NEW ORLEANS DAILY CRESCENT.

PUBLISHED EVERY DAY, SUNDAY EXCEPTED, BY NIXON & ADAMS, AT No. 70 CAMP STREET.

VOLUME XII. SATURDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 24, 1859. NUMBER 171.

New Orleans Daily Crescent.

SATURDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 24, 1859

TALK ON 'CHANGE.

There was not much animation perceivable on the streets yesterday. Carondelet street and environs presented only feeble evidences of a general resumption of business. In fact, a year ago, when the daily deaths from yellow fever were seventy per day, there was more general business doing than at this time—the sales of cotton for the week ending the 25th of September last year were thirty thousand bales. There were some remarks yesterday made about the fine weather: if the weather of yesterday prevailed through the cotton region, it was equivalent to an addition of ten thousand bales of cotton, in addition to the expected average productions. The talk is, that there will be a deficiency in some sections from last year; in others that there will be as much cotton as can be picked; in others that the force and labor are not ample to cover the bolls as fast as opened, which leads to the talk that the crop will be more than an average one, provided frost does not intervene before the middle of next month. Estimates of the present crop have been talked of. We have been called on for our views; in reply, we have to state that it is too early for figures. We shall not look at an arithmetic before the 15th of October, so we desire to dispense with all interlocutions up to that time. There were some remarks made about the presumed oracle of the cotton trade in New York, Col. Wright. On the 6th inst., he coolly asserts in his circular to go by the America for Liverpool on the 7th inst., that the crop of 1858-'59 would be 3,750,000 bales, when, if the circular in question pretended to give correct details, it should have been 3,825,000 bales or more. If Messrs. Wright & Co. were not on the 6th of this month in possession of information that the crop would not exceed over 3,750,000 bales, then they were sadly posted up, and deficient in general information. Moreover, about one year ago Col Wright, in his missives for the Liverpool and Manchester markets, stated that the crop, which has now resulted, according to the tables of the oracle, in 3,851,478 bales, would be about 3,250,000 bales—only a difference of 600,000 bales. However, we can excuse the Colonel on this point, as there were many others who made the same estimates. But the palpable conversion of figures in the circular of the 6th inst. deserves the strongest reprehension. It is immaterial whether Bears or Bulls were to be served by the misapplication of figures.

In the course of our talk about cotton, the question of fire insurance on cotton transported over or via the Jackson Railroad was brought up, leading to the following communication from the most respectable source:

Eds. Crescent: Through the efforts of the editor of your monetary articles, the cotton factors', planters' and public generally will, I hope, understand the position they occupy as shippers of freight over the Jackson Railroad.

Last year when competition became active between the Vicksburg packets and the Jackson Railroad, the inducement was offered to shippers of freight over the road that the Company would, in addition to the usual obligations of a common carrier, guarantee the safe delivery of all freight, in other words, insure their freight. The consequence was, that cotton factors immediately cancelled all their policies of insurance, and merchants generally stopped insuring, all believing themselves insured. Apart from the fact that shippers are not in reality protected against the dangers of transportation, there is another very serious matter to be considered by the planters and factors. The cotton which is received at the depot accumulates so as often to reach two thousand bales, and remains there for days at the risk of the shippers, for the Insurance Companies will certainly not cover the risk in the usual way, (from the time of landing) being deprived of the premium on the transportation risks. How, indeed, could they? They are willing to make their risks continuous, but the assured must on the other hand insure against the transportation risks, as well as against fire in presses. For instance, the merchant who takes river risks himself cannot expect to obtain insurance against fire in presses with the condition that the risk shall commence from the landing of the cotton and continue until its sale and payment. That would be simply absurd. Hence, I contend that the consignee, being deprived of insurance on his cotton while at the depot of the railroad, ought to make the Company responsible for any loss that may happen, in consequence of the Railroad Company having received the very consideration which enables him to cover the risk against fire—namely, the premium on the transportation risks. D.

Our correspondent above leads off with proper and satisfactory suggestions, but he closes with remarks untenable, in our opinion. We regard and consider the receipts or bills of lading given by the Railroad Company in the same light as a receipt or bill of lading given by a steamboat on the risk or steamship that travels on the ocean. Why is the consignee deprived of insurance at the depot? Simply because he has not paid the insurance or premium of risk over the railroad the same as he would by steam or flatboat. It is news to us that the Railroad Company, for the sake of obtaining business, agreed to assume all risks of transportation, embracing fire, stealings, and so on. That is not to be taken into consideration at this moment. The Company, in the autumn of 1858, passed a resolution that it would not be accountable for losses from fire after the first of December, 1858. To be plain, it was a very impolitic and wild course for the Company to assume fire risks. As well might the Southern Steamship Company assume all risks and be held accountable for all freight forwarded or shipped on board of its vessels.

We have not space for further talk on this subject. The communication above alludes to two thousand bales of cotton as being at the depot at a time. We desire to correct this estimate, from the fact there are at times from five to ten thousand bales of cotton at the depot in this city—two thousand bales and over being received often in one day, as appears by the returns. However, the talk is, that two thousand bales, five thousand bales or more, would make a great blaze if it got fairly to going in a windy time, and as the devouring element pays no respect to owners or those interested, the general talk is that it is about time planters, factors and underwriters understood the grounds on which they relatively stand, and we coincide with the talk. It must be considered that the Railroad Company cannot be forced to assume risks which the managers choose to avoid, and it is hoped that our general suggestions will lead to a settlement and understanding of this question, and not wait till a destructive fire takes place, and then many worthy planters find their year's earnings or emoluments destroyed merely by the attempt to save a few dollars.

The usual weekly report of the coffee trade from Lonsdale, Son & Co., which will be found in another column, denotes a very moderate supply or stock of coffee. One cargo from Rio is in the river for account of Aymar & Co., of New York. We learn that there are 13,000 bags on the way hither from Baltimore, so there is not much probability of being deprived of our coffee for the present. Prime coffee was sold last year at this time in our market at 11 to 11½c., or over 10 ℘ct. less than the present current figures.

The mails failed to day—that due by the Jackson Railroad from beyond Canton. We have to note these failures too often. If there is a remedy it ought to be applied. The most outrageous movement by the Post-Office Department is the suspension of the California mails from this city. Remonstrance would be useless, as we never knew a petition or application from New Orleans to the Post-Office Department or any other branch of the General Government meet with respect or more than ordinary attention. It is supposed that the time has arrived for our citizens to move in the matter.

