Amusements—This Evening.

NEW ORLEANS THEATRE.—The Merchant of Venice—Jackson—The Spoiled Child—Yody, Life's in Danger.

PLACIDE'S VARIETIES.—The Merry Wives of Windsor—Divertisements.

AMERICAN THEATRE.—Orsinos—Divertisements—Richard III.

DAN RICE'S CIRCUS.—Equestrian entertainments.

Auction Sales—This Day.

STORE, BYRNE & CO. will sell, at half-past 10 o'clock, at 53 Magazine street—Groceries, Provisions and Liquors.

J. S. BLANCHE & CO. will sell, at 10 o'clock, at 77 Chartres—Dry Goods, Sick Mattrasses and Shoes.

M. VIDRIE will sell at 10 o'clock, 29 Chartres street—Christmas and New Year's Gifts.

J. L. TAYLOR & Co. will sell at 12 o'clock, at 96 Customhouse street—Furniture.

D. of T.—Meeting This Afternoon.

MAGNOLIA UNION No. 2, Daughters of Temperance, meets at half-past 3 o'clock, at Crystal Fount Hall, No. 322 Tchoupitoulas street.

The Daily Crescent.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL.
Of the Council of the Second Municipality.

NEW ORLEANS:
TUESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 31, 1850.

THE MOBILE BALLS.—We are indebted to the politeness of the Managers of the two fashionable Clubs of Mobile, for invitations to the Balls on New Year's Eve. The Cowbellians and Strikers have a wide extended reputation for the elegance of their assemblies. We hope that the beauty of the Mobile ladies will be a convincing argument in favor of the Union.

WESTERN ART UNION.—The annual drawing of this excellent association for the promotion and encouragement of the Fine Arts in the Southwest will shortly take place. Among the prizes is Powers' beautiful statue of the Greek Slave, and a large number of valuable Paintings by some of the most distinguished artists of the country—Rannay, Beard, Hennage, Dearing, Huntington, Winnridge, McConkey, Adams, and others.

Those desirous of subscribing, will call on the Honorary Secretary at 104 Magazine street. We are requested to state that the list closes next Saturday.

THE FINE ARTS.—At Tyler's window is to be seen a beautiful picture—"Susannah and the Elders." Unlike most of the paintings on the subject, it represents a beautiful woman in partial dishabille, while the faces of two old men are as much in the back ground as to be scarcely seen. The artist has put it up at raffle. Tickets to be had at Tyler's.

SOUTH WESTERN BIBLE SOCIETY OF NEW ORLEANS.—We are requested to announce that there will be a meeting of this society This Evening, at 7 o'clock, in the M. Gehee church, corner of Poydras and Carondelet streets. Addresses will be delivered by President Rivers, of Centenary College, and other distinguished gentlemen. It will be an occasion of interest to the friends of the Bible, and we trust there will be a large attendance notwithstanding the unpleasant state of the weather.

GOOD.—We learn that the proprietors of the Phœnix House intend that the receipts of said house, from the hours of six till ten o'clock, this New Year's Eve, will be given to the Female Orphan Asylum.

THE ST. CHARLES.—Last night the Ravenna played "Macbeth" and "Paul Pry," to a very fair house, who were delighted by their wonderful performances. We are glad they have been re-engaged, for they have not had fair play. Many persons have been deterred by the bad weather. To-night they appear in the "Merchant of Venice" and "The Spoiled Child."

THE AMERICAN.—Mr. Neafie's benefit to-night, when he appears in "Orsinos," for the last time.

PLACIDE'S VARIETIES.—The admirable comedy of the "Merry Wives of Windsor," so admirably played at the Theatre, is to be repeated this evening. Bass, in *Fat Jack*, is beyond doubt, the best representative ever seen in this city, and the applause he received, on Saturday evening, proved the great appreciation of the audience of this excellent personation. Chippendale's *Justice Shallow* was one of those rare pieces of fine acting which is almost banished from the stage with the "old school of actors." Howard's *Mr. Ford* was another fine piece of acting. Holland, Reeves, Mrs. Howard, and, in truth, all of the company performing in this piece, deserve all praise, and if a great comedy, so efficiently played, will attract, the Varieties will be crowded to its utmost capacity.

