Amusements—This Evening.

CHARLES THEATRE.—The Nervous Man—The Spy Man—Calypso.

PALMO'S VARIETIES.—North and South—Scenes from the Life of an Unprotected Female.

AMERICAN THEATRE.—Lafitte—Dances—Song—Acrobat Performances—The Enchanted Trumpet.

HYBERNIC HALL.—Macbeth—A Day After the Fair.

DAN RICE'S CIRCUS.—Equestrian entertainments.

COMMERCIAL EXCHANGE HALL.—Empire Minstrels.

ARCHERY HALL.—Concert.

BROWN' NATIONAL HALL.—Ball.

EMPIRE HALL.—Ball.

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

PELICAN DIVISION, No. 1, at the new Temperance Hall, 95 Bienville street, at half-past 7 o'clock.

LAFAYETTE DIVISION No. 2, V. S. S. in their new hall, 95 Josephine street, between Fulton and Rousseau, Lafayette, at half-past 7 o'clock.

JEFFERSON DIVISION, No. 16, at 8, at Gretna.

The Daily Crescent.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL
Of the Council of the Second Municipality.

NEW ORLEANS:
WEDNESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 8, 1851.

Our subscribers residing between Poydras and Julia streets, we trust, will excuse a late paper for a day or two, if it should happen so, until the new carrier we have employed becomes acquainted with their residences. He will collect the weekly and monthly accounts for all papers left since the 4th instant.

The sad intelligence communicated in the following telegraphic dispatch, will be read with poignant sorrow by a large number of citizens:

VICKSBURG, January 7, 1851.

Capt. Cobb, formerly of the Mohawk, committed suicide this morning, by blowing his brains out. The death of his wife, and pecuniary embarrassments, were undoubtedly the instruments to the deed.

We are indebted to the steamers Bostonia and Empire for late river papers.

LARGE BUSINESS IN COTTON.—The Niagara's news of 1-8 to 1-4 penny advance in cotton at Liverpool occasioned quite an active movement in our market yesterday. *Over ten thousand bales* changed hands, and prices closed at an improvement of 1-4 of a cent.

THE HISTRIONICS—*Unusual Attraction.*—We are gratified to see that those prodigies, the Bateman Children, are engaged to play at the Histrionic Hall, in connection with the speakers of that talented corps of amateur artists. This evening will be produced Shakspeare's great play of "Macbeth"—*Macbeth* to be represented by Miss Kate Bateman and *Lady Macbeth* by Ellen. This will be followed by the afterpiece "A Day after the Fair," in which Ellen Bateman will appear *in six different characters!* We need not say more to insure a full attendance.

MOORE CIRCUS—*Washington Square, Third Municipality.*—This establishment was densely thronged last evening, to witness the incomparable performances of the talented company. The horsemanship of Mrs. Nunn, and Messrs. Smith and Bell is finished and classic. The achievements of Mons. La Thorne, with the weights and solid cannon balls, are truly astonishing. The whole troupe are excellent in their several parts. We are glad to perceive that the Manager Mr. La Thorne, is reaping the reward of his enterprise. We perceive by the bills that there will be a performance to-day, Wednesday, Jan. 8, at 12 o'clock, for the accommodation of the ladies and children.

PLACIDE'S.—The Panoramic farce of the "North and the South" will have a fine run. But just now Harry Placide has come to town, and both the North and the South must yield to him.

THE ST. CHARLES.—Collins is drawing fine houses. The Governor and his suite will be present to night in full military dress.

THE AMERICAN.—To-night will be performed Lafitte, a drama founded on the siege of New Orleans. General Lewis and Tracy with their staffs, and the Veterans, are expected to be present.

DR. GILBERT'S ASTONISHING CURES.—We refer with pleasure to the statement by Mr. Carson, of the parish of St. Mary, in our advertising columns, of another wonderful cure of cancer, by Dr. Gilbert, of this city; we know nothing of the means by which he attains this result—means of which the medical profession generally seem to be wholly in ignorance—but facts are facts, and speak for themselves. Within a few days, we have ourselves witnessed an operation by Dr. Gilbert, in extracting a cancer which had eaten away almost the entire nose of a female, which was of a character so extraordinary that we could not have believed it possible had not our eyes witnessed it. As a consequence of Dr. Gilbert's wonderful success in the cases, not only of cancers, but of other diseases generally, his office is every day crowded with applicants for his services. This is as it should be.

STARCH POLISH AND BLUING FOR LINENS, CAMBRICS, ETC.—We invite attention to the advertisement, in another column, of Beaumont's Patent Starch Polish and Marie French Liquid Bluing. These two articles go together, and all who have tried them, so far as we know and believe, are much pleased, and pronounce them important discoveries. We have the statements of a number of ladies who have fully tested these articles, and all agree that they are almost indispensable to every laundress. The price, we perceive, is a mere trifle; and as many ladies who have caused them to be used in doing up their linens and cambrics have expressed much wonder how the laundresses had done without them heretofore, we hope every family in our city will give them a trial.

