ONE WEEK LATER FROM EUROPE.—THE MAILS BY THE STEAMSHIP ASIA.

The mails by the steamship Asia, which arrived at New York yesterday from Liverpool, reached Washington this morning. The Asia sailed from Liverpool on the afternoon of the 2d inst. The intelligence she brings is of a highly interesting character.

OPENING OF THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.—INAUGURATION OF THE SPEAKER.

The foreign press comment upon the election of a new Speaker to the Commons. On Friday, the 1st, says the London Herald, the Speaker took the chair a few minutes before two o'clock. He was in a court suit of mourning, with a plain tie-wig, and ungowned. At five minutes past two the Usher of the Black Rod (Sir A. Clifford) appeared at the table, and summoned the House of Commons to the bar of the House of Peers to hear the royal commission read.

The Speaker and over one hundred members then proceeded to the House of Lords, and were absent nearly ten minutes. On their return,

The Speaker said: I have to acquaint the House that the House has been to the House of Peers, where her Majesty, by her commissioners, has been pleased to approve of the choice that the House has made of myself as Speaker; and I have laid claim, on their behalf, to all the ancient rights and privileges of the House, which her Majesty has been pleased to confirm in as ample a form and manner as had been granted by any of her Majesty's predecessors. I have now to remind the House that their next duty is that the House shall take the oaths.

The Speaker was first sworn. He then announced to the House that the members would be sworn in the alphabetical order of their respective counties.

In the House of Lords the Lords Commissioners took their seats on the woolsack precisely at 2 o'clock, Earl Granville sitting as *locum tenens* for Lord Stanley, of Alderley, who was absent. The aspect of the gorgeous chamber, admirably adapted as it is to state ceremonies, but altogether unfitted for deliberative or business purposes, was even more gloomy and miserable than yesterday, and impressed us still more forcibly than ever it had done before with a sense almost of the ludicrous.

Sir A. Clifford, Usher of the Black Rod, having summoned the House of Commons to their lordships' house, J. Evelyn Denison, the newly-elected Speaker, appeared at the bar, accompanied by the Sergeant-at-Arms and a numerous retinue of members.

The Speaker elect (addressing the Lords Commissioners) then proceeded to say: My lords, I have to acquaint your lordships that, in obedience to her Majesty's commands, her Majesty's faithful Commons, in the exercise of their undoubted right and privilege, have proceeded to the election of a Speaker, and that their choice has fallen on myself. I now present myself at your bar, and submit myself, with all humility, to her Majesty's gracious approbation.

The Lord Chancellor. Mr. Denison, we are commanded to assure you that her Majesty is fully sensible of your zeal for the public service, and your ample sufficiency to discharge the important duties which her faithful Commons have selected you to discharge. She does most readily approve and confirm you as their Speaker.

The Speaker. With profound respect and gratitude I bow to her Majesty's commands, and it is now my duty, in the name and on the behalf of the Commons of the United Kingdom, by humble petition to her Majesty, to lay claim to their undoubted rights and privileges, especially to freedom from arrest and molestation to their persons and servants, freedom of speech in debate, and free access to her Majesty whenever occasion shall require, and that the most favorable contruction should be put upon all their proceedings. I have humbly to pray on my own behalf that any error that may occur in the discharge of those duties may be imputed to me alone, and not to her Majesty's faithful Commons.

The Lord Chancellor. Mr. Speaker, we have it further in command to inform you that her Majesty most readily confirms all the rights and privileges which have ever been granted or conferred upon the Commons by any of her royal predecessors. With respect to yourself, sir, though her Majesty is sensible that you stand in no need of such assurance, her Majesty will ever put the most favorable construction upon your words and acts.

The Speaker and the members of the House of Commons then retired, and the Lords Commissioners withdrew for a brief period to unrobe.

The Lord Chancellor having resumed his seat on the woolsack, the peers present who had not been sworn took the oaths and subscribed the parliamentary roll.

DEATH OF THE LAST DAUGHTER OF GEORE III.

We copy the following from the London Times:

The last of the children of George III has departed this life. Her royal highness Mary, Duchess of Gloucester, expired Thursday, April 30, at the age of 81. She was born on the 25th of April, 1776, and, consequently, had long passed the ordinary limit of human life.

There were thirteen children born from the marriage of George III with Queen Charlotte: George, Prince of Wales, afterwards George IV; Frederick, Duke of York; William, Duke of Clarence, afterwards William IV; Edward, Duke of Kent; Ernest, Duke of Cumberland, afterwards King of Hanover; Augustus, Duke of Sussex; and Adolphus, the Duke of Cambridge. Of the six daughters, three died unmarried and three were married. The names, in the order of birth, stand thus: the Princess Royal, Charlotte Augusta, who was married to the King of Wurtemburg; the Princess Augusta, who died unmarried; the Princess Elizabeth, who was married to the Prince of Hesse Homburg; the Princess Mary, the lady just dead, who was married to her cousin, the Duke of Gloucester; and, finally, the Princesses Sophia and Amelia, both of whom died unmarried.

