

WASHINGTON CITY.

SATURDAY MORNING, NOV. 14, 1857.

AGENTS: THOMAS H. JAMES, of Philadelphia, is our general traveling agent, assisted by James D. ...

THE PROPOSED NEW ANTI-DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

From the earliest days of the democracy there has been an opposing party of opposite principles and purposes. Its names have varied with reference to the influence which each new name was supposed to possess.

1. A United States Bank, as the safest and only constitutional bank.
2. A protective tariff, to foster home industry and secure commercial independence.

3. A judicial and equal system of internal improvements by the general government.
4. A distribution of the proceeds of the public lands among the several States, in proportion to population.

These we understand to be the great rallying points of the proposed new party, which is to combine all the elements of opposition. The avowed aim is to place the advocates and leaders in a position far above those whose operations are concealed and controlled through secret lodges or sectional or treacherous gatherings.

Our security we attribute chiefly to the wise legislation that has prevailed in the State. In our constitution we have the following clause:
No bank or banking institution shall be hereafter incorporated or established in this State.

Our constitution was thus amended in 1846. The amendment was proposed at the session of the general assembly held in 1844-'5, and ratified at the session held in 1846-'7. Since then we have had no banks in this State, and consequently no extravagant speculation. The revision, in consequence, finds our people in a safe condition to meet the next year.

The Democratic, after alluding to the passage of an act to restrain the circulation of change tickets, makes several extracts from the message of Governor Conway to the general assembly of Arkansas, in 1854, and then adds:
By reading the governor's message it will be seen that he also recommends, at some future day, a prohibition of the circulation of all bank bills of less denomination than ten dollars.

MISSISSIPPI.
The Jackson Mississippi states that Senators Davis and Brown recently addressed a large audience at the capital in that city, embracing the members of the legislature.

INTERESTING COMMERCIAL STATISTICS.

The French government is more backward in the publication of the annual statement of its foreign commerce than that of Great Britain or of the United States. The British annual statement, published under the direction of the Board of Trade, is usually received in the United States in the spring or early in the summer following the period to which it comes down.

Our fiscal year ends June 30, and Commerce and Navigation, although required by the act of September 16, 1850, to be completed at an early day before the first Monday in January in each year as is practicable, is usually ready for distribution on the first day of the session of Congress.

Indeed, the report for the year ending 30th June, 1856, was in the hands of the public printer early the following November, and that for the present year (ending June 30, 1857) is now nearly through the press.

It may be observed that, although our Annual Report on Commerce and Navigation is neither as voluminous nor bulky as those of most other nations, it is not, on that account, the less complete, either as respects its well-arranged and judiciously-classified tabular statements, or the minute and elaborate exhibit which it presents of the commerce and navigation of the United States during the year to which it relates.

Indeed, we have, on several occasions, noticed in the columns of the Union the complimentary manner in which leading journals in Europe refer to American official reports, special as well as annual, issued from the different executive departments, and the encomiums which they have elicited, not only for the admirable arrangement, lucid condensation, and systematic classification of the varied and interesting information which they contain, but also for the evidence they afford of the high degree of mechanical skill and the excellent system of expediting official duties attained in the office of the public printer.

Of this we need no other proof than the fact already mentioned in reference to the annual report of 1856—namely, that it was placed in the hands of the public printer early in November—it was transmitted from the Register's office to the Secretary of the Treasury November 7th—and, although the large edition of 20,000 copies is usually published, it was printed and bound, and the distribution of the usual number of copies prepared for the use of the members of the two houses of Congress and their officers, was accomplished on the day of the opening of the session, and, consequently, five weeks in advance of the time limited in the act for that purpose.

And were Congress to meet on next Monday, we have no hesitation in saying that Commerce and Navigation for the present fiscal year would be on the desk of each senator and member on the very morning of the opening of the session. But we were speaking of the length of time which elapses between the close of the French fiscal year and the appearance of the Commercial Report for the same period.

