

AGRICULTURAL LETTER FROM TEXAS.

AGRICULTURAL LETTER FROM TEXAS. GONZALES COUNTY, TEXAS. December 3, 1857. The agricultural reports of your predecessors having omitted any extended notice of this part of the State, permit me to offer you a few remarks upon the peculiarities of the climate, soil, and productions of this county, suggested by my own observations.

For two years in succession Southern Texas has suffered from drought of greater severity and longer continuance than had occurred within the memory of any Indian settler; indeed, there are indications conclusive to my mind that it is subject to droughts, periodically, to such a degree as to preclude a confident reliance upon fall and regular crops.

I now refer to the country between the waters of the Colorado and San Antonio rivers. These indications consist of what are here called "hog-wallows." On level ground they take the form of depressed surfaces; and on our rolling prairies that of the waves of a lake gently agitated by the wind. They sometimes run irregularly, sometimes directly down, but never across a hill. After a long interval without rain, the earth between the hills—never on the top—contracts, leaving a deep fissure. The first heavy shower washes in the surrounding earth until the fissure is filled; and a repetition for ages of this process has undoubtedly resulted in the formation of the undulating surface which characterizes all that portion of the wilderness known as "mesquit prairie."

The soil is of a deep black color, impregnated with lime and gypsum; and in favorable seasons is little inferior in productiveness to the best lands of Louisiana and Mississippi. But its liability to crack and parch in the absence of rain renders it less desirable for purposes of cultivation than that marked by a growth of just and live oaks.

These lands are of a sandy formation, and though much less rich than the former, they maintain a degree of fertility much superior to that which are generally preferred for cultivation. In fact, so great are these retentive powers that, with the aid of the usual winter rains, when the earth becomes well saturated, only one or two showings between the months of May and August, are necessary to mature a crop. They are cultivated with the usual mode of the labor required on those of Louisiana and Mississippi, and produce, in favorable seasons, from thirty to forty-five bushels of corn, and from three to four hundred bushels of sweet potatoes to the acre. Wheat has also been lately introduced to a very limited extent, with some degree of success; twenty bushels have been grown to the acre.

There is a third class of lands—those immediately bordering either side of the before-mentioned rivers—which, in point of richness and fertility, are not surpassed by any in the Union. They are alluvial formations; and their nature is covered with a dense growth of heavy timber, consisting of black walnut, pecan, ash, cottonwood, blackberry, and elm. They are also less liable to the deleterious influence of drought than either of those previously mentioned; and produce, in good seasons, from sixty-five to ninety bushels of corn per acre. The timber on these lands is sold in the seed, in the usual yield for the same area. The size and height of the stalk of the Sea Island species is almost fabulous, and when I assert that they sometimes grow five inches in diameter, and so high as to conceal a man on horseback, I am apprehensive that I may draw too heavily upon your credulity. They are believed to be the most fertile and productive of any in the State. At some future period, when our population shall have become more dense, and when capital shall be more available, this soil may, perhaps, be partially removed by the excavation of some of the rivers, and the soil be directed to the usual yield for the same area. The size and height of the stalk of the Sea Island species is almost fabulous, and when I assert that they sometimes grow five inches in diameter, and so high as to conceal a man on horseback, I am apprehensive that I may draw too heavily upon your credulity. They are believed to be the most fertile and productive of any in the State. At some future period, when our population shall have become more dense, and when capital shall be more available, this soil may, perhaps, be partially removed by the excavation of some of the rivers, and the soil be directed to the usual yield for the same area.

The general policy of the national democratic administration, as enunciated by President Buchanan's annual message, is cordially endorsed and approved, and will be supported and sustained, by the democracy of this State. A difference on a single question, and that in reality a non-essential, will cause no true democrat to forsake an administration of such ability and tried in merit. There is not an intelligent democrat in all the State of Illinois who has fairly considered the position of the President, that is not perfectly satisfied that he has no other desire, in the discharge of the functions of his high office, than to advance the true interests, honor, and dignity of the Union.

