"FOREVER FLOAT THAT STANDARD SHEET."

The South-Western.

BY L. DILLARD & Co.

Office...Corner of Texas and Edwards streets, OPPOSITE HITCHCOCK'S LIVERY STABLE.

SHREVEPORT:

WEDNESDAY,.....DECEMBER 27, 1854.

AGENTS FOR THE SOUTH-WESTERN:
Messrs. J. M. & J. C. Murphy, *Jefferson, Texas.*
Mr. Ware Benge, *Bonham, Fannin County, Texas.*
Mr. James B. Likens, *Henderson, Rusk Co., Texas.*
Mr. A. S. Flower, *Mansfield, and DeSoto Parish, La.*
Mr. Clarke Adams, *Plaquemine, and Iberville Parish.*
W. H. McDonald, 102 Nassau street, *New York.*

☞ Those of our town subscribers who do not receive their papers regularly, will please send word to the office.

☞Our Job Office.—We have added to our establishment one of Hoe's Patent Rotary Presses, (capable of printing from 1000 to 1500 cards, circulars, etc., per hour,) and an additional hand-press suitable for pamphlets and large jobs, together with a fine assortment of ornamental type, paper, and blank cards, which enables us to fill orders for every description of printing to any extent in superior style, with great despatch and at unusually low prices.

We present to our readers the compliments of the season, and hope that they may live to enjoy many returns thereof, each fraught with more happiness than its predecessor.

The rains of Sunday night and Monday caused the river to rise a few inches. If the wet weather extended up the river, we will have enough water for good navigation between this port and Alexandria. The Runaway has resumed her trips.

The telegraph was down yesterday, we are therefore unable to give our readers any dispatches.

Ball.—A grand ball will be given at the masonic hall this evening. The well known energy and taste of the gentlemen composing the management is a guarantee that it will be a brilliant affair.

The assessment roll of taxable property in the town of Shreveport, for 1855, has been deposited at the mayor's office, where those interested can examine it, and have any error corrected.

Messrs. Trabue & Kline have on hand a large variety of goods suitable for new year and holyday presents.

Those in want of groceries, dry goods, etc., are referred to Mr. Baer's advertisement. His stock is very heavy, and, as he wishes to sell out before the river rises, will be disposed off at unusually low prices.

Thanks to Mr. Atkinson, of the Fulton, Mr. Alexander, of the Union, and the clerk of the Jean Webre, for forwarding to us from Alexandria late city papers.

Thanks to the clerk of the Trader for late city papers.

We have been requested to state that the regular meeting of the executive board of the Louisiana Baptist State Convention, will be held at Mount Lebanon, Bienville parish, on Saturday, 6th January prox.

We understand that the proprietor of the extensive ice-house at Alexandria, is making arrangements to supply this place with ice during the approaching summer. He proposes to keep a large stock on hand, so as to meet the wants of our citizens, and those of the neighboring towns and country. It will prove a profitable investment.

A young man, named George Walker, was committed to jail on Friday, for killing a man at Bethany. He belongs to Cherokee county, Texas.

Mortality.—The ship Saxon, which arrived at New Orleans on the 9th inst., from Havre, lost sixty-eight passengers by sickness during the voyage.

The baptists of Texas are about to establish a newspaper at Anderson, Grymes county. Such a periodical is much needed in north-western Louisiana.

We have never known any document coming from a president of the United States excite so little attention, or receive so few encomiums, as the recent message of president Pierce. The Delta, the organ of the New Orleans post-office and customhouse, merely states that, it is remarkable that in a document emanating from a president who received the vote of every friend of the acquisition of Cuba in the Union, and whose administration was looked to with so much hope, as the means of adding that to the other glorious territorial acquisitions of our Union, the very word Cuba *never once occurs.* Are all the bright hopes of the best friends of the administration thus to be crushed, or is the solution of the Cuba question to be left to other parties?

The Delta wants to know, "who says there is no justice in New Orleans?" On the 18th inst., William H. Wilder, a notary public, late a leading democratic member of the Louisiana legislature from New Orleans, a member of the democratic executive committee, ex-alderman, land agent, etc., was tried and convicted of fraud on the pension office—a conviction that will consign him for ten years to the penitentiary, if he is caught—for the U. S. marshal, after the jury brought in the verdict, allowed him to escape from custody.

The supreme court of Alabama has decided that a recovery in an action for the hire of a horse, buggy and harness, is not a bar to a subsequent action to recover damages for injuries done to the buggy and harness while in the possession of the bailie; and that, where a case is submitted to the decision of the judge without the intervention of a jury, his decision upon a question of law is revisable upon error or appeal.

A correspondent of the N. Y. Courier and Enquirer advises a writ of democratic inquiren do to ascertain if there be any democratic party left. The same correspondent says that during the Ohio elections senator Bright wrote the most encouraging accounts and was confident of a democratic triumph.

