dial and heartfelt. We copy the subjoined account of these ceremonies:

General Scott entered the Senate Chamber about one o'clock. Long before his entrance the seats of Senators were nearly filled by ladies, to whom in courtesy they were surrendered. When the veteran soldier entered the door he was hailed with loud applause both from the densely crowded gallery and the floor of the chamber. He was led forward by Senator Thompson, who introduced him to the President as follows:

"Mr. President—I have the pleasure of introducing to you Lieutenant General Winfield Scott—a gallant soldier, who, I can only add, is an honor to his country, an honor to Virginia, and an honor to his native county, (Dinwiddie,) which I represent here."

The President of the Senate spoke as follows:

"Lieutenant-General Scott: As the presiding officer of this body, it is my agreeable duty to welcome you to the hall of the Senate of Virginia. The people of your native State, through their representatives in the Senate, greet you and bid you welcome. In doing so we honor our whole country as well as yourself. I will not indicate in your presence the deeds and services which have rendered your name immortal. The history of your country will be your most eloquent eulogy. It is indeed a source of patriotic pride that we have in our country such a distinguished soldier and eminent patriot to participate with us in the inauguration of the Equestrian Statue of the Father of his Country. As the organ of the Senate, I therefore most cordially welcome you in our midst."

Gen. Scott, after a moment's silence, replied as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT AND SENATORS: I cannot give expression to the deep emotions of pleasure I experience at this reception in my native State. Little did I expect to meet with such honors here, and from you. I find myself in the midst of my countrymen—my dear countrymen—natives of the State which was the cradle of my first hopes, my first ambition. In my long career—more remarkable perhaps for its length than its brilliancy—I have ever felt the responsibility I inherited by my birth. I have always said, what will Virginia say of me; and when, in the course of my public life, I have always remembered at its most important points that I bore a portion of her honor on my shoulders. I have said that if I proved recreant I would be doubly censured in her estimation and that of the country. It was in the school of Virginia that I imbibed those principles which have guided me through life, and it is by the example of her Washington, and the other great Virginians, that I am inspired with the desire to be remembered by my State. That desire has been accomplished far beyond my most sanguine expectations. Honors upon honors she has heaped upon me, and I could not if I would ever forget her favors. At the end of the war of 1812-'15 she presented me with the sword I now possess. She has given my name to one of her counties, and after the lapse of a third of a century, when my small services might be supposed to have been forgotten, she honored me with a vote of thanks and a gold medal. I allude to these things in a spirit of gratitude and not of vanity. The time has passed away for that. I have arrived at that age when the passions are mellowed and the imagination ceases to be fiery and irregular—an age of quiet and enjoyment; and the scenes of this day will fill me with grateful memories, and I will bear its recollections with me to that final resting-place to which, in the course of nature, I am rapidly tending. With a Virginia heart I tender to all Virginians my gratitude and my affection.

After the applause following the speech had subsided, the President of the Senate introduced General Scott to the members of the body. Many of the ladies present also sought and obtained an introduction.

Subsequently Lieut. Gen. Scott was conducted into the hall of the House of Delegates by Mr. Edmunds and the other members of the committee, and introduced to the Speaker of that body.

The Speaker (having previously risen from his seat) said:—"Gen. Scott, it affords me great pleasure, sir, to welcome you to this hall, and introduce you to gentlemen composing the popular branch of the Legislature of Virginia, and to extend to you for them, and through them for the people of this Commonwealth and the Legislature of Virginia, a hearty welcome to your native Ltate. I would do violence to my own feelings, and would, I am sure, do violence to your own gallantry, if I did not include the ladies who are assembled here to-day in this cordial assurance of welcome.

"You have returned to Virginia on this occasion to unite in demonstrations of respect to a name we all delight to esteem and honor; to unite in the inauguration of yon emblem, commemorative of him who was "first in peace, first in war, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." [Loud applause.]

"We have before us, sir, in your person, the hero of Chippewa and of Lundy's Lane. [Applause.]—We have the conqueror of Mexico. [Renewed applause.] We have in short, sir, the first captain of the age. [Continued applause.]

"Sir, I am sure that your noble heart will appreciate the declaration when I announce to you, as I feel authorized to do, that you occupy a place in the heart of every Virginian.

"In conclusion, sir, permit me to say that it will ever be a most pleasing recollection that I have had the honor to perform this most agreeable duty and to extend this most cordial welcome." [Loud applause.]

Gen. Scott replied, substantially, as follows:

"Mr. Speaker, I am somewhat accidentally in the capital of Virginia. I could not allow the interesting ceremonies which are about to be performed on the public grounds to pass by without being present on the occasion, and I came here, sir, to witness the demonstration in honor of the "Father of his Country." But instead of being a looker-on, I am met by the assembled Representatives of the Commonwealth, and have been honored by them with a cordiality and kindness which I could not have expected.

