

Brooklyn Eagle.

THURSDAY EVENING, DEC. 5.

Post Master General's Report.

This document has been looked for with considerable interest by the people. We should be glad to publish it in *extenso* if our limits permitted, but since they do not, the next best thing we can do is, to give the gist of it, in a condensed shape. We have no right, perhaps, to complain of its length, as the custom is to give full scope and play to the great officials; but we are inclined to think that it might have been shortened half a column as well as not by striking out the invocations and arguments which are conditional upon an "if," and the rough handling tendered to those who take the liberty of doubting the exclusive right of the Government to carry letters, papers, &c. We cannot perceive, for instance, the utility of declaring that "if the Department is to be continued under the control of the Government," or "if it is to be made an annual charge upon the Treasury," or "if it is to lean on its own resources," or "if," yet again, "Congress will relieve the department" from certain liabilities and pay for transporting the correspondence of the Government, then certain experiments may be undertaken. The people's representatives may be supposed to understand all these contingencies, and to be prepared for action upon them. We need and must have cheap postage, without an *if* or an *and*—a *wherefore*. Something must be ventured, let us commence when or how we may; and there could not be a deficit that the people would consent to pay out of their strong box with greater cheerfulness than was arising from the experiment referred to. But we do not apprehend such a result. However, we forget the report.

The current expenses of the department have been met by the current revenue during the last four years, and private mails alone, we are told, have prevented an accumulation of its usefulness.

The total transportation of the mail by horse, and in express railroads and steamboats, for the year ending 30th of June, 1844, supplying 14,103 post offices, at a cost of \$2,338,251, was 35,409,624 miles, exceeding the transportation for the year 1837, by 413,700 miles.

The income of the Department for the year ending the 30th of June, 1844, was as follows:

Letter postage.....	\$3,686,161 23
Newspaper postage.....	549,743 83
Fines.....	130 00
Miscellaneous receipts.....	11,245 57

and the total receipts.....\$4,237,285 62
The total amount of expenditure settled and paid for the same period is \$4,236,857 78.

The Deputy Postmasters have been faithful, and \$17,488,087 18 have been collected without any material loss.

Contractors and other claimants have been promptly paid.

The disbursing agent has behaved well, and accounted for every dollar of the half million that has passed through his hands. The assistants and clerks ditto.

The number of mail depredators is gradually diminishing—only nineteen hundred and thirty-four having performed in that way during the last three years.

The necessity for special agents—to look out for the public property—continues.

The Postmaster next enters upon an examination of the authority given to Congress over the subject of Post Offices, Post Roads, &c. and decides that "it would be unwise to abandon the principle of requiring the department to sustain its own expenses." This, however, is not deemed to be incompatible with a discreet reform in the rates of postage.

The English system is not regarded as a just precedent for us. There is a wide difference in the geographical and governmental character of the two countries.

It is not considered fair to charge the expense of the government correspondence upon the business and friendly letters of citizens; and it is suggested that an adequate compensation would be "the assumption, by the Government, of the amount paid by the Department for railroad transportation, either by the purchase of the right, permanently, or by annual appropriation." The "permanent" sort is recommended. The amount now paid for such service is \$750,563. The Postmaster says:

If Congress will relieve the Department from the payment of this amount, either by permanent contributions with the companies, or by annual appropriation from the Treasury as a consideration for transporting the public correspondence of the Government, &c., protest the Department against the abuses of the franking privilege, and the inroads upon the revenue by private express or posts, the rates of postage may safely be reduced to five and ten cents, which rates will yield a sufficient revenue to defray the remaining expenses of the Department, and allow its gradual

Congress.

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 1844.

In the Senate, little or nothing was done, other than listening to the reading of the President's Message.

In the House, J. Q. Adams, in pursuance of notice given yesterday, offered a resolution, rescinding the following, known as the 25th standing rule of the House:

"No Petition, Memorial, Resolution, or other paper, praying the abolition of Slavery in the District of Columbia, or any State or Territory, or the Slave Trade between the States or Territories of the United States, in which it now exists, shall be received by this House, or entertained in any way whatever."

