BALTIMORE.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 1858.

General Sam. Houston evidently looks upon Mexico not as "a sick man" merely, nor as simply "in the article of death," but as practically and politically dead, and accordingly proposes that the United States should take out letters of administration upon the estate of the defunct. He has given notice in the Senate, "that on Monday he will move for a protectorate over Mexico." The idea is not original with the General. It has been aired in the columns of the *Exchange*, and has of late been much discussed by some of the New York papers. The London *Times*, having an eye to the interests of British creditors of Mexico, whose chances for getting their money just now look rather blue, has more than once intimated that the establishment of an American protectorate over that unfortunate country would be an excellent arrangement for both parties, and perfectly satisfactory to England. The last part of the proposition we do not doubt. Neither do we doubt that such an arrangement would be a very good thing for Mexico. It is the converse of the proposition which "gives us pause;"—to question whether it would be equally desirable for ourselves. "Charity begins at home," and though it is not necessary that it should end there, still the obligation of Senators to consider the best interests of the Republic, must outweigh the desire to do an act of kindness for our neighbor. What do we want with Mexico, or what could we do with her mongrel millions of ignorant and degraded people? This is the true question to be considered, for although the terms of General Houston's proposition may only contemplate "a protectorate," everybody knows that "a protectorate" would be but the prelude to annexation. We could only "protect" Mexico, by assuming into our own hands the government of the country; and that could not be done without admitting Mexico into the Union. Our Constitution contemplates no such thing as the establishment of vice-regal or proconsular governments over foreign or colonial dependencies. Only by admitting the Mexican people to the rights of American citizenship on terms of perfect equality with the rest of the Union, can a door be opened for the exercise of those benevolent functions of guardianship and "protection" over our unhappy neighbor, which General Houston is so desirous that we should assume. Are we prepared to make this concession? Has the day yet come, when the acquisition of Mexico can be said to be either a physical or political necessity for this government? We think not.

While benevolently providing for the wants of Mexico, General Houston may as well turn his attention to another "sick man," whose case seems to us equally deserving of his kind consideration. New Grenada, according to the recent report of Senor Florentino Gonzales, the New Granadian Attorney General, on the proposed Federal Constitution, is in a very bad way, and not at all likely to recover. She too would like "to become a part of the American Union." Senor Gonzales says so. Why not extend the "protectorate" which General Houston proposes, over that country also? New Granada lies right upon the great roadside of trade and travel between our Atlantic and Pacific States. She holds the key of the most important commercial highway in the world. She possesses great natural advantages of soil, and climate, and abundant wealth of mineral resources. She has tried the experiment of self-government, and failed, and wants somebody to take care of her. Why does not General Houston propose to take this responsibility also. Hear what the Senor Gonzales says in his report submitting the new Federal Constitution to the New Granadian Congress, for its approval! In the event of the rejection of that constitution by the Congress, he says:

Let us become a part of the American Union, and the States of New Granada will find themselves in the same condition as are the States of New York, Pennsylvania, and the other States of the Confederation: enjoying externally the protection the power of that great people can insure us, and preserving our government and the means of bettering our internal condition without risk from those vandalic incursions with which we are at present threatened.

The resources which our country has to fulfill its obligations, will acquire an immense value, because we shall be rid of the fears that our precarious position ought naturally to inspire, and which discourages agriculture and commerce. Our public lands will be in great demand for cultivation, our rivers will be improved, and our commerce be prodigiously extended. The income from our wild lands, from the Customs, and from all the national properties, will give the Government of the Union more than means sufficient to pay the public debt that presses so heavily upon us, at the same time that individual prosperity will increase in a most notable degree.

Our public lands will be in demand on which to establish an agricultural population, because then the settlers can count upon that security in working them that cannot be guaranteed to them in the situation in which we are at present placed.

We lack security, because the constant threats of European nations make us fear for the interruption of that commerce, which would result from the products of the soil; and because they make us fear that our laborers must be turned into soldiers, and our earnings must go to pay the expenses of war.

Incorporate the Granadian States into the American Union, and the respectability of that great nation will preserve us from all these inconveniences—will give us all the importance which they possess, and end the insecurity which lessens our population and paralyzes every business.

We shall lose a nominal nationality, to acquire a potent, real one, that will be respected throughout the world.

Our race will gradually mix with the Anglo-Saxon race.

But all this will in nothing diminish our prosperity, neither prejudice the future of our children, nor cause any possible evil.

We shall preserve the same internal government that we now possess, while we shall be relieved from external affairs, which will all be transferred to the government of the Union.

This new condition will be, without doubt, better than that we now are in, and the critical condition we may find ourselves in if the country shall rest some years longer without reconstructing itself in a solid manner, that shall give well founded hopes of our becoming a great nation.