BENEFIT OF MR. AND MRS. W. H. CRISP.—Mr. and Mrs. Crisp take their benefit at the American Theatre on Saturday night, the 4th of January, on which occasion they make their last appearance. We are gratified to learn that several members of the Histrionic Association have kindly volunteered their services.

GIFT BOOKS.—Our readers, who intend to make New Year's Gifts, to-day and to-morrow, must not overlook the magnificent collection of books at Steel's. The Queens of England, edited by Miss Strickland, with engravings by our most finished artists, is a superb work. Martin's Illustrations of the Bible, is an English work well known to the lovers of art. The Book of Waverly Gems is another beautiful book. There are too, several English or rather Scotch editions of Scott's novels. Mrs. Jameson's Characteristics of Woman has been very elegantly got up, and possesses a merit far beyond that of its dress. The Landscape Painters of England is another interesting work.

The Protection of Cotton.

Messrs. Editors—I wish to make a few remarks respecting the attention paid to Cotton received here.

It has occurred to me that there is not proper attention paid to the shipping and receipt of Cotton. It seems to be the object of the shipper generally to get a bill of lading from the steamboat, signed in good order. No matter what attention he has paid to it, if it has laid in rain and mud for days, he insists that it is in good order. It is put on the boat, and if it rains during the whole voyage, the Cotton is exposed to all this; it is unloaded here in the rain and mud, and is left exposed for several days, sometimes, on the Levee, and at last gets to the presses and is still exposed to the rain.

Now, I wish to ask, why is all this? The sole no other article, of either small or large value, liable to damage, that is not protected from the weather by universal custom; and Cotton, the receipt of which amounts to millions of dollars, is left without protection, when the losses from these causes amount to many thousands of dollars annually, besides contentions, litigations, recriminations, etc. Now, the remedy for all this is very simple. Let the boats protect the Cotton from the weather, as they do all other articles, by covering it with tarpaulins during the voyage, and if it rains while unloading, let it be covered on the Levee. The expense would be something, it is true, but it does not cost much all other articles. If this practice was carried out, the boats would find its advantages in prompt payment of freights, and in less amount of damages to pay; the receivers would be benefited, by having their Cotton dry and ready for delivery sooner. This matter can be very easily accomplished, by the large receivers of Cotton insisting upon a proper covering during the voyage, and also for the time it is allowed to be on the Levee; and I am confident the boats will be benefited far beyond the outlay for tarpaulins, if they will put it in practice. F.

For the Crescent.

Boarding Houses in New Orleans.

The number of these useful establishments in New York, of the larger class, is constantly increasing, and yet the public are not sufficiently accommodated, and more are about to be built. Now, look at New Orleans. How is it here? Are the public accommodated as they ought to be at two dollars and a half and three dollars, per day, and with provisions from the western country abundant and cheap?

The principal hotels here are more profitable to their proprietors than the mines of California are to the diggers. Sites, eligibly situated for hotels, in Magazine, Camp, or St. Charles streets, can be bought for much less than they could be in New York. Handsome buildings can be erected, that would not cost one-tenth part as much as the St. Charles Hotel, and would accommodate nearly as many boarders.

More stores, and more houses, have been built here than are wanted. Where is the surplusing citizen, or citizens, that will come forward and build up another hotel? They would be considered as public benefactors, and for these enterprises he always compensated. It may be asked who has capital—where is the capital to come from? To be sure it is in the hands of those who get from ten to fifteen per cent., or more, from planters and others. They will not build hotels, neither, and they are right. Then why not get the capital from the North—where millions of dollars are loaned, with security on real estate, at six per cent. per annum? They will so loan you a million. Why not? Because some of our laws require modifying in order to inspire confidence. Your foreign mortgages, your community laws, stop, gentlemen, a long and long upon the prosperity of the State, by preventing capital from coming into the State, and also driving it away. Let laws come out and enlighten the public mind on this subject; it is of as much importance to this city as the cotton.

