"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.....FEBRUARY 13, 1856.

AGENTS FOR THE SOUTH-WESTERN:
COL. T. W. BLEDSOE, *Fillmore, Bossier parish.*
Messrs. J. M. & J. C. MURPHY, *Jefferson, Texas.*
Mr. WARE BENGE, *Bonham, Fannin County, Texas.*
Mr. JAMES B. LIKENS, *Henderson, Rusk Co., Texas.*
Mr. CLARKE ADAMS, *Plaquemine, and Iberville Parish.*
W. H. McDONALD, 102 Nassau street, *New York.*
THOS. McINTYRE, 28 Camp street, *New Orleans.*

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

The river continues to rise slowly, and there is now sufficient water to afford navigation for the largest class of boats. Since our last the Storm, Linda, H. M. Wright, Alida, Effort, Rosa, Grenada and Pelican have arrived from New Orleans; the Lone Star from the falls; the R. M. Jones, White Cliffs and Financier from Jefferson; and the Runaway from upper Red River.

ELECTION.—An election will be held on Saturday, at the courthouse, for an additional constable for Shreveport. At Greenwood, for a constable. And in the third ward, Caddo parish, for a justice of the peace and a constable.

The commanders of steamboats engaged in the Shreveport and New Orleans trade, have fixed their rates for this season, at $2 per bale for cotton, and $20 for cabin passage.

Governor Hébert, on the 1st inst., sent to the legislature his veto on the bill passed at the last session to loan $5000 to the rev'd S. P. Helme's collegiate institution, out of the public school accumulating fund. The senate concurred in the governor's views.

The slave Frederick, convicted of setting fire to his master's cotton-gin, was hung in the jail yard on Friday. We trust his end will prove a warning to evil-doers.

A number of petty thefts and robberies have been committed during the past few days, and our citizens would do well to be on the look out for such visitors.

We regret to learn that doctor A. Flournoy was thrown from his horse on Friday, and severely injured. We hope he will be speedily restored to health.

DIVINE SERVICE.—The reverend Mr. New, will preach in the methodist church, on Sunday next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

CONCERT.—The ladies intend giving a grand vocal and instrumental concert, on Monday evening, 25th inst., for the benefit of the methodist church.

Thanks to the hon. John Slidell for public documents.

Colonel Thompson, our representative in the legislature, has our thanks for various public documents.

Thanks to Mr. S. A. Whyte, clerk of the Storm, Mr. Remondet, clerk of the Lone Star, Mr. Murdock, clerk of the Linda, Mr. Perry, clerk of the H. M. Wright, Mr. J. T. Alban, of the Alida, captain Dowd, of the Rosa, Mr Bayless, of the Grenada, and the clerk of the Effort for late New Orleans papers.

COTTON SEED.—Planters are referred to the advertisement of premium Petit Gulf cotton seed. Advantage should be taken of the opportunity to secure a superior article for the approaching planting season.

TO PASSENGERS.—The magnificent steamer H. M. Wright, captain J. D. Clarke, will leave this port on her next trip to New Orleans, on Tuesday, 26th inst., positively. She is one of the finest boats afloat, and her accommodations unrivalled; besides her officers are experienced and polite gentlemen. Passengers would do well to avail themselves of so desirable a conveyance.

THE BANJO HAS COME!—Ned Davis' minstrels performed last night to a large and appreciating audience, and gave universal satisfaction. The humor of the inimitable Ned Davis kept the audience in a roar of laughter; the far famed Wm. Penn Lehr, was decidedly good in his banjo solo; while S. L. Weed, as a bone player and jig dancer, has few if any equals. The vocal and instrumental music was very fine, and take it all in all was the best entertainment we have had here for many years. The company will remain here all this week, after which they will proceed to Jefferson, where they perform on Monday next, 19th inst., and continue for four days; going from thence to Port Caddo, performing there on Friday, 23d inst.; and then returning to the Mississippi river. Let all those who have not heard this "star company" avail themselves of the opportunity.

We were a few days since favored with a visit from judge Grinsted, of the Jefferson Herald. He speaks enthusiastically of the prosperity of Jefferson, and estimates that there are now between 25,000 and 30,000 bales of cotton stored at that place.

We regret being forced to record the election of Banks, the candidate of the black republicans and abolitionists, to the speakership of the U. S. house of representatives, and trust that the southern people will call to a strict account any of their delegates who may have voted for such an unprincipled demagogue.

There was quite an excitement in the New Orleans cotton market, on the 1st inst., occasioned by the receipt of the Liverpool advices per steamship Arabia, and 20,000 bales were sold at an advance of ⅛@¼c. ℔ lb.

On the 1st inst., 9000 sacks of coffee were sold in New Orleans, at 10¾@11½ cts. ℔ lb.

The Delta states that during the night of the 3d inst., it was freezing all the time, and on the morning of the 4th the thickest ice ever seen in New Orleans glistened on the top of every cistern; even hydrants were frozen into an impenetrable condition. We doubt its being the "thickest ice ever seen in New Orleans," for we many years ago beheld with our own eyes ladies and gentlemen skating on the old Goose pond, where now stands the Poydras market.