This is remarkable language coming from an official of the rank of Senor Gonzales—whose prejudices of race, nationality and religion must have strongly pleaded against the plan, in favor of which he argues with so much fairness and good sense. Let General Houston, therefore, not do the work which he has undertaken, by halves only, but make a complete job of it. If we are to begin, let us continue, the career of illimitable expansion and absorption—of universal annexation and amalgamation, to which, in his opinion, the present state of Mexico invites us. Let us go on, until the circumpolar seas shall alone limit the confines of our empire, and the extremest verge of Patagonia be the southern extremity of the Republic. Then, when the whole Western Hemisphere shall be embraced within the arms of the Union, it will be time for some future Senator to "move for a protectorate" over the nations of the old world.

A statement was recently made in most of the papers, that Marshal Herring had "determined," on and after a specified day, to "enforce the law" prohibiting minors from running with fire engines. While the thanks of our citizens are due to the Marshal on this account, considerable regret also is felt that he should have so long tolerated the public and hourly violations of this law. The singularity of the announcement, however, is suggestive. It would seem that there is a class of laws wholly dependant for validity upon the "determination" of the Marshal. In this instance a useful ordinance lies dormant, and its infraction is quietly witnessed by every police officer in the city, until the authoritative breath of the Marshal gives to it vitality. By what right, he has, until this time, treated it as a nullity, we are at a loss to conceive. We had supposed "the dispensing power" to be so peculiarly abhorrent to those under whom he holds his commission, that they would never have permitted him to wield it. If there are any other beneficial provisions upon the statute book which have not yet been sanctioned by this officer, we respectfully venture the request that he will also "determine to enforce" them.

FROM BERMUDA AND TURK'S ISLAND.—By the bark Eliza Barsa we have a Bermuda paper of the 6th instant. It reports considerable injury to the potato crop in exposed parts of the Island, from a recent heavy southerly gale.

The quantity of that esculent planted this year does not equal that of last year.

Turk's Island advices of March 24th, state that provisions were plenty, and that an abundant supply of salt was on hand.

The home government has refused the application of the people of Turk's Island for an alteration in their constitution. At present the Council is composed of eight members—four elective and four non-elective; the people desired the extension of the number of elective to six. The home government will not sanction a numerical superiority of one portion of the body over the other.

KEROSENE OIL.

The steady advance in the price of sperm oil, its almost general adulteration, and the unpleasant results that occasionally arise from its unctuous qualities, have induced many housekeepers and economists to resort to those resinous compounds, which under various names have of late years grown into popular demand, and this too, notwithstanding the terrible accidents that have constantly occurred from their use in careless hands. Patent safety lamps of several kinds, have been invented for the purpose of counteracting the explosive properties of these oils, but as confidence is a plant of slow growth, the popular distrust has suffered very little abatement.

The want of an illuminating fluid that should prove as non-explosive as sperm or lard oils, should possess equally luminous properties and should be at once economical and cleanly, was still felt to be a desideratum. This want it is now claimed has been satisfactorily met by the production of a Kerosene Oil, distilled from cannel coal, and so purified as to have been entirely deprived of the disagreeable odor that originally detracted from its usefulness.

Knapp's Patent Carbon Oil Lamps, designed expressly for the burning of Kerosene, are now for sale in this city, as may be seen from an advertisement in another column.

The advantages this new discovery is said to possess are, that Kerosene Oil costs less than one-third that of any other artificial light; that its flame is soft, steady, brilliant and smokeless, and that, while it is free from the danger attendant upon the use of Camphene or Etherial Oils, it is quite as cleanly. We have reason to believe that these statements are in the main correct, and, if they should so prove upon further trial, there is no doubt that this new illuminator will speedily become popular.

NEW BOOKS.

We acknowledge the receipt of "THE MISER'S DAUGHTER," a penance by Ainsworth; and "WHITE HALL, OR THE DAYS AND TIMES OF OLIVER CROMWELL," by the author of Whitefriars; both of which we propose to notice further in the course of a few days.

For sale by Henry Taylor.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS

RECEIVED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DAILY EXCHANGE.

ARRIVAL OF THE AFRICA.

LATER FROM EUROPE.

NEW YORK, April 16.—The steamer Africa has arrived off Sandy Hook, bringing Liverpool dates to the 5th instant.

The political and general news is unimportant.

Five millions of the India loan had been taken at an average of 98.

The Atlantic telegraph cable was being taken on board the Niagara and Agamemnon as rapidly as possible and it was expected all would be on board by the 10th of May. Some deep sea experiments would be made before the final attempt.

Fears are entertained for the safety of the African mail steamer Gambia, nearly a month over due in England.

The relations between France and Switzerland continue to be unsatisfactory, giving rise to some uneasiness.

The Paris Bourse has lost its buoyancy and the funds are daily declining.

Spain is sending reinforcements to the Gulf of Mexico.

A new measure of public safety has been organized at Madrid.

The Bank of Holland has reduced its rate of discount to 3½ per cent.

The Port is said to have rejected the demand of France for the authorization of a canal through the Isthmus of Suez.