With so copious a race there was little danger of a disputed succession or of a vacant throne. It is singular, however, how few in number are the representatives of this numerous family in the present generation. Queen Victoria, the King of Hanover, and the three children of the late Duke of Cambridge, are, we believe, now the only survivors, and the Princess Charlotte, daughter of George IV, is the only one who has passed away. There is, however, happily but little chance that the royal family of England will be speedily exhausted. But a few days before the venerable Duchess of Gloucester was summoned from this world a ninth child was born to the Queen of England, so that an orderly succession to the British throne would appear to be among the events on which one may calculate with reasonable certainty.

IMPORTANT FROM DENMARK.—SYMPTOMS OF A REVOLUTION.

A Copenhagen letter of the 21st ult. says:

"The immediate abdication of the King is again talked of more than ever, and has obtained such consistency as to make it a matter beyond all doubt that there is some ground for believing it. It is stated that the ministerial crisis stands in close connexion with this subject. Rumors of all sorts are flying about, but I abstain from mentioning them to-day more particularly. It would, however, appear that something of the greatest importance, not unattended with danger, is on the point of being promulgated; for I am in a position to state as an undoubted fact that ever since yesterday all the troops in this city are confined in their respective barracks, and that ball cartridges had been served out to them. From this latter circumstance, which is not generally known here, it is to be inferred that a popular commotion may be expected. The King has just returned to his country residence at Fredericksborg.

"Many people here are of opinion that a transfer of the crown to another head is the only practical way of solving the problem of the whole monarchy system, and getting Denmark creditably out of the unpleasant entanglement into which she has been driven with regard to Germany, in consequence of the one-sided and self-willed policy of Her von Scheele. This it is that imposes an almost insurmountable barrier to finding a statesman able and willing to undertake the foreign department with a chance of extricating Denmark from her unpleasant embarrassment respecting the policy to be followed in the administration of the Duchies of Holstein and Lauenburg."

Despatches received from the French minister at Copenhagen state that an influential party in Denmark is endeavoring to force the King to abdicate. His Majesty resists, and he has declared to the members of the diplomatic corps that his enemies shall never compel him to lay down his sceptre.

CONDITION OF AFFAIRS IN CHINA—CONTINUED HOSTILITIES.

We copy the following from the China Mail of March 15:

Affairs in the Canton river have been very quiet for some time past. The imperialist junks are in great force. In the entrance to Fatshan creek an attempt was made to dislodge them by the Encounter, small steamers and boats of the squadron, on the 28th February, which failed, the Encounter not being able to get within 2,700 yards of the nearest junks, her pivot gun alone being able to reach them. The steamers Hong-Kong and Forbes were a few hundred yards in advance, and kept up a hot fire with admirable precision, by which three of the junks were silenced. Had the boats advanced and attacked them at close quarters, confusion and panic would have ensued on the part of the "braves," and the destruction of the junks would have been inevitable. No doubt there would have been much loss of life in the boats from the first volley, as all the broadside guns were depressed. The firing was kept up for upwards of two hours, when, as if by mutual consent, there was a cessation of hostilities. The shot from the junk reached the Encounter, and cut away some of her rigging, dropping plentifully around the boats, but fortunately without inflicting any damage on the crews. The Chinese are now fortifying the approaches to Fatshan and sinking barriers.

The Cantonese have not as yet commenced rebuilding the suburbs or forts. They have contented themselves by digging in salt into the soil of the Factory gardens, and making a few small batteries on the left bank of the river below the ruins of the French Folly. Not a boat is to be seen in Ellist Passage, being exposed to the guns of the Encounter, Comus, Acorn, Elk, and Barracouta. Whampoa is still in a deserted state. Her Majesty's ships Sybille, Sampson, and Hong-Kong are at Second Bar.

TROUBLES IN INDIA.

From Calcutta we learn that the government has resolved to punish the 19th regiment of native infantry—that concerned in the mutiny at Berhampore. It has been ordered to Barrackpore, where it will be disbanded.

The Times correspondent says: "As I write, the papers bring intelligence of a mutiny among the Madras troops at Vizieragram. The truth is, we are at this moment passing through one of those periodical storms which every now and then remind us that government in India 'sits on bayonets.' The sepoys are restless and dissatisfied."

Mr. C. E. Boileau, deputy-commissioner of Goudah, in Oude, had been murdered.

REVOLT OF THE CHINESE AT SARAWAK.—GREAT SLAUGHTER.

