



The National Convention of Inventors.

This Convention held their first meeting in Baltimore, on the 6th and 7th inst. We published the names of the officers last week. We give below a digest of the proceedings. Delegates from all sections of the Union were in attendance.

J. L. Mott, Esq. of this city, presented and read a Bill which has been prepared by the Committee of the National Convention of Inventors, lately held in Boston. Also the Bill (No. 102) passed by the House of Representatives, July 19th, 1848, which, after some discussion, were referred to the Inventors' National Institute of Baltimore.

On motion of Horace H. Day, Esq. of New York, it was resolved that such business presented to this Convention as properly appertains to the Inventors' National Institute be referred to that body, and that this Convention recommend the expediency and do hereby call a National Convention of Inventors and others interested in Patent Property and Laws, to be held in the city of Baltimore this Fall, or such time as the Inventors' National Institute of Baltimore shall appoint, and that that Institute be authorized to spend a sum not exceeding two hundred dollars in making the call.

On motion of Horace H. Day, Esq., the following resolution was debated, and afterwards passed unanimously—That it is the deliberate conviction of this Convention, that the Commissioner of Patents should be an experienced man, of eminent practical and scientific attainments, rather than a lawyer or statesman; therefore Resolved, that Geo. Gifford, Esq., of the New York Bar, Horace H. Day, Esq., of New York, Hon. Reverdy Johnson, of Baltimore, Isaac Brown, Esq., Baltimore, and R. H. Middleton, Esq., of Baltimore, be, and they are hereby appointed a Committee to proceed immediately to Washington, and urge this subject upon the President and his Cabinet.

The Committee appointed to examine the plan of the Inventors' National Institute of Baltimore, reported the following:

Resolved, That the plan and principles embraced are eminently calculated to advance the cause of Science, improve the condition of Inventors, and result to the Public Weal, and profit to the Stockholder, from the safety of the investment, and the assistance preferred, would earnestly call upon and recommend Capitalists, and Inventors, throughout the United States, and Europe, to make themselves familiar with this Institution.

An eloquent and able address was delivered before the Convention by Geo. Gifford, Esq. of this city, and on motion of J. N. Coffin, Esq. of this city, the thanks of the Convention was tendered to Mr. G., when the following resolution was offered by H. H. Day, Esq. and passed.

Resolved, That this convention invite Judge Phillips and Judge Rand, of Boston, and George Gifford, Esq., of New York, to prepare a draft of Patent Laws, to be presented to the proposed Convention of Inventors and owners of Patent property to be held in this city before the assembling of the next Congress, and that the Secretary be requested to transmit the above resolution to each of the distinguished gentlemen named. After which the thanks of the Convention were tendered to the officers for the faithful manner in which they discharged their respective duties.

We are somewhat surprised not to notice the names of Ross Winans, and those of a few others that we might mention, as taking an active part in the Convention. The motion relative to the Commissioner of Patents is not definite enough for us. Is the Commissioner to be a mechanic, or artisan, or what? This should be plain. Some lawyers have wrought at mechanical trades, but from the above resolution, we must infer that no lawyer can be either a scientific or practical man. We be-

lieve that the Examiners more than the Commissioner, should be practical and scientific, and there is another essential qualification for an Examiner, viz. a thorough knowledge of inventions in order to decide upon what is new and what is not. The Commissioner cannot examine all the applications—that is impossible, but he should be acquainted with the Patent Laws, a man of extensive information and great impartiality.

We are opposed to the powers invested in the Commissioner, at least as assumed to judge and decide upon what the Patent Office may consider "no novelty." Many good and new inventions have been rejected while "fly traps, and horse tail setters" can boast of Patent Office Seals.

The Right Spirit.

The Public Ledger appeared yesterday in a new dress of type, a renewal being necessary on account of its large edition, every three months. We are pleased to notice every evidence of continued prosperity in our contemporaries. The Ledger in its 26th volume has a daily average circulation of 35,312 copies; the Daily Sun in its 10th volume has about two-thirds of this circulation. We look without the least feeling of jealousy upon the prosperity of the Ledger, and although we differ most materially from it, on many matters of politics and policy, have ever admired its business tact and its unbounded enterprise in procuring news. We shall continue an honorable rivalry with our neighbors and trust never so far to forget our own self respect, as to resort to those unworthy personalities, into which some of our predecessors were unfortunately led. Argument is the only weapon by which error can be combated, abuse weakens the best cause.

