To Advertisers.—*In order to afford the public an opportunity to judge for themselves of the merits of the Exchange, large editions will be issued for the first few days of its publication and distributed widely and gratuitously within the city, and also in those sections of the country which are connected with Baltimore by business relations. Merchants and others, who may propose to advertise in our columns, will do well therefore, to send in their advertisements at once, and thereby obtain the advantage of the extended circulation which such gratuitous distribution of the paper, both in town and country, will afford, an advantage which none who understand the value of legitimate advertising will fail to appreciate. For rates of advertising see Table elsewhere.*

To Readers.—*By means of the gratuitous distribution above adverted to, it is designed to make the Exchange perform in part its own canvassing. Persons disposed to encourage the enterprise can continue the experiment at their own pleasure, if residing within the city by settling from time to time with the carrier upon the terms stated elsewhere; if out of the city by sending their orders to the office of the paper, accompanied by pre-payment for the time specified.*

To Correspondents.—*Every communication intended for publication must be accompanied by the name of the writer. Manuscripts should be written on one side of the paper only.*

BALTIMORE.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1858.

The first number of the Daily Exchange presents itself to its readers under circumstances which its proprietors cannot but regard as auspicious of the accomplishment of their most sanguine expectations. The establishment of a new morning journal in Baltimore has been long felt to be desirable on many accounts which it is entirely unnecessary to detail, and the enterprise in which we have now embarked must not be regarded as an experiment which has been entered upon without very striking promises, in advance, of its probable success.—Without designing to disparage, in the slightest degree, our contemporaries, for whom we feel the sincerest respect and good will, it has been apparent, for some time past, to many merchants and men of business, that there is both room and occasion for another morning journal in Baltimore. The proprietors of the *Exchange* were led to examine the grounds of this impression, with a firm purpose to avail themselves of it if it should prove to their mind well founded, and quite as firm a determination to refrain from embarking in the enterprise unless the prospects of ulterior success should be more than merely plausible. The favor with which the project was viewed by the public was not slow in disclosing itself. There is scarcely a class of business men in the city who have not displayed a ready, warm, and, in some instances, an enthusiastic interest in the prosperity of this attempt to add another to the daily journals of the city. The most substantial, serviceable and unequivocal of all the evidences of this feeling are to be found in the display of advertisements presented in the columns of this first number of our paper. Almost every important business transacted in Baltimore is there represented, and we take occasion to state that there is not a single advertisement of any description which is not a bona fide paying contribution to our resources. We doubt whether any newspaper in this country ever started upon its career with so signal and general a manifestation of the good will and favor of the advertising public.

The experience of most projectors of newspapers has undoubtedly served to show that, however easy it may be to gain readers, the patronage of advertisers—the *pabulum* of every self-sustaining journal—is only acquired by slow degrees, and by a well established belief in the extent and variety of the circulation of a paper. Our case is, to a great extent, an exception to this rule. The advertisements we now publish are the free and hearty offerings of men who thus, in advance, are willing to stake something upon the success of a project which commends itself to their approval.

It is undoubtedly true that the inexperience from which we do not claim to be exempt may subject us, in the outset, to some disadvantages, and our readers to some disappointments, but we trust to supply as far as possible every defect of experience by increased vigilance and attention, and to render the *Daily Exchange* not only worthy of the patronage of every merchant, mechanic and professional man in Baltimore, but to secure for it a character for elevation of tone and purpose, extent and accuracy of information, and general efficiency in every one of its departments which will leave those who habitually resort to its columns no reason to regret the preference they award to it.

In the prospectus which invited the support of the community to this Journal, one of the engagements which we made with the public was, that the paper should be independent. Whether for the reason that this quality of independence so rarely distinguishes newspapers that it is not expected as a matter of course, or that it is a quality specially needed and desirable in a Baltimore paper, we know not—but it is certain that, in our intercourse with the public since the circulation of our Prospectus, we find much importance attached to the redemption of this promise. Indeed the value of a discreet, resolute spirit of independence in the management of a paper can scarcely be over-estimated. Without the constant exercise of this manly virtue the mission of the press, which should be a consistent and unvarying advocacy of right, becomes perverted to the support of the changing doctrines, interests and passions of each day as it passes—representing no fixed principles, promoting no established policy, and looking forward to the accomplishment of no certain and determinate purpose. Nothing can redeem a newspaper from this reproach except clear perceptions of duty on the part of those who have the right to control the expression of its opinions, and a firm, faithful and vigilant discharge of that duty. In the progress of events, occasions must constantly arise in which the press can only rescue itself from the shame and crime of a complicity with public abuses, by timely admonition, by determined opposition, by merited exposure and just denunciation. The superior opportunities which the editor of a paper possesses to disseminate his opinions beyond other men, impose upon him the corresponding obligation of freeing himself from every influence which may impair the impartiality as well as the soundness of his conclusions—and when, upon the great questions which concern the public, he has made up his mind from sufficient deliberation and inquiry, he will degrade the high office which he holds if he permits any consideration of expediency to induce him to withhold, much less to misrepresent, his sentiments.

In the conduct of the *Daily Exchange* it will be the aim of its editors to reconcile these principles with a due regard to the opinions, the objects, and even the prejudices of others. Sensible of the fallibility of their own judgment, they hope to escape any just imputation of treating the views of others with illiberality or intolerance; but, as in a newspaper which aspires to be any thing beyond a mere record of events, the opinions of its conductors upon all questions of magnitude must constitute its chief claim to individuality and reputation, those opinions will, upon all proper occasions, be asserted with the boldness and confidence which are the inseparable companions of honest purposes and matured convictions.

"When things grow to their worst, they must begin to mend." It is true, Milton's fiend professes to have found in "hell's lowest depth, a lower deep," but we know of no other exception to the truth of our proverb, if proverb that may be called which is but the popular expression of a palpable truism. There is consolation in the fact for the mercantile community who have been waiting patiently for the great river of trouble to roll by. At length the "worst" has come and gone, and although the end may not be as yet, the storm may be considered to have long since reached its height, and by this time, to have well-nigh spent its fury. Its course has been attended with much of shipwreck and disaster, and the foundering and stranding of many gallant vessels, whilst countless others have been driven to make port as best they could, and must undergo many repairs before they can safely put to sea again. With the return, however, of fair weather, and propitious breezes, commerce will soon revive, and another illustration be added of the fidelity of the poet's picture of the merchant—

Mercator——
——mox reficit rates
Quassas, indocilis pauperiem pati.

That improvement will at first be slow and gradual, is but the inevitable consequence of the terrible blow which the very foundations of public and private credit have sustained during the late crisis. Confidence between man and man, once destroyed, is not soon or easily restored, and without confidence, there can be no credit, and credit is the life of trade. When the seller doubts the good faith and solvency of the buyer, and everybody suspects his neighbor, and nobody knows whom to trust, there can be little business carried on, and the markets must necessarily be reported dull and drooping. Upon the restoration of confidence, however, will follow the revival of trade, and with the resurrection of credit, the commerce of the country, which "is not dead, but sleepeth," will awaken to renewed life and activity. Soon the recuperative energies of the country will repair the losses which the nation has sustained, and speedily efface the traces of our calamity. The effects of the revulsion will be like those of a conflagration occurring in the business centre of a great city. To-day, charred and blackened ruins may mark the scene of disaster—a few months hence new and stately buildings, more fair and solid in their proportions than those which preceded them, will hide from view every vestige of destruction.

