

LETTER PORTAGE.—"On and after," not "from and after" the 1st day of July next, mentioned as a wonderful discovery by some wise-acre editor, all letters going by mail will be charged by weight instead of by the piece, as formerly—a regulation which, to our mind comes much nearer the democratic standard of equality and justice than is generally given us by our law makers. We give below as a matter in which all are concerned, some interesting facts as to the size and quantity of paper which may be used by letter writers:—

"All letters under half an ounce, may be sent three hundred miles for five cents, over that distance for ten cents. A trial of the weight of six varieties of paper, three of foolscap, and two kinds of envelopes, large and small, shows the following result as the weight of each single sheet, on an average of ten sheets of each kind. The paper was all of good quality, and such as we are all used to, for size and weight:—

Letter-paper, first variety,	136	grains.
do second do	134	
do third do	131	
Foolscap paper, first do	172	
do second do	169	
do third do	161	
Small envelope, 42 grains.	Large do.—	62 grains.

Wafers, usual size, one grain. Sealing wax, usual quantity, 5 grains.

The ensuing deductions are based upon the heaviest paper, to keep within the mark. An avoider's half-ounce is 2164 grains.

We may therefore send as a single letter,

1. One and a half sheet of letter paper, sealed with wax or wafer.
2. One sheet of do. with large or small envelope; wax or wafer.
3. One sheet of foolscap, with small envelope, sealed with wafer.
4. One sheet of letter paper, with a quarter eagle (\$2 50) inclosed, and secured with wax, and the letter sealed with wax.
5. Half a sheet of letter paper; or light foolscap with a half eagle inclosed, secured and sealed with wafers.
6. A sheet of letter paper may contain a dime and a half, or a half sheet may contain a quarter dollar.
7. A sheet of letter paper may inclose seven bank notes and be sealed with wax; or three bank notes, and the whole in an envelope.

#### THE EMIGRANTS TO OREGON.

The following letter is from one of the editors of the Independence, Mo. Expositor, who accompanied the army of emigrants a short distance on their toilsome way to the western boundary of the "Far West."

#### EMIGRANTS' CAMP.

Kaw Village, May 15th, 1845.

A ride of one hundred miles from Independence has brought us into the midst of a scene the most grateful and animating my eyes ever halted! In the centre of a beautiful prairie, which the wild taste of the Kaw Indians have selected for their permanent village, is the rendezvous of the Oregon Emigrants, assembled here to complete their final organization. One hundred and four wagons arranged in an oval ring and linked together with ox chains, form at once an immense caral to enclose the stock, and an impregnable fortress to protect them.—One hundred more wagons encamped in groups at small distances, completes the troop here assembled, which, dotting the plain with their snow white covers, resounding with a busy multitude plying to and fro in business of preparation, or herding the cloud of stock engaged in devouring the luxuriant grass, combine to heighten in interest a scene full of animation, sunshine and excitement. The emigrants have been engaged during the day, in framing and adopting a system of regulation for their general government, and in the election of officers. Dr. Walsh, of Cooper Co., Mo., has been chosen Captain, Stephen H. L. Meek, Pilot an admirable code of regulations adopted, subordinate officers elected, and the whole body arranged into four companies intended to travel separately or in mass, as the exigencies of the route may suggest to be expedient.

From the census which I have succeeded in taking there were present:

Males,	421
Females,	138
Children—Boys,	540
Girls,	209
Total of Children,	749
Cattle,	3261
Wagons,	233
Horses,	182

The whole form as nervous, intelligent, brave and determined a body as ever launched and arduous enterprise, surrounded by known difficulties and speckled with unknown dangers. Ample equipped with provisions, arms, excellent vehicles, abundance of animals, experienced guides and true rifles, the sight of this train of moving horses, as breaking from camp and stretching onward one by one, they form a moving line of two miles in length, flanked by herds and horse-men, inspired in our breasts the most stirring emotions.