However great a man either Mr. Buchanan or Mr. Douglas may be, democrats should recollect that the democratic party was not made for either of them, but for the country; and however important the question, the question may be to the people of Kansas, it should not be forgotten that there is a large portion of country in the American Union besides Kansas! The Union and the federal government were not made for the special benefit of Kansas, but for the benefit of the whole people of the Union. The abolitionists, in that Territory, out of it, if Kansas were blotted out of existence, Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Douglas were dead and buried, there would still be country enough and people enough left to engage the attention of democrats, and to render the perpetuation of the democratic party and the Union a matter of course. We are not sure that the delay which has been caused by the opposition to the Leecompton constitution in Congress will not in the end be profitable and advantageous to the country. We have seen the result of its adoption, which we are sure must have been. There has been time for reflection among fair-minded men, and the verdict of the country is clearly in favor of an early adjournment of the controversy. It is due to the cause of fairness and sound principles, to the relations which the different sections of the Union should maintain, to political honesty and morality, that this angry controversy be removed from our national councils, and that peace and concord shall again exist between the northern and southern sections of the confederacy.

The fate of politicians is a secondary consideration, when compared with that of the nation. We would not have men who had earned a national reputation sacrifice it rashly, or unnecessarily, but it is better that all our aspirants for political honor should fail than that the country should be convulsed, and its very existence endangered, to gratify their inordinate ambition.

THE REFUGEE QUESTION IN ENGLAND. For the second time in the history of this country, a British minister has been called upon by the British Parliament to remedy the laws of England in the direction of foreign design. The first—and, until last Monday night, the only—instance of the kind was in the reign of Queen Anne. An ambassador of Peter the Great was arrested for debt. The proceedings taken in our courts against the persons concerned were not satisfactory to the Czar, who pressed to demand that the sheriff and his officers of Middlesex should be instantly put to death; and compliance with this modest requisition being incompatible with English principles of jurisprudence, another mode was sought of appeasing the anger and vindictive feelings of the Czar. An act was passed to prevent and punish future outrages on the persons of foreign ambassadors.

It is idle to say that the French Emperor has apologized for the insolent and blood-thirsty threats of his colonels in the Monitor. Even if the apology had been considered a mere matter of course, it is a very mild expression of regret to which Lord Palmerston attaches so much value—and even if the apology, such as it is, had not been followed by a renewal of the offence—it would be quite unavailing to divert any legislative measure on the subject which may be passed at this moment of the appearance of a base submission to armed men. That Louis Napoleon has apologized may be a good reason why we should not make the official insults hurled at us in the Monitor a ground for reacting our ambassador and openly preparing for war; but it can be no reason why we should alter the laws of England in compliance with his threats. There are things which once said or done can never be unsaid or undone. These are outrages which may be right to forgive, but which it can never be wise to forget. We rejoice in the assurance that the free people of England will spurn the dishonor which Lord Palmerston has not shrunk from accepting in their name.—Lancaster Mercury.

Mr. Buchanan cares nothing for the howlings of demagogues in or out of Kansas; he judges of the future by the past, and relies on the "sober second thought" of the people throughout the country to sustain him. We feel confident that the masses of the people of Kansas are tired and disgusted with the practical results which flow from fanaticism; they are the real sufferers, and have to "face the music" in all times of trouble and excitement, while the leaders, as a general thing, have very important business, which keeps them at home. We believe in looking to the interests of the people, and not to the ends sought to be accomplished by a few demagogues and broken-down politicians, who live, move, and have their being by preaching war, and "ramors of war."

General J. P. Henderson, United States senator from Texas, was in Philadelphia on Thursday. He will proceed to this city in a very few days.

more hardy and serviceable when both are fed on grass, and they get little else. A Mexican horse brings from \$15 to \$20; but so much is the improvement when crossed with American stock that the product commands more than double those amounts.

Hogs, pork, on foot, is usually sold for 5 cents per pound; clear hams, smoked, 12¢ cents. Cost of production is the same as that of horses and cattle, except the additional labor of killing and smoking. Hogs run about the prairies and forests in summer, winter, and spring, feeding on grass, roots, and worms; in the fall they become fat on hickory, oak, and pecan mast, when they are slaughtered and put up for use. The improved breeds are rarely found being acquainted with the foraging habits, which is a part of the education of the native animal, they rapidly degenerate. When crossed, however, both breeds are improved.

Sheep are easily produced and little liable to disease. When properly trained, they will run about the hills all day, and pass themselves at the pen at night to be shut up until morning. They need little care, except at the period when they cast their lambs, when a boy is usually sent with them to prevent the feeble offspring from being devoured by hogs. They are rarely troubled by wolves. Mexican sheep may be had for \$1 per head; American, \$2.50 to \$3; and Merino, when for sale, \$5. Their wool brings in the New York market, respectively 12¢, 35¢ to 40¢, and 55¢ to 60¢ cents. They feed themselves at all seasons, and are never—the exceptions are not worth mentioning—sheltered. Cost of their production same as that of the animals previously stated.