Our losses, although they have curtailed the present demand for luxuries, have not extinguished that for necessaries. Men must still eat and drink, and wear clothes. Consumption must continue, and to meet the daily growing demands of that consumption, there must be production. Production and consumption make commerce. Our losses have not been so great as to be irreparable. Banks and merchants may have failed, but seed-time and harvest have not failed. The paper wealth of the country may be somewhat less than it was a year ago, but the real wealth of the country remains the same in its inexhaustible treasures hidden in the earth, in mines, and in the golden grain of its harvest fields. Nature has not suspended, nor the earth stopped payment. We are, therefore, far from apprehending that the effects of the late panic will be either long or lasting. Our only apprehension is rather that the solemn lessons which we have received, against over-trading and over-living, against reckless speculation and extravagant expenditure, against the insane desire to grow rich without industry, and the criminal desire to appear rich without means, may be all too soon forgotten, in the prosperity of the coming years. Some of those lessons we mean to put on record in these columns, and we commence the subject in to-day's issue by a discussion which will be found below, of some of the causes which led to the panic of 1857.

The most highly commercial nations of the world have lately passed through, or, may be more correctly said to be still passing through, one of those convulsions, which, unfortunately, of late years, have occurred but too frequently. Many and various reasons have been assigned as the causes of this state of things, and we, as journalists, feel it our vocation to submit to our readers our own views on the subject. After the disorders occasioned by the war between the General Government and the late Bank of the United States, resulting in the total failure of that institution, and the suspension of specie payments by all the Banks then subsisting in the country, which events took place dating from the removal of the deposites in 1833, and ending about the year 1842, commercial matters seem to have settled down into a more sober and less speculative mode of transacting business.—This continued, with some variations of no great moment, until the development of the gold fields of California, followed quickly by that of similar treasures in Australia, from 1850 to the present time, again opened the floodgates of overtrading and speculation, which have been carried on to such an extent as in our opinion has had much to do with present results, but which have been by no means confined to the trade with these regions. For we cannot but observe that the imports and exports of the United States and Great Britain have increased to a most enormous extent under these stimuli, and to an amount far beyond all former precedent within the same space of time. Connected too with this cause, particularly in Great Britain, arose an extraordinary demand for the productions of the United States. Cotton, which had been worth in 1848 to 1853 from 7 to 8 cents per pound, attained the great price of 18 cents in 1857: the famine in Europe of 1846–1848, succeeded by the Russian war with England and France, produced a similar effect on breadstuffs and meats. In addition, there was the influx of gold. These combined causes made all other articles of consumption sympathise with them, and real estate, house rent, clothing, groceries, marketing, &c., have advanced to prices which have reduced all fixed incomes to a point which has seriously affected all persons of moderate means, by greatly curtailing their usual comforts.

Now the world can after all consume but a certain quantity of articles, and all prudent and reasonable persons could not but foresee that of the amount of imports and exports thus going on, much must go to an unprofitable market, particularly to the new countries of California and Australia, where the losses have been immense: and many failures, both in England and here, may be traced to this source. The ability of the consumer, as has been before adverted to, has its limits, and when prices of articles, even of prime necessity, rise far beyond their former rates, their consumption, as we have lately seen in the case of sugar and coffee, will most certainly much decrease. The gold, too, of these new countries, has added largely to the capacity of banks of issue, who have thus been enabled to contribute their quota to the increased volume of currency, which they have not been slow in doing, and into which race France and Germany, heretofore hard money communities, have also entered.

This state of affairs has also led to the creation of many new railroads, and the extension of old ones, a great proportion of which can never make any adequate returns to their projectors. Almost the whole expense attending these enterprises has been raised on borrowed capital, thus exhibiting the most extraordinary spectacle of money in greater abundance than ever, with rates of interest before, for any length of time, unknown. We will not dilate on the private extravagance which has characterised this era, but it also has had its effect, and not a small one, as few will deny. Such appear to us to be the leading causes which have led to the pecuniary events we have lately contemplated, and we can by no means say that the end is yet. We may revert to this subject again, with some views in reference to a proper application of the calamity.

THE OPERA.

A series of eight operas in the past fortnight has been the musical event of the season. The troupe collected by the energy of little Mr. Ullmann, included a larger number of first class artists than have ever before appeared together in this city; and the entire management justified the impresario's claim to be master of every branch of his profession, the important one of "humbug" included.

The crowning attraction of the season, was that great work which has for seventy years maintained its undisputed supremacy of the lyrical drama, in all nations and languages,—Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. This company has, for the first time in this country, presented this opera with all of the seven parts, each as dramatic and profoundly differing from the rest as the characters of a play of Shakspeare, filled by a thoroughly competent artist. Formes in the part of *Leporello* in singing and acting was above criticism. His last scene was disfigured by no buffoonery, and his exhibition of abject terror was truly pathetic. The recent death of Lablache leaves this great Basso the first upon the stage.

Upon the whole the operas were as well presented as we can hope to see them, until we are better provided with a well located theatre, capable of a larger audience. Our present deficiency in this respect, subjects us not only to an undue tax in the prices necessarily imposed on a small audience to meet the heavy expenses of an opera, but to a more serious infliction of mediocrity, or something less, in the character of performances which the managers seem to consider is good enough for a provincial town. Never did an audience deserve less than ours this slight which they have had to bear too often. In no city in the Union is the music cultivated in private circles, of a character so well fitted to form the soundest and most appreciative taste in the art. Having had the recent opportunity of witnessing the performances of this company in the same operas in New York and Philadelphia, we cannot withold an expression of pride in the unquestionable superiority of our own audience to those of the cities named, in discriminating judgment and quick perception of every point in a performance worthy of approbation.

The German Operas outweighed the Italian here. The little opera of *Martha*, which has been a steadily increasing favorite in Europe for ten years, was presented here for the first time and received with a hearty relish. *I Puritani* and *La Sonambula*, the latter much curtailed and given in a very careless manner, fared badly between *Martha* and *Don Giovanni*. On Saturday afternoon *Rossini's Barber*, shorn of overture, one or two concerted pieces and the second finale, closed the season with a spirit that left the audience in a high good humor. The first finale was given with a richness of humor we have never before seen equaled in its performance here or elsewhere.

FROM OUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT.

Washington, February 20th, 1858.

The Houses not having been in session today, I have nothing particularly interesting in the way of political news to communicate. The proceedings yesterday presented nothing whatever of public interest or importance, the entire day, (with the exception of a short executive session in the Senate) having been spent in both Houses on the Private Calendar. In the House, a personal explanation took place between Messrs. Hatch, of New York, and Zollickoffer, of Tennessee, and a difficulty between the two honorable members was, happily for both and for the country, "amicably adjusted to their mutual satisfaction." Mr. Hoard, of New York, called the attention of the House, as a question of privilege, to what he considered a threatening and intimidatory letter which he had received from Mr. Burns, of Ohio, relative to a charge of corruption preferred by Mr. Hoard, against the latter on the Friday previous, on the authority of an anonymous news writer in the New York *Tribune*, and moved for a committee to investigate the truth of the charge. The House however adjourned without granting Mr. Hoard the committee he desired. Thus every day's proceedings continue to afford additional illustrations of the immaculate character of that body, "the reputation of whose humblest member is more than sufficient to weigh down the combined influence of the whole press of the country." The only weight that attaches to the character of too many Congressmen, is the weight if not of positive dishonor, at all events, of strong and vehement suspicion of being open to all sorts of corrupt approaches, and capable of all sorts of corrupt practices.

