Washington, Dec. 28, 1848.

[illegible] British Government, [illegible] Reference to the Imprisonment of Ame[illegible]

The President, in compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives, on the 18th inst., requesting him to inform that body "whether any information has recently been received by the American citizens, said to have been arrested, or arrested by British authorities in Ireland, the nature of which led to such arrest, and whether the correspondence on the subject, transmitted a report from the Secretary of State, together with accompanying documents upon the subject, should not, in his opinion, at this time be published," [illegible] the following very comprehensive, as the resolution, a [illegible] and extract of a communication from Mr. Bancroft, stating that the Habeas Corpus Act had been suspended for Ireland. The second is from Mr. Broadhead, Secretary of the United States Legation, to Mr. Buchanan, enclosing a note of Lord Palmerston's, together with a copy of a memorandum, drawn up by Mr. Redington, the Under Secretary for Ireland, which contains an account of the circumstances under which five American citizens "were arrested, at Armagh, on the 12th inst., (August,) and discharged the next day, after having been taken to Dublin, in custody; and expressing the regret of Her Majesty's Government, at the unintended inconvenience to gentlemen merely travelling for their own lawful purpose."—The enclosure states that the arrests were made in consequence of information received by the Irish government, that a considerable number of citizens of the United States, and others from America, might be expected in Ireland, as agents for the sympathisers, &c. It is unnecessary to give the statement in full, as they were arrested by mistake, and promptly released. We may, however, mention that they were arrested upon the capture of a person who represented that he had just escaped from this country, and was assured that they were veritable "sympathisers."

The next letter, dated the 4th of September, is from Mr. Toucey, Acting Secretary of State, in the absence of Mr. Buchanan, calling the attention of Mr. Bancroft, to "the condition of those American citizens who have been arrested and held for trial, under the charge of sedition or treason." The despatch goes on to state that the department has no official knowledge of any arrests having been made; but so much had transpired, through the public journals, as to induce a belief that such arrests had taken place.

"If, upon inquiry, it shall be ascertained that any such arrests have occurred, it will be the right and duty of the government to see that the persons arrested have the full benefit of legal defence; and it may be, and, in the present instance, is its duty also, to interpose its good offices in their behalf beyond the strict limits of securing for them a fair and fair trial.

"It is the wish of the President, and he instructs you, to urge upon the British government the adoption of a magnanimous and merciful course towards those men who have been implicated in the late disturbances in Ireland. The calamities which have recently befallen her starving population by the dispensation of Providence, in the destruction of her crops; the close bonds of sympathy between them and a large class who have removed and established themselves permanently in America; the national sympathy which has been extensively manifested in acts of charity and good will towards the Irish people, and the unsettled state of so large a portion of the civilized world, constitute a series of exciting causes, so powerful as to render it hardly possible that an interference or outbreak to some extent should not have taken place.

"But the power of the British government is so great that it can well afford to be magnanimous. Perhaps no act on its part would have so happy an effect, or would be received by other nations with more universal approbation, than an act of general amnesty. While the government of the United States disclaims any right to interpose in behalf of British subjects, it is at liberty to say that such an act, so far as it embraced the case of our own citizens, would be regarded with particular favor. And should an act of grace and pardon, extended to our own citizens, be deemed to carry along with it the necessity of similar favor to British subjects in Ireland, it is believed that the necessity would constitute no objection to the measure, but would redound to the honor of Great Britain, in the estimation of the wise and good in all ages.

"It is the desire of the President that this subject be presented to Her Majesty's government with great delicacy, and pressed by all the considerations that may occur to you, and appropriately belong to it."

Then follows an extract from a letter to Mr. Buchanan from Mr. Bancroft, enclosing an act of Parliament of the 25th of July, 1848, empowering the Irish authorities to apprehend and detain, till the first of March, 1849, any suspected persons. Also stating that several Americans had been arrested under the law in question. Also a note to Viscount Palmerston, calling attention to Mr. James Bergen's arrest, stating that he is an American citizen, born in New England, asking to be informed of the causes of his arrest, and requesting permission for him to leave Her Majesty's dominions.

Several letters have fallen from Mr. Bancroft to the British authorities, asserting the innocence of the parties detained of any attempt to disturbe the peace, and with the acknowledgements from Lord Palmerston of the receipt of the communications.

An answer from Mr. Bancroft to the Acting Secretary of State's letter, conveying the President's desire that nothing should be left undone to procure the release of any American citizen detained in custody, &c. Mr. Bancroft states that he had already, presuming on the wishes of the President, carried out every part of the instructions relating to Americans. He continues—"I have hitherto, thus far, as the annexed copies of letters indicate, not been required to plead for such act of grace, but have been able to stand on the better ground of a demand for justice."