J. G. FANNING.

ILLINOIS—SELECTIONS FROM THE PRESS.

From the Peoria Democratic Union. Blinking the Kansas imbroglio, which must necessarily be short-lived, is there a democrat in Illinois who does not heartily endorse the policy of the present democratic national administration as on the day of its inauguration to power? Then why should we be driven asunder? why suffer ourselves to be distracted, divided, and overthrown, for the solitary and insignificant reason that some of us desire that Kansas may be speedily admitted into the Union? We are all well-talented men, and in our own way afterwards, and others want that these quarrels should be settled in advance of the act of admission? Let us rather remember our old watchwords—union, conciliation, and compromise—by which we have so often triumphed over the enemies of democracy and of a united and republican country. We are called upon to bring us victory when the best interests of the country were in jeopardy.

The madness of fanaticism would have often plunged this country in civil war but for the unanimity, patriotism, and fervent love of the American constitution which has always existed among the people. The living principle of democracy, always acting in antagonism with those opposite influences which are embodied and intensified in the modern republican party, is the ailment upon which the country thrives, and without which it would sink into early decay. If it were possible for our opponents, by forming a democratic compact to overthrow this principle, the existence of this Union would be of short duration. A single presidential term would extend beyond its uttermost limit.

From the Joliet signal.

The democracy of Illinois have never wavered in their defence of the constitution, the right of the States, and the great national principles enroled upon the democratic banner. Auld the confusion which has reigned in the political arena, and the yielding to sectional and factional temptations which has been manifest in other quarters, the democracy of this State will have true faith in the national platform, has never been found faulted. There has been no pandering to popular prejudice, nor bending to present policy, displayed in our State contests, but the enemy have been met on broad national ground and vanquished.

And in its handling the evident feeling in this State against the admission of Kansas with the Leecompton constitution, it would be found impossible to organize an anti-administration party outside of the black-republican party.

From the Bureau County Democrat.

However great a man either Mr. Buchanan or Mr. Douglas may be, democrats should recollect that the democratic party was not made for either of them, but for the country; and however important the question, the question may be to the people of Kansas, it should not be forgotten that there is a large portion of country in the American Union besides Kansas! The Union and the federal government were not made for the special benefit of Kansas, but for the benefit of the whole people of the Union. The abolitionists, in that Territory, out of it, if Kansas were blotted out of existence, Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Douglas were dead and buried, there would still be country enough and people enough left to engage the attention of democrats, and to render the perpetuation of the democratic party and the Union a matter of course. We are not sure that the delay which has been caused by the opposition to the Leecompton constitution in Congress will not in the end be profitable and advantageous to the country. We have seen the result of its adoption, which we are sure must have been. There has been time for reflection among fair-minded men, and the verdict of the country is clearly in favor of an early adjournment of the controversy. It is due to the cause of fairness and sound principles, to the relations which the different sections of the Union should maintain, to political honesty and morality, that this angry controversy be removed from our national councils, and that peace and concord shall again exist between the northern and southern sections of the confederacy.

The fate of politicians is a secondary consideration, when compared with that of the nation. We would not have men who had earned a national reputation sacrifice it rashly, or unnecessarily, but it is better that all our aspirants for political honor should fail than that the country should be convulsed, and its very existence endangered, to gratify their inordinate ambition.

RUSSIAN VIEWS OF THE ANGLO-GERMAN NEUTRALITY.—One of the Paris correspondents of the N. York of the 28th of January, endeavors to appreciate the political import of the family alliance just concluded between the royal families of Prussia and England, and the view of showing that the somber reflections of some of the continental journals on the subject are without foundation. The correspondent combats the notion of an Anglo-German alliance, with the alleged object of constituting a counterpoise to a supposed Russo-French alliance. To render such a policy possible, the relations between Prussia and England on the one part, and Russia and Prussia on the other, must undergo a great alteration. But these relations have never been better than at the present moment. The relations between England and Russia were, it is true, for some time less satisfactory than could be desired, but this is now passed, and the correspondent of the N. York adds: "I can assure you—and you know I am not in the habit of hazarding assertions—that very shortly the relations between England and Russia will be re-established on a footing of cordiality which so well suits the reciprocal interests of the two countries, and the peace and prosperity of Europe." Far from regarding the union of the august houses of Prussia and England as a germ of division among the great powers, it ought to be considered as the pledge of a common and lasting cordiality, equally advantageous for all. England is united to France by the ties of interest and friendship, and her relations with Russia are cemented by similar ties. Her royal marriage cannot but render them closer. Russia thus finds herself drawn towards England by Prussia as well as by France, with which latter power she is more strictly united than ever.