THE MARKETS.

LIVERPOOL, April 5.—Cotton—sales of the week 50,500 bales, of which exporters took 8,500, and speculators 6,500. Inferior qualities have declined ¼d.@⅜d., and middling qualities ⅛d.@¼d. Fair qualities are generally unchanged, and the market closed dull. Holders offer freely, but show no disposition to press sales.

Manchester advices are unfavorable.

BREADSTUFFS.—The market was generally dull.

PROVISIONS were dull.

LARD was firm, and all qualities had slightly advanced.

CONSOLS for Money closed at 96¾@96⅞.

Five millions of the India loan have been taken at an average of 98.

Breadstuffs—Richardson & Spence quote breadstuffs as generally quiet, and there had been no market since the City of Washington sailed.

Beef closed buoyant and steady. Pork was also steady. Bacon was dull, and prices easier, but quotations unchanged.

Lard generally closed firm, at an advance of 1s.—50s.@52s.

Rosin is steady at 4s. 3d.

Sugar is dull at a decline of 6d.

Coffee is dull, especially for inferior qualities, but quotations are unchanged.

Turpentine Spirits closed firm at 44s.

Rice is heavy.

LONDON MARKET.—Barings' circular quotes all qualities of Breadstuffs as slightly declined.

Sugar is heavy, at a decline of 6d. to 1s.

Coffee is steady.

Tea has also declined 6d., chiefly on fine qualities.

Turpentine Spirits closed firm, and all qualities have slightly advanced.

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

WASHINGTON, April 16.

SENATE.

The morning hour was devoted to private bills of public interest.

The private calendar was taken up in the Senate this morning, and the whole session consumed in their consideration, many of which were passed.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House took up the private calendar.

The whole day was spent in the consideration of private bills, and a large number were passed.

THE FEVER ON BOARD THE STEAMER SUSQUEHANNA.

NEW YORK, April 16.—The fever first made its appearance on board the steamer Susquehanna on the 19th of March, while lying at Greytown. She immediately put to sea, intending to proceed to Pensacola, but being short of coal and medical stores, she put into Jamaica.

Before arriving at Kingston, the disease had become epidemic, and there were 150 cases on board. Six officers and 57 of the crew were placed in the hospitals at Kingston, where the most prompt and and efficient efforts for their relief were accorded by the British naval and medical officers. There have been 17 deaths, including Lieutenant Henry McQueen and the following:—Littleton Beyer, John Hedrath, Wm. J. Fongeray of Philadelphia, Frederick Gerndorf, Corporal Burns, James Robinson, George Geyger, C. H. Conway, Thomas Moran, Thomas O. Hume, J. W. Jones and James Flynn.

There are now on board 40 cases, generally of a mild form.

The crew of the Susquehanna were all landed at quarantine, and the Health Commissioners have ordered the ship to the lower bay, to ride out at quarantine.

EXAMINATION OF FIRE-ARMS.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—The Board appointed by the Secretary of War, consisting of Lieut. Colonel J. E. Johnston, Major Bell, Lieut. Colonel May, Major Macrae, and Captain Whitehall, to examine certain improved fire-arms, to be presented by Captain J. N. Ward, of the Third Infantry, have made their report.

They first examined the arrangement for attaching tape primers to small arms, called Ward's Magazine Hammer. To test its working forty shots were fired. The Board are of opinion that it is a great improvement on any other method known, and recommend that it be applied to all the small arms except revolvers, and also recommend that Ward's cone seat be adopted with the hammer.

They consider Ward's new bayonet clasp inferior to the one now in use; that Ward's breach loading carbine, called "Skinner & Tryon's Carbine," is entirely unsuited for the service; and that the revolving pistol, known as North & Savage's six-chambered revolving pistol, is entirely unsuited for the public service.

ADVICES FROM CARACCAS.

NEW YORK, April 16.—Advices from Caraccas to the 31st March have been received here. A provisional government had been inaugurated which demanded the French Consul to surrender General Monagas and family who had taken refuge with him. They were surrendered, and are in confinement.—It is said they had deposited at the French Legation $1,000,000 in gold. General Castro had declared the removal of all the employees of the late government.

It is said the American consul had nailed his flag over the door of the French consul in conjunction with that of Spain, Denmark and Brazil, threatening to haul it down and demand his passports if any attempts were made to arrest Monagas, who was then at the legation.

FUNERAL OF COL. BENTON.

ST. LOUIS, April 16.—Yesterday the remains of Col. Benton lay in state in the Mercantile Library Hall, which was appropriately draped in mourning. They were viewed by some 25,000 people up to this morning, when the final funeral rites took place.

The procession included the Military, Benevolent Societies, Firemen, members of the City Government and citizens generally. Business was generally suspended, and the stores and houses were draped in mourning. The streets were thronged with thousands of spectators.

THE LITTLE MURDER CASE.