The Pierce papers now and then tell some remarkable truths in regard to the men who compose the administration party. The last Cherokee (Texas) Sentinel, with great justice observes that: "the transactions of the present congress will be watched with more than ordinary interest by the people of the U. States.—Coming from all portions of the Union, and representing 'isms,' and an almost innumerable amount of professing to be the 'mouth piece' of as many different sections, the congress now assembled stands without a parallel in the history of all preceding congressional legislation. The members are, in a word, of the tribe of spirits—black, white and grey,—the propagandists of fanatical interest, and the very head and front of sectional strife and feeling. They have been hurled into power by the revolution of the times, amidst the excitement of political warfare, and the zeal and enthusiasm of petty tricksters, 'Tray, Blanche, Sweetheart and all." It would be a Herculean task to enumerate all the different parties of the day. They are known and designated by so many names, that we would despair of ever making a correct compilation, were we to try the experiment.—The blows of all these parties, of course, are to be concentrated against the present administration. They have been, Judas-like, offered their price and will be found worthy hirelings. They have been found tried examplars of their creed, and possess the proper credentials.—Self-interest is the crowning grace of that creed, and personal aggrandisement the incentive for their crusades. But in vain will the "galled jade wince," and the tongue of persecution retain its cunning. Like the slow and measured fall of drops of water, on the projecting rock below, they will be swept away from their hired calling, and truth will still continue to prevail."

Our cotemporary goes it strong on the "top-loftical," but speaks very truthfully. It is needless to inform our readers that the "*present*" congress is composed almost entirely of Pierceites, and that the men of whom the Sentinel talks so savagely are the leaders of its own party, and all that remains of the late democratic legions. We hope that the Sentinel will enlighten us as to what "price" was demanded by these democratic congressmen, who it was that "offered their price," and by whom they "will be found worthy hirelings." Were they bought up by the executive, to be manufactured into office holders?

Our cotemporary must have been absent from the United States, or has neglected to peruse the papers, for some months past, or he would have known that at the recent elections the people of a majority of the States decided that the members "of the present congress" were unfit and incompetent for the stations they occupy, and therefore elected others to congress, who represent the interests of their constituents and oppose the corrupt principles of Pierce and his soft-shell advisers.

The Mobile Tribune is devoting its attention to tropical cotton. It says that the cotton plant in the West Indies and other tropical regions, grows into a tree and is perrenial. Many of the varieties now cultivated in the U. States probably originated from seed brought from S. America, the West Indies, etc. The "Dean cotton" recently introduced into Alabama and promising the most satisfactory results as to staple and product, is believed to have been introduced from South America. In thus transplanting, the character of the plant is of course essentially changed, becoming here an annual and producing a different staple. We have before us a proof of this fact. A gentleman of Mobile obtained last year from Cuba a small quantity of cotton seed. He planted a portion, which grew rapidly and only from having been cropped down by a horse the plants would have been much taller than any cultivated on the best lands. They afterwards, however, grew off finely and up to the 8th of December have continued green and vigorous and latterly covered with a profusion of blooms. Not a boll has yet matured, but notwithstanding the severe frosts and ice blossoms continue to open. The shape of the leaf and color of the flower are quite different from those of the Petit Gulf and other kinds usually cultivated. A valuable sort may yet be originated from these seed.

A commercial friend, writing to us from N. York, under date of the 10th inst., says, we should not expect good times, although it is possible the country may get practically independent of transatlantic troubles. But the war necessarily limits the consumption of our cotton, while by fixing war-prices on provisions, it injures our own consumers to an amount far beyond any general benefit to the country at large, from the export of breadstuffs. It injures trade, wastes money, sustains a feverish and unsettled feeling in everything, and keeps alive a dread that the United States may be obliged to pay in gold every dollar of debt they may have abroad in any way. Financially, it would have been better for England, France and the U. States, had Nicholas been allowed to drive every Turk in Europe into the Bosphorus, and had the three nations given him one hundred millions of dollars for necessary expenses. The end to France and England is not yet. Our great hope is that the United States may soon be out of debt and out of danger. She is paying her foreign debt very rapidly, while her new engagements are exceedingly limited.

Jurors.—In a criminal case now on trial in the United States circuit court, chief justice Taney has decided the following to be the proper qualifications for a juror to try the issue:

"If the juror has formed an opinion that the prisoners are guilty, and entertains that opinion now, without waiting to hear the testimony, then he is incompetent. But if, from reading the newspapers or hearing reports, he has impressions on his mind unfavorable to the prisoners, but has no opinion or prejudice which will prevent him from doing impartial justice when he hears the testimony, then he is competent."

The general observance of this decision in our courts, coming as it does from so high a source and as legally correct as it is in accordance with common sense, will have the happiest effect in doing away with the chicanery that in too many instances excludes men of honesty and intelligence from the jury box.

The Richmond Enquirer warned the democratic convention of Virginia not to commit the indiscretion of passing any resolutions. It admits that there is no principle, no doctrine upon which the democratic party of Virginia can agree, not even the Nebraska bill, and says that any resolutions upon any subject will only develop discord.