A good deal of delay was experienced in procuring a definite answer from Lord Palmerston; and on the 6th of October, Mr. Bancroft writes that he has just received an answer from Lord Palmerston, dated the 30th September. This letter states that "an humane intimation reached Her Majesty's government and the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, as well from the United States as from other quarters, showing that Mr. Bergen was concerned in treasonable practices in connection with the late attempted outbreak in Ireland," &c. With reference to Mr. R. F. Ryan, his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland entertained no doubt of his being guilty of the charges brought against him. "It has also been shown to the satisfaction of the Lord Lieutenant, that Mr. Ryan is a subject of her Majesty. It then proceeds to justify the measures which have been taken to arrest suspicious persons arriving in Ireland from the United States, upon the ground of the sympathising meetings and associations got up in New York and other places. It superciliously adds:—

"Her Majesty's government, well knowing the constitutional difficulties of the government of the United States, and convinced that the President has employed to the utmost the very limited means within his power to check and discountenance the proceedings above mentioned, have not pressed the government of the United States with representations against a state of things, which, under other circumstances, would scarcely have been compatible with the continuance of friendly relations between the two governments. But then, on the other hand, the government of the United States must not mistake it, and think that her Majesty's government [illegible] Canada, to purchase [illegible] the United States. [illegible] period of [illegible] Her Majesty's Government are responsible for all acts which may be done in consequence of such instructions; and from their responsibilities, in this respect, they have no will or intention to shrink."

In alluding to that portion of Lord Palmerston's communication, claiming Mr. Ryan as a British subject, Mr. Bancroft remarks that the claim of Great Britain to perpetual allegiance from all persons who happen to have been born there, is, of course, untenable, and asks Mr. Buchanan's views on the subject.—Mr. Buchanan furnishes his opinion in these words:—

"Treason cannot be committed by a citizen of the United States against a foreign government; and we are bound by every principle of faith and national honor, to maintain the doctrine as firmly in favor of our naturalized as our native citizens. I should trust that the British government are not prepared, by the trial of Mr. Richard Ryan for treason, to precipitate a question which must produce such a tremendous excitement throughout our country, especially when this can be so easily avoided.

THE RUMORED RESTORATION OF THE POLISH KINGDOM.—A letter from Posen, dated Dec. 6, which is quoted in the *Cologne Gazette*, says,—"Prussia, on condition that Russia should reestablish the Kingdom of Poland, and place the Duke of Leuchtenberg over it as King, has ceded to Russia that part of the Grand Duchy of Posen, which, according to the line of demarcation traced by General Von Shuffer Heinstein, has not been incorporated into Germany. The formal act of cession will take place on the 1st of January. The arrival of a Russian Councillor of the State at Kalisch, has reference to the execution of this important treaty.

Similar negotiations have commenced with Austria, on the subject of the cession of Cracow and the Polish part Gallicia, but the reality of this is not yet determined. The new kingdom of Poland will have a constitution granted to it, and will be placed provisionally under the protection of the three powers. All this may be considered as an attempt to satisfy the Poles, and extinguish that important focus of revolution for Eastern Europe.

If the attempt should fail, the whole of Poland will return under the domination of Russia, and the population of the Grand Duchy of Posen hopes confidently that the cession to Russia will be effected.

The *Gazette of Poland*, however, asserts that it does not give credit to this strange intelligence.

The *Breslau Gazette*, on the other hand, says there are in the kingdom of Poland 100,000 men ready to fight, and who are at the disposal of Austria whenever she chooses to call for them. Should Austria be reduced to the necessity of requiring them she may in return abandon Gallicia to the Czar, which would perfectly satisfy him.

The frontier between Poland and Russia will shortly be opened. It is even asserted that this also is to be the case in regard to Cracow; and according to another report, the kingdom of Poland will be reinstated in its ancient form, and Cracow will again be a republic. Such are the accounts given by some of the best informed journals, although they are not in accord in regard to facts. It nevertheless seems pretty certain that negotiations are pending, and that some change will shortly take place in regard to Poland.

