Amusements—This Evening.

ST. CHARLES THEATRE.—Black-Eyed Susan—Richard III—Paul Pry—Gwelbertha and Wives—Hercules, King of Clubs.

PLACIDE'S VARIETIES.—Where there 's a Will, there 's a Way—Divertisements—New Year's Holyday—Beauty and the Beast.

AMERICAN THEATRE.—Hortense—Acrobat Performances—Divertisement—Rob Roy.

DAN RICE'S CIRCUS.—Equestrian entertainments.

BRUNS' NATIONAL HALL.—Ball.

EMPIRE HALL.—Ball.

Auction Sales—This Day.

SYKES, HYDE & CO. will sell, at half-past 10 o'clock, at 61 Gravier street—Boots, Brogans and Shoes... At half-past 10, at 51 Magazine street—Groceries, Provisions, Liquors.

WM. P. SCOTT will sell at half-past 10 o'clock, at No. 87 Camp street—Furniture, etc.

J. L. TAYLOR & Co. will sell at 10 o'clock, at 31 Chartres street—Dry Goods, Hats and Boots and Shoes, etc.

S. of T....Meetings This Evening.

WASHINGTON FOUNTAIN, No. 1, at Crystal Fount Hall, 253 Tchoupitoulas street, at half-past 7 o'clock.

PEARL DIVISION, No. 8, at the new Temperance Hall, 85 St. Charles street, at half past 7 o'clock.

....*Yo-morrow Morning*....

LIBERAL DIVISION, No. 17, at the new Temperance Hall, 85 St. Charles streets, at 9 o'clock.

The Daily Crescent.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL
Of the Council of the Second Municipality.

NEW ORLEANS:
SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 4, 1851.

THE ORPHAN GIRL'S FAIR.—The Fair at the Armory Hall, for the benefit of the Female Orphan Asylum, closed last night, and we are happy to state that the sum realized, is even beyond the most sanguine anticipations of the friends of the Institution. Much praise is due to the ladies of New Orleans for the zeal they have manifested in behalf of the orphans, and to the many gentlemen who have contributed their time and money to the relief of the destitute, the orphan's prayer will avail much. The total receipts, as we were informed last evening, will not fall much short of $8000.

CHANGE OF TRADE.—The fine steamer Tuscumbia, commanded by the polite and gentlemanly Captain Cable, has left the St. Louis trade, and will hereafter run regularly to Yazoo River. We take pleasure in recommending this boat to all interested. She leaves positively this afternoon at 5 o'clock.

THE ST. CHARLES.—This is the last night of the Bateman. For the last time we assure the play-goers that these are the most remarkable instances of dramatic precocity on record. They will appear in *five* different characters—both in tragedy, comedy and farce. It is for their benefit, and we trust that now we have fair weather once more, these interesting children will receive some benefit from it. They do not speak by rote, but give proof that they appreciate the authors. What will be the effect of this early cultivation is a matter to be decided. But at the moment they are prodigies.

THE AMERICAN.—*Mr. and Mrs. Crisp's Benefit.*—To-night these highly respectable artists have a benefit. They have, during the season, sustained the leading business with much credit to themselves, and deserve some mark of esteem from the audience. The bill is an attractive one, and the Histrionics, though they do not appear on the stage, will give them valuable aid in the front.

BALLS.—To-night, at Empire Hall, Lafayette—Fancy and Masquerade. Bron's National Hall—Grand Ball. See advertisement.

PLACIDE'S.—Mr. Buchanan's benefit was the best house of the season in the city. The Varieties was crowded to its utmost capacity. A large number of ladies graced the occasion by their presence. It must have been highly gratifying to Mr. Buchanan. The play was very well carried out. We repeat a former remark that Mr. Buchanan will succeed much better in genteel comedy than in tragedy, at least, until his voice by cultivation, acquires more sense and strength. The character of *Sir Harcourt* is, after all, a poor affair, a superannuated coxcomb. Let him try something better. There were some defects in the minor manners of the part. Richelieu once detected an adventurer by his eating olives with his fork, instead of his fingers. We doubt very much whether any English exquisite ever adopted such a mode of drawing his cambric handkerchief as that made use of by Mr. Buchanan. The other parts were well sustained. Mrs. Howard, as *Lady Gay*, was all life and fun. Mrs. Conner was perfect in her part—she is improving daily. Placide as *Meddle* kept the house in a roar. Mr. Dawson must get rid of an indescribable posture which he constantly assumes to the marring of his acting. When that is cured he must give up a free and jaunting rollicking air, which well befits *Corinthian Tom*, but does not sit well in a parlor. Mr. Howard's *Dazzle* was not the best we ever saw, though respectable. Holland was as ridiculous in *Spanker* as even *Lady Gay* could desire.

THE GALLERY OF ILLUSTRIOUS AMERICANS.

