WASHINGTON CITY.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, NOV. 25, 1857.

We are informed that Señor Don Napoleon Escalante and Señor Don Luis Molina were yesterday introduced to the President by the Secretary of State, and delivered their credentials as envoys extraordinary and ministers plenipotentiary of the republic of Costa Rica to the government of the United States.

A CONCLUSIVE ANSWER.

The New York Tribune has one characteristic that we cannot help admiring—it is always bold and undisguised. Whether it advocates or opposes, its work is sure to be done with an outspoken boldness. If it misrepresents an antagonist, it does so with a bold disregard of truth that subjects it to easy exposure. It is on account of this characteristic in the Tribune that we always look to it to ascertain with certainty the abolition position on any contested political question. Some of our democratic cotemporaries seem to have become befogged in trying to find out why the late Kansas convention failed to submit their entire work to the judgment of the people of Kansas. The Tribune clears away the fog, and gives a conclusive answer. It says:

"The men who got up this bogus constitution knew perfectly well that the people of Kansas scouted their pretence of authority to frame a constitution for them, and would vote down that which they have made, if allowed to do so; so they will not let them vote on it at all! Does any man believe that they would have shackled the people in this way if they had not absolutely *known* that the people would reject their constitution if they were allowed a chance to do so?"

Here we have the whole story told and the whole mystery explained. "The men who got up this bogus constitution," &c.—that is to say, the Tribune regards the late Kansas convention as an illegal and unauthorized body of men, who had no right to make any sort of constitution. Hence it denounces the constitution as a bogus affair, and so it would have denounced any constitution that the convention might have made. But the Tribune proceeds to add that the members of the convention knew that the people of Kansas (meaning thereby the advocates of the Topeka constitution) scouted their pretence of authority to frame a constitution for them, and that the members of the convention knew also that the Topeka abolitionists would vote down the constitution made. If the convention knew these things, it would have been worse than a farce to submit the constitution for the mere purpose of having it voted down—not voted down, be it observed, because its provisions were not good, but because it was, in their estimation, a bogus affair, gotten up by men unauthorized to make any constitution. The convention knew that they were acting in pursuance of the legal authority of the Territory, and that it was their duty to make a constitution; but if they knew, too, that there was a factious opposition to the convention which would cause the rejection of their work, however well done, they were excusable for refusing to yield to that factious spirit. They did enough when they agreed to submit the only part of their work about which the popular mind was agitated and divided. We think, therefore, the Tribune furnishes a conclusive answer to the objection that the convention failed to submit any other than the slavery clause of the constitution to the sacrifice of the Topeka factionists.

ABOLITION MENDACITY.

Suppose we had a constitutional provision in this State that "there shall be no slavery in the State of New York *except* that slaveholders who choose to settle in said State may bring their slaves with them and hold them here in bondage," would not every one see that the pretence of prohibiting slavery in the former sentence of this clause was completely nullified by the exception in the latter? *Yet this is precisely what the bogus convention has done in Kansas.*

[*N. Y. Tribune.*

The foregoing is the abolition version, or, more properly, perversion of the action of the late Kansas convention. Mr. Greeley distinctly affirms—and it will be believed by his followers—that the convention of Kansas has provided that *there shall be no slavery in the new State,* EXCEPT *that slaveholders who choose to settle in said State may bring their slaves with them and hold them in bondage.* He says, emphatically, "*this is precisely what the bogus convention has done in Kansas.*" This is no unintentional or accidental mistake or misrepresentation. It is a bold and reckless and wilful perversion, as will be apparent on reading the clause in the schedule which was before the editor when he wrote, and which is as follows:

"But if, upon such examination of said poll-books, it shall appear that a majority of the votes cast at said election be in favor of the 'constitution without slavery,' then the article providing for slavery shall be stricken from this constitution by the president of this convention, or in his absence, by reason of death, resignation, or otherwise, by the president *pro tem.*, and slavery shall no longer exist in the State of Kansas, (except that the right of property in slaves now in this Territory shall in no manner be interfered with,) and he shall immediately have transmitted the constitution so ratified to the Congress of the United States for admission into the Union as a sovereign State under the said constitution."

It is seen at once that there is not the shadow of a pretence that after the adoption of the Kansas constitution slaveholders may bring their slaves with them into the State, and hold them in bondage, as falsely asserted by the Tribune. The provision is simple, just, and equitable—that the rights of property in the slaves now in the Territory shall not be interfered with. We are sure that any constitution that did not provide against interfering with the private rights of property would be rejected by any Congress that ever assembled or ever will assemble. Abolitionism would have violently deprived the owners of slaves now in the Territory of their property. The convention respected the individual rights of the slave-owners, and prohibited any future legislature from interfering with their rights without just compensation.

BLACK-REPUBLICAN HYPOCRISY.