THE AMERICAN FRIGATE "ST. LAWRENCE."—The St. Lawrence came up Southampton Water and anchored abreast Netley Abbey, on Sunday the 3rd inst. When she dropped anchor, the Admiralty superintendent's boat, with the royal pennant flying, pushed off from the quay to convey Lieut. Brady, R. N. who, in the absence of Capt. Sir J. G. Sinclair, Bart., the senior officer at Southampton, went to pay a respect to Capt. Paulding of the St. Lawrence, and to offer him the civilities of the port. Lieut Brady was received very politely, and the most respectful courtesy were exchanged between the American and the British officers. At 11 o'clock on Monday morning the chimbering clinks of Netley must have been almost amazed by the frigate. This was answered by a salute of 21 guns from the Southampton platform, which was fired amidst a great concourse of people. The United Consul returned to the pier about 12 o'clock, with several officers of the frigate. The captain was detained on board by illness. The weather was very tempestuous, but a number of gentlemen were on the pier, and welcomed the American officers very cordially to Southampton. Numerous flags were hoisted, and the church bell rang merrily during the day. A number of reports having been in circulation as to the conduct of Capt. Paulding in passing Portsmouth Harbor. We are authorized to state that, in strict accordance with naval etiquette the Captain did salute the admiral, the garrison, and Osborne. Capt. Paulding and the officers of the frigate were entertained on the 13th inst., at a splendid dinner, given by the Mayor and Corporation of Southampton, at the audit house, in commemoration of the visit of the St. Lawrence, and to testify their respect for the American flag. About ninety persons sat down to dinner. The Mayor presided at the principal table, and on the right hand of his worship sat the guest of the evening, Capt. Paulding, supported by many of his officers. On the same side we also observed A. E. Cockburn, Esq., M. P. Capt Norton, Capt. Keele, E. Shelson, Esq., G. Atherly, Esq., G. Burnett, Esq., G. Goldsmith, Esq., and J. Witt, Esq. On the left of the chairman were D. Brooks, Esq., the late Mayor, E. Barnard, Esq., Captain Lamb, T. L. Harman, Esq. The vice chairs were filled by Mr. Sheriff Andrews and C. E. Deacon, Esq., town clerk. The banquet was of princely magnificence: every delicacy of the season was in profuse abundance, and the wines were of an unsurpassed quality. An excellent band was stationed in the orchestra, which played many popular and national airs during the evening. The health of the Queen was drunk amid a salute of 21 guns from the battery; and the same honor was paid to the toast of "The President of the United States" by the guns of the St. Lawrence, both being very correctly timed by signal. The health of Capt. Paulding and the officers of the frigate; J. R. Croskey, Esq., the American Consul at Southampton; the members of the borough; the Mayor, and many others were given, and responded to in a becoming manner; and the company separated, after having spent a very delightful evening.

THE POSTAL TREATY BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 16—12 o'clock.

Our London reporter has just sent us, by special telegraphic express, an intimation that the dispute regarding the postage question, which has existed between the governments of the United States and Great Britain, has at length been satisfactorily adjusted, so far as the authorities on this side of the Atlantic are concerned.—We need not add that we are highly gratified in making the announcement, and we are sure that our readers will find pleasure in perusing the following brief letter from our London representative, which details the terms of this important treaty.—

LONDON, 4 Thavies Place,
Saturday Morning, Dec. 15.

I have just obtained information, on which I can rely, that the much vexed question of postage between this country and the United States is finally agreed upon—that is, so far as the British Government and the American Minister here are concerned. Last night the treaty was signed by Lord Palmerston, on the part of Her Britannic Majesty, and Mr. Bancroft, as the representative of the United States. I understand that the Secretary of Legation proceeded to Liverpool last night having the document in charge, which is to be sent out to Washington by the Europa, which sails this morning for New York.

I have made inquiry from some of the officials connected with the Foreign Affairs; but, as a matter of course, it cannot be expected that they would be very communicative as to the terms of the treaty. I learn, however, that the ship letter postage is fixed at 16 cents for half an ounce. The postage on newspapers to destination at two cents each way. An inland postage of five cents to be paid on each letter. Letters may be prepaid or not, just as the sender pleases. Letters from America, for France and other parts of the Continent of Europe, so to pass through England, under the Act [illegible] and [illegible] to Canada, to purchase [illegible] the United States. [illegible] Postmaster [illegible]

[illegible]

BRITISH WHIG.

"Optifer per Orbem Dicor."

FRIDAY EVENING, JAN'Y. 12, 1849.

LAMENTABLE AND DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.

On *Daily Whig* for Thursday morning had been at press for some short time, very late on Wednesday night, when a most alarming fire broke out in the large Stone Building, in Princess Street, owned by Mr. Thomas Wilson, and occupied by Mr. Hurdle, as a Watch Maker's and Jeweller's Shop; and by Mr. L'Estage, as a Dry Goods Store. The first alarm was given by the flames bursting out of Mr. Hurdle's shop windows. The family were abed and asleep; and it was with difficulty they were alarmed in time to save their lives. The Store of Mr. L'Estage was soon in flames, which raged so furiously, as to bid defiance to all endeavors to stay the fire. The upper part of this portion of the building was occupied by Mr. Dewe, Post Office Surveyor, who lost the whole of his valuable Furniture, Books and Papers. Mr. Hurdle also lost all he had on the premises, including the contents of a well furnished Jewellery Store; and it is said, a large amount of money in his Cash Box. Mr. L'Estage was fortunate enough to save nearly all the contents of his Store.

The whole Kingston Fire Brigade were early on the spot, with their excellent Engines; but the almost total want of water prevented their being of much assistance at first. When water was procured, they went to work with a good will, which is highly commendable, and strove their utmost to prevent the fire from extending. Towards the east, they were successful, and Mr. Rourke's fine stone buildings were saved; but towards the west, they were not equally fortunate. The fire took at the roof of Mrs. Fern's Ladies Shoe Warehouse, and soon destroyed the building. The Firemen again went to work to save the next house, (Mr. McCormick's Grocery Warehouse,) and by dint of the most arduous exertions, they at length succeeded. The dreadful want of water was their great enemy to success, but was at last overcome. A strong party of Military were speedily on the ground, and were of the greatest service in preserving the large quantities of valuable property scattered about in all directions.