Some of the military and naval men about the Capital, for want of other and more useful occupation, have been getting at loggerheads among themselves. General Harney and Col. Sumner are said to meditate hostile designs upon each others lives, and Mr. A. C. Rhind, formerly of the Navy, has posted Commander Boutwell for declining an invitation to "coffee and pistols." Fighting has gone out of fashion now-a-days, except in the columns of newspapers. I am no advocate of duelling, and consider the practice a relic of barbarism which advancing civilization has justly rendered obsolete; yet, when I look down from the galleries of the House upon the bear-garden scenes enacted below, I cannot but think that a little wholesome phlebotomy might at least have the effect of introducing a higher standard of personal decorum among honorable members. As for the Army and Navy, I think those gentlemen should reserve their fighting propensities for the enemies of their country. By the way, *apropos* of fighting, the prospects for passing the Army Bill continue to "grow small by degress." Apart from political considerations, the financial condition of the country has much to do with the indisposition on the part of many members to increase the expenses of our military establishment. Perhaps the number of idle army men perpetually lounging about Washington with nothing to do, and on never-ending and always renewed leaves of absence, has its weight—*que sais-je?*

Do you wish to know whether the Lecompton bill will pass? All I can say upon that point is, that the bill will pass—or it will not. It hangs upon the edge of divided battle. A day may turn the scale one way or the other—which way no one with a reputation at stake, or a reputation to gain as a prophet, would care to venture a conjecture. The current impression, however, is that the Administration is gaining ground.

CONGRESS.

Congress was not in session on Saturday, nor will it be to-day, both Houses having adjourned over from Friday until Tuesday, in order to afford members an opportunity to participate in the celebration to-day, at Richmond.

MARYLAND LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

Annapolis, *Feb.* 19, 1858.

Evening Session.

Bills Passed.—For the relief of the devisees and legatees of the late Isaac Rowles. To exempt from taxation the parsonage property of the M. P. Church in Uniontown, Carroll co. To enforce the police regulations of the town of Sharpsburg. Incorporating the Maryland Fire Insurance Co. For refunding a certain sum of money paid into the Treasury. To require the Comptroller to pay a certain pension. To authorize the corporation of Baltimore to dispose of property belonging to said city by lease or otherwise.

Annapolis, *Feb.* 20, 1858.

Petitions &c. Presented—By Mr. Allender, two petitions for a bridge over Little Gunpowder river at Treadwell's mill. Mr. Tongue, for an increase of witness's fees in the Circuit court of Anne Arundel county. Mr. Root, to enlarge the jurisdiction of magistrates. Mr. Clarke, two petitions for the Eastern Shore appropriation for internal improvements. Mr. Goldsborough, for authority to the Court of Talbot county, to decree the sale of the property of a free negro. Mr. Smith, of Baltimore City, of one hundred grain sellers of Baltimore, against selling corn by weight. Mr. Lynch, of Baltimore county, for the extension of the law prohibiting swine from going at large within ten miles of Baltimore city.

The bin to prohibit State Courts from issuing certificates of naturalization, was called up and made the special order for next Wednesday. Mr. Alexander is entitled to the floor on that day, and will conclude his remarks began yesterday.

Orders, &c.—By Mr. Kilgour, that the Committee on Ways and Means inquire into the expediency of a law requiring the money lately received from the United States to be invested in State securities for the benefit of free schools. Mr. Magruder, for the better protection of the furnaces of the House of Delegates.

Mr. Sterling presented resolutions instructing our Representatives in Congress to vote for the improvement of the Canal &c., around the Falls of the Ohio.

Leaves to report Bills.—To Mr. Duvall, to prevent the sale of liquor within one mile of the State Agricultural College, and reported said bill. Mr. Kilgour for the better regulation of Primary Schools in Allegany County.

The Bill to provide for the appointment of two Coroners in Baltimore city, one east and one west of Jones' Falls, who are to receive a salary instead of fees, was ordered to a third reading, and subsequently passed.

The resolutions granting additional wharf room to M. L. Weems &c., were adopted.

Mr. Sudler, of Somerset, Chairman of the Committee on the Executive Contingent Fund, reported upon the expenditure of said fund by the late Governor, approving them all, except about $1,700 paid for expenses attending the calling out the military in Baltimore, previous to the general election.

Mr. Contee made a minority report, approving of all those expenditures, and declaring that the late Executive was actuated by a high sense of official duty. The report of the majority was adopted by a party vote, and both reports ordered to be printed.

Bills Reported.—By Mr. Dail, for the relief of Passmore McCullough. Mr. Smith, of Baltimore city, for the inspection of guano, agricultural salts, and all artificial manures, and the appointment of inspectors thereof by the Governor; also, to regulate the inspection of lime; also, to regulate the inspection of flour. Mr. Stirling, to allow W. H. Jones to settle with the Comptroller, &c. Mr. Wyville, to authorise B. H. Gwinn to settle with a ward, &c. Mr. Duvall, making an annual donation to Brookville Academy. Mr. Stirling, to compensate certain persons for collecting arrears of State tax in Baltimore city.

Bills Passed.—To pay J. Revell for legal services. Increasing the capital stock of the Powhattan Steamboat Company. Amending the act incorporating the School Commissioners of Baltimore county.—To pay a pension to the heirs of H. Rennafield. For another magistrate in the 4th district of Harford county. To allow C. M. Wilson to settle with a ward. For a new school district in Kent county. To prevent slaves gaining their freedom in certain cases. Making valid a bequest of Thomas Shields. To pay J. S. Franklin for legal services. Incorporating the Old Road Turnpike Company in Baltimore county. For a bridge over Mills' river in Talbot county. To change the name of the Mechanics Exchange and Saving Company to the Exchange Bank. Incorporating the American Mutual Life Insurance Company. Amending the conveyancing act of 1856. To pay D. C. Diggees for legal services.

The bill amending the charter of the House of Refuge, was rejected for want of a constitutional majority. It was reconsidered.

The bill making a donation to the Female College of Baltimore, was ordered to a third reading.

A bill requiring slaves hereafter manumitted to leave the State within six months thereafter, except Cecil and Kent counties, was ordered to a third reading.

SENATE.

Annapolis, February 20, 1858.

The President presented the report of the Rockville Academy.

Petitions Presented.—By Mr. McCullogh, to prevent live stock from trespassing upon the public roads in Cecil county. Mr. Hoffman, of the Association of Defenders of Baltimore, to request the passage of resolutions by Congress to secure to them pensions.

The bill providing for the inspectors of grain in Baltimore city, was recommitted.

Mr. Bradley reported a resolution to grant two field pieces to the President of Irving College.

Leaves to Report Bills.—To Mr. Turner to make valid a deed to David Longnecker, and reported said bill. Mr. Brooke to amend the act regulating the expenses of the court of Prince George's county, and reported said bill. Also to amend the act for the better protection of slave holders, in the counties therein named. Mr. Kimswell to allow Palmer Marcillie to bring slaves into this State.

Bills Reported.—By Mr. Wallace, to require Judges of Courts to perform certain duties; also, to authorise Mr. Johnson, free negro, of Calvert county, to dispose of his property; also, relating to appearances by defendants to suits at law.

