

The Washington Press.

Both the "stagnant press" and the "nigger organs," as the northern journals, with a correct appreciation of contemporary merit, designate each other, have indulged in contemptuous comments upon the morality of the Washington press. The Evening Post has prescribed a course of conduct by which the Sentinel may escape a condemnation from which the Post only excepts the National Era. We have also noted a pharisaical assumption of superior virtue claimed by the New York Tribune upon the empirical basis of a very large circulation. There is also a Buffalo paper, the name of which we do not remember, which is very flippant upon the same topic. We consider the style adopted by such prints not only unworthy the courtesy which should prevail amongst the members of the profession, but as conveying insinuations of vanity utterly without warrant. Those who pen such charges possess neither the principles nor feelings of honorable men. They indulge the mean malignity of a cowardly nature under the mask of anonymous impunity. But we have seen such miscreants, when dragged to a personal responsibility, grow pale, prevaricate, and take refuge in voluble disclaimers of intentional offence; and we do not doubt that those who have penned the defamatory paragraphs in regard to the press of this city would go through precisely the same process should circumstances occasion a similar demand. We add, however, that we have no idea of making ourselves ridiculous by assuming the peculiar championship of the Washington press with antagonists whose sole response would be increased scurrility.

It is true that the press of this city has been sustained to a large extent by public patronage. For a long time there was little local business, a limited local population, and inadequate facilities for communicating with the distant sections of the United States. Therefore during the long intervals of Federal legislation the press was dependent upon Federal support, and Congress authorized the application of the public patronage, so as to sustain an organized communication between the Federal Metropolis and its great American constituency.

We do not advocate any relation between the press and its patrons which shall make a free expression of opinion dependent upon the favor of the patronizing influence, whatsoever it may be. Such a relation does not promote—perhaps it does not permit—that freedom of opinion which is to a free press the breath of its nostrils. But this restraint operates upon the Washington press only to the extent that it influences any press advocating party or local interests elsewhere. Is there any paper in the Northern or Southern cities which would attack the conduct of any class of its mercantile or professional supporters? Will it dare to say that the harbor of its city is not better than that of another—that its trade or travel lines are inferior to those of a rival? Will any paper in New York espouse the superior advantages of Boston, or vice versa; or a Charleston paper recommend its readers in the interior to patronize Savannah? Will the Pittsburgh or Wheeling journal admit that a ship of the line could not enter their ports at any stage of the Ohio; or would a Baltimore or Mobile journal admit that there was not sufficient depth of water in those harbors to accommodate the whole trade of the South and Southwest? We find, therefore, similar influences operating upon the Washington press, but no more impairing their general independence, the tone of morality, or the general ability and interest with which they are conducted, than the influences to which we have referred affect similar qualities in our contemporaries. We cannot therefore see why it should please the section of the press of which we complain to persist in the imputation to which we have adverted.

We have said that heretofore various disadvantages had prevented the Washington press from sustaining itself so well as journals elsewhere having a commercial support may do. We are gratified to say that this is no longer the case. The circulation of the Washington press has increased with the increase of the local population and with the improved mail facilities. With these advantages, and the invaluable necessity of having to depend to some extent upon the interest of the papers for the means of its support, the reproach that "the Washington news came from Baltimore and New York" is rapidly disappearing. This is owing to the unprecedented competition which exists amongst those employed in gathering that valuable staple—that political "samphire"—the political news of Washington. This pursuit has attained such perfection that we suppose no city goes to the daily confessional of the press with the same punctuality as Washington. The letter-writers and newshunters seek items everywhere, as if, like the sprites of GRAY—

"Under a tea-cup they may lie,  
Or creased like dogs' ears in a folio."

Never was there such a voluntary police established over the public; never was there such a daily purification of political morals. A suspicion of bargain, a taint of default, can scarcely pass the secret intent of the parties before it flies on the wings of the wire, passes to the press, and may no more be arrested than a musket-ball. We constantly see the correction chasing the erroneous paragraph around without success, and indignant denunciations return from the distant interior for acts of which the parties have been duly exonerated.