This morning the warlike news from England reached the camp, at the announcement of which all declared that they were equally determined to settle and to conquer. Should they be called to rally under the Star Spangled Banner, and plant the national standard forever firmly on the sublime heights that overlook the Pacific, we shall know that truer hearts or better soldiers never primed a rifle or drew a deadlier aim. Intermingled with the rest we see several emigrants whose final destination is California, but who will pass by Oregon in their way, thus binding more closely the mutual connexion of these two countries.

Five companies of Dragoons (250 strong) will depart from Fort Leavenworth on the 18th, under orders to proceed by the Oro-

gon trail to the head of Sweetwater, (the eastern limit of Oregon) and returning thence by Laramy, to pass along the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains to Bent's Fort on the Arkansas, reaching home in about five months by the Santa Fe trail.

Simultaneously with the departure of this body of emigrants, of whom we are now taking leave, other bodies have already commenced their journey from St. Joseph's, Savannah and Council Bluffs. These, of whose numbers we have no positive information, by report equal the immigration by the route of Independence.

THE TARIFF.—We have always contended that the effect of the present iniquitous system of duties was calculated, if not designed, to benefit a few northern manufacturers and capitalists at the expense of the people, and consequently to the detriment of every other branch of industry. If any evidence of this was wanting, in addition to that to be found in the act itself, and the circumstances of its creation, it is forcibly embodied in the following result of "actual dividends in the year 1844," as compiled from the reports of the treasurers of the Lowell Cotton Factories. The proceeds of these corporations last year, actually divided, are as follows:

Dividends of Lowell Cotton Factories.	Capital.	1844.
Merrimac,	\$2,000,000	20
Hamilton,	1,000,000	7
Appleton,	600,000	6
Lowell,	600,000	7
Suffolk,	600,000	16
Middlesex,	600,000	10
Tremont,	600,000	10
Lawrence,	1,500,000	16
Boott,	1,200,000	11
Massachusetts,	1,200,000	14
	\$10,500,000	122

What does the farmer and other laboring classes think of this? "In these ten companies, with a capital of ten and a half millions, the dividends actually declared were on an average at a rate over 12 per cent., the lowest being 6, and the highest 20 per cent. How much of the clear profits were reserved as a contingent fund, we are unable to state, but there is no doubt it would swell the actual net profits to at least 15 per cent." What other branch of industry derives one-half the profit from an equal amount of capital? Let the people answer.—Lynchburgh Republican.

OREGON.—As much interest is felt in relation to the controversy as to the title to this country, we insert several extracts from leading papers, showing that the claim set up by England is entirely groundless, and that that nation has heretofore acknowledged our right to the territory in which, by the British feelings and partialities of some of our statesmen, they have since been allowed a joint occupancy. If this rapacious nation should see fit to set up a claim to the State of Mississippi, there would be as much justification for concession or compromise on the part of our government, as in the case of Oregon. The country is ours by discovery of the Columbia at its mouth and at its head sources; by purchase of the title or claim of Spain; by the acknowledgement of Great Britain at the close of the last war—ours by right and ours by nature. It really seems to us that the American who, under the circumstances, would hesitate to sustain the government in the position assumed by the President, would be willing to re-colonize the American States, and return again to British vassalage. We hope there are few such. We have every confidence that the President and his Cabinet will maintain the rights and honor of the country, and that ere the lapse of many years, our domains beyond the Rocky mountains will be peopled with a nation of freemen.—Mississippi Democrat.

There is a man confined in our jail awaiting his order from the sheriff to be taken to the State Prison, where he is sentenced for five years, who made the most desperate attempt to make his escape from jail that we have ever heard of. It appears that some person furnished him with a paper of matches, and with a bucket of water which he kept in his room, he set himself to work to burn a hole through the door large enough to get out. But unfortunately for him, he could not keep the fire checked as he supposed, and at about two o'clock this morning, the citizens in the immediate vicinity of the jail were aroused by the cry of fire from the jail building, and on repairing to it, found the fellow nearly suffocated by the smoke, the inside door in a blaze, and by their timely assistance saved the jail and prisoner from being destroyed.—Defiance Democrat.