The most arrant hypocrite to be found is the black-republican, who pretends to be horrified because the whole of the Kansas constitution is not submitted to the people of the Territory for ratification or rejection. This same black-republican was, and is, the advocate of the Topeka constitution, that was made by a body of irresponsible fanatics, who assembled in open defiance of the laws of the Territory, usurped the power to sit as a constitutional convention, made a constitution in open hostility to the legal authorities of the Territory, refused to submit any portion to the people for ratification or rejection, but sent it to Congress, and there insisted that it was the true and legitimate constitution of Kansas. The hypocrite now pretends to be shocked that the legally-constituted convention of Kansas has failed to submit any other than the slavery clause for the judgment of the people. Such brazen-faced effrontery and shameless hypocrisy deserve to be scouted and despised by all true national men.

STATISTICS OF THE CHINESE EXPORT TRADE.

The following tabular statements, derived from official sources, exhibit the quantities of tea and silk imported into Great Britain from China during the past four years—the year ending June 30; to which we annex a similar statement, showing the quantities imported from July 1 to September 10, of the year 1857–'58.

To Great Britain from the ports of—

1853–'54.	Tea.—lbs.	Raw silk. Bales.
Canton	45,131,200	6,799
Fuhchou	6,143,000	
Shanghae	25,943,700	55,185
Total in 134 vessels	77,217,900	61,984
1854–'55.		
Canton	16,123,800	7,178
Fuhchou	19,512,800	
Shanghae	50,872,400	44,308
Total in 133 vessels	86,509,000	51,486
1855–'56.		
Canton	30,404,400	8,435
Fuhchou	26,764,700	
Shanghae	34,762,700	42,054
Total in 130 vessels	91,931,800	50,489
1856–'57.		
Canton	19,638,300	18,709
Fuhchou	20,839,400	
Shanghae	20,990,700	55,506
Total in 113 vessels	61,468,400	74,215

The quantities imported from July 1 to September 10, in 1857–'58, compared with the quantities imported the same period last year, were:

	Tea.—lbs.	Silk—bales.
1857–'58, in 27 vessels	12,899,200	21,047
1856–'57, in 26 vessels	15,753,500	19,088
Decrease in 1857–'58	2,854,300	
Increase in 1857–'58	–	1,959

From the same official authority we derive the following statistics, showing the quantities of tea imported into the United States during the periods designated:

1854–'55.	
Canton, pounds	2,561,900
Fuhchou, pounds	5,400,800
Shanghae, pounds	23,553,200
Total in 48 vessels	31,515,900
according to United States Treasury Report,	24,366,615 lbs.
1855–'56.	
Canton, pounds	8,246,800
Fuhchou, pounds	10,873,900
Shanghae, pounds	21,127,100
Total in 56 vessels	40,247,800
according to United States Treasury Report,	22,583,778 lbs.
1856–'57.	
Canton, pounds	9,997,500
Fuhchou, pounds	8,701,700
Shanghae, pounds	16,853,600
Total in 36 vessels	35,552,800

We are unable to compare the quantities imported into the United States in 1857, according to our own official returns, as the United States Treasury Report for that year is not yet made public. The apparent discrepancy, however, will probably not be so great, inasmuch as our flag had not so large a share of this carrying-trade in 1857 as in the preceding year. Assuming the returns to be correct, as they doubtless are—at least as nearly as they can be—and it appears that, in 1855, there were carried to foreign countries in American vessels 7,149,285 pounds, and in 1856 17,664,022 pounds.

THE NEW CODE FOR THIS DISTRICT.

Under the act of Congress passed on the third of March, 1855, Robert Ould and W. B. B. Cross were appointed to codify the laws of this District. They were both young members of the local bar, but highly intelligent and well informed in the law, and full of perseverance. They compiled a code of about seven hundred printed pages, which was submitted to the supervision of nine persons selected by the Georgetown and Washington city authorities, who unanimously approved of their codification. Under the law their work has been printed, and is now being criticized by the people of the District, and is to be submitted for their approval or rejection. The vote of the District does not make it the law, but merely sends it to Congress, where it may become a law, be amended or rejected, precisely as if no previous action had been had upon it by the electors. We have been unable to examine with care each of the provisions of the proposed code. We have, however, looked into several chapters and given them some consideration. We have observed some inaccuracies of language, and some provisions which are incomplete, and an occasional provision which is susceptible of improvement, both as to principle and policy. But, as a whole, the code, as prepared, is very much superior to the present confused and uncertain state of the law, which few can understand or act upon as a settled certainty.