Mr. Hurdle is the greatest sufferer; he has lost his all. Mr. Dewe also has suffered extensively. Mr. T. Wilson's stone building was insured, as was also the large stock in Mr. L'Estage store. Of Mrs. Fern's loss, we have no knowledge, but in all probability, she was insured. Messrs. Rourke and McCormick have sustained severe damage through the hasty removal of goods.

We cannot speak too highly of the exertions of the whole Fire Brigade. The Firemen worked like horses for many hours. The night was most bitter cold, the thermometer standing at 17 degrees below zero.—Had the slightest wind prevailed, the whole block must have gone.

THE COMMISSIONERS' GENEROSITY.

By a Card of Thanks, published in the *News* of Saturday, it would appear that our old friends, the Penitentiary Commissioners, have generously given Fifteen Pounds of Public Money, to their own particular toadeater, the Chief Fire Engineer, Mr. Augustus Thibodo. We say generously, because the money not being their own, but belonging to the people, it has been a great stretch of generosity to give away what don't belong to them. Had the companies who compose the Kingston Fire Department sustained any damage in their Engines, Hose or Fire Apparatus; or were they in peculiar want of funds, this extraordinary donation of the public money might perhaps be allowable; but as the very contrary is the case, we cannot regard it otherwise, than as a gross violation of the trust reposed in them, and a most flagrant dereliction of duty, than any act on the part of Mr. Smith, (whose official conduct they are now inquiting into,) during a course of 13 years.

When men call themselves Reformers, they imagine they have a right to commit any or every monstrosity they please, in the shape of attack on the liberties or purse of the people. The Saddle-Bag Parliament of 1830 is an illustration of the first assertion; and the enormous salaries which the Reformers of Lord Sydenham's days voted to themselves, is a proof of the second. Shakspeare asks "what's in a name?" The 'spendo Liberals of Canada may safely answer "every thing;" for the name of Reform is a shield to cover all manner of abuses. Which member of the present Reform Cabinet will be the first to move the reduction of his own Sixteen Hundred Pounds Salary to a sum more in proportion to the services he renders to the country? Not Mr. Baldwin or Mr. Malcolm Cameron. These gentlemen argue, and very properly argue, that the Tories received their large salaries for a very inefficient performance of their public duties, and why should not the Reformers be allowed the same advantages as the men they have displaced? All right and proper; but why retain the word "Reform" in their political vocabulary? Why not act more consistently, and more in accordance with sick owbliged principles? The present men in power have twice the talent and ten times the personal influence of their predecessors; but they have not one whit more political honesty, or do they possess one iota of right to be styled "Reformers."

These Commissioners were sent to Kingston to investigate into certain alleged abuses in the management of the Penitentiary; chiefly of reckless extravagance in the way of money matters; and the very first thing they do, when invested with the powers of Inspectors, is to give away fifteen pounds of the people's money to Fire Companies, who don't want it, and who are quite able, with the assistance of the City Council, to provide for their own necessities. Measures, the Feather-Breeched, should learn to be just before they are generous; and when next they feel inclined to be liberal, to be so at the expense of their own pockets, instead of the public purse.

THE PENITENTIARY [illegible]

Sickness [illegible] of these [illegible] they have set about cross-examining. Mr. Hopkirk, one of the late Inspectors, gave some testimony favorable to Mr. Smith. He is therefore marked down for punishment. These disinterested Commissioners, who have no spite, hatred or malice in their hearts, but on the contrary, are filled with the milk of human kindness, have had Mr. Hopkirk on the rack for many days; actually torturing the man with the severest and closest cross-examination on the minutest of subjects. That they possess no right to do this, is apparent from facts. Mr. Hopkirk was the youngest member of the Board, is but recently arrived from Montreal, and all the alleged crosses, mismanagements, and defalcations of the officers of the Institution took place long before his appointment. But what of that? The Commissioners see that it annoys Mr. Hopkirk, and so they go on torturing him; perhaps, as they must do something for their money, they may as well cross-examine Mr. Hopkirk, as anybody else. And yet these Commissioners are styled Reformers, and call themselves gentlemen!

Our readers remember how the Commissioners replaced the two gate-keepers who had given very unfavorable evidence against the Warden, and how they made the displacement of these men by the late Inspectors, a pretext for summarily dismissing Mr. Smith. Well, one would think, that as Inspectors the Commissioners would act with clean hands. Let us see. The Hospital Keeper, and the Matron are a married couple, (Mr. and Mrs. Pollard). They are most efficient as public servants, and not the slightest fault can be found with their conduct. But they have both committed the highest crime in the eyes of these feather-breeched gentlemen; for they have given favorable testimony in behalf of the Warden! And they are consequently both marked down in the black book for punishment. But as we before said, there is nothing to complain of in the performance of their duties. That's no matter. Leave the Commissioners alone;—they'll soon find the pretext to dismiss them. They know that there are more ways of killing a dog besides choking him with butter. They have already begun to annoy Mr. and Mrs. Pollard. This people occupied a cottage near the Penitentiary-gate, from which they have been ejected in a very harsh manner; although from the nature of their several duties, it was imperatively necessary that the Hospital Keeper and the Matron should reside on the premises. What care the Commissioners for anything but the gratification of their own spleen? The next thing we shall hear of will be the dismissal of the injured couple.