The question was then taken on Mr. Adams's resolution, and it was carried by the following vote:—Yeas, 108; nays, 80. The Message, which had been brought in by John Tyler, Jr., private secretary to the President—was then read; after which it was referred to the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, and ten thousand copies ordered to be printed, with the accompanying documents. (Several amendments failed, for printing it in the German and other languages, spoken in the United States—the most striking among which was, to render it into the Congo tongue!—Mr. J. R. Ingersoll gave notice of a motion for leave to introduce a bill to amend the Naturalization Laws of the United States. Mr. Preston King gave similar notice for introducing a bill to reduce and regulate the rates of Postage.—Mr. G. Davis moved a resolution directing the distribution of \$9,367,214 99, being the fourth instalment of the moneys in the Treasury from the proceeds of sale of the public lands: laid on the table, by a vote of 105 to 68. After some other notices of motions, the House adjourned.

Opening of the Tunnel.

The President and Directors of the Long Island Railroad Company, the Common Councilors of New York and Brooklyn, and a considerable number of invited guests, rode through the Tunnel on Tuesday last, at 12 M., agreeably to notice. The train consisted of five cars, with a locomotive at each end—one pulling and the other pushing, which accounts for the extraordinary swiftness of the under-ground movement. Indeed, taking it for all in all—the sonorous puffs of the engines; the clattering and echoes of the cars, reverberating through the cavern; and the deafening and uproarious shouts of the company—it might safely be characterized as an under-ground swell. On returning, the cars were stopped about midway, and the party informed that they could then have an opportunity of examining the work: The knowing ones, who had selected their seats in anticipation of a long and comfortable ride, were disposed to consider this invitation a joke of the President's, as the darkness and smoke were so intense and pervading that no one but an emigrant from "Pluto's dark domain" could have seen a foot beyond his nose. A few, however, disembarked and groped their way to the sides of the Tunnel, satisfied themselves that it was there, pronounced all right, and got on board again.

Returning to the depot, a collation was spread out for their entertainment, at which His Honor the Mayor of Brooklyn presided. President Fisk gave a succinct and business-like account of the work; returned his thanks, in behalf of the company, to those living upon the street who had patiently suffered inconvenience during its progress, and complimented Mr. Vibbert, the engineer, and Messrs. Beard and Collins, the contractors, in very neat and appropriate terms. The Mayor replied in his usual happy manner, and concluded with the following toast, which cuts at the metropolis like a two-edged sword:—"Our respected sister—the city of New York—separated from Brooklyn by an arm of the sea, a public highway, free for all foreigners of every clime to approach her. We, as American citizens of the great State of Long Island, whether Native or adopted, claim no more."

Mr. Brooks, one of the Directors, and J. Depeyster Ogden, President of the Chamber of Commerce, made some remarks, in answer to calls upon them; and the veteran Col. Spooner, when "The Press" was toasted, discouraged, as we gather from his paper—for his speech was inaudible to us—"on the fidelity with which this great engine, which swayed public opinion, had always been found the weighty and successful advocate of great public improvements."

The following are the statistics of the work in question:

Entire Cutting.....	2600 feet.
Length of Arch.....	1813 "
Span of Arch.....	21 "
Height of Arch.....	17 "
Thickness of Arch.....	21 inches.

Resident Engineer, W. Vibbert; Contractors, William Beard and James Collins.

The Message.

A second perusal of Mr. Tyler's last message to

upon foreign importations, in time of need. This objection is alone fatal.

Virginia.

The Legislature of this State convened at Richmond on Monday last. In the Senate, Dr. Scott was elected President, and Mr. Hamford, Clerk. In the House, Mr. Southall was chosen Speaker, and Mr. Mumford, Clerk. The other officers of the previous session were re-elected. The Governor's Message is devoted almost exclusively to local topics.—The State is free from debt, and has a surplus of \$100,000 in the Treasury. Her credit, of course, is high, and her bonds command a premium. (The attention of the Legislature is called to the subject of internal improvements. A large and productive portion of the State is destitute of suitable outlets, and compelled, therefore, to subsist mainly upon grazing. The public aid is consequently demanded for the completion of turnpikes, and the construction of rail or macadamized roads. In regard to the Militia System, the Governor recommends that everything beyond mere enrollment and organization be discontinued, and a small sum of money contributed annually, in lieu of service, for the encouragement of volunteer corps. The suggestion is a good one; and we hope to see it adopted in all the States of the Union, but especially that of New York.

The President Elect.