The competition for this invaluable material of Washington gossip animates the dulness and heat of the season, and even irradiates the dulness of those articles which we, in all the dignity which doth hedge an editor, are constrained to present to the public. In obtaining this article, so much desired by the public, no risk or pains is spared. Supposing the thermometer at any figure presented by this unprecedented

season. The avenue is almost deserted. The omnibus cruises along in the shadow of the little trees near the gutters, with hardly energy enough to stop for a fare. All persons having the fear of a sun-stroke before their eyes are in darkness and nudity. The news corps have been to the Departments, they have translated the countenances in the anti-chamber, and the slamming of the doors is eloquent with diplomatic intent.

They have held mysterious and confidential communication with important dignitaries. They know everything that has occurred or that is to occur. But the corps is running down to the telegraph office to furnish the curious New Yorker with his daily repast; the troupe sweeps by like the wild horses of the desert; the nodding hackman looks up from his slumber; the merchant, whose goods are draped in muslin to keep off the flies, runs to see "what's up;" the hotel keeper is startled by this trampling, and remembers the palmy hours of the inauguration, of three people in a single bed, and the baskets full of fragments with which they fed the hungry multitudes. Such is the perfection of the system, that whilst a translator unraveled one end of a diplomatic despatch our informant took the liberty of copying the other; it was in an unknown tongue to him, it was true, "but he knew it was news from the way the man read it;" and so he took down the Spanish. Owing to the diligence and tact of our vigilant assistants we are enabled to furnish to the leading journals much valuable information; whilst our brightly-twinkling neighbor of the Star is fast obtaining a position in the political firmament which will elevate him to the rank of a planet of the highest and most authentic intelligence. With their resources, as the Women's Rights Convention have threatened some irreverent censor that they will "stop the population," so the Washington press may likewise punish their northern contemporaries by stopping the "Washington Gossip."

TELEGRAPHIC CABLE.—We observe that Colonel Schaffner, of Paducah, has invented a wire cable for the purpose of conducting the telegraphic wires across rivers. The cable has been successfully laid across the Tennessee and Ohio; the one used for crossing the latter is four and a half inches in circumference, one thousand four hundred and forty-four yards long, and weighs eleven hundred pounds. Mr. Schaffner has, we learn, been appointed secretary of the American Telegraph Confederation at Washington city.

COMPLIMENTARY DINNER.—We find in the Newark Advertiser of the 16th a correspondence between the Hon. Stacy C. Potts, Hon. W. L. Dayton, and others of the court and bar of New Jersey, and the Hon. Peter D. Vroom, lately appointed Minister to Prussia. The gentlemen of the bar invite Governor Vroom to a public dinner, and that gentleman accepts the invitation, and names Wednesday, the 24th instant, at New Brunswick, for the occasion.

TROUBLE WITH PRINTERS.—The New York Day Book states that since the employment on that paper of girls as type-setters the establishment has been repeatedly attacked and injured by parties who are not favorable to this innovation upon the practical exercise of the art preservative of arts. We suggest to the Day Book that he should have his compositors assorted. It is not good for man (nor woman either) to be alone.

ASHLAND.—The Louisville Times, and other Democratic papers in Kentucky, announce that Ashland, the home of Henry Clay, is advertised for sale, and ask "why do not the Democracy of the State unite, purchase it, and present it to John C. Breckenridge?"

TENNESSEE ELECTION.—The Hon. A. Johnson, Democrat, is elected Governor by about 2,000 majority. The Congressional delegation stands 5 to 5. Hon. F. P. Stanton is elected in the Memphis district by 6 majority over Mr. Yorgor.

THE LATE COLONEL BLISS.—The following is a copy of the general orders issued by General Twiggs on the occasion of the decease of the late Colonel Bliss. Though necessarily brief, the eulogium these orders contain is just, feelingly and felicitously expressed, and the whole army will respond to them with sincere respect and regret:

HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DIVISION,  
EAST PASCAGOULA, August 5, 1853.

The Major General commanding with deep regret announces to the Division the death of Lieutenant Colonel W. W. Bliss, Assistant Adjutant General, late chief of the Division Staff, and formerly the chief of Staff of the Army of Occupation in its arduous and memorable campaigns under Major General Taylor. On the night of the 4th instant he died, a victim to the prevailing deadly epidemic.