The next steamers from Europe will be the North American of the 14th, from Quebec, and the Vanderbilt, same date, from Southampton, for New York.

AMALGAMATION IN THE NORTH.—The fruit of the system of harboring runaway slaves is apparent from the following paragraph from the Detroit Free Press. Disgust is a very tame word by which to indicate the abhorrence of all virtuous and right-minded persons for such a condition of society:

The extent to which amalgamation is carried in this city is really beyond the knowledge of nine-tenths of the inhabitants. There are hundreds of families, the parents of which are of opposite colors, and although the marriage of whites and blacks is illegal and void, yet they live together and bear children. It is a remarkable fact, that out of all this number no instance exists where a white man lives with a black woman. They are all white women and generally the blackest kind of men. Whether philosophers would argue a superior degree of depravity in the amiable sex from this state of facts or not, we are unable to say—should think they would be unable to avoid it. The same condition of affairs prevails on the other side of the river, to the intense disgust—we are happy to add—of all good and loyal Canadians.

MEXICAN CORRESPONDENCE.

Special to the New Orleans Crescent.]

VERA CRUZ, Sept. 8, 1859.

LOWER CALIFORNIA IN THE MARKET.

In consideration of the importance attached to the acquisition of Lower California by many of your American statesmen, that narrow strip of land, six hundred miles long, with an average width of seventy miles, is at present attracting some attention here, and I believe the Mexican Government is prepared to dispose of it upon favorable terms, if you have a mind to pay down a reasonable sum, say $1,000,000. This is the figure put upon the property by the Mexicans themselves, with which I have nothing to do. I am of opinion that the United States does not require that territory upon any terms at present, and particularly is she enjoined from making landed purchases while you are so much in want of personal liberty and commercial advantages which shall extend your rights and trade in this very desirable quarter. In possession of the gold-bearing State of California, the United States should bring herself close to Mexico by reciprocity, which would pour into your lap the silver of this Republic; and until Arizona and Mesilla are taken care of, it is useless waste of time to neglect commercial advantages for more extended dominion over waste lands.

MILITARY REASONS WHY YOU DO NOT NEED IT.

The Peninsular of Lower California is not necessary to you in a military point of view, for the Colorado possessions, if they were considered worthy of attack, would be better defended, leaving that long belt of land in possession of Mexico, than if you had it yourself. The dangerous navigation of the Gulf of California would deter an expedition from venturing into those waters, and your sea coast defences could therefore be concentrated about San Diego, instead of being extended all along a line of shore reaching seven or eight hundred miles up and down the peninsular, and which is well stocked with cattle. This freedom from attack would preserve the line of overland communication by the way of El Paso, except from an overwhelming force which might land in the neighborhood of San Diego or Los Angeles, and which would then come into possession of the country clear to Fort Yuma. But before this could be done, all the strength of the lower section of the State of California would have to be beaten.

CHARACTER OF THE COUNTRY—AMERICAN INTERESTS THERE ALREADY.

The country thus offered for sale is mountainous and rugged, and really unfit for use except for its copper and salt mines, its grazing qualities, and its pearl fisheries. At present many persons from California own large cattle estates there, which are largely productive, and which are virtually untaxed. These are destined to be of great benefit in feeding California cheaply, and therefore ought not to be crippled. In the next place the salt and copper mines and pearl fisheries are open to common enterprise, even more liberally than if they belonged to you, and they do not need to be purchased to be expanded. You thus have common advantages under existing laws—the country costs you nothing to govern or defend the people are opposed to being bought, and I can conceive of nothing which can justify your statesmen or diplomats in negotiating for an unwilling race of subjects, a barren country, and a host of expenses which are saved to you at present. Or is the insanity of expansion too deeply rooted to look at any other argument than that of extended empire?

As I said, the Pearl Fisheries are the most valuable resources of the country at present, and that the public may form its own opinion of their worth, I translate a somewhat lengthy although accurate and interesting article from the *Progresso* of this city on the subject. As this article appears in the Government organ, I suppose it is thrown out as a bait to catch the popular mind in the United States, that Mexico may be enabled to sell another slice of her very worthy territory.

PEARL FISHERIES OF LOWER CALIFORNIA.

Diving for pearls constitutes the principal resource of the people living along the eastern shores of the peninsular of Lower California. This maritime industry began its development in the middle of the sixteenth century, and has continued, with intervals of more or less activity, to grow in consequence until the present day. It was not trammeled by any restrictions until 1769, when the Conde Jose de Galvez established the basis of a civil organization, which was soon converted into a theocratic government over the province, under the dominion of the Jesuits, whose missions and whose rule at one time were so rich and so powerful upon the whole California coast. A tax of one-fifth part of all the gains was then levied, which continued to be collected until 1835, when the Mexican Government, having broken down the Spanish rule, proceeded to root out the padres. Then the tax was abolished and the fisheries thrown open to the enterprise and skill of all.

The routine of the Fishery to-day does not vary from what it was two hundred years ago. The pearl gatherers are divided into two classes—those who employ divers, and who are called *empresarios*, and those who engage to these for a part of what they gain. The first-mentioned class has been very rapidly developed within the last five years, and there are now *empresarios* who employ from 50 to 100 boats.

The fleets of these *empresarios* are supplied before starting to the diving grounds with large quantities of liquor, beans, dried beef, salt, corn, and other necessaries, together with varied stocks of goods of a description to be sold to the divers and which are retailed to them at the most extravagant rates.

Probably one-half of the divers are recruited from California, while the other half is drawn from Sonora. The echo of extended competition soon induced the speculative Spaniards to pass a regulation forbidding the Jesuits from employing those large missions of newly-converted Indians into the traffic, which was acceded to by the padres on the understanding that whatever pearls were taken on Sunday should be given to the Lord. This was a wise compromise for the speculators, for the cupidity of the churchmen would have monopolized the pearl fisheries as they did the stock ranches. Among the Indians it only requires one of them fifteen or twenty days to become a daring and expert swimmer, even if he could not swim when first introduced to the sea; and the neophites of the missions would have sufficed to cover the waters if the padres had not been bought off.