AMATEUR CONCERT.—This evening, at the Armory Hall, will be given a grand vocal and instrumental Amateur Concert for the benefit of the Camp Street Female Orphan Asylum. For this concert *twenty-four* ladies and *twenty-six* gentlemen have been in active rehearsal for two months past under the leadership of Mr. G. Carlo. The programme embraces overtures, airs, etc., from the operas of Rossini, Donizetti, Verdi, Meyerbeer, and other distinguished musical composers. It is scarcely necessary to say that the Armory Hall will be crowded on an occasion so interesting in itself and so benevolent in its purposes. The concert will commence at 8 o'clock precisely.

ANOTHER SWINDLER.—A telegraphic dispatch from Cincinnati to a Louisville paper, dated December 30, says: "The Gazette patrons of this city have been extensively swindled by a tall black-haired, black-whiskered man, wearing spectacles at times, who has been hanging around the city printing offices, representing himself as one of Hoe's mechanics. He obtained goods from various persons on forged orders of Wright, Ferris & Co. A warrant was taken out for his arrest, but he escaped south to Louisville or some other point. The papers are cautioned to look out for him."

CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATIONS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.—The democrats of the First District have unanimously nominated Dr. George Kittridge for Congress. The district is now represented by Amos Tuck, free soiler.

Chas. H. Peaslee, democrat, has been re-nominated for Congress in the Second District. He received sixty-nine votes out of one hundred and twelve.

THE JESUITS OF NEW YORK.—A Jesuit College has been built in New York, in which to instruct the growing youth—or a portion of the growing youth—of the city. There are twenty Priests of the order of Jesus, or "Jesuits," in the house, whose principal duties are to teach the higher branches of Scientific and Classical Literature, together with German, Italian and French. The College, which, when finished, can accommodate 300 pupils, is rapidly drawing to completion.

We get the following information from a telegraphic dispatch in the New York Herald:

"Allen A. Hall, late editor of the Republic, has received the appointment of Superintendent for the erection of the San Francisco Custom House and Marine Hospital. The salary is seventeen dollars per day.

"The abolitionists in Congress have held frequent consultations during the present week, relative to a repeal of the Fugitive Slave law. Charles Allen, the free-soil representative from the Fifth District of Massachusetts, will endeavor to introduce a bill for such a purpose, but without hope even of getting it referred during the ensuing week, in order to keep alive agitation.

"The National Lind Hall has been secured for assemblies this session, which promise to be unusually brilliant."

YACHT FOR THE WORLD'S FAIR.—William H Brown has commenced the construction of an elegant pleasure yacht, designed to participate in the regattas at the World's Fair in London. She is to be built on an exquisite model, with two masts, and every energy will be directed to the production of a craft worthy of representing the United States at the exhibition alluded to. This is building by a few gentlemen of this city, who, we are informed, stipulate to pay the builder $30,000 in case she is the successful competitor. [N. Y. Jour. Com.

FROM NICARAGUA.—We have dates from Leon de Nicaragua to the 18th November. The ports of San Salvador were then blockaded by the English, and those of Nicaragua were also threatened The chief cause of the trouble was a difficulty with a German Jew, named Beecher, who affected to be an American Commercial Agent, but was some time since appointed a magistrate at San Juan, by the English Consul.

The Indiana Convention has passed a section prohibiting the Legislature from granting divorces. Also, prohibiting lotteries, or the sale of lottery tickets, in the State.

The Ohio State Convention have adopted a section, that no person holding office under the United States, or this State, shall be eligible for office in the Legislature.

The wife of Professor Webster has been presented with a fine house in Ash street, which she will in future occupy with her daughters.

DECISION AGAINST ASTOR.—The New York Tribune of Saturday evening says: "The great case of 'Ogden vs. Astor,' in the Superior Court, has just been decided in favor of the complainant, Mr. Ogden."

THE DAY.—This morning's sun is ushered in with peals of artillery which mimic the thunders of Chalmette. The pageant promises to be one of the most splendid which the city has ever witnessed. It is needless for us to dilate on "the bloody trial of sharp war" which gave our country the "harvest of perpetual peace." The story is too familiar to be repeated by us, and it would be anticipating the address of the gallant soldier who, "though little blessed with the set phrase of peace," will, to-day, recount the glorious deeds of that eventful day, when the veterans of the Peninsular were mowed down by the deadly rifles of the hunters of the West.

Statue of Calhoun.

The Charleston correspondent of the Columbia Telegraph indulges in some very appropriate comments on this work:

"He aptly erred in representing Mr. Calhoun as pointing to the scroll, upon which were inscribed the words 'truth, justice, and the constitution,' making with each other an angle of about seventy degrees. This is not a usual mode of pointing, nor was it a peculiarity of Mr. Calhoun."