A narrative of the brilliant services of this lamented officer would be superfluous here. They are familiar as household words to his comrades of the army, often on the lips of his fellow-citizens, and given on the records of eventful periods of his country's history. In many official writings are preserved the evidences of a mind powerful, acute, and adorned with taste and learning.

Of blameless morals, upright, and affectionate in private life, he has, in zeal and devotion to public duty, left an example still more worthy of emulation than the brilliancy of his fame. His enlightened exactness and attention, in even the smallest duties of life, could only be equaled in merit by the modesty and temperance which he displayed in the noonday of reputation and at the height of success.

By order of Major General Twiggs:  
GEO. W. LAY, A. A. G.

QUICK MOVEMENTS OF A MAN-OF-WAR.—The United States ship Cyane, Commander Hollins, reached the outer entrance of Hampton Roads near sunset on Friday, the 12th instant. About 7 p. m. she was in tow of the steamer Selden, Captain Hicks, and by 12 p. m. she was safely moored off the fort. During Saturday she delivered eighty-seven recruits for the Savannah and was watered and provisioned for sea by 9 p. m. On Saturday, the same steamer took her again in tow, and at 2 p. m. she was passing the Capes with a spanking breeze, bound to the fishing grounds.

This feat shows the great advantage of our harbor, and it is seldom such an event has occurred at other stations. Great credit is due Captain Hicks, an able and experienced pilot, for undertaking to bring up and take down a large man-of-war during the night from the Roads to our harbor.

Captain Hollins is certainly a man of energy, and will give a good account of his ship should a more warlike occasion call forth his energy. At what other naval station can the like be done? [Newfolk Beacon, 16th.]

The New York Times of yesterday contradicts, on the authority of Dr. Fay, the attending physician at Staten Island quarantine hospital, the statement of the Evening Post, that a number of cases of yellow fever were under treatment there, and says that not a single case had occurred.

WASHINGTON GOSSIP.

WASHINGTON, August 17, 1853.

A Cabinet meeting was held to-day, but was thinly attended. The Secretary of War, who has been in feeble health for some days, left the city this morning in company with Professor A. D. Bache, on route for the East. It is expected that, with a view to securing his health, he will spend a month on the White mountains of New Hampshire, where Professor B. will have an encampment in connection with the Coast Survey operations.

George N. Sanders is not yet in the receipt of the sheep-skin with authority engraven and written thereon to discharge the duties of the Consulate at London. The opposition from a certain quarter to the selection of Mr. Sanders for this important post has been earnest and imposing. It is charged that in the late Democratic Review published by the present aspirant for this Consulate, articles appeared strongly reflecting upon the sons of the "Emerald Isle," who have sought the United States as an asylum from oppression. Thomas D'Arcy McGee, editor of the American Celt, published in New York, is one of the opponents of the appointment of Mr. Sanders, and it is said that he represents the wishes of his countrymen in the United States. This may be so, and the disciple of Young America may have published in his Review some productions containing unwise, indiscreet, and even uncharitable sentiments; but "George" is thoroughly Democratic in sentiment and practice, was and is a warm admirer and active friend of Franklin Pierce, and the public may rely upon the fact that the President will sign with a strong, bold hand, a commission investing him with the duties, responsibilities, and emoluments of the position to which he aspires.

It is stated that a distinguished Virginian has withdrawn from the files of the Navy Department a letter which he had given, recommending a worthy brother Democrat for office, because the applicant voted for ex-Governor "Extra Billy" Smith at the recent Congressional election. The withdrawal of the commendatory letter because the recipient had honestly exercised the elective franchise, is characterized as an ungenerous, if not a Barbour-ous act.

Governor McDonald, now in the city, expresses some anxiety about the result of the Georgia election. The Governor is an extreme Southern Rights man, was a Fire-eater of the blazing school, and should the October election result favorably to the Democracy, it is believed he would not violently resist being clad in a Senatorial robe.

