BALTIMORE.

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1858.

"Honors change manners," and the change is not always an improvement. At least, we do not find that men become more civil or better-behaved in proportion as they are advanced by popular favor to posts of trust and power. On the contrary, we are half inclined to believe that the usual effect of official distinction upon the manners and morals of our public men is equally corruptive of both. This process of deterioration is particularly rapid in the case of our legislative assemblies, whose members seem gradually to lose all respect either for public opinion or public decency, until by insensible degrees the last vestige of the gentleman is wholly extinguished in the unmitigated blackguardism of the Congressman.

A few weeks since, a protracted and puerile struggle between opposing factions in the House of Representatives was brought to a disgraceful termination by a general melee among honorable members, in which blows were given and exchanged with all the eagerness and heartiness of the prize-fighter or the street-rowdy. On Saturday, the dulness and monotony of a night debate in the Senate of the United States was agreeably enlivened by an interchange of vulgar insults and low-bred personalities between two Conscript Fathers of the Republic, for which their subsequent apologies cannot offer the slightest atonement. The wound inflicted upon the honor of Senator CAMERON may be healed by the assurance on the part of Senator GREEN that, in calling him "a liar," he meant not the slightest personal disrespect to the distinguished Senator, and the breach in Senator GREEN's self-respect may be repaired by a similar explanation on the part of Senator CAMERON, that the insulting language used by him was intended only in a "Pickwickian" sense. But the dishonor inflicted upon the good name of the Senate, and the fair fame of the Republic, can not be removed by these soothing applications of explanation and apology. An evil example has been set, which, it seems, other legislative bodies have not been slow to follow. A telegram from Albany, published in yesterday's paper, informs us that in the New York Assembly, on Thursday, an ingenious application of the *argumentum ad hominem* was resorted to in a controversy between Messrs. CHATFIELD and DELANEY, "by the former seizing the latter by the throat, and choking him until he became black in the face."

In the legislative bodies of the South and West such scenes are of still more frequent occurrence, and rarely give rise to any particular comment. Now this state of manners verges altogether too closely on barbarism to be tolerated in a civilized community, and is calculated to bring into contempt the character of our legislators and our legislation, at home and abroad. About minor offences against decorum such as attract the attention and provoke the satire of foreign tourists, we do not now propose to speak. Much of the vulgarity and *gaucherie* which marks the deportment of our public men arises from pure ignorance on their part of the conventional rules of good breeding; the early training and previous habits of many honorable members having been totally innocent of that culture and refinement which is borrowed from association and intercourse with gentlemen. Much allowance too must be made for these minor infringements of the rules of decorum on account of the unpromising material out of which many of our legislators are fashioned. There is a certain animal whose auticular appendage can by no device or art of man be fashioned into the similitude of a silk purse; and there are inborn boors whom no advantages of position or education, nor all the appliances of the tailor and the boot-maker can transform into gentlemen. There is an inbred nobility of nature which some men possess and others do not. "Reading and writing," as honest Dogberry says, "come by nature," but to be a gentleman is the gift of God. Neither do we propose at present to refer to those darker and graver charges which affect the integrity and honesty of our lawgivers; we speak only of what is upon the surface, not of that which lies below. That foul corruptions lurk in and about the halls and lobbies of the National Capitol, the exposures made at the late session of Congress, and the investigations which are in progress at the present, leave unfortunately no room to doubt. Our present strictures, however, are directed at the more open, flagrant and public violations of the common decencies and courtesies of life of which almost every day's proceedings now afford some painful illustration. We refer to that unbridled licence of speech which leads to the habitual use of vituperation and abuse as legitimate weapons of controversy—which accepts coarse and offensive epithets as suitable substitutes for arguments; which has imparted to honorable members of the two Houses of Congress, a glib facility in the use of Billingsgate, which would do honor to the most accomplished graduate of the Fish Market, and which has caused the very pleasantries of debate to lose every semblance of the wit of gentlemen, and assume the tone and character of vulgar "chaff," such as is indulged in by London "cabbies."

We refer, above all and beyond all, to that frequent and unchecked display of the brutal propensities of the shoulder-hitter, the bully and the bravo, which is a burning shame and blot upon the character of our congressmen. If the dignity of the Senate is to be compromised by a free toleration of the language and manners of the bar room and the race course, and the floor of the House to be converted into a ring where may be enacted scenes only less lively and exciting than those of Donnybrook fair, we need not be surprised at finding, "following in the safe line of Congressional precedent," New York Assemblymen choking each other "until they are black in the face." Neither must we be so thin-skinned and sensitive as to be offended at the very natural remarks of foreigners, accustomed to a less simple and more artificial code of manners, the habitual disregard of which by our public men ought to abate somewhat of that over-weening national vanity which makes us insensible to the many glaring defects in our political and social system.