We have, from time to time, spoken of this work, so highly creditable to American art. We are gratified to learn that an agent of the publishers is now in the city. A copy of the work is now to be seen at the Lyceum Library. We commend it to the attention of all who feel an interest in the progress of art among us. The portraits are lithographs, and are the finest specimens we have ever seen from the American pencil. The letter-print is large, clear, and distinct. It is a pleasure to the eye to dwell on its well defined lines. The paper is cotton, not linen—what it loses in beauty in this particular, the cotton-growers may well be content to give up. It is edited by Lester, a writer who has done much for American literature. The portraits of Taylor, Webster, Clay, Calhoun, are all familiar to the public. That of Fremont has the additional interest of novelty. It is a striking face, full of *life*, this is its characteristic—it is a face which betokens a spirit of adventure, such as might well belong to the "pathfinder of an empire." The Gallery is to include twenty-four heads, but we see no reason why it should not be continued. America can offer more than this number of men really illustrious.

THE PATENT LAWS.—Congress is attempting to amend the Patent Laws, and has submitted some wholesome provisions for the security of inventors and the public, and limiting the discretionary powers of the Patent Office. One of the provisions requires that uniform rules shall be prepared, open in the office to the inspection of all applicants, which shall be observed with impartiality in all cases. Another requires the Commissioner of Patents to keep a record of the date of receipt of every original paper, and not allow them to be removed from the office; and where an application for a patent is rejected, requiring the Commissioner to cause a record of his reasons for his decision. So also in extending or reissuing a patent; certified copies of these and all other records and correspondence are made evidence, in all cases, in the same manner as originals would be if duly proved. Another object sought is to protect the true inventor. By the *Scire Facias* one trial will determine the validity of the patent. Now no patent is deemed safe or valuable property until repeated trials and judgments have been obtained in its favor. This will diminish litigation for patents, and render them more secure and valuable property.

PANAMA RAILROAD.—The New York Journal of Commerce says the Panama Railroad Company seem to be preparing for a vigorous commencement of business at the opening of the dry season. We learn that two brigs, forming the advance of the fleet, on their way from the United States, loaded with timber, etc., have been discharging at Gatun, on the line of the contemplated road, where the first station has been located, and three houses erected for the accommodation of laborers. Just previous to the departure of the steamer Cherokee, Captain Chapman, who conducts the transportation of the company, hoisted the American flag on a tree, and called the place Buena Vista, (a fine view,) as appropriate to its situation. Mr. Totten, the chief engineer, had arrived from Carthagena, having made a very favorable contract for crossties of lignumvitæ. Vessels were arriving with pile-drivers and materials, and about three hundred men, forming the first detachment of laborers from the United States, had been landed. That portion of the force from New York was in fine health and good spirits. The rainy season was nearly over, and the prospects were regarded as propitious for exemption from sickness. Indeed, Dr. Gage, the surgeon-in-chief, says there were very few on the sick list, and but one death had occurred since his arrival, and that resulted from organic disease, and was not attributable to unhealthfulness of climate. Taking into consideration the throng of travellers continually crossing the Isthmus, and the exhaustion and exposure to which their own imprudence so frequently subjects them, the number who have died is very limited.

THE HUNGARIANS IN TURKEY.—The correspondent of a Vienna paper writes from Constantinople the warmest praises of the conduct of Bem and other Hungarian refugees, during the frightful excesses of which the town of Aleppo had been the scene:

"Murad Pasha (the venerable Bem) exhibited his well known fearlessness and cool contempt of danger in a manner which excited universal astonishment, and must ensure them the eternal gratitude of those whose lives he saved. The report of the French Consul mentions likewise the active assistance of General Aupich. In the same manner as Bem before the French Consulate, did Kmetty before the English, and Stein before the Austrian, place themselves, and effectually defend them with the aid of some Turkish regular troops."

Major Beard's Rejection.

The decision of the Council on the legal qualifications of the Alderman elect from the Sixth Ward, has called forth a constitutional argument from the Delta. We are unwilling to have the Major subjected to the pains and glories of martyrdom unnecessarily, and shall endeavor to show that he is not in danger of any such canonization.

Before attempting to remove him from the imminent peril in which the Delta would place him, it is necessary to state the facts.

He moved into the Sixth Ward after *November* 1st. The election took place on December 23d. The qualifications of an Alderman are defined in the act of February 17, 1805:

"No person shall be eligible as an Alderman who at the time of his election does not possess the qualifications of an elector."

What are the qualifications of an elector? The act of 1847, providing for elections in the Parishes of Orleans and Jefferson reads:

"That each voter shall vote in the precinct in which he resides at the time of the election, and he shall be deemed to reside where he has lodged or slept for the last three months." (Act of January 29, 1847.

But, says the Delta, the Constitution enumerates the qualifications of voters, and the Legislature cannot restrict the right. It then quotes one Article—being Article 10, Title II—The Legislative Department:

"In all elections by the people, every white male, who has been two years a resident of the United States, who has attained the age of twenty-one years, and resided in the State two consecutive years preceding the election, and the last year thereof in the parish in which he offers to vote, shall have the right of voting."