The Strait Times of March 21 says:

On Tuesday last we issued an extra, giving an outline of the recent outrages committed by the Chinese at Sarawak, particulars of which were brought from that place by the schooner Good Luck, which sailed on the 21st ultimo and arrived on the 10th instant. Although rumors had been current that the Kungsi contemplated resisting the authority of the local government, the latter appear to have treated the matter with indifference. Suddenly, however, a large body, numbering about 200 Chinese, came down the river on or before the 17th February, and at midnight commenced a most determined attack on the government people and property. They first procured possession of the two forts, one above and the other below the town of Kuchin, (the seat of Rajah Brooke's authority,) which were only garrisoned by twelve men, and, having furnished themselves with all the arms and ammunition in the forts, they proceeded to the work of destruction upon which they had ventured. This was at midnight, when all were asleep. One party made an attack on the residence of Sir J. Brooke, whilst the remainder assaulted the houses of Mr. Crookshank, the magistrate, and Mr. Middleton, also a government official.

Whilst the Chinese attacked the front of the house, Sir James Brooke succeeded in passing down the bath-room and swam across a creek near his house, by which means he succeeded in gaining the Malay village; thither, also, others of the European residents happily reached shortly afterwards. The assailants fired into Sir James Brooke's residence, killing Mr. Nicolets, (whose body was buried in the ruins,) plundered the place of everything of value, in their estimation, and set fire to the building, ruthlessly destroying Sir James Brooke's excellent library, and the valuable collections of his whole life—a loss which friend or foe must equally regret. At the house of Mr. Crookshank the assailants met with a warm resistance, but that gentleman was overpowered. He defended his amiable and recently-married lady with the utmost gallantry. Mrs. Crookshank was brutally wounded before his eyes, and dragged away when he was no longer able to defend her. Mrs. Crookshank was believed to have been killed, but happily next morning she was found in the jungle. Her wounded body was covered with cocoa-nut leaves. She was, at latest advices, doing well.

Mr. Crookshank reached the Mission House almost insensible. The house of Mr. Middleton (also in the service of Sir James Brooke) was attacked; his house was fired, and two of his children unhappily perished in the flames. Mr. Wellington, metallurgist, in the service of the Borneo Company, a guest of Mr. Middleton's, was killed, and his head cut off. The government treasury was plundered of everything it contained, which was considerable; nearly every European had placed his money there as the most secure place. About $10,000 belonging to the Borneo Company was carried off. In the course of a few hours a large amount of government property was destroyed.

Next day the Chinese Kungsi stated that they had no hostile intentions against any one but persons connected with the government. During the day negotiations were opened with the Chinese, and it was arranged that they should depart, unmolested by the Malays, with the plunder they had obtained. At four, p. m., they started up the river in their boats.

The immediate cause of this frightful attempt to destroy the whole of the government European authorities at Sarawak is stated to be the stringent measures which Sir James Brooke has found it expedient to adopt to prevent opium smuggling.

Sunday, February 22, Sir James Brooke received intelligence of the retirement of the Chinese, whereupon he returned from Sadong to the Sarawak river, but before he could land the Chinese Kungsi had a second time ventured down the river in great force—between 500 and 600.

The steamer Sir James Brooke, from Singapore, hove in sight most timeously. The site of her anchorage formed the base of all subsequent operations. Sir James Brooke and his party at once proceeded in the steamer to Kuchin, and soon succeeded in driving the miscreants out of town.

The body or main force of the Chinese driven from the town were finally either cut off by the Dyaks, or were starved in the jungle. At the outset about 100 of the Chinese were killed. The warfare assumed a mode of irregular attack. The Dyaks were let loose, who, from a large circuit, battue-like, drove the Chinese into their fastnesses, accompanied by great loss to the retreaters where they were hemmed in; in other words, there took place a kind of guerrilla warfare of the most harassing character, grievously thinning the number of the rebels. Still, the Chinese were undaunted. From their stronghold they ventured an attack in five prahus, and commenced ravaging the banks of the river. The Kungsi landed and constructed a stockade, which they armed with guns, and garrisoned by about 250 men with muskets, &c. The Datoo, with his three prahus, made a dash at the Chinese stockade, where he landed with his party and carried the place without a repulse. The Chinese in the stockade were cut in pieces. In half an hour they lost from 100 to 120 men; the rest in the stockade, having lost their boats, took to the jungle.

The wretched fugitives are driven into the jungle, where a vast number of them must perish from want and exposure before they can reach a place of security.

According to the most moderate estimate, at least 1,000 Chinese have been killed at the various places, while all the flourishing settlements of the Chinese (except at Kuchin) have been destroyed. The exact number of Chinese who have perished during the retreat it is impossible to say; it must be considerable, since, out of a population of 4,000 to 5,000 Chinese belonging to the Kungsi, not more than 2,000 escaped the late retribution, including women and children.

A Dutch war steamer arrived at Sarawak on the 15th instant, (when all was happily over,) and after staying three days returned to Sarawak.

On inquiry amongst the chieftains who acted against the Chinese, it was found that their loss did not exceed 12 Malays and Dyaks.

The Chinese residents at Kuchin were completely restored to confidence when the steamer left, and had reopened their shops.

