Amusements — This Evening.

ST. CHARLES THEATRE.—The Children in the Wood—A Day after the Fair—Cross of Gold.

PLACIDE'S VARIETIES.—Henry IV., Part I—Divertisements.

AMERICAN THEATRE.—Boots at the Swan—Acrobat Performances—Divertisement—The Post of Honor—The Devil in the Bottle.

DAN RICE'S CIRCUS—Equestrian [illegible]

Auction Sales — This Day.

[illegible] & Co. [illegible] o'clock, at 8 Chartres street, by Dry Goods, [illegible] and Shoes.

[illegible] — This Evening.

WASHINGTON HALL [illegible] No. 5, in their new hall, Josephine street, [illegible]

CRESCENT POWER DIVISION, No. 5, at Crystal Fount Hall, No. 331 Tchoupitoulas street, at half past 7 o'clock.

Daughters of Temperance.

ORLEANS UNION, No. 5, at No. 6, Marigny Buildings, Chartres street, every Tuesday, at 7½ o'clock, P. M.

The Daily Crescent.

[illegible] JUCHNAR,
Of the Council of the Second Municipality.

NEW ORLEANS:
TUESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 2, 1851.

THE ST. CHARLES.—The Balances are still performing their series of character. Last night the amused in "Blackbird." To-night they blow out a new pipe—"The Children of the Wood."

THE AMERICAN.—The Acrobats are now at this establishment. Their feats of agility and strength are wonderful, in spite of Sir David Brewster's explanations and expos[illegible] of many of them. We must permit, however, in the name of humanity, against the exposure of a child four years old to [illegible] and laughter. There is a new equine emporium, children to footing [illegible] under a certain age, and the same rule should be enforced by public opinion as to the employment of children in these exhibitions requiring strength, research of mind and practice. No pleasure, but a feeling of horror and charity is excited by this child! We urge the manager to withdraw the boy. Spite of this exposure the exhibition is interesting.

THE COMIC LAST NIGHT AT PLACIDE'S VARIETIES.—The inclement weather, yesterday, restrained the ardor of many youths who are prodigal of time and money in their pursuit of holyday delights. Old and middle aged found solace at fireides where youth never can, whilst domestic economy pervading two or three of the "seven ages," notwithstanding the contemplation that no money could be spent shopping in such weather.

The rain came all day, beginning with hail in the morning; and drizzle, trizzle, drizzle, ever hand, was responded to by plashy, plashy, plash, under foot. Notwithstanding this the Theatres were stocked with amiable multitudes, who looked rationally enough for that cheerful sustenance from within, which had been denied them without.

We attended Placide's, being stickler for the legitimate, and anxious that no dead-head should be wanted to the gratification of the worthy manager, whose laudable dramatic enterprise has arrested our attention.

The encouragement given to the "Merry Wives," has induced at this Theatre the production, with little delay, of Shakspeare's great play of "Henry IV." This exquisite drama has been for more than two hundred and fifty years upon the stage, and during its career has been an unswerving favorite of the dramatic world. It is one of those dramatic histories of which Shakspeare produced a series in regular chronological order, [illegible] extraordinary, and the most remarkable of their class. It has cut lives and cut throats, the quality of all upon stage and by a few historical inaccuracies, which are not material to the dramatic story, it has contained history itself. The transactions contained in it are compressed within the period of about ten months—commencing after Bolingbroke's defeat of the Scots, at Halidown Hill, and closing with the defeat and death of Hotspur, at the head of the rebels at Shrewsbury. There are more powerful and [illegible] examples of English eloquence in this play, than in any other of Shakspeare, and there are more of the [illegible] of dramatic art embodied in its characters and [illegible] in all plays, besides Shakspeare's, put together. It would be idle to say that full justice could be done to such a drama upon any stage, at any time, but as produced by the manager at Placide's, it deserves to be sustained, and presents a true embodiment of the author's *dramatic personæ* than any presentation of it we have ever seen.

We have seen *Hotspur* performed more to our taste than by Mr. Neafie, though he has some redundancies of manner which he will himself mend. Some of the passages in the great part of *Percy*, he delivered with admirable spirit and fidelity.

We can but make brief allusion to the admirable *Falstaff* of Mr. Rose, which are fully equal to his *Sir John* in the "Merry Wives." Rose plays that part well, with manner, because he is adapted to it, and became his conceiving of it is just. He understands the fat prodigy of whom "company—villainous company, hath been the spoil," and gives it all Shakspeare gave it, not according to theatrical precedent. When told by the page prince, on the high road, to "lie close to the ground, and listen if thou can hear the tread of travellers," he says:

Fal.—Have you any levers to lift me up again, being down? 'Sblood, I'll not bear my own flesh so far afoot again, for all the coin in thy father's exchequer.

And in the fighting scene of that last act, instead of running away in the supposed manner of cowards, and as a sneak-coward would, on and off the stage, fat Jack falls down, and counterfeits death.

