

Our Terms. The following will be the permanent terms of the Weekly Indiana State Sentinel: One copy, one year, \$2.00; Three copies, one year, \$5.00; One copy during the session, 50 cents.

To Correspondents. We have received several propositions to Letters from Washington. For reasons satisfactory to ourselves, we decline making any arrangement of the kind.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM. The Legislative Assembly.

Among the reforms proposed to be adopted in the new Constitution, is one which touches the organization of what we shall name, the Legislative Assembly.

The proposition for biennial (or two-yearly) instead of annual (or yearly) sessions, of the legislative body, is one that has been generally assented to. But it seems to us, that this conclusion has been arrived at only under the influence of a partial view of the subject.

But there are other points equally important as those alluded to, and which should be taken into consideration before determining this question. If we make the legislative sessions biennial, the change involves also the alteration of the terms of the Senate and of all the Executive officers.

Yet if we adopt biennial sessions, we must either, for the sake of conservatism, and that necessary knowledge of public affairs, proper to be perpetuated, lengthen the terms of Senators and Executive officers to four years at least, or we must run the risk of the confusion which we would likely result, if all these officers, the Senate and the House of Representatives were elected anew every two years.

But it was not our purpose to discuss this question when we commenced. We simply intended to introduce a proposition of a different character, which has laid upon our table for some weeks.

This proposition, which will be found in the communication following, is in favor of a single legislative body. It will seem startling to many at first sight, especially because it has not seemed to work well in the new government of France, but more particularly because it is not in accordance with our habits, and because change, of any kind is more or less disagreeable. It has taken us ten years to agree to make any alterations in our Constitution!

Now if economy is to be achieved, we will venture to say, that it can be more certainly attained, by the organization here proposed, than in any other way.

As a more master of economy a single representative body would doubtless be preferable, as the time necessary to go through the forms of legislation would be greatly diminished, the plaintiff and despicable squabbles between the two bodies, as often witnessed, each attempting to outmaneuver the other in bringing on or staying off an election, thus consuming a large share of time, would be forever prevented, and the whole expensive machinery of our body would be dispensed with. A large saving to the Treasury of the State would result, but a saving that no one would desire, if it involved the loss of any single public good.

The present organization is shortly as follows: The English parliament was composed of two bodies, one the House of Lords, and the other the House of Commons, and was necessary in order that the existence of the class might not be destroyed by the other and rival house, the House of Commons, representing the aristocracy of wealth. The people, that is the great mass of the population, were not admitted to participate in the legislation of the country until the English Colonies in America were formed, that of the nation, country served as a model.

The House of Lords, the assembly (by whatever name called) of the delegates of the people, in its functions resembled the House of Commons. After the revolutionary struggle, when the several State governments assumed a permanent form, the inducing of power, the creating of checks, as in the British Constitution, and the central organization was sought out, and the creation of a House of Representatives and a Senate. So in the organization of the Federal Government, though there were reasons not applicable to a State, the new States have followed in the lead of the older states, and it seems to be regarded as settled, that this system cannot be improved upon.

The working of our present system has been tried; that has proved that it is preferable to any system that has preceded, but not that it is the best possible for this basis; it is our duty to seek, let nothing less content us. Let no reverence for the past restrain us. The same reasoning that would prevent a change in our legislative organization would prevent a change in our judicial organization, and no single particular in which our form of government is not better than any that has preceded it. Yet all are agreed that in no particular has the past been attained, the result of reasoning from experience is quite in favor of our judicial system as of our legislative system. Our experience proves that under our present organization there may be heavy and oppressive taxation, that the State may be prevented by a constitutional provision. The improvement has resulted chiefly from a want of attention on the part of the Legislature. This want of attention is rather increased than diminished by the present organization. The body in which a measure originates, will examine less closely, knowing that another body are to canvass it, and will as a consequence be more careless in its details. The responsibility is divided, and here among individuals action is guarded except in proportion to the responsibility. The State may, and we may expect greater vigilance, closer investigation, and a higher degree of caution in a single assembly, when the responsibility is direct, immediate and undivided, and when it is directed against several bodies, the same reasoning that prevents two bodies by each checking the other will work better than a single body, equally powerful and equally responsible.