The "Tableau General" does not usually go to press before July or August, although the year ends with the calendar year, on the 31st December, and it is late in the fall, sometimes not before the beginning of the following year, that the volume reaches this country. An intelligent correspondent in Paris advises us that the report for last year had just made its appearance, and, in anticipation of the work itself, which may not reach us for some months yet, he has kindly forwarded to us various statistical documents, from which, with the aid of other data at hand, we have prepared the following comparative statement of the gross amount of duties received upon the principal articles of foreign and colonial merchandise in Great Britain and France, respectively, during the year 1856, to which we have annexed a column showing the gross amount of duties received by the United States upon similar articles during the same year.

Table with 4 columns: Articles, Great Britain, France, U. S.
Cocoa..... \$78,390 \$340,520 \$11,807
Coffee..... 2,933,820 4,616,020 11,872
Wheat..... 1,027,000 397,680 569
Oats..... 289,200 4,010 108
Rye..... 7,005 965 319
Barley..... 183,950 3,770 933
Indigo..... 447,600 18,600 318
Opium..... 10,600 2,235 97,169
Rice..... 159,910 40,720 67,880
Cassia lignea..... 2,875 4,520 67,880
Cinnamon..... 1,435 12,765 6,343
Soyas..... 3,945 12,000 21,231
Cloves..... 6,830 270 9,653
Nutmegs..... 53,275 3,670 130,453
Pepper..... 491,445 210,405 95,820
Pimento..... 5,015 9,175 140,808
Rum..... 6,945,095 63,990 288,494
Sugar..... 25,918,385 12,071,765 6,720,109
Tallow..... 342,255 99,315 67,202
Tea..... 27,691,205 59,840 7,864
Watches..... 77,110 70,226 380,076

Table with 4 columns: Articles, France, U. S.
Brimstone..... \$43,005 \$24,525
Cotton, raw..... 3,870,116 600,835
Cochineal..... 45,885 24,905
Indigo..... 124,174 106,374
Flax..... 243,315 19,869
Guano..... 146,210 500,563
Hemp..... 24,865 500,563
Hides..... 26,835 404,164
Hogony..... 118,210 88,400
Iron in bars..... 125,135 1,065,835
Lead, unwrought..... 295,695 429,747
Steel..... 529,580 505,603
Spelter..... 7,245 26,351
Tin..... 9,930 725,561
Oil, whale..... 3,505 1,534
Oil, palm..... 41,575 41,531
Olive oil..... 429,450 141,349
Beef, salted..... 8,230 124
Pork, salted..... 6,985 124
Quicksilver..... 376 725
Silk, raw..... 20,155 151,160
Tar..... 2,680 498,519
Wool..... 1,636,730 498,519

The total amount of customs duty in France in 1856 was \$36,330,405, on a total value of \$397,955,235, or 8.87 per cent on the whole amount; the total amount in Great Britain was \$131,034,220, and the total amount in the United States was \$64,022,863. If to the \$36,330,405, the amount of customs duty paid into the French treasury in 1856, we add \$6,416,640, chiefly realized from the tobacco monopoly, but made up in part also of the export duty on wines, we have \$71,747,045, or amount of customs duties received by the three countries in 1856, as per existing tariffs.

Department Report on the Foreign Commerce of the United States, which will bring our commercial movements down to September 30—one full quarter later than Commerce and Navigation—and which the Secretary of State is not required by law to transmit to Congress before the first Monday in February of each year. This important report, now become indispensable to the legislator, and no less important and useful to the mercantile classes than Commerce and Navigation, will, when issued, enable us to continue our comparative statements, and elucidate more fully the character and workings of the tariff systems of the leading commercial nations, altered and modified as most of them have been since the date of the last annual report from the Department of State.

CRIME AND ITS PENALTIES.

Notice has been given in our news columns of the conviction of a young Cuban by the name of Cueva, who was recently tried in the court of oyer and terminer of Hudson county, New Jersey, for the murder of Oscar de Granval. The jury found Cueva guilty of manslaughter, which crime in New Jersey is punishable, at the discretion of the court, with fine or imprisonment, or both.