The friends of Colonel John W. Forney insist that he be a candidate for re-election to the Clerkship of the House of Representatives, and I have authority for saying that he will consent again to submit his claims to the representatives of the American people, whether or not he be called to the editorial chair of a distant paper. There are some Democrats who are unfriendly to the Colonel, but he is deservedly popular with the mass of his party—a party which he has served with high ability and unflinching zeal.

Hon. T. Watkins Ligon, the Democratic nominee for the gubernatorial chair of Maryland, is on a visit to the Federal Metropolis. Mr. Ligon is a native of the mother of executive officers and statesmen, but removed to Maryland in early life. He is a gentleman of highly respectable talents, a lawyer by profession, and a farmer in practice. He served two terms in the House of Representatives, was a favorite with President Polk, and is esteemed by his friends for his generous bearing and high-toned qualities. The "Old Fogies" strongly resisted the nomination of Mr. Ligon, but the "young uns" carried the day. Young Maryland is in the ascendant. Reader, drop a tear to the memory of the antiquated Democrats of the "Maryland line."

Colonel James R. Greecy, clerk of the Solicitor's Office of the Treasury, a worthy man and faithful officer, departed this life about ten o'clock yesterday morning, and before "Old Sol" was at meridian there were many applicants for the vacant clerkship. In the ungrammatical and "botch" language of the day—"the times is hard."

It seems a pretty clear case now that ex-Senator Dix's jig is up, and that he will not go to France. Before the southern elections he could not receive the appointment designed for him, because its official announcement would be calculated to affect the result unfavorably there; and the result of those elections, now that they are known, are urged by the anti-Freesoilers as feeling evidence of the unpopularity of the Freesoil appointments of the Administration. It is therefore quite probable the President will be compelled to yield his own wishes to the "exigencies of circumstances."

Captain Gibson is still in the city, engaged in getting a statement of his case prepared for the consideration of the Secretary of State, and to be presented at the Cabinet meeting on Friday next, or as soon thereafter as possible. I am satisfied the Administration is determined to demand whatever redress shall seem his due, on a fair and patient consideration of the case. Captain Gibson asks the Government to demand for him the eighty-two thousand dollars damages already awarded him by the Dutch courts. When he has concluded on that point, he will endeavor to secure a guarantee of a grant obtained by him of a tract of country lying a distance of sixty miles, I think, along the northern coast of Sumatra, containing inexhaustible mines of an excellent quality of coal, which he says can be delivered at any point on the Pacific as cheaply as the produce of the mines of Pennsylvania at the port of New York.

Mr. Belmont will probably be instructed to take decided ground at the Hague in support of Mr. Gibson's claims for redress. He had already been directed to make inquiry into the matter; but will now receive more definite instructions as to his course. If Mr. B. chooses to embrace it, this affair will give him opportunity to solve the problem, whether in his case any good can come out of Nazareth.

THE LARGEST CONTRACT IN THE UNITED STATES.—We have it in our power to say it, and we do say it, with a feeling of honorable pride, that we have now in our city two of the largest railroad contractors in the United States. These gentlemen are well known citizens of Macon, who have always been noted for their enterprise, energy, and public spirit. We have reference to Dr. Robert Collins and Major Elam Alexander, who, as we learn from the recent report of the Directors of the Brunswick and Florida Railroad Company, have taken the contract for building the whole of said road, a distance of two hundred miles, for which they are to get over three millions of dollars, and finish the work in two years.

A PROSPECT FOR MR. WALKER.—We understand that there is now a pretty fair prospect that the war-steamer Allegany can be made suitable in a short time for the trip to China. We hope so. Let it not hereafter be said that we lost the China trade for want of a steamer. Hurry up the coils. The Celestial revolution is coming to a focus.—N. Y. Herald, Tuesday.

Further News by the America.

The following items of European news by the America we cut from the New York papers of yesterday morning:

The cholera was on the increase in Persia. The plague had broken out at Rhodeport. Lord John Russell brought before Parliament lately a plan for the pacification of the Jamaica difficulties. It grants £250,000 sterling to adjust the matter, and appoints Sir Henry Barclay Governor. Lieutenant Maury had an interview with the Liverpool merchants, to whom he explained his wind and tide theory. He was most cordially received.