But it neglects to give another Article, equally important. Article 13 is as follows:

"No person shall be entitled to vote at any election held in this State, except in the Parish of his residence, and in cities and towns divided into election precincts, in the election precinct in which he resides."

The Constitution divides the city into Representive Districts, and requires the elector to reside in the district in which he votes.

A strict construction of these two Articles would require a year's residence in the election precinct. The party must reside a year in the Parish, or precinct, where there are precincts, before he can vote. This is the fair and only conclusion. But the Legislature has reduced the residence to three months in the precinct. If the case rested on the Constitution, the Major would be a victim sure enough, not to his incorruptible honesty and sturdy independence, but to that stern tyrant, the Constitution.

The case, however, turns on the sections of the City Charter, and its amendments. For the Constitution only provides for the qualifications of the electors for certain offices. There is no clause that these shall be the qualifications. The statute of January 25, 1847, is in regard to these same offices, and does not refer at all to Municipal offices. The act of 1836, dividing the city into Municipalities, declares "that the qualifications of Recorders and Aldermen, and of the voters for the same, shall be in all respects as prescribed by the laws now in force in the city of New Orleans."

A reference to the act of 1818, shows "that no one shall vote at an election of the Mayor, Recorders and Aldermen, of the city of New Orleans, who, at the time of such election, has not resided in the city one year next preceding said election, and the *last six months* thereof, in the ward in which he offers to vote." However, take either view: make his residence six months or three, Major Beard cannot comply with the law. But, says the Delta, he is an elector in the Fourth Ward, therefore he is eligible in the Sixth Ward, for he resides in the *Parish*. But the Delta did not write with the authority on the table. Its ignorance of the whole subject deprives its candor of all merit. "We have not the act of the Legislature by us, but we are quite familiar with a clause of it, etc." A dashing article is doubtless better written without those shackles to the fancy, which a knowledge of the subject sometimes imposes. And a bad cause, perhaps, can be best maintained by a reckless, because ignorant course of reasoning, founded on mistaken premises.

Let us follow the editor's reasoning to its conclusion: Major Beard has resided, for the last year, in the Parish—but *not* in the precinct—and is an elector. Admit this, and it follows that an elector who has resided in Algiers, or the Third Municipality, is eligible as Alderman in the Sixth Ward of the Second Municipality. Such is the inevitable consequence of that construction. On the other hand, we think that the clause in Art. 13, of Sec. 2d, is construed in connection with Art. 10, and that in the country the year's residence applies to the Parish—in the towns and cities to the precincts; and that an elector is he who has residence for a year in the precinct.

But there is still another act which perhaps repeals all of the acts on this subject in regard to New Orleans—the act of March 9, 1846:

"That in all elections by the people for offices under political charters granted, or to be granted by the General Assembly of Louisiana, the qualifications of voters shall be the same as those prescribed at the time being, by the Constitution of Louisiana, for the electors of Representatives in the General Assembly."

These qualifications in the Constitution are a residence of two years in the State, and one in the Parish, or in the precinct. The statute of the State, which undertakes to fix three months' residence in a precinct, and to allow electors to vote in the precinct where they do not at the moment reside, is a violation of the letter and spirit of the Constitution. A law might as well *lengthen* as *shorten* the period of residence. The Constitution speaks of an actual, present residence; the law of 47 permits a *past* residence to supply the place of the *present*. A citizen is an elector only in the precinct in which he has resided for twelve months. Major Beard has not resided twelve months in the precinct, and therefore has no right to vote in the Sixth Ward, and cannot therefore serve as its Alderman. Is he an elector in the Fourth Ward? He no longer resides there. Where, then, is his twelve months' residence? A man who moves from one Parish into another, is compelled to wait a year before he can vote. It is the Constitution, and we see no good reason why it should not govern in the city as well as in the country.

The Delta, however, contends that a man is eligible to serve in the office of Alderman while he has not the qualifications of a voter. The absurdity of this conclusion, must convince the most obstinate reasoner that his logic is defective. Suppose Major Beard had moved here on the 1st of November, from Shreveport, where he had resided for ten years. Would the fact that he was an elector in the Parish of Caddo, make him eligible, on the 23d of December, as Alderman in the Sixth Ward?

Try him not by his opinions on the school question; but by the requisitions of the law. Is he an elector in the Ward which he wishes to represent? If he is, he received a majority of the votes, and is entitled to his seat. If he is not, no pompous declarations of his independence, will supply the unfortunate defect.

PORTRAIT OF GEN. TAYLOR.—Yesterday we spoke of the Gallery of Illustrious Americans now to be seen at the Lyceum Library, but omitted to speak of the full length portrait of the Hero of Buena Vista, from the easel of Thorpe, so well known as "Tom Owen, the Bee Hunter." This is decidedly the finest picture ever painted by him.