Formerly, there used to be schools where the elements of a good English education advertised to be taught, were "reading, writing, arithmetic and *deportment*." We can only regret that so important a branch as the last named, should have been so much neglected in the education of our public men, and particularly of those who are honored with seats in our National and State halls of legislation.

We are again called upon to make a constitution, having worn out the one last manufactured in less than seven years. The flimsy material of which it was composed, and the very inconvenient, though at that time fashionable, cut which was imparted to it have rendered us all dissatisfied. To reform the State is no longer deemed to be an arduous task even for the wisest and most experienced of its statesmen. And Lord BACON clearly foresaw the spirit of these latter days when he cautiously said it is "well to beware that it be the reformation that draweth on the change, and not the desire of change that pretendeth the reformation."

Here we raze the whole structure "from turret to foundation stone," and proceed to rebuild with less forethought than usually precedes the erection of a cabin in the wilderness. Whether the logs of the forest or the clay of the marshes be the properest for the purpose—whether the rugged rock or the shifting sands be the more suitable foundation, it matters not. Whatever is nearest is best, and being always in a hurry we call in our neighbors, and the business proceeds, gathering shape and substance as temporary expedients may suggest. All central power has a tendency to strengthen itself until it becomes a despotism, say some, and straightway the executive authority is clothed with the semblance of rule and is deprived of all authority to execute anything.

All governments should emanate from the people, say others, and they inaugurate a system which calls upon all men to rally for a constable's election. We must leave business and domestic duties to take part in regulating such affairs, or submit to have them transacted by incompetent or dishonest agents for whose appointment no single man is held, or feels himself to be, responsible. The statesman of the Western Shore trades off some pet project of his section in exchange for a vote or a modicum of influence from across the Chesapeake. And some ambitious town, to obtain advantages for itself, agrees to insert in a solemn "Declaration of Rights," the soothing admission "that the City of Annapolis ought to have all its rights * * * * subject to such alterations as have been or as may be made by the Legislature." And so a constitution is reformed.

We call attention to this matter at present, not for the purpose of pointing out existing evils, or of propounding remedies, but that the importance of giving to it early and serious consideration may not be overlooked. Men's views must be matured before they can intelligently act. The community must be fully aroused before anything like definite opinions can be eliminated. We have paid too dearly for the perfunctory job of seven years since, to be willing to tear down even the dilapidated fabric now above us, without having some precise plans in view for its re-construction.

FOREIGN EXPORTS.—The total value of foreign exports from the port of Baltimore for the week ending 18th inst., is $145,383. Included in this amount are 825 hhds. tobacco, 7,261 bbls. flour, 1,733 bbls. corn meal, and 12,238 bushels corn.

NEW BOOKS.—We have received from Messrs. DERBY & JACKSON, the publishers in New York, VOL. I. of RANDALL'S LIFE OF JEFFERSON; from Messrs. APPLETON & Co., VOL. VI. of BENTON'S ABRIDGMENT OF THE DEBATES OF CONGRESS, and VOL. I. of the NEW AMERICAN CYCLOPÆDIA, (embracing A—ARA;) and from Messrs. CUSHINGS & BAILEY, the ANNUAL OF SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY, or YEAR BOOK OF FACTS FOR THE YEAR 1858—Edited by DAVID A. WELLS, A. M., and published by Messrs. GOULD & LINCOLN, Boston, all of which we propose to notice hereafter.

We are also indebted to Mr. HENRY TAYLOR, Sun Iron Building, for the April number of HARPER'S MONTHLY, as well as for continued favors in furnishing us with New York papers in advance of the mails.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS

RECEIVED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DAILY EXCHANGE.

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

WASHINGTON, March 19.

SENATE.

The resolution introduced by Mr. Gwin, yesterday, inquiring of the Secretary of War what steps have been taken, if any, to punish the Indians who murdered one hundred and eighteen California emigrants at Mountain Meadows, Utah territory, was passed.

After further business, the bill for the admission of Kansas into the Union was resumed, when

Mr. Foster addressed the Senate, disclaiming any intention to address himself to general issues, but to reason closely on the immediate question of the bill, which he argued, did by no means, express the opinion of the people of the territory, and should therefore be rejected.

Mr. Clay next addressed the Senate, maintaining that there is now a growing spirit of mobocracy or Red Republicanism spreading abroad, utterly at variance with the theory of Republican Government as explained by our fathers. He alluded to Northern aggressions on the South, and advocated the bill before the Senate.

Mr. Houston animadverted upon some remarks of Mr. Clay upon those who voted against the Nebraska and Kansas bill; he regarded it as a fatal measure, fostered by demagogues, originated by ambition and intended for no valuable interest of the country, but to unite the South and a few scattered northern States to make a President.

Mr. Durkee indicated the outlines of a speech, strongly condemnatory of the Lecompton movements.

Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The Speaker appointed Messrs. Florence, Maclay, Gilman, Scales and Waldron a committee to investigate the Pennsylvania Bank affair.

The volunteer bill was taken up.