These Indians, who are all drawn from the tribe of Yaquis, on the river of that name which drains the State of Sonora and empties into the Gulf of California above Guaymas, are usually employed for an entire season in consideration of a free passage to and from the fisheries, their living, (which is miserable), and one-half of the pearl oysters which they shall deliver unopened. This contract, which is verbal, has for witnesses the alcalda of the place where the recruit is employed, and generally another Indian, who speaks Spanish and is a kind of agent of such men. The diver is also engaged to prefer his employer in the sale of the pearls; so that in the trade he is generally cheated out of the most valuable of his jewels, and the balance he sells either for silver coin, which they prefer for its sonorous qualities, or whisky, which they are much addicted to. And in the ultimate and final settlement, the diver usually finds himself charged not only with the passage across the gulf, but with sundry sums of borrowed money which he never saw.

The diver's life is a hard and painful one, and such as could only tempt the people of this country, who are traditionally lazy and fatalistic. In this respect the labor is nothing, and the reward something like a lottery, in which there are hundreds of blanks to a single prize. The Yaqui, although always hopeful and trusting in fortune, patiently awaiting the day when he shall fix his penetrating eye upon a pearl of price, and then in a single effort bring up from the deep a jewel of unspotted brilliance—an immense fortune of one hundred and fifty dollars! As the gambler watches each card for the one that shall invest him with wealth, as the miner turns up spade after spade in search of the golden lead, so this amphibious creature, with nothing but a ragged blanket, gazes upon shells unnumbered, always hoping for the one which is to realize his fortune; and while the waters of the gulf retain their warmth and transparence, he never relinquishes the thought, but in his drunken orgies boasts of the wealth which he shall yet bring up from the depths of the sea.

May is the month when the fishers first cast their tents upon the beach. The winds from the Straits of Behring have ceased to chill the water, and the calm, warm breezes of the south-east come up to refresh the atmosphere. The gulf is tepid and tranquil. In the wide and beautiful bay of La Paz, and amongst that cordon of multifarious islands which form its triple entrance, everything is quiet and lovely; and particularly in the afternoons, when the soft Coro'mal blows from the south with balm and refreshment upon its breath. The mornings are calm, and then the divers are out observing, for in the still and clear water their practiced eyes can explore the very depths of the sea, discovering here and there the rich treasures spread out beneath them. The shells cluster together, sometimes they are broken and sometimes the very pearls themselves, cast loose, are seen resting upon waving masses of green sea moss like stars set in a dark blue sky.

At sunrise the fishers are away for the diving grounds, under the supervision of the governor. Each boat carries from three to five persons, usually three divers and two rowers, or one rower and two divers. A cloth or rag of any kind barely sufficient to cover his shame is all the Indian wears when he first ventures into the water. The task is usually commenced by a preparatory bath, which equalizes the temperature of the blood with that of the water, and this first step is converted into a play, in which all manner of exploits are performed, noisy exclamations, boisterous laughter, and the most indecorous conversations are heard in the Yaqui dialect. The scene is full of animation, as they cleave the water in every direction with their long and undulating forms, their skins almost lustrous under the water and their wavy, lousy, jet-black hair streaming behind them like a horse's.

The bath over, each one goes to his task. Standing upon the prow or poop of the light canoe, or perhaps on the central seat, the diver draws himself up, throws himself forward, and inhaling a long respiration, he watches for the precious deposit which his eye located in the morning. His gaze once fixed, he precipitates himself into the water, describing an oblique direction to the bottom, which he reaches, if it is very deep, with four or five movements of his arms and legs. The work of gathering the shells is quickly done, by picking them up and depositing them between the left arm and stomach. Fifty seconds or a minute are devoted to the task; after which the breath swells for utterance, the diver obeys the instinct of life, and raising his head to observe the position of the boat, he strikes his feet to the earth and quickly rises to the surface, generally close to the boat. His features are swollen from long-suspended respiration, and his eyes are blood-shot from the strain of the water upon their delicate nerves. A long whistle of satisfaction as he emerges from the water, and then he gives his load on board. The shells of each diver are made into a separate pile, which are not disturbed until the boat lands.

It is a curious and interesting spectacle, then, the first sight of a fleet of fisher's boats stationed at a distance of from three to five hundred yards from the shore, or off the coast of one of the islands; and this interest is heightened when it is known to what dangers the fishers are exposed in their arduous and uncertain search for wealth amidst the depths and dangers of the sea. This clear and reflective expanse of water, without a wrinkle upon its surface, lovely and peaceful as it looks, yet contains in its bosom the most terrible monsters, who come without warning and destroy without mercy. These terrible enemies whose presence sometimes spreads a panic through the hardiest, are the tintorera, the shark and the manta-raya, but, happily, the catastrophies recorded of them are as rare as they are horrible.

The first mentioned is the most powerful and active, but it is also the scarcest. It is seldom seen, and therefore unnecessary to be described. The shark is the most common and the most dreaded. His coming is so stealthy, his attack so swift, that when once his long and arrowy form is seen poised above the unfortunate diver, nothing but the most perfect presence of mind can save the man. The shark usually watches until the diver has precipitated himself into the water, when he slowly places himself in mid-water, just between the victim and the boat. The men in the boat see him come, but the diver is ignorant until, raising his head to rise to the surface, he sees this dreadful death between himself and the upper air. If he rises unthoughtedly, it is but to enter that grave of teeth; but if his wits do not desert him, there is yet a chance of safety. He at once, in the latter case, drops his load of shells, and taking a large one, disturbs the bottom violently, until it rises in a turbid volume to the surface. In the meantime the men in the boat make all manner of noises, striking on the water with their paddles and stamping upon the boat with their feet, to distract the attention of the monster. Taking advantage of the troubled water and the confusion of the shark, the diver quickly ascends and is promptly lifted into the boat. The work of fishing is concluded for that day. The manta-raya somewhat resembles the electric eel, except that it is much larger, sometimes being formed of such capacity that a man might be enfolded in its side. They first strike the diver with their tails, which paralizes him, when they commence sucking his blood, from which circumstance they are called the vampires of the sea. They are also very scarce.

At noon, the diver's task is finished. The fleet steers for the shore, where the boats are soon moored, and the whole party repair to the barracks to dinner. An hour is whiled away, and then the boats are unloaded, the shells separated, and a distribution made of those belonging to the empresarios and those to the employee.

