit to this city, which was so unwelcome to all parties) can testify.

MICHIGAN.

Extract from a letter, dated

ST. JOSEPHS (Mich.) Nov. 13, 1838.

"I write to give you the pleasing intelligence that Michigan has achieved a most glorious victory at our recent State election.—Our mutual friend, Hon. J. C. Cary, is elected to Congress by an increased vote over his last election; and from the returns received, we are satisfied of a strong Democratic majority in both branches of the Legislature. This ensures us a Democratic Senator to Congress, at the election this winter. In our county (Berrien) we have carried all by the board, and elected our Representative, Hon. Thomas Fitzgerald, one of the most efficient and decided Democrats in Michigan or the West.—He is of himself a host. Last year the Hoco Pocos carried the county by nearly 100 majority. Now we have from 150 to 175! In every county yet heard from there are Democratic gains; and it is firmly believed by our best informed men, our gain througout the State will be from four to six hundred. This, under the fearful odds with which we had to contend of money and banks, is a great triumph. The Sub Treasury system is fast gaining supporters in Michigan. Thus we go."

SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Hon PATRICK NOBLE, Senator from Abbeville and President of the Senate, was elected Governor of South Carolina on the 8th inst. The vote stood for NOBLE 96.

ELMORE 58.

Dr. THOMAS SMITH, of Darlington, was elected Lieut. Governor, by a majority of one vote over Dr. B. K. HENAGON, of Marlborough. The Hon. ANGUS PATTERSON was elected President of the Senate.

Important resolutions in relation to the Slave question were introduced into the Legislature of South Carolina on the 8th inst. We shall publish them to-morrow.

Abolition.—The Legislature of Vermont passed at its last session sundry resolutions going to favor the doctrine of abolition, and directed that copies of them be transmitted to the Governors of each of the states to be laid before their respective legislatures. The manner in which they have been received in North Carolina may be judged from the resolutions annexed, which passed the house of Commons with but one negative, and that was given because the person who gave it thought that they were entitled to nothing but the silent contempt of the body to which they were addressed.—*Balt. Sun.*

Resolved, That the Resolution from the State of Vermont on the Abolition of Slavery, transmitted to us by his Excellency, the Governor of this State, is a gross assault on the rights and domestic institutions of the South.

Resolved, That it is inconsistent with the dignity and solemn duty of this Legislature, to make any response to them whatever.

Resolved, That upon the subject of the Abolition of Slavery, we have but one opinion, and will not permit ourselves to entertain or debate it, and any effort to provoke discussion will be instantly met with the most decisive reprobation.

THE MORMONS.—The Boonville Emigrant of the 15th November states that the trial of Joe Smith and forty seven others of the Mormons, was to come on at the Circuit Court of Ray County, which was then in session at Richmond.

It is further stated that it is not true that the Mormons are to be sent out of the state immediately.—They are to be permitted to remain for the present, with the distinct understanding that they are not to make another crop in Missouri, but to leave it between this and next summer.

The forces which were engaged in the Mormon war are disbanded and sent home, with the exception of one troop of cavalry, which will be retained until after the trials are over.

Another Dreadful Steamboat Explosion.—By a slip from the office of the Natchez Courier, we learn that the steamer Augusta, on Monday, the 3d inst. while on her way from Natchez to Vicksburg was rendered a complete wreck by the explosion of her boilers.—A large number of persons were killed—the number not exactly known. Culpable negligence on the part of the engineer is said to have been the cause. At the time of the explosion, there were twenty eight deck hands and firemen, on board; and when their names were called, after the accident, only eight could be found.