Mr. Faulkner offered an amendment striking out part of the bill, retaining so much as provides for raising a regiment of mounted volunteers for the defence of the Texas frontier, and adding in lieu of the four regiments additional proposed, one regiment of dragoons and two regiments of infantry.

The amendment was disagreed to—yeas 43, nays 143.

The bill as originally reported was then passed—yeas 124, nays 73. It provides that one regiment of mounted volunteers be raised for the defence and protection of the frontier of Texas; and for the purpose of quelling disturbances in the Territory of Utah, for the protection of supply and emigrant trains, and the suppression of Indian hostilities on the northern and north-western frontiers. The President is authorized to call for and accept the services of any number of volunteers not exceeding, in all, four regiments of se en hundred and forty privates each; the same, or any portion thereof, to be organized into mounted regiments or infantry as the President may deem proper, to serve for the term of eighteen months. The pay and allowances to be the same as those of the army, and the volunteers to be subject to the rules and articles of war.

The House then took up, in Committee, the Deficiency Appropriation Bill.

Mr. Montgomery gave his views against the Lecompton Constitution, contending that the convention had repealed the Nebraska and Kansas act.

Mr. Redgan made a speech in defence of Southern rights, and in favor of a convention of Southern delegates to maintain them. Adjourned.

LATER FROM MEXICO.

NEW ORLEANS, March 18.—Later advices from Mexico report that the forces of the Zulago faction were advancing to seize on Minitillan, which was held by Guemer Saenz, a constitutionalist. The schooner Major Barlour, with 15 officers, under the command of Ex-President Salas, had arrived at Minitillan, but were not allowed to land. The vessel was consequently forced to return, and is now in the river coming up to this city. The Salas party intended to pronounce in favor of the recall of Ex-President Santa Anna. It is reported that the inhabitants of that portion of Mexico generally favor the cause of Santa Anna.

REMOVAL OF JUDGE LORING.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—A private dispatch says that Governor Banks has removed Judge Loring, of Boston.

BOSTON, March 19.—Governor Banks has removed Judge Loring, in accordance with the vote of the Legislature.

ANTI-LECOMPTON RESOLUTIONS.

NEW YORK, March 19.—The Senate to-day passed the anti-Lecompton resolutions which previously passed the Assembly, by a strict party vote.

COL. FREMONT.

NEW YORK, March 19.—Col. Fremont and family will be passengers in the Star of the West to-morrow for California. They expect to be absent a few months.

RIOT AT TORONTO.

TORONTO, March 18.—The St. Patrick's Association of this city gave a dinner last night at a hotel, and during a speech by D'ArcyMcGee the place was attacked by a mob, who broke the windows with stones. Fire arms were also freely used, but without fatal effect. The police finally quieted the disturbance.

WEATHER REPORTS.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—7, A. M.—Barometer 30.21; thermometer 47°. Noon.—Cloudy—wind west; thermometer 61½°.

PHILADELPHIA, March 19.—Clear—wind northwest; barometer 30.04; thermometer 58°.

NEW YORK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, March 19.—Cotton, sales of 11,000 bales at a decline of ⅛, closing heavy; Upland Middling 11⅜. Flour is dull. Sales of 6000 bbls. at a decline of 5 cts. on Ohio, and 10 cts. on Southern; Ohio $4.90@5.10; Southern $4.50@4.90. Wheat is very dull and heavy. Holders offer freely. Corn is quiet. Sales of 20,000 bushels at a decline of 1 ct. White 65½@66 cts.; Yellow 67@68 cts. Beef is quiet. Pork is firm at $16.50@$16.60 for Mess; Prime $12.45@12.55. Lard is dull at 9¾@9¾ cts. Whisky has advanced 1 ct. Sales of Ohio at 23@23½ cts. Sugar is dull. Naval Stores are quiet. Rice is dull. Tea, fair and middling qualities declined slightly to-day; also higher grades of Green Teas. Freights—Cotton, to Liverpool, 7-32.

NEW ORLEANS MARKETS.

NEW ORLEANS, March 18.—Cotton unchanged. Sales of 13,000 bales. Sugar is buoyant at 6@6¾ cts. Molasses has advanced ½ ct. Yellow Corn sells at 58 cents. Western Mess Pork $16.50, and some choice lots at $17. Shoulders, 6; Hams, 7¼; Sides, 7⅝. Coffee.—Sales to-day of 1100 bags, at 11½ cts. Cotton freights to Liverpool ⅝, to Havre 1¼, for Sterling Exchange 105@106½. Exchange of New York 95¼@95½.

A HANDSOME DONATION.—Nathan Jackson, Esq., of New York, has celebrated his 78th birth-day, by making a gift to Williams College, Massachusetts, of $14,000 in cash, and nine acres of land, with suitable buildings thereon, adjoining the College grounds in Williamstown, for which he paid $6,000 In addition, though the land is worth more than its original cost. The particular object to which this munificent donation is to be applied, is to found a Professorship for teaching Christian Theology, and branches of knowledge in harmony therewith, and also to aid the education of the sons of missionaries and others who are desirous of entering the Christian Ministry. This charity is most worthily bestowed and the object will commend itself to every lover of the Missionary cause.