Hedland and Chippendale were inimitable in the lanterns scene. They have slid too little to do. We have no space for further notice—the comedy will be repeated to-night.

DAN RICE'S CIRCUS.—Every evening, at six o'clock, our town is ravished with the music of Dan's famous band, which, for fifteen minutes, pours the million to a taste of that quality. And then, later in the night, shouts of laughter rise from the vocal and conclusive of the streets, as some well-jointed joke, fitted to fit the lips of the Prince of Clowns, sallies from the lips of the Prince of Clowns, and [illegible] the audience. Early impressions last through life. We learned to admire the feats of noble horsemanship in boyish days, and the tricks and even jokes of the clown, though they smack of antiquity, go back to those happy days when we had never heard of an Editor. How many of our readers will confess to themselves their silent preference of the good old fashioned Circus to the Italian Opera? The circus is the taste of early life, the other has been acquired, like cast-off oil and spoiled game, after manhood.

TO THE LADIES.—One of the most splendid assortment of fashion and other plants, in full flower, are offered in this city, to now for sale at the garden of Mr. Dunbar, corner of Camp-street and Sixteenth street. Plants about to flower, of all varieties, can be obtained on application at the garden.

THE CADDO GAZETTE.—Mr. Battle, the editor of this paper, is now at the Veranda. The Gazette is the only paper published in the flourishing town of Shreveport, and has an extensive circulation in that thriving region. It is neutral as to party politics, but devoted to the Union. At a time when associations are forming all through the South, to point out Union merchants, and a portion of the press is denouncing the merchants of New Orleans, we think they may well take a hand in the game. When editors of Union papers come to the city, we shall make the fact known to our friends. But we do not understand the policy of supporting presses whose columns are filled with abuse of New Orleans and its citizens. Cut off the enemy's supplies. Let the disunionists feel the hostility of New Orleans. The liberal ultras of Alabama have the merchants and boarding houses marked. Let both sides try the game.

There are at the present time one thousand one hundred and ten steam vessels in the mercantile navy of Great Britain, and upwards of three thousand accidents have occurred betwixt sailing vessels and steamers within the last three years. The attention of Government having been drawn to the numerous accidents, Capt. Denham, R. N., F. R. S., was appointed to proceed to the nearest place where the accidents occurred, to make inquiry into their cause. This officer is now engaged with the legal authorities in drawing up a bill, to be brought before Parliament next session, for the better regulation of the steam marine navy. It is feared, however that the new bill will not be made perfect until all sailing vessels as well as steamers are compelled to show lights at night.

SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT IN ALABAMA.—Mr. Hilliard having declined being a candidate for re-election to Congress, the question as to his successor (says the Mobile Advertiser) is exciting some interest among our Union friends in that district. The name of that long-tried and faithful public servant and inflexible whig, Hon. James Abercrombie, of Russell, is already suggested in the Montgomery Journal and other whig papers, and the Southern Shield, at Eufaula, proposes the Hon. W. P. Chilton, at present one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of the State, as the Union candidate. Either is eminently worthy of being the successor of the present able and faithful representative, and this is saying all that need be said in their favor.

UNITED STATES STATISTICS.—Value of woolens, cottons, hemp and hempen goods, iron and iron manufactures, sugar, salt and coal, imported during 1850, $61,835,321; duties $16,980,698. In 1849, the value of such imports was $48,204,750; duties $13,162,751.

Value of the imports for 1850, $178,136,318; exports $151,898,720. Domestic produce exported, exclusive of specie, $134,900,232. Foreign merchandise exported, exclusive of specie, $9,475,493.

Average annual expenditure of the government from 1828 to 1841, exclusive of the collection of the revenue, payments on account of the public debt, and trust funds, $26,468,570 73. From 1842 to 1850, [illegible] 78.

Madeira wine imported in 1850, 303,125 gallons; in 1849, 193,071 gallons; in no previous year since 1843 did the quantity exceed 117,000 gallons, and in 1844 it was only 16,000 gallons. In 1843 the average cost was $2 29 per gallon; in 1850 it was less than 50 cents. Sherry wine imported in 1850, 212,699 gallons; in 1848, 215,935; and in no previous year since 1843 did it exceed 77,000 gallons. The cost in 1843 was $1 98 per gallon; in 1850 it was 66 cents.

The Freedom of the Sea.

In a previous paper we examined the first cause of difference between Great Britain and the United States—the search of American ships for British seamen—and explained the position of this Government, as announced by Mr. Webster, in his letter to Lord Ashburton, that under no circumstances would the United States tolerate the pretensions of the British Government.

The second cause is the right of search, or, as the ministers term it, visit, by the public cruisers of the quintuple powers, of American vessels found on the African coast. This was avowed by Lord Aberdeen, in his letter to Mr. Stevenson, of Aug. 27, 1841. He claimed the right to board any vessel on that coast, though hoisting the American flag, for the purpose of ascertaining its nationality. It being ascertained that the vessel was really an American, though, at the same time, the proof that she was a slaver was made apparent, yet, the cruiser would not attempt to interfere with her, but would leave her to pursue her voyage. The right of this search or visit was, however, insisted upon "as absolutely necessary," to prevent the slave trade from being carried on by the subjects of the quintuple powers, under the American flag.