A gentleman, just returned from a visit to Floyd and other counties of Cherokee, Georgia, reports that the growing crops of wheat and corn look very promising. One-third more land is said to have been sown in wheat, and the prospect is good for an abundant yield. Since the late frosts, corn looks well, and is growing off finely. Considerable rains have fallen lately, and the weather becoming warm, all vegetation will be progressive from this time forward. Provisions of every kind are high.

A number of the telegraphic friends of Mr. A. B. Talcott, of Philadelphia, design presenting him with a cane made from timber of Independence Hall, handsomely mounted with gold, and a suitable inscription. The presentation will be made in New York, in a few days, by J. C. Hinchman, esq., manager of the House Telegraph office here, with which line, until recently, Mr. Talcott was connected.

The San Joaquin (Cal.) Republican says: "We noticed on the streets yesterday a number of wagons, heavily laden with wool, on the way to Atlantic markets. One load was from the Tuolumne river. Wool is destined, at no very distant day, to constitute an extensive and valuable article of export. It has already been demonstrated that, as a wool-growing district, California has no superior in the world."

The case of Rev. George B. Jewett against the Concord Railroad Company was opened in Salem, Mass., on the 12th inst. This suit is brought to recover damages, laid in the writ at $40,000, for personal injuries to Mr. Jewett, arising from want of proper care and negligence on the part of the defendants in running their trains.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Mr. Lyman Capron, of Williamstown, Vt., has made the present season, from 130 trees, 858 pounds of good sugar. He completed the entire job of sugaring with twelve days' work, and gathered just 728 pails of sap. Another man in that region is reported to have made 1,400 pounds from 200 trees.

The size of Iowa has never been correctly known till quite recently. The surveyor-general of the State says, in a letter to the governor, that the area of the State of Iowa is larger to the extent of 5,166 square miles, or 3,306,200 square acres—more than the size of the State of Connecticut—than has heretofore been computed.

During the progress of the Jewett case in the supreme court, at Salem, yesterday, Mr. Lord wished to show, by a witness, that Bridge street was one of the most frequented streets in Nashua. Mr. Butler: "I object. I don't see the necessity or pertinency of showing—to imitate my brother Choate—the *frequentation* of Bridge street." Mr. Choate: "You don't imitate me there, sir. Your motive was good, however."

The Superior (Wisconsin) Chronicle of the 28th ultimo states that a letter received from a gentleman connected with Messrs. Dillon, Jackman, Jarrett & Co., states that this firm has contracted with the new board of directors for the construction of the St. Croix and Lake Superior railroad.

Trinity College, at Hartford, Connecticut, is about to make an effort to raise $75,000 among the Episcopalians of New England to increase the endowments of the professorships, and to generally improve the college. Two new professorships have been endowed within the last two years, and another soon will be.

Adam Belcher, of Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, was cutting railroad ties a few days ago, when, in stepping across a tie, his foot slipped, and he fell across the edge of his axe, cutting his side and lungs, so that he died the next day.

The editor of the Toledo Blade, who has just passed across Ohio from the lake shore to Cincinnati, says that the wheat looks well in southern Ohio, but in the centre of the State the fields present a good many bare patches, where the wheat has been winter killed.

The New Orleans Bulletin of the 9th inst. says that the ball given by the Typographical Union of that city to the delegates of the National Union, on Thursday evening, at Odd Fellows' Hall, was a splendid affair, and reflected much credit upon the members of the craft who got it up.

Judge Wm. Wilson, of Illinois, one of the early pioneers of that State, died at his country seat in White county on the 29th ult. Judge Wilson went to Illinois as early as 1817, and from 1819 to 1849 was chief justice of the supreme court, which position he filled with marked ability.

Papers received from the central part of Mississippi, at Memphis, say that a great hail-storm recently prevailed in that quarter, destroying the crops. A great freshet also occurred near the Jackson railroad, washing away portions of the road and cars.

A telegraphic despatch from Buffalo announces that the lake is now open; between thirty and forty vessels have cleared for the upper lakes, and the steamers will probably commence their trips on Monday.

A *supersedias* has been issued by the supreme court to stay proceedings in the case of William Jackson, who was sentenced to be executed in Chicago yesterday for the murder of Roman Morris.

The young lady who has been missing from her parents' residence at Jamaica, Long Island, for some weeks past, has been discovered. Her father, Mr. Kissane, says that she wandered to New York, and is now safe in Boston.

The State of Maine states that the "western fever" in Aroostook country has received an antidote in the shape of a letter from certain parties who left that region last September for Minnesota. After spending the winter there, they have all concluded to come back, as soon as they can raise money enough to bring them back.

The Vicksburg Whig of the 6th instant states that the $4,000 necessary to complete the purchase of a plantation for ex-President Pierce will be subscribed in a few days.

The Brownsville (Texas) Flag says everything is quiet on the Rio Grande; business is active, and a general good feeling exists between the people on both sides of the river.

At Brentsville, Prince William county, Virginia, on Wednesday, the jury in the case of the Commonwealth *vs.* Sinclair, for the murder of Hewett, in that county, about two years since, found the prisoner guilty of murder in the first degree.