The great legislative bodies act as a check upon each other it is said. Grant it, and it proves that separate bodies are necessary in England, from whence they were borrowed, and in fact, this third body is required to represent the interests of the masses, if the great body of the people (those who do not belong to the aristocracy of wealth) are regarded as entitled to a voice in the government. But such is not the fact, these being two interests, and only two interests to consult, two bodies, and only two bodies are required, one to represent each of these rival interests, and protect the rights of the other. If we had separate classes, each class with separate interests, it would be right that each class should have its representative body with a negative on the action of the other, thus only could the interests of the masses be protected, and the separate interests protected. But we have no distinct classes with rival interests. There is only one class—the whole people, and one indivisible. If the interest represented is a unit, why should the representation be double? If your representation is a true one, if the will of the people is reflected by the Legislature, what purpose do you wish a check? If the representation is untrue, change it, make it what it should be, a true index of the popular will, and the Legislature will be a true index of the popular will, and the Legislature will be a true index of the popular will, and the Legislature will be a true index of the popular will.

Mr. Clay's "compromise" slavery resolutions meet with no favor from any quarter, so far as we have seen. The whip party of Cincinnati are especially severe in their objections, which are almost scornful. Mr. Clay's object was, no doubt, to put himself in an effective stage attitude, as the great Pacificator once more, in the forlorn hope, perhaps, of yet reaching the Presidency. But if the least chance for that had remained to him, those resolutions would sweep away every vestige of it. They are so utterly opposed to the public sentiment of the north, that it would be a waste of space to dwell upon them.

P. S. The Telegraph made Mr. Clay declare it inexpedient to abolish the slave trade in the District of Columbia, while his resolution declares it expedient to abolish it! This puts a little different face on the matter.

Our readers will not forget, that Mr. Davis is the son-in-law of Gen. Taylor, and now occupies a seat in the U. S. Senate. This gives his opinion greater weight than it would otherwise possess. Still, we believe, nevertheless, that Gen. Taylor will be governed altogether by the influences by which he may happen to be surrounded. In politics, so far as he has any, he is with the whigs; in sympathies and interest he is with the South. Like many Southern leaders, he regards the mass of Northern people as so many negroes.

Homestead Exemption. Gov. Fish recites the passage of a Homestead Exemption Law, in the following eloquent passage: "While it is admittedly a primary duty of the Legislature to enact laws for the punishment of vice, it is no less its duty to remove the causes which frequently lead to the commission of crime. The oppression made upon the youthful child by the gentle force of parental authority and example, and by the associations of the family circle, are among the most active and enduring of the influences which control the conduct of after life. Much of the vice that we are called upon to deplore, may be traced to the early removal of its subject from the reach of that authority and example, and from the innocent, but wholesome associations of a home, forever homeless. The cause of morality, no less than the dictates of humanity, demand the preservation of the family circle, and the maintenance of the family home, efficient preventives of vice, and sure and permanent contributors to individual virtue and happiness, and to public prosperity and order."

The principles have already been incorporated into the codes of several of the States, and although in this instance, as in many others involving a reform in the condition of ancient laws, there may be much opposition in the outset, it will evidently be generally adopted.

THE COMMON SCHOOLS OF PENNSYLVANIA.—The tables accompanying the report of the Superintendent of Common Schools in this State, says the Pa. Ledger, exhibit the following condition of the schools, not including those in the city and county of Philadelphia:—Whole number of districts, 1370; average time that the schools were open, four months and twenty-six days; whole number of teachers, 10,237; average salaries of male teachers per month, \$17.47; average salaries of female teachers per month, \$10.32; whole number of scholars, 393,232; average number in each school, 43; average cost of teaching each scholar, per quarter, \$1.424; State appropriations to the districts exceeding, \$182,883; taxes levied in the accepting districts, \$206,892; expenses for school-houses, 146,144; expense for instruction, fuel and contingencies, 532,930.