If there were any case in which the American Government could be induced to yield to other nations the right to hinder and interrupt its merchantmen, this would be that case. The five great powers agreed with each other to maintain a certain naval force on the Slave Coast for the suppression of the slave trade, and to give to the cruisers of each the right to search and capture all ships of their respective nations, which should be found engaged in this horrible trade. The United States refused to become a party to this Treaty, and entered its remonstrance against the search of any American vessel. If the cruisers of the five powers found a vessel with the American flag in the suspected latitudes, it made that vessel come to, at the peril of war. If the cruiser chose to board the vessel, and the evidence proved her not to be an American, then, of course, we could not complain. But if she proved to be an American [illegible] to be considered an insult to our flag, and a compensation for the injury, to the owners, would be deemed sufficient reparation. The negotiation was transferred from London to Washington, and was terminated by Mr. Webster and Lord Ashburton. The two Governments agreed to keep up, for a limited period, a certain force on the coast; but we refused to give to any foreign power the right to seize, or even visit, American merchantmen. The time agreed upon has expired, and the Government declines to continue the arrangement. It was out of this Treaty that the famous correspondence sprung between Cass and Webster. Mr. Cass, as Minister near the French Court, protested against the Quintuple Treaty, so far as it was meant to assert the right of delaying American vessels, with a view of ascertaining their nationality. This protest met the approval of the President, as it was, in fact, only reiterating his own opinions, as published in his annual Message a few months previously.

The Ashburton Treaty contained no disavowal by the British Government of this claim to visit vessels bearing the American flag; nor did it contain any withdrawal of the President's declaration. It simply contained a clause that they would maintain a certain force on the coast for a limited period. Mr. Cass, on receipt of the Treaty, at once wrote his famous letter to the Secretary of State, giving his objections to the Treaty, and asking his recall. The ground of objection was, that neither the Treaty nor the correspondence contained a formal disclaimer by the British Government. Mr. Webster, after commenting on the unprecedented course of Mr. Cass in undertaking to criticise the conduct of the President and Senate in concluding a Treaty with a Court to which he was not accredited, proceeded to answer this objection of Mr. Cass. We quote his words:

"In the actual posture of things, (the assertion of the right of visit by Lord Palmerston, and the denial of that right by the President,) the President thought that the Government of the United States, insisting on its own rights and on such declarations, would only weaken its position by making such a demand as appears to you to have been expected. We maintain the public law of the world as we receive it and understand it to be established. We defend our own rights and our own honor, meeting all aggression at the boundary. Here we stop well stop."

It will thus be seen that we occupy the highest ground. We announce a determination to maintain the well established principle of public law, and we require no assent of other powers to sustain our course.

But occasionally complaints are made by merchantmen of annoyances and outrages received from the commanders of British cruisers, who, it seems, carry out the policy of Aberdeen and visit vessels carrying the American flag, and which in fact are American ships. The Administration must support the position assumed by Mr. Tylor, not to permit any such interference. The country, without regard to party, will demand of the Government prompt and decisive action. These continued aggressions on the rights of American ships and insults on the American flag must be counteracted by something besides protests and paper manifestoes. In the meantime the country feel that its honor is secure in the keeping of Daniel Webster.

FOREIGN TITLES.—A nobleman in this country is stared at as much as a Yankee in some parts of Europe. Notwithstanding the many severe lessons taught our gullible people by real or pretended noblemen, they will not learn. It is a fact well known, that titles of nobility are articles of sale in many of the countries of Europe. Italy is constantly the best market, as a rule there is to be sold at the lowest cash price. An amusing instance is brought to mind at the present writing. A creole of Louisiana inherited a large fortune from his father, a Yankee lawyer who had settled in the western part of the State many years ago. The hero of our story was an only son, and was brought up to be a gentleman,—that is, he was fairly spoiled by indulgence. His parents died while he was yet a minor. As soon as of age he visited Europe, and remained for some time in Italy. But little was heard of him, though rumor spoke of him as having been pretty thoroughly sucked by the titled gamblers with whom he associated.

It was at length announced that he had returned to the country, and soon that he was in the city. One of his father's friends, who had known him as a boy, called to see the young gentleman, but as such person was to be found. At last it was ascertained that his name was registered Count Bouldini—being the Italian for a respectable Yankee name. The title was all fair, and his patent of nobility all properly vouched for and in due form. He had bought it in Florence, and, like the travelled monkey in Gay's fable, came home to astonish his old home-keeping friends, with his new follies.

Italian Dukedoms, Marquisates and Countships, are the veriest trash in Europe.

In some of the German Kingdoms, or Electorates, they are a marketable commodity. The last transaction which attracted particular notice is the title conferred by the King of Bavaria on the infamous Lola Montes.