The people of every county north of this, says the San Joaquin Republican, are adopting active and energetic steps for improving the roads leading into the Sacramento valley from the eastern side of the mountains.

The State Normal University of Illinois has been located at Bloomington. The contesting point was Peoria, the offer of which was $50,000 cash and $30,000 in real estate. Bloomington subscribed $95,000 cash and $45,000 in real estate.

The governor general of Canada has issued a proclamation, appointing Monday, the twenty-fifth of May, to be observed as a public holiday throughout the province.

The woollen mill of Mr. Samuel Hodges, in Leicester, Massachusetts, was partially destroyed by fire on the 13th inst. Loss, $12,000.

Messrs. Smith, Russell, & Co.'s retail house in Louisville, to which was attached a candle factory, was destroyed by fire on the 12th inst. Loss, $18,000; insured for $13,500.

The Menard (Illinois) Index states that extensive arrangements are being made for a grand jubilee on the occasion of the commencement of the work on the Tonica and Petersburg railroad, at that place, on the 18th inst.

Ex-Lieutenant Governor Moore, of Illinois, intends to go to Europe during the coming summer. He will start about the 1st of June.

A Rockingham (Va.) exchange believes there will be a tolerably fair, if not a full crop of wheat in the Valley, and throughout the State. It has improved wonderfully in appearance within the last fortnight.

The Mercantile Bank officers of Hartford have discovered a defalcation of $3,700 in the accounts of their teller, Dwight Sedgwick, who has gone to California. The loss falls on the teller's bondsmen.

The supreme court of Georgia commenced its sessions at Milledgeville on Monday last. There were eleven cases to be disposed of during the term.

A fire broke out in the large five-story auction store of Messrs. Thomas & Sons, of Philadelphia, on yesterday morning. The building was but slightly injured, and all losses are covered by insurance.

LOCAL NEWS.

SCENE IN AN OMNIBUS.—The omnibus is a glorious "institution" and is a great convenience—when you can hail one at the exact time you want it; or if, when you do so, it is not overpacked with passengers, which is frequently the case, to the chagrin of those who have been waiting ten minutes for "the wagon," and who have a long journey to accomplish within a period specified. The driver, even when the vehicle's timbers are strained to their utmost tension by the pressure within and without—the roof ofttimes serving for a perch—is accommodating enough to "rein up," and is willing that you shall exercise your ingenuity in the attempt to squeeze into the coach, making your way through opposing boots and crinolines—which latter, it may be remarked by way of parenthesis, are a hindrance to the ingress and egress of passengers, particularly those of the masculine gender. But, notwithstanding, the omnibus *is* a glorious institution—an emblem of civilization and refinement.

Our citizens find the omnibus remarkably convenient on market-days. Instead of carrying for a mile, or a greater distance, the materials for your dinner, hand up the basket to the driver and pop into the vehicle and ride to your abode—a good arrangement for those who prefer the public to the private carriage, and who lack the ability to feed horses while provender of another description is necessarily to be purchased for the gastronomically necessitous at home.

It is not always true, "the more the merrier." Recently an elderly gentleman took a seat—an entire seat—and spread himself for an easy ride. A fat, jolly specimen of humanity he was, and seemed to say to himself, "Ah! this is comfortable." But, one after another, ladies and gentlemen crowded in; and, like many a luckless wight, he soon found himself in a "tight place," with scarcely breathing room. Beside him sat an elderly woman, holding in her lap an immense market basket, which came in unpleasant contact with his person. But he had to bear the infliction with silent patience. Every white female in the 'bus had a bundle or basket in her hands. A colored girl, who occupied a seat near her mistress, held by the legs a chicken, which entertained the company with a succession of songs, such as are peculiar to that domestic bird, but which, in the opinion of at least one person in the crowd, were not worthy of especial applause! In the other hand she supported a tin-pan, covered with a newspaper; but, notwithstanding her repeated attempts at establishing the centre of gravitation, she utterly failed! The liquid contents of the pan *would* spill occasionally; and much fear was evinced by the ladies that their dresses would be completely ruined. The charcoal-visaged feminine, however, confidently assured her unwilling companions that it "was *not* grease." But even this did not remove the objection to the liquid's being tilted on their skirts! Everybody who either got in or out of that omnibus had an instinctive dread of the girl with the tin pan. They apprehended damage to their apparel. Such was especially the case with the rotund gentleman, who gave fair and stern warning that, if she spilt "the truck" on him, she might safely calculate on a result to her head which would demand the prompt attendance of a surgeon. He was, however, fortunately enabled to make his escape out of the omnibus without resorting to so violent a physical performance!

It may reasonably be supposed that there was not *much* substance in that pan by the time the servant reached home. The omnibus on that occasion was a public nuisance, and probably the proprietor was compelled to call into requisition the scrubbing-brush, and an extra quantity of disinfecting preparation, to restore the coach to a "healthy condition." The transforming of the omnibus into a locomoting larder does *not* square exactly with our idea of "a glorious institution!"