The Union makes a pitiful appeal to the "conservative whigs" to sustain the administration. "The voice of Henry Clay and Daniel Webster," it exclaims "is not yet extinct"—"the proud and lofty spirit of the olden time," it plaintively urges "has not been lost," and on the strength of these loud sounding phrases it exhorts the whigs to come to the aid of the "broad, bold and defiant vitality" that exists in the Pierce party. To this half blarneying, half beseeching language, which we suppose was penned by the editor of the Irish portion of the Union, the Baltimore Patriot properly wants to know, what can have brought the Pierce organ to the depth of self-stultification implied by this appeal to the whigs. It is difficult to answer. Certainly the condition of the office-holders' party, and its organs, must be desperate and its danger most imminent when it consents to seek succor from those whom it has spent a life-time in maligning, and between whom and itself it has been widening for years the great gulf of partisan bitterness and corrupt political demagogueism. With irreverent hypocrisy it invokes the memory of Clay and Webster; but if those distinguishing men were now living, would not they be found battling with all their strength of noble purpose and lofty intellect for the country and against the Union, president Pierce and his freesoil and abolition myrmidons in office? It would be a foul slander on their great names to suppose otherwise. An administration that has, like the Pierce, endeavored to rule the country and to perpetuate its own power by an organised system of public rewards and penalties—that enforces its purposes with promises of official patronage and frightens malcontents with the penalties of removal from office—which stoops to interfere in local elections, and whose petty tools in office are ever found to be the most conspicuous, busy and noisy persons to be seen at a State, parish, or village election; and whose partisans even when elevated to office and living on the public cannot refrain from intermeddling in an election, if it be but for a constable or a watchman—an administration, which coming into power on express obligations to discountenance agitation within or without congress, has itself blown, kindled and nursed to a flame the fire-brand that has convulsed the country—such an administration as this, famous for its political tergiversations and notorious for its national offences—can have no claim upon the consideration of national or conservative whigs, and will in vain seek to rally them to its support even by the powerful incarnation of the names of the illustrious dead. The followers of Clay and Webster will never stoop so low to aid the spoils party.

Were the dangers to the country and the constitution, which the Union, with its usual toadyism to foreigners, pretends to ascribe to the know nothing movement real, and were it in truth that combination of proscriptiveness and demagogueism that it is represented to be by the Pierce organ and office-holders, the conservative, national whigs, as true Americans, would look elsewhere, and to a higher ground than the present administration can offer, for the rallying point on which the hopes of the country could be placed and safely defended. The Union must learn that between itself and those it seeks to address there are no affinities—that the well founded deep distrust with which every true whig looks upon the administration of Mr. Pierce, must forever prevent them from uniting with it in any effort, or entertaining with it any common purpose. Wrecked, stranded and disconsolate, with the condemnation of the nation recorded against it, that administration must fight its own battles, and fall back for succour upon the "bold, broad and defiant vitality" of which the Union prates, and which, we suppose, means the New York soft-shell freesoilers and office-holders. Whigs have had no confidence in the Pierce democracy in its days of power, and can feel no sympathy for its reverses. It may seek to die gracefully by covering itself with the drapery of the constitution, which it has soiled and polluted, but the talent of the performer is not sufficient to hide the stage trick from the audience. Let the curtain fall—it is in vain to make a tragedy out of what is merely a passable farce.

The last number of Blackwood's Magazine contains an interesting paper on the "inhabitants of the stars," which displays great ability, and deals tremendous blows, right and left, to those philosophers who have speculated so much and so inconclusively on this subject.—The venerable sir David Brewster, who has so warmly espoused the side of the question which supposes the stars to be inhabited, as being the 'hope of the christian,' receives a severe criticism. Sir David has certainly some very singular notions respecting the stars being inhabited, and in his answer to doctor Whewell, who has written a work to prove that the earth alone of all the planets is inhabitable, asks, "is it necessary that an immortal soul should be hung upon a skeleton of bone; must it see with two eyes, and hear with two ears, and touch with ten fingers, and rest on a duality of limbs?—May it not rest in a Polyphemus with one eyeball, or in an Argus with a hundred? May it not reign in the giant forms of the Titans, and direct the hundred hands of Briareus? The being of another world may have his home in subterranean cities warmed by central fires, or in crystal caves cooled by ocean tides, or he may float with the nereids upon the deep; or mount upon wings as eagles; or rise upon the pinions of the dove, that he may flee away and be at rest." The Scotch philosopher is more speculative and eloquent than he is argumentative and orthodox. Supposing it were true that immortal souls were in the stars, and dwelt in beings mounting on eagles wings, what has that to do with the hope of the christian? Supposing all the planets to be devoid of life, what has that to do with religion, or its hopes? Nothing at all. This system of speculating in the physical sciences, independent of any solid proofs, one way or the other, and dragging in religion into such controversies, neither honors the authors of religious books, nor adds a single laurel to the chaplet of the sciences. An immortal soul in a dove would not make that bird human; nor will we ever be able to tell whether Mars or Jupiter contain a single living object.