The conduct of these Reforming Commissioners plainly proves that all public men, whether Tories or Radicals, are alike in essentials. They all plunder the public whenever they have the chance. The only difference is in the mode of the robbery. The Tory meets his man on the highway, demands his money with a bold front, and should he resist, knocks him down, and takes from him all he has. The Radical is one of a more sneaking set of pitiful villains. Instead of meeting his victim face to face, he sneaks behind him and meanly trips him up; but when he is down, he spit only takes his purse, but he cruelly maltreats his victim into the bargain. He pays off old debts with a vengeance.

HEROIC CONDUCT—NARROW ESCAPE FROM DROWNING.

On Saturday last as Mr. Oakes, of the Royal Engineer Department, was skating at a distance of about half a mile from the new tower at Murray's Point, he was observed by Mr. Grant of the Commissariat, who was standing on the shore, to disappear very suddenly, he having ventured farther on the weak ice than he should perhaps have done, had he for a moment considered the propriety of such a step. Although there were several persons skating on the ice at the time, but not so far from the land, none of them would venture to his assistance; until Mr. Grant, seeing that no time was to be lost, hurried over several loose cakes of ice which were floating near the shore, for some time upon his knees in water, and finally, at the risk of his life, succeeded in reaching the spot where Mr. Oakes was struggling, just as he had went under for the third time. A moment more, and no human assistance would have proved of any avail. By the time Mr. Grant arrived, Mr. Oakes was fast settling down in the water; so much so, in fact, as to be nearly beyond the reach of Mr. G's aid. But in securing his hold the ice gave way and began to sink; still, none of the lookers on thought fit to render the least assistance, which they might have done very easily, had they been so inclined. In this critical position Mr. Grant remained for the space of two or twelve minutes; until by the repeated solicitations of Mrs. Grant, who witnessed the dangerous situation he was placed in, some of the spectators were prevailed on to go to the husband's assistance; who, by means of a coat which they brought with them, saved the lives of both parties. It is scarcely possible to give to Mr. Grant the due meed of praise he merits for his truly heroic conduct. Such actions should not be lost sight of by those who have it in their power to turn them to good account. None but a man of a humane and truly philanthropic disposition would have acted in the same generous manner; and we sincerely hope that the noble act will not be overlooked by the head of the department in which Mr. Grant is employed. We are happy to add that Mr. Oakes has sufficiently recovered from the effects of his bath, as to entertain a lively faith in the efficacy of the cold water cure, when resorted to for the benefit of overventuresome skaters; and we trust that his narrow escape will have a proper effect on all who are disposed to risk their lives out of mere bravado.

YANKEE JUSTICE.—The trial at Rochester, between Mr. Charles Hill and the scoundrels who injured him and his family last summer, has at length terminated. The jury gave a verdict of $500 in Mr. Charles Hill's favor; but with a peculiarity only known to Yankee Republicans, they managed to throw the whole Costs of Suit upon Mr. Charles Hill, by clearing the party [illegible]

PAUL'S LETTERS TO CANADA.

PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE OF THE BRITISH WHIG.

LETTER NO. III.

Bains' Telegraph—Foreign Postages—Taylor and Cass—Cuba—Adoption Explained—Common Schools—Census of 1850.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26, 1848.

DEAR WHIG,—

Mr. Bain, the celebrated (Scottish) inventor of the electro-chemical Telegraph, left the Irving House a few days since for Kentucky, to place his wonder-working instruments upon the thousand mile line from Louisville to New Orleans. I called one day a his rooms in Broadway and saw the machine at work. When the types are set, it requires but a few minutes to throw off many copies of a newspaper or pamphlet; when a message is prepared by punching a number of small holes through long strips of paper, united ribbon-like, it can be sent along the wires at the rate of a newspaper column of reading matter in three minutes! A short message can be quickly prepared by one person, and still more rapidly transcribed at the other end of the line by another. Long messages, and many of them would need a corps of compositors and transcribers, if required to be delivered in great haste; but if not, one person in Europe, or on board a steamer to Halifax, &c., could prepare many columns for the tour of the wires, at his leisure; business men might write their letters, get them prepared in any town in France, England, the United States or Canada; order them to be telegraphed at Halifax, Boston, or New York; and direct their correspondents at the proper terminus to choose a confidential person or persons to transcribe the despatches from the telegraph record. A swift compositor can set over 6,000 ems, or 18,000 letters per 10 hours. Bain's messenger can be prepared still quicker by one person; and where haste is requisite, despatches can be divided among a number, like the *folds* in setting up a President's Message, or Treasury Report, in a newspaper office. Without interfering with the Post Office Department, an analogous system might easily be established throughout America, based on electricity; but the Government should have no more to do with it than to protect it in its fair and lawful operations. Bain's instrument will probably give occupation to many thousands of persons before long, and, aided by phonography, abbreviations, cyphers, &c., an incalculable amount of business will be transacted by its means, at rates far below present prices.