Gen Taylor is represented on the battle-field of Buena Vista; his tent forms a portion of the back ground; at its entrance is seen a couple of trunks, used for the moment as a table, on which lie his sword, cap, and military maps. On the right is a distant view of mountains—a plain covered with tents. In the middle ground of the picture a magnificent aloe gives the Mexican character to the landscape. The figure of Gen. Taylor is quiet in its attitude, but there is great force and expression in the position of the head. The dress is carefully painted from that used at Buena Vista. The likeness is faithful and the picture highly finished. We understand that Gen. Taylor's most intimate acquaintances at Baton Rouge are unqualified in their approbation of the merits of the picture. This is the only full length picture, from life, of General Taylor that has ever been painted, and will, no doubt, like Stuart's Washington, be one of the most popular pictures ever painted of any one of our public men. The eyes are particularly striking, they seem to have speculation in them.

The picture should be purchased for the Council Room, to hang by the side of Clay, Smith, Jackson and Harrison. Portrait painting is elevated to a high rank in art when it is used as a means of preserving the features of the men who have been eminent in their age. Such a portrait as this becomes a part of the history of the country, it is a glowing record, which transmits to posterity the features, the form, the dress, the peculiarities of the man, as he was. It becomes the highest branch of historical painting. Americans may well be proud, not only of the deeds, but of the *physique* of her heroes and statesmen. The city of New Orleans should possess this, the best picture of Zachary Taylor, of Louisiana.

STREET INSTRUCTION.—For some nights past views of the Heavens have been given, by means of a large telescope, on St. Charles street, near the Commercial Exchange. We had the gratification last evening of an excellent view of the planet Saturn, with its rings and satellites. Views of other planets, of the Milky-way, of the Moon, etc., are also given. The telescope has great power and accuracy. These views of the Heavens are not only interesting, but instructive. A dime may be spent much less profitably. At the same place and time may be had microscopic views of various minute objects. In a drop of Mississippi water, for instance, under the effect of a powerfully magnifying glass, may be seen much to excite wonder and to suggest thought.

TITLED DANCING MASTERS.—The boors of this republic ought to feel themselves honored by receiving lessons in the five steps, as well as four kings, from the nobility of Europe. Several corn doctors have patents of nobility, and we yet hope to have our republican pug pulled by a noble barber, and we shall yet quote Ben Jonson:

"I'll say unto my cook, 'There's gold,
Go forth, and be a knight!'"

We notice that our old friend Capt. Gabriel de Korponay, of Philadelphia, has been appointed Aid to the Governor of Pennsylvania, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He is undoubtedly an Austrian nobleman—we will swear he is a gentleman, judged by the standard of Col. Damas: "Sir, you fence exceedingly well; you must be a man of honor. I don't care a jot whether you are a prince; but a man who has carte and tierce at his finger ends must be a gentleman." Korponay is not only an accomplished teacher of dancing, but a gallant soldier.

The monument to Stephen Decatur is finished. It is in St. Peter's church-yard, Philadelphia. The monument, with its surmounting eagle, stands 24 feet 7 inches high. The base is 6 feet square, by 2 feet 6 inches high. The block on which the inscriptions are carved is 4 feet by 4. The fluted shaft is 12 feet three inches high, the base being 3 feet, and the top 2 feet 6 inches. The eagle is 2 feet 4 inches with wings extended. The material is granite, with the exception of the eagle and block, and was prepared under the direction of Mr. S. K. Hoxie. The eagle was sculptured by Mr. Hargrave. The workmanship throughout is most creditable. The inscription is very long and pompous. Landor says that "the monument of the greatest man should be only a bust and a name. If the name alone is insufficient to illustrate the bust, let them both perish."

We regret to hear that apprehensions are entertained that our esteemed fellow citizen, Jas. McGrain, Esq. was on the Anglo-Norman at the time she exploded at New Orleans, and is among the lost. He went to New Orleans on business, and nothing has been heard of him since the 10th inst. We sincerely hope the fears may prove to be unfounded. [Louisville Courier, 28th.

THE STEAMER GEORGETOWN.—The Louisville Courier, of the 28th, notices another magnificent new boat for the New Orleans and Louisville trade. The Georgetown, says the Courier, is of the largest size, having as much room and as ample accommodations as any packet in the trade. The model of the Georgetown is the most perfect and beautiful, and at the same time as substantial as that of any boat in the west. She is intended exclusively as a New Orleans packet, and she can accommodate one hundred passengers in the cabin with staterooms. The hull of the Georgetown was built by the late James Murray, who had no superior, and this was his last and best effort. The extreme length is 265 feet; breath of beam 33 feet; depth of hold 6 1-2 feet. She has four boilers forty inches in diamter, and twenty-three feet in length, and two engines, with cylinders twenty-four inches in diameter, and three feet stroke. Her water wheel is thirty-two feet in diameter, and her draught light—only three feet. Her cabins, general outfit, and other appliances, are in excellent style, and equal to any of the packets in the trade. The Georgetown will be commanded by Captain McPherson. She was to have left Louisville for this port on Sunday the 29th.

THE RIVERS.—The new Bayou Sara packet Brilliant, which arrived last night from Louisville, brings information that the Ohio on the 28th, was falling at Louisville; but that from Cairo down the Mississippi is steadily rising.