A correspondent of the N. York, also regards the marriage of the Princess Royal of England and the Prussian Prince as consolidating the present pacific tendencies of Europe. It also indicates that the policy of England tends towards that peaceful traditional policy from which Prussia has never swerved. The too important to both countries to permit us to regard with any other feeling than that of satisfaction the frank and loyal rapprochement between the English policy and the pacific policy of Prussia.

WATCH REPAIRING and Engraving.—Watches, chronometers, and pocket timepieces, every description required by skillful workmen and warranted to perform accurately. Engraving of every description done in the best style, including the cutting of crests, medals, and medals on gold and silver. Visiting and wedding cards elegantly engraved and printed. M. W. GALT & BRO., Jewellers, 221 Broadway, New York, between 9th and 10th streets, Jan 30—42

PUBLIC SENTIMENT ON THE LECOMPTON QUESTION.

From the New York Journal of Commerce. Time, that unerring test which determines the character of all public questions, is beginning to demonstrate most clearly the wisdom of the policy which the friends of the Union have consistently pursued relating to the admission of Kansas into the family of States. The excitement which followed the announcement of the course which Judge Douglas, and a few other prominent democrats, had determined to take on the assembling of Congress, has in a great measure subsided, and the country has had opportunity to consider the subject in all its bearings, and to form a correct judgment in the premises.

It is not our province or our purpose to pronounce upon the motives of the few prominent men whose action has so strongly complicated the Kansas question during the present Congress. They have doubtless acted in view of their relations to their constituents and the country, and we leave them to settle their political obligations, and their future political course, as their own judgment shall dictate and their present peculiar circumstances shall permit. The masses of national men with whom they have formerly acted in concert, and to whose views they have so muchly yielded, will be slow to rely again on their fidelity, or to place confidence in their judgment, on questions of such moment as that which they have in a great emergency endangered, not to say betrayed. It will require a long service in behalf of sound principles, and in support of measures calculated to strengthen and cement, rather than sunder the Union of the States, to enable them to regain the confidence and position which, until a few months ago, they occupied before the country.

Scidion has so determined and concerted a movement here to sustain the anti-Leecompton course, and that which the anti-Leecompton democratic party, inaugurated just before the present session of Congress. Engaging in a desperate political movement, they saw the necessity of resorting to desperate measures for promoting its success. Beginning with a declaration of adhesion to the democratic party, they first claimed the movement as democratic, and insisted that it embodied the wishes and the opinions of the great body of the democratic party; but as time passed on, the absurdity of this claim became apparent, through the distinct declaration of the democratic press, and subsequently the admission of nearly all the democratic representatives in Congress. Driven from the unfounded pretension that they were representing the democratic party of the country on this question, they have gradually become the associates and allies of the republicans, and been forced to resort to the same arguments and to sustain the same measures which they and all the national men of the country, have been embating for years; and notwithstanding their protest against being absorbed in the sectional party which supported Col. Fremont in the last campaign, it is fast becoming a mooted question, whether they are not already a part and parcel of that political organization.

The Kansas Herald, published at Leavenworth, K. T., says the President's message is "a document which will convince every one of the impartiality, ability, and patriotism of the President. He treats the subject fairly and candidly."

THE LECOMPTON MEETING.—We understand that the call in circulation for a Leecompton meeting is being rapidly signed by influential and well-known names. The meeting will come off at an early day.—New York Times.

WILL KANSAS BE ADMITTED?—We answer yes. And why should it not be under the Leecompton constitution? The people of Kansas had decided by a majority of over five thousand votes, as a preliminary measure, that they desired to quit their territorial independence and become a sovereign State of the Union. This decision was had in accordance with the popular wish, the territorial legislature enacted a law authorizing the election of delegates to a convention for the formation of a State constitution.

The convention met at Leecompton, in the Territory, and after mature deliberation, agreed upon the Leecompton constitution for the government of the new State. The constitution is now before Congress for their approval, and is there in pursuance of law. The only question, then, in our humble opinion, for the national legislature to inquire into are, first, was the convention a legal body, authorized to frame a constitution; and, secondly, is the constitution, so formed, republican in all its features according to the requirements of the federal constitution? If these interrogatories are answered affirmatively, and we apprehend there can be no other response, the question is settled, and we do not see what should prevent Kansas from being admitted into the Union as a sovereign State. This, we believe, is a plain and concise statement of the whole affair.