SUNDAY-SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.—Monday next will be a great day for the Sunday-school children of this city, should the weather continue clear and warm. On that day the fifteenth anniversary of the Sunday-school Union will be celebrated. Mr. T. J. Magruder, the chief marshal, has published a minute programme for forming the procession, from which we learn that half-past nine o'clock, a. m., has been fixed for the assembling of the children and teachers at the grounds of the Smithsonian Institution, where the procession will be formed. Addresses will be delivered by Rev. D. S. Doggett, Rev. Wm. Taylor, Rev. T. N. Haskell, Rev. W. H. Chapman, and Rev. B. F. Bittenger. The First Presbyterian and the E-street Baptist churches, and Wesley Chapel, will be occupied for these services, which will probably commence about eleven o'clock, a. m. The doors of the churches will not be opened until the schools arrive.

THE WASHINGTON LIBRARY.—This institution is a joint-stock corporation. The shares are $6 each—subject to a tax of $3 per annum. The library now contains over 7,000 volumes, and is by act of Congress entitled to all government publications. The members contemplate an early enlargement and repairation of the building, and an increase of the stock of books. The board of directors are to have a meeting next Tuesday evening, when it is expected that these improvements will come under consideration. Meanwhile, persons intending to become members are earnestly requested to call and subscribe against that time, so as to place as large a fund as practicable at the disposal of the board on that evening. The library is situated on the west side of 11th street, a few doors south of Pennsylvania avenue, and is now open daily for this purpose from 4 to 7 o'clock, p. m. It is expected that the stock will soon be raised to $12 per share, so that those intending to become stockholders at all are interested in attending to the matter without delay.

FIRE.—The States of this afternoon says:

"Between 8 and 9 o'clock this morning a fire was discovered in the wood-shed in the rear of the brick dwelling-house owned by Mr. Edmund Green, on E street, between Tenth and Eleventh. The cause was ascertained to be the deposite of ashes, with embers in them, in one of the sheds. The large bell of the Franklin Fire Company was prompt in giving the alarm, and to the alacrity of the members of that company are we indebted for the prevention of the spread of the flames. The loss is estimated at $200. A window in the rear of the dwelling of Mr. W. McL. Cripps was somewhat injured. Mr. Cripps states that this is the eighth fire he has witnessed in that block during his residence in it."

THE PRESIDENT-HOUSE GROUNDS were this afternoon adorned with ladies, and interspersed with gentlemen, and dotted with the usual number of children, the concert of the Marine Band attracting them thither. The music, though good, is, for the most part, too scientific for general appreciation. A little more understandable melody would not detract from the reputation of the scarlet jackets.

MUSICAL TALENT.—We believe that the professors and amateurs who lately convened to take measures for the cultivation of music were right in their declaration that there is sufficient material in this metropolis for an effective organization on an extended scale; and this fact was made additionally strong to-day by the thousands of human voices, from the bass to the *soprano*, vociferating "fire!" "f-i-e-r!"

A NEW BUILDING.—Quite a number of new buildings are springing up in various parts of the city, among which we notice a large brick row on the south side of D street, between Second and Third streets. They are being erected by Baldwin & Brothers. The row will consist of four buildings, each four stories high, and, when finished, will be offered for rent.

THE NAVAL COURTS.—Court No. 1. was occupied to-day with the case of ex-Lieutenant Washington A. Bartlett; court No. 2 with the case of Lieut. Thornton, and court No. 3 with the case of Captain Inman.

REAL ESTATE SALE.—A lot in square 630, on the corner of E street and New Jersey avenue, 40 feet front by 100 deep, was sold this afternoon by A. Green for 40 cents per foot to J. G. Weaver, esq.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Starvation in Illinois.

DETROIT, May 15.—There is great destitution existing in Gratiot county, and other secluded localities in the northern part of this State, and several persons have already died from starvation. Many cattle are also dying for want of sustenance. A meeting of the citizens is to be held here this evening to devise means of relief.

[SECOND DESPATCH.]

DETROIT, May 16.—It was resolved at the meeting to raise five thousand dollars for relief of the sufferers, one thousand of which was subscribed on the spot for the citizens of Gratiot county, where a mother and three children died from starvation.

Arrival of the Governor of Newfoundland.

CHARLESTON, May 16.—The British schooner Eveline arrived here to-day, from Nassau on the 10th, with Sir Alexander Bannerman, the newly-appointed governor of Newfoundland.

☞FELLOW-CITIZENS OF THE FIRST WARD.—At a meeting of the anti-know-nothings convened on the evening of the 5th instant, at the house of the Western Hose Company, I was selected as a candidate to represent your interest in the city councils. For this mark of your confidence I feel honored and under many obligations to you. But believing that the meeting acted under misapprehension in omitting to nominate one who has served them faithfully, and whom I really believe, under the circumstances, the people desire to continue, I most respectfully decline. I cannot consent to allow my name to be used (however otherwise I might desire the honor) to divide or distract the democratic party, of which party I feel proud of being an acknowledged member.
May 16—1t† SOUTHEY S. PARKER

George C. Thomas,
Commissioner of Deeds for all the States,
AND
NOTARY PUBLIC.
May 16—1y Seventh street, No. 490.