Look at the usury laws passed by the Legislature, compelling the citizens, late law passed by the Legislature, compelling in comparison New Orleans to pay up some millions of dollars annual co-2 a short period—operating, as it does, as a Legislative shackle of the prosperity of the citizens. The financial panics have passed such laws as would scarcely brought it up to par of the interest, which would soon have be put off a little, with payment of the principal might then Legislature think by creditors. Does the State? They had better let New Orleans they benefit the State against the citizens. Take all the rebelling of the citizens.

STEAMSHIP OHIO DISASTER.—We learn by a telegraphic dispatch in yesterday's Evening Picayune, that the steamship Ohio, bound to Norfolk on the afternoon of the 26th. Her engines was disabled between New Orleans and Havana. The other was disabled in a terrible gale off Cape Hatteras. She lay in the trough of the sea for sixty hours, all hands at the pumps, with the prospect of sinking momentarily. Her furniture and everything moveable were dashed into pieces. The mails are saved. The damage to the boat is $20,000. There were 100 passengers and $1,000,000 in gold dust on board, all of which is saved. The storm is described as awful. The Ohio lies at Norfolk waiting for orders from New York.

RED RIVER.—The river is steadily rising and begins to flow past the town. The larger class of boats have already come to Grand Ecore, and we look confidently to their arrival at our landing before the end of next week. [Natchitoches Chronicle.

WM. C. RIVES ON THE COMPROMISE.—Wm. C. Rives, of Virginia, our present Minister to France, has written an admirable letter to a friend in Connecticut, on the subject of the Compromise measures, and the present situation of the country. It is highly patriotic, and, as is usual with him, most polished in style.

The Closing Year.

The year 1850 closes to-day. It is one of the periods in time when the most careless ponder on the past, and look forward to the future with resolutions of amendment. It is the hour when men take an observation, and endeavor to ascertain their latitude and longitude in the ocean of life.

The year just closing has been the most exciting through which our country has ever passed. For the first nine months, the discussions in Congress and in the columns of the press, kept the public mind in the utmost excitement, and for a time the union of these States appeared to be in danger. In the height of this excitement, Gen. Taylor died, and the danger seemed more imminent than before. But moderate councils prevailed; for the first time Cass, Clay and Webster were seen working together. That spirit of conciliation which had led to the original foundation of the Government, again exercised its benign influence, and preserved what it had created. The admission of California as a State, the purchase of the Texian claim to New Mexico, the enactment of the Fugitive Slave Bill, and the abolition of the slave trade in the District of Columbia, have been acquiesced in by the overwhelming majority. The Government has gained strength from the terrible struggle, and the Union was never stronger than at this moment.

Death has not been idle, and among those who have gone to the grave are Taylor and Calhoun—both men who will live in the annals of their country—the one as a soldier, the other as a statesman. In Europe the time has been one of sowing rather than of harvest. The revolutions of '48 were crushed in the reaction of the year following. But the spirit of improvement and emancipation has gained ground, and Europe is now on the eve of a convulsion more terrible than that of Napoleon's career! The folly of the rulers will not yield to the demands of their subjects without a long and lessolating war. At this moment, Prussia, with her half million of fighting men, is one vast camp, and every preparation made by "daily cast of brazen cannon and foreign mart for implements of war" for that struggle which is to determine the fate of Europe. As the year 1850 witnesses the dreadful preparation, may the year 1851 witness the glorious fruition of human freedom.

The Freedom of the Seas.