ROCHESTER, April 15.—A second panel, consisting of nearly one hundred men, was examined to-day in the Little murder case, but only two were accepted as jurymen. The Court announced that Mrs. Little's trial for the same offence would come on this term.

AMERICAN DUEL AT PARIS.

NEW YORK, April 16.—The Paris correspondence of the New York *Commercial Advertiser*, gives the particulars of a duel that occurred at Paris, between Mr. Callium, Secretary of the American Legation, and Mr. Breevort, of New York. One shot was exchanged, when owing to an informality the seconds interfered, and no damage was done.

GEO. PEABODY'S FINANCIAL CONDITION.

NEW YORK, April 16.—A letter from London states that on the 1st of April, George Peabody paid all his indebtedness to the Bank of England, releasing all the securities held by that institution.

METHODIST SLAVERY DISCUSSION.

NEW YORK, April 16.—A slavery resolution was discussed to-day in the New York East Methodist Conference. Dr. Wheedon and Mr. Hatfield advocated the resolution, and Dr. Bangs opposed it, saying that it was a matter the Conference had nothing to do with, and he did not believe that it was sinful to own and sell slaves.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

FIRE DEPARTMENT MEETING.—An adjourned meeting of the standing Committee of the Baltimore United Fire Department was held last evening at their room in the City Hall, Jas. L. McPhail, Esq. in the chair, for the purpose of a further examination into the charges preferred by the Columbian against the Franklin Fire Company.

The accused Company was arraigned upon the charge of "firing into the hose carriage of the Columbian, at the corner of Pratt and Light streets, and shooting Edward Worthington, thereby causing his death," the affair having transpired on the evening of the 26th of March last.

On the part of the prosecution Wm. H. Bines testified that he was at the place of the shooting, and saw three pieces of apparatus coming up Pratt street, a suction and reel being together; the single piece passed on when the firing commenced from the two that were together. Did not know what they were.

Nicholas Gorsuch testified that he was near the place at the time of the shooting and heard it; soon after saw a man in dark clothes throw something behind a stone on the side of the street.—There were two companies present—the Franklin and the Columbian—the latter being ahead. Could not say where the pistol was fired from.

James Chapman testified that he was with the Columbian apparatus passing up Pratt street, when the ropes of the Franklin were pushed against them with such force that he fell back, when some one struck at him. The pistols were then fired, the fire coming from the Franklin. The suction of the Franklin apparatus was on one side of the street, and the reel on the other, the Columbian being in the centre of the street.

Uriah Foster, who was also with the prosecuting company, corroborated the evidence of the former witness.

R. H. Coruthwaite testified to having hold of the head of the Columbian ropes, and that they were endeavoring to pass the reel of the Franklin, the ropes of which were passed to and fro across the street to prevent their passing. This was near Light street, going up Pratt. When they had passed Light street, they were fired at by those with the Franklin suction which had stopped there, they being some twenty feet from them. Thinks there were two shots fired.

C. C. Jones corroborated the evidence of the former witness, and also testified that one pistol was fired from each side of the street, the Franklin reel being on one side and the suction on the other.

Wm. Tier, Isaac B. Layman and Chas. Simmering testified, in substance, the same as the preceding witnesses.

On the part of the defence, Wm. Richardson testified that he was with the Franklin apparatus; upon reaching Light street they stopped, and he saw the flash of a pistol, which was fired from the corner of an alley on Pratt street; a short distance above Light another was fired from the side of the street, some twenty paces from the Franklin apparatus. They stood on the corner of Light and Pratt, and the firing came from the alley or near it.

Wm. S. Snyder testified that he was with the Franklin reel when the firing took place. One pistol was fired from the left side of the street and the other from the right, both some thirty feet ahead of the Franklin apparatus.

Alexander Chiveral, John Spedden and James Larkin corroborated the evidence of the former witnesses.

Thomas Shanly testified that he was near by when the firing took place, and saw one pistol fired from near a lamp post in front of the Maltby house; saw the man when he fired; he was dressed in dark clothes; when this pistol was fired he stood across the street directly opposite; he heard one shot fired before he had reached the spot while passing down Charles street; saw the wounded man carried to the Maltby house; at the time he supposed the man was shot by the pistol he saw fired from the lamp-post; his impression, however, now is that he was killed by the first shot, which he heard before reaching the place.

John Chapman, being recalled by the prosecution, testified that Worthington was on the left hand side of the Columbian reel, and that the balls struck him in the left arm and hand, and on the left side of the body, in such a manner that they must have come from their rear, and from the corner of Light street.

The evidence was here closed, and the question submitted without argument to a vote of the Committee, which was taken by ballot, with the following result: Guilty 14; not guilty 1; divided 3; absent 1.

The Columbian then announced that they would withdraw the last and remaining charge, which was "with admitting riotous and disorderly disposed persons as members."

Mr. Van Nostrand, President of the Franklin, objected to the withdrawal of the charge, and insisted upon its being examined.