ELLISTON, the Comedian.—The Life and Enterprises of Robert William Elliston, comedian, by George Raymond, author of "Drafts for Acceptance," price 75 cents.
The Two Convicts, by Frederick Gerstacker, author of "Wild Sports in the far West," price 50 cents.
Mansfield Park, a novel by Jane Austin, price 38 cents.
Perkon Warbeck, by the author of Frankenstein, price 50 cents.
Martin Doyle's Common Things of Every-day Life.
Emma, by Miss Austen, price 38 cents.
The Adventures of Roderick Random, by Smollett, price 75 cents.
Just published, and for sale at TAYLOR & MAURY'S
May 16—3t† Bookstore, near Ninth street.

PROSPECTUS OF THE WASHINGTON UNION.

New Volume, New Types, and New Arrangements.

TO THE NATIONAL DEMOCRACY OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE undersigned takes this method of informing the members of the great national democratic party that, having assumed the sole proprietorship and editorship of the WASHINGTON UNION, he looks to them for that countenance, encouragement, and support which has hitherto been extended to this time-honored organ of the democracy, and without which his labors would indeed be profitless.

Under the new arrangement, the typographical appearance of the *Union* has been entirely changed and improved. New and beautiful type is now used in its daily, semi-weekly, and weekly issues, and the paper upon which it is printed is of an extra superior quality. It is my intention to enlarge its size, as the demands or the necessities of the future may require; and it is my fixed purpose to spare neither expense nor effort to make it the great central organ of the democratic party, every way worthy of their confidence and support, and a reliable and faithful medium of communication between the capital and the country. Having for many years exerted my best efforts to bring Mr. Buchanan into the presidential chair, I shall render to him and to his administration all the support which party ties and personal friendship can inspire. A great crisis in the affairs of the country—a crisis fraught with peril and danger to the rights of the States and the permanency of the Union—demonstrated to the national democracy and the patriotic people of the country that his acknowledged talents, matured wisdom, approved statesmanship, and long experience, were necessary to their peace and safety, and they placed him, with acclamations, at the head of the government and the nation. He realized at once their hopes and expectations by calling to his assistance a cabinet of men combining the rarest qualifications of talents, experience, and statesmanship—men endeared to the democratic party by all their antecedents; by the zeal which they had displayed and the services which they had rendered in some of the most honorable offices of the country, in supporting and sustaining the principles, the measures, and the policy of our party. A few weeks has sufficed to fill every patriotic heart in the land with confidence and hope. Even his political enemies seem to respect him. Fanaticism itself appears willing for a moment to moderate its tone; and the enemies of our peace, of the constitution, and the Union will not be able much longer to disturb the public mind by their fanatical shrieks and treasonable agitation.

Large as the circulation of the *Union* is, it falls far short of those dangerous fanatical sheets that are literally spread broadcast over the free States, and which find their way in large numbers in too many of the southern States. As an antidote to the poison of these publications, our friends should be zealous in extending the circulation of the *Union*. Those who have been placed in offices of profit by democratic votes should aid in circulating democratic journals; and to postmasters in particular we confidently look for active co-operation in our present efforts to place a copy of the *Daily*, *Weekly*, or *Semi-Weekly Union* in the hands of every farmer, mechanic, and working-man in the country.

The subscription price of the *Daily Union* is ten dollars per annum. The *Tri-Weekly* (published semi-weekly during the recess of Congress) is five dollars per annum, and contains *all* the reading matter which appears in the Daily. The *Weekly Union* is furnished to subscribers at the low rate of *one dollar per annum*, and is justly regarded as the cheapest political paper in the world. It is a large and handsomely-printed sheet, and contains as much reading matter in the course of a twelvemonth as would make twelve *ordinary octavo volumes*. It will be found to possess the advantages of both a political and a family newspaper. The most important political articles of the daily issue are transferred to the weekly, and during the sitting of Congress a careful abstract of the daily proceedings of the two houses is prepared exclusively for its columns. It contains, besides all important State papers of the year, election returns from every State in the Union, speeches of distinguished democrats in and out of Congress, interesting correspondence, a full summary of foreign and domestic news, and from week to week such information in regard to the agricultural, manufacturing, and commercial interests of the country as will be found, it is believed, of particular value.