A bill passed the council of the Cherokee nation, which was in session last month, authorising the principal chief to appoint five delegates to visit Washington, for the purpose of effecting the sale of the neutral lands with the United States.

The New York merchants are watching with no little anxiety the mission of Mr. E. K. Collins to Washington, in reference to the transfer of his ocean steamers to the belligerent powers.

The "scarcity of paper," meets our eye almost every time we open a sheet from the north, south, or east, and it divides the printers' attention equally with the seige of Sebastapol, the invincibleness of the know nothings, and the imbecility of the Pierce administration. The amount of capital and labor employed in the manufacture of paper, is beyond the conception of many of the readers of the South-Western.—To give some idea, we must have recourse to figures. Messrs. E. R. Stevens & Co., the great paper importers of the south, inform us that in the United States there are 750 mills, which manufacture 270,000,000 lbs. of paper annually; valued at $27,000,000. About 405,000,000 lbs. of rags are consumed, which at the rate of four cents ℔ lb., are worth $16,200,000. The cost of manufacturing is near $4,050,000, which together with the cost of material, amounts to $23,639,000, actual expenditure in manufacturing paper worth $27,000,000. This leaves $3,365,000 as a profit to be divided between 750 mills. The extraordinary high prices now demanded for paper have caused some of the leading journals, after due consideration, to offer a premium of $20,000 for the discovery of a cheap and perfect substitute for rags as a material for the manufacture of paper; which would indicate that they were threatened with serious embarrassment under the present rule of figures. Many experiments have been made, and the only one we notice likely to prove successful is an invention of doctor Antisell, of New York, who is about forming a company for producing the pulp used in the manufacture of paper, which the Tribune thinks can be made into paper, and be at least 35 per cent. cheaper than it can be at present afforded by our paper manufacturers. A new mode has been discovered, according to which the stamping process for reducing the materials to a pulp is altogether dispensed with. The raw materials, we believe, require no care. Once placed in the mill, the pulp will be ready for the hands of the manufacturer, freed from all impurities, and at the same time securing everything useful in the original ingredients.—The bleaching process is believed to be superior to any now in use. By it the inventor thinks he not only secures a perfect white tint, but changes the character of the resinous and oily substances present in the material; also, creating strength by its combination with the fibrous material. Moreover, a most perfect substance is procured, capable of being finished into first quality of bank, post, writing and drawing paper; indeed, into any sort of paper, from that used for engravings to the coarsest wrapping. The pulps are prepared on a novel principle. Those used for pressboards or steam packing are non-conductive, and made incapable of soaking water, while those designed for the finer qualities are of the opposite character. The cost of the "grates" in their natural state on an average is $1 ℔ 100 lbs.; the labor thereon 1½ cents; making the full price $2 25 ℔ 100 lbs. The same pulp will be produced by the process under consideration—that of doctor Antisell—at 25 cents ℔ 100 lbs., while reducing the loss from waste from 45 to 15 ℔ cent. The pulp furnished to the paper maker will be from grasses costing $50 for every 2000 lbs. of pure bleached pulp ready to be made into any paper required, and to be put upon the paper machine at once. Allowing 100 ℔ cent. to the paper maker for the use of his mill, the paper can be supplied to printers at 4 cents ℔ lb., including commissions, agent's fees, insurance and storage. While we are waiting the completion of new inventions, it would be wise for the paper mills to make use of the lower grades of cotton as a substitute for rags. At present prices it would pay better than any investment we know of.

Human Life.—The comparative mortality of the north (north of the southern line of Virginia and Kentucky) and of the south, has just been curiously developed in some tables published by the Mutual Life Insurance company of New York. From ten years' practical results, it appears that the mortality among that class of persons who insure their lives north of the line named above is less than one per cent—viz: about 94 in every 10,000.

In that section comprised between the 32d deg. of north latitude (a few miles south of Savannah) and the southern line of Virginia and Kentucky, the mortality among the same class of people is 1. 17½ per cent—or 117½ persons out of every 10,000.

Looking to the extreme southern states, or south of latitude 32 deg., the mortality is nearly double that of the northern section—the actual number out of 10,000 (as insured) being 186. These calculations are entirely exclusive of the present year, which has perhaps been more fatal in the south than any period since 1830. The actuary of the insurance company reports that—"the disparity in the ratio of the amount of claims from death to the amount of risk in these three sections of country, has usually been even greater than that of the simple mortality in them. Thus, during the first six months of the present fiscal year, (from 1st Feb. to 1st Aug.) the company has had at risk in the first section $1,800,000, while the amount of claims in the section has been $68,5000, or $38 out of every $10,000 assured. In the second section the amount at risk is $1,500,000, and the amount of claims during the same time has been $20,000, or $133 out of every $10,000 assured. In the third section the amount at risk is $1,634,000, while the amount of claims during the same time is $42,800, or $262 out of every $10,000 assured."

The New York Express, in commenting at length on the facts as here set forth, remarks: "The increased mortality at the south has compelled the company to advance their rates of premium on lives insured there. The usual rate of additional premium for persons at the south has been heretofore one per cent. This, it is now shown, is not enough to cover the actual risk, the company will therefore advance the premium two per cent beyond the ordinary rate of persons in northern latitudes."