[The above is an extract from an editorial of the Philadelphia Sun. It displays the philosophical wisdom of knowing "there is room in the world."

Newspaper Postage.

Transient newspapers will hereafter be subject to newspaper postage only; that is, one cent for any distance in the same State, and one and a half cent for any distance exceeding one hundred miles, where the newspaper is sent from one State into another.—But postage on such newspapers is in all cases to be prepaid, as heretofore.

Railroad Avalanche.

The Cheshire Railroad was stopped on Friday last week by an avalanche at a deep cut near Walpole, New Hampshire. One hundred feet of the road was covered with earth, to the depth of twelve or fifteen feet.—On the same evening some fiend laid an iron rail across the railroad near Brighton, Mass., which threw the train off, but happily no one was injured.

Earthquakes in the Western Islands.

The Azores have been kept in a state of constant alarm for nearly two months past by a succession of earthquakes, which had thrown down many houses and churches on these islands. The alarm was heightened to an intense consternation one night in December by the appearance of a brilliant aurora borealis in the west. Such a phenomena is without a precedent in that quarter.

A new Coal Mine has recently been discovered in the vicinity of Cincinnati, Ohio. It is not so extensive however, as to interfere with the Pittsburgh coal trade—perhaps too thin a vein to warrant working. The editor of the Cincinnati Despatch has been presented with a specimen, which is said to be of a very superior quality. The deposit was discovered in excavating a new reservoir.—The Gazette says the supply does not promise to be extensive. An inexhaustible coal mine in the hills which encircle Cincinnati, would be more valuable than the gold of California. Numerous antiquities, Indian ornaments, &c., were found by the workmen in the course of their excavation.

Great Load.

The Clyde, N. Y. Telegraph says that a load of wood containing ten cords was brought into that village last week upon the plank road, drawn by two horses. It had to be divided into ten two-horse loads in distributing it about the village, after leaving the plank road.

LITERARY NOTICES.

The Ladies National Magazine for April, is as usual an excellent number, not however so well embellished as some of the previous ones. The Evening—and Paris Fashions for April constitute the engravings, but by far the most valuable part is the high character of its literary contents. We have always admired the tact of Mrs. Stephens as an Editress, and her literary character is fully sustained by her association with this Magazine. Published at Philadelphia, by C. J. Peterson, at \$2 per annum.

Gold Seeker's Manual.

D. Appleton & Co. of New York, have just issued a very scientific, practical and instructive guide to persons emigrating to the newly discovered gold region of California. It is written by David T. Ansted, Prof. of Geology, and consulting mining engineer. It is an invaluable work at this time, as it describes the geological position of Gold in various rocks, its mineralogical and other characteristics, and the modes of distinguishing it when found from other substances. It is closely printed and contains 96 pages of reading matter, price 25 cents, can be ordered from Munn & Co.

American Bee Keeper's Manual.

This is a very neat volume published by C. M. Saxton, No. 121 Fulton st. N. Y., Edited by T. B. Miner. It is what it pretends to be, (more than can be said of many works) a practical treatise on the economy of the Honey Bee. It is illustrated with numerous engravings, very attractive in style and well arranged for reference and study. All those who wish a full and thorough history of the nature and management of the bee should have it in their possession. The price is only \$1.

Godey's Lady Book.

The March number of this popular monthly teems as usual with instructive as well as entertaining matter and should be read by every American lady. The correct position for a lady to assume in walking or horseback riding is represented in this number, and with the numerous other instructive hints to the ladies, we hesitate not in pronouncing it useful as well as entertaining to the female reader. It is truly the "Ladies Book." Long & Brothers Agents for this city. L. A. Godey, publisher, Philadelphia. Price \$3 per annum or 25 cents per number.

Eminent Shoemakers.

This is a very interesting volume by Fowler & Wells, No 1 Nassau st. this city. No son of St. Crispin should be without it. It is dedicated to the Shoemakers of the United States and contains the biographies of Roger Sherman, Sir Cloudesley Shovel, and a great number of famous shoemakers. It is democratic in sentiment and reformatory in character.