Mr. Jackson has previously made several other liberal donations to the College.

The Philadelphia papers speak hopefully of business prospects. The *Inquirer* says: "Business in Market and Third streets has been somewhat backward thus far, but it is beginning to revive. Our leading hotels and boarding houses are filling up, and affairs generally are assuming a more cheerful aspect. The manufacturing establishments of the neighborhood that have been closed during the winter have either resumed operations, or are about to do so, and thus thousands of operatives, who have been without the means of employment for some months, will again be able to earn for themselves and their families a comfortable livelihood.

The coal diggers along the Monongahela are on a strike, demanding an advance to two and a quarter cents per bushel. Very little coal has gone out this spring.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

TRIBUTE OF RESPECT.—We have already announced the death of Cornelius Shawen, late a government inspector at this port. A meeting was yesterday held at the Custom House by the brother officers of the deceased, for the purpose of expressing their feelings relative to this sad event. It was organized by calling L. K. Bowen, Esq., the Naval officer, to the chair, and appointing Dr. Jas. S. Owens, the deputy collector, secretary. The chair having stated the object of the meeting, and briefly adverted to the high estimation in which the deceased was held by his official associates, both as an officer and a man, the annexed resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Whereas, it has pleased the God of all, in his wise providence, to remove from our midst our highly esteemed friend and brother officer, Cornelius Shawen,—therefore be it

Resolved, by the Officers of the Baltimore Custom House, That we will hold through life in true and sincere admiration the private social virtues, the public fidelity, and the general praiseworthy and commendable characteristics of our beloved and lamented co-laborer and friend.

Resolved, That we tender to the afflicted widow and children of the deceased—who mourn the irreparable loss of a tender and devoted husband, a kind and affectionate father—our earnest condolence and sincere sympathy, and entreat for them, in their sorrow, the care and consolation of Him who alone can afford comfort—the God of Mercy.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be signed by the officers of this meeting, and transmitted to the family of the deceased.

OFFICERS OF THE PENITENTIARY.—The new Board of Directors of the Maryland Penitentiary held a meeting at that institution yesterday morning and made the following appointments: Deputy Warden, Isaac G. Roberts; Physician, Dr. J. W. F. Hank; Messenger, Edward Frazier; Clerk, J. J. C. Dougherty; Smithery, James Wright. The term of service of these gentlemen will commence on the first of May next, when the members of the old Board and the present officers will retire.

FUNERAL.—The funeral of Thomas Richards, one of the officers attached to the police department of the Eastern District, took place yesterday afternoon. The remains were accompanied to the grave by the Thomas Wildey Lodge of Odd Fellows, the Deptford and Columbian Fire Companies, and a large number of the officers of the Eastern District Police. The interment took place at the Baltimore cemetery.

PRICES OF FUEL.—There has not been so large an amount of wood upon our wharves since the first of the year as at the present time, while the stock is daily being increased. Pine is selling by the cord at $3 to $84, according to quality; oak from $4 to $4.50; hickory $5.50, of which there is little or none to be had. Both red and white ash coal are selling for $6.25 per ton; nut $5.50; Cumberland lump $6; run of mine $5.50. The stock on hand is heavy.

DEBT OF THE CATHEDRAL.—We learn from the "*Mirror*" that the debt of the Cathedral on March the 1st of the present year, was $26,895.30, being a decrease of $2,159.16 up to the same period of the year 1857. The receipts for the past year amounted to $10,887.63; the disbursements for the same period were $9,768.67, leaving a balance on hand of $1,118,96.

DEATH OF A SISTER OF CHARITY.—At Mount Hope, on Sunday, the 14th inst., Sister Mary Catherine (Catherine McGrath) of this city, of consumption. —*Mirror.*

ARRESTS.—Conrad Stall was arrested on Thursday night, by officers Durham and Bachelor, for assaulting and beating Alton Bass. Justice Audoun committed him to jail, in default of security, to answer at Court.

Emily Shreck was arrested by officer Brown, of the Eastern District, on the charge of disturbing the peace, and abusing the officer whilst in the discharge of his duty. Justice Audoun sent her to jail to answer before the Criminal Court.

Henry Henisley, colored, was arrested and brought before Justice Mearis, by Reuben McLanahan, charged with assaulting him, by maliciously running his dray against him while crossing the street. The Justice released him on bail, to answer at Court.

MILITARY.—The Artillery Battalion, composed of the pupils of St. Timothy's Hall, Catonsville, are making preparations for a full dress parade to come off in our city in a short time. They will be under the command of Capt. Samuel Cooper, and are expected to number one hundred muskets.