A correspondent of the New York Tribune, writing from Wayne county, Pennsylvania, under date of the 5th instant, states that his honor James M. Porter, president judge in his charge to the grand jury, at the present term of court in said county, asserted that they were bound by their oaths to bring an indictment against every member of a know nothing council, under their knowledge, in the said county, and that, although men could not be made to testify against themselves, yet they would be bound to bear witness against a brother. The judge considered the association unconstitutional, and should come under the ban of the law. It is said two-thirds of the grand jury are members of the organization, and it is supposed they will "respectfully demur."

Africans in their Native Land.—Rev. John Beechman, of the London Wesleyan mission, has made a lengthy and elaborate report of the condition of the negroes inhabiting the gold coast of Africa, from which we make the following extract:

"Scarcely has one of their barbarous and bloody customs been abandoned, from the earliest period of which anything is known of them. They still pave their court yards, palaces, and even the streets or market places of their villages or towns with the skulls of those butchered in wars, at feasts, funerals, or at sacrifices to Bossum. Still their wives and slaves are buried alive with the deceased husband or master. When Adahanzen died, two hundred and eighty of his wives were butchered before the arrival of his successor, which put a stop to it only to increase the flow of blood and the number of deaths in other ways. The remaining living wives were buried alive! amidst dancing, singing, and bewailing, the noise of horns, drums, muskets, yells, groans, and screechings, the women, marching by headless trunks, bedaubed themselves with earth and blood. Their victims were marched along with large knives passed through their cheeks. The executioners struggle for the bloody office, while the victims look on and endure with apathy. They are too familiar with the horrid sacrifice to show terror, or to imagine that all was not as it should be. Their hands were first chopped off, and then their heads sawed off, to prolong the amusement. Even some who assisted to fill the grave were bustled in alive, in order to add to the sport or solemnity of the scene. Upon the death of a king's brother, four thousand victims were thus sacrificed. These ceremonies are often repeated, and hundreds slaughtered at every rehearsal. Upon the death of a king of Ashantee, a general massacre takes place, in which there can be no computation of the victims.

"At their yam customs.' Mr. Bowditch witnessed spectacles of the most appalling kind. 'Every carboceer, or noble, sacrificed a slave as he entered the gate. Heads and skulls formed the ornaments of their processions. Hundreds were slain, and the streaming and steaming blood of the victims was mingled in a vast brass pan, with various compost vegetable and animal matter, fresh as well as purid, to a powerful fetiche. At these customs the same scenes of butchery and slaughter occur. The king's executioners traverse the city, killing all they meet. The next day, desolation reigns over the land. The king, during the bloody saturnalia, looked on eagerly, and danced in his chair with delight.

The king of Damomey paves the approaches to his residence and ornaments the battlements of his palace with the skulls of his victims, and the great fetiche tree at Badagry has its wide spread limbs laden with human carcasses and limbs. This would be a fine field for Mrs. Stowe to display her love and philanthropy for the negro race.

At the beginning of the present month the inhabitants of Vera Cruz were much astonished and alarmed by dead fish being cast on the beach from the sea. In such quantities were they thrown up that the authorities adjudged it necessary to take active measures to provide against an ill effect on the public health among others, having them buried, and prohibiting the sale of any fish in the markets or about the city. Orders had been transmitted to all adjacent districts to have similar precautions adopted. An examination of the fish having been ordered to be made, the military medical corps reported that the fish were found, although quite fresh, with such an extraordinary extent of tumefaction that their eyes were started from their orbits, while their intestines were swoolen to the utmost extent by gases. The presence of no poisonous agent, either mineral or vegetable, could be detected by the tests applied. On immersing them and the fish in lime water an enormous quantity of carbonic acid gas was envolved, and this agent is therefore concluded to have been the immediate cause of the extraordinary mortality. A sub marine volcanic eruption is conjectured to have been a source from which it was furnished. The opinion is offered on the authority of statements made by baron Humboldt, in his "Cosmos." In 1821, it is said, a similar phenomenon occurred in the Mediterranean, when the shores of Corfu, Cephalonia, and Albania were infected by it. There and in adjacent provinces it caused a very destructive typhoid epidemic. At latest accounts, the quantity being thrown ashore at Vera Cruz had not diminished.

The Washington Union, in an effort to explain its recent course, says: "We have no hesitation in repeating emphatically that the true democratic position is one of uncompromising antagonism to the secret order of know-nothingism. But this does not imply that our party is not ready to accede to such reasonable amendments of the naturalization laws as time and experience have pointed out as necessary and proper. Neither does it commit us to the approval or defence of naturalized citizens when their demeanor is such as to subject them to censure.

"The spirit of the naturalization laws expects those who enjoy its benefits to become Americanized in sentiment, in feeling, in demeanor, and in a hearty and exclusive allegiance to our own government. The democracy of the Union will never hesitate so to amend the laws as to secure these ends. But they cannot and will not seek to secure these objects by a crusade of intolerance against foreigners, as illiberal as it is unconstitutional."