"Virginia has always taken a lively interett in those of her sons who have endeavored to do well in the cause of the Commonwealth. It has been my fortune to be benefited by that maternal feeling. I have had conferred upon me honors, the recollection of which I have ever cherished. Soon after the end of the war of 1815, I had conferred upon me by the Legislature of this State, a sword of honor—a beautiful token of approval, I regret to say, I have not with me at this time. The sword I have on is a Louisana sword, and happened to be the only one within reach when I left Washington.

At a subsequent period Virginia did me the honor to confer upon me a gold medal, which would set forth the distinction by which I had gained the approbation of the Representatives of a State that I am proud to own as my dear old mother. Later, they conferred another honor upon me, by passing highly complimentary resolutions; and now, forty-four years after the first honor which was bestowed upon me by the Legislature of Virginia, I am received here with a warmth and cordiality which makes me feel that this honor is the proudest of them all. [Applause.]

"When I reflect upon all these testimonials of regard I may say, without arrogance, that my life has not been entirely in vain. From my earliest youth I was fired with an ardent desire to prove myself worthy of this Commonwealth, and now, to receive such generous applause, is truly gratifying to my feelings. It will cheer the remaining days of life; will lighten my path to the grave."

After a few more remarks of similar purport, Gen. Scott concluded by reiterating his thanks for the honors which had been conferred upon him.

The Speaker then vacated the Chair, and introduced the illustrious guest to the members and others, and after some time had been spent in the interchange of salutations the House adjourned.

THE MONUMENT.

Crawford's monument is considered his masterpiece, and one of the greatest triumphs of American art. The basement is in the shape of a star, with six points, upon each one of which will stand a statue of one of those Virginians who so effectively aided the *pater patriæ* by their eloquence, their genius, or their swords. Patrick Henry, with his arms raised and extended, is energetically advocating independence; while Jefferson, in an attitude of earnest contemplation, holds in one hand a pen, and in the other the Delaration of Independence.—When all of these figures are finished and in their places, the effect will be very striking.

In the centre of this group, and towering above it, is the colossal equestrian statue of Washington, which, including the charger, is twenty-five feet high. The great chieftain is represented in full continental uniform, at the critital moment in a battle. His horse is reined up and partly thrown upon the haunches, as if suddenly checked while moving rapidly, while the rider "sits on the beast with majestic ease, and, as if something had suddenly caught his attention in the distance, he is pointing forward and rather upward with his hand, while his head and face are slightly turned to the left, and might indicate that he was either calling the object that had just struck his own eyes to the notice of his companions, or was giving a command to be executed at the spot to which he points. The figure is erect, the chest thrown forward, the knees pressed to the saddle, the heel nearly beneath the shoulder, and the sole of the foot almost horizontal. The seat is a military and not a hunting seat, and the whole impresses the mind with the idea of perfect ease, calmness, and command." So says G. P. R. James, the novelist, who should be a judge.

COLLIERY EXPLOSION AT ASHTON—FORTY LIVES LOST.—On Tuesday, the 2nd, about five p. m., a shocking loss of life was occasioned at Bardsley, near Ashton under Lyne, by an explosion of fire-damp in the colliery of Messrs. Wylde & Co. There were 181 men and boys employed in the workings of what is called the Diamond Pit, and a portion of them had been drawn up (about 40 in number) when the explosion occurred. The pit is of great depth, being estimated to dip 470 yards below the surface of the ground; but the force of the explosion was so great notwithstanding, that it blew off one of the ropes from the wheel at the hand-stocks over the top of the shaft. The conductors were also broken, and it became necessary to exercise much caution in winding up and down the remaining rope by which such of the colliers as had not been killed could alone hope for escape. The noise of the explosion soon brought a number of colliers and other people from the neighborhood to the spot, and in a short time there was a good number of volunteers ready to descend the shaft in search of the sufferers from the explosion. Unfortunately, the number of these turned out to be very great. William and James Hibbert, the underlookers of the colliery, undertook to conduct the volunteers into the mine and direct their efforts. Of the 181 work-people in the mine, 108 had arrived out in safety, 27 had been brought up dead, and 26 others had been found more or less burnt. This left 20 persons missing, according to the mustor-roll in the company's office, but there appears to be some discrepancy between it hed the calculations of those employed in searching ane mine, who estimated the missing at about 13.—As there is little or no probability of any of these 13 being still alive, the total loss of lives is calculated to be about 40.

To Advertisers.—*In order to afford the public an opportuni y 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 relat ns. 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 gratuitious distribution above adverted to, it is designed to make the Exchange per form in part its own canvassing. Persons disposed to encourage the enterprize 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.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1858.