Bills Passed.—Incorporating the Ellicott's Mills Savings Institution. To allow E. L. S. Young to complete collections. For relief of the trustees of John Thawley. To refund a sum of money to Thos. Gorsuch. To repeal the 9th section of the act of 1751. To prescribe the duties and fix the compensation of the sheriff of Chaarles county. Refund taxes to W. T. Worthington and T. B. Hobbs. Making valid a deed to David Longnecker.

The bill to modify the punishment of free negroes convicted of larceny and other crimes, was amended and made the order of the day for the 23d inst.

THE LECOMPTON QUESTION.

Our readers are aware that the Senate Committee on Territories, to whom was referred the Message of the President accompanying the copy of the Lecompton Constitution communicated by him to that body, presented on Thursday three reports in relation to the subject, representing as many different classes of views between which the Committee was divided. The report made by Senator Green, of Missouri, presents the views of the majority of the Committee, of the Administration, and of the Democratic party generally; that submitted by Senators Collamer and Wade reflects the sentiments of the Republicans, while a third prepared by Senator Douglas represents his own individuality, and the anomalous ground which the Senator occupies, as a Democrat of suspected orthodoxy, excommunicated by the leading organs of his party, yet stoutly affirming in the teeth of the President and the party, that his, not theirs, is the true democracy of the Kansas-Nebraska act and Cincinnati platform. We subjoin the more important portions of the majority report, which, after an extended historical review of the whole matter, commencing with the first acquisition of Kansas from France by the treaty of April 30th, 1803, and its subsequent erection into a Territory of the United States by act of Congress, May 30th, 1854, and closing with the adoption of the Lecompton constitution on the 21st December, 1857, proceeds as follows:

Having thus given a historical account of the matter referred for their consideration, your committee will briefly review the whole subject, unembarrassed by details. They will look at the subject as it originated, as it has been for three years, and as it now is.

The population of our country four years ago, was principally confined by treaty and by law to the comparatively small region lying to the east of the river Mississippi, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, and part of Louisiana were found on the western bank. Also, on the extreme southern bank, Texas; and Minnesota on the northern. California and the settlements of the Oregon were upon the Pacific coast; in the centre, New Mexico and Utah. The immense country lying between our scanty settlements upon the Pacific and western beundaries of Iowa, Missouri and Arkansas, may be said, in general terms, and with the above exceptions, to have been unoccupied. Guarded by the Indian non-intercourse act and by Indian treaties, and without territorial organization, the country was rendered, by statutory prohibitions, an inaccessible solitude, which pioneer settlers might not legally disturb.—Further extensions of settlement to the westward were thus arrested by law. The western border of three or four States was the western border of the United States until we reached the top of the Sierra Nevada, and looked down upon the long and narrow settlement upon the shores of the Pacific. The border States had become dissatisfied, and clamored for western expansion over the beautiful and fertile wilderness which, though extending for a continous distance of a thousand miles, approaching within three hundred miles of the Mississippi, was abandoned by the government to the exclusive use of wild semi-civilized and vagrant Indian tribes.—Unable longer to resist the demands of the West for the opening up to settlement of a country so contiguous, important and valuable, and which had been neglected so long as to become a just cause of reproach to the government, Congress, in 1854, took into its serious consideration the justice and policy of organizing it into Territories.

But two difficulties were in the way of an organization: one was the question of Indian occupancy—the other that of African slavery. The first was easily adjusted; the second was the subject of long, heated and angry discussion. More than one hundred speeches were delivered in Congress at that session upon the slavery question. At length the whole couutry lying west of Missouri, Iowa and Minnesota, east of Utah, Oregon and Washington Territories, and north of the 37th and south of the 49th parallels of latitude, was organized into two Territories, and named Kansas and Nebraska.

The law organizing these Territories settled the slavery controvesy, by providing that the people of them might form their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the constitution of the United States; and to enable the people to do so without hindrance of any kind, there was inserted in the act a clause repealing all laws establishing, regulating or prohibiting slaveholding.

This settlement greatly pleased one party, and greatly displeased the other. The defeated anti-slavery party professed to believe that Congress had power and ought to exercise it, to exclude slave property from territory which had been acquired by the joint efforts and at the common expense of slaveholders and non-slave holders.

The victorious democratic party believed that Congress had no such power under the constitution, and that it would be inequitable to exercise it, if it had; and, also, that in this particular case, such an exercise of power would be a flagrant violation of the third article of the treaty with France, by which the country was acquired.

Immediately after the passage of the act, people living in Missouri, upon the borders of Kansas, being well acquainted with the country, poured into that territory in large numbers, and appropriated many of the most fertile, best watered and best timbered tracts. Many of these carried their slaves with them. On the other hand, prior to the final passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill, but after its passage became evident certain members of Congress formed a secret association, which ultimately became public, to incite and aid the emigration into Kansas of persons opposed to the existence of slavery, for the express purpose of so carrying out its provisions as to cause an exclusion of the slave property of the Southern States from the Territory. This secret combination of politicians to perpetrate sectional injustice was promptly followed by public ones, and moneys were collected in numerous places for the express purpose of aiding an effort to exclude Southern property from Kansas.—This sectional and fanatical purpose was, in practice, generally coupled with some one or more schemes of money making of a highly speculative character. This effort very naturally provoked counter efforts, and violent controversies between the assailants and the assailed followed.

The creators of strife, as often is the case, were worsted. Of the voters on that occasion this may be said: Many were bad men. The scenes were, if possible, as disgraceful as those which have been such a scandalous reproach to the large cities of the Atlantic and Pacific States in violently contested elections.

Immediately after the very first election, many of the voters belonging to each of the contending parties, and among them the defeated candidate for delegate to Congress, left the Territory, never to return.—Few of the emigrants from the various States other than those from the adjacent State of Missouri, who alone had easy and early facilities for making themselves comfortable, passed the first winter in Kansas, and many of the settlers in Kansas from Missouri passed the winter out of the Territory. But with the spring emigrants and disturbances returned to Kansas. During the whole of the second year (1855) it is believed the majority of the actual settlers in Kansas were emigrants from the adjoining State. But as the mass of the emigrants sent out to Kansas under the inspiration of the abolitionists, were poorly fitted for labor in unbroken fields, and had to draw largely upon the aid of absent and fanatical friends for support, and as both the supported and the supporters were accustomed to wrangling and disputation, the Territory was quickly filled with strife. And as local contention and violence increased, so did the heat and the contributions of the remote supporters, until the turmoil in Kansas on one side matured into open defiance of all the laws of the Territory. The mere handful of emigrants were ostentatiously furnished, even by religious men, amid prayers and hymns, with destructive weapons, and encouraged to set up an independent government. This was only not put into actual operation, probably, but for the firmness of the government officers, backed by the troops of the United States. For nearly three years these turbulent spirits, thus encouraged by the restless and fanatical elsewhere, have kept the Territory in a state of anarchy and disorder. They have uniformly disregarded the laws, so far as it has been possible for them to do so. When elections were held, instead of peacefully participating in them, they disturbed and annoyed the voters in every conceivable way, and ended in holding elections upon days and in a manner unauthorized by law, and expressly to contravene the law.