A motion to allow them to withdraw it was adopted.

The President then announced that the sentence under this conviction must be pronounced by the Department proper, when the Committee adjourned.

SUPPOSED STOLEN GOODS.—While officer Meads, of the Eastern District, was making his rounds on Thursday night about 9 o'clock, he observed several persons in the Lager Beer shop of Christopher Ganbatz, on Thames street, east of Broadway, examining the contents of a large black trunk, which appeared to be filled with valuable articles of jewelry, clothing, &c. The officer suspecting something wrong, called in the aid of officer Hutton, who was requested to watch the premises, while Meads went to the Eastern station-house and informed Lieut. Muir of the circumstance. Both of them proceeded to Ganbatz's establishment, which they entered, and securing the articles and trunk, had them conveyed to the police station. The contents of the trunk were there overhauled—they consisted of some fine jewelry, gloves, women's apparel, and a lot of cooper's tools.—Captain Morris thought that the goods had been stolen, and immediately gave orders for the arrest of Ganbatz, which was made by officer Hutton, who brought him to the station house, where he was kept during the night. In the morning the accused was brought before Justice Griffin, and in reply to questions propounded to him, stated that he had bought the trunk from one Henry Frecke, for the sum of two dollars, and that the contents were unknown to him; he also said he had taken the precaution to get a bill and receipt from Frecke; he produced the receipt for two dollars, signed by Henry Frecke, and three witnesses. After hearing the testimony, the Justice held Ganbatz on security of $500 for a further hearing, to take place next Friday afternoon. The man Frecke was also ordered to be arrested, but up to last night had eluded the officers.

INCENDIARISM.—A villainous attempt was made about 12 o'clock on Thursday night to destroy the buildings of the Lamb tavern on Franklin street near Paca, owned by Mr. Charles Classon, and occupied by N. M. Appler. The door leading to the barroom is usually left unlocked during the night to admit the boarders, and by this means the incendiaries entered. Taking a can of ethereal oil containing four gallons, they placed it upon a table beneath the stairway of the back building. Setting the faucet to running, fire was applied to the oil, and in a few moments the entire staircase was in a blaze.—An old gentleman named Adams, who was sleeping in the chamber above, had his hands and face badly burned. The house, upon which there is no insurance, was damaged to the extent of $100. There was a loss of $50 upon the stock, which is covered by insurance in the Firemen's office.

Yesterday morning between 6 and 7 o'clock, the one story frame stable, situated on Philpot alley, near Central avenue, was set on fire and slightly damaged. A horse in the stable at the time of the fire was safely got out. The building belongs to Mrs. Martha D. Cunningham.

GRAND CONCERT.—A musical treat, of a high order of talent, is offered to our citizens on Monday evening at the New Assembly Rooms, comprising the performances of Miss Adelaide Phillipps, Mr. Charles Elliott and Mr. Rudolph Klien. Although neither of these musical celebrities has ever appeared in this city, their fame is not unknown. Miss Phillipps has held a leading position as a contralto singer of great power and finish in the Havana and Philadelphia Italian Opera companies, and her appearance here will be looked to with much interest. Mr. Elliott is spoken of by the press, both of this country and Europe, as a violinist whose performances are marked with unusual energy and brilliancy, but at the same time with a degree of delicacy that stamps him as a master of his difficult instrument. They will be assisted by some of the best musical talent of this city, and altogether the concert cannot fail to afford the highest gratification.

SALE OF GROUND RENTS.—Messrs. Adreon & Co. yesterday offered, at the Exchange, ten original ground rents, one half of which were purchased as follows:

No. 1.—Rent $20 per annum. Lot 14 feet by 48 feet, corner of Howard and York streets. Purchased by James Fay for $230.

No. 3.—Rent $25 per annum. Lot 11 feet by 75 feet, on Howard near Hill street. Purchased by James Curren for $310.

No. 4.—Rent $25 per annum. Lot 11 feet by 75 feet, on Howard street near Hill. Purchased by James Curren for $305.

No. 6.—Rent $25 per annum. Lot 13½ feet by 53 feet, corner of York street and Patapsco avenue. Purchased by Mr. Cunningham for $312.

No. 10.—Rent $25 per annum. Lot 12 feet by 56 feet, on Howard street near York. Purchased by James Foy far $130.

SALES OF PROPERTY.—Messrs. Gibson & Co. sold yesterday at the Exchange, an estate situate on the Bel-Air road about ten miles from the city, containing 220 acres, improved by two dwelling houses, a barn, stabling, &c., &c. Purchased by David S. Courtney, Esq., for $8,500.