The associate judges of the Hudson court, overruling the opinion of the presiding judge, have imposed upon Cueva the slightest penalty of the law, and have thus virtually informed the good people within their jurisdiction that young gentlemen of hot blood and rich parents may take the lives of their real or supposed enemies at the low rate of one thousand dollars per victim.

The extraordinary and most reprehensible leniency of the court in thus assessing "a pecuniary value on manslaughter" elicits the following rebuke from our able and conservative cotemporary of the New York Commercial Advertiser:
Much comment has been elicited by the sentence passed upon Cueva, convicted of the slaughter of Oscar de Granval in the Hudson county oyer and terminer at Bergen, New Jersey, yesterday.

But if, on the other hand, the court believed that Cueva intentionally, though not premeditatedly, murdered the victim, the sentence is inadequate to the offense, it being well known that no fine that could be imposed would of itself constitute a heavy penalty, the wealth of the prisoner's friends being taken into account.

HON. ROBERT TOOMBS.
The re-election of this distinguished gentleman to the Senate of the United States for another term of six years elicits from the democratic press of Georgia the heartiest commendations. The Atlanta Intelligencer says:
We know that every man of the democratic party in Georgia will rejoice—aye, exult in the re-election of Robert Toombs to the United States Senate.

Our opponents looked for discussion and distraction among the democratic ranks, in hopes to build up an army of deserters; but this hope has been demolished and crushed out, and with a unanimity unprecedented, as if impelled by a common thought and impulse, the democratic party have endorsed Mr. Toombs—nominally, by acclamation—elected by a unanimous democratic vote.

The Federal (Millidgeville) Union says:
The re-election of Mr. Toombs to the United States Senate for six years from the 4th of March, 1859, was to be expected. Very little opposition was made to him. His distinguished abilities, fitness, and national position, made him the choice of the democratic party almost unanimously.

FROM THE RIO GRANDE.
The schooner C. B. Knudson, Capt. Squires, arrived at New Orleans, 3d inst., from Benzo Santiago, bringing with her a cargo of hides, and a quantity of the various kinds of goods brought accounts of a most destructive fire and explosion in Brownsville, by which \$200,000 worth of property was destroyed.

On last Friday night, between 12 and 1 o'clock, the alarm of fire was heard, which caused all our citizens there were awake to rush to where it was supposed to be. It was first discovered by Mr. Nelson in the wholesale establishment of Messrs. Galvan & Co., on the levee, when he immediately woke up three or four that were sleeping in the building, and they all rushed to the place, and to those approaching that powder was in the store, and an explosion of two or three kegs a few minutes before the last explosion gave a good many warnings.

The presidents of the Trenton Banking Company and Mechanics and Manufacturers' Bank say that they will each loan the city, on its own credit, \$3,000, to be appropriated to the support of the poor of the city.

IMPORTANT FROM UTAH—BURNING OF GOVERNMENT WAGONS BY THE MORMONS.

The following important news appears in the St. Louis Republican of the 11th instant. It will be seen that news had reached Lawrence that the Mormons had burnt seventy-five government wagons. We regret to add, that a letter was received in this city yesterday from an entirely reliable source confirming the intelligence:
Highly important intelligence has just been received at Fort Leavenworth, by express from Fort Laramie, which gives of October 22nd, Lieut. Col. Cooke's command of second dragoons were four miles this side, and had encamped a snow-storm five days previously.

News had reached Laramie that the Mormons had burnt three government trains (seventy-five wagons) near Green River, ninety miles below Col. Alexander's command (10th infantry) which constituted the rear-guard of the army. It was rumored that the 10th and 5th infantry and the batteries of artillery would go over and take possession of a Mormon village on Bear river for winter quarters.

There was probably never before any portion of our army subjected to such privations and to whom the fact that such a gloomy picture as is the case at present with the army for Utah. And it can be said with impunity to disparagement to others that no portion of our army could have been better selected to battle with the hardships of a campaign, which more than all others prove the soldier's than the army for Utah.