When, at last, to end, if possible, these disorders and strifes, the Legislature made provision for a vote of the people upon the question whether a State government should be formed by the making and adopting of a constitution, these organised disturbers combined to prevent a full and fair vote. So likewise when the Convention had been ordered by a regular vote of the people to be called, these armed mischief-makers threw every obstacle in the way of a full registration of the settlers legally entitled to vote for members of the Convention; and then when these violent, illegal and bloody efforts had been partially successful, they filled the country with their compleints that the registration, which they had resisted with arms, had not been full and fair; and as the registration was not absolutely full and complete, they wished the people of the United States to infer that the election of the members of the Convention was neither legal nor fair. The people having, by direct vote, ordered the calling of a Convention to form a constitution, the abolition agitators and disturbers refuse to vote at the election of members of said Convention, and then after an obstinate refusal raised an outcry that the Convention was unjustly constituted, inasmuch as they were not represented therein. After the formation of a constitution, they cried out against the constitution, upon the ground that they had not been allowed to vote for its ratification, though they knew, before the election of the Convention, that the Convention had been clothed with full authority to make a Constitution; they knew well that the bill providing for the election of members of the Convention had been vetoed by the governor upon the express ground that it enabled the Convention to make a Constitution, and that it had been made a law after a full consideration of such veto. They knew that the Governor and the officers of the Territory, in various ways, had made great exertions to induce them to go to the polls like honest law abiding citizens, and vote for men who would respect their wishes, and that they had refused to heed these solicitations.

They also knew that the Convention had not only afforded an opportunity for the good citizens who had registered themselves as voters according to law, to decide whether slavery should or should not be established in Kansas as a legal institution, but had also allowed even those bad men who had disobeyed the laws, and who had combined to prevent a full registration, to vote with the registered voters upon this vital question, and they also knew that they refused to vote, even under such circumstances, upon this proposition.

The Convention was called by a direct vote of the people in direct pursuance of law; the people, in pursuance of law, subsequently elected a Convention to make a constitution; and, in strict pursuance of all the forms observed by such Convention, that Convention, thus legally elected, did make a constitution. That constitution, thus legally created, is, if recognised by Congress, the supreme law of Kansas, and can only be changed by the people of Kansas, who, through their legal representatives, have thus formally created it. No Legislature of Kansas, after the people had, in pursuance of all the forms of law, called and elected a constitutional Convention, to make a constitution, could legally interfere with it, either to increase or to lessen its powers. The Convention, being the direct official representatives of the sovereignty of the people, could no more be restricted in its legitimate action by a Legislature, than could the people themselves be restricted had they been assembled, in person, in one great mass meeting, to make a constitution for their own government. Hence the work of that Convention was final and complete, and must so remain, in all its parts, until changed by the people that called and elected the Convention that made it. The vote on the single clause submitted on the 21st December, 1857, was a final vote; the Convention itself, if reassembled, could neither change the constitution nor order a second vote. The power with which it was intrusted by the people is exhausted. Its members are now only private citizens, and, like other private citizens, must obey each and every requirement of the constitution which they severally helped to create. Far less can a thereto unauthorized Executive, Judiciary or Legislature, change, alter, modify, or nullify the constitution made by the people through their selected representatives—representatives elected by the people themselves, and clothed with special, direct and positive authority for that, and for no other purpose.

Good citizens, and representatives of good citizens, cannot consistently do anything expressly to uphold violators of law and known disturbers of the public peace. It is alike impolitic and unjust to grant the turbulent demands of the disorderly, be they few or many; it is wrong to aid them to overturn a constitution made by the law abiding supporters of the government and laws of Kansas; the more especially when the habitual disturbers would not have any cause of complaint of any kind, as they themselves loudly assert, if they had listened to the earnest counsels of the President of their country and the Governor of their Territory, and had exercised their right and honestly performed their duty, by voting upon either of these occasions: 1. when the vote was taken upon calling a convention; 2, when the convention was elected; 3, when the question was submitted whether the slavery clause should or should not be retained in the constitution. If the abolitionists were in a majority, as they so loudly boast, and would not vote against the establishment of slavery in Kansas, but allowed those who would vote to establish it, they have no just cause of complaint. If they were in a minority, as there is reason to believe, they have no cause of complaint, for the majority of the people voting, in accordance with the theories of all, ought to rule. Notwithstanding the noisy and incessant claims of the abolitionists to be considered a majority of the people of Kansas, the truth of those claims remains to be shown. Having been abundantly supplied with superior arms, such as Sharp's rifles, Colt's revolvers and bowie knives, and been trained for two or three years to their use, and to move in concert and in masses, the idle and the lawless men sent into Kansas by the fanatics of New England, have become dangerous and formidable. But their numbers have been, it is believed, greatly exaggerated; their power consists in their superior organization and arms, and in their being supported in idleness. When called upon to vote for or against the calling of a convention to form a constitution, these mercenaries of political priests did not venture to measure strength at the polls with the democratic party of Kansas, but allowed the election to go by default.

So, again, when the members of the Convention were elected, the abolitionists shrunk from the contest. So, also, when the question came up whether there should or should not be a clause retained in the constitution allowing slavery to be established in Kansas, they again shrunk from the contest, conscious of their weakness, or from sinister political design. It is possible there may be a majority of the citizens of Kansas from the non-slaveholding States, but all are not abolitionists or fanatics on the slave question. Why this continued absence from the polls, if they had the real strength with which to take possession of the Legsslature, and thus peacefully end all difficulties by having everything their "own way?"

At the late election of State officers they exerted their strength in union with certain favoring elements, and so close was the contest, even when thus aided, that the result is as yet unknown.

The only election they ever carried was that which was held last fall, and their success is readily accounted for without resorting to the supposition that the abolitionists compose a majority, or even a fourth, of the voters of Kansas.

As to their vote upon the constitution, given upon the 4th of January last, two weeks after the day appointed by the only competent authority to appoint a day, little need be said, for it was utterly irregular, and was thrown upon a day other than the legal one, for the purpose of casting contempt upon the government. Votes cast without lawful authority upon a question decided, and with a purpose to unfavorably affect what is lawful, orderly and right, are entitled to no consideration at the hands of those who do not claim to favor lawlessness and anarchy.

The men who habitually set all law at defiance, and who consider all restraint upon their wishes as tyranny, should report that they have cast ten thousand votes against a constitution, when upon the same day, and at the same place, they were able to rally in favor of their candidates for office not so many voters by three or four thousand, will surprise no one and influence no one. As good citizens it was their duty to have voted on the lawful election day; as turbulent persons they chose to vote two weeks afterwards; hence, had they numbered millions, their numbers would not conceal nor palliate, far less justify, their open disregard and contempt of law.

Some consider the submission of a constitution to a vote of the people for ratification as necessary to its validity. In this opinion the committee do not concur. The people may assemble, as in ancient days, in mass meeting, and make a constitution; they may elect represeentatives to make one for them, or they may elect representatives to draft one to be submitted to them for approval or rejection. The last method is most approved of during the past few years, though formerly tha second was very generally resorted to.

The calling of the constitutional convention of Kansas is generally conceded to have been strictly legal. The election of its members is also admitted to have been legal. It is not logical to infer that a convention legally called, legally elected, and clothed with authority to make a constitution, can no more be interfered with by Governor, Judge or legislator either to increase or diminish its powers, or to alter, modify, or nullify its acts, than the people could be interfered with had they assembled *enmassee* instead of by representatives? the Legislature of a State may not alter or annul the constitution thereof unless thereto specially authorized by the people.