We do not mean to say that men with real titles do not often honor us poor barbarians with a visit, nor that they do not occasionally teach our verdant youths the mysteries of the Four Kings. But we do say, that the admiration so often bestowed on them is derogatory to our national character, and we shall be glad when our people learn that true nobility consists, not in foreign crosses and titles, but in the integrity, intelligence and honor of the *man*, with or without titles.

FAMILY HOTELS.—Family hotels are becoming popular in some of the Eastern cities. In New York there are several, and the number is increasing from the growing demand for this class of houses. A writer in Noah's Times makes interesting remarks on this subject. House-keeping, he says, is expensive, and very troublesome. People are idle and gregarious. They are fond of society, and don't like to work—at least they don't like bother.

This hotel-life, coming more and more into vogue, is a kind of socialism. It resembles, in a rude way, the life in the phalansterie, on the system of Fourier. It is one house for a great number of families, each having its own suite of apartments. There is one kitchen, well organized and scientifically conducted, to cook all the food. One laundry does all the washing. Meals are eaten either at a common table, or served separately in the rooms of each family. All these are features of Fourierism. Communism is quite another affair.

After a brief trial of these family hotels, their success will lead to the establishment of association hotels or dwellings, which will be owned in joint stock shares by the boarders. They will hire a competent superintendent—a graduate at some of these establishments—and will board for the actual cost of living and the interest of invested capital. This plan will combine all the ease and luxury of the present class of family hotels with so great an economy, that men with incomes of one or two thousand a year, will be able to live as well as they now could on five or six thousand.

And when this plan has been successfully carried out, it will be tried by families of humbler means. There will be extensive associated family hotels, where the board will not be more than ten dollars a week for a family, in which all the real comforts of life can be enjoyed at a rate within the most moderate means.

Hotels and steamships are teaching the people a great lesson in economy and enjoyment. When a thousand passengers have been to Albany on one steamer, you would hardly catch them afterwards paddling up, each in his own canoe. In the same way when men have found out the comforts and economies of association, they will not be in haste to return to the vexations and expenses of isolation.

DISUNION PROPAGANDISTS.—The Eufaula Southern Rights Association have raised $1500 to employ two lecturers to enlighten the people on the beauties and blessings of disunion. The Mobile Advertiser says:

"Although the proposition was agreed to by the Association, it was not entirely unanimous. One of the members opposed it in a very pointed and candid speech, which is thus reported by the Shield:

"MR. PRESIDENT—You are wrong, sir! The people have been read to—they have been written to—they have been talked to—and they have been preached to, sir—until they don't care a d——n, sir!

"At the conclusion of which, the speaker sat down amidst the tremendous applause of the meeting. There is truth in that short speech, after all."

The Fisk Library.

We take pleasure in extracting from the forthcoming number of DeBow's Review, which we are permitted to do, the following from the pen of the Editor, which involves a suggestion deserving of the attention of our community:

"In our November number we remarked—

"It is a pity the good intentions of Mr. Fisk are so badly carried out, when by a little good management a great public benefit might be derived. Why not dispose of the great building on Customhouse street, invest the money in books and arrange with the University for a perpetual right to one of its large halls in the new structure on Harmony street?"

"Some five years ago, our lamented fellow-citizen, Abijah Fisk, bequeathed to the city of New Orleans a large building on the corner of Customhouse and Bourbon streets, to be applied to the establishment of a *Free Public Library*, for the benefit of our citizens; and, to carry out the liberal intentions of his brother, not long afterwards, Alvarez Fisk purchased the valuable collection of books composing the library of B. Y. French, Esq., in number five or six thousand volumes, and munificently donated them to the city to form the nucleus of the said library. The General Council accepted these donations, and made some initiatory steps to secure their benefits. A room was fitted up for the reception of the books, in which they were all carefully placed away, whilst the remainder of the building was rented, and the proceeds applied to the pay of a librarian.

"Now what has been the practical working of the whole matter? Have the community realized the benefits intended by Mr. Fisk? Has there been a wise administration of a fund which should have produced $1500 per annum? Is there any provision for the purchase of new books, or have facilities been extended which would render the library a great public benefit? These questions, it seems to us, must all be answered in the negative.

"I therefore favor the suggestion above; and there is nothing in the act of donation by the late Mr. Fisk, for we have examined it, to interfere, and we are quite sure that any proposal which looks to the complete fruition of his brother's noble design, will meet with the hearty co-operation of Alvarez Fisk.

"On the part of the University, we cannot conceive there would be a difficulty. The State has, at an immense expense, liberally provided buildings which are not surpassed by those of any public institution in the Union. One of these buildings, on the corner of Baronne street, contains three of the most capacious halls in the city. A more admirable library hall could not be selected than from these. The building is, as it were, in the *centre* of the city, and on the dividing line of the two Municipalities. The University will find a library indispensable, and have set apart one of their halls for the purpose.