That the *Weekly Union* is appreciated in the most substantial manner by democrats in every section of the Union, no better evidence need be desired than is furnished by its rapidly-increasing circulation. Within eighteen months *twenty thousand new names* have been added to the subscription list, and, with the slightest exertion on the part of our friends, its circulation can be increased to one hundred thousand copies before the close of the year. Will our friends exert themselves? Of the value of the *Weekly Union* to correct misrepresentations, expose falsehood, dispel error, and to bring before the people the principles and measures of the democratic party in all their simplicity, purity, and abiding strength, we have testimony, as abundant as it is flattering, from nearly every congressional district in the United States. This testimony is of itself the strongest argument which could be offered of the necessity of promptly extending the sphere of its unequaled usefulness. I make this appeal not from the selfish considerations of pecuniary gain—as the subscription price of the *Weekly Union* is so low as to barely cover the cost of printing and the white paper—but from motives which I think will be understood and appreciated by democrats everywhere.

In conclusion, I desire to say a few words to subscribers, and to such as may hereafter become subscribers. There is now owing to the *Union* establishment upwards of seventy thousand dollars for back subscriptions. These enormous arrearages are the result of the credit system. With the new volume upon which the *Union* has entered that system is abandoned, and hereafter the business of the establishment will be conducted on strictly *cash principles*. No subscriptions for the Daily, Semi-weekly, or Weekly issue will be received unless accompanied with the advance payments.

Address WILLIAM A. HARRIS,
Editor and Proprietor of the Union, Washington, D. C.

Proposals for Fuel.

QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE MARINE CORPS,
Washington, May 16, 1857.

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at this office until Monday, the 13th June, 1857, for supplying such quantities of wood and coal as may be required from 1st July, 1857, to 30th June, 1858, for the marines stationed at Washington city, D. C.

The wood to be best oak sapling, and the coal best anthracite. The wood to be delivered piled and measured and the coal weighed and delivered at such points as the commanding officers of the stations may direct, free of expense to the United States; the coal to weigh 2,240 pounds to the ton. Further information can be had on application at this office.

Proposals to be addressed to Major G. F. Lindsay, Q. M. M. C., and endorsed "Proposals for fuel for marines at Washington, D. C."

The Intelligencer, Star, and States will publish the above twice a week till 13th June, 1857, and send bill, with copy of advertisement, to this office for payment.
May 16—2awt15June†

THE New Roman Catholic Church.—The meeting on Sunday.—A very large and interesting meeting was held at the school-rooms adjacent to St. Patrick's Church, at 5 o'clock, on Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Francis Mohun was called to the chair, and Messrs. H. B. Sweeny and Wm. H. Ward appointed secretaries.

On motion of R. H. Clarke, esq., it was ordered that a committee of five should be appointed to carry out the purposes of the meeting, when the chair appointed Messrs. R. H. Clarke, J. A. Semmes, G. Savage, G. Ennis, and J. F. Coyle, who, in a brief time, presented the following report and resolutions, which were received and adopted, viz:

Whereas our late venerated pastor, the very Rev. Dr. William Matthews, has left to the parish a large and beautiful site for a church, and every day's experience more clearly proves the necessity of increased church accommodations for this populous and ever-growing congregation; and whereas, further, we have deep cordial appreciation of our most Rev. Archbishop, and it should be our honest pride to erect a church that will be becoming the perpetual historic grandeur of our holy faith—its steady, dignified progress in this free land, while, at the same time, it will be in keeping with the well-sustained efforts of the whole country to adorn our federal metropolis:

Be it resolved, 1st. That the present is a propitious time to begin our efforts for the new church, and we freely, one and all, collectively and individually, pledge ourselves to aid the undertaking to the best of our power, by our money and by our influence—contributing ourselves, and soliciting and encouraging all to contribute.

2d. That in the circumstances alluded to in which we now stand, it is necessary and expedient to prepare for the erection of a large and beautiful Gothic church; that the design, already submitted, gives general satisfaction, both as to size and style; and that I. Louis L. Long, esq., the architect, is hereby requested to present, with the least possible delay, an accurate estimate of the cost of erection, in order to enable us to determine finally in relation to the design.

3d. That, in the mean time, it is necessary to begin at once the indispensable work of providing funds; and, for that purpose, having entire confidence in the zeal and energy of our pastors, under the guidance of our Most Rev. Archbishop, we respectfully invite the reverend pastors of the parish to open this very day a subscription list; and a committee of lay gentlemen be appointed to aid them in collecting in the parish and city of Washington.

4th. That a permanent committee of three be appointed whose business it shall be to receive all the moneys collected, deposite them in bank, and publish a quarterly statement of receipts and expenditures.

5th. And that these resolutions be published in all the city papers, and in the Baltimore Catholic Mirror. Respectfully submitted.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted; and, on motion of Wm. H. Ward, esq., it was

Resolved, That the Rev. Messrs. O'Toole and Boyle, and Mr. F. Mohun, chairman of this meeting, be directed to appoint the committees called for in the resolutions, one for the purpose of aiding in collecting funds, the other as a permanent auditing committee.

Subscriptions amounting to $7,136 65 were then received; and the meeting adjourned in a gratified and hopeful spirit, to meet again at the call of the pastor.

F. MOHUN, Chairman.

H. B. SWEENY, WM. H. WARD, } Secretaries.

The following gentlem