The renewed aggressions of the British Navy on the rights of American merchantmen are becoming the subject of application to the Department of State, and of discussion in the columns of the newspapers. We think it fortunate for the country that Daniel Webster is at this time Secretary of State. This office is one which should always be entrusted to the most distinguished statesman of his day, regardless of his peculiar party associations. Its duties are connected exclusively with the foreign relations of the country. Let either party prevail, and the foreign policy of the country is not changed. During Tyler's administration, Webster and Calhoun were at the head of the State Department; antipodes in domestic politics, yet no change was perceptible in our foreign conduct. The Secretaries of the Treasury and the Interior, on the other hand, are intimately connected with the party politics of the day, and it is indispensable they should be selected with a view to that fact. We repeat, that it is a fortunate accident for the nation, that Daniel Webster is now the representative of this country in its intercourse with other nations. His volume of diplomatic and official papers furnishes ample proof of his powers. Side by side with his great speeches on the Constitution, will stand his discussions with the British Ministers. He is not only known as the Expounder of the Constitution, but as the Emancipator of the Ocean.

Three subjects have arisen in our intercourse with Great Britain, which threaten to break up the peaceful relations between the two countries—the impressment of seamen from American ships, the search of American ships on the African coast, and the emancipation of slaves on board of American vessels driven into British ports.

The last war with Great Britain was to assert the inviolability of our decks. Without asserting or denying the right of British subjects to cast off their allegiance and become American citizens, our Government has always maintained that no foreign vessel should search our merchantmen under any pleas, nor remove any of the persons found on board. The flag of the ship on the high seas, makes her a part of our territory; and British cruisers may as well land on the shore and impress British seamen *in our ports, as take them from the* decks of our ships on the sea. Great Britain, on the other hand, claimed the right to search our ships for her seamen, and absolutely went so far, as to establish the presumption that the seamen on board American ships were British subjects, and to throw on them the burden of proving they were American born.

This was the principal cause which led to the war. It is true that peace was concluded and left this question in silence. The Republic had vindicated its honor, and, for the time, both parties were willing to leave it to the future to determine the difference. Matters thus remained until the arrival of Lord Ashburton at Washington, charged with full powers to settle all open questions between them. Mr. Webster, in his letter of August 8th, 1842, thus writes to his grandson:

"The American Government, then, is prepared to say that the practice of impressing seamen from American vessels, can at hereafter be claimed to be abolished. That practice is founded on principles which it does not recognize, and is invariably attended by consequences so unusual so injurious, and of such formidable magnitude, as cannot be submitted to. In every regularly denominated American merchant vessel the crew who navigate it will find their protection in the flag which is over them."

Lord Ashburton replied that the principal object of his mission was to settle the North Eastern Boundary; that he had no especial instructions on this subject. He hoped, however, that some mode would be found to avoid the evil. Thus that matter stands. The American Government has made an official announcement of its ultimatum. And though Great Britain has never assented, this country has now the position which acquires no additional strength from the acquiescence of any other single power in its declaration.

We shall to-morrow examine the history of the diplomatic correspondence on the African Coast question.

The Power of the Liquidators.

The Legislature in its wisdom last winter, took away from the Municipalities the right to pay, or otherwise arrange their debts. No complaint has been made against the Second Municipality; with the exception of the year 1846 it had always met its obligations; neither the creditors nor the debtor required this "forced surrender." We believe that the same state of affairs existed in the First. As to the Third, we profess to know too little of its affairs to speak of them. The Legislature however, without consulting the wishes of the parties interested, at once takes the management of their affairs out of their hands and places them in those of liquidators. To whose wisdom the city is indebted for this gratuitous uncalled for legislation, we do not know; but before another election we intend to know and to let the people know. But for this unjust, uncalled for and tyrannical law, there would be no extra tax to meet liabilities forced on the Municipalities by this officious legislation.