Freedom has never yet been won, and can never be maintained by the stiletto, poison, or infernal machines. The day that saw imperial Cæsar fall at the foot of Pompeii's statue, stabbed by the daggers of conspirators in the name of liberty, sealed the doom of the Republic. Mark Antony in the play is not only eloquent, but historically right, when he says to the fickle populace of Rome, "Then you, and I, and all of us fell down, while bloody treason flourished over us." Americans, therefore, can more sympathize with assassination, even as a remedy for the most galling tyranny. Our own liberty was achieved boldly by the sword, in the face of heaven, and in the light of day—not by midnight conspirators, or stealthy assassins. And we came legitimately by our honesty. Our English forefathers, if convinced that the liberties of themselves and their posterity demanded the shedding of royal blood, took care to shed that blood honestly and publicly, and under the sanction and solemnities of judicial process. Had Charles I. died by the poniard of the assassin, instead of the executioner's axe, England might have been what France is now, and the world would have been deprived of that most signal and exemplary vindication of the great fundamental principle of a constitutional monarchy, the supremacy of the law over the will and the person of majesty.

As Americans, we cannot but sympathize with every honest and legitimate effort to advance the cause of Republicanism abroad. But as Americans, we are equally bound to detest and deplore all attempts at the perpetration of atrocious crime in the name of liberty, and we are the more indignant when we find that those attempts are as foolish, wanton and absurd, as they were infamous and wicked.

It is in this light that our countrymen universally regard the tragedy at Paris on the 14th January, —the attempt of Orsini, Pietri, and their confederates, to murder the Emperor of Franne at the door of the Opera House by the explosion of fulminating shells, which resulted in the almost miraculous escape of the intended victim, but in the maiming, mutilating or death of over one hundred bystanders.

The miserable wretches who were the instruments of this wholesale attempt at murder will soon expiate their crime by receiving merited punishment. The instigators and contrivers of this and similar plots are still at large, patching new and more ingenious plans in their scheme of social destruction and demolition.

Prominent among these restless and reckless enemies of mankind is the notorious Italian demagogue Mazzini. We are aware that it has sometimes been the fashion to speak of this man as a patriot, entitled to our sympathy and respect. But, however good may be his motives or sincere his professions, unless we lend ourselves to the demoralizing dogma that the end justifies the means, we cannot, upon the principles already stated, do otherwise than regard with abhorrence and disgust the acts and the conduct which have characterized his course as a political agitator.

As an appropriate commentary upon this text we take this occasion to transfer to our columns from an ingenious and reliable work upon "Secret Societies in France," by M. DE LA HODDE, (recently translated, by the way, and published in this country, by Lippincott & Co., of Philadelphia,) some pertinent remarks on the character of political refugees generally, and an account of a transaction in which this same Mazzini acted a conspicuous part. We commend the narrative to the candid perusal of those who insist upon enshrining such nefarious incendiaries as Mazzini among the heroes and patriots of the age.

THE DRAMA.

Mr. Charles Matthews, the English comedian, appeared for the first time before a Baltimore audience on Monday night, and acquitted himself to the satisfaction of a full, though not crowded house. The plays selected for the occasion, though written by himself, we should scarcely presume to be such as are best calculated to display the versatile humor which he so evidently possesses. Nor were they of that dashing and decided cast that an actor would ordinarily select for a first venture with an unknown audience.

They were, we think, wanting in those dramatic situations which are necessary to relieve the uniformity of plots as unpretending as those of the pieces alluded to. They were also deficient in that point and sparkle which it is essential that the dialogue should possess in order to carry the hearer agreeably through a story not in itself varied or exciting. Yet with these draw-backs Mr. Matthews gave very considerable gratification to his auditors; and continued to display a force and tact in his delineations that proved him not unworthy of the reputation which has preceded him. His easy and natural display of his comic powers showed his knowledge and study of those phases of the human character which it is his province to illustrate. He therefore afford ed ample amusement without descendiug to that buffoonery of exaggerated gesture and unseemly distortion of features to which inferior actors too habitually resort to draw laughter from the house.

THE HAWKERS' LITERATURE OF FRANCE.—Few even among the best informed readers of the literature of the day will be prepared for the fact that, side by side with the known productions of the press of Paris, there has existed from time immemorial in France, another, and, in its own sphere hardly less influential literature, addressing a totally different public, enjoying a separate and peculiar circulation, and possessing an organization, both for production and distribution, almost entirely independent of the ordinary machinery of literary commerce. Still less will they be prepared to learn that the number of volumes thus annually put into circulation throughout the length and breadth of France amounts to nearly 10,000,000, at prices ranging from a franc down to a sous; or for tho still more extraordinary fact, that among this enormous number, with the exception of a few of the modern novels, hardly a single volume—at least in the form in which it is circulated by the hawkers—is the production of any writer whose works have ever attracted the attention of our readers. So that we are led to the singular conclusion that a substratum of publications of enormous extent supplies the demands and feeds the curiosity of the lower orders, utterly unconnected with the higher creations of French genius, coarser in form and in substance, and very slightly affected by the vicissitudes of taste and opinion.—*Edinburgh Review.*

