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 per form 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.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1858.

Notwithstanding the advanced period of the session, and the press of public business, the House of Delegates of Maryland has not been deterred from engaging in a protracted debate upon a Bill proposing to forbid all the Courts of the State to grant certificates of Naturalization as they have done, time out of mind, under the Acts of Congress. The Constitution of the United States has conferred upon Congress the power "to establish a uniform rule of naturalization," and, under this provision the right to grant certificates of naturalization has been conferred as well upon the courts of record and of law established by the States, as upon the Federal Courts—and for a long course of years this power has been exercised by them concurrently.

It is now proposed to pass a law declaring that the Courts in Maryland shall no longer aid any foreigner in his efforts to become a citizen of the United States—which is the same thing as declaring to the whole alien world that, if Maryland had exclusive control over the subject, no foreigner should ever be allowed to acquire the rights of a citizen of the State. No matter how worthy, how patriotic, how devoted to the support of our institutions a man may be, by the law he is informed that, if he exercises the rights of a citizen within the bounds of this State, he does so because the will of Maryland is, in the matter, overborne by the will of a superior authority to which she reluctantly yields, and which she will not countenance by lending to it the aid of her own tribunals.

Of this question, as a question of power merely, we do not propose to speak. It may be that the General Government is not competent to compel the State courts to assume and exercise these functions. Much less do we intend to advert to the measure as an expedient which it may be supposed is designed to promote some partisan object. The interest which our readers have in it depends upon much more comprehensive considerations. In the complex system under which we live, the preservation of relations not only respectful and harmonious, but friendly and intimate between the State and Federal Governments is of the utmost importance. We are dependent upon the pleasure of the Federal government for many important privileges which, although we may class them under the head of rights, may easily be denied us if we place ourselves in a condition of hostility or coldness towards it. In all the other States of the Union the domestic tribunals cheerfully lend their aid in carrying out the uniform rule of naturalization which the Federal Government has chosen to prescribe.

Shall Maryland be the only one to mark her disapproval of laws ordained by the will of the confederacy, in a manner so discourteous, yet expect that the congress which holds these laws to be wholesome and necessary, will be so impartial as not to be governed by the motives which uniformly control the actions of men, and practice no sort of retaliation? Under the government of Kings and Emperors contumacious cities and parishes have been made to feel the royal displeasure, often, no doubt, with oppressive injustice—and we all know that, even under a Republic, the same passions and resentments may, under various guises, be made to inflict similar penalties. But, if it shall be thought unworthy the legislature of a sovereign State to listen to such sordid considerations, we trust that they will at least pause when they reflect how impotent, after all, their utmost efforts must prove in countervailing the legislation of congress by which foreigners are admitted to citizenship. To say nothing of the facilities which the federal courts will continue to afford, can it be doubted that the passage of a law banishing *pro tanto*, the uniform rule of naturalization from our counties will be followed at once, by an enactment of congress, to remedy the inconvenience? How long, think you, will it be before commissioners authorized to grant certificates of naturalization will be appointed to assume the cast off and repudiated jurisdiction of our county tribunals? Nothing, in short, will be left of the proposed measure, except the odium it will raise against its authors—the resentment it will breed in the minds of foreigners against the State and her people—and the determination in congress to render it the most ignoble and senseless *brutum fulmen* which a reckless partisanship ever launched at its adversary.

It has been said that "corporations have no souls," the truth of which observation has been abundantly illustrated in the case of the Gas Light Company of Baltimore, a corporation which cannot be accused, at least, of the possession of a conscience. Otherwise, there would not be the foundation which, we believe, really exists for the universal complaint at present made against the recent financial *coup d'etat* which it has attempted upon the pockets of our citizens. The facts in the case are simply as follows: The Gas Company have lately made a reduction in their rate of charges from $4 to $3 per thousand cubic feet of gas consumed. The natural and reasonable supposition on the part of persons unacquainted with the peculiar financial *legerdemain* practiced by the Gas Company, was that this reduction in the price of gas would be followed by a correspondent dimination in the amount of bills. This very pardonable anticipation on the part of gas consumers has been most egregiously disappointed. The company's bills for the first quarter succeeding the reduction have been almost uniformly larger than those for the corresponding quarters of previous years. Now, it cannot reasonably be supposed that the Gas Company has heretofore been in the habit of charging for a less amount of gas than was really consumed. We acquit the company of any disposition to deal with the public on such generous terms. Accordingly, there are but two explanations which can be given of this increase in the amount of bills. Either, from some unexplained and inexplicable causes, there has been a universal increase throughout the city in the consumption of gas during the past three months; or else the company, under cover and show of a pretended reduction in their charges has, in reality, sought to impose an additional burden upon the public, and have pocketed more than they have lost by the difference in price, by charging for more gas than is really consumed. We do not believe that there are any facts to warrant the former supposition. On the contrary, there is every reason to suppose that the late financial pressure has induced a general spirit of economy on the part of our citizens, which has extended to this as well as every other department of expenditure; that the comparatively small amount of trade transacted in the city during the past three months has enabled merchants and shopkeepers to close their counting-rooms and stores at earlier hours, thereby lessening the amount of gas consumed; and that the falling off in the number and extent of social entertainments, from the same cause, has produced a like saving of gas in private houses.