Bain's Telegraph is patented in Britain, France, Belgium, Canada and this Republic, and is to be placed on the O'Reilly Lines, over 4000 miles in extent. A new line is in progress between New York and Washington, and Mr. Loffleets, of the House of George B. Moreweed & Co., Beaver Street, New York, with Henry O'Reilly and others, are to establish a Telegraph from this place to Halifax, via Boston and Portland. A new line will also be built between New York and Buffalo. No twisted wire will be used; strong, tough wire, galvanized to prevent corrosion, being preferred. By the way, Wells, the contractor for the Telegraph between Buffalo, Toronto, Kingston and Quebec, used galvanized wire. Does it keep free from oxidation or rust?—By the electro-magnetic telegraph, Mr. Polk's twelve column message of the 7th inst., was conveyed along the O'Reilly lines to 16 stations, upon a distance of 900 miles, in 27 hours; Bain's Chemical Telegraph will convey as long a message, on the same route, in an hour and a half. Isn't it marvellous? I enclose, for your use and reference, printed copies of the opinions of the New York Daily Press, as to the O'Reilly lines and Bain's telegraph. An American gets a patent out for $30, at Washington; a British subject is charged $500; all other foreigners are charged $300. Bain had great difficulty, and was subjected to much expense, in getting his patent; some of the examiners at the patent office were partners in Morse's Telegraph, and, of course, unfriendly to Bain.

Mr. Isaac Buchanan sent me the other day a copy of his publications on monetary reform. His letter was paid at Glasgow, and I had to pay over again here, besides paying inland postage at Boston. The rate of postage on a single or half-ounce letter, between Albany and Manchester, is 57 cents, though it might be conveyed all the way for the odd 7 cents, and would pay well at that. Is it a wise policy in the Federal Government, which has four millions of foreigners born already within its territories, and receives three hundred thousand this year from abroad, to make it so difficult and expensive for them to correspond with their friends and kindred in Europe? Not 25 years have elapsed since a dollar and a half was paid at the Kingston Post Office, near you, for a small single letter, addressed to a young Irishman by his mother in Kerry, Ireland, which letter came across the Atlantic in an old monthly packet, one of the twelve voyages made by it which sent a mail and the slow-going conveyance that carried it, regularly, to the bottom. How is it now? How would it be if you had a telegraph and a railroad direct to Halifax?

A careful perusal of Mr. Buchanan's essays, originally published in the Glasgow *Examiner* of last month, suggests many reflections on the important topics he has discussed; but editors and their readers don't like very long letters. The Postage Reduction Bill is made a special order in the House of Representatives, for this week. It will be carefully considered, and I think the reduction will take place, although Mr. Polk and the slave-holding South dislike it as much as they did when Cave Johnson was in Congress.

I perceive that you felt friendly to the election of General Cass to the Presidency, on account of his free trade notions. I was opposed to him because he truckled to the South, on Slavery, for the sake of its votes;—because the party leaders who had nominated him were corrupted by long possession of great power and enormous patronage; and would, I well know, play a manlier part, if placed for four years in the ranks of the opposition—and because a pretended war policy, bluttering about 54° 40', a fight with England, the conquest of Canada, Cuba, Mexico, Ireland, oil cloth on almost, was fraudulently held up to the West to obtain votes, would have pro- [illegible] &c. Now that it is seen that that beautiful island, if it become a sovereign State of the Union, *must be a free one*. I presume its annexation will not be at all hurried.

Suppose Cuba had been annexed, as Texas was, none but native born citizens, or adopted foreigners, who had resided fourteen years in the United States, and been admitted citizens nine years, could have held seats in the Senate of the Union—none but such, with only two years fewer of residence, would have been eligible to the House of Representatives. The people of Cuba would have had to elect Americans to Congress—none of the natives of the island would have held a seat.

Such is the feeling towards the Irish, Germans, French, English, Canadians, &c., in this country, that although full one-fourth of the whole population is of foreign birth, there are not four foreigners in the present Congress, nor will there probably be three in the next. Of one hundred and twenty-six judges, marshals, and district attorneys, who compose the supreme court, and circuit and district courts of the Union, not one man is a naturalized citizen—of the officers of the army and navy, and cadets at West Point, you cannot find one *adopted* citizen out of fifty—but amongst the privates you will meet with thousands. From among that fourth of the people who were born beyond the limits of the republic, I do not know one man who is at the head of a public department, or in any superior office of public copy. The degrading formula of abjuring their native government, and regarding the act, is imperiously required from every foreign born merchant, farmer, tradesman, or other person, *nominally* admitted into the confederacy—though no other power on earth, as far as I know, ever required the like humiliating conditions; and when this is complied with by Englishmen or Irishmen, he finds that the British common sense rule of "once a subject, always a subject," is fully incorporated by an amendment into the Constitution of the United States, and that four successive Conventions, to make and amend the constitution of this State, have regularly adopted and continued that same law, tho' it in fact declares the abjuration oath to be what it really is, a nullity, and that the adopted citizen is as much a British, French or German subject, (as the case may be) as he was before he took it.