EDUCATION IN NEW YORK.—A report of the Superintendent of Common Schools in New York State shows the whole number of pupils taught in private schools for the year just closed to be 72,785, with 4008 colored pupils. The whole number of children between five and sixteen years taught in the several district schools during the year was 778,309, being an increase of 2537 over the number taught during the preceding year. The sum of \$1,153,916.27 was paid for teachers' wages, of which \$633,704.53 was paid for the year just closed, and \$520,211.74 was received from the State Treasury, and from the avails of town and county taxation and local funds, \$409,696.63 contributed on rate bills by those who sent to school, and \$10,515.11 raised by taxation on the inhabitants of the district to meet the amount due on the rate bills of such indigent persons as were exempted by the Trustees from the payment of their share of such bills.

GOOD INVESTMENT.—Massachusetts has about three millions of dollars invested in school-houses. Mr. Everett is who said so quaintly, "if you reduce the wages of the schoolmaster, you must raise those of the recruiting sergeant."

LITERARY.—The very popular novel of "Shirley," published as the production of Currer Bell, proves to have been written by Miss Brontë, a lady of Bradford, in Yorkshire, who is of course the author of "Jane Eyre" also. Mr. James has just published a new novel called "One of a Thousand!" upon which Punch exclaims, "only think, nine hundred and ninety-nine are to follow!" Titmarsh announces a highly chivalrous romance in the press, entitled "Rebecca and Rowena," detailing the fate of those heroines after the close of the "Ivanhoe" revelations. A new novel, called "Country Quarters," written by the late Countess of Blessington, and edited by her niece, Miss Power, is in the press. Lamarine, it is stated, is about to publish a new political work on the "Past, Present and Future of the Republic." Miss Bremer, who is still in Boston, has a new novel in the hands of Mary Howitt. A Boston house is publishing Bulwer's poem "King Arthur." It will soon be out of the press, we understand. The author of "Festus" is preparing a new poem for publication, to be entitled the "Angel World."

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BY TELEGRAPH. CONGRESSIONAL. WASHINGTON, Jan. 31, 1850. SENATE.—Mr. Donnell presented a memorial from several hundred citizens, residing in the city of Chicago, praying the passage of a measure providing for the free migration of the St. Lawrence river. Mr. Mason submitted an amendment, which was intended as a substitute to the bill for the capture of fugitive slaves. Mr. Mason thought it would obviate all the principal objections encountered towards the original bill. Mr. Smith made an unsuccessful attempt to call up Mr. Bradbury's resolution calling on the President for information relative to removals from office. A message was received from the House, announcing the death of Mr. Dickinson, of Ohio, whereupon Mr. Corwin moved an adjournment, but objection being made the motion was withdrawn.

A message was received from the President in answer to the Senate's resolutions calling for information relative to the correspondence between the Federal and Judicial authorities at Santa Fe. The President coincided in the opinion expressed by Mr. Polk, that the boundary of Texas was a question belonging to the Executive rather than the Executive branch of the Government. The Senate bill was made the special order of the day for Monday next. The Senate then resumed the consideration of Mr. Cass's resolutions suspending Diplomatic intercourse with Austria. Mr. Hunter spoke at length against the resolutions. Mr. Wood announced the death of Rudolphus Dickenson, member from Ohio, who died last March in Washington, and passed an eulogy on his character. The customary resolutions were adopted, and the House thereupon adjourned.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1, 1850. SENATE.—The Senate, yesterday, after a protracted debate on Mr. Cass's resolutions suspending diplomatic intercourse with Austria, adjourned until Monday. HOUSE.—After the usual routine of business, Mr. Hammond offered a resolution which was adopted, appropriating \$15,000 to print the maps accompanying the President's message. After some conversation, the House proceeded to the election of Chaplain. Mr. Gurley was elected on the third ballot.