It is probable that in no place within the Union is the law, and the practice under it, so unsettled and uncertain as in this District. The wisest men and most profound lawyers cannot ascertain with certainty much concerning either. Except the cases reported years since by Chief Justice Cranch, the action of our courts rests in the recollection of those attending in court. Should the new code become a law, the whole statute law will be in a single volume. We think that great credit is due to the codifiers for the care and labor they have bestowed upon the code, and we are satisfied that it should be approved by the voters of the District and be forwarded to Congress, where any errors it may contain can be rectified. A sound Judiciary Committee will soon discover and speedily correct such as they may find, and Congress can then readily give us an improved system of laws, such as is enjoyed by the several States. We have not time or space to point out what we think would improve the code, or the numerous advantages which its adoption would confer upon the people of the District. We feel confident that, as a whole, the code is a very great improvement upon the present law, and, when revised by the wisdom of Congress, that it will be entitled to the respect and confidence of every citizen of the District, and will command the approbation of the whole Union.

THE PHILADELPHIA ARGUS.

Alluding to the action of the Kansas constitutional convention, this able and fearless champion of democratic principles says: "The question has recently assumed a phase of additional interest, from the fact that one or two professing democratic journals have, to the greatest astonishment of everybody, taken the black-republican ground in relation to this vitally important matter. We shall lose no time in expressing our dissent to such anti-democratic doctrines."

THE CONSEQUENCES OF CRIMINALITY.

There are two classes of crimes—one committed by individuals at the instigation of their own bad passions, and another where the actors are stimulated to wrongful acts by designing men to accomplish purposes of their own. Men steal, rob, and burn, &c., to gratify their desire for gain or thirst for revenge. When caught and convicted, every lover of right and justice assents to the propriety of punishment without reluctance or misgiving. But there is another class of cases where this is often accompanied with feelings of a different nature. We find in several cities in the country, political, and sometimes other combinations, organized and controlled by active, influential, and reckless men, who manage, control, and use others to accomplish their own objects, often pushing them into aggravated violations of law. Being guilty, they are arrested, tried, convicted, and punished, and no one can justly complain. But we frequently feel that justice would be better served if the leaders were punished instead of those whom they have excited and urged into crime. The wary managers keep themselves behind the curtain and escape punishment. They contrive and instigate acts resulting in criminality, but manage to keep themselves out of sight, and, with cool recklessness, leave those a thousand times less guilty to suffer all the direful consequences.

Not one of all the contrivers of the scenes which have bathed Baltimore in blood, and rendered her a fearful place and a word of reproach, has been brought to suffer the penalties of the law. The same is true in this city. Scenes which have disgraced our city and ended in blood and death have been contrived in the know-nothing lodge-rooms by those claiming high positions. The leaders have marshalled and directed those looking up to them, and pushed them on to act where they dare not show their faces; and when the hand of the law fell upon the offending, it only reached those who had been duped by their leaders, while the latter have kept themselves out of harm's way. There are thousands in this city who do actually know that the arrangements which led to the tragedy here of June last were made by those who have kept their action and advice in secret, leaving those whom they had duped to shoulder all the results, they not having the manly courage to avow and abide by the consequences of what they had occasioned. It is the leaders who were the real authors of all the wrongs and crimes. They occasioned the wounds and deaths. It was they who occasioned men to be brought into the courts to be tried, and they are the real guilty authors of the punishments that have been and are being inflicted. Instead of cautioning those who looked to them for advice, they spurred them on into excesses that occasioned their convictions and suffering. We heartily wish these leaders were in the places which they have led others into, as they are far more guilty and much more deserving of punishment. We think that those who are now suffering for acting on their advice will hereafter, instead of following it, make them feel how little they are to be confided in.

DANGERS OF THE CHINESE SEAS.

In noticing the loss of the American ship Channing, when loaded and ready for sea, in Ke-ung harbor, Formosa, during the typhoon of the 15th and 16th of August last, the Hong-Kong Magazine for September thus speaks of the dangerous navigation in that quarter of the world in an article headed "The Prata Shoal and Pressing Needs of Commerce:"

Whilst the "battle of life"—politically and socially—has been undistinguished by any striking act or startling incident during the month, we have to chronicle one or more of those "moving accidents" which the "war of the elements" so frequently furnishes in these seas to remind man at once of his impotence and his shortcomings:

Thus it is that after several gales of wind latterly we hear of the wreck of a Dutch ship, and probably, also, an American ship, on the Prata shoal; and that we are reminded again that it had been better had the underwriters of the world built a light-house a dozen years ago with a roof of gold tiles, so large is the sum of the losses on that shoal in the mean time, omitting all regard of the lives also sacrificed to a senseless parsimony.

Let us hope—at this dawn of a new political era here—that those patient and daring instruments of commerce, the mariners, upon whose skill and judgment depends also the safety of thousands of lives, may participate in the benefits derivable from a better judgment and more faithful application of western principles and modes of action; that through the dark and stormy nights of their voyaging in these seas they may hereafter be cheered by the sight of those "lights" which are the beacons of commerce and the advanced towers of science and civilization.