What I most admire in many of the Northern States, is the all but universally public school instruction, and the steady increase of youths thence rising up into manhood, fit to carry on trade or engage in agricultural or manufacturing pursuits with a reasonable prospect of success. What are the jury laws, *free* institutions, representative government, and a country full of the elements of wealth and prosperity worth to the uneducated, degraded, unambitious and depressed millions?

I see that the Canada Parliament is to assemble at Montreal on the 18th proximo.—How earnestly the friend of rational freedom will pray that its members may, for one short space of 100 days, be enabled to lay aside all petty disputation and scrambling for profit and place, and to unite their skill and energies in order to devise practical measures for the public good. What a fine country you have!—its natural resources like its extent, are almost boundless. If it lacks some of the advantages of American connexion, it is also free from many of its heaviest drawbacks. Whether all parties with you will see in time, in what their great strength is, I know not, but *they may* see it—the experience of other and older lands might teach Canada at least how to refuse the evil and choose the good, and perhaps the example will not be lost even upon the present generation.

You may rely upon it that General Taylor's Cabinet will not be composed of ultra politicians, and that if the Ocean shall cease to be a free and peaceful thoroughfare during the four years ending in March, 1853, the interruption will not be by reason of any fault of his. In the meantime the census of 1850 will proportionably increase the influence of the north, and still more so that of the great west, at the next Congress and apportionment, and it will be a proud moment for the friends of powerful nation, inhabiting a territory very little less in extent than that of all Europe, Russia included, and whose destiny or fate is a great problem, the solution of which is hid in the vast recesses of the unknown future.

PAUL.

LETTER NO. IV.

Trade—Voting—British America—Irish Politicians Foreigners in the States—The Pope—Mail Steamers—Railroads—Mileage &c. &c

NEW YORK, Dec. 31, 1848.

DEAR WHIG,—

Eighteen hundred and forty eight closes with sunshine, the tinkle of the sleigh-bell, clear weather, healthy and bracing for northern constitutions, the prospect of continued tranquility on this continent, and peace, maintained, for the present, in various ways, on the continent of Europe. It is an illustration of the goodness of God, as Doctor Sludgrass told his congregation this morning, that man is ignorant of the future: many would be so elated by the prospect of future greatness, and others by the certainty of years of adversity and distress, as to render them unfit for the careful performance of present duties. Well may we say, on a contemplation of the social and political changes that have taken place in both hemispheres since January last, "sufficient for the day is the evil thereof."

California is still much talked of, but less so than it was a week since. It is said that John Van-Buren is going out there soon—in the free soil interest, of course. I would rather hear of a Canada coal mine than a gold mine. Money is not plentiful in the United States. Many go there to borrow on good security, at two per cent a month. Manufacturers, tradesmen, bakers, butchers, and money-dealers complain bitterly of the scarcity of cash; British and other foreign goods, aided by the reduced *ad-valorem* tariff of 1846 compete very successfully with American fabrics, and the result is, that the farmer has the markets of England and the Union open to him, as a seller of breadstuffs and provisions, while the republic steadily opposes the passage of a law to allow Canadian breadstuffs to be imported for domestic use, except upon the payment of heavy duties, imposed for the protection of the New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio agriculturists. Dry goods, domestic fabrics are very low indeed.

The Whig Almanack for 1849 shows: that on the vote for presidental electors last November, 2,027,005 votes were cast in the fifteen free states, and but 815,050 in the fifteen slave states, although the latter have by far the largest extent of territory. New York and Pennsylvania cast almost as many votes as the whole of the slaveholding states, and Illinois and Michigan sent to the pole more than twice as many electors as the ancient dominion of Virginia. The United States popular vote in 1844 was 2,678,122; in November last it was 2,877,813, showing an increase of nearly 300,000 electors. South Carolina has no popular vote. Her white people (the minority) elect legislators, who elect electors, who vote at the election of a president: not a very direct mode of election certainly.

It is believed that some very important communications will be made to the legislatures of Nova Scotia and Canada, which are to meet on the same day; that of Newfoundland, assembling four days earlier.

The Press complains with you, as well at here. Why is it that you do not succeed to your satisfaction? You have a fertile soil, a hardy population, vast inland navigable rivers, the most valuable harbors on the Atlantic, the best coal on the seaboard, the Newfoundland fisheries and Newfoundland itself, the [illegible] school the moment he arrives in Canada (as he would be in Boston) and furnished with books, slates and good teachers, free of all costs and charges?