HORRID MURDERS AND MUTILATION IN ALGERIA.—A frightful crime was last week committed near Setif, department of Constantina, in Algeria. A man named Gilson, manager of a large farm belonging to the deputy mayor of Setif, at about three miles from the town, had just terminated supping with his wife, two daughters, and an old aunt, when the trampling of horses' feet was heard at the gate of the court yard. The old woman went to open the gate, and at the moment she did so an Arab tried to plunge a dagger into her breast, but she raised her hand, and the weapon went through it. Hearing her cries, Gilson went out and saw several Arabs, two of them on horseback. He was immediately seized by them, dragged some little distance, and stabbed repeatedly, until he fell bathed in blood, and apparently dead. Having, however, endeavored to raise himself, the Arabs seized him anew, and drew a sword across his throat, nearly severing his head from his body. After this they went towards the house, but Madame Gilson and her eldest daughter, aged 16, closed the door, and pressed against it to prevent them from entering. The Arabs, how ever, soon forced it open, and then stabbed Madame Gilson, until she was dead; they next attacked the unfortunate daughter, and cut open her skull, plucked out one eye, greatly injured the other, and cut off both her hands at the wrists. After this they entered the house, and ransacked the drawers and closets, taking away everything of value. Gilson's youngest daughter, who had accompanied her father when he went out, slipped away unperceived by the assassins, and reached a neighboring farm; the old aunt also escaped to another farm; and the occupants of these farms, on hearing this dreadful tale, hurried towards Gilson's house. They met the Arabs leaving it, and the assassins attacked them with swords, driving them all away, and wounding some. The Arabs then retired. The next day the French local authorities searched all the houses and tents of the Arabs in the neighborhood, and arrested not fewer than fourteen. One of them was recognised by the aunt as the one who stabbed her; another by the girl, who, though so horribly injured, is not dead, as one of those who assailed her.

MARYLAND LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

Petitions, &c., Presented.—By Mr. Daniel, of citizens of Baltimore City and County, in favor of the Green Spring Avenue Bill. By Mr. Wilkins, for the protection of the rights of mill owners in ditching mill streams in Queen Anne's county.

Leave to Report Bills.—To Mr. Wilkins, to authorise certain persons in Kent county to purchase real estate from S. E. Baker. Also, to regulate the inspection of Guano. Also, to provide a fund for the erection of warehouses in Baltimore city to accommodate the Grain trade of the State.

Bills Reported.—By Mr. Wilkin's, to allow G. Davis of Kent county, Delaware, to work his slaves in Kent county, Delaware, and Cecil county, Maryland. Mr. Hoffman, increasing the capital stock of the Powhattan Steamboat Company.

The bill increasing an appropriation to the Insane Asylum, was made the order of the day for tomorrow.

Bill Rejected.—For the benefit of the heirs of Frederick Stier, late of Frederick county. It was reconsidered.

Bills Passed.—Making valid a mortgage to J. A. Brown. Refunding sums of money to W. W. Johnson, J. G. Henning and William Thompson, of R. Allowing a pension to Ellen Shank. Also, to Esther Williams. Making valid a deed to N. V. Brown. For the benefit of C. Wistel. For repair &c. of the Government house, and lighting the same with gas. Legalizing the acts of the Commissioners of Boonsboro. Amending the charter of the Towsontown and Dulaney's Valley Turnpike Company. Increasing the per diem of the Commissioners of Somerset County. For a new School District in the second election district of Calvert county. To regulate Constables' fees in Charles county. To regulate the terms of the Courts of the sixth circuit. For inspecting grain in Baltimore city. To repeal resolution No. 8, of 1840, &c. To prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors in Tangier district, Somerset county. To prevent trespasses in Prince George's county, by non-residents of the State. Increasing the salary of the Commissioners of Washington county. For the relief of the representatives of Daniel Benson. For an additional School House in the eighth district of Prince George's county.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

ANNAPOLIS, *Feb.* 23, 1858.