A fugitive from justice named Alonzo S. Lewis, was arrested in Liberty city, Mississippi, near the state line, a few days since, and brought back to New Orleans. Lewis is accused of the murder of a man named James McBride, in the parish of Union, Louisiana, on the 7th of October, 1853, by stabbing him to the heart, it is said, in a most cruel and cold-blooded manner. He was indicted, says the Delta, and brought before the twelfth judicial district court for trial: but owing to the inability of the court to get a jury, because of the full expression of opinion on the part of the people regarding the murder, he was remanded. On the night of the 20th of November, 1853, he broke jail and fled. A proclamation for his arrest was issued by the governor, offering a reward of $250. He was arrested, and is now in custody, he does not deny his identity. This man is very wealthy and is respectably connected.

The following, from the Paris correspondence of the London Times, will be read with interest:

"The idea that we are destined to have a campaign this winter on the Rhine—that is, against Prussia—is becoming more general and more accredited every day in some of the highest political circles. It is considered impossible that the tergiversations of that power can much longer be tolerated, and the project for the establishment of the camp of the north, as indicated when it was first formed, appears to be the real one after all. What effect the fall of Sebastopol before the winter season sets in would produce on the policy of that dishonest government, it is difficult to say. It would, perhaps, compel it to declare itself frankly on the side of the allies, but it is better to be prepared for all emergencies. The notes that have recently passed between France and Prussia, are it appears, very strong and very decided. They are, indeed, of that kind which precede, at no great interval, a suspension of all friendly relations whatever, if not a declaration of hostilities. The probability, too, of an alliance, defensive, between England, France, and Austria, with a view to such an eventuality, as a war with Prussia, is spoken of, and the bases of such a treaty are said to have been already discussed and agreed upon. Nevertheless, it is believed by some that the policy of Prussia would be considerably modified in the event of another serious check to Russia. In the meantime reinforcements continue to be sent to the Crimea from various places, and the camp of the south will alone furnish over 10,000 men."

The Condition of the Allies.—The position of the allies in the Crimea is most indubitable a critical one, and calculated to arouse the fears both of England and France. The defences of Sebastopol were declared by competent engineers, previous to the assault, to be impregnable, or if carried by assault, it would cost 30,000 men. These predictions seem about to be verified. Seventeen thousand men have fallen among the allied troops since they landed in the Crimea, and the prospects of success are anything than encouraging. A Paris correspondent of the Times gives the following unpromising condition of the besieged city: "The town is reported ready for assault, but it is also known that every fort and every street is undermined. All the stores have been transferred to the north side of the harbor, and when the beseigers shall have driven the remnant of the besieged foot by foot to the water's edge, they will plunge into the harbor, and at the same moment the great mine under the whole city and its forts will be sprung, reducing Sebastopol instantaneous to a mass of ruins.

This is the juncture at which it is expected that Menschikoff, with his entire force, will fall upon the allied army.

A Washington letter to the New York Courier says that the president will make a nomination for governor of Utah soon after the meeting of congress. As Bringham Young has declared his independence of the president of the United States, it is thought judicious to send his successor armed with the additional authority which may be conferred by the confirmation of the senate. The general opinion that the governorship of Utah is vacant, we learn upon examination of the law of congress creating the office, is not well founded. The act makes a special provision that on the expiration of his term the governor shall continue in office until his successor shall arrive. Governor Young, therefore, will continue to exercise his functions probably until next spring. There is a gentleman passing the winter in those Alpine regions in whom the government reposes the utmost confidence. This is lieutenant-colonel Steptoe, of the artillery. He has with him a respectable force, consisting of a detachment of the regular army. His instructions are to look well after the interest of the general government among the mountaineers.

The California Advocate reports the case of a man arrested at San Francisco for bigamy, on whose examination the following facts were elicited. A certificate was produced that James Mulqueen and Sarah J. Summers were married in the parish of Streatham, Surry, April 10th, 1848. Much corroborative testimony showed a legal marriage, according to the common and civil laws of England and the United States. That a Roman catholic priest, Francis Llebaria, vicar general, had assumed to annul this marriage, and to marry Mr. Mulqueen to another woman—a Miss Margaret Bride, on the 26th of last June. The following is a copy of the certificate of the priest:

"Having attended to all the reasons presented by Mr. James Mulqueen, and finding out that Mrs. Sarah J. Summers, his pretended wife, was not baptised, neither dispensation has been given in order to contract legally before the church, and further, not being married by any magistrate lawfully authorized, we declare that such marriage never existed, and is null and void. Therefore both parties remain free as before. Francis Llebaria, vicar general.
San Francisco, June 24th, 1854."