THE REPEAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW ORLEANS BROKEN UP.—We perceive that at a meeting of the Irish Repeal Association of Louisiana, in New Orleans, after some resolutions condemnatory of the course of O'Connell, and expressive of the determination of the members to maintain their loyalty to this, the land of their adoption without reference to the command of O'Connell, or any other demagogue whatever, the association was dissolved, and it was determined that the funds then in the hands of the Treasurer, should be equally divided—one half to be devoted to the Female Orphan Society, and the other half to the Charity Hospital.

ARRIVAL OF THE BRITISH SURVEYING STEAMER COLUMBIA.—This steamer arrived in Boston harbor Thursday morning, ostensibly for running the meridian line between this city and Halifax. If any one thinks, says the Times, that its expedition is any thing more than to get the bearings of our coast and ascertain the peculiarities of our harbor, he is more credulous than we are.—A similar expedition was here last season.—England is occasionally sounding our lakes for some purpose best known to herself.

THE RICH FURNITURE OF THE NEARBY UN-TAXED.—While the Tax Bill of last session was pending in the Senate, a proposition was adopted, levying a tax on all household furniture, gold and silver, jewelry, &c., belonging to any person or firm, amounting, in the aggregate, to four hundred dollars. In the House of Representatives, this amendment to Kelley's Tax Bill, so just in itself, was stricken out, and another substituted, declaring that the furniture of every description used in a boarding house, tavern or hotel, except the kitchen and dining-room furniture necessary for the family, shall be taken and deemed as stock in trade, and taxed accordingly. Under this amendment, the scanty furniture of a tavern or boarding house is subject to taxation, while that of the banker, with his silver plate and rich carpets—his costly sideboards and luxurious sofas—his rich jewelry, &c., though they may amount to as many thousands as the furniture of the boarding house keeper does to tens, yet it is exempt from taxation.—Why this is so—what justice there is in it—and what excuse can be given for such partial and unjust legislation—are matters which the federal members of the Legislature must answer.

With such facts as these staring them in the face, the federal party claim that the law equalizes the taxes. Shame, where is thy blush!—Ohio Statesman.

WHITE SLAVERY.—We translate the following from one of our latest Paris papers, received by the Hibernia:

"One of the last numbers of La Lune, a paper published in Hungary, contains the following announcement, from Valachia:

"To be sold, by the sons and heirs of the late Nicholas Nika, at Bucharest, two hundred families—the male members of which are, for the greatest part, laborers, locksmiths, shoemakers, goldsmiths and musicians. The proprietor of these families will not dispose of them in any smaller lots than those consisting of five families, but the price is at least lower by a ducat per head, than the ordinary established rates, and advantageous facilities for payment are tendered."

This announcement is not as might be supposed at first sight, a pleasantry; it is serious, and what is more, it is legal; for the Civil Code, granted in 1818, by the prince John Karadecha, to the principalities of Moldavia, and which is at this day in full force and vigor, actually sanctions this slavery.

Thus, while the Christian nations of Europe are yearly expending millions in sending war vessels to the African coast, for the purpose of preventing the trade in black slaves, white ones are advertised and sold, under the protection of the law, in two Christian countries, situated in the very interior of Europe, itself.—Buffalo Pilot.

STATE CONVENTION—EDITORIAL CONVENTION.—The Mt. Vernon Banner, in alluding to these conventions, says:

"As there is to be a State Convention at Columbus on the 4th of July, it is suggested that the editorial corps, and the democracy generally, assemble at that place on that day, to adopt a uniform line of action for the coming contest."