No election of officers under a constitution, no vote on the adoption of a constitution, held on a day prior, or on day snbsequent, to the day fixed by the lawfully constituted authorities, is considered valid in any State, or in any territory, or in any city, county, or town, in the United States, no matter how few or how many persons may engage in the lawless proceeding. No man can be chosen President, or Governor, or Mayor or, Justice of the Peace, but on the day appointed by law; and except by shameless desperadoes in Kansas, no where in the United States has this doctrine been practically controverted. If the monstrous practices of the bold bad men of Kansas, now an exception, are to be erected into a rule, how long will it be ere some audacious sectional faction will find a pretence for holding a Presidental election on a day other than teat appointed by law; and when elections are held without law by factionists, and on a day subsequent to the day appointed by law, their candidates will always have most votes; the legal candidates will by them be pronounced the "minority candidates" and ihe irregular and illegal ones will be called the "majority candidates." Then will follow strife, bloodshed, and civil war.

Rights, it must ever be borne in mind, can be best and most surely upheld by strict adherence to laws: outrages and crimes are easiest committed and best protected in the midst of civil commotion. There is no real and true safety to our liberties and institutions but in a strict adherence to the spirit and the letter of our constitutions and laws; and there is no danger to our peace and our Union that we cannot easily escape if we will conscientiously adhere to them. Who ever heard of a Legislature other than that of Kansas which had the presumption to appoint a day, open the polls and request the people to vote for or against a constitution which had been finally adopted by the people two weeks before, and which nobody could change but the people, and they only by a formal action to that direct end? The action on the constitution on the 21st December, 1857, was final action, and that instrument was on that day a completed one; it can be changed, as all State constitutions can be; but until formally and lawfully changed, it is valid; and its turbulent opponents will find that the validity of that fundamental law cannot be affected by a town meeting harangue, or by an irregular vote ordered by a rash body of beaten partizans.

Many generous persons who are quite indisposed to countenance the violence and contumacy of the abolitionists sent into Kansas for the purpose of excluding therefrom all property not pleasing to them and their abbettors, urge that something might be done to lessen the hardships that will fall upon them in the event of the admission of Kansas into the Union with the constitution made at Lecompton; that, although it is true that the abolitionists violently opposed registration; would not vote at elections; held sham elections on days subsequent to those appointed by law, and even refused to vote against the establishment of slavery at a time when they professed to believe their doing so would have excluded it, and thus have peacefully settled the question to their own satisfaction, yet, they consider it would be too severe to compel such contumacious citizens, even though it is their own fault, to live under a constitution which, however grievous its provisions may prove to be, they cannot change, without resorting to revolution, until the year 1864.

To such, without resorting to the ready answer that Congress has no power to modify or alter a State constitution, and has expressly stipulated that the people of Kansas shall be permitted to form their own institutions, subject only to the constitution of the United States, two replies may be given. The first one is this:—The cause complained of in the Lecompton constitution, in this connection, is in these words:—

Sec. 14. After the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, whenever the Legislature shall think it necessary to amend, alter or change this constitution, they shall recommend to the electors at the next general election, two thirds of the members of each House concurring to vote for or against calling a convention, and if it shall appear that a majority of all citizens of the State have voted for a convention, the Legislature shall at its next regular session call a convention, to consist of as many members as there may be in the House of Representatives at the time, to be chosen in the same manner, at the same places, and by the same electors that choose the representatives; said delegates so elected shall meet within three months after said election, for the purpose of revising, amending or changing the constitution, but no alteration shall be made to effect the rights of property in the ownership of slaves.

That this provision is not objectionable to the abolitionists, in fact, and is now urged by them and their friends only for popular effect, is proved by the overwhelming fact that the abolitionists of Kansas inserted in their "Topeka constitution" the following more objectionable provision:—

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUION.—ARTICLE XIV

Section 1. All propositions for amendments to the constitution shall be made by the General Assembly.

Section 2. A concurrence of two-thirds of the members elected to each House shall be necessary, after which such proposed amendments shall be entered upon the journal with the yeas and nays; and the Secretary of State shall cause the same to be published in at least one newspaper in each county in the State where a newspaper is published, for at least six months preceding the next election for Senators and Representatives, when such proposed amendment shall be again referred to the Legislature elected next succeeding said publication. If passed by the second Legislature by a majority of two-thirds of the members elected to the House, such amendments shall be republished, as aforesaid, for at least six months prior to the next general election, at which election such proposed amendments shall be submitted to the people for their approval or rejection; and if the majority of the electors voting at such election shall adopt such amendments, the same shall become a part of the constitution.

Section 3. When more than one amendment is submitted at the same time, they shall be so submitted as to enable the electors to vote upon each amendment separately.

Section 4. No convention for the formation of a new constitution shall be called, and no amendment to the constitution shall be, by the general assembly, made before the year 1856, nor more than once in five years thereafter.

The second reply is this:—Suppose the grievance real, and that it ought to be redressed, it is unnecessary for Congress to unlawfully interfere for that purpose, inasmuch as the Lecompton Convention has provided a full, lawful and perfect remedy for every conceivable grievance, and placed that remedy in the unrestricted hands of the majority of the people, by inserting in the constitution of Kansas the following distinct and unequivocal recognizition of power:—

All political power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority, and instituted for their benefit, and therefore they have at all times an inalienable and indefesible right to alter, reform or abolish their form of government in such manner as they may think proper.

The abolitionists of Kansas have thus far sought power by methods unknown to the law and by violence, and not through the peaceful agency of the ballot box. Claiming to have a majority of the voters of the Territory, and therefore able to elect legislatures and conventions, they ask Congress to wrongfully do for them what they may, at legal times and legal places, rightfully do for themselves; that is, change or abolish their constitution. And in case Congress refuses to comply with their unconstitutional demand, they threaten to afflict the country with an attempt at bloodshed and revolution. Unless Congress will do for them what they assert they are numerous enough to do for themselves, but which they willfully refuse to do, they threaten to plunge the country into civil war. This conduct is so exceedingly unreasonable as to force the conviction upon the mind that they are conscious of being in a hopeless minority, and only expect to be able to compass their unwarrantable ends by extorting them from the general love of peace and quiet. If your committee are not greatly mistaken, these reckless men misjudge the American people, and will be required to seek peaceful methods for the redress of all their grievances, whether they be real or imaginary.

The committee do not approve the ordinance accompanying the constitution, and report against its allowance; but they do not regard it as any part of the constitution, nor will its approval or disapproval by Congress affect the validity of that constitution, if the State be admitted into the Union as recommended.

In conclusion, this committee is of opinion that when a constitution of a newly formed State, created out of our own territory, is presented to Congress for admission into the Union, it is no part of the duty or privilege of Congress either to approve or disapprove the constitution itself and its various provisions, or any of them, but simply to see whether it be the legal constitution of the new State, whether it be republican in form, whether the boundaries proposed be admissible, and whether the number of inhabitants be sufficient to justify independent State organization.

Believing that the paper presented is the legal constitution of Kansas, that it is republican in its form, that the boundaries proposed by it are admissible, and conceding the sufficiency of the population, the committee recommend the admission of Kansas into the Union upon the constitution presented, and report a bill accordingly.

In order that our readers may have before them all three sides of the question, presented by this triangular discussion, if such it may be called, where two of the contending parties agree perfectly in their conclusions, and only differ as to the modes of reasoning whereby they arrive at that conclusion, we shall present hereafter the views embodied in the minority reports of Senators Collamer and Douglas.

Our readers will observe from the advertisement in another column, that Mr. Charles Matthews, the distinguished English comedian, makes his first appearance at the Holliday Street Theatre, this evening. The well-deserved reputation of Mr. Matthews, will no doubt attract a crowd to this favorite place of amusement.