NEW YORK, Feb. 4-1, P. M.—The explosion of the boilers, this morning, in Taylor's Machine Shop, on the street near Fear, destroyed one hundred lives. A fire is now raging, threatening still more damage. TORONTO, Feb. 21.—Lord Elgin has received a dispatch from Earl Gray, urging him to use every means in his power to suppress the movements in favor of the annexation of Canada to the United States, and thanking him for what had already been done. Earl Gray declares that so long as any portion of the Canadian people are desirous of maintaining a connection with the mother country, they will be supported by the whole power of the Army and Treasury of England.

COLUMBUS, Feb. 1, 1850.—The Hamilton County appointment bill is at length reported. The bill, as drawn from the Senate amended, and was passed by the House this evening. This is the "bill," the fraudulent passage of which, by the whigs, caused the disgraceful difficulties which have existed in the Legislature of Ohio during the present and last year's session. GOOD ADVICE.—Gov. Barbour, of Virginia, in an address before an agricultural society, says:—"Let every man leave the fortune to look his affairs in the face, to keep an account of his debts and items of his expenditures, no matter how long or black the list, if he don't look into it, his neighbor will; and more, let him show it to his wife, if he has one; if a prudent woman, it will be of service; if imprudent, it will do no harm. But there are very few of the latter, and I cheerfully bow evidence to the care and economy of women. When in a situation to observe the care of an embarrassed estate, that did not extricate it if it was possible."

DOGS.—The editor of the "Plough, the Loom, and the Anvil" thinks it costs as much to support the dogs in the United States as to carry a day each of all our exports of grain and provisions to England every year. Well, suppose it true! Is that any reason why the luxury should not be enjoyed? Thousands of poor men have no other, or no better friend than a faithful dog. We might as well give another good thing just as reasonably, and live on corn-dodger and sleep naked on straw, so as to make a few more times. We wish we had a good dog: can't somebody fetch us one!

PORT WAYNE AND BLUFFTON PLANK ROAD.—At a meeting of the stockholders at Fort Wayne, on the 25th Jan., T. Swinney was elected President, P. P. Bailey Secretary and Treasurer, and Messrs. T. Swinney, S. Edsall, R. W. Townley, C. E. Sturgis, W. G. Ewing, of Allen county, J. Logan, W. Killam, M. J. Glass, and J. A. Dean, of Wells county, Directors. The entire contract for making the road (two bridges excepted) was awarded to S. & W. S. Edsall, at \$1,600 per mile. BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY.—The Democracy of Bartholomew are already preparing for the great elections to come off this year. They will hold a meeting at Columbus on the first Saturday in March next, to frame and adopt a new delegate system, and to prepare rules and regulations for the government of county conventions in future. This is right, and we should be glad to see Marion county moving in like manner.

FOREIGN ITEMS. The Emperor of Austria has sent his portrait, richly framed, as a present to the President of the French Republic, accompanied by an autograph letter, in which he compliments the president on the important services he has rendered the cause of order and society. An ukase has been issued in Russia, ordering home all Russian subjects in foreign countries, under the penalty of their property being confiscated after a stated period. FRENCH SUFFRAGE.—Mr. Walsh, in a letter of December 27th, from Paris to the New York Journal of Commerce, states that the French Assembly had finally passed the very important bill, to enable the voters throughout France to give their suffrages in the small townships, instead of the chief towns only, of the cantons—a much larger territorial division.