An attentive examination however, will convince any lawyer that the liquidators, though they may assess oppressive and ruinous taxes, are not vested with power to collect them. Section 7, of "an act to provide for the liquidation of the city debt, and of the debts of the separate Municipalities of the city of New Orleans," reads thus:

"The liquidators hereinbefore named, shall levy a yearly tax in each of the Municipalities of the city of New Orleans, on the value of all moveable and immoveable property, and capital employed in trade, according to the assessment rolls annually made by authority of the State, of sufficient amount to pay the principal and interest falling due of the bonds issued in accordance with the preceding section; which said tax shall be collected by the collector appointed by the respective Municipalities, etc."

Not one word about suits, nor any power given for the collectors to seize. They are to collect of those who will be silly enough to pay. What other acts of folly men may commit, very few pay taxes except on compulsion. The revenue to be raised by the liquidators, will be derived from other sources than taxation.

The stupidity of the framers of this law will save the tax-payers of New Orleans from a most injurious and oppressive taxation. We trust the wise men of the erudite articles on law, in the Delta, will examine this law, and if possible find the power which has escaped our observation. The agitation of last year, kept up for months, resulted in the passage of this law. Time will disclose what is to be the issue of the new agitation.

BANK OF TENNESSEE.—The Bank of Tennessee has refused to receive any other than Tennessee money, on deposit for exchange, or in payment of debts.

For the Crescent.

Orsinos, American Theatre, etc.

Dr. Bird's tragedy of "Orsinos," originally written for Mr. E. Forrest, not, however, as a prize one, as announced in the bills, was produced at this establishment on Monday evening to a very good audience. The play is by no means calculated to please the million, and was always considered one of the worst of the Doctor's productions. Its dramatic construction is strained and improbable, the language bombastical, sentences heavy, prolonged, and unpoetical. Mr. Forrest long since expunged it from his list of acting plays, and it was no great stretch of his generosity when he made Mr. Neafie a present of a copy. Indeed Mr. N. de erves much credit for his reproducing "Orsinos," and equally as much for his delineation of the part.

We, however, think he misconceives it. "Orsinos is a perfect adept in the art of deception, but from the very moment Mr. Neafie enters with the gun, and opens his lips to speak, the whole course of his actions is distinctly made plain—he does not disguise the motives of his conduct, but shows himself clearly, as it were, in a glass. Indeed, it is not unlike *Iago*, and the pulpab's misconceptions of that peculiar character were equally as apparent in this, a second edition of Shakspeare's great master-piece. It may be said that Mr. Neafie imitates Forrest. As this was one of Mr. Forrest's earliest efforts in that species of composition, and which has enhanced his fame more, far more, than have his impersonations of the creations of the master-spirit of the drama. Mr. Neafie may be excused a few similarities, which we will not call by so harsh a word as imitation. When we assert, however, that it is the best thing we have seen at his hands, he may take it as a compliment, although even in such parts, requiring great physique, he has yet to equalize and harmonize with them that, the most important, the mental. We would also suggest to Mr. Neafie a reconsideration of the character, and remember that *Orsinos* should so enact his double part as to deceive, alike *Pizarro* and the audience. This is the true philosophy of the character, as it is the great one to that of *Iago's*.

We had to smile at one passage in this tragedy, which we defended from criticism some twenty years ago, and that is the beautiful line, in a highly poetical passage:

"*The midnight rainbow on the hills.*"

As this is a fact in natural history, or a phenomena of nature, we look upon it as one of the happiest poetical ideas of the author.

Mr. Foster's *Rinaldo* was very good; indeed the whole company strived hard to please, and their efforts were crowned, as with the piece, with success.

Mlle Marie Duret was too pretty, and her assumption was indistinct, prolonged and tiresome. She seemed nervous, and, as it were, afraid of the part, which, by the way, is no great thing.

Mr. Neafie deserves all due praise for his desire to produce native pieces, and if he flatters himself with the idea of building up a repertoire, that is, which requires all the elements to brighten into a star, he must not expect to do so upon the *discarded plays of Mr. Forrest*. That gentleman did not consider *Adelgomond* suitable for the stage, nor his peculiar style of acting. *Orsinos* was also thrown aside as being, as it really was, a failure; and it certainly is a bold attempt on the part of Mr. Neafie to resuscitate the dead, and with their renewed existence, and upon their ashes, the Phœnix-like in dramatic glory.