He then objects to the drapery, which is the classic toga:

"This partiality for the antique is shown to be out of place, and over-strained, by a mere statement of the intention and design of the work. The object is to preserve in the hearts and minds of the living—to perpetuate and transmit to posterity, a vivid recollection of the moral and intellectual worth of the departed statesman, by appealing to the sense of sight, by means of an enduring and faithful representation of Calhoun—a patriot and statesman of South Carolina, who flourished in the first half of the nineteenth century. The features and general configuration were intended to carry out this design; the palmetto placed him upon the soil of South Carolina, and his dress should have rendered him from the Roman era. Why the Palmetto trunk that grows now upon our soil? Why not neglect all the entities of time and place?"

We most heartily concur in these remarks. Why should the costume of Greece and Rome be the only fit dress for heroes and statesmen? The "blue and buff" of Washington—the short coat and cocked hat of Napoleon, are a part and parcel of the men. The white plume of Navarre—the splendid finery of Murat, are identified with their characters.

We have before us an engraving after Canova's Colossal Statue of Napoleon. It represents him nude, with the Grecian military cloak thrown on the left arm, the hand holding a long sceptre, while the right grasps a diminutive globe, and perched on it the figure of winged Victory holding a crown in her hand. The right leg rests on the trunk of a tree, from which shoots the mistletoe, and to it the Roman sword is suspended by its belt. The features are a copy of Napoleon's face, which was one that painters call the heroic. But certainly this statue cannot be said to be in any degree a copy of the man. In works of imagination, the artist may follow his own taste, and give his statues the drapery—or no drapery—he may select. The Countess of Abrizzi thus speaks of Canova's Psyche and censures his fastidiousness which robed her limbs:

"A light drapery of brilliant whiteness, and of the finest texture, which forms an admirable contrast with the utmost natural tints of the flesh, and does honor even to the chisel of Canova, is folded with graceful simplicity around her form. But why, O Psyche! conceal, beneath that envious vest, the lovely limbs, when, veiled only in the ingenuousness and artless innocence, the thoughts of those who fix their admiring eyes upon thee become pure and guileless as thyself."

The same may be said of Powers' "Greek Slave," and "Eve." Statues of the gods, too, should be nude. But why Washington or Napoleon should be stripped of their clothes, and either left naked or wrapped in the chlamys of the Greeks, or the toga of the Romans, is beyond our comprehension. A writer in the North American Review of 1829, thus speaks of this classic drapery, as regards statues of modern heroes:

"However superior naked figures and flowing draperies may be, for the purposes of art, to the formal and fantastic dresses of the modern world, we hold it to be quite clear, that portraits, whether in painting or sculpture, have no place in the costume which the persons represented habitually wore. A fine statue, or a fine painting, is not a fine portrait, if it does not copy nature. In the statues of Canova we hardly recognize the well known form and features, and are disappointed, instead of being gratified, by the ideal perfection of the figure. The nearest approach to a portrait, is the statue of Bonaparte, as it was at the first campaign of Italy, with a modern military costume, would have produced, as a portrait, infinitely more effect."

To return to the statue of Napoleon. He preferred the modern costume, but yielded reluctantly to the opinions of the artist. Missirini's ode to the statue, contains a prophecy which he lived to see fulfilled. It now graces the palace of the Duke of Wellington. It speaks but poorly for the delicacy of the "Iron Duke," that he should retain it. In what does such an exhibition differ from the scalps of the Indian warrior?

"Why on thy mimic orb, crass'd in thy hand,
Still dwell thy stern regrets? Seek'st thou a land
Through thy ambition not yet drench'd in blood,
Or strange, or new with anguish and death?
Thy eagle-banner long by war unfurl'd,
Triumphant floats o'er more than half the world:
Shall then a future n e, alien to peace,
Pray, vainly pray, to see thy empire cease?
No! unequal to thy greatness, shalt thou fall,
Vanquish'd and cast'd, and bereaved of all;
From violated rights disaster springs,
Their People's love, secures the throne of Kings."

The statue of Hamilton, which the merchants of New York erected in the Exchange, was in the modern costume. It represented the man as he was. Why should not Mr. Calhoun have been "eternized" in the dress of an American of the nineteenth century, rather than in the robes of a Roman? The costume of the present day is extremely ungraceful—far less fitted for purposes of painting or sculpture, than that of the last century. But it is the fault of the times, and a work which is to call out, ought to carry down to posterity truth, even in its humblest details.