RATS IN PARIS.—A war of extermination has been commenced against the Norwegian rats in the sewers of Paris. In a few days 250,000 were destroyed, and the number was expected to reach 600,000. Two gloves of Grenoble, who had contracted to take all the skins at the rate of 100 francs per 1,000, are becoming alarmed, as they only anticipated getting about 100,000. A London leather dresser contracted for 27 of them. PARIS, Dec. 27, 1849.—The Council of Discipline of the Paris bar, a formidable tribunal for the bar, have condemned, after solemn investigation and hearing, the course of the counsel of the Insurgents who were recently tried at Versailles. The seven or eight lawyers undertook to urge, as the principal topic of defence, the right of insurrection against the government; and when the Court expressed this topic, they abandoned the defence altogether. They have been reprimanded by the Council of Discipline; Cremieux, their Minister of Justice, is one of them. The Council have the power of radiation, or striking off from the list of the bar—which excludes from practice. Reprimand is a stigma for life.

The abolition of the English national debt, the great problem which is so difficult to solve, is being discussed by Mr. Newman, who has proposed a plan for the removal of the debt of 100 millions to the government; and when the Court expressed this topic, they abandoned the defence altogether. They have been reprimanded by the Council of Discipline; Cremieux, their Minister of Justice, is one of them. The Council have the power of radiation, or striking off from the list of the bar—which excludes from practice. Reprimand is a stigma for life.

PRAYER AN ENVELOPE.—The following incident is taken from an English paper: A servant-girl who had attended "the ragged schools," and derived much spiritual benefit from them, came one evening, at the close of the school, and put a note into the rector's hand. He found, to his surprise, upon opening it, that it contained a half contribution of the servant-girl, which she hoped to continue to give out of her wages of eight pounds a year, in thanksgiving to God for the blessing received through the school. On presenting it the thankful girl expressed her sorrow that it was so small a sum; adding, as a kind of apology, "but sir, I have wrapped it up in an envelope, with many tears." What a beautiful envelope was that!

SHOWING AN ENEMY'S POSITION AT NIGHT.—Captain Boxer, of the Royal Horse Artillery, has invented a very effective lighting apparatus to be fired into an enemy's position, so as to show his arrangements and movements in the darkest night. It was tried with success on Woolwich Marshes on the 16th November, before an assemblage of officers. It consists of two tin cases, each being half a sphere; the one containing the composition, which burns like a brilliant blue light, and the other, the parachute, formed of a delicate tissue of cloth, which is attached to the diameter of the cases, and is to be about five inches, and when fired they attained a considerable altitude; but the parachute, in the first instance, did not open sufficiently, and the lighted composition soon fell to the ground. The common carcasses are projected about a quarter of a mile, and they burn about ten minutes on the ground; they may be extinguished by the enemy. Captain Boxer's apparatus is the most perfect of the kind. At the highest point, an explosion took place similar to the bursting of a rocket in the air; and out came a parachute, fully six feet in diameter, and about three feet in depth, suspending the brilliant blue light. The apparatus floated to the Southeast, illuminating the whole of the common under and around it, with a light nearly equal to that of a full moon on a clear night.

ENGLISH MARKETS.—The Hibernia arrived at Liverpool on the 9th, and her news from New York causes a great excitement in the cotton market. The news of the week preceding the departure of the Niagara, it was discovered that the Committee of Brokers had made a serious mistake, in under-estimating the stock of cotton to the extent of 80,000 bales; yet, notwithstanding this fact, the market during the past week has been extremely buoyant, and prices have advanced a quarter of a penny per lb. short. Total sales of the week, 68,000 bales, of which speculators took 40,000. The committee's quotations are, fair Orleans 61; Mobile 61; and Uplands, 64. The corn market has been dull throughout the Kingdom during the week. Indian corn has declined 6d per qr, and now sells at 30s for prime white, and 29s for yellow. Best brands of India, and Balt. flour command 25s 2s 6d. Western Canal, 25s. American Provisions.—Hides continue depressed, and there is still demand for pork. Bacon and lard, however, are in lively request, at improved rates the latter to the extent of 1s per cwt.