Samuel H. Gover, Esq., sold yesterday on the premises the lot of ground and improvements situate at the corner of Chew and Eden streets. The lot has a front on Chew street of 16 feet, with a depth on Eden of 100 feet, improved by a two-story brick dwelling, with two-story back building, subject to a ground rent of $2.25 per foot front. Purchased by Mr. John G. Schutter for $1,250.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS. — At a meeting of the Young Catholics' Friend Society, held on the 4th inst., the following named gentlemen were re-elected officers for the ensuing term:

Matthew J. Foley, President; Samuel H. Adams, Vice President; William Shriver, Treasurer; Daniel Kirwan, Book Keeper; W. J. O'Brien, Corresponding Secretary; Alex. J. Brand, Recording Secretary; Bernard Cassady, Christopher Wynn, Laurence A. Puzenet, H. G. Ducatel, Peter Fernan, C. E. J. Gebhard, Charles C. Heuisler, Trustees; Dennis Blundel, Steward.

CONCLUDED.—At the examination of the parties arrested a few days since on the charge of stealing and receiving tobacco, knowing it to have been stolen from the State Tobacco Warehouse, on Charles street, which took place yesterday afternoon at the Southern District Station House, before Justice Boyd, all were discharged except Joseph Ricker and Jas. Gray, who were held for the action of the Grand Jury.

OUTRAGE.—On Thursday night between 8 and 9 o'clock, a high-handed piece of villainy was enacted on Centre Market Space, near Baltimore street. A well dressed lady, while passing in that vicinity, was violently assaulted by some ruffians, and then robbed of her breastpin and ear-rings. The thieves also struck her violently in the face, bruising it considerably. A gentlemen coming up at the time put the desperadoes to flight, and gallantly conducted the lady to a place of srfety.

DELEGATES TO THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—The following gentlemen have been appointed to represent the Medical and Surgical Society of Baltimore at the meeting of the American Medical Association, to be held in Washington, commencing on the 5th of May: Drs. James Bordley, J. F. Monmonier, Jacob W. Houck, George W. Miltenberger and P. M. Womble.

EXPECTED DELEGATES TO THE SCIENTIFIC CONVENTION.—Rooms have been taken at Barnum's for the following distinguished gentlemen, who will attend the meeting of the American Scientific Association, which convenes in this city on the 28th inst.: Prof. A. D. Bache, Superintendent U. S. Coast Survey; Dr. John Le Conte, Professor of Physics, South Carolina College; Prof. Peirce, of Harvard University, and Prof. George C. Swallow, State Geologist, Mo.

TAKEN BACK.—Yesterday morning Sheriff Howard, accompanied by the State's Attorney of Harford county, called upon Justice Griffin for the man, Andrew B. Thompson, who was arrested in this city by Captain Sparklin, charged with the killing of Henry P. Fletcher, of Harford county.—The prisoner was taken from the Baltimore jail and conveyed to Belair by the 11 o'clock train yesterday.

REV. JAS. SHRIGLEY.—We understood that this eminent divine will preach at the Universalist Church, corner of Calvert and Pleasant streets, to-morrow (Sunday) morning, and evening. This gentleman was pastor of that Society for a number of years, and his connection was dissolved on account of ill health; since that time he has entirely recovered, and is at present stationed at the thriving town of Reading, Pa., where he has a large Society.

EPISCOPAL CONSECRATION.—The consecration of Rt. Rev. A. Verot for the Apostolic Vicariate of Florida, will be performed in the Cathedral of Baltimore, on Sunday, 25th inst., by the Most Rev. Archbishop of Baltimore, assisted by the Rt. Rev. Bishops of Richmond, and of Savannah. Rev. Charles J. White, D. D., of Washington, will preach.—*Mirror.*

MASS PRAYER MEETING.—A union prayer meeting was held yesterday afternoon in the Hall of the Maryland Institute under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association of this city. The meeting was largely attended by the clergy, and congregations of different denominations, and the exercises were very interesting.

ELECTION OF BRIGADIER GENERAL.—At a meeting of the field officers attached to the First Light Brigade, M. V., held last evening at the Law Greys' armory, for the purpose of selecting a person as Brigadier General, to fill the place occasioned by the resignation of Brigadier General N. Hickman, Col. J. Wesley Watkins was elected to fill the post.

CONFIRMATION.—On the morning of the 12th inst., says the *Mirror*, the Most Rev. Archbishop of Baltimore, administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to eleven pupils of the Academy of the Visitation, Mount de Sales, two of whom were converts.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

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

John S. Wright *vs.* The San Mutual Insurance Company of New York. An action to recover the sum of $16,200 on a policy of insurance. The property insured was 1,800 bags of coffee. The controversy involves questions relative to the validity of the policy, and the seaworthiness of the vessel. On trial. Hon. Henry May, Robert J. Brent and Vivian Brent, Esqrs., for the plaintiff; Hon. John Nelson, Messrs. Brown and Brune, Hon. F. B. Cutting and Alexander Hamilton, Jr., Esq., of New York, for the defendant.