The fishery of La Paz extends from the Cape of Pulmo to the canal of San Jose, and the fleets of the various empresarios are stationed along the coast in the various bays, lagoons, creeks, and in fact every where that the explorers have discovered beds of pearl oysters. These beds are liable to be moved by the tides and the great winds which sometimes roll the waves in certain directions; and this probably accounts for the wretched and unstable character of the habitations in which these people live. Each empresario erects a kind of barracks for the occupation of his divers, but they have to be taken down just as the fishing grounds change. Such barracks are only put up in the frailest fashion, to keep off the dampness and the sunshine. They are usually constructed of dry branches, but so low that a person entering them must bend himself almost double. Others are simply covered, being left open on all sides to the four winds. The house of the governor or boss is somewhat superior, being usually flanked by dry and untanned ox-hides, to protect not only his official dignity, but the stores of dry beef, hams, etc., stored away within it. It is usually furnished with a pair of pistols, a sword, a dagger, and sometimes a gun, defensive arms in the event of any trouble or outbreak amongst the Indians, as is frequently the case, when they tear down everything, and sometimes even make short work of the governor for the purpose of robbery.

Occasionally the Indians imagine they have been badly treated or unfairly dealt with, and at such times the boss does not find his place at all pleasant, for he suffers, first, from apprehension that his Indians may run away, and then from personal dread. What strength could he oppose to sixty or a hundred Indians wrought up to madness and perhaps drunk? In such *emeutes* the savages commit the highest of crimes, after which they appropriate the boats and then fly for life; guided by nothing but their own instincts, they steer across the gulf, and the only land marks they look for along the coast is the tall ridge crowned with poplar trees, which designates the entrance to the Yaqui and the Mayo rivers. Here they abandon the boats and seek refuge in any of the fertile valleys which rest among the mountains of Sonora.

No consideration of gain, no threat of punishment, no present comfort, can long deter a Yaqui Indian from the home of his youth. The sentiment of locality, coupled with that religious feeling which calls them back to the scenes of their occult idolatry, will not allow them to remain long away; and many an empresario can verify the bad faith of Indians who have broken their contracts before they were half filled, and stealing his boats, run off to the opposite coast. Regardless of danger, too, they stretch out into the gulf, unprovided with provisions and thoughtless of the time it may take them to make the trip. On one occasion, five Indians stole a small boat, and after coasting up the peninsular to the Island of Espiritusanto, they then steered straight across. Their only stock of provisions was a half barrel of a kind of native liquor something resembling sweetened water, and a few pounds of dried beef. They were fifteen days making the trip in that small boat, half filled with water, and the three last days they were without water or meat. Fortunately, a wind drifted them ashore, after they had become powerless to help themselves, and when taken out they could not move, but all rested together in the bottom of the boat, with their hands interlaced, as though a common sentiment impelled them to share the same fate.

Although gambling and the sale of liquor is forbidden by the regulations of the fishery, yet here, as everywhere else, over-ride conscience and the law, and both these vices are clandestinely encouraged to a fearful extent. The governor is usually the winner, so that when the day of settlement comes around, few are the divers that have aught to show for their five or six months services. Happy the one who has retained his blanket, fortunate he who has not lost an arm or a leg.

The fishery yields from one hundred thousand to three hundred thousand dollars per annum, and employs from fifteen hundred to four thousand persons. No approximation can be had as to what a man may earn, as the business is even more like a lottery than mining. The pearls are mostly small, ranging in price from one to twenty dollars, being sold according to weight. Some are found worth twenty-five dollars, and some as high as five hundred; but as pearls are not a fashionable jewel, they are not so much in demand. In old times they were more sought after and were more valuable, it being stated that Cortez took home one worth five thousand dollars as a present to the Spanish Queen.

The health of the diver is generally good, with the exception that he is occasionally visited by innumerable sores and ulcers. It is thought that this results from the fact that they eat molluscular parts of the pearl oyster raw, throwing away that part which they cannot tear from the shell. This flesh decays and putrifies, producing such a stench in the whole atmosphere as at times to render it almost unsupportable. Here, as elsewhere, cleanliness is not one of the virtues of the Indian.

PLATFORM OF THE OPPOSITION PARTY

Of the State of Louisiana; Adopted in Convention, September 12, 1859, in the City of New Orleans.

1. *Resolved*, That we earnestly deprecate the further agitation of the irritating questions connected with the institution of slavery. We believe that those questions have been unnecessarily forced upon the consideration of Congress and the people; and that their introduction into the political arena has been prompted by no spirit of patriotism, nor even by a sincere regard for the interests of either section of the Union, but that they have been the ingenious devices of ambitious men to excite sectional animosities, and thereby advance their own selfish and unhallowed purposes.

2. That as the present Administration of the General Government has falsified its pledges to the people, and by its wasteful extravagance in the public expenditures, willful neglect of the substantial interests of the people, its cowardly foreign policy, and mischievous sectional action, has forfeited all claims to the confidence of the country.

3. We advocate an economical administration of the Federal Government not merely in name but in reality, to be effected by limiting the expenses of printing to the actual necessities of the Government, by abolishing the franking privileges, and seperating altogether the contracts of the Government from corrupt political influences.

4. The preservation of the integrity of the National Legislature by the discountenancing the appointment of members of Congress to office; by condemning the indiscriminate use of the Executive veto; by retaining in full force the treaty making power to the National Senate, and reserving the control of the purse and the power to declare war where it now rests, in Congress.

5. A just and manly administration of the foreign policy of the Government, protecting and asserting the rights of the Government and its citizens, whether native or naturalized, against foreign aggression from any quarter.

6. A bold and vigorous enforcement of the laws against territorial insubordination, and the enactment of additional one's if needed.

7. The appointment to office of faithful and patriotic men, and not of mere partisans, who for years past have to the discredit of the nation filled the most prominent places at home and abroad.

8. The preservation of the national honor by the fulfillment of all national obligations, and just and equal dealings with other Governments.

9. The increased expenditures of our State Government are without any adequate benefits, and are fearfully alarming to an already tax-ridden people. The oft-repeated promises of reform by the dominant party in contrast with their action, admonishes us that we cannot place any reliance in them, but must look to a change of administration and policy by overthrowing the present party in power, who have and are enriching themselves from the industry of an honest people.

10. The profligacy, corruptions, and the gross imbecility which has characterized the action of the dominant party in the administration of the *Swamp Lands* exhibits a most reckless betrayal of an honest trust. We see this rich heritage which was to enrich us in agricultural resources, bartered away for the benefit of a few land jobbers, and as partisan rewards for sustaining an imbecile State Administration. A change of policy may yet save much of this valuable grant, and realize to us some of the immense benefits contemplated by this act of cession.

11. We pledge our party action to conform to an economical administration in the expenditures of State moneys, commensurate with the wants of the people. A reduction of the rate of taxation. The decrease of the State debt, which is now increasing yearly. Internal improvements, with State aid up to Constitutional requirements, and a searching inquiry and exposure in detail of the vast profligacy and corruption of the present State servants in the past administration of affairs.