We have therefore no alternative but to adopt the other conclusion, involving as it does the unpleasant necessity of charging with dishonesty a corporation in whose direction and among whose officials and stockholders, we recognize the names of many most respectable citizens and estimable gentlemen. We should not have dwelt thus fully on the evil complained of, if we did not regard it as a matter of public importance, requiring and admitting of a remedy. The venders of all articles which are sold by weight and measure, are required by law to have their measures stamped, in conformity to the government standard. We do not permit our trades-people to select their own measures—the dry goods merchant to choose his own yard stick, or the grocer to have his own private pound weight. Why should the gas company be permitted to select their own meters? If there be necessity for legislative protection against fraud in weight and measure, in the case of commodities, such as dry goods and groceries, of which we can judge by the eye and hand; to a much greater degree is protection required in respect to an article, the sale of which is a monopoly in the hands of a single corporation, which in substance is etherial and impalpable, and can neither be seen or handled. We are therefore decidedly in favor of the passage of a law establishing a standard meter for the measurment of gas, requiring the gas company's meters to be stamped in conformity to this standard, and providing for the appointment of inspectors for the enforcement of the law.

Steps should be immediately taken by the parties interested, to wit: the whole gas-consuming community to obtain the passage of such a law before the adjournment of the present legislature. We have one further suggestion to make. The consumption of gas is a matter of public necessity as well as private convenience. We require it at our street corners, and in our lanes and alleys, as well as in our parlors and counting rooms—for the protection of our lives and property, as well as for the illumination of our houses, and display of our wares. It is not safe that in a matter of such public importance, and for the supply of so necessary an article—as necessary as light itself, the community should be dependent on a private corporation, any accident happening to which in the course of business or otherwise, might leave our streets in darkness, our necks and limbs in danger of pitfalls and icy pavements, our lives and property at the mercy of the assassin and robber.

It is as much the *duty* of the city to see that the streets are well lighted by night, as that they are well paved. It is true, we have no very exalted opinion of the efficiency of our present police, but even under the most favorable circumstances, and with a better system, we regard a gas-lamp, brightly-burning on the corner of a street, as a better protection than a policeman.

Mr. Gray, in his treatise on *Operative Chemistry*, speaking of the beneficial effects of the introduction of gas, on the morals of society in great cities, says:

"From the more brilliant manner in which our streets (speaking of those of London) are lighted by gas, than they ever were or could be, by oil or tallow, there is a greater degree of security, both in person and property, for every class of honest men. Crimes cannot now be committed in darkness and secrecy, and as the risk of detection increases, the temptation to guilt is diminished, and thus coal gas, by the brilliant light it sheds in our streets, has worked, and is now working, a moral reformation. The housebreakers and pickpockets dread the lamps more than the watchmen, and a more efficacious measure of police was never introduced into society, than that from gas lights."

Upon these grounds, therefore, as a matter of public police, and from considerations of economy, we are clearly in favor of the establishment of City Gas Works, at the expense of the Corporation and under the control and management of the Mayor and City Council, for the public supply, and for that of private consumption. The first outlay required for such an enterprise may undoubtedly be large, but the saving in the City's bills, and the revenue derived from private consumers who will pay for what they use, will render it in the end the cheaper plan for the city, while if no dividends are to be paid to private stockholders, a reduction can be made in the price of gas, which apart from greater fairness in the measurement, will render it a more desirable arrangement for consumers. If any profits accrue, it is better that they should find their way into the City Treasury, and be applied to the reduction of our taxes, than that they should go to form the revenue of a corporation which has utterly betrayed the popular trust reposed, when by the public bounty and legislative enactment it was invested with corporate powers and franchises, designed to be used not less for public than for private ends.

If Mr. Swann has any ambition to distinguish his civic administration by a popular measure of useful legislation, he has now the opportunity. We have furnished him with the hint.

MARYLAND LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

ANNAPOLIS, *Feb.* 22, 1858.