Reflecting upon the fearful losses of life and property upon this one shoal, and upon that further uncertain, but undoubtedly large, number of wrecks upon the coasts of China, Formosa, and Luconia, beside foundering in the sea, directly and indirectly attributable to the want of a light-house upon it, one is fain to ask: Why wait till the wrecks' value shall suffice to cover the rocks with silver and the lives lost or sold to slavery shall weigh down with grief the hearts of thousands instead of hundreds? Can any reasonable person tell us why?

The practical difficulties are slight, and communication with Hong-Kong is easy, and usually with either wind or steam requires but a few hours. Plainly do these numerous disasters indicate to us that it is a central point in the great highway of commerce, and hence, instead of being the means of man's destruction or ruin, it may be made subservient to one of his greatest present wants; instead of being the grave of hundreds or thousands, and the destruction of many of the fair and strong fabrics of his hands—the "Mermaids," "Living-Ages," "Reynards," "Johannes," "Dorotheas," "Hygeas," and a dozen others—as it were to form a huge hecatomb of wrecks and drowned corpses to appease the sea-gods—

"Victims and wrecks in wild confusion hurled
'Gainst the dreaded portal to another world!"—

instead of this dire scene, there may be reared a fair shaft heavenward, whose beneficent light shall shine far over the sea, at once a warning and a guide to a path or haven of safety.

If this is really the "*living age*" of benevolence, of science, of progress, soon shall benighted voyagers hither have their eyes saluted by these lights of civilization, as it were by newly-risen stars from the depths of the sea.

A similar need is felt for a light-house upon the small island off Pulo-Leat, in the Straits of Gaspar. We may remark here also, *en passant*, that a faithful re-survey of the Straits of Banka is required, and meantime its avoidance by ships of large draught seems advisable; our reminding of this state of that strait being just now by the loss of H. M. S. transport "Transit" therein; but it has long been known to us that old charts were no longer reliable guides to safe channels through it.

Suppose we had a constitutional provision in this State that "there shall be no slavery in the State of New York, *except* that slaveholders who choose to settle in said State may bring their slaves with them, and hold them here in bondage:" would not every one see that the pretence of prohibiting slavery in the former sentence of this clause was completely nullified by the exception in the latter? Yet this is precisely what the bogus convention has done in Kansas.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

Of course, this is a deliberate falsification of what the "convention has done in Kansas." The constitution of Kansas, instead of providing that slaveholders who choose to settle in said State may bring their slaves with them, and hold them in bondage, declares that, in case the slavery clause is voted down, "*no slavery shall exist in the State of Kansas,* except that the right of property in slaves now *in this Territory* shall in no manner be interfered with." This is the whole provision; and it is simply necessary to read it to see the falsity of the Tribune.

[*Albany Argus.*

DEPARTMENT NEWS.

STATE DEPARTMENT.

Emigration.—Information has been received from a correspondent at Bremen that 44,951 emigrants have left that port for America between the 1st of January and the 15th October, 1857. The number of ships employed in conveying passengers was 171.

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.

The Chinese Yam.—Subjoined is the letter of C. F. Mallory, secretary of the Macomb County (Michigan) Agricultural Society, in relation to the Chinese yam, introduced into this country several years ago by the Patent Office. It will be read with interest:

ROMEO, MACOMB CO., MICHIGAN,
November 17, 1857.

DEAR SIR: Last spring I procured from Thorburn, of New York, twelve of the Chinese yams and also twelve of the seed tubers. I prepared a piece of ground by spading and manuring to the depth of eighteen or twenty inches. I planted the seed tubers whole. They were from one to three inches long. The yams I cut in pieces about two inches. I made about sixty hills. I have dug about two-thirds of them, and have left the balance in the ground to remain until next fall. The plants that I have dug were from one to two feet long; have cooked some by boiling and baking, and if I had not known what they were would not have known the difference between them and a good dry, mealy potato. I shall have most of those I have dug to plant next year. I took three to our county fair, and they were nearly all eaten raw by persons who were present. They seem to be nearly all stock.

I procured also and planted a lot of the chufa, or earth almond. From some twelve or fifteen I have dug about four quarts. My family are quite fond of them to eat raw. There is quite a pleasant taste to them. They beat all to produce. I presume that the ground will be full of them next year from the seed of those left in the ground.

* * * * * * * *

Yours, truly,
C. F. MALLORY,
Secretary of Macomb Agricultural Society.
To Hon. COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS.

THE WORTH MONUMENT CEREMONIES.

We take the following from the New York Express:

On Saturday afternoon the common council determined, at the request of Mrs. Worth, that the right reverend the provisional bishop of New York, Potter; the Rev. Dr. Stevens, of Philadelphia; and the Rev. Dr. Van Rensselaer, of Burlington, New Jersey, should be invited to officiate at the dedication of the Worth monument. There will be a large number of General Worth's family present. The pall-bearers already selected are Lieutenant General Scott, General A. V. DeWitt, Colonel Abm. Van Buren, and Geo. W. B. Burnett. There are twelve more to be selected.