We also announce a series of entertainments of four nights, commencing this evening, at Carroll Hall, to be given by the Peak family and original Lancashire Bell-Ringers.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Departure of the Guards for Richmond.—The Baltimore City Guards, Capt. J. P. Warner, left here at 5½ o'clock, on Saturday afternoon, in the steamer Georgia, for Richmond, with the view of participating in the celebration which takes place to-day. The company mustered at their armory about four o'clock, and after marching through some of the principal streets, followed by a numerous concourse of people, proceeded to the boat.—The company, which is justly esteemed one of our most efficient and soldierly volunteer corps, made a very creditable appearance, parading fifty-two muskets. The officers who accompany the corps are Capt. Joseph P. Warner; 1st. Lieut.—Lloyd B. Parks; 2nd do.—David E. Woodburn; 3d do.—Emmerson L. Mathews; Quartermaster—Dr. Wm. H. Murray; 1st Sergeant—Daniel J. Emmick; 2nd do.—C. Davis Irelan; 3d do.—C. T. Doane; 4th do.—Jas. W. Towles; 1st Corporal—Simon J. Martinet; 2nd do.—Thomas R. Jeffreys; 3d do.—Jos. W. Stansbury; Color Sergeant—Wm. J. Miller.

The Guards appeared for the first time in new heavy blue pilot-cloth overcoats, recently made to order by Messrs. John H. Rea & Co., which added quite as much to the military appearance of the corps, as they doubtless did to their personal comfort. The Guards take with them the Independent Blues' Band, with twenty instruments, under Professor Holland, and will no doubt, as representatives of our citizen soldiery, make the same favorable impression in Richmond, which they have made on previous visits to other places. They expected to reach Norfolk yesterday morning, and after attending church, to proceed on their way to Richmond, in company with the Norfolk Junior Volunteers.—They propose to leave Richmond on their return home to-morrow night, spend one day in Norfolk, and arrive in this city, on Thursday morning.

Death of Mr. Wm. Bodman.—The readers of the Exchange no doubt recollect the shooting of Mr. Wm. Bodman, which occurred nearly three months since, at his residence on the Fort Road, the particulars of which appeared in the daily papers at that time. Tho ball which entered the upper portion of the spinal column caused a softening of the marrow, and produced paralysis of the lower portion of the body. He lingered up to yesterday noon, when death intervened, up to which time he suffered little or no pain. A post mortem examination was held by Dr. Pettit and Mr. James Morrison, a student of Dr. Hintze, and although every portion of the body underwent an examination, the ball ceuld not be found.

Proposed Improvements on Baltimore Street.—It is gratifying to know that, notwithstanding the disastrous effect of the recent panic upon the mechanic interests, the monied men of Baltimore, are now causing to be erected in different sections of the city, handsome private dwellings, substantial warehouses, and other buildings. There are also in contemplation several extensive improvements, the construction of which will bring into active circulation several hundred thousand dollars.—Among the largest of the proposed buildings, are those about to be commenced for Charles R. Carroll, Esq., on Baltimore street, near Light, where two old buildings now stand, one of which was recently vacated by Messrs. Friend & Price, and the other is still in the occupancy of Messrs. Miller & Beacham, music publishers. The old building will soon be torn down, and the work of re-construction commenced, under the supervision of Messrs. Lind & Murdoch, architects, of this city. The new buildings will, each have a front of thirty feet, and a depth of seventy feet, and will be four stories in height. The elevation of the first story will be 14 feet; of the second 13 feet; of the third 12 feet, and of the fourth 10 feet; thus affording excellent space for light and ventilation. The basement will also be 10 feet high. The first story will be of iron, and the upper stories of New Brunswick drab stone, crowned with a heavily moulded cornice, achitrave, and frieze, neatly dentilled and bracketed. The style of the architecture will be somewhat in the Italian, though not what is strictly known by that name, and the building will, in every respect, be constructed in the most superior and substantial manner. Messrs. Lind & Murdoch furnished the plan and drawings, and will personally superintend the work.

Theft.—On Friday evening, at dusk, a chest of tea, of the value of $20, was stolen from in front of the store of C. Lewis Dunlap, No. 13, West Baltimore st., near the bridge. The neighborhood appears to be infested by a gang of petty thieves, from whose depredations Mr. Dunlap has suffered at different times during the past month to the extent of over $100.

Masonic Festival.—Union Lodge, No. 60, A. F. A. M., hold their tenth annual festival this evening, at the Masonic Hall. The 22d of February was appropriately selected as the occasion for their festival, in view of the fact that the illustrious Washington was a zealous member of the Masonic Fraternity.—Hon. Lawrence M. Keitt has received and accepted an invitation to deliver an address on the occasion. A supper and dancing will conclude the evening's entertainment.

Charge of Stealing.—Officer Vanholland of the S. D. P., yesterday afternoon arrested a man named Michael Gunn, on the charge of stealing the sum of $8.50, the property of George Buckholtz. It appears that Mr. B. gave to a boy, in his employ, named Creamer a bill to collect, which he having done was on his way back when he met Gunn.—When he reached home the money was not to be found, and Gunn was arrested on the charge of having taken it. He was arraigned before Justice Boyd, who released him for a further examination.

Assault With Intent to Kill.—Patrick O'Mealey was arrested yesterday by officers Morris and Fleming, of the Eastern District Police, on the charge of assaulting with the intent to kill Patrick Gowan, by striking him upon the head with a shovel, inflicting a pretty severe wound. The accused was committed to Jail by justice Welsh, to undergo trial before the Criminal Court.

Burning of the Court House at Belair.—We learn from a privete source that the Court House at Belair was tatally destroyed by fire, on Friday night. The fire is said to have orriginated in the Commissioners office. Suppose accidental.

False Alarm—The alarm of fire which occured yesterday afternoon about 4 o'clok, in the Eastern section of the city, was false.

Alarm.—The alarm of fire at half past six o'clock last evening arose from the burning of a foul chimney on West Madison street.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1858.

Criminal Court.—Before Hon. Judge Stump. F. Pinkney, Esq., prosecuting. The following cases were disposed of in this court to-day:—

R. Willis, for breaking the windows of Thomas Cole; fined one dollar and costs, and sent to prison for fourteen days.

Henrietta Switzer, for assault on Henry Ostendorf; dismissed.

Mrs. Ostendorf, for assault on Henrietta Switzer; dismissed.

Cooney Swartz, for assaulting and resisting police officer Bishop in the discharge of his duty; fined one dollar and costs, and sent to prison for fifteen days.

Court of Common Pleas.—Before Hon. Judge Marshall.

Jacob Waltemyer vs. the Baltimore and Ohio R. R. Company. This was an action in which the plaintiff sought to recover compensation for damage done to fish in its transportation, through the negligence of the company. Verdict for plaintiff, $100.

Superior Court.—Before Hon. Judge Lee. Nothing of importance transacted in this court to-day.

COURT CALENDAR.

Superior Court—assignment for this day, 147 to 185, inclusive.

We are indebted to Messrs. John Murphy & Co., No. 182 Baltimore street, for the February number of the *Metropolitan*, the Catholic Magazine published by them, and edited by M. J. Kerney, A. M. With the present number commences a new series.

We acknowledge our obligations to Mr. Henry Taylor, Sun Iron Building, for copies of New York papers in advance of the mail; and also, to Mr. Thos. Timpson, of Mr. Taylor's establishment, for the latest files of English papers per steamer Baltic.