We are then to understand that the two conventions meet here on the 4th. This is right, and that we shall have a good turn out is evident from the "signs of the times."—We hope to see the democratic editors of Ohio together on that day—let as few be absent as possible.—Ohio Statesman.

A DUEL.—On Tuesday morning last, a hostile meeting took place between Mr. Edward S. Willing and Mr. William Schott, both residents of this city. The place of meeting was Naaman's Creek, in the State of Delaware, about twenty-one miles from this city. Both combatants fired together, between the words one and two, and both shots took effect at the first fire. Mr. Willing was wounded in both thighs, the ball grazing the right, and passing entirely through the left thigh. Mr. Schott received his adversary's ball in the fleshy part of the hip.—The wounds are not considered dangerous. It is said, that Mr. Willing was the challenger, in consequence of an altercation with Mr. Schott in Walnut Street on Saturday afternoon last.—Neal's Saturday Gazette.

GREAT FIRE AT QUEBEC.—A disastrous fire occurred at Quebec, Canada, on the 27th ult. which had reduced to ashes a large portion of that city. The fire was still raging when the Queen steamboat, which brought the news to Montreal, left Quebec. The Quebec Gazette while the fire is raging, says: "A population of about ten thousand souls will be without house or home to-night having lost almost every thing." Seven children were ascertained to have been burnt.

A law has been recently passed in one of the Western States, which compels persons to disclose the amount of money they have at interest, in order that they may be assessed correctly. A contemporary quaintly remarks, that several widows in his neighborhood have in consequence, gone into another state.—Phil. Ledger.

Nothing more natural. The State of matter—money, (matrimony) we conclude, of course.—Balt. Sun.

The above undoubtedly means Alfred Kelley's celebrated, unequal and iniquitous tax law. Notwithstanding it may be beneficial to widows and bachelors, in the way above mentioned, yet we venture to assert that nine-tenths of the whigs and all the democrats in the State would greatly prefer the enactment of a law providing for the removal of the authors of that interesting law, far beyond the borders of Ohio.—Adams County Democrat.

UTILITY OF LAUGHTER.—A hearty laugh is occasionally an act of wisdom; it shakes the cobwebs out of a man's brains, and the hyphochondria from his ribs, far more effectually than either champagne or blue pills.

## THE KALIDA VENTURE.

FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 1845.

DEMOCRATS! KEEP IT IN MIND. That the law passed by the Whigs last winter creating the State Bank of Ohio must be speedily and utterly REPEALED.

#### THE MIAMI EXTENSION.

We are informed that on Tuesday, the 10th instant, after the water had been let into the Canal, that while the State boat was passing through a lock on Section 10, a large current of water broke through the upper gates with such force as to carry away a part of the lock, and render it useless. This will prevent for some days the passage of boats, but will soon be repaired. We do not much expect to hear that boats have traversed the route through from Cincinnati to the lake, much before the 1st of next month.

This Canal will prove largely beneficial to this hitherto neglected portion of the State, and our farmers and business men will each be benefitted by its facilities for transportation. It will materially reduce the cost of heavy and bulky articles, such as iron, salt, groceries, &c., articles of the first necessity, and will bring our markets within a convenient distance. Farmers will get better prices for their produce with less trouble and travel than hitherto; besides it opens our country to the observation of the travelling community, and these advantages will do much to attract others to settle amongst us, and help to clear up the wild lands, of which there is yet abundance of excellent quality.

The absurd policy of our Legislature in shutting out from sale the Canal Lands in this section of country for nearly ten years, though at length desisted from, has proved of incalculable detriment. During this period the tide of emigration rolled elsewhere; and with bad roads and every disadvantage which belongs to an unsettled country our farmers have had to toil, much longer than needful, the prosperity of the country retarded because some speculating wiscacres thought that the land would be more valuable. The experiment has been tried and Canal lands are now appraised and sold at a less price than they were eight years ago. But these obstructions no longer check our prosperity, and we have in this Canal a new element added, (and many years will not have passed before the northwest will rival the fairest agricultural portions of the State.