Texas.

By the arrival of the steamship Palmetto, Capt. Smith, we are placed in possession of files of Texas papers. We present the following as the result of our gleanings:

FROM THE RIO GRANDE.—From the Western Texan we learn that Lieuts. Smith and Mechler, with a party of men under their command, have returned to that place, after an absence of nearly five months, during which time they were employed in examining the Rio Grande from Camargo to a point about one hundred miles above the mouth of the Pecos. From Camargo to a short distance above Laredo, the river can be made navigable for several months during the year for light draught boats. From that point to the termination of the party's explorations, the average depth of the river did not exceed eight inches, the stream in many places being filled with large boulders, and ledges of rock stretching across the entire bed of the river, each obstruction creating its water fall to stop the march of civilization. The privations and labors of the party were great, the men being engaged for days in succession in dragging their boats along the shallows, and at other times in carrying them around the various falls that interrupted their course in the bed of the stream. The distance by the river from Laredo to the point where their labors terminated, is about 450 miles. The result of this examination of the upper Rio Grande, agrees with the previous explorations of that portion of the river. It may be set down as a fixed fact, that forty miles above Laredo is, and will be in all coming time, the head of steamboat navigation. Above that point, there is nothing in the river to give a glimmering of hope for a different result.

The Houston Telegraph says:

"The effects of the late frost have been far more disastrous to the sugar crop than we expected. The cane on several of the plantations on the Brazos, San Bernard and Caney, was frozen even in windrows, so that scarcely one-third of it was fit to grind for sugar. It is estimated that full one-third of the crop of sugar has been destroyed. All the cane that was standing is entirely destroyed, and that that was in mattrasses has fared little better. It is said that there will be quite a scarcity of cane for planting. The weather was so cold that the San Bernard was frozen entirely over.

The steamer Colorado Ranger, built expressly for the Colorado river, has arrived at Matagorda, and at last accounts, her commander, with a number of hands, were making arrangements to get the steamer over the raft. The citizens on the Colorado may expect to see the Ranger ploughing its waters on the first rise.

The late rains (says the Galveston Civilian) have restored the navigation of the rivers Brazos and Trinity completely. The Brazos boats are now running to Washington, and the Jack Hays will to-day leave for the Trinity deeply freighted with valuable merchandise. Other boats will soon follow; and no further interruption of navigation is expected the present season.

Pilgrim Festival in New York.

NEW YORK, Monday, 11 P. M.—Nothing could exceed in magnificence the display at the Astor House, this evening, and the New England Society have outdone all their former efforts in celebrating the great New England Festival, commemorative of the landing of the Pilgrims. The lateness of the hour will be my excuse for the brevity of this dispatch:

About 500 gentlemen were present on the occasion, and the list of invited guests comprised Daniel Webster, Sir H. L. Bulwer, G. P. R. James, Esq., and many others of note.

Hon. Moses H. Grinnell presided, and made a very excellent opening address.

After the first and second regular toasts had been given, and duly responded to, the President announced the following:

"The Constitution and the Union, and their great defender."

The enthusiasm of the company broke out at this sentiment, and in a way that could not be controlled for several minutes, and when Mr. Webster rose to respond, the plaudits and cheers were redoubled.

Mr. Webster began by referring to the inconvenience which it had cost him to be present. But, the joy he felt was worthy of the sacrifice. This was a boisterous and inclement day, said he; the winds lash, and the sky looks severe, but it is scarce so inclement a day as was endured by those whose memories we have met to perpetuate, and whose virtues we desire to honor. If we were now upon the bleak coast of Plymouth, with nothing over our heads to shut out the pelting storm, we should be enduring suffering such as was endured by our forefathers. But we this day enjoy blessings which our ancestors never enjoyed, and we ought to thank Almighty God for them. The scenes of this world change, and what our ancestors saw and felt, we shall never see nor feel. They were called upon to exercise those austere virtues which, from a change of habits in life, we are not called upon to emulate. But we can follow their example in maintaining a good and sound and moral government. It is our mission to see that all who live with us enjoy a freedom of conscience, and that they be permitted to worship God in such manner as they please.

And this is a high and important mission. All should have leave to commune with the Supreme Being, as best pleases their consciences—the Catholic as well as the Protestant. You all know, said Mr. Webster, that the present head of our judiciary is a Catholic;—and does any one think the less of him for that? Who doubts that his conduct is actuated by as sure a sense of right, as high a regard for truth and justice, as that of any who have ever preceded him? So it is in other departments of the Government, as well as in the House of Representatives. We have Catholics who are as trustworthy and honorable as any men in the nation. In religion Mr. Webster held that man had none to appeal to but his God.

But when men unite to form a Government, it is the voice of the people, and not the voice of an individual, that should prevail. If madness in individuals can successfully undertake to disobey the laws of the land, where is the security to society? Where is Government? Where is law? Mr. Webster here read the Pilgrim Constitution, adopted on the deck of the Mayflower 230 years ago, to show that our ancestors were a law-abiding community.