Mr. Polk is said to have received the intelligence of his victory with as much grace as Mr. Clay exhibited on account of his defeat. The Columbia "Democrat" of the 20th November, states, that on the 19th "a large number of the military and a large concourse of citizens in general repaired to the residence of Governor Polk, where they gave him a most cordial and hearty salutation. Barclay Martin, Esq. was called upon by the assemblage for a speech; he responded in a brief but eloquent address in which he answered very satisfactorily the interrogatory so often asked during the contest—"Who is James K. Polk?" Mr. Martin concluded his remarks by introducing to the audience the President elect of the United States. Mr. Polk proceeded to respond to the call in his usual happy and effective style. His remarks were brief but appropriate and full of true eloquence and were received with the most enthusiastic cheering by the people present. At night the town was brilliantly illuminated.

Mr. Gough.

We omitted to state yesterday, for want of room and time, that the lecture of this young Apostle of Temperance, at the Baptist Church in Nassau street on Tuesday evening, was attended by an immense concourse of people—such, indeed, as was never before gathered within its walls, nor could be again without immense effort. It is enough to say that the orator fully sustained his high reputation. The performances of the Boston Quartette Club, were very good, and elicited frequent applause. Mr. Gough was to visit Connecticut yesterday, but will return and lecture at New York again in a day or two. On parting with his friends in Boston, Deacon Grant presented the following statistics of his (Mr. G.'s) labors in the cause, which will prove interesting. He has, it appears, travelled since May, 1843, 11,916 miles; delivered 563 regular lectures; spoken in 168 different towns, and obtained 26,930 names to the pledge.—Since Nov. 20, 1843, he has spoken 382 times—108 of which have been in Boston.

This evening, Thomas M. Woodruff, Member of Congress elect from the city of New York, will deliver an address on Temperance at H. W. Phillips's. He is an eloquent speaker, and a living example of the regenerating power of total abstinence.

ARRIVAL OF A CARGO OF GUANO.—The bark George and Henry, Captain Kinck, which arrived at this port yesterday from China Island, brought a cargo of Guano, the first he ever brought into this city.—The George and Henry left at China seven or eight British vessels taking cargoes of Guano for Europe.—Eve. Post.

We trust that President Minor, and other gentlemen interested in the great Poudreite movement, will see the necessity of petitioning Congress forthwith to protect their industry. Guano must be taxed one hundred and fifty per cent. ad valorem, or the Republic is lost.

NAVAL.—The Norfolk Beacon of Monday says the U. S. frigate Potomac, Capt. Gwynn, dropped down to Hampton Roads yesterday.

The Potomac, we learn, is to sail on Wednesday. The Hon. Wm. Crump, of Vg., U. States chargé d'affaires to Chili, and his son Richard Crump, his private secretary, and the Hon. J. H. Bryan, of Ohio, U. S. chargé d'affaires to Peru, and his son Richard Bryan, his private secretary, go out as passengers in the Potomac.

The Mexican steamer Montezuma arrived here on Saturday last from New York.

Our readers Mr. Birney's election in a forgery, participated, therefore, co-date, the following:—"The Advertiser" light upon the handbill purporting Extra," and Harding, or, so early, they wrote a letter, of 1 "Confidential" ton friends, they "suspect" you [A. & B. further is known, has been deemed "possible."

"Now obs the 28th, by dianapolis, or bus, and sent 29th was pub in New York Me, on the 5 November. letter as a for each by the V Yet it was p in several oth Liberator of 1 Detroit advi paper, as named, (and d it as a for morning, No denial: We similar in kin forger, in the for their (i. e. loved it was a thief."

The "Det returns from received at the following are t Polk,..... Clay,..... Birney,.....

Whole Senate,..... House,.....

Democr

The Jacks publishes the state except D heard from, the Polk..... Clay.....

Polk's n

"THE LITTLE Birthday Pre 1871 Fulton at This little"

readily deposite of a lady's retic forms a neat, be days. It conai Annuals, but is al poem. T General Morris, and deserved p tending sentence two or three pi the Hutchinson ever remark, re poet clings to Willis's lines o tribute to "Mrs of poetry—the f cents.

The CURIO combed part of belittled with and the Child" lustration by the beautiful color The articles— them—are instr fering material ordinary magazi itself especially the community Shannon & Co.,