A word now in regard to Mr. Harris's special investigating committee. We have heard of great good about their going down investigation, &c., &c. It is true that the majority of that committee have steadily voted down all propositions for investigation that had no legitimate bearing upon the questions properly involved in the inquiry, while they have as steadily adhered to their purpose to have a full investigation of all pertinent facts which they did not, as has been alleged, refuse to summon Gov. Walker, Mr. Calhoun, Mr. Stanton, and other witnesses in Washington before them. The resolution requiring those persons to be summoned as witnesses was laid on the table with the express declaration of those voting for it, that they would not be summoned, and that they had been ordered before them should not be full and satisfactory, or if they should need elucidation or explanation, then the majority would insist on summoning the gentlemen named. They merely wished to see some necessity for summoning before doing so. Without a necessity, they would not be summoned, and they might answer the factious purpose of making a fuss and creating delay, but could certainly subserve no useful end. The country may rest assured that the committee will probe to the bottom, without fear or favor, all points legitimate or illegitimate, and that they will not be deterred by consideration; but we fully agree with the journal in the opinion that there can be no new facts which even their research can gather. The most they can do is to verify those before known to exist.—Boston (Me.) Argus.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE. The Mason (Ga.) Telegraph states that ex-President Comanfort of Mexico, was in that city on Sunday last.

Auburn Birdsall, esq., has entered upon the duties of Justice of the Peace of the Port, and from his known ability is certain to make an efficient and capable government officer. His well-known energy and independence of character will early bring him to a knowledge of the conditions of affairs in his office, and all necessary reforms will be certain to be carried out at an early day. [New York News.

At the fire which destroyed the Pacific Hotel at St. Louis, a few days since, the celebrated Billy Birch, of Central America memory, made another narrow escape with his life. He and his band of minstrels were boarding at the hotel at the time of the fire. Mr. George W. Hill, of Baltimore, a member of his company, made a very narrow escape.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE. A medical board for the examination of assistant surgeons for promotion and of candidates for a mission into the medical service of the navy, has been ordered to convene at the Naval Academy, Philadelphia, on Monday, the 15th of March next. The board is to be composed of the following officers: Surgeons James M. Green, Wm. S. W. Rosenberger, and Jonathan H. Foltz; and Passed Assistant Surgeon George H. Howell, recorder.

INTERESTING LAW CASE.—In the supreme judicial court at Dedham, Massachusetts, an interesting suit, growing out of the Anthony Burns case, has just been decided—a verdict having been rendered by the jury in favor of the defendants. The facts are as follows:—

At the time Burns was sent back, the Massachusetts militia saw a young man (Ela) in the crowd with a bottle in his hand, and as vitriol had been, in one instance, thrown upon the jury for damages, which were laid at the time, it was made an attack upon him, beating him with their guns, and giving him one or two slight stabs, injuring him so severely that he has been made all but incompetent to do anything for a livelihood. A suit was taken out against Watson Freeman (United States marshal), Major Smith, Major Green, and Edward Edwards, and Captain Edwards, participants in the assault. The case was argued before the full bench, on points of law, three years ago, by John P. Hale and C. M. Ellis for the plaintiff, and by Rufus Choate, B. F. Butler, and G. S. Hillard for the defendants, and is now brought before the jury for damages, which were laid at \$20,000. The plaintiff desires to show that the mayor's acts on the day of the rendition were illegal, and that therefore he and his police, civil and military, are responsible. The mayor's proclamation issued on that day contains these words: "The military are clothed with discretionary powers. This, it is claimed, is making the military subordinate to the civil power, which would not be legally done, and that therefore the plaintiff has a just claim for damages."

POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE.

NEW JERSEY. At a meeting of the democracy of Mount Holly, New Jersey, held on the 28th instant, the following resolutions were adopted:—

Resolved, That we have unshaken confidence in the patriotism and statesmanship of James Buchanan, President of the United States, and we confidently rely upon his wisdom and endorse fully his course, as expressed in his message to Congress, for the settlement of the Kansas imbroglio.

Resolved, That we deprecate the agitation of all questions calculated to disturb the harmony heretofore existing in the democratic party, and as democrats we feel bound to rally to the support of the administration of our choice, upon the issue presented by the Kansas question, as the only mode of effectually and speedily removing the existing question from the halls of Congress, and of committing it to the people of Kansas, "where it properly belongs," to settle in their own way.

Resolved, That Samuel C. Middleton, esq., representative from this district, by his manly opposition to the Kansas resolutions lately introduced into our State legislature by persons professing to be democrats, has acted in accordance with the will of the democracy of this district, and of this legislative district.