Petitions Presented.—By Mr. Baker, to rebuild the Court House of Harford county. Mr. Davis, to incorporate Georgetown Cross Roads by the name of Galena. Mr. Kilgour, of Joseph Dell and 21 citizens of Allegany county, to sell a negro slave, now confined in the jail of said county. Also of Rev. John H. Cupp, to sell a lot of ground. Mr. Landing, two remonstrances from citizens of St. Martin's district, Worcester county, against any change in the 10th. district; also, relative to fishing in said county. Mr. Lynch, of 119 citizens of Baltimore city, to allow John Cathers to practice his remedy for Cancers. Mr. Davis, against any change in the laws relative to fishing in the head waters of the Chesapeake bay. Mr. Morgan, of 82 citizens of St. Mary's county, to repeal the law of 1856 licensing traders and ordinary keepers. Mr. Crowley, of sundry merchants, &c., of Baltimore city, against any change in the inspection laws. Mr. Smith, three similar petitions from consumers and dealers in lumber.

The bill to incorporate the Old Town Savings Institution, was ordered to a third reading. Also the bin incorporating the Chesapeake Fire Insurance Company of Baltimore. Also, incorporating the Maryland Mutual Life and Fire Insurance Co. Also, to pay Mr. F. Frick for legal services. Also, to empower the Fire Inspector in Baltimore city to take testimony under oath, &c., &c.

The bill to repeal the charter of the Patapsco Bank, was recommitted.

Leave to Report Bills.—To Mr. Baker, to re-survey the public roads of Harford county. Also, to use the assessment list now in the hands of the collectors of Harford county. Mr. Harroway, to rebuild the Court House of said county. Mr. Kilgour, to allow the George's Creek Coal and Iron Company to increase the tolls on their railroad. Mr. Macubbin, for the repair of the Almshouse of Anne Arundel county.

On motion of Mr. Ford, of Baltimore county, amended by Mr. Sterling, it was ordered that the House meet every evening at 7½ o'clock, except Saturday.

Mr. Ford, of Baltimore county, proposed an order that each county be called in regular order for one bill, but withdrew it.

Mr. Davis proposed an order to restrict speeches to ten minutes. On motion of Mr. Sterling it was made fifteen minutes and adopted.

Mr. Rogers proposed an order that in honor of the day, the House now adjourn till 11 o'clock tomorrow, which was adopted, 33 to 19.

Mr. Stirling proposed a substitute that the day would be better observed by attending to the public business—which was lost.

Mr. Alexander proposed that the bill relating to justices of the peace in Baltimore city, be referred to the city delegation, but withdrew it.

Mr. Stirling proposed the following resolutions:

Joint Resolutions relative to the construction of a new Canal at the Falls of the Ohio River:

Whereas, The citizens of Maryland, being deeply interested in the cheap, safe, and speedy transportation of their commerce on the Ohio river, they claim the right of expressing to Congress their opinion on the subject of the proposed mode of improvement of the navigation at the falls of said river; therefore, to give force to these opinions collectively, which the citizens individually entertain, the members of the General Assembly, representing the several counties of the State, adopt the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Ohio river, being acknowledged as the great national highway, under the care and supervision of the General Government, a free and ample mode of conveyance should be provided, and at all times preserved for passage of boats, and other vessels, conveying the commerce of the river around the natural obstruction, known as the rapids or falls of the Ohio:

Resolved, That rapid increase of commerce has rendered two canals necessary for the accommodation of vessels ascending and descending the Ohio river, and this necessity will be greatly increased by the completion of the system of railroads now in progress, of connection with the river above and below the falls;

Resolved, That the repair and enlargement of the present canal would at all times, excepting during the period of very high water, present an obstruction to the passage of vessels, and cause the portage of freight a distance of two miles, subject to the penalties and regulations incidental to a corporation, thus suspending navigation through the canal for years, creating daily losses highly injurious to the commercial and manufacturing interests, and fatal to the interest of those concerned in the navigation of the river;

Resolved, That surveys and estimates made heretofore by competent engineers, establishing the fact that the construction of a new canal around the fall of the Ohio, adapted to the present and future wants of commerce, would cost very little more than the repair and enlargement of the present work, which, if repaired, would present but one passage around the falls; and that, from the unfavorable location, never could be as useful, for passing the largest class of boats, as a new work, constructed with the advantages of the present experience in navigation.

Resolved, That the Senators and members of Congress from this State be, and they are hereby, earnestly aequested to use their best exertions for the passage of a law authorizing, and aiding, the construction of a new canal on the Indiana side of the river, and to prevent the interruption of the commerce of the river, through the Louisville and Portland Canal, until some other mode is provided for the passage of boats around the falls;

Resolved, That the Governor be, and he is hereby, requested to furnish a copy of these resolutions to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress;

SENATE.

Petitions, &c., Presented.—By Mr. Bradley for the inspection, &c., of grain in Baltimore. Also, ten petitions to make trespasses upon wood land punishable by fine and imprisonment. Also, two petitions against requiring magistrates' summons to be made returnable in the district where defendent resides.

The bill to provide for weighing and inspecting grain in Baltimore city, was amended and ordered to a third reading.