Petitions Presented.—By Mr. Wickes against making Chester bridge a free bridge. Mr. Meginnis a similar petition. Mr. Worthington for another magistrate in Medley's district, Montgomery county. Mr. Grieves and J. J. Bowen, to promote colonization and commerce to Central Africa. Mr. Harrington, of the American Tract Society, to be exempted from collateral inheritance tax. Mr. Todd of thirty-three citizens of Caroline county, for an appropriation for educational purposes in said county. Mr. Koons for another magistrate in the 15th district of Frederick county. Mr. Hobbs, to require license to sell intoxicating drinks to be recommended by a certain number of freeholders. Also for a new election district out of parts of Frederick, Woodsborough and, Creagerstown districts, Frederick county. Also for another magistrate in Petersville district. Mr. Mackubbin, to prevent free negroes from fishing and crabbing in certain waters of Anne Arundel county. Also to divide primary school district No. 19, in said county, and create a new one. Also in opposition to the repair of the alms house of said county. Mr. Stirling of 69 citizens of Baltimore to repeal the tax on mortgages. Mr. Crowley, a claim of $361 for repairing the State's Pratt street wharf in Baltimore. Mr. Root against the sale of articles manufactured by non-residents without license.

The speaker appointed Messrs. Lynch of Baltimore city, Lynch of Baltimore county, Grieves, Duvall and Hearn, a committee on the memorial of John Cathers, to practice his remedy for cancers. Also presented a letter from the Comptroller, asking an appropriation to repair his office injured by fire yesterday.

On motion of Mr. Sudler, of Somerset, the Librarian was directed to have the State fire engine put in complete order.

Leaves to Report Bills.—To Mr. Rodgers, for the relief of Rebecca S. Keene. Mr. Todd, to increase the tax in primary school district No. 3, 2d district of Caroline county. Mr. Hobbs, to give power to county commissioners to legislate relative to roads. Mr. Harrington, to consummate the division of the joint property of Baltimore city and county. Mr. Riddlemoser, to incorporate the Town Hall company of Leitersburg. Mr. Meginnis, to incorporate Georgetown Cross Roads by the name of Galena. Mr. Lynch, of Baltimore, to inspect paving stones in Baltimore city. Mr. Mackubbin, to repair the almshouse of Anne Arundel county. Also, to incorporate Metropolis Lodge No. 17, I. O. O. F. Also, to change the name of Edwin Howard to Thomas Contee Bowie Howard; Mr. Hanway, relative to issuing writs of injunction where are disqualified, &c. Mr. Allender, to regulate fees of the sheriff of Baltimore county. Mr. Magruder, to make valid a deed to L. Johnson. Mr. Beet, for relief of F. Raine, of Baltimore city. Mr. Moore, to build a wharf in Nanticoke river at Sharptown. Mr. Allender, to build a bridge over Little Gunpowder river at Treadwell's mill. Mr. Thruston to amend the charter of the Cumberland and Georgetown transportation company.

On motion of Mr. Dorsey, his bill relative to lotteries was recommitted.

Bills Reported.—By Mr. Alexander, relative to insolvent debtors. To make magistrates summons returnable in the district where defendant resides. To exempt from execution a reasonable amount of a debtor's property. Mr. Grieves, relative to free negroes and slaves. Mr. Daill, refunding a sum of money to N. H. Green. Also, to pay claims of Brashears & Co. and others. Also to compensate J. M. Schley. Also, to pay John D. Toy for printing. Also, to pay fees to W. A. Spencer and John Palmer. Mr. Harrington, to amend the charter of the Charles Street Avenue Co. Mr. Hanway, to make the tax list in the hands of collectors in Harford county valid for laying taxes. Also, for the re-survey of the public roads of said county. Mr. Daill, to pay T. J. Wilson for legal services. Also, to pay Thomas E. Martin and others a sum of money. Mr. Mr. Burgess, incorporating a mutual fire insurance company in St. Mary's and Charles counties. Mr. Hanway, for rebuilding the court house of Harford co. Mr. Tilghman, to prevent filling up harbors in Somerset co. Mr. Spence, to amend the act relative to employment of assistant counsel for the State. Mr. Belt, to preserve the Sheriff's paper of J. J. Chew. Mr. Sudler, of Queen Anne's, to increase the school tax in the fourth district of said county. Mr. Mackubbin, to repair the alms-house of Anne Arundel co. Mr. McDonigal, for the benfit of school district No. 3, in the second district of Caroline co. Mr. Rogers, for four additional notaries for Baltimore city.

Mr. Contee reported with amendments for monthly instead of weekly statements, Mr. Hoffman's bank bill. Also, unfavorably on Mr. Crowley's bank bill. Mr. Crowley, favorably on the bill to authorize the Commissioners of Baltimore county, to lay out avenues adjacent to the Eastern boundary of Baltimore city.

Mr. Beet reported favorably from the majority of the Committee on Judiciary, the bill to protect the people of the State, in the free exercise of the elective frauchise, and moved that it be the special order of the day for Thursday. Mr. Alexander gave notice that he would make a minority report tomorrow. On motion of Mr. Alexander, the bill was re-committed by a party vote.

The general Appropriation bill for 1858, was passed. The salary of the chief Clerk to the Comptroller was fixed at $1,200.

