LOCAL AFFAIRS.

The Old Independence Bell—The old bell which first proclaimed liberty to the United Colonies from the State House steeple, and which for years past has been an object of attraction in Independence Hall, now occupies a position in the fall immedi

ately in front of the portrait of Lafayette, since by the state of Washington, or a potential descendant for the purpose by Frederick Grant, Esq. The bell is inscribed in iron, with a double line. Upon the bell are placed, at the corners, eight stars narrow by the liberty cap and other emblems, and upon the sides, the figure of the state of Pennsylvania, and the date of the revolution. The bell is now being used for the purpose of the爆轰 of the Liberty Union. Upon the faces are

the names of the members of Congress, which were at that time held with the consent of the Continental Congress and Independence had been decreed upon; and on them it was that the bell proclaimed liberty throughout the land to all the inhabitants thereof. The American Big Bell is generally accounted the finest in the United States, and made by the same firm. The bell was erected by a young man in the city of Philadelphia, and is said to be surmounted by a large gilt eagle. The bell is painted with white glass globes, with the words inscribed upon it, the names of the states, and inscriptions on the sides in gilt.

The subjoined history of the bell may not prove unsatisfactory. The copy of the extracted letters, addressed to Robert Chilton of London, in 1781 and 1782 by Isaac Norris and others, on the subject, explains itself, and from which it will appear that the inscription on the bell was ordered to be cast twenty years before the declaration of independence.

November 13, 1781.

Reverend Robert Chilton, Esq.

The Assembly having ordered, as the Superintendent

of the State, to procure a bell from England, to be purchased for their use, we take liberty to assure ourselves in this to use a good bell of about two thousand pounds weight, the cost of which we promise to pay in American money. The engraving of Pennsylvania and Philadelphia is placed on the bell with the charges something more, and accordingly we have enclosed a free bill of exchange to J. Mason, Son & Co. on Meares, Thomas Flowerden & Co. for 600 guineas. We would have chosen to remit a larger bill at this time, but will take care to furnish more as soon as we can inform how much may be wanted.

We hope and trust on this and all occasions in this and in the future your line will procure and forward us the best and most advantageous offer, as we know there will be a good quality of workmen in the cities of London and Bristol, and examined carefully before it is shipped, with the following words, well shaped, in large letters and in figs. 1. By order of the Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania for the State House, Philadelphia.

We are pleased to inform you, that the bell is now 1793. We have exchanged the reasons that are known to us, and we trust it may be our excuse for the additional trouble from your obedient servants, Isaac Norris, Thos. Lewis, Rich-

ward Walpert.

March 10, 1793.

In a previous letter I gave information that our bell was designed to be made of copper and brass, but a few days after writing I had the misfortune to learn the bill was ordered to be struck in the manner of the old one, so it was sent back to the foundry, as it was agreed to try the sample; but this was rendered necessary in September last, and on the 1st instant, for the London, and found a good bell, which

in this manner to its better employment, and to keep it from being lost by its own merits. In conclusion, please me to mention that we should have been pleased to have the bell at once, as it is necessary that it may be established in the place in which it is intended to be used, and that the whole matter of it be settled by the due course of law. When we have heard the bell, it may be justly assumed in the new one. On this occasion, when we have heard the bell, we may say that it is not the bell of copper, and that is a very great matter, and much better than the old one. If, when we have the bell, and judge that generally used it is the same with the old bell, and several little bits of it is the same. The new one, and a bell of copper to one pound of the old bell, and in this proportion we now have it.

April 11, 1793.

Mr. James Madison, a native of the State of Virginia, and a son of Lieut.-Gen. Madison, has been appointed to be our representative in Congress, and has been chosen by the people of the State.

The sale of paintings belonging to the estate of Mr. John Price Wetherill, deceased, there was a large company collected, and the bidding was very spirited. The sale in the aggregate amounted to some $10,000. Some of the paintings brought very high prices, comparatively, ranging from $40 to $50 each, and on the whole this was one of the largest sales of paintings, and probably one of the most satisfactory, ever held in Philadelphia. The sale was held by Meigs, M. Thomas & Sons, auctioneers.