"Here, then, is the practical solution of the two problems—to secure to the University a library, and through it to the youth of the State, and to achieve the purposes of the Messrs. Fisk. Let a committee be appointed upon the part of the administrators, and one upon the part of the Council, to agree upon an act in which the *perpetual* right to the use of one of the halls shall be ceded to the *Fisk Public Library*, in consideration of which said library shall cede to the University the proceeds of the sale of the structure on Customhouse street. The proceeds of the sale would, perhaps, reach $15,000—a sum, judiciously expended, sufficient to purchase 10,000 volumes, which, in addition, to the 6000 now held, would constitute one of the finest libraries in the Southern country. The University to be at the expense of fitting up the hall, and to provide a librarian, which could be done at a small expense from the tutors, or a small *voluntary* contribution from those making use of the library.

"Were this arrangement effected, we doubt not a large collection of books and money, here and abroad, might be had, and that New Orleans, before many years, would possess one of the best FREE *Public Libraries* in America—a library which would rival that in New York, established by the Will of John Jacob Astor."

The Mobile Advertiser, of Tuesday, thus elopes a notice of Miss Julia Dean:

"In all the varied phases of love and grief she exhibits a delicacy and discretion, combined with the rare [illegible] of which we have spoken, produces a strong impression on the spectator, and leaves the heart with the sensation of gladness, as if meeting it with clouds of sorrow, from which the tear drop of sensibility will often fall. It would be impossible for her to do any thing which should not possess some merit, but we are of the opinion she is continually found of versatility of talent. She who can truly delineate one passion, is higher praised than she who poorly represents all. The name of Mrs. Siddons will ever be to posterity associated with *Lady Macbeth*. Miss Dean, originally endowed, should be her rival, or her claims on her beautiful personations of those traits which grace the sex, and not seek fame by usurping the harsher passions of man. As *Julia, Evadne, Pauline*, she produces on us a more pleasing impression than any other actress we have had the pleasure of seeing."

SHIPWRECKS, ETC.—The following letter was published in the Charleston Courier of the 25th:

KEY WEST, (Sto Fla.) Dec. 19, 1850.

By the arrival of a sloop boat from the windward, I learn that a brig was passed last night ashore, in Pick harbor. Our wreckers immediately got under way to render what assistance might be required. *Dec. 23.*—As some of our wreckers returned this morning, it is now known that the vessel previously reported ashore, is the brig Damascus, of New York, Capt. Hays, with a cargo of some 550 bales of cotton, from New Orleans, bound to Genoa.

It appears that she sprung a leak at sea on the night of the 10th or 11th; and the leak increasing, the captain, for the sake of safety, ran her across the reef and put her ashore. The sloops George Eldridge, Plume, H. Hawkins, and Globe, who happened to be in the neighborhood, immediately went to her assistance; when left by our informant, they were busily engaged in saving the cotton.

The bark Mara, previously reported, has been heard from this morning. On account of the boisterous weather since the 7th instant, and she having been disabled by damages sustained to rudder, was obliged, on account of said weather, to anchor near the Marquen, distant 25 miles, and as soon as the wind will permit, will, no doubt, reach our port, as many of our Tortugas wreckers are still on board of her.

The iron steamer Arca, from Philadelphia, bound to the Orenoco river, put into Cape Florida, on the 8th instant, for fuel and water, when she proceeded on her intended voyage.

The hull of the wrecked brig Damascus, of New York, was sold on the 17th instant, by order, for $236. About 180 bales of wet cotton, of her cargo, is advertised to be sold on the 19th inst.

The brig Uranus, from New York, reports a large ship ashore on the Bahama Banks (middle ground) and no wreckers in sight.

The brig Fidelia, of Georgetown, D. C., exchanged signals with Revenue Cutter Crawford, on Sunday, 15th instant, off Boca ground, bound to westward.

Spoken on the 19th instant, off Lon Key, by pilot boat Victor, Capt. Andrews, brig Eliza Ann, of Blue Hill, bound to Pensacola.

Dec. 21.—The gross amount account sales of materials of brig Damascus, was $560; 214 bales damaged cotton sold same day for $8062. The balance of her cargo is to be sold this morning at auction, in lots.

The Br. sloop Cygnet, of Nassau, previously reported, is advertised to be sold on Wednesday next, 25th instant, for benefit of all concerned.

The same paper contains the following:

HAVANA, December 18.

Steamship Isabel arrived this morning at 6 P. M., from Key West. Towed into the latter port the barque Mara, of New York, lately ashore at the Tortugas bank, had been eighteen days in tow by three vessels.

Steamers Ohio, Georgia and Pacific, are also in port. The former sails for New York at 12; the Georgia on the 19th, for Charges; the Pacific for New Orleans. The Harbour is quite well filled with shipping; few American vessels are here. There is same six or seven Spanish men-of-war, three war steamers, and one French war steamer. Quite a strong reinforcement has arrived from Old Spain.

The affairs of the Island are in a prosperous and healthy state, and business of all kinds is on the increase. We have not heard much of Jenny Lind, only through the agents who are here of Mr. Barnum, who are making arrangements for her reception, and preparing quarters worthy of her fame. The Italian Opera is in full blast, and the singing and acting draws down thunders of applause.