THE SCHOOL DIRECTORS.—Judge Buchanan's opinion is in direct conflict with the arguments of the Delta. The Judge recognizes the power of the Council to repeal the ordinance under which the present Directors held office, and thus to evict them. But as the new ordinance, or resolution, fixes the day of election to be on the first Monday of December, and as that had passed before the law was in force, it is now impossible for them to elect until the first Monday of next December, unless they make a new ordinance. But the principle which has been discussed by the Delta and ourselves is recognized and enforced, viz: "*that the power of appointment necessarily involves the power of removal.*" We give an extract from the opinion:

"The counsel of the defendants has argued this case upon the general principle that the power of appointment necessarily involves the power of removal. The application of that doctrine to the case of the appointment of Directors of the Public Schools by the Council of the Municipality, appears to me to be correct. The act of the 16th February, 1841, has authorized (and required) the Council of each Municipality of the city of New Orleans to establish within its limits one or more Public Schools, for the gratuitous education of the children residing therein, and to enact such ordinances for the organization, government, and discipline of the same, as to the Council shall seem meet and proper. Accordingly, the Second Municipality, by an ordinance passed the 1st March, after the said statute, did organize Public Schools with a Board of Directors, etc. This ordinance the Council of the Municipality have certainly the power to repeal or revoke, under the act of 1841. But in the present instance, the allegations of the petition (of which the printed resolution complained of, forms a part) present a case to the interference of the Court, precisely because the requirements of the law have not been followed. The Board of Directors of Public Schools, of which these petitioners are members, was elected for the term of one year from the second Tuesday of May, 1850. They were appointed under the ordinance of March 1st, 1841, and must remain in office until the second Tuesday of May, 1851, unless in the meantime removed by the Council, or a repeal of the ordinance under which they are in office, and a new election."

FLAX-COTTON VS. COTTON.—We gave, some days since, (says the North American) an account of certain newly discovered processes, by which, as the London papers allege, common flax may be separated from the woody matters of the plant, in a very perfect and economical manner, and, what is equally important, the flax itself altered in property so as to become a species of cotton, or a competent substitute for it, perfectly capable of being spun and manufactured by the ordinary cotton machinery; and we noticed the confident declaration that the reality of the discovery would be made manifest to the world at the grand Industrial Exhibition at London, next May, when an exposition of the whole subject, embracing the processes, the prepared flax—or flax cotton, as it is called—the yarns spun, and the cloths woven from it, it is announced will be made by the inventor.

It is hardly necessary to expatiate on the importance of such a discovery, if it has been really made, or the consequences that must flow from it to this country. The subject will be appreciated every where, but in no section more strongly than in the cotton States of the South, where it is already beginning to attract some attention. The following natural and sensible remarks are from the *Richmond Whig*; and they deserve to be weighed, as we have no doubt they will be, by our Southern friends who have built so many pretty and patriotic theories of secession, an independent Southern Republic, &c. on the basis of their possessing, in the monopoly of cotton, a sceptre of commercial supremacy and a talisman of political security for all time—a basis, however, which the realization of the flax cotton novelty would prove to be one of sand:

"If it should turn out, upon further trial, that flax, prepared in a particular way, can be substituted for cotton, so as to enable Great Britain to dispense with our Southern staple, a mighty effect will be produced upon the value of the property in the Southern States. The price of lands and slave property will be at once diminished, and business arrangements entered into upon the value of that species of property, will, after they have matured, produce a crash that will be felt over the entire country. A lesson will thus be read upon the mutability of human affairs. The political consequences resulting from the change would be most important. A considerable diminution in the wealth and power of the Southern States would of itself have a marked effect upon their political relations with the other States—the importance of their friendship, as well as the dread of their enmity would thereby be decreased.

"The Cotton Treaty, to be negotiated with England, which, not long since, we had occasion to discuss, and through which the Southern States were to cure all the evils of disunion, would vanish into thin air, and the Southern States be thrown upon their own resources. Should flax be made to supply the place of cotton, then will be exemplified the impolitic heretofore pursued by the Cotton States, of relying on one leading interest to the exclusion of all others. If that great system of American industry, first recommended by Gen. Hamilton, and once enlarged and enforced by Mr. Clay, had been adopted here in the South, no such catastrophe could befall her. But, unfortunately, the system was rejected. It is difficult to foresee the effects of this change. South Carolina, now standing on the brink of secession, might be induced to draw back, should she look into the future."

THE OHIO RIVER.—At Louisville, on the evening of the 30th, there were 11 feet 3 inches water in the canal, and 7 1-2 feet water on the Falls. During the previous twenty-four hours, the river receded 2 1-2 feet. The weather was cold and freezing, and quite cloudy.

The river at Cincinnati, on the same evening, was falling rapidly.

BOUNTY LAND.—An old soldier has located his quarter section near Harper's Ferry, on a piece of unoccupied ground. It is estimated to be worth $150,000. Good.

SNOW.—The Portland (Me.) papers state that the snow from the late storm is piled up in immense heaps, in Portland and vicinity. In some places, the drifts and accumulations thrown from the sidewalks would measure from six to eight feet in height. There has not been such a fall of snow in Maine for years.

Mr. Vandenhoff recently delivered a lecture in New York on the comedies of Sheridan, interspersed with readings from the "School for Scandal." It is spoken of as a very brilliant lecture. Sheridan's dramas form a volume of Bohn's Library.