About the first of the coming month, the new Infantry corps of the Shield Guards, Capt. E. J. Chaisty, will parade, on which occasion they will appear in entire new uniforms, and turn out about forty muskets.

ARREST OF A SWINDLER.—A man who gave the name of Samuel Stubbins was arrested last night by officers Rote and Simpson, on the charge of having swindled the York County Bank out of the sum of $50. He had been representing himself as a son of Commodore Stockton, and when arrested had a large number of letters of introduction from men of standing in society, and free passes over nearly all the railroads in the country. He was recognized on Baltimorse street by Capt. Posey, of the N. C. Railroad, and pointed out to the officers, who effected his arrest. He will be sent on to York to-day.

ROBBERY OF A VESSEL.—The schooner John Emory, Captain Jefferson, lying at Union Dock, was boarded on Thursday night about 8 o'clock, and robbed of a trunk belonging to the captain, which contained, beside a quantity of wearing apparel, between $50 and $60 in money.

VIOLATION OF AN ORDINANCE.—Officers Hale and Watson, of the Southern District police, yesterday arrested a man named Henry Franklin, charged with receiving pawns, not having a license to traffic in the same. He was fined $20 and costs by Justice Boyd, from which he took an appeal.

SELLING LIQUOR WITHOUT LICENCE.—Mary Kelley was yesterday arrested by officer Hause, of the Southern District Police, on the charge of selling liquor without license. Justice Boyd committed her for Court.

FINED.—Wm. Wills was arrested a few days since at the instance of Fire Inspector Boyd, and fined $20 and costs by Justice Myers, in three several cases for violating the law in reference to the erection of fire walls.

MR. VANDENHOFF'S LAST READING.—To-night Mr. V. is to give his celebrated reading of the Comedy of "The Rivals," with a brief and piquant sketch of Sheridan's adventurous early life. We are pretty certain that this will be one of his happiest and most successful efforts. His rendition of "The Critic" last Saturday proved his extraordinary power of making himself *several* "single gentlemen rolled into one." His Hamlet drew a full hall—to-night we expect it will be even fuller.—Every visiter is provided with a seat.

HOLLIDAY STREET THEATRE.—Mr. E. Booth's engagement concludes to-night, when he will make his last appearance in this city for some considerable time. The play selected for his farewell performance is the tragedy of the Apostate. Most of our readers, doubtless, recollect the startling force with which the elder Booth rendered the part of Pescara, and entertain a strong curiosity to witness the efforts of the son in the same character. That he is fully equal to the arduous task, his previous successes sufficiently guarantee. There will also be an afternoon performance for the benefit of the Mount Vernon Fund, Mr. Booth appearing as Shylock and Richelieu.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

REGULAR SESSION.

FRIDAY, March 19, 1858.

FIRST BRANCH.—Branch met. Present John T. Ford, Esq., President, and all the members.

Mr. Talbott presented a petition from Wm. Nichols, asking to have stall No. 6, Lexington market, restored to him. Referred to the Committee on Markets.

The President submitted a communication from the City Commissioner, stating that it would cost $3,800 for repairing the Centre market. Referred to the same Committee.

Mr. Glanville, from a committee of conference on the subject, reported an ordinance for the building of a new bridge over Jones' Falls, at Lombard street. Read and laid over.

Mr. Beale called up the ordinance to prohibit the use of any building for the manufacture of candles or soap, within the city, which has not been used for the purpose for twelve months previous, without the consent of the Mayor and City Council.

Mr. Dunnock moved to amend by inserting, "two years" in lieu of "twelve months"—lost. The ordinance was then adopted.

Mr. Cunningham presented the annual report of the Western Hose Company, asking a special appropriation of $1,200 to provide a new carriage. Referred to the Committee on Fire Companies.

The President submitted a communication from the clerk of the Superior Court, setting forth that; finding repairs necessary in the office when he took possession, he had the work done, and asking an appropriation of $197.66 for the same. Also an additional appropriation of $220 for further repairs. Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. Dunnock presented a petition from the Union Fire Company, asking a special appropriation of $1,000. Referred to the Committee on Fire Companies.

Mr. Wood, from the Committee on Police and Jail, submitted an ordinance providing for the procuring and keeping in repair lamps and lamp posts. Read and laid over.

Mr. Harvey presented a resolution providing for placing shade trees in Eutaw Square. Read and laid over.

Mr. Maddox offered a resolution directing the City Commissioners to have the trees trimmed and white-washed on the Eastern City Spring, and to have the grounds cleaned, at a cost not exceeding $50. Read a second time by special order and adopted.

Mr. Wood called up revised ordinance No. 8, providing for a City Register, which was adopted.

Mr. Dukehart called up revised ordinance No. 9, providing for a City Comptroller, which was also read and adopted.

The branch then adjourned until Monday afternoon next.

SECOND BRANCH.—The Branch met pursuant to adjournment. John B. Seidenstricker, Esq., President, in the chair, and all the members present.