Mr. Neafie repeats the tragedy to-night, being for his benefit. As a promising artist, indefatigable, energetic, and ambitious to excel in the profession, we hope to see a full and fashionable house on the occasion. COLLY CIBBER.

The Art-Union Distribution.

The American Art Union made its annual distribution, by lottery, on the night of the 30th at Tripler Hall, New York.

From a report made on the occasion by the Hon. Henry J. Raymond, Chairman of the Committee of Management, we learn that the number of members during the present year is 16,310, and they have placed the sum of $81,550 at the disposal of the Committee of Management.

Of this amount $16,225 have been devoted to the production of six engravings by American engravers, from pictures by American artists; and one copy of these engravings will be delivered as soon as they can be completed, to each member of the institution.

The sum of $8000 has been devoted to the publication of the Bulletin, a Monthly Art Journal, designed to aid in advancing the interests and promoting the objects of the American Art-Union. Of this work, 113,500 copies have been published during the year, and accompanied by 247,000 original etchings and wood cuts, have been placed in the hands of every member.

The committee have purchased during the past year 43,120 paintings, twenty bronze statuettes and six bronze busts of Washington, by American artists, at an aggregate of $43,120, the average cost of each being $101 61. They have also purchased fifty copies of outlines, by Washington Alston, 250 medals and early proof impressions of the large engravings from two of Trumbull's most celebrated paintings. These works of art, 1000 in number, were that evening distributed by lot, according to the provisions of the constitution, among the members of the American Art-Union.

The Free Gallery has been kept open during the whole year, except for a brief interval, when it was closed for necessary improvements. It has been more than usually attractive, and has been visited by hundreds of thousands of the citizens, as well as by strangers from every part of the country.

One thousand prizes, including 500 medals, 450 paintings, statuettes, and "Alston's Outlines," were distributed among the subscribers, who hailed from all parts of the Union, and it might almost be said of Europe.

The choice prize, number 100 on the list, "The Dream of Arcadia," by the late Thomas Cole, who painted "The Voyage of Life" last year, which was won by a printer in the western part of New York, and for which he was offered $6000, was won by Samuel Wasscott, Jersey City.

The following are the prizes, with the names of the artists, which fell to persons in this city:

82. "Bridewell Castle," by H. J. Boddington—E. Parmlee.
92. "The Mountain Stream," by J. F. Kensett—Mrs. H. D. Richardson.
162. "A Rocky Glen," by Seth Eastman—Mrs. D. C. Howard.
208. "Ferry Meadow," by G. Greenwald—E. N. J. Rist.
236. "View Near Antwerp," by J. Le Grande—E. N. Pell.
250. "A Summer Shower," (engraving,) by T. Doughty—W. C. Rick.

GREAT UNION MEETING IN CONNECTICUT.—There was, on the evening of the 26th, at Bridgeport, Conn., a Union meeting attended by persons belonging to both the great political parties of the day, and it is said to have been the largest assemblage ever convened in that place. The Mayor of the city presided, assisted by several old and influential citizens as Vice Presidents. Strong resolutions were passed. The first of which declares that the formation of this Government and its subsistence had been conducted in a spirit of compromise and concession, and that upon its continuance depends the progress of civil and religious liberty and free government throughout the world. The second resolution declares that the Government cannot be discharged by obedience to the laws, until they are properly repealed. The third declares that the compromise measures of the last session of Congress were fair and equitable, and meet the approval of the meeting. The fourth was, that the Fugitive Slave Law accords with the constitution, and contains merely the provision necessary to carry into effect the stipulations of that instrument, and pledges the meeting to its support. The fifth expresses opposition to all agitators of the subject of slavery, or for the repeal of the Fugitive Slave Law. The sixth expresses their thanks to Messrs. Clay, Cass, Webster, Fillmore, Dickinson, Foote, and others, for their patriotic exertions in the enactment of the compromise measures, and the adjustment of questions endangering the perpetuity of the Union.