MARRIAGE.—We call the attention of the members of our State Legislature from this city to the laws on marriage, and the decisions of our courts on the subject. As the law is now expounded, marriage, being a civil contract, any male and female declaring themselves to be married, are so legally. Any individual may marry a couple, or a recognition of the parties as married in all that law requires. We need not say that this is fraught with the greatest danger to society as well as to property; and we admonish those entrusted with this subject to place it at once upon a secure basis, making marriage what it really is, and was intended to be, a civil and religious contract, and defining who shall have authority to solemnize that important event, probably the most important in the lives of the parties.—North's Times, New York. If the law should recognize marriage to be a religious, as well as a civil institution, should it not also establish a religio-civil tribunal for the trial of questions of divorce, &c., similar to the Ecclesiastical courts of England? The Major is an Israelite, and of course has great reverence for the authority of the priesthood. The people generally, will hardly come up to his standard in this respect. We have already published the reply of one writer to the article of "Indiana," (which was published in the semi-weekly of Jan. 5, and which was copied by many other papers in and out of the State,) and we have just received a second reply, from another quarter, which we shall publish in our next.

Senator Bright. I find in three consecutive numbers of the Indiana Journal, of late dates, the following paragraphs, viz: First.—INDIANA SENATORS INSTRUCTED.—A few days previous to the adjournment of the Legislature, the following joint resolution passed that body and will be, in a few days, transmitted to our Senators and Representatives in Congress. Section 1. Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, that our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested, so to cast their votes and exert their influence, as to have inserted upon any law that may be passed for the organization of the territory recently acquired from Mexico, a provision forbidding slavery from that territory, and involuntary servitude, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes, whereof the party has been duly convicted.

Section 2. Be it further resolved, that his Excellency, the Governor, be requested to forward to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress, copies of this joint resolution at his earliest convenience. Messrs. Whitcomb and Bright, call themselves Democrats and profess to believe in the doctrine of instruction. We shall now see whether they will obey or resign. Letters from Washington, received during the session of the Legislature, say that these gentlemen were using all their influence with their special friends here to prevent the passage of any resolutions of instruction on the subject of slavery. In this effort they have failed, and they, although sympathizing with the South, must vote for the extension of the ordinance of 1787, or resign. They love office too well to choose the latter alternative, and, therefore, will vote for it.

This will go hard with them, and especially with Mr. Bright, as he is, probably, the only Senator from a free State that is a Slaveholder. His time is out next winter, and whether the Democrats or Whigs, have the Legislature, it is pretty generally understood that he will have permission to resign at home. Section 3. When Mr. Clemens, of the U. S. Senate, got into a pet and denounced the Northern Democracy, several of the most servile of the dough-faces of the North attempted to pacify him by assuring him that their States had never passed instructions favorably to the Wilmot Proviso. James D. Bright was among that number. He was mistaken in the matter, and resolutions were passed by our Legislature last winter, and now recently repeated. Should any territorial bill come before the Senate, containing that Proviso the Indiana Slaveholder will not dare vote against it.