France is tranquil. The Turkish question is alone occupying the attention of the public mind. Fifty-two French field officers have entered the Turkish service. A loan of 400,000,000 francs is entertained by the Emperor, to extend the Paris boundaries and erect markets and other public works.

The Mexican Minister to Spain has arrived at Madrid. The grape disease continues to spread in Portugal. Brandy is selling at £30 sterling per pipe. The principal members of the secret societies in the Roman States have been detected by the police, but they have fled. They belong chiefly to the highest classes.

The cholera was still raging terribly at Copenhagen. THE YELLOW FEVER AT NEW ORLEANS.—The Daily Delta, of the 8th, under the head of "Horrible Spectacle!" relates dreadful circumstances in the condition of the cemetery of the fourth district. This is the place, says the Daily Delta, in which the dead bodies are buried by the corporation. That journal then proceeds as follows:

"The carts of the street commissioner, or the contractors, (we do not know which,) go around daily, and collecting a load of victims of the epidemic, who have been previously nailed up in corporation coffins, take them to the cemetery in the rear of the fourth district, where graves are dug to the depth of two feet, or eighteen inches, wherein the coffins are deposited and the dirt having been kept by digging those graves for the week past. The number of corpses increasing, these laborers found their work too severe, and either some of them left or they were unable to supply the demand for graves on Friday last, when the number carried to this cemetery alone was seventy-one. The coffins were deposited on the ground by the cartmen, who left them. There forty of them remained until yesterday morning, unburied. The action of the sun, through the bodies, several of which swelled so as to burst the coffin. Attracted by the unusually violent and offensive effluvia, several citizens in the neighborhood visited the spot, when the horrible sight was presented of forty coffins unburied, through which the ghastly, roasting bodies of many victims of the pestilence might be seen, whilst the odor was almost overpowering. The street commissioner was informed of this disgusting condition of things, and that officer manifested his willingness to repair this horrible neglect, but stated that it was very difficult to obtain laborers for this duty. The mayor was also informed of the facts, and his honor directed his attention to the subject, but stated at the same time that it did not fall within his line of duty. It is quite as doubtful whether it is the duty of the street commissioner. Such is the beautiful confusion of our laws and ordinances, the effect of the tampering and changing to which they are continually subjected! Our city government, on occasions of public emergency and danger, is a mere farce."

The Picayune, of the 9th, contains an earnest appeal to the citizens of New Orleans who may be absent to send contributions in aid of the suffering families who have been visited by the ravages of the epidemic.

THE FISHERIES.—We take the following announcement from the Union of yesterday: "In a telegraphic communication, dated Portsmouth, August 11, and published in the Union of Saturday, the 13th instant, under the caption of 'Important from the Fisheries—Capture of an American Schooner,' &c., occur the following statements: 'An American fishing schooner had been captured by the British and carried to Charleston by the English steamer Devastation. She, however, was subsequently released.

"The captain of the schooner Andah, (American,) at Kennel-cove, reports that his vessel was intentionally run into by the Devastation on the 28th ultimo, causing much damage. He intends to protest against the proceedings, and serious trouble is apprehended. There is much feeling against the British authorities.' 'From reliable information subsequently received we are gratified to learn that these statements, which the impression received by the Navy Department from Commodore Shubrick is entirely untrue, and that our fishermen have not been disturbed, and fishing vessels of the United States have not gone out armed.'

HEALTH IN NEW YORK.—The Tribune makes the following remarks upon the condition of the streets in New York, and the necessity for keeping streets clean; the language is not very refined, but from all accounts is not the less appropriate. Though our own streets are severally kept as clean as those of any other city in the United States, still in many places they might be kept still cleaner than they are:

"The condition of the great mass of the narrow streets running from Broadway to the rivers and parallel to it, is calculated to breed the yellow fever. The gutters are stopped up and are creamy with green stagnant matter. Crowds of men, women, and children of the poorer sort, not a few sickly and sorrow, were sitting at their doors yesterday, appearing unconscious of the concatenation of pestilential stinks that permeated the air, and made blood-heat smell like a dead horse on the prairie.