Bills Reported.—By Mr. McCullough, extending the powers of the commissioners of Elkton. Mr. Bradley, to make magistrates' summons returnable in district of defendant's residence in Queen Anne's county. Mr. Brooke, to amend the act for the better protection of slaveholders in certain counties. Mr. Hoffman, to prevent the taking of insufficient or irresponsible bail. Mr. Kimmell, to allow Zalma Marcillie to bring slaves into this State. Also, amending the charter of the Mutual Insurance company of Frederick county. Mr. Daniel, to protect the catching and promote the preservation and increase of fish in the waters of this State.

Bills Passed.—Exempting certain persons from jury duty. For removing cases of condemnation of real and personal estate. To pay J. T. Wright for services as assistant door-keeper to the senate. To incorporate and endow a Female Seminary in Cambridge.

Mr. Wilkins, from the Committee on Internal Improvements, reported a bill entitled, "An act assessing the works of Internal Improvements on the Eastern Shore, certain portions of the unexpended balance of the million of dollars which, by the act of eighteen hundred and thirty-five, chapter three hundred and ninety-five, entitled, An act for the promotion of Internal Improvement, was set apart to be exclusively applied to such purposes,"

Mr. Stone submitted the following amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

An Act to provide for the payment os the unexpended balance of the appropriation made for Internal Improvements on the Eastern Shore of this State by the act of December session 1835, chap. 395.

Whereas, by the eighth section of the act passed at December session 1835, chapter 395, the sum of one million of dollars was appropriated to the Eastern Shore Railroad Company, upon condition, "That the subscriptions to the capital stock of said Company, including the subscription thereby authorised on the part of the State at the par value thereof, be adequate to the construction of said railroad;" and it was furthermore provided by said section, "That in the event that the said stock of the Eastern Shore Railroad should not be subscribed to an amount sufficient to commence the said road by individuals and corporations, as provided for by said act; that is to say an amount, which together with the subscription on the part of the State, shall be adequate to the construction of said railroad as therein before mentioned: That then, and in that case, the million of dollars set apart for, and intended to be applied to said work, shall be held sacred, and the faith of the State was thereby pledged, that said million of dollars should be applied to the exclusive purpose of Internal Improvements on the Eastern Shore, and for no other purpose whatever, and should be subject to disposition by any future Legislation for that purpose, after the time should have expired for commencing work as proposed in the charter of the Eastern Shore Railroad Company," as upon reference to said act will appear:

And Whereas, of said sum of one million of dollars by said act appropriated and directed to be applied to the exclusive purpose of Internal Improvements on the Eastern Shore, there has been expended only he sum of one hundred and fifty-two thousand seven hundred and sixty-four dollars and fourteen cents, on said Eastern Shore Railroad, or on any work of internal improvement on said Shore, as shown by the report of the Comptroller of the Treasury, leaving dred and forty-seven thousand two hundred and unapplied and unexpended the sum of eight hunthirty-five dollars and eighty-six cents, which by said act the faith of the State is solemnly pledged to apply to the exclusive purpose of Internal Improvement on the Eastern Shore, and which is made subject to the disposition of the Legislature for that purpose only: *And Whereas*, in the opinion of this Legislature, an equitable division of said fund would be upon the basis of the levy made on the assessed property of the several counties of the Eastern Shore, for the year eighteen hundred and fifty-seven: now, therefore, in conformity with said act, and in redemption in part of said solemnly plighted faith of the State.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Treasurer of the State be, and he is hereby directed to transfer to the several Companies hereinafter named in the proportions hereinafter mentioned, six thousand eight hundred and fifty-six shares of the capital stock now held by the State, in the Main Stem of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, that is to say—

To the Maryland and Delaware Railroad Company, one thousand five hundred and sixteen shares.

To the Queen Anne's and Kent Railroad Company, eight hundred and sixty-four shares.

To the Kent County Railroad Company, eight hundred and sixty-four shares.

To the Eastern Shore Railroad Company, eight hundred and fifty-nine shares.

To the Worcester Railroad Company, seven hundred and thirty shares.

To the Elkton and Sassafras River Railroad Company, six hundred and sixty-shares, one third part of said shares to be used by said Company only in the construction of that part of said road lying between the town of Elkton and the Frenchtown and Newcastle Railroad.

To the Philadelphia and Baltimore Central Railroad Company, two hundred and thirty-three shares, to be applied to the construction of that part of said road in Cecil County.

To the Bohemia Bridge Company, thirty-nine shares, to be applied to the construction of a bridge over Bohemia River.

To the Columbia and Port Deposit Railroad Company, incorporated at the present session of the General Assembly of Maryland, three hundred and fourteen shares.