The pilot bill was reported with some amendments, and made the special order for Friday.

The bill to prescribe a uniform system of education. Mr. Davis' bill was commenced without coming to a vote. House adjourned.

On the afternoon of yesterday smoke was discovered in the committee room of the Senate, and the alarm of fire immediately sounded. Upon examination it was found to proceed from a piece of timber which was heated from its too close proximity to one of the pipes by which part of the building is warmed. The locality was discovered by Mr. John Roy, the doorkeeper of the House of Delegates, and a member, I believe, of the Mount Vernon Hook and Ladder Company, of your city. It had evidently been excessively hot for some time, and had the discovery been delayed much longer, the result would have been truly disastrous.

MR. VANDENHOFF'S READINGS.

POSTPONEMENT.

Owing to the indisposition of Mr. Vandenhoff, the proposed course of Readings before the Mercantile Library Association, is unavoidably postponed for a few days.

THE PEAK FAMILY now giving musical entertainments at Carroll Hall were greeted with a larger audience last evening than upon their first appearance, though it was not equal to their deserts. Their periormances are of a novel and highly entertaining character, comprising bell ringing in the styles of the Swiss Bell Ringers, once so popular in this country—singing of merit and performances on the harp of a high order. Their skill as bell-ringers can only be appreciated when seen and heard. They give an entertainment this afternoon for familes, ladies and children. All who visit them, we feel assured will be well pleased, and neither regret the time nor cost of admission.

MARTYRDOM IN CHINA.—A private communication in the department of the Tarn, contains the following extract from a letter received by Monsignor Danicourt, bishop of the district, announcing the execution, by the Chinese, of the Rev. Ferdinand Montels, a Lazarist priest, who was a native of Castres:

"Father Montels was decapitated on the 26th June, 1857, with two native Christians named Jean Queen and Pierre Y. The execution was commanded by a military mandarin, at Kiang-si, near Kygnan-Fou. Father Montels was proceeding to visit a French missionary named Thau, who, being unwell, had requested his assistance. In the course of his journey he fell in with a detachment of the Imperial army. The Chinese searched his baggage and found in it his hair, which Father Montells had cut off in order not to be taken for an insurgent, but which he had preserved to show at a later period to the insurgents, who were masters of the country he inhabits, and to prove to them that necessity alone had compelled him to shave himself. The military mandarin, before whom the priest was brought, would listen to no explanation, though Father Montels in vain claimed the protection afforded to missionaries by existing treaties. The mandarin commanded that his head should be struck off, as well as those of the two Christians who accompanied him."

EUROPEAN SOVEREIGNS.—The following were the ages of various sovereigns on the 1st Jan., in the present year:—King of Wurtemburg, 76; King of the Belgians, 67; the Pope, 65; King of Prussia, 62; King of Sweden, 58; King of Saxony, 57; Emperor of the French, 49; King of Denmark, 49; King of the two Sicilies, 47; King of Bavaria, 46; King of Greece, 42; King of the Netherlands, 40; Emperor of Russia, 39; Queen of Great Britain, 38; King of Sardinia, 37; the Sultan of Turkey; 34; Emperor of Austria, 22; Queen of Spain, 27; and the King of Portugal, 20.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

RECEIVED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DAILY EXCHANGE.

FOUR DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE ANGLO-SAXON.

IMPORTANT FROM CHINA.

BOMBARDMENT AND CAPTURE OF CANTON BY THE BRITISH AND FRENCH FORCES.

SLIGHT ADVANCE IN COTTON.

BREADSTUFFS DULL.

PORTLAND, FEB. 23.—The steamer Anglo Saxon arrived here this evening at 6 o'clock, bringing Liverpool dates of the 10th inst.

The steamers City of Washington and Arago also sailed on the 10th.

The Anglo Saxon was detailed twelve hours off Cape Race by the ice.

The United States corvette Constellation was at Alexandria January 6th.

ENGLAND.

Leave has been granted to Lord Palmerston in Parliament to introduce a bill to amend the penal law by making conspiracy to murder a felony. The vote was three to one.

Lord Lyndhurst, in the House of Lords, asked whether any communication had passed between the British and French governments respecting certain insulting paragraphs in the Moniteur. He considered that the French government by authorising the publication of the insults had taken the responsibility.

Lord Granville said that a note had been received from Count Walewski explaining the publication of the addresses, and the regret of the Emperor at the appearance of anything offensive to England.

A vote of thanks was passed to the army in India by both Houses of Parliament, after some objections made to Lord Canning being included in the vote.

Large shipments were making to India.

The roads between Delhi and Calcutta were open. General Outram was safely posted. The Alumbagh peasantry were beginning to carry supplies to the camp.

FRANCE.

M. Billaulte, the French Minister of the Interior, has resigned and has been succeeded by M. Espinape.

The Bank of France has reduced the rates of discount to 6½ per cent.