Resolved, That copies of these resolutions be forwarded to our honorable members of Congress, and to Samuel C. Middleton, esq., of the State legislature.

RHODE ISLAND.—The democratic State convention of Rhode Island assembled at Providence on the 25th inst. Wm. Sayles, esq., was chosen president. The convention adjourned to the 15th of March without making any nominations.

TEXAS.—The Austin Gazette states that the joint select committee of the legislature upon the Kansas message of the governor reported favorably upon a bill to appoint seven delegates to a convention of the southern States, provided that one be called by a majority of the slave States, and appropriated \$10,000 to pay expenses.

BALTIMORE.—A call for a meeting to testify an approval of the views of President Buchanan in reference to the admission of Kansas into the Union under the Leecompton constitution has been issued in Baltimore, and has received very numerous signatures. The meeting will be held at an early day.

THE KANSAS HERALD, published at Leavenworth, K. T., says the President's message is "a document which will convince every one of the impartiality, ability, and patriotism of the President. He treats the subject fairly and candidly."

THE LECOMPTON MEETING.—We understand that the call in circulation for a Leecompton meeting is being rapidly signed by influential and well-known names. The meeting will come off at an early day.—New York Times.

WILL KANSAS BE ADMITTED?—We answer yes. And why should it not be under the Leecompton constitution? The people of Kansas had decided by a majority of over five thousand votes, as a preliminary measure, that they desired to quit their territorial independence and become a sovereign State of the Union. This decision was had in accordance with the popular wish, the territorial legislature enacted a law authorizing the election of delegates to a convention for the formation of a State constitution.

The convention met at Leecompton, in the Territory, and after mature deliberation, agreed upon the Leecompton constitution for the government of the new State. The constitution is now before Congress for their approval, and is there in pursuance of law. The only question, then, in our humble opinion, for the national legislature to inquire into are, first, was the convention a legal body, authorized to frame a constitution; and, secondly, is the constitution, so formed, republican in all its features according to the requirements of the federal constitution? If these interrogatories are answered affirmatively, and we apprehend there can be no other response, the question is settled, and we do not see what should prevent Kansas from being admitted into the Union as a sovereign State. This, we believe, is a plain and concise statement of the whole affair.

A word now in regard to Mr. Harris's special investigating committee. We have heard of great good about their going down investigation, &c., &c. It is true that the majority of that committee have steadily voted down all propositions for investigation that had no legitimate bearing upon the questions properly involved in the inquiry, while they have as steadily adhered to their purpose to have a full investigation of all pertinent facts which they did not, as has been alleged, refuse to summon Gov. Walker, Mr. Calhoun, Mr. Stanton, and other witnesses in Washington before them. The resolution requiring those persons to be summoned as witnesses was laid on the table with the express declaration of those voting for it, that they would not be summoned, and that they had been ordered before them should not be full and satisfactory, or if they should need elucidation or explanation, then the majority would insist on summoning the gentlemen named. They merely wished to see some necessity for summoning before doing so. Without a necessity, they would not be summoned, and they might answer the factious purpose of making a fuss and creating delay, but could certainly subserve no useful end. The country may rest assured that the committee will probe to the bottom, without fear or favor, all points legitimate or illegitimate, and that they will not be deterred by consideration; but we fully agree with the journal in the opinion that there can be no new facts which even their research can gather. The most they can do is to verify those before known to exist.—Boston (Me.) Argus.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE. The Mason (Ga.) Telegraph states that ex-President Comanfort of Mexico, was in that city on Sunday last.

Auburn Birdsall, esq., has entered upon the duties of Justice of the Peace of the Port, and from his known ability is certain to make an efficient and capable government officer. His well-known energy and independence of character will early bring him to a knowledge of the conditions of affairs in his office, and all necessary reforms will be certain to be carried out at an early day. [New York News.

At the fire which destroyed the Pacific Hotel at St. Louis, a few days since, the celebrated Billy Birch, of Central America memory, made another narrow escape with his life. He and his band of minstrels were boarding at the hotel at the time of the fire. Mr. George W. Hill, of Baltimore, a member of his company, made a very narrow escape.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE. A medical board for the examination of assistant surgeons for promotion and of candidates for a mission into the medical service of the navy, has been ordered to convene at the Naval Academy, Philadelphia, on Monday, the 15th of March next. The board is to be composed of the following officers: Surgeons James M. Green, Wm. S. W. Rosenberger, and Jonathan H. Foltz; and Passed Assistant Surgeon George H. Howell, recorder.