THE RESULT IN THE STATE.
The democratic party of the State of New York has achieved one of the greatest political triumphs on record. Every candidate of the democratic party for a State office is elected. The majority over the "republicans" is at least thirteen thousand, and over the know-nothings more than one hundred thousand.

When achieving such a victory as the election of democratic State officers, it is to be regretted that the democratic party failed to elect a decided majority of the members of the legislature. The control of the legislative power is requisite to a prudent and economical State administration. The legislature may appropriate unreasonable and enormous amounts to objects within the scope of its actual authority, and the State officers have no voice in the matter.

The result in this State is but one of the many triumphs of the democratic party since the inauguration of President Buchanan. Every section of the Union has shown its approval of his policy. In New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Connecticut the democratic gains have been immense. In Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky, North Carolina, Mississippi, Georgia, Missouri, and Texas, the know-nothing and black-republican parties have been completely annihilated; while California and Pennsylvania have given democratic majorities never before equalled. Minnesota has taken a democratic position, and even Ohio and Iowa have shown that at the next election, they, too, will be democratic.

No other administration has gained in so short a time the entire confidence of the country as that of President Buchanan. The results of elections in all sections of the Union prove this most clearly. Its policy has been fully vindicated.

A PARTY FOR THE HARD TIMES.—One of the most remarkable parties of the season "came off" last evening at the residence of one of our retired merchants in "S" street, which was eminently in keeping with the times. A one kind yet invited was the ladies to appear dressed in calico, and the gentlemen in their summer coats, and most faithfully did each sex carry out their portion of the programme; and a more tastefully arrayed party of fair complexioned people was never seen in the city.

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For the last week, says the Selma (Alabama) Sentinel of the 31st, we have noticed a large number of persons moving through this city on their way to the West, some for Texas, some for Mississippi, but most of them going to north Louisiana. They are from North and South Carolina and Georgia, mostly, however, from Georgia. Within the week past there have at least 1,000 negroes passed through the city.

DEPARTMENT NEWS.

Improved Mode of Distillation of Spirit from the Sugar Beet.—The subjoined substance of a method of distillation of alcohol from beet root, recently introduced into England by M. Leplay, through the auspices of the well-known and enterprising firm of Messrs. Wm. Dray & Co., agricultural engineers, London, who have been instrumental in establishing eleven large distilleries in various parts of England, has been furnished to us for publication by the agricultural division of the Patent Office.

In preparing the roots for the distillation, the first process to which they are subjected is that of washing. This is effected in a rotary root-washing machine, driven by a steam engine, which rotates the roots, and the water of which also provides the steam by which the distillation is effected. The roots are passed in at one end of the machine, soiled as they come from the field, and are delivered from the other well washed and cleaned from all adhering matter.

The principle on which the fermentation is carried on is founded on the fact that the saccharine roots, if cut into pieces and placed in a fermented liquid formed of their own juices, and completely covered therewith, and thereafter treated with a proper quantity of sulphuric acid, will undergo a perfect alcoholic fermentation; after which the alcohol is freed in the cellular tissues of the vegetable fermented, having thus taken the place of saccharine matter.

In commencing to distill, then, the first operation is to cut the fermented roots into small pieces, and to wash them as it is termed. This, in the first instance, is prepared by macerating slices of fresh beet in a vat with water, raised to a temperature of 145° Fahrenheit; or with water acidulated with sulphuric, chlorohydric nitric, or other acid. When the liquid thus obtained becomes sufficiently saturated with the acid, the whole is held in the roots put amongst it—it is ready for the after processes of distillation.