After drawing a picture of the great naval achievements of Nelson, Lawrence, and others, Mr. Webster said, that notwithstanding the heroism of these men, the memory of those who commanded and sailed in the Mayflower would be fresh when they were unknown. The memory of the little Mayflower herself will stand the changes of the season, and bring fragrance to the last syllable of coming time.

Mr. Webster, after speaking at much length of those old heroes who formed the character of New England, and made her what she is—then likened New England to a ship in a gale: She may at times encounter and experience gales and storms, but you put her head to the wind, and show her the proper course, and see if she will not mind her helm.

The conclusion of Mr. Webster's speech was beautiful. He said it was not by localisms we had gained the respect of the civilized world, but it was in our capacity of united Americans. There is no danger of the Union so long as we are sober Americans. Let the sober American people remain sober. And as to those who desire to dissever the Union, the only wise course to persue is to leave the disseverers to themselves—when, instead of murder, they will commit suicide. You stand, one and all,—Boston men and Manhattan men—Rhode Island men and Pennsylvania men—shoulder to shoulder, and the Union will be safe, and the glory will be ours.

Mr. Webster concluded amidst tremendous cheers.

Shortly after ten o'clock, Sir H. L. Bulwer rose in acknowledgement of a complimentary toast, but I have not time to forward an account of his speech to-night.

Sir Henry Bulwer, who was present at the New England Festival in the city of New York, on the night of the 23d, responded eloquently to the sentiment—"Old England and Young America." Said he:

"I am but a slender representative of John Bull, but I can assure you, that the same one, and I can assure you that there is not a national sentiment in my mind that does not sympathize with your feelings at this solemn anniversary; it is not merely that the mere influence of the small island of my birth will probably be carried by the event which we are now commemorating, by the ways of liberty and along the paths of peace, further than the name of Rome was ever borne by her crimson eagles, amidst the horrors of war, and the devastations of conquest! It is also because this event is impenetrably connected with that memorable epoch, from the great thoughts and deeds of which has flowed a stream of liberty which yet burns in the breasts of his countrymen, and justifies the pride which I feel in having their renown diffused throughout the world. I mean the spirit of Liberty which then created, has been refined and purified by subsequent time and care, from the grosser and more turbulent elements which it may have been at the mixed with it. It was in the gloomy dawn of that eventful struggle which had shortly afterwards to decide whether the House of Stuart should be absolute, and the people of England should be free; it was in the reign of James—a little after Villiers had risen into favor, Coke had been disgraced and Raleigh beheaded—and a little before that at which the Puritans met, in which John Hampden, the young Squire of Buckinghamshire, first took his seat amidst that band of patriots, whose councils he was soon to direct by his wisdom, and animate by his courage: that there might have been seen a solitary bark taking its adventurous way across the broad waters of the Atlantic; that bark was freighted with nineteen families, who asked no other recompense for their past sufferings and present daring, but a home—a home—somewhere—any where, in which they could live and die without violating the dictates of their consciences.

"After some peril and many disappointments, the sacred vessel at last neared a shallow bay, the expanded arms of which seemed to welcome its approach and invite its entry. The anchor was dropped, the home which the wanderers had been seeking lay before them. But as my honorable friend, (Mr. Webster) stood, gold blew the wind, barren was the shore, and not far distant might be seen through the bare branches of surrounding woods the dark figure of the Indian, in whose sole neighborhood the hunted race hoped to be able to sleep in peace, or the husbandman to labor in security. There are few instances in history of men staying their landscape as he is unpromising a spot. But I guess, gentlemen, that your ancestors were decidedly pleased enough."

Alluding to the formation of the Government of the United States he said:

"If wit, ingenuity, philosophy, and the spirit of a noble chivalry, sufficed to establish such a government firmly, we should be relieved from the fears with which we sometimes watch the tremulous position of civil authority in that country which we all admire and love, and with which the peace and civilization of Europe are so inseparably connected. If antiphysical love, honest and great designs, the rapid diffusion of education, and the profound study of military tactics, could fit a people at once for such a government, we should not be perplexed by the varying accounts which each packet brings us from the ancient Germany, in whose face, as Anglo Saxons, we cannot but feel the deepest interest. But, gentlemen, I grieve, whilst I rejoice to say that it is amidst the general confusion of crude experiments, terrible uncertainties, mystic dreams and opening convulsions, that alone and single it is he seen towering, the common genius of Albion, and of Albion's transatlantic children. No tempest, raised in the heated atmosphere of fantastic theory, clouds her brow—no blood, cold in civil butchery, pollutes her garments—no potent, corroding the sympathy of political and domestic morality, tear her vitals. Serene and unclouded she moves onward in her majestic way and religion march in her van; order and freedom follow her footsteps.