Various speculations are indulged in as to the effect of the opening of the Extension Canal, completing as it does the most direct route from Cincinnati to Lake Erie. The Albany Argus thinks it will draw a large portion of the Southern trade to New York; be this as it may, there can be no question that it will be the channel of an extensive trade.

THE FOURTH OF JULY.—We understand that there is to be a celebration of our national Anniversary at Glandorf in Ottawa township. B.F. Metcalf Esq., is named orator of the day. This is right. The era and the principles of the declaration of Independence should ever be kept in remembrance.

Our exchanges that have come to hand by the last two mails speak favorably of the effect of the recent rains upon the crops. Here their effect was highly beneficial where the frosts had not destroyed the crop. We had a slight frost last Wednesday morning which somewhat injured the grass. Hay we are informed will be below an average in this section.

In relation to Allen County the Lima Reporter says:

During the past ten days the weather has been as seasonable, and vegetation has grown as fine as heart could wish. We have lately had copious and refreshing showers, and instead of a famine as some unnecessarily feared, we have now the fair prospect of a fine harvest. It is the general opinion of the people now that there will be more wheat raised in the county this year than last; and of corn there is every indication of there being 3 bushels for 1 last year.

We have received the first number of a new Democratic Journal, "the Pertage Sentinel" published at Ravenna, Ohio, by Messrs. Harris & Patterson. It is a neat and well printed sheet, and its conductors promise that it shall do good battle in the cause of Democracy. We doubt it not, and wish them every success in the laborious work of enlightening the benighted whigs of that region about the political interests and independence of our state and nation.

The Officers of the 2d Rifle Regiment meet at Columbus Grove to-morrow, to choose a Colonel in place of the late F. H. Gillet. We hope they will make a first rate selection their choice may have to lead the Regiment to Oregon or Canada before his commission expires; for if we have to fight to preserve the one, we may as well whip the other at the same time.

QUITE MISTAKEN.—Our friend Davison of the Lima Reporter, generally clear headed, must have got his ideas sadly muddled last week. He tells his readers that the "Locofoco" need give themselves no trouble about the convention, first called by the Democrats of Jefferson county, and to be held on the 4th of July next at Columbus, because it is only some advisement with the Columbus clique, in which they will not be consulted. We rather guess the worthy Editor was thinking of the Whig convention, called by the Columbus Kelly Committee, which there was a backing out about not long ago. It is true it would be no use for Whigs to go to Columbus for any thing else than a show; for they have a committee of one—we will not say clique—who does as usual all their thinking and planning, while they do the parading. This was undoubtedly what was meant; but the Editor strayed into the camp of the enemy, being fogged by No. 101 of the Tax Law elucidations.

The County Commissioners at their late session granted an additional bounty of two dollars on wolf scalps.

One hundred Houses have been burned down in New York City.

## TO THE PATRONS OF THE VENTURE AND THE DEMOCRACY OF NORTH WEST OHIO.

On the first day of July next the new Post office Law goes into operation. It opens the way to an enlarged and more general circulation of intelligence by providing that newspapers shall not be charged with postage at any office within thirty miles from the place of publication. This journal will therefore be received at the following offices, free of postage:

In Putnam County—Franconia, Fort Jennings, Cochran's, Croghan, Pendleton, Cunningham, Pleasant, Gibson, Buckeye, and Dukes.

In Allen—Lima, and Westminster.

In Paulding—Clarion, and Junction.

In Van Wert—Wan Wert.

In Hancock—Benton Ridge.