India and China.—There is nothing later from either India or China.

MARKETS—LIVERPOOL, Feb. 10.—Cotton—Sales last three days 27,000 bales including 6,000 bales taken on speculation, and 1,800 bales for export. All qualities have advanced ⅛d. Market closed firm and with an advancing tendency.

IMPORTANT FROM CHINA.

THE LATEST.—Via Malta, Calcutta dates to the 9th January have reached England; also, Canton dates of the 29th December, and Bombay dates to the 13th of January. Sir Colin Campbell had taken possession of Frakaead which was abandoned by the enemy on the 2d. Goruchpose was also taken on the 6th—seven guns captnred and 200 of the enemy killed. The British loss was only 2 killed and 7 wounded.

The British and French forces landed at Canton on the 28th of December. The British landed 4,600 men and the Fench 900 men. The walls were escaladed on the 29th, and the heights within the town were in possession of the besiegers by 9 o'clock in the morning. The Chinese feebly contested the advance of the English and French within the city. The damage done to the town was but small. The captain of the ship Acteon was killed.

The *Times'* despatch says that the bombardment of Canton commenced at daylight on the 28th, and continued all day and the ensuing night. The assault was made in three divisions at 6 o'clock in the morning. Gough's fort was taken and two others were blown up. The Chinese continued to fire from their houses, but the troops were restrained from entering the city.

Tea had considerably declined at Hong Kong.

Breadstuffs.—Themarket is dull—Wheat si firm. Richardson & Spence quote Flour dull and quotations nominal—Western Canal 20s. 9d.; Ohio 25s.*a* 27s.; Philadelphia and Baltimore 22s. 9d.*a*23s.—Wheat is firm. Red 6s.; choice 7s.; White 7s.*a*7s. 9d. Corn is dull, and previous quotations have barely been maintained. Mixed and Yellow 33s.; White 35s.

Provisions.—The market is dull. Beef is quiet—Pork is dull but steady—Bacon dull.

Produce.—Sugar is quiet and steady—Coffee is quiet. Turpentine.—Spirits closed firm at 36s.

Money Market.—There was much demand for money. Consols 95⅞ for account and money. American securities generally unchanged.

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.

SENATE.

The Senate passed a bill to amend the act of March 3rd, 1857, limiting the liabilities of ship-owners.

Mr. Bell, of Tennessee, offered the resolutions of his State Legislature respecting his opposition to the Nebraska bill, endorsing the Lecompton Constitution, and intimating that he ought to resign.—He referred to the date of the resolutions, February 10th, being four years after his vote which they censured. It had been usual, he said, when the constituents of a member of Congress felt agrieved at his course, to act promptly,

He referred to the fact that the resolutions endorse unconditionally the repeal of the Missouri compromise, notwithstanding the mischievous results of that repeal, have become patent and unmistakeable, which, in the language of the President, have convulsed the Union to its very centre,—lighted the flames of civil war in Kansas, amd prodnced dangerous sectional parties throughout the confederacy. He alluded to various elections in Tennessee since the vote called in question. Showing that the Kansas and Nebraska bill was but slightly alluded to in the canvasses.

Mr. Fillmore, who declared, that had he been a member of Congress, he would have voted against the Nebraska bill, received 66,000 votes in Tennessee for President, and Mr. Etheridge who voted against the Nebraska bill was returned to Congress by an increased vote. He thought that at no time since the repeal of the Missouri Compromise had there been any settled indication of opinion in the South on that question; and he believed, if a fair and impartial vote could be taken on that question, there would be an overwhelming majority pronouncing it the most unfortunate measure Congress ever passed.

Mr. Bell said he regarded the doctrine of instructions as contrary to the spirit and the literpl provisions of the donstitution. Democratic Senators were disobeying their instructions every day. There were many important facts connected with the Lecompton Constitution of which he had no satisfactory knowledge, and he did not believe the Tennessee Legislature knew more about them than he did.

Mr. Johnson, of Tennessee, said he regretted to differ from his calleague, but justice to the Democratic party of Tennessee, required him to speak. He reviewed Mr. Bell's statements, saying that in 1855 when he, (Mr. Johnson) was elected Governor, the Nebraska bill was the main issue. In the Presidential election of 1856, the Democratic party on a like issue, were victorious in that State. No doubt, therefore, a large majority of the people of Tennessee condemn his colleague's course. He proceeded to discuts the question of popular sovereignty. and to advocate the admission of Kansas, under the Lecompton canstitution. He asked Mr. Bell, whether hd would vote for the admission under that instrument in consequence of instructions, or without.

Mr. Bell said he would not, in consequence of any instructions of the Legislature, unless he was fully convinced, and believed the instructions were founded upon a full understanding of the subject in all its bearings and consequences.