And to such works of Internal Improvement in the county of Dorchester as may hereafter be incorporated, eight hundred and forty-three shares, and and the said Companies are hereby prohibited from selling the same at less than fifty dollars per share.

Sec. 2. *And be it enacted*, That from and after any such transfer, the State shall be a Stockholder in the companies respectively to which such transfer shall be made to the amount of the sum so transferred, estimating each share at $50; and the Treasurer shall not transfer any of said shares until after an equal proportional amount shall have been actually paid by the other stockholders, in the particular company applying for the same.

Sec. 3. *And be it enacted*, That said transfer shall be made on the following terms and conditions: that is to say, when any of said companies applying for a transfer of stock, shall make it appear to the Governor that the subscriptions to the capital stock of such company, by other bona fide and responsible subscribers, are equal in amount to the value of the shares, by this act directed to be transferred to such company, estimating said shares at fifty dollars per share, the Treasurer shall then on the Governor's certificate, transfer, from time to time, such a portion of the whole amount of shares hereinbefore assigned to such company, as will be equal to the proportion paid to the other stockholders respectively, and the State shall be entitled to its dividend on its shares in said company in the same proportion as other stockholders.

Sec. 4. *And be it enacted*, That until such transfer shall be made by the Treasurer, the said shares or stock shall be and remain the property of the State.

Sec. 5. *And be it enacted*, That before any transfer shall be made to any of said companies, the stockholders of such company in general meeting assembled, shall agree to accept the act, and cause a certificate thereof, to be signed by their President and delivered to the Secretary of State, to be by him filed and preserved."

Governor Hicks gives a reception to-night at the Government House to the members of the General Assembly.

The Anniversary Meeting of the Maryland State Bible Society will be held in the Senate Chamber to-night. Addresses will be made by the Rev. Thos. Sewell and others.

Mr. Hoffman, your Senator, has made a donation of $100 to aid in re-building St. Anne's Church in this city, destroyed by fire on the night of the 14th instant.

IMPORTANT SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.

We copy the following from the *Union* of the 20th instant:

U. S. NAVAL ASTRONOMICAL EXPEDITION,

Washington, February 18, 1858.

SIR: I have the honor to communicate to you the result of the observations specially made by the United States naval astronomical expedition to determine the solar parallax—the sun's distance from the earth.

It will be remembered by the department that Dr. Gerling—an eminent geometer of Germany—suggested the practicability of determining this fundamental astronomical datum from observations of Venus near the inferior conjunction instead of awaiting the rare phenomena of transits of the planet across the sun's disc; that an expedition to the southern hemisphere was proposed to the department by myself for the purpose of making these observations, which, in connexion with similar observations to be made at the Naval Observatory, would test the method; and that the earnest commendations of the measure by physicists, both in Europe and this country, induced Congress to authorize the expedition by a special grant in the appropriation bill approved 3d August, 1848.

We were absent from the United States nearly three and a half years, and the observations constituting the more immediate object of the expedition extended through parts of each of the years from November, 1849, to September, 1852, inclusive.

So many classes of observations were embraced in the plan of operations adopted by the department that our small party was almost constantly occupied in observatory duty proper, and it was not possible to prepare any of the data for the final computations until after the return of the expedition to the United States. Then our first efforts were to put in proper form for the computer all the observations of the planets Venus and Mars, and the stars with which they had been compared.

Whilst our men of science had been unanimous in advocating the organization of an expedition because of the additional mass of important information certain to be collected by it, there were some who entertained an opinion that the method of determining the parallax proposed by Dr. Gerling would not afford a result so reliable as had been derived from the transits of Venus in 1761 and 1769.

For obvious reasons, therefore, it was proper that the discussion of the result from our observations should be intrusted to an astronomer thoroughly competent to appreciate the problem, yet wholly uncommitted as to the comparative merits of the two methods.

Under the sanction of the department, Dr. B. A. Gould, Jr., of Cambridge, Massachusetts, was selected for the purpose; and the elaborate refinement with which he has executed this difficult and delicate task is ample proof that the confidence of the department was not misplaced. His report does him great honor. It will fill from 130 to 140 pages in volume 3d of the results of the expedition—the larger portions of it and all the remainder of the volume being already printed.

The result obtained by him for the *sun's equatorial horizontal parallax* is 8″.4950, or 0″.0762 *less* than the value commonly adopted; and he concludes that we may assume with advantage 8″.5000 corresponding to adistance for that lunary of 96,160,000 *statute* miles.

As the information is of high interest to astronomers, I have the honor to suggest that it may be made known in advance of the publication of the volume.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

J. M. GILLISS,
Superintendent.

Hon. I. Toucey,
Secretary of the Navy.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAM.

RECEIVED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DAILY EXCHANGE.