SUPERIOR COURT.—Before Hon. Z. Collins Lee, Judge. The following business was transacted yesterday:

William and James McGowan *vs.* The Baltimore Fire Insurance Company. An action to recover on a policy of insurance for damages sustained by the plaintiffs in the destruction of their property by fire. This case, which has been on trial since the 6th instant, was brought to a close yesterday, the jury rendering a verdict for the plaintiffs for $3,570. Robert J. Brent and Edward Israel, Esqrs., for the plaintiffs; William Schley, Esq., and Hon. Reverdy Johnson, for the defendant.

Charles Farquharson *vs.* Otho W. Eichelberger and Jacob Trust, trustees of Louis A. Muncks. An attachment on a judgment. In this case the counsel for the plaintiffs maintained that the deed of trust was void because of the delay and hindrance to creditors by reason of the terms of the deed.—Submitted to the jury on a statement of facts agreed upon by counsel, and jury instructed by the court to return a sealed verdict on Monday morning.

The Court will be engaged with the consideration of equity business to-day. Assignment for Monday from 338 to 360 inclusive.

CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE CITY.—Before Hon. William Geo. Krebs, Judge. The following business was transacted yesterday:

Seligman Hertzberg *vs.* David Levy and Adolphus Kleinobst. Order passed authorizing the Clerk to draw a check on the Eutaw Savings Bank of Baltimore, payable to the order of Joseph Oberndorf, trustee of David Levy, for all moneys now on deposit in said bank, amounting to $725, (with securing interest thereon,) deposited in said bank to the credit of the case of Hertzberg *vs.* Levy and Kleinobst. M'Laughlin for complainant; Leakin for defendants.

Sallie Peters and John W. Shanklin *vs.* Benjamin C. Barroll and Benjamin De Wolf. Injunction issued to restrain the execution of an attachment on a judgment, and order passed directing the payment of certain money to B. C. Barroll as trustee. McLain and Williams for complainants.

Edward R. Perkins *vs.* Elizabeth C. Perkins.—Petition filed for divorce *a vinculo matrimonii.*

Joseph Hammond *vs.* Mary Ann Hammond. Petition filed for divorce *a vinculo matrimonii.*

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.—Before Hon. William L. Marshal, Judge. The following business was transacted yesterday:

Alexander B. Ellis *vs.* Wm. T. Hall and Thomas B. Loney, garnishee of Wm. R. Kibbey. An attachment on a judgment. On trial. Wallis and Hinkley for plaintiff; Barroll and L. P. Barry for defendants.

COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND.

DECEMBER TERM, 1857.

ANNAPOLIS, April 16, 1858.

No. 136.—Thomas Waring, Administrator of Deborah Waring, *vs.* Rebecca Edmonds. Appeal from the Circuit Court for Prince George's county.—Chief Justice LeGrand delivered the opinion of the Court. Judgment affirmed with costs.

No. 107.—Jacob Campbell *vs.* Lloyd N. Webb and others. Appeal from the Circuit Court for Washington county, was argued by Alvey for the appellant, and by Hamilton and Syester for the appellees.

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.

THURSDAY, April 15, 1858.

No. 76. John N. Ahl, appellant, *vs.* Roswell B. Johnson. The argument of this cause was continued by Mr. Bradley for the appellee, and concluded by Mr. Cooper for the appellant.

No. 77. John B. Irvine, appellant, *vs.* Wm. R. Marshall *et al.* This cause was argued by Mr. Cooper for the appellant, and by Mr. Bradley for the appellees.

Adjourned until to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

OUR CITY COUNCILMEN IN PHILADELPHIA.

The delegation from our City Council, who visited Philadelphia to inspect and report upon the Steam Fire Engine and the Police Telegraph, have met with an hospitable reception from the city authorities. The *Evening Bulletin* thus chronicles their sayings and doings:

The Committee of Baltimore City Councils and Fire Department, who were appointed to visit this city to inspect our local telegraph and other institutions, arrived yesterday, and took rooms at the Girard House. The following is a list of their names:

J. T. Ford, John Dukehart, Silas Beacham, Amos McComas, G. A. Cunningham, John W. Glanville, C. A. Talbot, C. B. Hynes, A. J. Hampson, Daniel Harvey, John Hamilton, A. B. Gordon, L. Bierbower, Leonard Bandell, W. J. Maddox, Wm. Addison, James H. Wood.

Mr. Wood is the Chairman of the Committee, and Mr. J. T. Ford is the President of the First Branch of Baltimore Councils.

This morning, under the courteous guidance of Mr. W. G. Phillips, Superintendent of the Fire Alarm and Police Telegraph, the Committee were brought to the Hall of Independence in carriages, where they were welcomed. Mr. O. P. Cornman, Chairman of Committee of Trusts and Fire Department of Select Council, introduced the Baltimoreans to Mayor Vaux, who tendered them the hospitalities of the city in a characteristic address, in which he eulogized the local telegraph most deservedly. In speaking of the institutions of Philadelphia, His Honor touched on the improvements which have been made, as illustrative of our advance in the peculiar civilization that belongs to Republican governments—confessing at the same time, however, that we do not set up for perfection, but have much to learn. He touched lightly on the Hall, and our Revolutionary history, but branched out considerably into a discussion of the fact that no Republican government, National, State or local, could permanently exist without exalted patriotism and pure integrity.