12. We earnestly solicit the cordial co-operation of all citizens, without distinction of party, who favor the above resolution, to unite with us in electing our State nominees, for which purpose meetings are requested to be held in every parish in this State to endorse our action in the most public manner.

CURIOSITIES OF LITERATURE.—Hon. Thomas Greville, who died in London in 1848, was the possessor of a large and unique collection of books, the most valuable and curious of which he gave to the British Museum. The value of those thus bestowed is computed at £100,000—$500,000, although the whole number of volumes would not exceed 20,000, at $25 a volume! Of this interesting collection the *Biblia Sacra Latina* upon *vellum* is the most interesting. It is the first edition of the Holy Scriptures, and the first book printed with moveable type. It was executed at Mentz by Guttemberg and Faust, between the years 1450-5, in double columns. The cost of getting this up was such that Scheoffre, son-in-law of Faust, says 4,000 florins, equal (at 46 cents a florin) to $1,840, were expended before *twelve* sheets were finished. This book is called the *Mazarin* Bible, from having been found in the library of Cardinal Mazarin. There are but four copies on *vellum* and fourteen on paper extant; these are in the public libraries. The highest price ever paid for a printed volume was for Boccacio's Decameron, at the sale of the Duke of Roxburgh's library in London, 1812. This celebrated volume was printed by Christopher Valdarfer, 1471. The principal competitors at the sale were the Marquis of Blandford and Earl Spencer. The former carried off the prize. His bid was £2,260, more than ten thousand dollars in our currency! The Roxburghe Club was formed to commemorate this sale.

THE COLLIER FOLIO SHAKSPEARE.—The Duke of Devonshire, its owner, has withdrawn the famous Collier folio from the British Museum, and has placed it in the hands of his solicitor for safe keeping. Such was the excitement which the question raised as to the good faith of Mr. Collier and the corrector of the folio had created that the Duke thought it best to have the volume under his own eye. It is confessed that the character of the MS. department of the British Museum, as well as that of Mr. Collier, is at stake in the controversy, and it is proposed to appoint a committee of literary men and paleographists, (from which the rival editors of "Shakspeare," Mr. Dyer, Mr. Knight, and Mr. Halliwell, and all officers of the British Museum, are to be excluded) for the purpose of deciding the question of the antiquity of these marginal readings.

Telegraphed to the New Orleans Crescent.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

[BY THE NATIONAL AND BALIZE LINES.]

From Vicksburg.

VICKSBURG, Sept. 23.—The steamer Grand Duke passed down this morning. The Charmer passed down at 1 and the Republic at 6 o'clock this evening.

From the South-West Pass.

SOUTH-WEST PASS, Sept. 23.—The dispatches from California to the Associated Press by the steamship Habana, which were detained here by an interruption of the line, state that the Pacific mail steamship took out $2,123,000 in treasure and twelve hundred passengers via Panama.

FROM ASCENSION PARISH.—The Acadian of Tuesday last has the following:

On Sunday evening, it seemed as though the clerk of the weather had turned loose the flood-gates of heaven; and the way it poured down on Sunday night and the greater part of the day on Monday was pleasing to young ducks. The rain, however, was much needed, and materially improves the sugar prospects in this vicinity.

About 2 o'clock on last Saturday, a young man named Calais Babin, aged 18 years, a native of New River, while riding in the settlement, and in apparent health, was suddenly seized with a severe brain fever and died in a few moments.

AN EXTRAORDINARY CASE.—The Richmond correspondent of the Petersburg Express gives the following account of an extraordinary family affray:

A serious difficulty occured in Hanover county, near the New Kent Line, on Wednesday evening last, growing out of a dispute between Mr. John T. Brown and his wife, relative to a trip the latter made to this city. It seems that two sons of Mr. Brown, Lucius and Washington, espousing what they considered their mother's wrongs, commenced an assault upon the father, and beat him in the most unmerciful manner. The heaviest of the blows was received about the head and face, and when my informant left, it was supposed that the unfortunate man could scarcely recover. Wm. C. Smith, Esq., a Justice of the Peace, has taken measures to have the offenders punished. Mr. Brown, fearing a further attack from his unfeeling sons, had been removed, at his own request, to the residence of his sister, Mrs. Mary Brown, for protection, where, at last accounts, he was awaiting the arrival of a physician.

FIRE IN VICKSBURG.—The Vicksburg Whig of Thursday says:

A fire broke out last night about 8½ o'clock on Gordon street, near the Railroad depot, and before it could be arrested, eight or ten buildings fell victims to the devouring element. It is said to have originated in the stable of Hugh Riley, Esq. The residence of this gentleman was also destroyed. The buildings which were burnt were owned by Messrs. J. A. Klein, Wm. Finney, T. Purcell, Mrs. Brady and others. The houses were mostly old structures, and the entire loss is not heavy.

DEATH OF A VERY OLD WOMAN.—Mrs. Susan Metevie died at the poor house in this county last Thursday, at the advanced age of one hundred and fifteen years. She was born in Detroit, and has always resided in this county. She was what is commonly known as a half-breed, or half Indian and half French. She was married in early life to Francis Metevie, a Frenchman and a soldier in the American army in the war of 1812. He was at the attack of Mackinaw. When Major Holmes fell dead upon the field, Metevie sprang forward and placed the body under a fallen tree and covered it with bark, to prevent its being scalped by the Indians. He died some years since. There were several children by the marriage, but we believe they are all dead. [N. Y. Eve. Post, 17th.

INJURY TO THE ALABAMA COTTON CROP.—The Montgomery Confederation of Wednesday last says:

The destructive storm of Thursday last, added to the submerging rain of yesterday, has played the wild with the cotton crop of middle Alabama. A ride of twenty-five miles on Monday, through the cotton growing region, convinced us that the injury to the crop is very heavy. It was absolutely distressing to look upon the stricken fields, that only a few days since were rejoicing in the abundance of their harvests. Many thousands bales of cotton have been lost to Alabama planters by the disasters of the last week.