And third.—GRASS AND THE PRESIDENCY.—Next winter an election of an U. S. Senator will take place to fill the vacancy occasioned by the expiration of Mr. Bright's term. The Hon. B. D. Owen is anxious to be his successor, but one Gen. Lane stands much in his way. The recent meeting (at which Mr. Owen figured largely) animated Gen. Lane for the Presidency; was an ingenious movement to get him out of Mr. Owen's way for the Senate? Will it succeed? We shall see. Old Hank himself, is nothing, when compared with the lack of the democratic party of Indiana! Only think of their good luck in having the Indiana State Journal for a defender and advocate—a keeper of their good name and fortune. Who can, hereafter, doubt the signal triumph and success of Frankness, if it is true, requires me to admit that a certain portion of this friendship may, strictly speaking, be called a new born zeal. I allude to the announcement, to the democratic party of Indiana, that one of her Senators has committed the same unpardonable crime that General Taylor has—owned slaves. True, Senator Bright did not buy them from John Hagan, as General Taylor did. The former, through his wife, Miss Turpin that was, inherited them from his father-in-law. I speak of the Journal's zeal in this behalf, as new born, because Senator B.'s connexion with slavery had its origin some twelve or fifteen years ago, and that too, immediately across the Ohio river from Jefferson county, Indiana—in the State where, if I mistake not, the editor of the Indiana Journal was born, reared and educated; and where he could, had he been so disposed, have learned the truth—something that reflects a virtue instead of a crime—upon Senator Bright's conduct towards his slaves. The origin, I say, of this connexion, was directly opposite Jefferson county, Indiana, a majority of whose voters, whig as they were, took him in preference to Wilberforce Lytle, Esq., one of the best lawyers and most trustworthy federalists in the county, for the office of Probate Judge, and some few years later, for a member of the State Senate, in preference to such men as Wilber and Judge Dunn. The connexion was known openly and publicly, in 1843, when a majority of the people of the State decided that he would grace the chair of L. G. Governor; and in that contest no part of the State gave him a more decided preference than the northern, where federalism was so very industrious as to keep Doctor Mendhall, the notorious abolitionist, directly at Mr. B.'s heels, especially in the Quaker counties, to interrogate him upon the subject of slavery.

A question, and I have done: it is addressed to the editor, and is in relation to his information that Senators Whitcomb and Bright have tried to prevent the passage of the bill for the re-organization of Indiana. My question is this: is the information as reliable in this case as it was in a former one, that Senators W. and B. had officiously sought opportunities of doing the political dirty work of Edward W. McGaughey! G. W. K. LEARNING BY MACHINERY.—The following is from a Connecticut paper, the New Haven Palladium: "Mr. Edwin Allen, of Windham, in this State, has invented and procured a patent for a little spelling machine, which is designed to instruct little gentlemen and ladies in the knowledge of the alphabet and the art of spelling, while they are sliding the wooden letters about in the grooves of the small M'Alphaboid board to which they are attached. The board is about twelve inches long and five wide. In the center are four horizontal grooves in which the words are to be arranged—above them is the alphabet of capital letters, and below is the alphabet of small letters. We are told that they are used with much success in some schools in New York."

Illness of Mr. Calhoun. WASHINGTON, Sunday, Jan. 27.—The disease which Mr. Calhoun is suffering has unexpectedly taken an unfavorable turn, and the most serious apprehensions are entertained at the hour of this writing, as entertained, both by his physicians and friends as to his recovery. You need not be surprised to hear of his decease at any moment, nor is it an impossibility that he may after all recover. The issue is with him alone, but wills and it is the accomplished, and whose ways are past finding out.—N. Y. Tribune. The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore American states that "Mr. Calhoun has reached the former city, that a personal encounter took place at Lima, on the 9th of December last, between our newly appointed Consul, Col. Potter, and Mr. Sullivan, the Charge d'Affaires near the Government of Chili, and the nephew of Lord Palmerston. The origin of the difficulty is stated to be, that Mr. Sullivan, in the absence of Col. Potter, forcibly ejected Mrs. Potter and child from her lodgings in the hotel, whereupon Col. Potter sought an interview with him, and not receiving a sufficient apology, gave him a severe horse-whipping which he richly deserved.

The U. S. Senate has recently ratified a treaty with Brazil, under which our government becomes responsible for payment of citizens' claims against Brazil, and Brazil pays \$50,000 milrees, Brazilian currency, with six per cent. interest since the first of July last. SOUTHERN CONVENTION.—The Florida Sentinel, one of the best papers in that State, comes out strongly against the southern convention which is proposed to be held in Nashville, Tenn., in June next, and to which Mississippi and South Carolina have already chosen delegates. SAINT LOUIS, Feb. 1, P. M.—Goncalves Montequien has been indicted for murder in the first degree. Raymond has been retained for a witness. The trial will probably be held at the present term of the Criminal Court. (These are the young Frenchmen who, it will be remembered, shot Herndon and others, in St. Louis, last fall.)