OUR MINISTER TO RUSSIA—"*Lean Business.*"—Neil S. Brown, of Tennessee, who succeeded Gov. Bagby, of Alabama, has seen the elephant, and wishes to come home, as appears by a letter written by him in St. Petersburg, and published in the Pulaski Star. The following is an extract:

"On the 13th of August I was presented to the Emperor, Empress, and other members of the imperial family. The ceremony took place at Peterhoff—ten miles distant—where the Emperor's summer palace is situated. There was less formality than I expected. A speech from the Minister was dispensed with, according to custom here—and the whole ceremony between the Emperor and myself was a mere conversation of about ten minutes. He is a fine looking man, and would impress any one with the idea of superiority. He is over six feet high, well built, with marked face and head, and his manner and conversation indicated great energy of character. He is said to be the most laborious man in the empire. His eye is upon every department. I saw him on two other occasions on the parade ground drilling his troops. On one day, there were 80,000 troops of all arms, under parade, and under the eye of the Emperor. There is not much intercourse between Russia and the United States. There has not been an American ship here since I arrived. Our trade is much less than formerly—several causes exist for this. In the first place we buy very little from Russia; some sheetiron, drilling and sail-cloth, make up the principal—and what she used to buy from us directly, is now brought intermediately through Great Britain. Our vessels find but little inducement to come here, for, in the main they have to return in ballast. I am about as well pleased as I expected to be, except I fear the business of the mission will be lean. I would rather have as much as I could do; I would not then have so many vacant hours in which to cast my eyes over the Atlantic. I do not feel willing, from what I have seen, to bring my family here; I fear my children could not stand the climate; with this view, I think I shall ask leave to return home next spring or summer."

A TRAGICAL AFFAIR.—On the night of the 24th inst., a man by the name of R. J. Morse was shot and instantly killed by Mrs. Sarah Ann Stillman, the wife of John A. Stillman, who is by trade a painter. Morse was a carpenter, and leaves a wife and four children. Mr. Stillman resided in a small house near the walls of the new Female Seminary building, now in the course of erection in Marion. Morse had been at work on the new building. Mr. Stillman was absent, attending, we are informed, a meeting of the Odd Fellows' Lodge, while his wife and three small children were left at home by themselves. The report of the gun aroused the neighbors, who, upon repairing to the spot, found the gun of Mr. Stillman lying on the floor, with one barrel empty, a hole through a pane of glass, and Morse on the outside dead, with a shocking wound over the right eye, his face blackened with powder, and brains literally "blown out."

A jury was instantly organized by the Intendant of the town, H. C. Lee, Esq., who, after carefully investigating the circumstances, came unanimously to the conclusion that the deceased came to his death by a gunshot wound from a double-barreled gun fired by Mrs. Stillman. Subsequently, however, the regular coroner arrived, summoned another jury, had Stillman and his wife arrested, and was going into a second investigation when the Commonwealth went to press.

It is truly a tragical affair, and it pains us deeply to record it. Mrs. Stillman we know well. She is a small and very delicate female, and we are sure she must have believed her honor, and perhaps her life, in great peril, before she could have been induced to take a gun even into her hands. So fearfully alarmed was she, that she fled from the house in her night dress, after firing the gun, leaving her children where they were found and conveyed to her at the neighbor's where she had taken refuge. [Marion (Ala.) Commonwealth.

THE MIXED ARROWS.—Cupid, one sultry summer's noon, tired with play, and faint with heat, went into a cool grotto to repose himself, which happened to be the cave of Death. He threw himself carelessly down on the floor, and his quiver turning topsy-turvy, all the arrows fell out, and mingled with those of Death, which lay scattered up and down the place. When he awoke he gathered them together as well as he could; but they were so intermingled that, though he knew the certain number, he could not rightly distinguish them, from which it happened that he took up some of the arrows which belonged to Death, and left several of his own in the room of them. This is the cause that we now and then see the hearts of the old and decrepit transfixed with the shafts of Love; and with equal grief and surprise, behold the youthful blooming part of our species smitten with the darts of Death.

COST OF FOOD.—The price of wheat among the farmers of the West now, is fifty cents a bushel, or less than a cent a pound. Wheat contains about fifteen per cent. of pure nutriment, and twelve ounces of wheat a day is amply sufficient for human sustenance. It is not only sufficient for food, but the purest and the best proportioned, containing every thing necessary to the support of the human constitution.

Allowing twelve ounces wheat a day, and a bushel of wheat would support a man forty days, or say ten bushels a year. A man could live, then, in his highest health and vigor, in the West, at a cost for food of five dollars a year—or on the produce of one-fourth of an acre of land. One hundred acres, sown with wheat, will feed four hundred men—planted with corn, it will support a much greater number; but this must be under a rigid vegetarian system, for it requires two pounds of meat to produce the [illegible] of corn, and of course a much greater amount of land to produce it.