Mrs. Worth, the widow of the distinguished General Worth, promises to be in New York on the 25th to participate in the honors to her husband. The following letter has been received by the chairman of the committee, Mr. Harris:

SIR: Providence permitting, I will, with my family, be in New York on the 25th of November, the day appointed for paying the last honors to the memory of my husband. I have no suggestions to make in regard to the arrangements, fully believing that all my wishes will be anticipated by the friends who have thus far taken so deep an interest in the completion of the monument. I should desire to have Bishop Potter invited as officiating clergyman, and Dr. Stevens, of Philadelphia, and Dr. Van Rensselaer, of Burlington, New Jersey, as friends of the family; the officers and professors of the Military Academy, West Point, and at Governor's Island. Of any officers who may be in New York, who are friends of the family, you will be able to learn through Col. Myers, at the quartermaster's office, No. 4 State street, New York. I shall be at the St. Nicholas on Monday evening. Should you desire to consult me in reference to any arrangements, I shall be glad to hear from you.

Truly, your friend,
MRS. WORTH.

ALBANY, November 10, 1857.

We understand that an invitation has been sent to the M. W. John L. Lewis, junior, Grand Master of the Free and Accepted Masons of this State, to be present at the dedication of the Worth monument; it is expected that he will arrive from Penn Yan in time to take part in the ceremonies. In the event of his not being present, the duties will devolve on the Right Worshipful Robert Macoy, D. G. M. The ceremonies will not be those appropriate for a funeral, as they have been already performed at the first burial of General Worth, but will be those for the dedication, and which are equally imposing. The Grand Marshals, Grand Chaplains, and other grand officers out of the city have also been notified.

The New York Daily News says:

The preparations making by the common council to invest the removal of the remains of the heroic Worth with all the solemnity due these precious relics of virtue and valor are in every respect commendable. The military and citizens not only of New York, but of the Union, take an interest in these tributes of respect to one whose fame belongs to the country, and is bounded alone by the wide limits of the earth. From every neighboring place delegations may be expected to join in the solemn pageant with which New York will inaugurate the monument she raises in honor of the hero, and to protect his sacred ashes.

The site of the monument is to be at the small triangular park west of Madison Square, and the parade is to take place on the 25th of November. On the previous day the remains will lie in state in the governor's room, and will thence be carried, escorted by the citizen-soldiers and the people, to the place of their final rest. Here an oration in honor of the gallant Worth, and dedicatory of the monument, will be pronounced by the mayor.

The proceedings, we are assured, will be such as to make the day of the Worth monument dedication long remembered, and so it should be. The pomp and panoply of glorious war should be there in honor of the brave soldier and illustrious general, and eloquence and art will not be wanting to add their tribute to his fame. New York will then possess—in the tombs and sacred ashes of Montgomery, Lawrence, and Worth—memorials of the three principal wars in which our country has been engaged, and bright exemplars of heroism to rouse her sons to deeds of noble daring.

The official vote of the State of New York at the recent election shows the democratic majorities for comptroller, treasurer, attorney general, State engineer, canal commissioner, and inspector of State prisons, to average about 17,400 each, while the majority for secretary of State reaches 18,236, and for judge of appeals 18,063. The American vote, as compared with last year, shows a falling off of nearly one-half, while the republican vote is barely three-fourths what it was at the same period. The democratic vote shows a slight increase.

The joint select committee on banks in the Tennessee legislature has reported a bill legalizing the bank suspensions till the 8th of January, 1858, upon condition that no bank shall declare a dividend during their suspension, and if the banks of New York and New Orleans shall resume specie payments during the spring or summer of 1858, the banks of Tennessee, which avail themselves of this bill, shall also resume in sixty days thereafter. The free banks are required within ninety days from the passage of the bill to deposite bonds of Tennessee with the comptroller sufficient to make the bonds in his hands par value, according to the New York price of said bonds—and, on failure, to be placed in immediate liquidation. The banks are required to make quarterly reports to the governor of their condition. The internal improvement committee of the Senate recommend in regard to railroads that no further State aid be granted and that in all instances where no vested rights existed previous grants should be lopped off, whereby the prospective debt of the State could be curtailed by several millions.

DEATH OF HON. WALTER COLES.—Captain Walter Coles, for many years a representative in Congress from the Lynchburg district, died at his residence in Pittsylvania county on the 9th instant, after an illness of some four or five days. He was about 68 years old. Capt. Coles entered Congress in 1835, and remained a member of that body until he voluntarily retired in 1845. He was a member of the Virginia legislature in 1833–'34. During the war of 1812 he held the office of captain of dragoons, and served upon the northern frontier under Gen. Wade Hampton, of South Carolina. He acted for a long series of years as justice of the peace under the constitution of 1830.

The Hon. Eabon Blacknor, ex-member of Congress and a well-known citizen of western New York, committed suicide on the 19th inst., at his residence in Newark, Wayne county, by drowning himself in a spring or shallow well in his cellar. He was a baker and a produce dealer, and had been compelled to yield to the pressure of the times and make an assignment. This financial embarrassment is supposed to have been the cause of his suicide.