POST-OFFICE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT.—The plan for raising funds to complete the Washington National Monument, through the agency of the postmasters, seems likely to prove successful. About four thousand circulars were sent out last month by Lieut. Ives, and already returns are coming in. The smallest amount that has been sent is 25 cents, and the largest $18, the latter from the city of Wheeling, Va. When it is recollected that the former sum, insignificant as it appears, is nearly double what would be required from each place, monthly, in order to complete the monument in a few years, the entire practicability of the project will appear. It only requires the universal co-operation of postmasters to insure its success, and thus far all that have been heard from have promised a cordial co-operation to the enterprise. New York city, Charleston, Providence, R. I., and the little town of Putnam, in Ohio, have sent each more than $10. These four returns would make up the average for about 250 towns that might contribute nothing at all. Two or three months will be required to fairly test the project, but there is little doubt that it must ultimately succeed. The letters enclosing the remittances are kept on file among the records of the Monument Society; and it is intended, at stated intervals, to publish complete lists of the amounts received and the places where they were contributed. [Washington Star.

WHO KILLED TECUMSEH?—The Cincinnati Christian Advocate of the 17th contains an obituary notice by Rev. A. Wright, of the Indiana M. E. Church of Isaac Hamblin, Sr., who died at his residence near Bloomfield, Ind., a few months since, aged about 86 years. Mr. Hamblin was a man of deep piety and unquestionable veracity. He was in the battle of the Thames, and the writer gives the following as his statement in regard to the manner in which Tecumseh was killed:

He says he was standing but a few feet from Col. Johnson when he fell, and in full view, and saw the whole of that part of the battle. He was well acquainted with Tecumseh, having seen him before the war, and having been a prisoner seventeen days, and received many a cursing from him. He thinks that Tecumseh thought Johnson was Harrison, as he often heard the chief swear that he would have Harrison's scalp, and seemed to have a special hatred toward him. Johnson's horse fell under him, he himself being also deeply wounded; in the fall he lost his sword, his large pistols were empty, and he was entangled with his horse on the ground. Tecumseh had fired his rifle at him, and when he saw him fall, he threw down his gun, and bounded forward like a tiger sure of his prey. Johnson had only a side pistol ready for use. He aimed at the chief over the head of his horse, and shot near the center of his forehead. When the ball struck, it seemed to him that the Indian jumped with his head full fifteen feet into the air; as soon as he struck the ground, a little Frenchman ran his bayonet into him and pinned him fast to the ground.

THE MAD STONE.—The editor of the Jackson (Tenn.) Whig has been shown by Dr. R. H. Ayers, of that place, one of the famous mad stones, the existence of which has been generally doubted. The Doctor thinks the stone is of a coral formation. He says:

When used, it is dipped in water quite warm and applied to the wound, when the patient feels the sensations of drawing; and it is said that small ones will stick till full of poison and then drop off, and after being dipped in water and reapplied, will stick till all the poison is extricated. Mine is too large to stick in that way, being over two inches square, containing about seven solid inches. Yet those to whom I have applied it assert that they felt it draw.

This stone was used in Buckingham county, Virginia, from about 1815 to 1832, and in the west since, in my own neighborhood, and has never failed to cure in any case, although in several instances forty-eight hours, and, in one, several days elapsed before it was applied. In a case bitten by a cotton-mouth snake last week, in the vicinity of Mifflin, the remedies prescribed by the family physician were used until the leg and thigh were badly swollen, (bit on the ankle) and the body had commenced swelling; slept none through the night, and had no ease till I applied the mad stone, which gave relief immediately, and she fell asleep in twenty minutes. Seventeen hours had elapsed before it was applied. It arrests the swelling and pain in case of the sting of insects in a few moments, as I will prove at any time, on my own person or any one else.

PICTURE OF AN EDITOR.—The Mariposa (Cal.) Star thus describes the personal appearance of Horace Greeley:

He does not look like a vegetarian—wears specks, declines to drink, never smokes, seldom swears, and, among other peculiarities, seems to be in a devil of a hurry to get back to New York, which he apparently considers the true center of the solar system.

Local Intelligence.

THE WEATHER continues delightful. No prettier or more exhilarating a day than yesterday could have been desired.

COLUMBIA FIRE COMPANY No. 5 intend enjoying themselves to-morrow, by an excursion to Lake Borgne.

THE WEEKLY REPORT OF CHARITY HOSPITAL, for the week ending last evening, was as follows:

Admitted	354
Discharged	369
Died	31
Remaining	721

WEEKLY REPORT of the Free Dispensary of the New Orleans School of Medicine, on Common street, opposite the Charity Hospital:

Saturday, September 17, patients treated	55
Monday, September 19, patients treated	41
Wednesday, September 21, patients treated	49
	145
Treated previously	14,018
Total	14,163

AN UNLUCKY SHIP was destroyed by fire last night, with about 2000 bales of cotton. It was the large three-decker Helios, Capt. Mason, lying at Post No. 48, Third District, between Clouet and Louisa streets.

Some weeks ago the Helios cleared for Liverpool, with a cargo of over 4000 bales of cotton. Off the Tortugas she met with a disaster, and had to return to this city in distress. She discharged her cargo and went into dock at Algiers, where she was thoroughly repaired. Her repairs being complete, she was set afloat, brought to this side, and commenced re-loading her cargo of cotton. When the fire broke out, at about 6 o'clock last evening, her hold was well stowed with cotton, with a quantity unstowed, on her lower deck; the whole amount being 2000 bales or over.

Reports vary as to how and where the fire started. One report was that it started in the cotton in the hold, forward; another report was that it started on the upper deck or in the caboose. At any rate, the fire spread rapidly, and long before the firemen could render any degree of service, the whole forecastle and bows were in a blaze, with the foremast and its yards and rigging. As night set in, the spectacle was splendid; illumining both sides of the river for miles, and drawing many thousands of people, who glutted the whole breadth of the levee for several squares. It was the first ship *fairly* in a blaze seen at this city for many years, and by most of the multitude was viewed with a painful interest, as a fair picture of what a ship must look like when on fire at sea.

The breeze sent the flames over the starboard bow and over the wharf to which she was moored. As the lower fastenings of the rigging gave way, the blazing ropes dangled in the air like fiery serpents; whilst the heat was so great, and the difficulty of the firemen so great in getting their machines within suction of the river, that the little water thrown did no good, and the ship was soon pronounced doomed. After the fire had burnt for nearly two hours, the fore-topmast and top-gallant fell, bending over and coming down between the ship and the wharf, and sticking there, butt uppermost, in a nearly perpendicular position. The yards and rigging of the mainmast caught fire, but they were saved by the firemen, who had got their pipes on the after deck.