THE OHIO'S PASSAGE.—A passenger who was on board the U. S. mail steamer Ohio during her late perilous trip from Havana to Norfolk, informed the editors of the Baltimore American, that the ship's pumps afforded no efficient aid in relieving her of the water in her hold. He says the principal instruments used for that purpose were the *buckets* by which the ashes are raised from the hold, a height of forty or fifty feet. They were of the capacity of thirty gallons, and with these, the informant says, water was discharged so promptly and steadily by the passengers, that the aggregate was six times the quantity sufficient to have sunk the ship.

CONFESSION OF MURDER.—The New York Sun has a letter from Bel-Air, giving an account of the trials of Stump and Griffith for the murder of Hammond. The writer says:

Stump having been acquitted of the murder, his evidence was of course admissible, and he was called to the stand in behalf of Griffith. Being sworn, he was asked:

Ques. Do you know anything of the murder of Hammond? Ans. Yes. Q. Do you know who killed him? A. Yes. Q. Who was it? A. *I did it myself!* Q. Had Griffith any agency in the act? A. None; and he did not know it, until four hours afterwards!

The jury immediately returned a verdict of Not Guilty, against the prisoner, and he was discharged.

A fire broke out in Danville, Pa., on the night of the 25th ult., destroying four stores and a building used as a dwelling and a barber shop. The loss is about $5,000, partly insured. The buildings were owned by J. T. Beach.

A desperate row occurred at Auburn, N. Y., on the night of the 26th ult., on Buffalo street. Numbers had assembled for a holyday dance, when a quarrel arose, and the watchmen were called in. Four of the fighters were considerably injured—one of them, Mr. Buckley, dangerously so. Eight of the rioters were arrested and committed.

George Haywood, the depot master at Lincoln, Mass., was shot dead while pursuing a robber, on the 27th ult. The murderer is still at large.

DEATH OF DISTINGUISHED MEN.—Ex-Governors Plumer and Bell, of New Hampshire, are both dead. The former expired in Epping, on the 23d, and the latter in Chelsea on the same day. Gov. Bell was U. S. Senator from 1823 to 1829.

THE CRIMINAL LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES. The Rev. Charles Spear, who has devoted many years of persevering toil to the amelioration of the condition of prisoners, is about to visit England to appear before a committee of Parliament to render such information as he can, in regard to the criminal laws of the United States and their operation.

It appears that a request has been made to our minister in London, the Hon Abbott Lawrence, for information of the character described. Through him the request was made to Mr. Calhoun, Secretary of State of Massachusetts, and the result has been the decision on the part of some of the friends and fellow-citizens of Mr. Spear, to send him to England to reply to the questions that have been addressed to Mr. Lawrence, and which are as follows:

I. In how many of the States does Capital Punishment exist by law, and to what crimes is it attached?

II. Has Capital Punishment always been joined a part of the criminal code of such States; if not, when was it introduced?

III. The number of persons in each of such States who have been executed during each of the three last years, and for what crimes?

IV. The number of capital sentences which have been commuted during the same period, and the nature and division of the commuted sentence?

V. The manner in which capital sentences are carried into effect; the time allowed between sentence and execution; the treatment of the criminal during this interval as to intercourse with friends, etc.; whether the execution is public, or in what cases (necessary it is carried into effect under what regulations?

VI. In which of the States does Capital Punishment not exist by law? Has it ever existed in such States, and if so, when was it abolished?

VII. What are those States are the punishments for those crimes for which Capital Punishment is elsewhere inflicted, especially murder?

VIII. What is the comparative effect, so far as it can be ascertained, of these respective punishments on the highest class of offences?

IX. In the States in which there is no Capital Punishment, are the punishments for the highest class of crimes, elsewhere capital punished, fully carried out, or are commutations frequent?

To these questions, others have been added as to the best method of procuring employment for discharged prisoners, of classifying crimes, etc. It is Mr. Spear's intention to sail about the 1st of May.

TOTAL SHIPWRECK OF A PHILADELPHIA BOUND VESSEL.—The schooner Argus, Captain Crockett, of and from Frankfort, Maine, loaded with stone, and bound to Philadelphia, went ashore on Plum Island, about two and a half miles north of Emerson's rock, during the storm on the 30th inst. Her broadside was stove in, her decks ripped up, and mainmast out, hanging by the mainstay. The dead body of a young man, eighteen or twenty years old, was found on the beach. No papers were found, all loose things having been washed away. The captain was the only one on board that was saved. He succeeded in swimming ashore, and, getting into a barn, remained there during the night. The names of those last, are James Scott, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, master; Benjamin Hanson, of Frankfort, Maine, steward; James Kneeland, of Maine; H. Murphy, of New York; John Somers, of Greenock, Scotland.