LETTER FROM CAPTAIN HUMPHREYS.

WASHINGTON, November 24, 1857.

To the Editor of the Union:

DEAR SIR: Mr. Blake, in his letter of the 14th inst., published in your paper of the 20th, claims that the fact that the Cimmarron route was explored *before* the Pacific railroad explorations were made does not affect the accuracy of his statement, that the route "*did not receive an examination in connexion with the United States Pacific railroad explorations and surveys.*" Had this fact been made known in connexion with his statement, the impression conveyed to those who were not familiar with the subject would, in my opinion, have been just the reverse of what it was without it.

To charge that, in the execution of the duty assigned to the Secretary of War by Congress—"to ascertain the most practicable and economical route for a railroad from the *Mississippi river* to the *Pacific ocean*"—a certain route had not received that attention which its importance to the great West, and especially to Missouri and Kansas, demands, implies that it was the duty of the Secretary of War to consider especially the interests of Missouri and Kansas in the execution of this duty, and not the act of Congress and national interests. Stated in this way the charge needs no comment.

Let us admit for a moment, however, that, in view of the act of Congress, the two lines of approach to the Rio Grande near Albuquerque presented equal claims to consideration as parts of the route near the 35th parallel. As both could not be traversed by the party destined to explore that route, the decision must evidently be made in favor of that respecting which the least was known. The report, map, and profiles of Major Emory, joined to information verbally communicated by him respecting that portion of the Cimmarron route (on the plains) not passed over by his party, were of themselves sufficient to establish its character. There were in addition the report, map, and profiles of Dr. Wislizenus, the survey of Lieutenant Peck, and the examinations of Lieutenant Simpson. The description of Gregg, the survey by Abert, and examination by Simpson, of adjoining routes, which, in part, coincided with the Cimmarron line, and the exploring party of the route near the 38th and 39th parallels, would give another profile of one-half the line; besides, the department possessed general information respecting the line and region from officers who were familiar with it. In fact, the information collected upon this route exceeded that through the South Pass as far as Fort Bridger, and, in the opinion of those well qualified to judge, was sufficient to establish its general practicability, character, and resources.

For the line of the Canadian there were the reports of the expedition of Captain Marcy and Lieut. Simpson, and that of Lieut. Abert down the Canadian river, the head waters of which he had reached from the Arkansas; but there was no profile whatever of the route, and a profile was important to show the practicability of connecting the valley of the Canadian with that of the Rio Grande.

Under the supposition, therefore, that the two lines presented equal claims to consideration under the act of Congress, it is plain that the information was most deficient upon the Canadian route, and that, of the two, it ought to have been traversed by the exploring party.

The survey along the Canadian river might have been dispensed with, and was not the object in view when the exploring party was directed to take that route; but, from the point of leaving that steamer, further survey was essential, and the field of labor was much better reached from Fort Smith up the Canadian than by the route from Independence.

The subject of grade in the mountain part of the Cimmarron line naturally connected itself with the examination of the Canadian route, since the two approach closely in that region, and in fact the Independence route should unite here with that of the Canadian. Thus by ascending the Canadian all the information that might be deemed requisite for both lines would be obtained.

But Independence is out of position as a starting point for, or as a point in the line of, the most practicable and economical route from the Mississippi river to the Pacific ocean south of lat. 39°. The first practicable route south of that latitude crosses the Rio Grande in lat. 35°. Independence is in lat. 39°. The mouth of the Canadian is in 35° 30', and the course of the Canadian between 35° and 36° lat., and the starting point of the route on the Mississippi river should be nearly in that latitude, instead of four degrees further north. The Cimmarron route, therefore, presented an inferior claim, if any, to consideration under the act of Congress in connexion with the route of the 35th parallel. The difficulties in the construction of a Pacific railroad begin at, and are found west of, the meridian of 99° west. The Cimmarron route passed through this region of difficulties in an oblique line—that of the Canadian in a direct line.

Independence properly forms a point on or near the line of the route near the 38th and 39th parallels, and the party for the exploration of that route started from Independence. But it does not form a point even on the best route for a railroad from St. Louis to the Pacific on, or south of, 39° lat., for that route should be directed southwesterly from St. Louis until it reaches a point that, all other things being equal, will give a direct and short line across the difficult region. As I have stated, the exploration of the route near the 38th and 39th parallels began near Independence. To have commenced there, the exploration of the route near the 35th parallel would have, indeed, shown great regard for the interests of a certain portion of Missouri and of Kansas, but would scarcely have been in accordance with the act of Congress and national interests.

The line from Independence to New Mexico is a great route of travel, not because it is the best across the plains, but because Independence is accessible by steamers from the Mississippi river, and a long wagon journey is thus saved; but when railroads extend westward of the Mississippi to the borders of the plains, other routes to Santa Fe will be followed.