INTERESTING LAW CASE.—In the supreme judicial court at Dedham, Massachusetts, an interesting suit, growing out of the Anthony Burns case, has just been decided—a verdict having been rendered by the jury in favor of the defendants. The facts are as follows:—

At the time Burns was sent back, the Massachusetts militia saw a young man (Ela) in the crowd with a bottle in his hand, and as vitriol had been, in one instance, thrown upon the jury for damages, which were laid at the time, it was made an attack upon him, beating him with their guns, and giving him one or two slight stabs, injuring him so severely that he has been made all but incompetent to do anything for a livelihood. A suit was taken out against Watson Freeman (United States marshal), Major Smith, Major Green, and Edward Edwards, and Captain Edwards, participants in the assault. The case was argued before the full bench, on points of law, three years ago, by John P. Hale and C. M. Ellis for the plaintiff, and by Rufus Choate, B. F. Butler, and G. S. Hillard for the defendants, and is now brought before the jury for damages, which were laid at \$20,000. The plaintiff desires to show that the mayor's acts on the day of the rendition were illegal, and that therefore he and his police, civil and military, are responsible. The mayor's proclamation issued on that day contains these words: "The military are clothed with discretionary powers. This, it is claimed, is making the military subordinate to the civil power, which would not be legally done, and that therefore the plaintiff has a just claim for damages."

DIPLOMACY—REFUGEES IN ENGLAND.

The appended is the text of the despatch from Count Walewski, the French minister for foreign affairs, to Count Persigny, the French minister at London, and by the latter communicated to Lord Clarendon, relating to the residence in England of refugees from the continent:—

PARIS, Jan. 20. M. LE COMTE. The legal proceeding which has been commenced in regard to the criminal attempt recently made on the person of the Emperor is taking its course, and we shall shortly ascertain its definitive result; but as it is a point upon which every one has always looked with some anxiety, I have thought it well to ascertain any doubt. This fresh attempt, like those which preceded it, has been devised in England.

It was in England that Pignatelli formed the plan of attacking the Emperor; it was from London that, in an affair the resolution of which is still recent, Mazzini, Ledru-Rollin, and Campanella directed the assassins whom they had furnished with arms. It is there, also, that the authors of the last plot have laboriously prepared their means of action, have studied and constructed the instruments of destruction which they have employed, and it is from thence that they set out to carry their plans into execution.

In recording these circumstances, I at once add how much the government of the Emperor is persuaded of the sincerity of the sentiments of reprobation which they created in England. It is equally convinced, that with such proofs in their possession of the abuse of hospitality, the English government and people understand at once to what extent we are justified in directing our attention to them.

No one appreciates and respects more than we do the liberality with which England is disposed to exercise the right of asylum in regard to foreigners, victims of political struggles. From this her policy has always looked upon it as a duty of humanity never to close her frontiers to any honorable person in misfortune, whatever might be the party to which he belonged; and His Majesty's government does not complain that its opponents should find refuge on the English soil, and live there in peace, tranquility, and safety, until they have found their way, under the protection of the British laws.

But, M. le Comte, how different is the attitude of the skillful demagogues established in England! It is no longer the hostility of misguided individuals, manifesting itself by all the excesses of the press and all the violence of language; it is no longer even the work of the factious, seeking to rouse opinion and to provoke disorder; it is assassination, elevated to doctrine, preached openly, practised in repeated attempts, the most recent of which has just struck Europe with amazement. Ought, then, the right of asylum to protect such a state of things? Is hospitality due to assassins? Ought the English legislation to contribute to favor their designs and their plans, and can it continue to shelter persons who, by their flagrant acts, place themselves beyond the pale of common right and under the ban of humanity?

In submitting these questions to Her Britannic Majesty's government, I am not desirous of the Emperor's merely discharging a duty towards itself; it re-chooses the sentiment of the country, which, under the influence of the most legitimate anxiety, calls upon it to do so; and which, in a matter where the common interest among all nations and all governments is so clear, considers itself entitled to reckon upon the concurrence of England. The repetition and wickedness of these guilty enterprises expose France to a danger against which we are bound to provide.

Her Britannic Majesty's government can assist us in averting it by affording us a guarantee of security which cannot be said of all other countries, and which we are authorized to expect from an ally. Fully relying, moreover, on the high sense of the English cabinet, we refrain from indicating, in any way, the measures which it may see fit to take in order to comply with this wish. We rest entirely upon it for estimating the decisions which it will take on the subject, and we are firmly persuaded that we shall not have appeared in vain to its conscience and to its good-will.