GREAT CAVE IN INDIANA—THE MAMMOTH CAVE BEATEN.—We are just informed by N. J. Coleman, Esq., who has lately visited the Great Indiana Cave, that another immense cavern has been discovered opening from the original cave, which in extent, curiosities, and mineral productions, far surpasses the old cave. Mr. Coleman discovered an aperture just before reaching Jacob's Ladder, into which a large man could hardly enter, and desired the party which accompanied him to explore it. The guide and two or three of the party objected, as the aperture appeared to descend rapidly, and they feared they might meet with bad air. By a little persuasion, however, they were prevailed upon to make the exploration. With much difficulty they descended some forty feet, when to their great astonishment, they found themselves in an immense apartment. They immediately determined to fully explore the cave they had discovered. They found that this room opened into others, and these into still others, and that apparently there was no termination to the cave—They followed the main passage some four or five miles according to their best calculations, when they were admonished by their lights that they must return. On their return, they visited some of the rooms which they had passed, in which they found large beds of epsom salts, in nearly a pure state. We are also informed that the cave contains fine specimens of saltpetre, plaster of paris, alabaster, etc., of which the party procured many fine specimens.

We can now say to our sister State Kentucky, that Indiana has a cavern which far surpasses the Great Mammoth, and the last discovery, in connection with the Great Indiana Cave, will make it one of the largest in the United States.

It is about eleven miles from Corydon, in a southwest direction, and about seven north of Leavenworth.

Mr. C. has partially promised to write out at full length the notes taken on his visit to this remarkable cave, which we hope he will do. [New Albany (Ind.) Ledger.

I purchased, (says a Californian,) six hens of an Indian woman, for six dollars, and a rooster for fifty cents. On asking the woman why she charged only half-price for the rooster, she replied that the fellow laid no eggs, and as for his crowing, that did nobody any good.

Congress.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.

SENATE.—Petitions and reports were presented and referred.

Mr. Douglass presented a petition from Mr. Wise, the balloon man, asking an appropriation of $20,000, to enable him to make experiments. After debate, it was referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

Mr. Benton introduced a bill to accelerate the sale of the public lands, to pay the public debt, to extinguish the Government title to lands within the State, to grant lands to actual settlers, and to cede the refuse lands to the State in which they lie.

The resolution authorizing the Post-office Committee to employ a Clerk, was then adopted.

The resolution to inquire into the expediency of lighting Pennsylvania Avenue with gas, was adopted.

The resolution inquiring into the expediency of erecting a Marine Hospital at Portland, Maine, was adopted.

Mr. Benton offered a resolution, that the Secretary of the Navy report on the expediency of transferring the coast survey from the Treasury to the Navy Department.

A message was received from the President, in answer to Mr. Cass's resolution calling for the correspondence of the State Department with the Austrian Charge d'Affaires, relating to Hungarian affairs, enclosing said correspondence, which was read. The correspondence is very lengthy.

The message of the President was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Rusk moved to print 10,000 copies, extra, which was lost.

The House bill authorizing a change of venue in the Kennedy case, was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The joint resolution of the House declaring that bounty land warrants shall be assignable was taken up, and after debate referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE.—Mr. White introduced a bill granting the right of way through the public lands to Mississippi.

The Buffalo and Northern Island Railroad Company bill was read twice.

Mr. Caldwell, of Ky., introduced a joint resolution allowing land warrants under the bounty act of 1850, to be transferable prior to the location.

Mr. Vinton opposed it, saying that the lands then would fall into the hands of speculators.

Mr. Caldwell replied, insisting that the beneficiaries desired this law, and speculators did not. The resolution was passed, by yeas 108, nays 51.

On motion of Mr. Featherston, a resolution was passed calling for information relative to the Choctaw reserved lands for orphans.

Mr. Shuck introduced a bill granting the right of way to the States of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, for railroads to connect the Mississippi with the Lakes.

Mr. McClernand offered a substitute, granting lands to aid in constructing roads.

The subject was debated but not disposed of.

Mr. Burt moved that the House adjourn until Thursday; rejected.

The House then adjourned until to-morrow.

The Nashville packet Talleyrand, that sunk last Friday week in the Mississippi river, was insured in this city and Madison for upwards of $80,000 on the hull and cargo. She had a large quantity of tobacco on board, which was principally on deck, and we presume the greater portion of it was saved. The Firemen's, Merchants', Lexington, Marine, Franklin and Columbus agencies had risks to the extent of $75,000, and the Madison (Ia.) office a risk amounting to $5750. [Louisville Courier, 31st ult.

NASHVILLE AND CHATTANOOGA RAILROAD.—V. K. Stevenson, Esq., President of the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad Company, in a letter to the Hon. J. Schnierle, of Charleston, dated Nashville, December 19, gives the following interesting information in regard to that great improvement:

"I have the acknowledgement of Messrs. Corcoran & Riggs of the receipt of the $118,000 remitted by your Honor, to make the last payment on iron for which you will please accept our hearty thanks. Dr. Townsend, one of our contractors, of the Chattanooga division, was here last night, preparing to buy twenty thousand bushels of corn, to feed his stock. They have increased the teams, and are working at least one hundred hands more than Burke had on that part of the road. There is now, I suppose, about 500 hands on that division, between the Tennessee road and Chattanooga, and their force is increasing every day. We have bids for the three sections, 122, 123, 124, that I think we will accept, and then there is but 113 left on the whole road; the four sections next the Tennessee road, on the South side, having been let since you were here. Our locomotive is here with a fine passenger car and thirteen freight cars, and we are getting them out to the track, which is troublesome business. We are going ahead with the track and iron laying, and have made, as we think, ample arrangements for a heavy business next year in track and iron laying. The city of Louisville, Kentucky, is about to subscribe a million of dollars towards building a railroad to Nashville, so that Charleston will have reached, in this way, the Ohio, for the small outlay of half a million beyond her own State borders, for which she was once willing to spend millions. They have taken $45,000 towards making our independent road from Winchester to Huntsville, Alabama. All things are tending to this point in good earnest, that the produce of this rich portion of the Mississippi valley may reach Charleston, with the confident belief, that she will prepare for its direct shipment to Europe."

CHANGE OF WEATHER.—A descent of the temperature of London thirteen degrees (of the thermometer) *kills an average of three hundred persons!* The statistical account, from which we gather the fact, adds, they may not all die in the very next week the loss of warmth takes place, but the number of deaths is found to increase to that extent, over the previous average within a short period after the change. The fall of temperature, in fact, kills them as certain as a well directed cannon shot. This shows the necessity of guarding carefully against exposure to excessive changes of temperature. Flannel is one of the best protections, and an additional garment when the cold increases is another. It matters little how cold the weather is when the body is in active exercise, but every one should guard against sitting in a half-warmed room and feeling a sensation of chilliness, or of going out into the cold while that feeling remained.

The Maryland Reform Convention was to re-assemble at Annapolis on the 31st ult.

The establishment of the Free Banking System in Pennsylvania, is earnestly advocated by papers in that State.

Alfred Tennyson, the most imaginative poet since Shelby, has been appointed to the Laureateship made vacant by the death of Wordsworth.

A way gave the following toast at a public dinner the other day—"Our fire engines: may they be like old maids—ever ready, but never wanted."

THE WHALE FISHERY.—The New London Chronicle states that the whale ships of that city are returning with rich cargoes. All vessels which have made trips to the Northern Seas have been very successful, and have made not only profitable but short voyages.

Sam was asked what he thought of the effects of hot drinks on the system? "Hot drinks, sir," said he, "are decidedly bad. Tea and coffee, sir, are hurtful. And even hot punch, when it is very hot—very hot, indeed—and taken often, and in large quantities, I suppose is slightly deleterious."

The new steamship Prometheus left New York on the 27th, for San Juan de Nicaragua, whence her passengers will be conveyed to Realijo, on the Pacific, there to take the steamers for San Francisco, which they expect to reach in thirty days. Among those who go out in her is Col. Vanderbilt, one of her owners.

NEW RAILROAD.—A few days since a bill passed the lower house of the Ohio Legislature to incorporate the "Cincinnati, Wilmington and Zanesville Railroad Company." This (says the Zanesville Courier) is a charter for a road direct from Zanesville to Cincinnati, by way of Lancaster, Wilmington, etc. It passes through a region of country, the soil of which is unsurpassed in productiveness, and its inhabitants are among the wealthiest in Ohio. This route has also the advantages of being shorter by some fifteen or eighteen miles than any other between Cincinnati and Baltimore and Philadelphia.

A GRAND DISPLAY.—There were at the Naval anchorage on Saturday afternoon, the United States steamer Saranac, of the class of our smallest frigates; the United States steamship Susquehanna, the largest of our war steamers; and the mail steamer Ohio, of the largest class of steamers in the packet service now afloat. All together they made a grand display, and the sight was worth seeing. [Norfolk Herald, 30th.

DOGS RECOGNIZED AS PROPERTY.—The steward of the ship Sir Robert Peel, lately used the mate of that vessel for the value of two dogs—one a terrier and the other a King Charles spaniel—which the mate had maliciously thrown overboard; and proved the value of the dogs to have been about one hundred dollars. The defendant's counsel asked for a nonsuit on the ground that no action lay for killing dogs. The judge declared to the contrary, and decided that dogs are property as much as sheep or cows are, for a loss or injury to which the owner can sustain an action. The steward got his damages and costs. This, to sportsmen and others, having high prized dogs in their possession, is a very important decision, inasmuch as it has sometimes been maintained in the courts that a dog could be killed with impunity.

The Opelousas Gazette of the 1st says that on Sunday night previous, snow to the depth of three or four inches fell at that place.

Communicated.

Editors Picayune and Bannner: As some notices have lately been given through the news paper relative to a Cancer removed from my frame by the skill of Dr. Gilbert of New Orleans, I have concluded that it may be of some service to such as may suffer under similar affliction for me to give a full account of the remarkable case.