Mr. Blake attempts to shield his letter from my closing remark, to which it was justly obnoxious, by directing attention to the fact that the great region through which the explorations for a Pacific railroad were made still presents a fruitful field for the explorer. That was not in question. His letter in substance averred that one of the Pacific railroad parties ought to have passed over the Cimmarron route, and that, none having passed over it, he, while travelling over it in a mail wagon at the rate of thirty or forty miles a day, part of the time under constant apprehension of Indian attack, had collected information for which it was virtually alleged the elaborate investigations of a well-appointed exploring party were requisite. This pretension certainly refuted the allegation, but still it was proper to state the nature and extent of the examinations the route had received from others, and to point attention to the circumstances under which the imputed omission was claimed to have been supplied.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
A. A. HUMPHREYS,
Captain Topographical Engineers.

SALE OF PAINTINGS AT "BLENHEIM."—The sale at Blenheim, on Tuesday and Wednesday, by N. H. Massie, executor of Hon. Andrew Stevenson, deceased, was well attended. From the high price paid for the paintings, crops, and stock, we feel warranted in saying the people of Albemarle, at least, have not felt the pressure of the *hard times.* A miniature of Napoleon, by Isabee, brought upwards of $400. A full-length portrait of Marshal Soult, by Healy, presented to Mr. Stevenson while Minister to England by Marshal Soult himself, brought $415. The paintings alone brought $1,900.

[*Charlottesville (Va.) Advocate.*

INTERESTING DECISION.—In the circuit court, last week, upon the motion of a judgment debtor who had served a garnishee upon the directors of the Western Lunatic Asylum to attach the salary of one of the employees at that institution, Judge Thompson decided that salaries or wages of persons accruing, but not due, were not attachable or assignable by operation of law, and only assignable by the party himself as an entirety, and not in portions. In this instance, there had been previous assignment by the party to whom the salary was due.

[*Staunton (Va.) Vindicator.*

One of the churches in Boston has discharged the choir to save money.

(Correspondence of the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.)

MONETARY AFFAIRS IN ENGLAND.

LONDON, November 10, 1857.

Heavy tidings go by this mail, and it is a terrible question whether worse will have to follow.

Dennistouns have stopped, with liabilities first stated at about two millions sterling, but now believed to be considerably beyond that sum. All the establishments of the firm have gone together—the head house at Glasgow and the subordinate ones in Liverpool and London. The almost total cessation of remittances from their correspondents at New York and New Orleans is, of course, the cause. They could get no help; the banking institution with which they had been most largely connected (the Borough Bank of Liverpool) having stopped a fortnight previously, involving them in new liabilities as large shareholders, while the Glasgow difficulties of a similar kind, which have since burst in full force, prevented the slightest hope of aid in that quarter. The private property of the partners is extremely large, and their circular announcing their suspension is worded simply as a request for time. How far their anticipations of a speedy resumption are well founded it is difficult to conjecture. Some events which have subsequently occurred tend to diminish the prospect. Fortunately they have a house at Melbourne, in Australia, which, it is said, will not be compromised. The Glasgow firm was established seventy years ago, and the father of the present senior partner left the largest fortune (£400,000) that had ever up to that date been accumulated there.

The break down of Dennistoun & Co. has been followed by that of the Western Bank of Scotland. By the last packet it was mentioned that the anxieties regarding the probable fate of this institution had gained increased force. Its friends, however, still insisted that it would be able to maintain itself. Whether this might have been possible, supposing other matters to have gone smoothly, it is needless to discuss. The fall of Dennistoun & Co. sealed its fate. Its headquarters, like those of that firm, were at Glasgow. It has more than one hundred branches, and its deposites are stated to amount to six millions sterling, while its paid-up capital is a million and a half. The American revulsion fell upon it at a time when, from gross misconduct on the part of its managers, it was under advance to a set of speculative firms who failed in a knot about three weeks back, and inflicted upon it a loss of at least £500,000. The manager was dismissed, or, at least, ordered to resign immediately, and a new one was appointed; but distrust had already been engendered; the news from New York by each packet became worse and worse, involving many of their more respectable connexions; and at last the Dennistoun announcement rendered further struggle impossible. Previous to their failure they had applied for assistance, first to the Bank of England, and then to their powerful rivals among the Scotch banks. The Bank of England of course would not entertain their request. The Scotch banks would listen to it only on the condition—a very fair one, looking at the past mismanagement that had been developed—that the concern should be wound up. This the Western Bank resisted. It had a large and profitable connexion, and it was only by trusting to future profits that the shareholders could hope to reinstate their perilled capital. Both parties were uncompromising, and in the midst of the dispute the doors of the concern were yesterday finally closed. The shareholders are immensely wealthy—the Baird family, celebrated as among the richest iron masters in the kingdom, being the principal. Hence there is not the slightest doubt of all its liabilities being met. That any portion of the paid-up capital of £1,500,000 can be saved is not to be hoped. If the holders escape with the loss of the entire value of their shares, they will have reason to be thankful.