The real necessities of man are few and easily supplied. It is our luxuries that give us both poverty and wealth.

VARIETIES.—"Have you ever broken a horse?" inquired a horse-jockey. "No, not exactly," replied Simon, "but I've broken three or four wagons."

A Yankee editor remarked in a polemical article, that though he would not call his opponent a liar, he must say, that if the gentleman had intended to state what was utterly false, he had been remarkably successful in his attempt.

A poor widow woman was relating to a neighbor how fond her husband was of having a good fire; how busy he would make himself in fixing it so it would burn. "Ah, poor dear man," she continued, "I hope he has gone to a place where they keep good fires."

A Norfolk farmer, not accustomed to literary composition or letter writing, having lost a new hat at a county meeting, and inquired into its possible mistaking, addressed the following grammatical note to its supposed possessor: "Mr. A. presents his compliments to Mr. B., I have got a hat which is not his, if he have got a hat which is not yours, no doubt they are the missing one."

The editress of the Lancaster Literary Gazette says, she would as soon nestle her nose in a rat's nest of savingle tow, as allow a man with whiskers to kiss her. It is as well to give both opinions in any two-sided matter; and we add to the above the Spanish proverb, "A kiss without a moustache is an egg without salt." [London Family Herald.

Geography for Young Ladies.—"Where's Hatchan?" inquired a young lady, upon meeting with the name of that town in a newspaper. "Why you stupid!" indignantly exclaimed her brother, "Hatchan is the first stage after Egham to be sure," and the young lady believed it. [Punch.

"So, there's been another rupture of Mount Vesiferous!" said Mrs. Partington, as she put down her paper and put up her spec. "The paper tells all about the burning lather running down the mountains, but it don't tell us how it was set fire to. There are many people full wicked enough to do it: or perhaps it was caused by children playing with friction matches. I wish they had sent for our fire-brigade, they would soon have stopped the raging aliment; and I dare say, Mr. Braidwood and all on 'em would have gone, for they are what I call real civil engineers. Perhaps 'Townsend's sance and prunella might prove a cure for such ruptions."

A good sermon is like a kiss. It requires but *two hands and an application.*

It is said that Barotin is in full chase of a chap who helped his own wife at the dinner table in preference to another lady.

A girl in Pittsfield was struck dumb by the firing of a cannon. A number of married men have in consequence invited the artillery companies to parade upon their premises.

"I'm getting up in the world," as the gudgeon said when drawn out of the water.

"You had better ask for manners than money," said a finely dressed gentleman to a beggar boy, who had asked for alms. "I asked for what I thought you had most of," was the boy's reply.

Young ladies are like arrows, they are all in a quiver when the beaus come, and can't go off without them.

Strange questions are agitated in the debating clubs down East. The last was, what is the difference between a fat simile and a sick family? And the next will be, What is the difference between the bridge of sighs and the size of a bridge?"

A DARING FEAT.—Our new flag-staff, of which we, Salem people, are beginning to feel quite proud, had not been up more than three or four days, when one of the numerous kite-flying troop of boys, who take their pleasure upon the common at this season of the year, had the misfortune to lodge his kite upon the outspread wings of the eagle at the summit of the staff. During the attempt to dislodge it the string broke, and the kite was left in a very palpable "fix," being anything but a decoration to its place.

There it stayed, however, for several days, and any attempt to get it down was looked upon and talked of as impracticable. Such was not the opinion of a boy named Burnham, about thirteen years old, who thought he could get it. With him it was no sooner thought than done. He started up that smooth pole as if it were a gentle ascent, and in a short time he had climbed up to the cross-trees. Here he made a short halt, and holding on with one hand, he stooped over and untied his shoes, which he had begun to find an incumbrance. A couple of kicks sent them towards terra firma—and he started to finish his ascent. Up he went, and finally actually reached the top. Here he very coolly took out his knife, cut the twine which confined the kite, and having made all clear, came down in safety to the ground.

We call it something of a feat for a boy of thirteen years to go up a bare pole of about [illegible] feet in height, with no other assistance than his hands and feet. [Salem Observer.

THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.—The obelisk shaft of the monument, which rises from the centre of the temple, is fifty-five feet square at the base, and six hundred feet high from the ground, diminishing as it rises to its apex, where it is twenty-nine feet square. On each of its faces, near the base, are sculptured one of the four leading events in Washington's eventful career, with various emblematical devices; and above this the shaft is perfectly plain to within fifty feet of its summit, where a single star is placed to commemorate the shining glories of him who was "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." The corner stone of this obelisk was laid on the 4th of July, 1848, with inspiring ceremonies, in the presence of a numerous assemblage of citizens from all sections of the Union. An able and eloquent address was delivered by the Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, from which we extract the closing paragraphs:

"Let the column which we are about to construct, be at once a pledge and an emblem of perpetual union! Let the foundation be laid, let the superstructure be built up and cemented, let each stone be raised and riveted in a spirit of national brotherhood! And may the earliest ray of the rising sun, till that sun shall rise to set no more, draw forth from it daily, as from the fabled statue of antiquity, a strain of national harmony which shall strike a responsive chord in every heart throughout the Republic!