One hundred and fifty years since, England prevented the Scotch from forming a commercial station on the Isthmus of Darien. She has advantageously changed her Scotch policy. Perhaps she is about to improve upon her colonial policy also. If she does I hope your "Parliament" will adjourn the idle gabble about loyalty, "take the goods the gods provide them," and use them wisely. Things here are favorable to a tranquil settlement of many questions, on common sense principles.

The prospectus of a weekly paper, of large size, to be called "the Peep o'," and 10,000 of No. 1 issued one of these days, has just appeared. It is to be, emphatically, an Irish republican organ, like O'Connor's Volunteer, that was, or like "the Nation," by Mr. D'Arcy McGee, with whom some of the editors have already begun a paper war, although two of them, Thos. Devin Reilly and John M'Clenahan, were engaged in the revolutionary movement in Ireland a few months since, with M'Gee. The usual effect of such quarrels is, that one paper takes the whig side before an election and another the democratic; one side tells what great things his party has done, is doing, and will do for the Irish and other European emigrats; the other appeals to them on the same grounds, equally veracious, of course, for neither party has the least desire to give any higher office to a British, Irish or French citizen, (adopted,) than that of sweeping the kennel, or acting as a policeman, and very few of them get as high as that. In no country are the invitations to foreigners to naturalize themselves so flattering, and in none so deceptive as in the United States.—The correspondence of Bancroft and Buchanan with Palmerston, about naturalized Irishmen who had been imprisoned for taking part in the recent affair of Messrs. O'Brien, Meagher, and others; and this raises the question of perpetual allegiance. "Sad indeed (says Buchanan) might be our condition, should numerous emigrants hereafter arrive in our country, in times of difficulty and danger, possessing a different spirit toward our institutions, from that by which they have been heretofore animated, if none but citizens of the United States could commit the crime of treason." He adds that naturalized citizens are on the same platform with the native born, which is not true, either in law or in fact. Ritchie, the greatest editor, appealed to the Irish to form a party to give his side (Cass) the victory. A counter appeal was made on the grounds that the democrats had insulted old-countrymen, excluded them from equal rights, from the army and navy, the government, civil offices of power and trust, systematically. The case was fully made out, and the facts had a powerful effect in favor of Taylor and the whigs, at the polling places. Four millions of Europeans are more than a fourth of the white population, and were they to resent the treatment they get, and form a third party, claiming equal rights, it would create a formidable difficulty—but, thus far, they have been played off against each other, as Catholics vs. Protestants, &c., with much success. In *this* Congress, there are near 300 members, of whom two are Irish, but left at home in *the next*, which instead of 70 old countrymen will merely contain two.

We expect the immediate arrival of the steamer, with intelligence as to the Pope's whereabouts, and who is the President of France. The vicissitudes of the Pope are somewhat frequent. In 1801, Pius VII, visited Paris to crown Napoleon—Paris, where four years before, the religion of Rome had been prohibited, and the faithful few compelled to worship in secret. Ten years more elapse, and we find the head of the Church the prisoner of the France he had anointed! What will be the fate of his successor, in these protestant times, is yet to be told.

Is Mr. Hinks' plan of a Bank of Issue abandoned? He broached it at Toronto, in the *Provincial News*, from which, the Quebec *Chronicle* was mailed to me here renewing the proposition for the seventh time. Mr. Hincks is by far the ablest financier I know in Lower Canada, and very clever as an accountant, but he would have some trouble in carrying that measure.

The idea is held out in some of the Nova Scotia journals, that on arranging the postal difficulties with this government, England will discontinue the royal mail line of steamers to Halifax, and send them direct to the United States, but I incline to doubt that. A line of steamers on the St. Lawrence, connected with the mails, touching at the lower ports on the river in the Gulf, at St. Johns (New-Foundland) Miramichi, &c., during the season of navigation, is much wanted. Had you that, and a railroad to Halifax, also to Portland, with a more judicious political connexion between the Colonies, the tide of emmigration might turn, and the wealthy settlers who now enrich these States, and are looked down upon by those they benefit, and placed "without the pale of official eligibility," as Mr. Butler would have said, might begin to flock to your part of the new world. If the United States already maintains a line of nearly 7000 miles, between New York and Oregon, by steam, in connexion with the Post Office, would not the two and a half millions of colonists maintain a line via Halifax and St. Johns, Newfoundland, with the St. Lawrence? A large share of the business of the U. S. is derived from Colonial travel.

The mileage discussion in Congress, causes great excitement here, in certain political circles. Chisseling, as the worthy Judge Aylwin, called it, is well understood everywhere. I hope your refroned parliament will not again vote its members seven dollars a day on the precedent set to Colt. Christie in March last, in addition to the 10 cents per mile going, and 10 more when returning; or, that if they do so vote, they will try to deserve it better Gott's motion on slavery is not yet reconsidered. His name is the German for God. The Southern Slaveowners will have to yield the point of slavery in the new territories.

PAUL.

LETTER NO. V.

A FORTNIGH