THE MOBILE DEFALCATION.—The Mobile Advertiser of Saturday morning makes the following remarks upon the recent embezzlement case in the Firemen's Insurance Company of that city:

"Probably an event has ever occurred in this community that created a sensation so painful and humiliating. We have heard it by no means a pleasant duty devolved, because we had not the heart to speak of it. We have ever shrunk from public exposition, or enjoyed to a greater extent the confidence of the citizen, more than he who is now transported in sad, changed mind and spirit, which, if possible, we would even from ourselves. Mr. Greene is an elder in the Second Presbyterian Church of this city, a member of the Common Council of the city government, and occupies the highest civic delicacy, and most non-public position in the Masonic fraternity of the State; and in every station which he has been called to fill, he has acquitted himself with distinguished honor, exercise talents and accomplishments that commanded not only respect, but universal admiration. That such a man—such an age—such a position, and so much before—should be betrayed into the commission of a crime as heinous as that charged on Mr Greene, is too heart-sickening to contemplate—almost too impossible for belief. Yet, we are compelled to say, from all the information we can obtain, that we fear it is but too true." It appears that the most stupendous frauds have been deliberately perpetrated, and unprecedented cases of misuse, and misapplication of funds, to the amount of nine eighty thousand dollars—perhaps more. It is a painful task to contemplate this passage moment. The board of Directors of the Company are now in session, engaged in the investigation, and we refer to other appalling details of crime. The prosecution of the culprit, which has been commenced in Mobile, and which we understand, is calling for his immediate return to the commission. A meeting of the citizens here is called for Monday evening, to take the whole matter into consideration, and decide on an intelligent course.

No time has yet been set for the resignation of Mr. Greene. In the meantime, he remains in our county jail.

OHIO LEGISLATURE AND U. S. SENATOR.—The Legislature is occupying its time in casting unsuccessful ballots for a United States Senator in the place of Thomas Ewing, whose term expires in March next. The chances of an election during the present session are very slim. The Legislature has voted down, 38 to 33, a proposition instructing their Congressmen in favor of a repeal of the fugitive law.

The New Hampshire Convention has declared in favor of electing all judiciary officers by the people.

PARODI IN PHILADELPHIA.—A correspondent of the Baltimore Sun, writing from Philadelphia on the 21st, says:

"Parodi bore off the honors last evening at the Chesnut Street Theatre, in the opera of "Lucrezia Borgia," before the most brilliant audience that has assembled at the Old Drury for years, Jenny Lind's first appearance here, not being comparable to it. The house was literally filled from floor to ceiling, and the third tier crowded with dollar spectators. It is in vain to describe the perfect triumph of the great actress and artiste; and there was but one opinion about it. Parodi caught the electric enthusiasm of the audience, and responded in tones that carried the house by storm. The price of seats was $2 50 for secured seats, $2 for parquette and box, $1 for third tier."

SHIPWRECK.—The ship Butler, which sailed from New York for San Francisco, has been lost near Montevideo. The cargo was valued at one hundred thousand dollars, and the vessel at thirty thousand dollars. The passengers and crew were all saved. She was a new vessel, on her first voyage.

DISTRESSING CALAMITY.—On the afternoon of the 21st inst., the steamer Fashion No. 2 collapsed a flue a short distance above Pittsburgh, on the Monongahela river, and so severely scalded many of the passengers and crew, that some of them instantly died. The list of killed embraces the names of Joseph Carrol and A. Little, passengers; Isaac Peebles, assistant engineer, son of the captain, and James Louderback, fireman. The scalded are, W. Gaskill, first engineer; A. Peebles, assistant engineer, son of the captain; Jesse Gilliland, passenger. The boat is almost a total wreck. The forward part of the cabin was blown overboard, and it is supposed that several persons were carried along; but as yet no bodies have been found in the river. The scalded were conveyed to the city, to receive medical treatment.