New Music.

Messrs Firth, Hall & Co. Music publishers No. 1 Franklin Square, this city, have furnished us with some of their new and popular music, which we are happy to acknowledge. With others of their recent publications we have to acknowledge "Legat's March," price 25 cents. "Dream of the Ocean Waltz," by Josef Gung'l, price 50 cents, and "Give me my Arrows and give me my Bow," by Samuel Lover, price 25 cents.

We have for sale Professor Kent's excellent work upon Assaying and testing the qualities of metals, particularly Gold. No man in this country understands the subject better. To be convinced of the fact a person has only to spend a few moments in his Laboratory, 116 John st. this city. Price of the book 25 cents

Who Wants a new Hat?

Our neighbor Knox, has introduced his Spring styles of Hats, and for beauty of shape and lustre has really surpassed his former productions. To those who have once patronised Mr. Knox we need not recommend a continuance of their patronage, but to those who have not we would say "try him." His emporium is directly under our office windows No. 128 Fulton st.

The Supreme Court of the United States have adopted a rule limiting the arguments of counsel to two hours. The rule goes into effect at the next term.

Behold they Come.

Out of 3000 of our patrons whose subscriptions expired with the last number (26,) over 1000 have renewed their subscriptions within the past week.

It is flattering to us that our request to those who wished their subscriptions renewed should be responded to so early, and by so many. We hope the remaining 2000 will follow the worthy example of those that have remitted and send their subscriptions at once.—Those who are delaying to send because they are making an effort to get up a club or are waiting for some neighbor to subscribe with them are more excusable than those who are expecting to send but their own subscriptions, but to all we would say "hurry up your cakes."

We have received from Dr. Manson No. 20 Eighth Avenue, Practical Dentist, a specimen of his excellent "Vanilla Tooth Wash," and we take pleasure in awarding it the highest commendation. The ingredients are entirely vegetable, and it is highly impregnated with the flavor of the Vanilla Bean, thus imparting sweetness to the breath, and soundness to the teeth and gums. Dr. M. received the first premium at the great Fair in 1848. Price 25 cents.

Narrow Escape.

In one of the stores on Commercial wharf, says the Boston Traveller, a lion lately received from Africa, is kept in a cage. Recently, a small Irish boy, with his chip basket, wandered into the store, and in some way placed his back against the cage. The lion, nothing loth to make a slight luncheon, seized hold of the jacket of the little fellow, who, being terribly frightened thereat, set up a loud cry for help. Two men, who happened to be near at hand, took hold of the boy, and with a hearty pull, rescued him from the grasp of the lion, undamaged in person, though with the loss of a portion of his nether integuments.—Luckily the boy's jacket was large and unbuttoned, or he might not have escaped so easily.

A New Machine Wanted.

Will any of our Aldermen invent a machine to enable our street pedestrians to jump across the causeway at the crossings.

There will no doubt be fine amusement for the boys in the course of a month or so, hunting the mud turtles through Broadway and some other streets, as the Common Council has very generously planted beds of gutter both long and broad for such animals.

Homestead Exemption in Ohio.

A law has been passed by the Ohio Legislature exempting a homestead from execution not exceeding six hundred dollars in value; to take effect from and after July next.

The Amoskeag Company at Manchester N. H. employ 1400 females. Their average wages last year was \$3.75 per week. During the year 12,663,765 yards of various kinds of goods were manufactured there—an enormous quantity truly.

Red was always the national color of the Northmen, and continues still, in Denmark and England, the distinctive color of their military dress. It was so of their head men and people of distinction in Norway in the eleventh century.

According to a parliamentary report, the total expenditure an account of Ireland, during the last thirty years, has exceeded the total revenue collected thereby from two to four millions per annum, whilst three-fourths of the taxes levied in Scotland have been paid into the Imperial exchequer.

The malignant spotted fever is now prevailing in some parts of Indiana. It is very fatal and difficult to treat.

The original manuscript of Jefferson's Historical Notes of Virginia which had disappeared, has at length been found. It is now in the Library of Congress.

The increase of births over deaths in Montreal in 1848 was 10,550.

The Chinese word for eyelid is eminently beautiful signifying the cradle of tears.