Mr. Wood replied briefly, merely thanking His Honor, and declaring, that although his fellow citizens had made him a member of the Councils of Baltimore, yet they could never make him an orator. He therefore introduced Mr. Dukehart as an old firemen, an old member of Baltimore Councils, an old member of any quantity of societies, and in fact an old everything almost - except an old fogy.

Mr. Dukehart then, on behalf of the Baltimoreans, made a very agreeable speech, in which, in alluding to the Hall and its recollections, he referred to the portraits of two distinguished Marylanders, which adorn the walls—Col. John Eger Howard, and General Samuel Smith, also a Southern hero during the revolution.

The addresses were well received, and after inspecting the treasures of the Hall, the company adjourned to the Central Station of the Local Telegraph.

This miserable little cubby hole of an office is really one of the most important places in Philadelphia. In fact, we may say, more work is got out of that room than any one of the same size in town. And it was a sight to see it filled with the visiting gentlemen, the operators, reporters, the Mayor and our Council Committee! There was not room to turn your head.

The various modes of operation, signalling, striking and receiving fire alarms, &c., were watched with lively interest by the guests, and when they had been shown the entire operation of the telegraph by our friends Phillips, Walker, Wonderly, Keys, Carrigan, Riley and the rest, they were escorted to the Masonic Hall.

After viewing this magnificent edifice, the guests visited various other institutions with much apparent gratification.

At 4 o'clock this afternoon the steam fire Engine, Philadelphia, will be tried in 7th street, near Market.

SOME NEGRO STATISTICS.

In the free States, ranging from 25 to 75 per cent. of the free colored were born out of the States of their residence, showing that the increase has been from immigration. The old Southern States show a very small portion born out of their limits.

About one-fifth of the free colored in New York city were born in the present slave States.

A comparison of Louisiana with Connecticut shows that in the former 1 in 12 of the blacks were engaged in pursuits requiring education, and in Connecticut only 1 in 100.

There are about twice as many free blacks as free mulattoes.

In Connecticut the negro population in sixty years has not more than doubled, notwithstanding the increase from immigrants. Yet, in Virginia, in the same time, which received few from other sources, and sent so many thousands away, it has nearly doubled.

The mulattoes are twice as numerous among the slaves as among the free blacks, and are little more than one-tenth of the whole colored. Half of the negroes at the North are mulatto, and only about one-ninth at the South.

In 1840 there were ten States returning slaves which returned none in 1850—no slave schedules having been sent there at that time.

There were never more than 400,000 slaves imported in the United States in all. In the British West Indies, 1,700,000 were imported, though only 600,000 were left to be emancipated. In the last three years of the slave trade at Charleston, those on whose account the importations were made were 91 British subjects, 89 Rhode Islanders, 10 Frenchmen, and 13 Charlestonians.

FROM PARA.—By the arrival at New York of the brig Adelphi, Capt. Brown, we have received advices from Para to March 18th.

The rainy season had been unusually severe.—Owing to this the place has been sickly, particularly among the shipping with several cases of yellow fever.

Business was without activity, and produce ruled at high rates, the crisis having had its effect, there as well as elsewhere, in the low rate of exchange on England which has forced the shipment of produce.

The Amazon Steam Navigation Company had discontinued the semi-monthly trips to the Rio Negro, Manor, but having received an additional grant of $20,000, making the government subsidy 50,000,000 rs. per month, they have again resumed their 2 trips each month, as formerly, which is very beneficial to the commercial interests of the Province. The Brazilian mail line have recently placed on the coast route new and powerful steamships of about 1,200 tons each. Such fine boats as the Parana, Oyapock and Cruzeiro are a credit to the company, while the rapidity and regularity of their voyages is justly and highly appreciated by all.

It is much to be regretted that the United States has not a line of steamers between Para and some port on the Atlantice side of the United States, as it would give in connection with the Brazilian line direct and rapid communication with all the large cities South; the necessity that exists for a direct mail route to Brazil is well known and felt by all who have commercial interests with this country.

A line of steamers to this point would tend also to make the United States the natural channel for the some-day great trade of the Amazon valley.

On the 3d of March, Thomas Rolston, of Chicago, died at Para, and was buried in the English cemetery.

THE NEW ARMY HAT.—The new hat is destined to become a great favorite. The material is a heavy, durable and compressible felt, capable of any amount of wetting or smashing, without injury. The brim is neatly bound with black, as in the citizen's felt hat. The band is a double silk cord, all gold for the highest officers, and gold and black for lower grades. A black feather is fastened to the right side in a graceful way, and the number is increased as the rank is raised. On the front of the crown are embroideries upon a velvet ground, which may be fastened securely