MARCH OF IMPROVEMENT IN THE HOLY LAND.

A French gentleman, who delights to frequent the spots on which celebrated poets have dwelt, or whence they derived their inspiration, has published in the *Moniteur* an account of his visit to the "Gardens of Solomon." First, he visited the "sealed fountains"—large subterranean reservoirs, wherein the waters springing from the mountains are collected, and whence the water is conducted to Jerusalem by pipes:—"At a short distance from the reservoirs are the celebrated gardens. They extend along a valley which runs from El-Bourrach to Bethlehem. It is the most charming spot in all Palestine. Solomon was a good judge in more senses than one. There are murmuring streams winding through verdant lawns; there are the choicest fruits and flowers, the hyacinth and the anemone, the fig tree and the pine. Towering high above the garden, and contrasting grandly with its soft aspect, are the dark precipitous rocks of the neighboring mountain, around whose summits vultures and eagles incessantly scream and describe spiral circles in the air. The rare plants and flowers which the great enchanter of the East collected within these gardens were protected from the north wind by the mountain. Every gust of the south wind was loaded with perfumes. With the first breeze of spring the fig tree put forth its fruits and the vines began to blossom. It was, in the words of Scripture, 'a garden of delights.' The vegetations of the north and the south were intermingled. One part of the garden was called the Walnut tree-walk (or, as the English Scripture translation has it, the Garden of Nuts,) another is the Beds of Spices." The writer's guide was a well educated Italian, who informed him that the Gardens of Solomon are now let to an Englishman. "The present tenant," he said, 'is Mr. Goldsmith, of the house of Goldsmith and Son. He is underdraining the gardens of Solomon on the Yorkshire system. You will be astonished to see how successful he has been. Here is the house.' I perceived a bright brass knob shining in the centre of a small square of porcelain let into a white wall. Over this knob was the following superscription in the English language—'Ring the bell.' This bell seemed to my imagination rather an anomaly in the gardens of Solomon—but that is a trifle. We did ring the bell, and we went in. The first thing that struck my eyes were red draining pipes lying about, and bearing the mark of the manufacturers, Samuel & Co., No. 128 Strand. Mr. Goldsmith was draining the biblical valley, the dew of which was so often brushed away by the naked feet of the Shulamite. It was in the month of September. An American mowing machine was cutting a second crop of artificial grass on the very spot where the daughters of Jerusalem gathered those lilies of the field which were more beautiful than Solomon in all his glory. A patent reaping machine was rapidly garnering the crop of that glebe in which the sisters of Ruth and the daughters of Naomi were wont to glean. I asked to see Solomon's pavilion, but, alas, the cypress timbers and the cedar wainscotting had been taken down, and in their place there is a brick-built cottage with a roof of red and green tiles. The entrance hall is whitewashed; there is a little parlour with a Birmingham carpet, and a drawing-room papered with a red-bordered yellow paper, purchased in Paris, Rue des Moineaux. The chimney is Prussian, and the curtains are of Swiss muslin. Instead of the servants of the spouse, I found two nurserymaids, one from Paris and the other from Florence. The slave who prepares the tents of cedar is now called 'John.' He has red whiskers, blacks his master's shoes, scrubs the floor every day, and varnishes it on Sundays; and if some romantic person should inquire, as I had the *naiviete* to do, about the dark Shulamite, he will be shown five sweet little English children, redolent of cold cream and Windsor soap, as fair as floss silk, with their hair in cork-screw curls, and wearing prunella boots, blue capes, and green parasols. The cinnamon trees have been cut down for firewood and the aromatic canes grubbed up, but the five little misses do crochet work under the shade of a *bon Cretien* pear tree. Since the Eastern war Mr. Goldsmith has obtained the custom of the Pacha of Jerusalem for vegetables. Last year he had seven crops of potatoes, thanks to his wonderful drainage."

MR. GEORGE VANDENHOFF,
THE DISTINGUISHED ELOCUTIONIST,
WILL GIVE
A COURSE OF FOUR READINGS,
BEFORE THE
BALTIMORE MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
AT CARROLL HALL,
On the EVENINGS OF WEDNESDAY, February 24, FRIDAY, February 26, WEDNESDAY, March 3, and FRIDAY, March 5.

The course will consist of the following elegant selections:
FIRST EVENING, Feb. 24—Mr. VANDENHOFF'S celebrated SATIRE, in verse—"COMMON SENSE"—a dash at the doings of the day.
SECOND EVENING, Feb. 26.—A SHAKSPEARIAN OLIO, or Scenes and Dialogues from the most admired plays of the great dramatist.
THIRD EVENING, March 3—AN EVENING WITH THOMAS HOOD, including Readings and Recitations of his Poems.
FOURTH EVENING, March 5—AN EVENING WITH SHERIDAN, including "THE CRITIC."
☞ Tickets for the Course, admitting a gentleman and lady, $2.50. Single tickets for the course, $1.50 and single admission 50 cents. For sale at the rooms of the Mercantile Library Association and at the principal Bookstores.
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HOLLIDAY STREET THEATRE.
THIS (Monday) EVENING, Feb. 22, 1858,
First Night of the Renowed Comedian,
MR. CHARLES MATTHEWS,
Who will render two of his most admirable impersonations.
MR. MOPUS,
In his own brilliant Comedy of
MARRIED FOR MONEY,
And the celebrated part of
MOTLEY,
In his diverting sketch of
HE WOULD BE AN ACTOR.
Mr. Matthews will be sustained in these pieces by Messrs. Harrison, Thompson, Shirley, Knapp, Spackman, Lanagan. Mesdames Henri, Germon and Palmer.
In announcing the engagement of an artist whose fame as the most perfect actor in the world in his peculiar role, has been conferred upon him by the best educated and most discerning minds of England and of our country, the Manager avails himself of the opportunity of assuring his patrons that, relying upon their high-toned appreciation of refined entertainment, he has secured for them the rare enjoyment of Mr. Matthews's sterling and famously elegant portraitures, upon terms of such extraordinary weight and responsibility as the realization of his confidence in their liberality and good taste can justify.
RATES OF ADMISSION.
To Dress Circle, Parquette and Orchestra Chairs, 50 cts. Seats reserved without extra charge. Family Circle, 25 cents.

CARROLL HALL.
FOR FOUR NIGHTS,
MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY and SATURDAY EVENINGS, Feb. 22, 23, 25 and 27; also WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY AFTERNOONS, at 3 o'clock.
THE PEAK FAMILY
AND
ORIGINAL LANCASHIRE BELL-RINGERS.
Consisting of the following members:
WILLIAM PEAK, Sr.,
WILLIAM H. PEAK,
MRS. WM. PEAK,
MISS JULIA PEAK,
MISS FANNIE A. PEAK.
and Master EDDIE S. PEAK, (6 years old) and Little LISETTE M. PEAK, (4 years and 6 months old)
The Charming Little Ballad Singers.
Assisted by the
CELEBRATED AMERICAN HARPISTS,
with
Miss Fannie and her beautiful staff of 26 Silver Bells, will give Four Concerts as above, presenting a new programme each evening.
Tickets 50 cents.—Children when accompanied by parents or guardians, half price.
NO EXTRA CHARGE
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Tickets to the Afternoon Concert 25 cents.
N. B.—No concert on Wednesday and Friday Evenings on account of the Hall being otherwise engaged