Mr. Hintze presented the petition of Robert Knight and others, asking the removal of certain fish boxes from the Marsh Market. Referred to the Committee on Health.

A resolution adverse to the petition of W. H. Hinkley and others, for the condemnation and opening of Washington street, from Baltimore street to the city limits, was received from the First Branch and concurred in.

A resolution granting permission to J. Merrett to manufacture camphene oil on Eastern Avenue, was received from the First Branch and concurred in.

An ordinance to fix the salary of the Mayor for the ensuing two years at $2,500 per annum, was received from the First Branch and passed.

Resolutions adverse to the petitions of George Elliott and Wilde, Schneider & Kleinle, were received from the First Branch and concurred in.

Reports from the Committees on the accounts of the Commissioners of Finance and the Visitors of the Jail, stating that the books of those officers had been examined and found correct, and requesting to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject, were received from the First Branch and concurred in.

An ordinance to condemn and open Calendar alley, between Ramsay and Columbia streets, was received from the First Branch and laid on the table.

Mr. Sullivan, from the Committee on Highways, submitted a resolution granting permission to James Cassidy to erect a verandah in front of his dwelling No. 33 West Pratt street. Adopted.

Mr. Kelso called up the resolution asking information of the Comptroller in relation to contracts for repairs of pumps and lamps for the year 1858. Adopted.

Mr. Kelso called up the revised ordinance relative to the due performance of quarantine at the port of Baltimore, and to prevent the introduction of contagious or infectious diseases within the city, which was passed.

An ordinance to prevent the resumption of the manufactory of soap and candles in any building not used for that purpose within twelve months previous to such resumption, was received from the First Branch and laid on the table.

Adjourned till Monday afternoon,

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

CRIMINAL COURT.—Before Hon. Henry Stump, Judge. The following business was transacted yesterday.

State *vs.* James Kilbourn, convicted of an assault with intent to kill Jacob Wagoner. Motion for a new trial argued by D. S. Sweaney, Esq., for the defendant, and John L. Thomas, Esq., for the State. The motion was overruled by the Court, and the traverser sentenced to confinement in the penitentiary for the term of three years and four months.

State *vs.* Samuel Welsh, charged with assaulting and beating Thomas Green. Tried before the Court and adjudged not guilty.

The case of the State *vs.* James A. Walden, indicted on the charge of vending lottery policies, was postponed until the next term of the Court.

A jury was impanneled to inquire into the condition of Maria A. Gary, who is now confined in the alms house. Verdict rendered that she is a lunatic and a pauper. Order passed directing her confinement in the Maryland Hospital at the expense of the State.

The appeal cases for opening streets will be taken up on Monday.

DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.—Before Hon. Wm. Fell Giles, Judge. The following business was transacted yesterday.

Baltimore and Boston Steam Navigation Company *vs.* The Schooner William Colquit, and owners of the Schooner William Colquit *vs.* The Steamer City of Norfolk. Cross libels to recover for damages sustained by a collision. Not concluded. Wallis and Matthews for libellants; Teackle and Mortimer for respondents.

There was no business transacted in the Superior, Common Pleas and City Circuit Courts yesterday.

COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND.

DECEMBER TERM, 1857.

ANNAPOLIS, March 19, 1858.

No. 122.—L. W. Candler *vs.* W. H. L. Fisher and others. Appeal from the Circuit Court of Montgomery county, Justice Eccleston delivered the opinion of the Court—judgment affirmed, with costs in both courts.

No. 133.—State use of Charles Goddard *vs.* J. R. Baden and others. Appeal from the Circuit Court of Prince George's county. Chief Justice LeGrand delivered the opinion of the Court—judgment affirmed.

No. 139.—James Richardson *vs.* Elias Milburn. Appeal from the Circuit Court of St. Mary's county, Justice Eccleston delivered the opinion of the Court —judgment reversed and procedendo awarded.

No. 124.—Wm. Tucker and others *vs.* State, use of Thomas H. Knighton, &c. Appeal from the Circuit Court of Anne Arundel county. Justice Tuck delivered the opinion of the Court. Judgment reversed.

No. 23 (Special Docket).—John H. Heckart *vs.* Daniel H. McPhail. Appeal from the Superior Court of Baltimore city—was argued by Whyte for the appellant, and Campbell for the appellee.

[Reported for the Daily Exchange.]

TOWSONTOWN, March 19, 1858.

CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY.—Before Hon. Judge Price. R. J. Gittings, Esq., prosecuting for the State.

The case of John Wheeler, commenced on Wednesday last, for vending illegal lottery policies, contrary to the act of 1856, was resumed this morning, and occupied the attention of the Court the entire day.