"As for appealing to the authorities to remedy this, we should as soon appeal to the inmates of the Tombs, Auburn, or Sing Sing. The grand jury has truly pronounced them 'deaf to remonstrance and insensible to shame.' If the present heat and present stinks continue, we must expect the yellow fever, a scourge which the New Orleans press says is greatly aggravated by the neglected condition of the streets of that city.

"We cannot conceive of a higher premium laid on pestilence than the unutterably beastly state of the great mass of our streets. Rain alone can save us from pestilence.

"The sudden deaths are all attributed to heat. We think the stinks of the city have much to do with such mortality. The lungs and skin are surcharged with impure matter, and do not perform their functions properly, and that will, under the additional stress of hot weather, produce death."

The New York Courier states that one of the first deposits in the Six-Penny Bank was made by an urchin who was without shoes or stockings. It was the sum of five cents; and before the end of the day it reached thirty-one cents. He begged that his deposit book might be retained in the bank; otherwise his parents would claim all his future earnings, (as they had his previous ones,) for the purchase of liquor.

The Nacogdoches Chronicle informs us that General O. Clarke and General Rusk arrived in Nacogdoches on the 22d ultimo, the former having examined the country through Texas on the parallel of thirty-two degrees. General Clarke entertains no doubt but that Texas offers far the best route for the Pacific railroad, and nothing is required to bring it into this way except proper legislation by that State. He was about to return to New York by way of Houston and Galveston.

NAVAL.—Mr. Samuel B. Cooke, a young gentleman of this town, received an appointment on Saturday as a carpenter in the United States navy.—Portsmouth Transcript.

From the New Orleans Picayune, August 9.

ARRIVAL OF THE PANAMA STAR.—The United States mail steamer Panama Star, Lieutenant J. F. McKinstry, United States Navy, commanding, arrived here yesterday morning from Apia, having brought the following mails and passengers, which left San Francisco on the Pacific mail steamship John L. Stevens on the 16th ultimo.

The Stevens brought down \$1,200,000 in gold dust, which went to New York by the United States mail steamship Illinois.

The Philadelphia reports that the roads across the Isthmus are in fair condition, and both Panama and Aspinwall are remarkably healthy.

From the Isthmus. By the Philadelphia we have received papers from Panama and Aspinwall to the last instant. The Panama Star announces that the law levying a tax on all specie crossing the Isthmus has passed the New Grandian Congress, but in such a modified shape as to render it entirely inoperative. The law does not compel the shipper of specie to employ the government to transport it, and unless the government is employed there is no tax upon it. Thus the specie will continue to pass as heretofore, through private hands.

The same paper has the following account of a robbery: "We learn that a Frenchman named Bouillon, leaving here a few days since for Cruces, entrusted his baggage to a native who lives outside the wall. The baggage was not received by Mr. Bouillon at Cruces, so he came back, and on inquiring of the native what had become of it, that individual refused to give any information on the subject, and accordingly a writ was got out for his apprehension, which was served on him, and he is now in the calaboose."

From a summary of news made up by the Aspinwall Courier, we select the following paragraphs: "The visit to our city of three different parties engaged in gold mining at various points on the Isthmus, as also of one who is working a coal mine at Boca del Toro, a short distance down the coast, has excited a lively interest among our citizens. Among the items that we have gathered is the fact that there are a number of parties preparing to work, and in some instances working, mines in this and adjoining provinces, whose operations are unknown to the public, who must develop new and large fields of labor, as well as recover for advantageous mining those which have, in many instances, never been more than 'scratched' by the natives."

"Among the operations of which we have heard we note the following: "An English company has bought a gold mine on the river Barbara, a tributary of the river Atrato, and is now preparing to work it.

"We have also heard of a party of American headwaters of the Atrato; they were at Quibdo on the 5th July.

"One Peruvian agent is now also searching for the best mines in the canton of the Atrato.

"Two native agents are employed by English companies to buy land and mines in the provinces of Chocho and Antioquia.

"There is an English company working a gold mine in the vicinity of Buenaventura, on the Pacific coast.