When the fermentation is complete, the liquid, or, in other words, to prepare the vinasse, takes about a fortnight; a succession of fillings and emptyings of the tank being gone through during that time. It is evident, therefore, that the vinasse, if of the proper strength, the more distillations will produce a little strength. This, however, in the average of working, is no loss, inasmuch as the vinasse, after the working season is over, when the supply of fresh beet is no longer maintained, is passed through the still, and produces alcohol of the average strength. Each filling, parting with less of its alcohol, produces a stronger alcohol, and the stronger alcohol, until the liquid, being further supplied from the beets, but these are passed to the distilling cylinders in a condition capable of yielding their full average amount of alcohol.

During the sale referred to, a lot was put up consisting of a woman and her two sons, one of whom was epileptic, (classified by the law as "afflicted.") It was stated that the woman would not sell them unless the epileptic boy was taken along at the nominal price of one dollar, as he wished him provided for. Some of the bidders expressed their dissatisfaction at this, and a trader offered to give two hundred dollars more on condition that the epileptic boy should be thrown out. But the temptation was unheeded, and the poor boy was sold with his mother. There are frequent instances at the auction-block of such humanity as this on the part of masters.

But I will leave off sermonizing, and give you what I promised—a simple, home picture of slavery.
I must tell you, next to Aunt Debby, who figured in my last letter, of "Uncle George"—"Old Bones," as we boys used to call him. In our young days we were perpetually either teasing or trading with the old fellow, who was the head gardener, and was kept constantly on the look-out for our depredations on his vines. Or when we got a few cents from "grandpa," or obtained leave to give away our "old clothes," how we used to buy from him, surreptitiously, little nuggets of muddy cider! Years ago, when I left home, he was then almost decrepit from old age, but his avidity and keenness at a trade with his "young man's" were the same as ever. He was a queer-looking old fellow; never would wear a hat; and, with his immense shock of hair as white as snow, and standing off from his head, and his enormous "galluses," (suspenders,) he made a singular picture in our boyish recollections.

As I have many times in the course of my life had cause to laud I recollect the image of this old slave, with the picture of the old brick garden, with its green walls and its cherry trees, and the gentle manual of the owner, that saddest, sweetest spot on earth—a father's grave! Boys are never very thoughtful. Notwithstanding Uncle George's respectability and good nature, we used to worry him very much, and I constantly on the alert to cheat him in my trade. This latter, however, it was difficult to accomplish. Quick-witted cubs, which we used to cunningly offer to him by protesting that we had just "found" them, would not go with him. I remember well, when we went out hunting—four brothers, with an old flint gun—how, after shooting a few "peckerwoods" in the orchard, we would go down to the garden and lantern Uncle George to shoot at a mark for "fourpence-penny." He was very proud of doing this, and enjoyed the privilege of "shooting a gun" with the same zeal as a ten-year-old school-boy. But he discovered our tricks at last—how the gun was loaded for him without shot and with "five fingers" of powder, "kicking" him most unmercifully, and never showing the least sign on the target.

If you should ever visit "Oakridge," my dear C., you must be prepared for a grand reception by Uncle George, who is quite a Beau Brummel in his way. He is a very genteel beggar. He makes it a point to see all the visitors who come to our home; and he has the ugly habit of secretly waylaying them, and begging them to "remember" him. You must have half-a-dollar for him when you come. I think I can promise that you will not be quite as heartless to his appeal for a place in your memory as was a gentleman from the North, ("a friend of humanity,") who lately partook of our hospitality. On his leaving, Uncle George, as usual, exercised his privilege of bringing the horse to "the rack" and, after assisting the gentleman to mount, begged that "mass would remember the old nigger." "Oh, yes," replied the friend of humanity, as he rode off, "I will not forget you, my good fellow; I will think of you, and hope you will be elevated into a better condition." But he never gave him a dime to be elevated with.