Simultaneously with these there have been other American stoppages at Liverpool and Paris. At Liverpool, Hoge & Williamson, correspondents of Hoge & Co., of New York, have broken down, with other smaller firms; and at Paris much consternation has been created, especially among American travellers on the continent of Europe, by the stoppage of John Munro & Co., who succeeded to the banking business of Green & Co. At Amsterdam there has been a rather large failure, the firm being that of Gallerkamp Brothers; but whether in direct connexion with defaults from America is not stated.

Two suspensions have also been announced in London, but these have been caused in a great degree by the ruinous fall in the produce markets. Bennoch, Twentyman, & Rigg was the name of one, and Broadwood & Barclay that of the other. Bennoch & Co. are silk agents, and they have an establishment in Manchester as well as in London. Their liabilities range between £200,000 and £300,000. Broadwood & Barclay are in the East and West India trade, and owe from £180,000 to £200,000.

In the midst of this state of affairs the Bank of England found it necessary yesterday morning to make another advance of 1 per cent. in their rate of discount. It now stands at 10 per cent., being 2 per cent. beyond the highest ever known. This movement, however, has scarcely proved sufficient to check the demand for discount, since every house, in a vague desire to guard against all possible contingencies, is endeavoring to provide itself with twice as much money as is necessary. Anything more ridiculous than this could scarcely be conceived, because the Bank have placed no restrictions on the amount of accommodation to be granted, and have no idea of doing so. Their policy is to check the demand by constantly raising their rate to the full market value and giving every one at that rate as much as they require.

A number of the old and crotchety opponents of the bank charter act are endeavoring, however, to stimulate the movement with the hope of producing a panic that may induce the government to suspend the operation of the law, so as to allow an unlimited issue of notes representing anything or nothing.

They are not likely to succeed, but it is disagreeable in the thick of the crisis to have such mischief-makers at work. So far from the public having anything to complain of in the way of contraction, they have now in their hands between one and two millions in excess of the highest amount of currency required for the trade of the country in ordinary times; and as there has been a fall in prices and a drawing in of business, which has rendered far less currency necessary, it is evident that an immense total must have been needlessly taken in idle fright. The rate of 10 per cent. per annum for a month or two, instead of being practically regarded with alarm, is actually insufficient to prevent a rush for much more than is really wanted.

The probable course of the Bank of France is looked upon with much curiosity. Its rate remains at 7½ per cent., and with the London rate at 10 the directors foresee the increased peril in which its bullion is placed. They have asked the Emperor to be allowed to adopt a rise, but the request was refused. A tax upon the exportation of specie was then solicited, but this also failed to obtain assent. Of course it would have done no good, and have profited no one except a band of smugglers, but it was asked probably in desperation by the unhappy directors, who occupy a responsible position before the financial world, although they are mere puppets of the imperial will.

The English funds continue to be wonderfully supported. The public see the approaching end of the Indian difficulty, and that the American crisis, however terrible in its consequences to the houses in that trade, has neither been occasioned nor aggravated by any general unsoundness in the mercantile proceedings of the United Kingdom. Investments, therefore, are steadily made, and the fluctuations of each day scarcely exceed a half per cent. At the last date the three-per-cent. consols were quoted at 88¼. They have since touched 87¾, and the final price this evening was 89.

The Liverpool cotton market is almost paralyzed, and quotations are nominal. A few small sales effected yesterday were at a further decline of ¼ to ⅛d. per pound.

The wheat market is without recovery.

The drain of specie to India seems to have been nearly stopped.

The next steamer from this side will be the Asia, and the Vanderbilt on the 14th and the Fulton on the 18th. Our last dates from New York are to the 28th of October. When their intelligence was telegraphed yesterday from Liverpool to London it seemed of a little brighter character, but the details published this morning have not confirmed this impression.

Postscript.—The stoppage of the Western Bank of Scotland has been followed by a run on the other Glasgow banks, and more than £300,000 in gold have been sent to them from London to-day.

The failure has been announced from Liverpool this afternoon of B. F. Babcock & Co., connected with Babcock Brothers of New York. Their liabilities are about £300,000. The stoppage of Dutihl & Co., another American house at Liverpool, has also been intimated. In London the only additional suspension is that of Foot & Sons, in the silk trade. The amount is but £40,000 and there are ample assets.

The funds have become firmer after regular hours. Two reports are spread to account for it. One is that the government have got the Indian telegraphic news, which is now due, and that it is very favorable; the other is that the Bank of France are to extend their note issues—perhaps by a circulation of smaller ones.

The Springfield Republican finds that over one thousand workingmen have been thrown out of employment in that city since September 1. Yet there are very few cases of suffering in the city.