The after hatch had been left open, to enable the firemen to do what they could. But they found the cotton to be afire in the hold, from stem to stern, and the ship and cargo were then given up for gone. The flames and smoke soon commenced gushing up through the hatch; the few streams thrown by the few engines that were able to suck from the river, were no more than dew to the roaring flames beneath; and at last, after the fire had raged about two hours and a half, the towboat Thomas McDaniels came up, fastened to her stern, and towed her over to the flats, at which place it was the intention to quench the fire by scutling the ship. The ship Lancaster, lying at the wharf below, had been towed away in good time by the towboat Mobile. The wharf at which the Helios lay was burnt through and considerably damaged. The Helios looked like a mountain of fire as she was towed off down the river, and as she lit up the sky for a long time afterward, it is fair to presume that between burning and scuttling, the ship and cargo were a total loss.

The Helios was valued at $70,000; the cotton was worth about $80,000—making the total loss $150,000. We were unable to ascertain what insurance companies were the sufferers, or to what extent.

THE CORONER yesterday held two inquests. One was upon a much decomposed body, or rather skeleton, of a man found on the lake shore. A strip of flesh across the hips was all that proclaimed it the body of a white man. The clothing was stylish, consisting of a linen-bosom shirt, white Marseilles vest, dotted, fine cloth coat, black merino pants, and fine calfskin boots. A silver watch and silver suspender buckles were on the body, which was supposed to have been a long time drowned, and washed ashore in the late gale. Verdict, found drowned.

The other inquest was on the body of Sylvester, a slave 35 years old, belonging to Mr. Lane, found dead in his room at the corner of Dryades and Girod streets, where he had been sick some time. Verdict, consumption.

QUITE A CROWD of well-dressed and respectable looking gentlemen paraded the streets last night, escorted by a flag and several powerful bands of music. They were of the new political persuasion who call themselves the Independent Americans. They made quite a show in their long line of two-by-twos, decently distanced; but upon counting, at different points, their minimum number was found to be two hundred and fifty, and their maximum (including musicians) something over three hundred. They hurrahed a good deal; but as we could'nt hear who they were hurrahing for, we presume it must have been for themselves. All right. Custom-house, Post-office and other Federal Government features, however, were alarmingly prominent in the procession. It was a handsome and orderly procession. But it strikes us that the Custom-house and the Louisiana Club will have to do better than this, if they wish to scare or scarify New Orleans. The Independent processions, collectively, have an imposing appearance; but then there are people, you know, who *will* stand around the corners, to look at the faces and count the noses. You must do better, gentlemen!

THE "INDEPENDENT AMERICAN" CLUBS of the four districts of the city met at their respective headquarters last night, to nominate candidates for the parish and city offices, subject to the decision of the people at the coming November election. The following nominations were made:

For Sheriff.—B. S. Harrisson.
Coroner.—F. M. Crozat.
District Attorney.—Chas. D. Dreux.
Clerks of District Courts.—First, Armand Pellerin; Second, Alfred Bourge; Third, Emile Wiltz; Fourth, W. C. Auld; Fifth, B. W. Hebrard; Sixth, H. L. Hunley.
State Assessor for Fourth District.—Peter Kaiser.

After the nominations were made and duly ratified, the "Independent Americans" of the four districts formed into processions—met at the corner of Rampart and Canal streets—formed into a grand procession of about three hundred, (musicians included,) and woke up the principal streets.

RECORDER SUMMERS' COURT.—Lucien Gardere, a butcher of St. Mary's market, was yesterday examined before Assistant Recorder Munroe on a charge of having offered putrid meat for sale at his stall. The charge was proven, and Lucien fined $25. Andrew Hamon, of Cypress street, was fined $20 for brutal treatment of his wife.

Thomas Cahill, a promising youth, brought up by his mother Honora, for repeatedly striking and beating her, was required to furnish a good behavior bond or go to the Work-house. John Hennessey, for abusing Mary Ann Whalen, and Mary Balden, for abusing Bridget Golding, were also bound over for their better behavior; as were likewise Charles Barnes, for threatening officer McGregor, and M. J. Gallagher, for assaulting Nathan Lockman.

Richard Watson was held for examination on a charge of having stolen a $20 bull slut from A. Landry, of No. 24 St. Charles street. Watson's premises, at the corner of Melpomene and Magnolia streets, were searched, but no slut found.

FROM "PUNCH."

"L'EMPIRE C'EST LA PAIX."

When will incorrigible doubts be dumb?
When will injurious suspicions cease?
Proclaim anew, with cannon, fife and drum,
"The Empire is Peace—is surely peace!"

Where is not record of the blessed truth?
Read on Sebastopol's blood-boltered [illegible];
Read all the way from Petersburg to Pruth
On steppe and waste, in heaps of whitening bones—
"The Empire is Peace!"

Read, in the rice fields on Ticino's bank,
Where the green blades wave greener for the slain;
In the blood-fattened grasses that now grow rank
From the death-pits on Solferino's plain—
"The Empire is Peace!"

Read, in each cold and desolate French hearth,
Bereft of brother, husband, son or sire;
Read, in the rapine, ravage, scathe and dearth,
Through Piedmont wrought by hostile sword and fire—
"The Empire is Peace!"

Read, in the brow of England grimly bent,
Her hands all busy with the gear of war;
In voted war tax and hot armament,
And out look as for foeman, near and far—
"The Empire is Peace!"

Read, in the gathering hosts along the Rhine,
The cannon bristling on each fortress front,
The turfed and angled earthworks sheltering lines
On Scheldt or Meuse, against invasion's brunt—
"The Empire is Peace!"

Read, in the gloom, as of a thunder cloud,
The stir, as of a pent volcano's power,
Where, free a while to speak her thoughts aloud,
Italy, sad and stern, awaits the hour—
"The Empire is Peace!"

And if these records of the truth be weak,
To sweep your stubborn doubts, like dreams, away;
With trumpet tongue let the armed thousands speak—
Who late through Paris marched in war array—
"The Empire is Peace!"

A DISTINGUISHED REGIMENT.—Among the Austrian prisoners at Paris at this moment is one belonging to a regiment which claims a singular privilege, that of encamping for three days, whenever they pass through Vienna, in the court of the Emperor, and of receiving the most regal entertainment. The Colonel, upon his arrival is allowed by law to pass to the Emperor's chamber without question, no one being permitted to stop him. He knocks thrice, and demands orders of his majesty, when the Emperor invites him and his to re[illegible] three days regaling at his expense in the palace, assigns the Colonel a room next his own, the standards of the regiment are piled at his door, and a guard and lords in waiting attend him the same as the sovereign. The origin of the custom is this. In 1668 Leopold the First was suddenly waited upon by sixteen barons, with a charter which they were upon the point of forcing him to sign, having, as they thought, secured the absence of all the troops from Vienna, when suddenly a Colonel who received information from a secret source—it was never discovered whence—knocked at the door thrice, and to the great joy of the Emperor, demanded his majesty's orders for his regiment—which were that the sixteen barons should be at once beheaded.