On the morning following my return home, after years of absence, I was told that Uncle George, who was too decrepit from age to come up to the house, wanted me to come to the negro "quarters" to see him. He mentioned that I had been in "that gold country." He meant (particularly) and he wanted to see his young man's very particularly, intimating very clearly that he expected a handsome present. I found the old fellow very comfortably situated. He had grown old gently; he had never seen any hard service; and not only in his old age was he not required to do any work, but, with that regard commonly exhibited toward the slave when stricken with age, he had every attention in the evening of his life. His meals were sent out to him from our

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NAVY DEPARTMENT.
Discovery of a Comet.—The following is a copy of a letter from Lieut. M. F. Maury to the Secretary of the Navy:
ONABAYTOR, WASHINGTON, November 13, 1857.
Sir: Mr. Van-Arsdale, of Newark, New Jersey, discovered a small telescopic comet, on the 10th instant, at 7 1/2 P.M., North Dec. 55° 29'. AR. 15h. 35m. 53". It was observed here last night with the large equatorial, by Mr. Ferguson, at 6h. 52m. 36s., in North Dec. 53° 41' 31", and 16h. 22m. 15s. 47".
It moves rapidly, having, since its discovery, changed its place in Dec. 1° 35' 28". 09, and its declination, 47' in AR. Respectfully, &c., M. F. MAURY, Lieut. Comdr. U. S. Navy.

CURIOSITIES OF SLAVERY.—No. 2.
(Macros, Georgia), 1857.
My DEAR C.—The conclusion of my last letter, I believe, concerning that abolition bugbear, the alien auction mart, Macon, you must know, is one of the principal marts for slaves in the South. Some time ago I attended on the city's confines an extraordinarily large auction of slaves, including a gang of sixty-one from one plantation in southwestern Georgia. The prices brought were comparatively very low, as there was no warranty of soundness, and owing very much also to the fact that the slaves were all sold in families, and they too extraordinarily large, as I counted fifty-nine negroes in ten families. To give you some idea of the prices brought I quote the following: Clarinda's family—Clarinda, plantation cook, weekly, 45 years; Betsy, field hand, prime, 22 years; James, field hand, prime, 14 years; Edmond, Betsy's son, 4 years, brought total, \$2,620. Jordan's family, bright mulattoes—Jordan, blacksmith, prime, 33 years; Lindy, field hand, prime, 30 years; Mary, prime, 13 years; Winney, prime, 12 years; Abby, prime, 9 years; Elizabeth, prime, 6 years, brought total, \$3,650. Chlo's family, consisting all of libly negroes, the younger mulattoes—viz: Chlo, field hand, prime, 33 years, classified as "the best of negroes"; Clarissa, field hand, prime, 16 years; Junius, prime, 9 years; Francis, prime, 12 years; Robert, prime, 5 years; infant, 2 months, brought total, \$2,840.

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CURIOSITIES OF SLAVERY.—No. 2.
(Macros, Georgia), 1857.
My DEAR C.—The conclusion of my last letter, I believe, concerning that abolition bugbear, the alien auction mart, Macon, you must know, is one of the principal marts for slaves in the South. Some time ago I attended on the city's confines an extraordinarily large auction of slaves, including a gang of sixty-one from one plantation in southwestern Georgia. The prices brought were comparatively very low, as there was no warranty of soundness, and owing very much also to the fact that the slaves were all sold in families, and they too extraordinarily large, as I counted fifty-nine negroes in ten families. To give you some idea of the prices brought I quote the following: Clarinda's family—Clarinda, plantation cook, weekly, 45 years; Betsy, field hand, prime, 22 years; James, field hand, prime, 14 years; Edmond, Betsy's son, 4 years, brought total, \$2,620. Jordan's family, bright mulattoes—Jordan, blacksmith, prime, 33 years; Lindy, field hand, prime, 30 years; Mary, prime, 13 years; Winney, prime, 12 years; Abby, prime, 9 years; Elizabeth, prime, 6 years, brought total, \$3,650. Chlo's family, consisting all of libly negroes, the younger mulattoes—viz: Chlo, field hand, prime, 33 years, classified as "the best of negroes"; Clarissa, field hand, prime, 16 years; Junius, prime, 9 years; Francis, prime, 12 years; Robert, prime, 5 years; infant, 2 months, brought total, \$2,840.