"An English company has bought a gold mine in Antioquia of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and is now working it.

"An American company has passed through Carthagena for Chocho lately, whose object is to search for gold mines in Chocho and Antioquia.

"It is said a coal mine has been discovered on the Rio Leon, at the mouth of the Atrato, in the Gulf of Darien. Some scientific men started from Carthagena about the 20th July last, to test the truth of the matter—the gentlemen are Americans.

"A surveying party has also passed through Carthagena, for the headwaters of the Atrato, to survey Biag's route from the river Auito to the San Pablo.

"A law passed by the recent Congress, respecting the currency, while it abolishes the previous arbitrary rate of nine dimes to the American or Spanish dollar, and substitutes the full value of foreign coin for the reduced standard at which they have heretofore been taken, it compels the payment of New Grandian silver to all private individuals who require it. This has been the chief difficulty in the intercourse between the foreign business and the laboring natives; and instead of being obviated, it has been increased by the passage of this line.

"The agents of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company have been appointed to leave Panama on the 7th and 22d of each month for Valparaiso and intermediate ports. The agency at Panama is now filled in the most admirable manner by the new agent, Mr. Charles L. Harris. The steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company will, after this month, leave Aspinwall on the 9th and 14th, and 10th and 25th, of each alternate month for 1853, viz: August 9th and 24th, September 9th and 24th, October 9th and 24th, November 9th and 24th, December 10th and 25th.

"Jeremiah O'Shaughnessy, carpenter of the Panama Railroad Company, at Barbacons, was drowned in the Chagres river, at that place, on the 28th."

A returning Californian, named William Cole, was attacked near Cruces, robbed of what little money he had, most brutally beaten, and left in a dying condition. He was found by two gentlemen in an insensible state, and by them taken to Cruces, where his wounds were dressed, and he was left in charge of some Americans, who promised to see him safe to Aspinwall. The inhumanity of some persons who saw the man, but did not assist him, is severely censured by the papers.

Virginia and Tennessee Railroad.

On Wednesday an additional section of the Virginia and Tennessee railroad, from Sulphur to the Big Spring, in Montgomery, a distance of twelve miles—was opened by the passage of a train of cars over it.

The train left the depot in this city at seven o'clock, with about one hundred passengers, and arrived at the Big Spring at ten o'clock of the same day. At Sulphur a "chuck it reaches the Big Spring, the shortest path to which the rails of present day. The entire distance from Lynchburg to the Big Spring—seventy-five miles—is now safely and amply filled with heavy U. rail, having at convenient intervals large and durably built depots, water stations, &c. The cars, made at the Piedmont Iron Works, and the locomotives, from the Tredegar Works, are noted alike for power and beauty of workmanship.

The country passed over is one of the finest agricultural districts in the State. The rich and populous county of Bedford is traversed from east to west, and the entire length of the Road, with its broad bottoms and elevated fields. Unfavorable as the farming season has generally been, there is no trace of drought or blight in this beautiful and fertile county. We saw nothing but verdure and vitality everywhere. The Blue Ridge is crossed at the end of a gap by a grade of only eight feet to the mile for four miles. The grading is so well regulated, that a passenger seated in the car is entirely unconscious of the elevation to which he is carried. In making the summit out of about twenty feet, the workmen engaged in the excavation unearthed the bones of a mastodon, and discovered a cave, the dimensions of which remain unknown, as it was found necessary to fill in a portion of it, in order to lay the track.

The depot at the Big Spring is situated in a beautiful sugar-maple grove, on the bank of the Roanoke, and within a few hundred yards of the spring, which is not among the least of the many natural curiosities of the State. In a circular basin of some twenty or thirty feet in diameter, the water boils and bubbles up in innumerable little jets—keeping the gravel at the bottom in constant play, and running off in a stream clear and pure as winter air. The supply we think would be ample to work a mill with two wheels.

On the margin of the spring a vein of sulphur water has been discovered and separated from the other. The presence of sulphur is palpable to the smell and taste. It is not improbable that further discoveries may lead to valuable results in the production here of a new resort for health. Preparations are now being made, we learn, for the accommodation of those who may be attracted for health or recreation to this inviting place.