"But, at this solemn moment, whilst pouring out our libations to the sacred memory of our standard bearers; here, I invoke blessings on the heads of our kindred, and I pray that we may keep steadfast in our hearts the pleasant recollections of the past, to blend gratefully in our minds the noble aspirations of the future, to unite in one bright, the twin ties which we will raise in common to Memory and Hope: 'Old England and Young America.'"

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT SMITHLAND, KY.—The Louisville Courier learns from the officers of the steamer Pike No. 9, that a destructive fire broke out at Smithland, on Christmas day, which was still raging when the boat passed. Seven houses were consumed, incurring a loss of at least twenty-five thousand dollars to the occupants, who were C. H. Hodges, W. H. Delavan, dry goods merchants; R. Clapton grocer; Doctor C. H. Bailey, druggist; and three tailoring establishments. The loss of Mr. Hodges, dry goods merchant, was estimated at four thousand dollars, on which there was no insurance.

FROM AUSTRALIA.—The growing importance of this young colony may be judged of by the following items:

"It appears that in the year ending June, 1850, 24 vessels sailed for Great Britain from South Australia, their total tonnage amounting to 10,267, and their total cargoes consisted of 13,952 bales of wool, 19,867 bags of wheat, 910 bags and 10 barrels flour, 5960 tons of copper ore, 277 tons five cwt. two qrs. 11 pounds of smelted copper, 70 tons of lead ore, 613 casks of tallow, and a quantity of miscellaneous goods."

Its mining wealth is exhibited in prospect by the following extract:

"The Mining Journal directs attention to the fact that there are in Australia about thirty known deposits of copper and silver lead ores acquired by the colonists, which, owing to a deficiency of capital, cannot be worked, and which, of course, lie dormant for the absolute want of means to reach treasures they assuredly contain."

DESTRUCTIVE GALE.—The Eastern papers come to us with accounts of a destructive gale which occurred on the 23d. The New York Herald of the 25th says:

"The storm which swept over this city on Monday, has been of almost unparalleled extent; and though it was only wind here, producing results not very disastrous, yet in other parts of the continent it was remarkably severe. There was little or no snow here; but in some places the snow storm was of unexampled severity. From the accounts received by telegraph, it appears the gale extended as far as Washington, South; Montreal, North; Halifax, East; and Buffalo, West—thus traversing over a space of one million square miles. It is a remarkable fact that notwithstanding the severity of the storm we received on the same night, intelligence of its career from those points so distant from NewYork and each other. How far it has extended beyond the area we have mentioned, we cannot, as yet, determine, but no doubt it will be found that it has spread itself over far wider limits than these.

"The change in the temperature was very remarkable. The thermometer on Monday morning was at 51 degrees. Yesterday morning the mercury stood at 17. That, however, is not so low as it was on the morning of the 26th December last year, when there was a similar storm, and the same low tides, and the same stoppage of the ferry boats. The thermometer on that occasion was at nine. The severity of the weather, however, is more felt now than last year, from its coming on so suddenly after an unusually fine autumn."

We have not room to give particulars of destruction by the gale.

FROM YUCATAN.—The Honduras Watchman of the 7th Dec. says:

The State of Yucatan, from what we can learn is, if any thing, in a worse position than ever, as the Spaniards have, it appears, already commenced wrangling among themselves. During the short armistice which has taken place with the Indians, the people of Merida (no doubt supposing that hostilities were at an end) again wished to assert their independence of Mexico—those of Campeachy on the other hand are opposed to such a measure; the consequence is they have come to loggerheads, and an outbreak being expected, some of the garrisons stationed in the interior have been withdrawn. It is also stated in our information, that until this point is finally settled, Mexico has determined to maintain a strict neutrality, and positively refuses to make further advances; the Indians, taking advantage of this rupture, pounced upon them on or about the 10th ult., in the town of Tecash, took them by surprise, and burnt nearly all the houses, killing some three hundred, besides wounding several, and the taking of two hundred and seventy stand of arms. The Indians had only six killed outright and eight wounded.

The same paper of the 14th, says:

From Yucatan we hear the most distressing accounts. The news of the defeat of the Spaniards at Tecash has been confirmed, and it is expected that ere long, Becalar will fall into the hands of the Indians. Colonel Zetina, it appears, has fallen out with the authorities, and is at open war with the Spaniards. Under such circumstances, the Indians must and will assume the ascendancy. All that they require is a leader to guide them on, for force they have sufficient, being almost ten to one.

FROM HONDURAS.—We were not put in possession of some interesting intelligence from Honduras in time for yesterday morning's issue. It is not too late to be used now.

In Guatemala, the war against the mountaineers was still raging. On November 14th, a skirmish took place in the mountains of Changuis between the Government troops, under the command of Gen. Cerna, and the rebels. After four hours hard fighting, the insurgents were dislodged from the advantageous position which they occupied, leaving forty-nine dead, four prisoners, and a large amount of munitions of war. The Government troops lost five soldiers, and four officers slightly wounded. It is said that the people of San Salvador instigate the mountaineers.