EXPECTED DUELS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—All the efforts to reconcile the difficulty between Messrs. Clay and Collom, have proved abortive. They left Washington this afternoon at 5 o'clock, accompanied by their respective friends for, it is said, a place about 30 miles distant, and the probability is they will fight to-morrow morning. Much excitement exists throughout the city, regarding the affair.

Lieutenants Bell and Williams, have not as reported, reconciled their difficulties, and in this case a duel is also pending.

SECOND DESPATCH.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—This afternoon Mr. Rhind and his friend Capt. Corrie of South Carolina, were held in security to the amount of $2,500 each, for their appearance at the Criminal Court for challenging and posting Commander Boutwell, at whose instance the arrest was made.

The American party Board of Managers of the Washington National Monument Society, having more than six months ago retired from all further connection therewith, at a meeting of the subscribers to-day, a new Board of opposite politics was elected to serve one year, or until the next tri-annual election as pended by the Constitution. The voting was all one way.

MARINE DISASTER.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—Dates from Kingston, Jamaica, to the 2nd inst., have been received here.—The brig Ocean Belle of Baltimore, had been driven against the rocks in a gale, lost her spars and was leaking 1400 strokes per hour. She had put in for repairs.

WESTERN TRANSPORTATION.

WHEELING, Feb. 22.—The weather continues cold here but the snow is nearly gone. The Ohio river is still gorged with ice between Steubenville and Pittsburg, and also 46 miles below here, at Sardis. The water in the river is but four feet in depth, but the freight for the West has all been sent onward.

Reports from Cincinnati and Louisville to-day represent an open river with six or seven feet of water there. The agents of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road are transporting some forty or fifty car loads of freight per day between the Central Ohio and their road.

NEW YORK BANK STATEMENT.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—The Weekly Statement of our City Banks shows a decrease of $76,000 in loans; $54,000 in circulation and an increase of $1,190,000 in specie; $1,544,000 in nominal deposits; and $1,578,000 in medium deposits.

WASHINGTON, Noon.—Thermometer 34° cloudy. Wind N. W.

THE RICHMOND CELEBRATION.

RICHMOND, Feb. 22.—The weather though rather unfavorable for the display in honor of the inauguration of the statue of Washington, did not prevent a large turn out of citizens and others. The visitors from Washington and Baltimore, were received by several of our volunteer companies, and added much to the interest of the occasion. This morning the Knight's Templars were presented with a flag, by Mrs. Gill. The procession was formed at 10 o'clock, and was a very large and imposing display. The streets were densely thronged with spectators. Hon. Mr. Hunter's speech was an eloquent and able effort, and was well received by the immense assemblage. After the oration, the statue was saluted with a salvo of artillery and loud and prolonged cheering. Robert G. Scott, Esq., made an elegant address, and the masonic ceremonies were highly interesting and impressive. Gen. Scott reviewed the troops. To-night there is a general illumination, and the city is in a blaze of light. No accident of any kind occurred to mar the festivities, and the programme was fully carried out. There were probably not less than 15,000 persons present.

MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—Cotton is buoyant—sales 3,000 bales to-day. Flour is firm—sales 10,500 bls. at an advance of 5 cts. on State—others unchanged. Common to good State $4.30 *a* $4.35; Ohio $4.85 *a* $5; Southern $4.65 *a* $4.95. Wheat is very dull—quotations nominal. Corn is heavy—sales of 6,000 bushels at a decline of 2 cts. for white and yellow; white 67 *a* 68½ cts.—yellow 66 *a* 68 cents. Pork—prime has declined 5 cts.; sales at $13.25 *a* $13.45. Beef and Lard are steady. Whiskey is dull at 22½ *a* 23½ cts. Groceries generally are quiet. Molasses is nominally lower—quoted at 32 cents. Spirits Turpentine closed firm. Rosin is heavy at 147½. Rice is firm. Freights are dull.

FURTHER DETAILS OF FOREIGN NEWS RECEIVED BY THE AFRICA.

We received this morning our regular files of foreign papers from which we compile the following details:

ENGLAND.

The latest event of public interest in England was the re-assembling of Parliament which took place on Thursday the 4th inst, two days before the sailing of the steamer. We subjoin an account of such portion of the proceedings as are likely to attract any attention on this side of the water.