You will have the goodness to read this despatch to Lord Clarendon, and to leave with him a copy of it. Receive, &c., A. WALEWSKI.

THE UTAH EXPEDITION. Information has been received from Camp Scott to the 1st of January. The snow in the mountains was from one to six feet deep. The troops were in good health and spirits, and as soon as the weather would permit were to prosecute their march on Salt Lake City, without waiting for reinforcements. Colonel Johnston had obtained full information respecting the movements and designs of the Mormons, and anticipated that they would dispute his progress by arms. The messenger who brought this intelligence to St. Louis has furnished one of the papers of that city with the following information:—

From Fort Bridger to Bear river the distance is about fifty miles, the road generally running through an open country, where little or no opposition can be made by an enemy. The road is a series of steep hills to descend and ascend, particularly the Shaking Aspen Hill, the dividing ridge between the waters of the Gulf of California and the Great Salt Lake basin, which has a greater elevation than the South Pass. At Bear river the difficulties of the march will commence. This river at that season of the year will be reduced from a rapid to a mere stream, and crossed by boats or by being bridged. As the current is very rapid, and timber scarce, it will be difficult to throw a bridge across, and boats will have to be built, as those now there will no doubt be destroyed by the Mormons. The Mormons, if so disposed, cannot oppose the passage, as they will be reduced from a rapid to a mere stream, and crossed by boats or by being bridged. As the current is very rapid, and timber scarce, it will be difficult to throw a bridge across, and boats will have to be built, as those now there will no doubt be destroyed by the Mormons.

Each cañon is 20 miles in length, and descends gradually until it opens on Weber river. This cañon—and the cañon of the Big Mountain—both of which the road runs—is nothing more than a deep ravine, with sloping sides, covered with verdure to their summits. The great difficulty will be to get the wagons over the road; for no doubt it will be cut up and filled with rocks, so as to be almost impassable. The ravines are narrow, and can easily be descended, which, certainly, will have to be removed, as there is no other place for the road to run. After getting through Echo cañon, the next obstacle is Weber river—a stream somewhat smaller than Bear river, but presenting the same difficulties in crossing. From the Weber to the summit of the Big Mountain—a distance of about 20 miles—the road will be a series of steep descents, from three to five miles in length, and susceptible of the same objections as in Echo cañon.

From the top of the Big Mountain is obtained the first view of the Holy Land. It is the Holy Mount of the Mormons. From the summit of the Big Mountain the road pitches down into one of the most difficult ravines on the route. The bill is so steep that all the wheels of a wagon must be locked to descend in anything like safety. Twelve miles further is the Little Mountain, and it is eight more miles to the city of Salt Lake City, which comes out in Salt Lake valley, just in the rear of Salt Lake City. As you descend from the mouth of the cañon, you find yourself on a table land running along the base of the mountains, and about four miles in width. Crossing this table land, which is about 200 feet above the level of the valley, you will find the city stretched out at your feet. Its position is very happily chosen in a military point of view, for it is completely commanded by the table land in the rear, but well selected in other respects; for it is so situated that one of the mountain streams throws its waters through every street, which enables the inhabitants to irrigate their gardens, and only grows by which the land of that region can be cultivated. The streets are broad, and at right angles with each other; each building lot contains one and a quarter acre, which allows large gardens, from which is obtained an abundant supply of vegetables for the entire city.

W. B. BERRY, JOHN L. CAMPBELL, HENRY & CAMPBELL, Bankers, LAND, COLLECTING, AND INSURANCE AGENTS, 201 Broadway, New York.

WOLF'S SCHIEDAM AROMATIC Schnapps. The proprietor begs to call the attention of strangers and the citizens of Washington to a very superior article of Holland gin, which he introduced to the American public under the name of Wolf's Schiedam Aromatic Schnapps. This gin is manufactured by the proprietor exclusively at his distillery in Schiedam, Holland. It is made from the best barley that can be procured in Europe at any cost, and flavored and medicated, not by common harsh herbs, but by the most choice botanical variety of the aromatic Holland juniper berry, whose more virtuous extract is distilled and rectified with its spirituous solvent, and thus becomes a concentrated tincture of exquisite flavor and aroma, altogether transcending in its medicinal and medicinal properties any alcoholic beverage hitherto known.

The proprietor has submitted it to nearly the whole medical faculty of the United States, and has received answers from about four thousand physicians and chem