Police officer English testified that he discovered a little girl in Wheeler's grocery store with a ticket in her hand. When the girl was put upon the stand, she testified that her grandmother gave her the numbers to play on a Mr. Dash who kept a policy office opposite Mr. Wheeler's store, and her errand to Mr. Wheeler's was to pay for some groceries her mother had purchased a day previous. A search warrant was procured and a search made, when the officers found a policy book, etc., in Wheeler's house, but none of the witnesses have any knowledge of the accused playing or vending policies. The case was argued before a jury who returned a verdict of "not guilty." Mr. Ing for the defence.

State *vs.* Elijah *alias* Boney Lee, charged with assaulting J. Marshal Hannah, reporter of the Sun, was fixed for trial on Tuesday next.

Court adjourned until to-morrow.

[Correspondence of the Daily Exchange.]

ELLICOTTS MILLS, March 19.

CIRCUIT COURT FOR HOWARD COUNTY.—Before the Hon. Nicholas Brewer, Judge. The Sheriff of Baltimore city appeared at the bar of the Court this morning, under the custody of Coroner Benson, to answer to an attachment issued against him for neglect to return process.

After purging his contempt, he was allowed to depart in peace.

Charles Carroll *vs.* Charles Carroll McTavish—before reported—occupied the entire day and is not yet concluded. After the evidence on both sides was closed, plaintiff's counsel prayed the Court to instruct the jury, in substance, that if the fence erected by the defendant was an obstruction to the reasonable enjoyment of the plaintiff's right of way on the road leading along the race, then the plaintiff was entitled to recover. The prayer submitted on the part of the defendant embodied the proposition that the fence in question was, under all the circumstances of the case, not such an obstruction as would entitle the plaintiff to a verdict.

Dulaney and Pitts contended that the defendant's prayer took from the jury the right to find whether the fence was an obstruction *in point of fact.* It was insisted on the other hand by Alexander and Dorsey that the plaintiff's prayer was directly in the face of the decision of the Court of Appeals in this case in 7th Maryland, as it simply left to the jury the naked question of whether the fence was *technically* an obstruction, divested of all those qualifying considerations which that court had adverted to.

The court granted the plaintiff's prayer, and the defendant excepted. The defendant also reserved an exception to so much of the evidence offered by the plaintiff going to show the loss which he might have sustained by stoppage of his mill and the break in his race, during the time the defendant's fence was standing.

Mr. Pitts then opened the case before the jury, and at the conclusion of his speech the court adjourned. The graceful and persuasive eloquence of this gentleman has seldom appeared to better advantage than in his brief argument of to-day.

The grand jury were discharged to-day, after having examined nearly 150 witnesses, and made some 25 or 30 presentments. The unusually large number of criminal cases will probably protract the session longer than was at first expected.

COURT OF CLAIMS.—*March* 18.—The Court had under consideration to-day the case of William Hazard Wiggs *vs.* The United States.

The case was opened for the claimant by Mr. Reverdy Johnson. Mr. Blair replied for the government, but had not concluded his argument when the Court adjourned.

MISCELLANEOUS.

PROGRESSIVE AGRICULTURE.—The New York *Observer* says the following good things of progressive agriculture:

"Under its influence spring up tasty and convenient dwellings, adorned with shrubs and flowers, and beautiful within the smiles of happy wives, tidy children in the lap of thoughtful age, broad hearths, and acts as well as words of welcome. Progressive agriculture builds barns, and puts gutters on them: builds stables for cattle, and raises roots to feed them. It grafts wild apple trees by the meadbw with pippins or greenings; it sets out new orchards, and takes care of the old ones.

"It drains new lands, cuts down bushes, buys a mower, house tools, and wagon; keeps good fences, and practices soiling. It makes hens lay, chickens live, and prevents swine from rooting up meadows. Progressive agriculture keeps on hand plenty of dry fuel, and brings in the oven wood for the women. It ploughs deeply, sows plentifully, harrows evenly, and prays for the blessing of Heaven. Finally, it subscribes for good religious, agricultural, and family journals, and pays for them in advance; advocates free schools, and always takes something besides the family to the county fair."

EXPLORATION OF THE AMOOR RIVER BY AN AMERICAN.—Mr. Collins, the American Consul at the Amoor river, recently obtained permission of the Russian Government to explore it, and he has sent to the government at Washington the result of his observations.

"Mr. Collins states that the whole of this river, for a distance of two thousand six hundred miles, is susceptible of steam navigation, and the country drained by the Amoor has a population of about five millions. There are already four vessels trading from San Francisco to the Amoor, two from Boston, and two from Hong Kong—the latter being owned by American houses. The Russian government is rapidly extending its dominions in the Amoor country, and the last year two iron steamers, built in Philadelphia for the Russians, were shipped around Cape Horn and put up at the mouth of the Amoor, for the purpose of trade and exploration.