In the House of Lords on the first day of the session:

The Earl of Derby censured the Government for reticence on various points of their foreign and colonial policy. He had expected to find some explanation given respecting the causes and eventualities of the war in India. The neglected transmitting of reinforcements to the East, and the pending hostilities in China. Her Majesty's Ministers were at war with two vast countries and prepared for neither.—He then adverted to the late attempt at assassination in Paris. The circumstance he was convinced, gave no just grounds for accusing the government of this country of negligence and want of vigilance. Accused parties had lived for many years in Birmingham, apparently earning an honest livelihood, and under circumstances that excited no suspicion. It was not until he landed in France that he became a criminal. The event proved nothing but the utter failure of the passport system. The assassin left England for Belgium by a pass from the French Consul. In Belgium he attracted some notice from the police, who sent notice of his approach to the Paris authorities, by whom the warning was neglected. The attempt was matured in Paris, not in England, under the noses of the French police, upon whom the affair reflected anything but credit.—With regard to the individual case, there was nothing neglected or omitted in this country. On the question of principle, he was sorry to admit that men lived among us who might entertain dangerous and criminal designs; but it was not the English custom to punish men for intentions not carried into effect. Multitudes of foreigners lived here not by our wish, nor even by their own, but with whom we could not interfere so long as they confined themselves to mere designs, without committing overt acts of criminality. We did not keep, as some foreign authorities seem to suppose, a prison for conspirators. In fact, the English police, when any dangerous conspiracy became known to them, thought it their duty to warn the Sovereign whose life was threatened, and to those advices he believed that the Emperor of the French had been more than once indebted for useful information. He wished, however, to hear from the Government, whether any steps had been taken to advocate a wish to frustrate or suppress their atrocious conspiracies against foreign monarchs. He would not, in the slightest degree, infringe the sacred right of asylum, even though it was so flagrantly used. No government would ask Parliament to grant any measure whose effect would be to inflict punishment on suspicion without tangible evidence of guilt. This question required most serious consideration. If any means could be found to prevent these abominable attempts at assassination, he was sure that the Legislature would give their cheerful and ready acquiescence.

Lord Granville alluded to the criticism passed by Lord Derby on the policy and the conduct of the Government with regard to India and China. It was not, he said, customary for her Majesty's ministers to enter into miscellaneous explanations, when there was no definite question before the House.—They were prepared to defend their conduct at all points. The war with China had been discussed at length many months ago, and referred to the country, whose opinion was sufficient. It would have been most agreeable to the Government to have at once expressed their detestation of the crime lately attempted at Paris, and their congratulations for the providential escape of the French Emperor. For such a course would have been unprecedented without notice given, and a formal motion laid before the House. He regretted that the mistaken conclusion of certain officers in the French army should have obtained publicity, but it was, he thought, unworthy of a great nation to be biassed in its course by the intemperate utterances of a few individuals. The country he was convinced would never give up its right of asylum, nor could any Government venture to suggest such a surrender, either in the case of their own subjects or of foreigners. Some measure designed to prevent the repetition of atrocities such as had lately been attempted, would, however, be introduced on Monday in the other House, and without entering into the detail of that bill, he invited their lordships to give it their serious consideration.

Lord Malmesbury commented upon various points of the recent Ministerial policy. He expressed his regret and abhorence of the crime lately attempted against the life of the Emperor Napoleon.

In the House of Commons, on Friday, Feb. 5th. Mr. Roebuck, in moving, pro forma, the adjournment of the House, asked the noble lord what correspondence had taken place on the subject of the Alien Bill between our Government and that of France. He brought forward the subject on account of the attack on this country, published in the *Moniteur*, and made by Count de Morney, the brother of the French Emperor, and by Count de Persigny, the French Ambassador. England was charged with participating in the attempt against the life of the Emperor. He would answer this by appealing to our manners and our historory. We had attacked our enemies openly; we had put a king to death; but we had never hired men to assassinate our enemies. He had heard whispers respecting alterations in the Alien Bill. Now, the position of England was one which gave refuge to all persons. Louis Napoleon, Louis Phillippe, and the Bourbons, had all shared it, and it would be contrary to the very constitution of the country to alter it. No man had less right to complain of conspiracies, than the Emperor of the French, who had left these shores in an attempt against the throne of Louis Phillippe, and had killed a man who, in the execution of his duty, had opposed him. Hitherto, we had softened penal laws, and now we were to be asked to make them more severe.

He wished to know what correspondence had taken place to influence the opinions of the noble lord. Lord Palmerston said that one despatch received by our Government from that of France, which he had no objection to lay upon the table. He denied that the French Government, or any one connected with it, had accused England of participation in the attempt against the life of the Emperor, but said that there could be no surprise if the French people, ignorant of the exact state of things in this country, should express strong feelings on the subject. No man was less entitled than Mr. Roebuck to accuse the license of language in other people; we prided ourselves on our own freedom of speech, and it would be childish if the country took offence at what was said in France. What would be said in this country if murders, concocted in France, were here perpetrated?—Mr. Horsman protested against the attack just made on Mr. Roebuck. He had made no complaint of expressions of individual feeling on the part of the French people. What he had to complain of was the attacks made on this country with the sanction of the French Government, or persons connected with it. Roebuck had not at any time done more than express his sincere feelings, and had never made a private enemy. He trusted that before the subject came before them on Monday that the fullest information should be afforded as to the demands of the French Government, and the opinion of the law officers of the crown laid before them. Mr. Roebuck hoped that the despatch alluded to would be laid on the table, together with the answer to it. As to the imputations of the noble lord, he treated them as idle wind. Lord Palmerston promised that the despatch would be laid on the table on Monday as there had been no answer to it.