Female Education.—The following remarks of the New York Times, contains suggestions that are worthy of general consideration among those who are interested in the subject of female education:

Why are there no convention of teachers of female schools? A large number of accomplished gentlemen in various sections of the country are enthusiastially devoted to this department of education. Ladies, too, by scores, are in the same work. Female education in the United States is rapidly becoming an interest of immense magnitude. It has awakened a vast degree of solicitude, and in some sections of the Union—the southern states particularly—has well nigh reached the borders of a mania. But so far as we have seen, no organized effort has yet been made to mature the system of female education. That various errors exist, none can doubt. Popular opinion needs very decided correction, and teachers themselves might be much more judicious in their modes of operation. If there were a general interchange among the friends of female education, much might be done towards improving the system. Its wasteful extravagances, enormous prices, foolish exaggerations of light and useless matters, and numerous other points might be considered fully and a state of sentiment developed that would cure them. Looking at female education as one of the most attractive and noble movements of our day, we have often been surprised that nothing was done by means of associated action to promote so good and so great a cause. A few masters or mistress spirits, just now, could effect a vast deal of benefit for society, by taking hold of this matter and showing what could be done towards elevating it to its rightful place among the best and purest agencies of modern civilization.

Hundreds of cows that range in the pine woods of the southern states do not give a quart of milk a day, and we have often seen the milking of a cow in a pint cup, without filling it. The animals are generally poor, small, scragged creatures, and their calves look like foals of the mother of the woolly horse. It is a common thing that planters with large herds have to buy butter and do without milk. The deficiency is generally charged to the climate, this is not the cause. The truth is to be found in the fact that the natural grass of the extensive pine lands of all the southern states is almost entirely destitute of phosphate of lime, without which the cow cannot produce abundant milk, her calf cannot grow rapidly, for it gets no bone material. Don't say, "what fools, why don't they add phosphates to their soil if it is destitute of that important ingredient of fertility?" Look in the glass—see yourself. Look at your own pastures. They may not be as bad, they may be made better. [Mobile Tribune.

We find the following estimate of the annual cost of articles of dress in the United States, in our exchanges: $500,000,000 are spent annually in the United States for such articles of dress as are subject to the fluctuations of fashion. Of this sum it is computed that $16,000,000 are for hats, and probably $20,000,000 are for caps and bonnets, and for other articles of dress no less than $400,000,000—so that not far from a million and a half of dollars are spent daily for clothing.

A California correspondent of the St. Louis Republican, proposes the establishment of a regular daily overland mail from San Francisco to St. Louis, by means of stage companies. The distance would not exceed 1800 miles, and the journey, it is reckoned, could be performed easily in fifteen days, at a cost of $100 each passenger.

Cotton Picking.—During four days of week before last three of the negroes on Matt. F. Ward's Arkansas plantation, (Willowby) picked out 9,846 lbs. of cotton—the first 3,195; the second 3,317; the third 3,334 lbs. Mr. Ward says that the daily average for each of his whole working force, during the week had been as high as 600 and never below 500 pounds.

An immense number of workmen are reported to have been thrown out of employment in New York, last week. Five hundred men were discharged from one of the principal iron works near the dry dock on the 1st inst. The cause assigned for this deplorable state of affairs was the general depression in manufacturing business, and the difficulty of collecting money and closing contracts.

General Intelligence.

New York, Dec. 18.—The cotton market here is dull, with no material change in the rates. Flour steady, with no material change in the rates. Ohio brands at $8 75 @ $9. Corn is in fair request, 96c. per bushel. The provision market is quiet at previous rates.

Louisville, Dec. 18.—The river here is at a stand, with scant 28 inches water in the canal. Weather cold. Nothing of any moment doing in the market. Hogs are held rather higher, with no transactions of any consequence. The flour market is dull at $7 @ $7 70 per barrel.

The board of inspectors have suspended Captain Cable and Alexander Bois, pilots on the Mary Jewett and N. W. Graham, at the time those boats came into collision.

Boston, Dec. 18.—There has been quite a monetary panic in this city to-day. Numerous failures among the stock brokers and others are reported, and much excitement prevailed.

Baton Rouge, Dec. 18.—Dr. John Perkins, know nothing, is undoubtedly elected to fill the vacancy in the delegation to the house from this parish, caused by L. Knox, the regular democratic nominee. Dr. Perkins has a majority of 174 at this poll, and a large majority at Spring Hill.

All the bar-rooms in the city were closed at 9 o'clock to-day. Every thing passed off quietly and without any tendency to disturbance.

Washington, Dec. 11.—In the senate to-day, Mr. Adams introduced a bill to increase the naturalization period to twenty-one years; the bill, if passed, to take effect on all foreigners arriving in the country immediately on its passage.

Mr. Adams spoke at length in favor of his proposition, and said that emigration from foreign countries to the United States should be discouraged, as dangerous to the peaceful welfare of the country, and that foreigners were banded with abolitionists. Mr. Adams also said that he was a know nothing so far as he understood the doctrine of that party, though not a member of the order.

The bill was read and referred.

Mr. A. is a senator from Mississippi, and a democrat.

In the house, Mr. Clingman asked leave to introduce a bill empowering the president to offer the mediation of the United States between Russia and the allies.