Mr. Collins states that the Russian government desire that the Americans should have all the advantages of the great trade of this new country, and hold out every inducement for that purpose. After reaching the mouth of the Amoor, the theatre of his consulship, he thought he had discovered so many facts of great importance to the commerce of the United States that he determined to return immediately and report to his government. The report which he has made to the Secretary of State occupies some 250 pages of closely written manuscript, and is a condensed account of the country in the vicinity of the navigable waters of the Amoor, its population, trade, products, &c., as well as suggestions as to the proper articles of commerce, which our people may export there with profit."

DISCOVERY OF SALT PETRE IN CALIFORNIA.—We are informed by a traveler from the Southern coast counties, that on the head waters of the Pajara river, near Gilroy, salt petre has been discovered in the alkaline ponds and the earth of that vicinity. The head waters of the Pajara, forming the boundaries of Santa Cruz, Santa Clara and Monterey counties, take their rise in springs and lakes of the Plain of Tequisquitas, (Mexican for soap earth,) and the soil of the plain, which forms the ranchos of Orteaga, Paducah and Sanchezheirs, is found to be strongly impregnated with soda, saltpetre and other alkaline substances, whence its name. The racho of Tequisquitas is said to have been used for twenty years before the American flag was raised, for making a very superior quality of soap.

The saltpetre of commerce is found in Paris, Egypt, Syria and Bengal, in similar soils to the dry plains around Gilroy. In the district of Tirhoot, in Bengal, it is observed to form upon the surface of the ground in silkly tuft and white incrustations during the hot, dry summer months succeeding heavy rains. It is gathered by sweeping the surface with brush brooms, after which it is manufactured for commerce by dissolving it in water, purifying and crystalizing it. It is then put into coarse bags and shipped down the Ganges to Calcutta, whence it is sent to the markets of Europe and America. The annual exports of saltpetre from Calcutta amount to over twelve millions of dollars per annum, and during the Russian war the article brought very high prices.

This discovery may be regarded of great value to the military resources of the United States on the Pacific, as the country possesses immense mines of sulphur. As the willow, for making charcoal, is the most abundant tree in California, it will be no difficult matter to make as much gunpowder as will supply the domestic demand of the State and the wants of the United States Government in case of a war.—*Sacramento Union.*

A STRONG-MINDED WOMAN.—Mr. Clayton, author of a book on the Crimean campaign, met in his journey with a strong-minded woman. He says:

"We next touched at Malta, taking on board a few fresh passengers in lieu of some we had landed there. Among the new comers was a lady of a most violent temper; so ungovernable that she hated mortally all who did not agree entirely with her ideas upon everything. Her husband informed us that just before his marriage he was warned of the lady's firey disposition, and to test the accuracy of the information, one evening, as he sat next to her at dinner, he managed cleverly to jog the servant's elbow as a plate of mock turtle soup was offered her, which of course was upset over the young lady's white dress of tulle lace. No complaint, nor even a frown, being evinced, the delighted suitor concluded that what he had heard was a mistake, and that his inamorata had the temper of the lamb who had been fed upon mashed potatoes, and as harmless as water gruel, so the marriage took place. But soon the lady's real character displayed itself, as is always the case after marriage, but never before; and his wife, like a human Stromboli, was subject to fiery eruptions every ten minutes on an average. 'How is it, my dear,' said the happy husband, 'that, having such a bad temper, you stood the ordeal by soup so well?' 'Why,' answered the lady, 'I might have appeared indifferent at the time; but, good heavens! you should have only gone into my room a little while afterwards, and seen the marks of my teeth in the bed-post!'"

BRILLIANT FEAT IN CHESS.—Mr. Morphy last night accomplished the extraordinary feat of playing four simultaneous games of Chess, blindfold. He was victorious in all four games. The rapidity and precision with which Mr. Morphy accomplishes this wonderful intellectual feat, are truly remarkable.—Three of his antagonists surrendered within two hours and a half, and the fourth was compelled to succumb before the expiration of three hours. Mr. Paulsen played five games simultaneously in New York; but consumed much more time than Mr. Morphy. We are satisfied that Mr. Morphy's powers are fully adequate to the conduct of five or even six games at once. Of the games played last night, two were specimens of the Evans gambit, one of the Muzio gambit, and the fourth was the "Queen's pawn two" opening.

The bark Adriatic, famous for having caused the loss of the steamer Lyonnais, and for her seizure and confiscation by the French Courts, having escaped a second time from custody, arrived yesterday at Savannah, the last American port she left over a year ago.

STATE OF THE RIVERS.—The Hudson is clear, and boats had commenced running between New York and Albany yesterday.

The Missouri River has been navigable for a week or more; the Illinois is open from its mouth to Peoria; and the Mississippi as high as Burlington in Iowa. At Dubuque and Fulton the ice was starting on Monday. The Upper Mississippi will remain closed some time longer. Lake Pepin seldom gets rid of its ice before the middle of April.

ARMY AND NAVY.

ARMY INTELLIGENCE.—Captain Bradford, ordinance department, has been ordered to Fayetteville to relieve Major Laidly