RELEASE OF WM. L. CHAPLIN.—The Washington Republic, of Saturday, has the following:

"Mr. Chaplin, the slave abductor, was on Thursday liberated from the jail of Montgomery county, $19,000 bail having been entered for his appearance at Howard District Court. Bail to the amount of $6000 had been given in this district. He passed through Baltimore, on Thursday, on his return home."

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE DEMOCRATS AND THE FUGITIVE LAW.—A great stir has taken place among the politicians in New Hampshire, in consequence of a letter of Mr. John Atwood, the democratic candidate for Governor, to the free-soilers, in favor of "repeal or essential modification" of the fugitive slave law. He publishes a second letter explaining that the first was but a rough draft which he had under consideration, but finally concluded not to make any reply to the free-soilers. Some parties into whose hands he had put it, published it without his consent. He says now, that as a Christian and a patriot, he shall stand by the late compromise measure as a whole.

PLEQUEMINE.—The editor of the Sentinel writes in this style:

"At present, we do not believe there is a vacant house in Plaquemine, either as a dwelling, or for a store or shop; and nothing, for the last three years, the raising of buildings at every association has come forward with a rapidity unprecedented, we believe, in any other town in the interior of the state, it is nevertheless the fact, that the increase of dwellings has not in the least decreased the want of tenements at the present time they are more in demand, perhaps, than at any former period.

"Plaquemine is certainly destined to increase in importance and magnitude as time advances, and it is no extent that we remark that the population is already. It is evidence of its growing importance and also of the enterprise of its citizens. It is the capital of a parish of nearly 40,000,000 of real estate—increasing in wealth and population, and which has more business apparently sending up for the firm of one house, than whole counties of wealth, which speaks so powerfully of wealth, enterprise, and industry."

CENSUS OF VERMONT.—These returns show a population of 323,190, being a gain of 30,006, since 1840. All the counties in the State, but Windsor and Orange, make a handsome gain—Windsor losing 177, and Orange 688, making a total loss in this Congressional District of 865. The eight members to come in will add about 500 to the gain of the State.

The Southern Press, at Washington, opposes the message of Governor Floyd, of Virginia, in favor of a National Convention at Baltimore, appropatory of the Compromise, and of those opposed to the repeal or modification of the Fugitive Law. The Press says the South never will be content with this "pretended Compromise."

CONGRESS.—In the Senate to-day, 26th, a bill was passed changing the time of holding courts in Alabama.

The Senate has confirmed the nomination of J. M. Carlisle, as Judge of the Northern District of California, and J. L. Pengra, as Judge of the Southern District, and Hugh O'Neal, as Judge of the Indiana District. [Ev. Pic.

RIVER PLAQUEMINE.—This stream is now in fine navigable order, and still rising in proportion to the rise in the river. Several boats have passed through it since our last. We perceive, what we did not anticipate, that instead of the strong current of the river sweeping into the mouth with a force hitherto unequalled, in consequence of the recent caving in of the bank, there is something of an eddy at that point—and the drift-wood passing instead of lodging on the point as hitherto. [Plaquemine Sentinel.

BANK ROBBERY.—Jack Wade has been indicted for robbing the Dorchester Bank, Mass., of $30,000, and has pleaded guilty. Sentence deferred till next April. Charles Southwick has been also indicted, and pleaded not guilty. His trial takes place next April. Brooks, indicted for receiving, is said to have been tried on the 27th. The bank has recovered $11,000.

Arrivals at Principal Hotels.—Dec. 30.

ST. CHARLES.—Hon. Thos. T. Bouldin, Va; T. Dow, Dr. H. Vincent, Lt. Col. Wm. Wade, U. S. A., Lt. Col. Wm. Gates, U. S. A., Lt. Col. Wm. Wood, U. S. A., Lt. Col. Wm. Gates, U. S. A., Maj. Wm. Wood, U. S. A., Maj