Leave was refused.

Mr. Giddings opposed the reference of the president's message to the various standing committees of the house. The document was, as usual, referred, disposed of in that manner.

In the senate yesterday, rev. Mr. Slicer was elected chaplain. No business of importance was transacted. The house passed the invalid pension bill.

Philadelphia, Dec. 12.—The extensive chandelier and gas fixture establishment of Mr. Cornelius, in this city, was entirely consumed by fire to-day. The loss is estimated at a quarter of a million of dollars.

New York, Dec. 12.—Our market for cotton is dull and prices tend downward. The flour market remains firm at 8 75 to 9 25 for good Ohio.

Boston, Dec. 11.—Messrs. J. W. Blodgett & Co., dry goods merchants, doing business in the trade in New England, have failed. Their liabilities are fully two millions of dollars.

J. V. C. Smith, know nothing, was to-day re-elected mayor of this city, by a majority of 1,253 votes. The entire know nothing ticket for aldermen is chosen while the whigs have probably elected a few members of the common council.

Rochester, N. Y. Dec. 11.—The entire know nothing ticket for municipal officers was elected in this city to-day.

Pittsburg, Dec. 11.—It has been snowing here to-day, but the snow melted about as fast as it fell.

Louisville, Dec. 12.—Col. Carpenter, who conducted the case for the prosecution in the late Webb trial, was shot at Covington, in this State, yesterday, by a Mr. Perkins. Col. Carpenter's wounds are considered of a fatal nature.

St. Louis, Dec. 12.—Jackson, charged with the murder of Laidlaw, the scene painter, has been acquitted.

A fire last night destroyed the large factory of Messrs. Goodwin & Stewart, in this city. The loss is estimated at $20,000, on which there is but $4000 insurance.

The Cincinnati Columbian says, we learn that, owing to the financial crisis, through which we have just past, the business in the sheriff's office has been largely increased. It is believed to be sixty per cent. larger than during the corresponding periods of former years. Even with all this, our citizens may congratulate themselves upon the comparative safety with which they have sustained themselves during the pressure.

At Pittsburg, on the 11th inst., the river was on a stand, with thirty-three inches water in channel—Rain fell all day on the 10th. On the 11th, the weather was warm and cloudy.

Cincinnati papers of the 11th inst., say, the New Orleans house of Taylor & Cassedy has suspended. Their assetts, however, largely exceed their liabilities.

In New York, on the 11th inst., it was reported that one of the bellegerent governments of Europe have offered $750,000 each for the Collins steamships for the purpose of transporting troops to the seat of war in the east.

Philadelphia papers of the 9th inst., say that the amount of $25,000 has been raised in that city, to be applied to the purpose of securing a pardon for Beale, the dentist, lately sentenced to imprisonment, hard labor, in the penitentiary, for violating a young lady who had gone to him for professional service, after having put her under the influence of chloroform.

The Charlottesville Jeffersonian states that the typhoid fever is prevailing to a considerable extent in some sections of Albermarle county, Virginia.—Seven of the members of the white family of colonel Thomas J. Randolph are now down with it, and other cases exist among his slaves.

The London correspondent of the N. York Times says he "has the most positive and highly respectable information that lord Raglan is in favor of giving up, for this year, the siege, and that he will come home to that effect, remarking that retreat will become a question of safety unless he should, in the next fortnight, be reinforced by considerable numbers of all arms.

The Next Presidency.—From present indications Mr. Fillmore will be our next president, and Mr. Pollock, governor of Pennsylvania, our next vice president, without opposition. Mr. Clayton does not say, but we infer that, in speaking of these popular men in the great States of New York and Pennsylvania, he intended to give a hint to the most knowing of the know nothings, which they would do well to profit by. [Boston Mail.

Louisville, Dec. 11.—The total number of logs killed around the falls this season to date, is 170,000 against 189,000 last year to the same time. The river has fallen six inches.

A complaint was recently made to the synod of Cincinnati, against the presbytery of that city, for violating the fourth commandment, in appointing committees to install two pastors on the Sabbath. The synod refused to sustain the complaint, but recommended to all the presbyteries to refrain in all ordinary cases, from ordinations and installations on that day."

The municipal election in Savannah took place on the 4th instant, and resulted in the complete success of the people's ticket for mayor and aldermen. Edward C. Anderson, the people's candidate for mayor, was elected by a majority of 250 over doctor Richard Wayne, the democratic candidate.

The people of New Orleans will read with surprise the following paragraph, which we extract from the report of the secretary of the treasury:

"The attention of congress is particularly called to that part of the report of capt. Bowman, of the engineer corps, which relates to the custom-house being built in New Orleans.

It satisfactorily appears that the foundation is not sufficient for the weight and character of the superstructure, as specified in the plan, according to which congress has directed it to built; and that there is urgent necessity to modify the plan and remedy the evil as far as practicable, and a modification of the plan as indicated by capt. Bowman is recommended."

At the time the foundation alluded to was being laid, it was reported by competent judges, among them, we believe, col. Turnbull