An abundant and excellent repast was served in the depot, by the authorities of the railroad company, to their guests and others who were present on the arrival of the train. In the company we noticed, besides the president and several members of the directors, the President of the James River and Kanawha Canal, the Mayor and President of our City Council, the President of the Exchange and Merchants' Banks of Lynchburg, and representatives of the city press.

[Lynchburg Virginian, 12th.]

PROTECTION TO AMERICAN CITIZENS IN CHINA. Hon. Humphrey Marshall, our Commissioner to China, in answer to an inquiry from Messrs. Smith, King & Co., American merchants at Shanghai, "whether, in the event of American property being destroyed or plundered by the rebels, we should be enabled, through the United States Government, to recover the value thereof," replies, that though the intercourse between the United States and China furnishes no precedent for establishing the practice, in such a case, the treaty of "Wang Hya" assures the citizen residing in China, if peacefully attending to his affairs, the special protection of the government. In default of such protection, Mr. Marshall advises the Chinese government must become responsible for whatever loss such citizen may sustain by lawless violence, for want of adequate protection. Also, that should the Chinese public authorities announce to that of the United States, in advance of threatened danger, that China is unable to comply with the stipulations of the nineteenth article of the treaty, the proper authority of the United States should protest against such declaration, and the United States would take measures to extend to its citizens the protection China fails to afford; but at the same time would hold the government of China responsible for any losses said citizens might incur by their failure to observe the terms of the treaty.

CRIME IN NEW YORK.—Patrick Katen was arrested in New York, on a charge of murder, on suspicion of having murdered his wife.

On Monday evening information was sent to the Sixteenth Ward police station, that one John Fogarty, residing in 25th street near Seventh avenue, had murdered his daughter, a girl about sixteen years of age. Lieutenant Beam, with a force of men under his command, repaired to the place, and after a great deal of trouble succeeded in arresting Fogarty, after which they dispersed a large and highly excited crowd, which had congregated about the premises.

It appears that Fogarty went home intoxicated and commenced beating his wife, when the daughter appealed to and interfered with him to save her mother from being murdered, when he, without further provocation, turned upon and knocked her down, at the same time kicking her in the head and breast in such a manner that the attending physician has serious doubts of her recovery. Fogarty was locked up in a cell, and next morning was taken before Justice McGrath to await the result of the injuries by him inflicted.

LIST OF PATENTS Issued from the United States Patent Office for the week ending August 16, 1853, and bearing date August 16, 1853.

George W. Baynes, Thomas Hinty, and Minter Jackson, of Glenville, Va.—For improvement in bedstead fastenings.

William Beach, of Philadelphia, Pa.—For improvement in meat tenders.

John Binder, of Chelsea, Mass.—For improvement in hinges for folding bedsteads.

P. F. Charpie, of Mount Vernon, Ohio.—For improvement in gun-locks.

Thomas Crossley, of Roxbury, Mass.—For improvement in printed carpets.

Benjamin F. Delano, of Chelsea, Mass.—For improved rudder-brace.

Michael B. Dyott, of Philadelphia, Pa.—For improvement in facing buildings.

Aaron W. Geahart, of Bealsville, Ohio.—For improvement in machines for preparing spoke timber.

Asahel H. McKinley, of Higginsport, Ohio.—For improved socket for auger-handles and braces.

Jacob Mumma, of Mount Joy, Pa.—For improvement in draught apparatus of seed planters.

E. K. Root, of Hartford, Conn.—For improvement in drop-hammers.

William Van Anden, of Poughkeepsie, N. Y.—For improved trip-hammer.

John P. Schenck, of Boston, Mass., assignor to John P. Schenck and Adolph S. Saroni, of same place.—For improvement in breech-loading firearms.

William Harrison Babbit, of Waynesburgh, Pa.—For improvement in hill-side ploughs.

Aury G. Coes, of Worcester, Mass.—For improved screw-wrench.

William Coleman and Stephen G. Coleman, of Providence, R. I.—For improved ships' block.

Alpheus C. Gallahue, of Allegheny City, Pa.—For improvement in machines for pegging boots.

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