The President of Guatemala has directed a letter to the Chargés of Great Britain and France, and the Consul General of the Hanseatic towns, Prussia and Hanover, informing them that hostilities had been commenced against the State by the combined forces of Honduras and San Salvador, under the pretext that Guatemala had incited Great Britain to the existing blockade of the two hostile Republics.

Mr. Chatfield, in his reply, says:

"As I had before, in conformity with the official documents of Honduras and San Salvador, news of the hostile intentions of both Governments against the territory of this Republic, which cannot do less than expose the commercial interests of Great Britain in all the country, I have to inform you, that in anticipation I had taken the necessary steps to announce to the respective Governments of San Salvador and Honduras, that Great Britain will not look on with indifference to a proceeding of this nature, at the same time making them aware that they would be held responsible for any damage or injuries which may result to British commerce and interests for an unjust and unprovoked invasion of the Guatemalan territory by the united forces of the States referred to."

Arrivals at Principal Hotels ... Jan. 3.

ST. CHARLES.—S B Shipp, A S Ross, NY; J Waddill, S N Waddell, La; W L Crighton, Ky; S Thompson, Ill; A Adams, J A McLean, G G McLean, G T Ward, S Shepherd, La; H R Jones, NO; J Ward, Miss; R Vancelin, NY; P S Rotten, Ala; J A Miller, N C; H Epes, G Moss, Eng; G S Gerrish NY; J W Moss, Miss; C M Wilson, H W Jones, R Young, NY; D Harlesman, W H Lanning and lady, N C; Clemons, G Morgan, Texas; W C Wickham, E M Green, J L Mallord, NY; C C Wickham, H Young, J Kennedy, Texas; W H Wright, Ky; W Armstrong, NO; Mr Logan, Ohio; S McCutchen and lady, Coast.

VERANDA.—O Vergen, Miss; J W Wilkerson, Va; S H Gillman, La; H Hickman, Ky; J Dunn, Miss; W Davis, Miss; W Carroll, Texas; C Cross, NY; C Wright, Ga; W L Dubuisson, Wm Fagan, Miss; A H Rodman, Texas; J T Barron, La; S L Jones, Louisville; D Hodges, Miss; W Pickens and lady, La; Miss Smith, G M Watson and lady, W A Leary, Ala; C J Sedtio, Mr Wynne, Miss; T H Doherty, R W Doherty, La; J Jones; W Cutter.

HEWLETT'S.—M Rand, Md; W Hopson, Md; M Kennedy, J Tripp, Pa; Capt Ross, Ky; P S Commins, Mass; S A Wheelwright, New Orleans.

BANKS' ARCADE.—W H Graves, NC; L J Kirk, A S Moore, Miss; R A Pelham, Mo; J Heely, Texas; R R Robinson, NO.

Died:

On the 31 inst., Mrs M. M. ADLAR GLAVARRY, aged 53.

On the 2d inst., ELIZABETH, late consort of Wm. Devine, and daughter of the late Barron White, Esq. of this city.

Jacques de Molay Encampment.

The Sir Knights of "Jacques de Molay Encampment" are hereby notified that their Hall, No. 16 Chartres street, on SATURDAY EVENING, the 4th inst., at 8 o'clock, All Knights of Knights are invited. By order of the Grand Commander. jst R. PATTISON, Recorder.

Pearl Division No. 8, S. of T.

The regular weekly meeting of this Division will be held on SATURDAY EVENING, the inst., at half-past 7 o'clock, for the purpose of initiating new members. Brothers and sisters are requested to be present. EDWARD DENNISTON, W. P. EDWARD HALLERAN, W. S. jst

Jackson Fire Co. No. 18.

The officers and members of this Company are hereby notified to attend the annual meeting at the Engine house on SUNDAY next, the 5th inst., at 3 o'clock, A. M.—Punctual attendance is requested. By order of T. D. LEAHY, Secretary. jst

Washington Fire Co. No. 20.

The annual regular monthly meeting on MONDAY EVENING next, at 7 o'clock.....Members of the Firemen's Charitable Association will be expected to come prepared to pay their annual dues. jst LEONY, Secretary.

Protection Hose Fire Company.

Annual regular monthly meeting on MONDAY EVENING, 6th inst., at 7 o'clock.....Firemen's Benevolence is requested. JOS. F. RUSHA, Secretary. jst

"We come with songs to greet you."

AT THE
COMMERCIAL EXCHANGE HALL.

MONDAY EVENING, January 6, and EVERY EVENING during the week.—Mr's original and well known Troupe of Ethiopian MINSTRELS will perform as above, with E. P. CLUTTER, the Champion Dancer, and the world renowned Co. WILKE, the Sensational Negro Artist.

"Rich, at the solemn moment, whilst pouring out our libations to the sacred memory of our standard bearers; here, I invoke blessings on the heads of our kindred, and I pray that we may keep steadfast in our hearts the pleasant recollections of the past, to blend gratefully in our minds the noble aspirations of the future, to unite in one bright, the twin ties which we will raise in common to Memory and Hope: 'Old England and Young America.'"

Doors open at quar