Mr. Vernon Smith moved for leave to introduce a bill to enable the East India Company to raise money in the United Kingdom for the service of the Government in India. He explained that the sum proposed to be borrowed was ten millions, extending over one year and a half. He explained the manner in which money was borrowed by the East India Company, and the causes which rendered the bill necessary, which arose out of the recent events in India. Mr. T. Baring objected to the bill, as conferring a power of borrowing on an expiring government. Who knew if the East India Company would last through the period prescribed by the bill for borrowing the money? It was due to India to permit its government to borrow money on the security of British revenues, a privilege which had been conceded to Turkey. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that the East India Company, having been a trade company, could not under the law borrow in the same way as the colonial governments, and, therefore, this bill was necessary. There was nothing in the objection drawn from the uncertainty of the duration of the Indian government, which did not equally apply to borrowing upon Indian bonds.

Mr. Disraeli complained of the want of official information necessary before they passed such a bill. Mr. Cardwell said that they should look carefully into the demands which might hereafter be made on the consolidated fund for money borrowed for Indian purposes. Mr. Henley thought that a proper account of our Indian financial position should have been given before so large a sum was asked for. Mr. Ross Mangles contended that the money was actually necessary to enable the East India Company to carry on the operations requisite in the present contingency. There was an immediate necessity for the money, and for the powers conferred by the bill. Sir J. Baring was willing to grant the East India Company powers for raising the money necessary for the present year, but not beyond. Colonel Sykes declared the money to be necessary for the preservation of our Indian empire. Sir H. Willoughby thought that the money to be borrowed should be limited to the necessities of the present year. Mr. Danby Seymour contended that the whole sum of ten millions was necessary for the pressing and immediate requirements of India. Mr. V. Smith said that the objections made to the bill were matters of debate and should be considered in committee. It was not his fault, but that of the confusion arising out of the mutiny, that the statement of Indian finances had not been laid before the House.

Lord Palmerston gave notice that on Friday he should move to introduce a bill for the future government of India. The other orders for the day were disposed of and the House adjourned.

FRANCE.

The *Moniteur* publishes the following Imperial decree:

"Napoleon, by the grace of God and the national will, Emperor of the French, to all whom these presents may concern, greeting:

"Desirous of giving to our well-beloved uncle Prince Jerome Napoleon a mark of our high confidence, we have resolved to invest him, as we now do invest him by these presents, with the right of attending the ordinary and extraordinary meetings of our Council, wishing him to preside thereat during our absence, and this in conformity to our instructions and our orders.

"Our Minister of State is charged to communicate these presents to our keeper of the Seals, to be inserted in the *Bulletin des Lois*.

"Done at our Palace of the Tuileries, Feruary 1, 1858.

"NAPOLEON.

"Countersigned, ACHILLE FOULD,
Minister of State."

The following are the important sections of the new penal law:—

"Art. 1. Is punished with imprisonment from two to five years, and a fine of from 500f. to 10,000f., every individual who shall have publicly, in any manner whatsoever, excited to the commission of the crimes specified in the 86th and 87th Articles of the Penal Code, when that excitation has been followed by an effect.

"Art. 2. Is punished with imprisonment from one month to two years and a fine of from 100f. to 2,000f., every individual who, for the purpose of disturbing public tranquility or exciting hatred or contempt against the Government of the Emperor, shall have plotted, or maintained a correspondence with persons at home or abroad.

"Art. 3. Every individual who, without being legally authorized, shall have fabricated, sold, or distributed—1st, murderous machines acting by explosion or otherwise; 2d, fulminating powder, whatever its composition may be, shall be punished with imprisonment from six months to five years, and a fine of 50f. to 3,000f.

"The same punishment is applicable to whoever shall be found in possession of, or carrying without permission such objects as are specified above.

Upon which the Paris correspondent of the London *Times* makes the following comments:

M. Billault's new penal law has certainly been deprived of much of its most obnoxious qualities by the intervention of the Emperor. It is still, however, harsh in character, and may prove a formidable engine in the hands of some future Minister.—It is thought that it will receive further modifications in the Legislative body. There are two or three reasons why this hope is entertained. The Emperor is known to be averse to severe or oppressive measures. The law encountered, as I have already described, strenuous opposition in the Council of State, and even with extraneous appliances had only a majority of four, and these considerations lead the public to hope, now that the highest interposition has diminished their alarm, that it will undergo a further purification in committee.

It was, I believe, in the 7th clause,