A POPULAR LUXURY IN CHINA.—Two things struck me in China: the universal smell of musk in the kingdom of flowers, and the enormous consumption of melon pips, which are what nuts and oranges are to the English, and what olives and prunes are to the Gauls. The scarlet and yellow melons are in some places only grown for the seed, and are piled up by the side of the road for the use of any traveler who will scoop out the seed for the proprietor. On the rivers I have seen whole junks laden with these seeds. In the loneliest place you can procure them, when all other food is scarce. The three hundred millions of Chinese all eat them. When friends meet to drink tea or rice wine, there is always an accompaniment of melon-seeds. They are piled up on every dinner-table. They are eaten while traveling in the palanquin, they are picked at while discussing bargains. If a workman has a few copecks, he does just what his child would do—buys melon-seeds. They are an amusement and a food—as the cigarette is to the Spaniard, and the betelnut to the Hindoo.

In Mrs. Duberly's "Campaigning Experiences in Central India," just published in London, she relates a story of a mother, frenzied with terror at the surprise of the Rajah of Powree, in the jungle, having fled and left behind her an infant six or seven months old. It was found sitting on a bed, laughing at the horses and soldiers. In contrast to this, is the instance of a poor woman, in the action of Benjapore, who, endeavoring to escape, in the agony of fear clasped her child so closely that she squeezed it to death. She was still flying with it hanging over her arm, pressed as closely as ever, though dead and cold.

Mrs. Duberly gives the following anecdote of heroism in a woman: Mrs. Cotgrave, the wife of an officer of the 3d Europeans, who was stationed at Jhansi, determined to join her husband. With a little graceful and delicate child of four years old, and her ayah, she left Poonah, and traveled by bullock train to Mhow. Here difficulties were made on the part of the authorities, as there was danger in allowing her to proceed; and fearing she would be detained, she left Mhow one night, unexpectedly, and traveled in a gharry, without an escort of any kind. As they were passing through a thick jungle, the gharry, with its helpless freight of two women and a little girl, broke down. The native cart, containing the baggage, had gone on, and was some distance in front. Mrs. Cotgrave's fear of tigers and wild beasts was very great, but she sat by the roadside for more than an hour, with her little child held tightly in her arms, trembling with fear; for the jackals were screaming around her with their frightful and unearthly laugh, while the gharry wallah mended the cart. After many delays and adventures she joined her husband in safety.

In a "Trip to the Rhine," Mr. Gemmell thus describes Madame Kisseleff, the lady of the Russian Ambassador at Paris, called in her youth, on account of her rare beauty, "The Rose of Russia." "She is still very rich and still very gay, and so noted a stickler for woman's rights, that at her grand entertainments in Paris, gossip says, her husband must wait for a special written invitation, and not unfrequently waits in vain. She has still the remains of great attractions—full and piercing black eyes, acquiline nose, and handsome mouth, chin, and neck. She is richly dressed in black, with a profusion of bright rings and other ornaments. How very expert she is in tossing her money to the distant colors on the table. She has several feet to toss them, and yet not one rolls or alights on the wrong division. The wheel is in motion. She throws three florins on one color, two Napoleons on another, five Napoleons on a third, and ten Napoleons on a fourth. Yellow wins; not a shadow of either satisfaction or gloom on her countenance as she piles her winnings or gives out new coin. She is so constant an attendant at the table, that the public of Hamburg, thankful for her patronage, have called a new street by her name. When we saw her she had seven rows of Napoleons, about three inches high, at her elbow; but whether winnings or her stock in trade, we had no means of ascertaining."

NINETEEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIVE SCALPS.—What a paradise Arkansas must be for Nimrods! How we should like to have a plate at the "scalp barbecue," thus announced in the Litte Rock Democrat:

A barbecue is to be given at Fourche meeting-house, Saturday, the 17th inst. The dinner is to be given by a party of Scalp Hunters. We hunted five weeks and killed *nineteen thousand seven hundred and sixty-five* scalps, mostly squirrels. The difference between the two parties was one thousand one hundred and thirty-four. I am authorized to extend a general invitation to all persons, both ladies and gentlemen, in Pulaski and the adjoining counties, to come and partake of our dinner. We will have plenty of good substantial diet, as as pure water as Pulaski county affords. J. LONG.

The following amusing incident took place last week upon one of the Ohio river steamboats: While the boat was lying at Cincinnati, just ready to start for Louisville, a young man came on board leading a blushing damsel by the hand, and approaching the polite clerk, in a suppressed voice: "I say," he exclaimed, "me and my wife have just got married, and I'm looking for accommodations." "Looking for a berth?" hastily enquired the clerk, passing tickets out to another passenger. "A birth! thunder and lightning, no!" gasped the astonished man, "we hain't but just got married! we want a place to stay all night, you know, and—a bed."

VERDANCY IN INDIANA.—An insurance agent in this city, a gentleman well and favorably known as a man of truth and veracity, tells the following in illustration of the verdancy of a gentleman, in Pike county, Ind., with whom he had effected a policy of insurance:

In the list of printed questions in the company's blanks, there is one like this:—"Ashes—how kept?" The Pike county gentleman was burnt out, and after the fire discovered this question in his policy, and, resolving to make a sure thing of his premium, wrote our informant something in this wise: "Dear Sir—I was burnt out on the —— day of ——, and according to your laws, I have kept the ashes. They are in barrels, what shall I do with them. [Peoria Union.

A CURIOSITY.—A workman at the spoke factory in the Phoenix Works yesterday, while cutting a piece of oak, taken from the heart of an oak tree which grew in the wilds of Carolina county, Md., found embedded in it a penny of 1749. On one side is the head of the King, and the words "Georgius II Rex," and on the reverse "Brittania, 1748." The penny is battered on the edge, and evidently had been driven into the tree with a stone at the time the bark was soft. Bullets and other relics, which had been shot into trees during the Revolutionary war, are frequently found embedded in the wood which is brought to our manufacture.s. [Newark Daily.