"Proceed then, fellow-citizens, with the work for which you are assembled! Lay the corner stone of a monument which shall adequately bespeak the gratitude of the whole American People to the illustrious Father of his Country! Build it to the skies: you cannot outreach the loftiness of his principles. Found it upon the massive and eternal rock: you cannot make it more enduring than his fame! Construct it of the peerless Parian marble: You cannot make it purer than his life! Exhaust upon it the rules and principles of ancient and modern art: You cannot make it more proportionate than his character!"

NAVAL.—The U. S. Frigate Congress, Commodore Mac Keevor, Captain McIntosh, and Raritan, Captain Grant, bound to the Pacific, were at Rio de Janeiro, on the 7th of November.

JENNY LIND CHARITIES.—We learn that M'lle. Lind gave $1200 to the Richmond Orphan Asylums, and that with still more munificent bounty, she will devote the entire proceeds of one of her concerts in this city to charitable objects in our midst. [Charleston News.

OFFICIAL.

Council of Municipality No. Two.

TUESDAY, December 31, 1850.

The Council met, pursuant to adjournment.

Present: The Hon. James H. Caldwell, President; Messrs. Hawthorn, Hooper, Johnson, Lawrason, Marks, Montanye, McCormick, Pride, Renshaw, Sewell, Shields, Sykes, Stewart and Yancey.

Mr. Joseph A. Beard, member elect from the Sixth Ward, appeared.

Mr. Shields made a motion, which was carried, that a committee of three be appointed to examine the qualifications of the member from the Sixth Ward.

The President appointed Messrs. Shields, Sewell and Johnson.

On motion, the Council took a recess.

The Council having re-assembled, the Committee presented the following reports:

The undersigned, majority of the Committee to examine the qualifications of J. A. Beard, member elect from the Sixth Ward, report that he possesses the qualifications required by law to hold a seat in the Council as Alderman.

T. A. JOHNSON,
JOHN SEWELL.

The undersigned presents the following minority report: Mr. J. A. Beard, member elect from the Sixth Ward, does not possess the qualifications required by law, as he had not resided in the Ward three months, as required by law, at the time of his election. T. H. SHIELDS.

Mr. Beard, with leave, addressed the Council.

Mr. Sewell made a motion that the majority report be adopted, which was lost by the following vote, Mr. Yancey, at his own request, being excused from voting:

YEAS—Messrs. Hooper, Johnson, McCormick, Sewell and Stewart—8.

NAYS—Messrs. Hawthorn, Lawrason, Marks, Montanye, Pride, Renshaw, Shields and Sykes—8.

Mr. Shields made a motion, which was carried unanimously, that the minority report be adopted.

So Mr. Beard was declared ineligible, not possessing the qualifications required by law.

The President called Mr. Lawrason to the Chair, and left the Council Chamber.

Mr. Sykes made a motion, which was carried, that when the Council adjourn, it adjourn to meet on Tuesday next, the 7th January, 1851, at 5 o'clock, P. M.

On motion, the Council adjourned.

JOHN CALHOUN, Secretary.

Died:

At his residence, in the Parish of West Feliciana, on the 24th inst., Capt. J. Stockwell, deceased was long and favorably known to the citizens of that Parish.

☞ **A Card.**—The undersigned, in behalf of her Orphan charge, gratefully acknowledges the receipt of seventy-six dollars from the proprietor of the Phœnix House, "96 St. Charles street, being the receipts of his house from 6 o'clock, New Year's Eve. May the considerate and truly generous donor reflect from the Father of the Destitute his compensation, not only in Time, but Eternity.

jal 2 SISTER IRENE, Directress.

☞ **Ladies' Fair at Armory Hall.**—This Fair will be continued on the Evenings of THURSDAY and FRIDAY next, commencing at 6 o'clock. The remaining articles will then be sold at auction, to the highest bidder, for cash or notes. The Lottories not yet filled up, will be closed by the young Ladies and Gentlemen having them in charge, and an opportunity will be afforded for securing the chances for "Margaret" which have not yet been disposed of. jal 2

NEW ORLEANS, January 2, 1851.

Warren Lodge.

☞ The members of this Lodge will please assemble at the Lodge Room of Warren Lodge, Masonic Hall, at half past 7 o'clock, P. M., THIS DAY, to convey the body of our deceased Brother, A. MOSELEY, to his last abode.....By order of the Worshipful.

jal 2 T. H. LEWIS, M.

Louisiana R. A. Chapter No. 3.

☞ The companions of this Chapter are requested to assemble at the Hall, for the purpose of conveying the body of our late R. P. JAMES McGUIRE, to his last resting place.....By order of the M. E. H.

New Orleans, January 2, 1851. Officer presiding.

Louisiana Council R. & S. M.

☞ You are hereby requested to attend the Funeral of our late T. J. M. You will