After further debate the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.—The House on re-assembling, went into Committee of the Whole on the Indian Appropriation bill.

Mr. Burroughs vindicated the North from the charge of sectionalism, preferred by Southern gentlemen, referring to statistical facts showing the immense preponderance of the expenditures of the Government, in behalf of the South over the North, and contrasting the superiority of the North over the South in industry, wealth, population, education, etc.

He proceeded to denounce Presidents Pierce and Buchanan for their course on the Kansas question.

Mr. Smith, of Va., called him to order. It was disgraceful, he said, in a gentleman denouncing on this floor, a co-ordinate branch of the Government. [Cries of "no," "no,"]

Mr. Burroughs said he would be happy if he could say in his heart that he honored James Buchanan, but he must be allowed to speak his candid opinion.

He was again proceeding, when Mr. Smith again interrupted him amid much confusion, during which his hour closed.

Mr. Curry, of Alabama, addressed the committee on the Kansas question. He argued that the Lecompton Constitution was, from the beginning to the end, accompanied by all the forms of law; and he urged the admission of Kansas under it, as in strict ac ordance with the Kansas and Nebraska bill, which was not intended as a temporary measure, but final and conclusive as a means for the settlement of the slavery question,

Mr. Morris, of Illinois, made a speech against the Lecompton Constitution, (which he called a swindle.) He defended Senator Douglas, and said that the best friends of the President were those who advised the latter of the danger to the Democratic party from insisting on his Kansas policy. Mr. Andrews, of New York, made an anti-Lecompton speech, when the committee rose and the House adjourned.

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The committee appointed to investicate the alleged bharges of corruption in connection with the passage of the tariff act, have examined five witnesses and summoned fifteen others. Mr. Wolcott still remaias in jail, firm in his determination not to comply with the demands of the committee. Many distinguished friends continue to visit him.

The sergeant-at-arms of the House has been notified that Mr. Williamson, who was forcibly brought to Washington from New York as a witness, has entered suit against him in consequence.

THE ANTICIPATED DUEL BETWEEN MESSRS. CLAY AND CULLOM.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The United States Deputy Marshals throughout yesterday and to-day have vainly endeavored to get on the track of Messrs. Clay and Cullom who are supposed to be on a duelling expedition. Various absurd and contradictory reports are in circulation, but it is understood the challenge has been withdrawn as preliminary to a peaceful adjustment of the difficulties, which there seems to be little, if any doubt will be effected, according to present indications.

A BLOODLESS DUEL.—ONE MAN SHOT IN THE HAT.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Lieutenants Bell and Williams, who had a collision in a barber's shop on Sunday, met beyond Bladensburg this morning at 5 o'clock, accompanied by their respective friends. It is said that Lt. Bell fired at the word "one," the ball from his pistol penetrating Williams' *hat*. Lt. Williams, who was the assailing party, having given the satisfaction demanded, discharged his pistol in the snow, and both returned to Washtngton apparently reconciled.

MARINE DISASTER AND LOSS OF LIFE.

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—The ship John Milton, from the Chincha Islands, is wrecked at Mentauk Point, and the officers and crew are lost. Eight dead bodies have been washed ashore.

REPORTED SALE OF THE ADRIATIC.

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—It is reported that the new steamer Adriatic has been sold to the Russian Government for £200,000 sterling.

WEATHER REPORTS—NOON.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 23.—The weather is clear—wind North-west—thermometer 23½°—barometer 30.20.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Thermometer 26°—wind N. N. W., and clear.

THE EXPECTED STEAMER.

PORTLAND, Feb. 23.—noon—Up to this hour we have no tidings of the expected steamer Anglo Saxon, now due, with four days later news from Europe.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 23.—Letters from Key West to the 12th inst., state that the ship Rivers, Captain Smith, is ashore and bilged off Caesar's Creek, with a cargo of salt from Liverpool for New Orleans.

The steamer Columbia reports seeing on Monday, 20 miles south of Body Island Light, one of Cromwell's propellers ashore.

MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—Cotton is firm. Flour is quiet—sales 9000 bbls. at an advance of 5c. Common to good State $4,30*a*$4,40; Ohio $4,90*a*$5; Southern $4,70*a*$4,75. Wheat is quiet and dull—sales of red at $1,20. Corn is very dull and prices unsettled—white 67*a*69 cts., yellow 66*a*68 cts. Pork—mess is 10 cts. lower—sales at $16,50*a*$16,67. Sugar was quiet through the early part of the day, but closed buoyant; New Orleans fair 5¾*a*6⅛ cts. Coffee is quiet. Molasses is firm. Turpentine Spirits heavy at 46⅝*a*47 cts. Rosin is firm. Rice generally firm. Lard has declined ⅛—sales at 9¼*a