We view this as a proper opportunity to ask those who may be desirous to maintain an independent Democratic Press to aid us in enlarging the circulation of our Journal. It is true this is a new country and an extensive circulation is not to be expected, but ours might with a little exertion on the part of the friends of correct political principles be doubled with ease even among our sparse population. We think Democratic Putnam is capable of doing infinitely more in circulating the VENTURE than she now does, and that without difficulty. Our able and worthy predecessor H. S. KNAPP Esq. had resources to render his business profitable which are denied to us: the patronage of three counties which now have presses of their own, and which made a large subscription list to him rather a secondary consideration. Besides as we are well aware of the efficiency of a democratic press to spread and keep alive democratic principles we are anxious, apart from mere pecuniary considerations, to have the means of making our political opinions as widely known as possible.

We conceive that we have a perfect right to ask the active co-operation of those, in support of this Journal, whose principles are advocated in its columns. From others we have no right to expect aid; but from those who are opposed to Banks of circulation and discount; to high and unequal tariffs, the distribution of the public lands among the States, monopolies and special privileges, with all their corrupting tendencies—from those who are the ardent supporters of plain and economical government, the currency of the Constitution—equal rights and equal burdens—we expect that they will do all consistently in their power to support and extend these views of political administration; and as the VENTURE as it always has been, will sedulously be devoted to the extensive of these truly Jeffersonian doctrines, the character of its circulation in this section must prove an important element in their progress and ascendancy.

We do not feel ungrateful for the efforts of those who have made this journal hitherto one of the most successful in the northwest, but we ask, once for all, that these exertions be not laid aside, but continued, and as this portion of Ohio improves and enlarges in population and wealth, that we should be made sensible of it by the increased patronage of our intelligent community.

We shall carefully endeavor to give the local news that may transpire in this country and section generally. We shall also call attention to the natural advantages of northwestern Ohio, and promptly notice every indication of its increasing prosperity. And for this purpose we would receive as a favor the suggestions of such as feel an interest in the welfare of this portion of our State; as we are comparatively a stranger and consequently not so capable of doing justice to this subject as an older resident.

Our mechanics, merchants and traders generally would do well to advertise in our paper. Our present circulation is equal to that of any journal in the northwest and is not confined to this county but is liberally patronized in Williams, Paulding, Henry and Defiance counties. We would not however be understood to solicit advertising solely as a favor to the VENTURE. We know that no outlay made by business men brings more certain returns than those which are received through this medium, and that while conferring a benefit on us advertisers confer a double benefit on themselves. This we are aware is not so clear to some who cannot realize that profit can come from such an intangible source, but shrewd and energetic business men know that it is a memorandum to customers where to call, and act accordingly.

The terms of the VENTURE will be, as usual, to single subscribers \$2.00 per year, when paid in advance; and in a like proportion for a shorter period. Any person who will forward us five responsible subscribers to the VENTURE will be entitled to an extra copy one year free of charge. Persons forwarding \$5.00 in advance will receive three copies for one year or six for a half year, and clubs forwarding \$9.00 will receive six copies for one year or twelve copies for six months.

Postmasters, who are friendly, will confer a favor on us by acting as Agents.

We learn that William Bomberger, Esq. has been appointed collector of tolls on the canal at Defiance. A good appointment.—The collector's office at this place is to be removed to the Junction, as soon as the Miami Canal Extension is opened for navigation.—Maumee Times.

This is the least objectionable appointment made by the Whig Canal Commissioners in this section of the State. Mr. Bomberger is a gentleman fully competent to the duties of his office; and though he takes the place of a most capable and worthy Democratic officer, yet as the Whigs have determined at all hazards to carry out the principle "that to the victors belong the spoils;" we are satisfied, in this instance, that the public service will not suffer—a matter of question in some other appointments we could name.

The Richmond (Va.) Whig says: "We wish we were, and could conscientiously be, democrats! We admire that party. There are no traitors in its ranks; and what is still better for them, no asses—for we had rather have to do even with a traitor than an ass—above all, a concealed ass!—Yes, we love and respect them, not for their errors, but for their manly and straight forward bearing in support of what they think right! Their firmness and loyalty contrast proudly with whig vacillation, and will, until whigs learn a lesson from them, continue to secure them the sceptre!"