A Cancer made its appearance on my face about ten years ago, and at different times I consulted with the physicians of this country, to whom I had most confidence, and all of them acknowledged that they were utterly unable to give it. I suffered much pain from this affection, and the smell procured from it became exceedingly offensive to those who were near me and waited upon me. My health, for about a year, ending May 25, 1849, was so far broken, that I was confined to my bed, and my sufferings during that period of time were extremely severe. I was troubled most of the time with sickness at the stomach, and had neither strength nor appetite, and my nights were spent in the most restless manner.

Having heard of the wonderful skill of Dr. Gilbert in curing Cancers, and feeling my condition to be so wretched as to justify me in making an effort to avail myself of his services, I left the place I resided in for New Orleans, in a condition so feeble, that I was unable to walk by myself, and was carried on board of the steamboat in a chair by servants. I landed in New Orleans on the 15th of May last. When I left my residence, my friends generally despaired of seeing me return alive.

I was immediately after my arrival in New Orleans, put under the charge of Dr. Gilbert. I at that time had on my face an area of being 17 years of age, and the natural infirmities of my age, my protracted sickness, & caused in my mind, and another large one under my ear—all these, added to the fatigue of my journey, appeared enough to render my case entirely hopeless.

I was under the care of Dr. Gilbert about six weeks. In about twelve days he removed the Cancer attached to my nose, and in about twelve days more the place from which it was taken healed up. The large Cancer under my ear was given up as incurable, and was about the size of a turkey egg. This he removed in twenty-five days, and in about two months after it the place healed up. Another small Cancer in the side of my face was also removed, and left a healthy skin. All of these sores were removed with plasters, no knife or surgical instrument having been used at any time about them.

After the Cancers were removed, and before the largest opening was healed, I returned to Franklin, arriving home on the 5th of July, and since then time my health has been constantly improving. My health, appetite, strength and spirits are now as good as could be expected of a man of my age, after having passed through the pain and suffering that has fallen to my lot. I consider the case which Dr. Gilbert has effected in my case to be one of a most extraordinary character. There are no symptoms whatever of the Cancers returning, and I have every confidence that the cure will prove to be permanent.

FRANKLIN, La., Dec. 21, 1850.

P. S.—As this case has been so parallel to the case of Cancers, the patients are referred to New Orleans to Dr. Kendall, Capt. Wilson, and Capt. Wm. Lenhart, of the steamer Natchez No. 2. 1-9 0-0 3W

Arrivals at Principal Hotels....Jan. 7.

ST. CHARLES....S B Worth, NY; J M Simpson, Ga; J C Patrick, La; N H Cincinnati, Ark; H Hampton, Ala; Jas Scott, NO; J Bynum, Cuba; W Cutter, NY; Miss Thompson, Conn; J Kerby, Ill; C D Rich, NO; J Wheaton, NY; M C Moore, Kent; M H Roberts, Va; R C Downes, J J Walker, La; W Jones, Ky; Jas Walker, Dr Hershel, La; W H Johnson, B H Miller, J Willis, Miss; A Bonneau, Cuba.

VERANDA....J G Ferris, S P Ferris, N A Stewart, B C Martin, La; W R Lemmon, L F Labelle, J B Simon and lady, Miss; A W Buchner, Ala; Capt Dunbar, Indy, Tenn; Mrs J S Gilmore; Capt Wilson; H Bowman; G Grosse.

PLANTERS....W S Bennett, J W Brown, J W Shaw, James Egan, J R Vancourt, N Pepper, J J Pilgrim, J N Kerr, La; J T Wall, N Fenton, Conn; J Waites, Miss.

HEWLETTS....Geo Shelburne, H W Wall, Miss; J K Boyle, O P Turner, A E Amos, A Harper, La; Jas M Long, Texas.

BANKS ARCADE....J T Norton, Ky; J Dabo, Ky; A Lyons, Old Point—Arrived Jan 6—J W Warner, Ark; T W Bush, Ala; W G Bell, J Cook, J T Cook, B Hendersen, J S Griffin, W P Hall, Texas; J Cooper, Louisiana.

WESTERN VARANDA....J A Bonta, T E Brady, T D White, T J Keen, NO; D Jenkins, Texas Anderson, W B Freeman, Va; M L Kerr, J Hunter, Tenn; J Cannon, Miss; J Johnson, R Johnson, Miss; R Lion and lady, Texas; G M Sumpter Va., Mrs Plasmer and daughter; C J Ellis, Louisiana.

Married:

On Monday evening, the 6th inst., by the Rev. Theodore Clapp, Mr. WILLIAM MCCARTY and Miss LAVINIA MILLER, daughter of James Miller, Esq., all of this city.

Died:

On the 6th inst., of consumption, Mrs. LYDIA ELLEN, in the 25th year of her age, wife of Thomas B. Taylor, and daughter of the Hon. James Rariden, of Indiana.

On the 6th inst., CATHERINE, consort of James Wall.

☞ **Firemen's Charitable Association.**—At the regular meeting of the new Board of Delegates to the Firemen's Charitable Association, held in the hall of Lexington Hose Company on Saturday evening, the 6th inst., the following gent