Governor Wickliffe's inaugural address came to hand at too late an hour for our last publication. It is a well written document, although much longer than the majority of similar effusions; but our new governor is a young man, and verbosity appears to be a passion with political tyros. He opens with an allusion to his newly assumed dignities and responsibilities, and proceeds to define his policy, taking advantage of the opportunity to advert to congressional usurpations over the rights of the States, and to inform the public that, if unchecked, they will ultimately occasion a disruption of the Union. This is a favorite string with newly elevated democrats, and it appears to be one of the cardinal "principles" of the party that they should play a tune upon it.—Poor, inflated, vain mortal! Why an hundred thousand such men as our governor could neither save nor destroy the Union. He mounts the southern rights steed, and invokes a combination of the whole south for resistance to northern aggression, and declares that the equilibrium of the south must be maintained in the United States senate, or she will be driven out of the Union. He next refers to the purity of the ballot-box, a subject in which every American is deeply interested, and to the disgraceful outrages perpetrated at the polls in N. Orleans; and alludes to the necessity of a sound and permanent charter being framed for that sadly abused and mismanaged city, and in this instance expresses himself in a language worthy of encomium. He says:

"New Orleans exercises a large control in the legislation of the State, and a very large influence in general elections; hence, every restriction should be placed upon her to prevent her corporate power from being abused to promote party purposes. It is much to be feared that those who have had, from time to time, the control of the city government, used it to perpetuate their own power; and a vacillating policy in the legislation is the natural and necessary result. Political ascendency, attained through the unjust or unfair use of municipal power, irritates antagonistic political parties; and the defeated combination in a temporary majority in the assembly, modifies the charter to promote its own future success. Let us strive for better things hereafter, profiting by the past, and trusting that the late disgraceful scenes in New Orleans will be a warning that will be heeded by all good citizens; give to the city a just charter, and leave the future in her own hands."

The new governor announces himself to be in favor of internal improvements and railroads. He is opposed to the old system of legislation in regard to community property, forced heirship and tacit mortgages. He promises to appoint none but competent persons to office, and we sincerely trust will remember the promise. He walks strongly into the Americans, applies to them all the hackneyed and stereotyped invectives he so bountifully dispensed during the late canvass, and congratulates the legislature upon the triumph of the democracy—meaning thereby, of course, the election of his individual self and the democratic legislators to office. Well, they ought to congratulate one another, for they were very lucky indeed.

Governor Wickliffe enters upon the duties of his office surrounded by public officials and a legislature professing the same creed as himself, and anxious to obey his behests, and we hope his administration will prove an honor to the State, himself, and his party. One thing at least is certain—he cannot make a poorer out of it than did his two immediate democratic predecessors.

The Baton Rouge Advocate, of the 2d inst., says: Yesterday there were only seventeen senators in their seats, and barely a quorum in the house, and both bodies did what they have been in the habit of doing almost daily since convening—looked and talked a great deal, did nothing, and adjourned. Many members have gone to New Orleans—we suppose to lay in groceries for the remainder of the session, and we trust that each and all may succeed in passing a night in the "lock-up" before their return, so that their detestation of the place may be sufficient for the time, to keep them away from it until the session closes. We should like to see these stampedes checked, and to that end suggest the issuing of ne exeat writs for the prevention of members taking holiday during business hours.

It was to put an end to the evils complained of, that induced us to advocate the removal of the seat government from Baton Rouge to New Orleans. The members will never be content at the former place.

The present legislature appears to be determined that the democratic editors in Louisiana shall be liberally remunerated for their valuable services. Dave Martin, of the Louisiana Democrat, has been reëlected reporter of the senate; Mr. Warner, of the Minden Banner, made secretary of the senate; and Dennis Corcoran, of the Delta, appointed reporter of the house. And not content with one public printer, the legislators have resolved that the laws and journals shall be promulgated in both the Louisiana Courier and Baton Rouge Advocate. This latter is another specimen of "democratic retrenchment and reform." But the tax-payers must foot the bill.

The South Carolina law, passed at the recent session of the legislature, "to prohibit non-residents from hunting, ducking and fishing within the limits of the State," is very stringent and arbitrary. It forbids any person not a resident of the State for two years preceding the act, to hunt or fish in South Carolina, under a penalty of a fine not exceeding two hundred nor less than one hundred dollars, and imprisonment not exceeding three months nor less than one month! It was designed to operate against a party from the north, who yearly resort to South Carolina for gaming purposes, but in effect and by its terms it applies to all non-residents. Some of the papers say that it will not be enforced against the citizens of adjoining States, but such are not the plain words of the act.

The official reports, recently published, of the tonnage of the three great commercial nations, shows that the United States is now entitled to the honor of being called the "Queen of the Seas"—a title which Great Britain has heretofore enjoyed an undisputable right to possess. The tonnage of the United States for 1855, is stated at 5,212,001 tons; that of Great Britain at 5,053,270 tons; and that of France at only 716,000 tons. The tonnage of the State of Maine alone exceeds that of France by more than 100,000 tons.

At the latest accounts the Mississippi river was gorged with ice at President's island, a few miles below Memphis. The like was never before seen by the oldest boatman.

The annual report of the agricultural bureau of the United States for the past year reveals many interesting facts. We regret that the length of the tables preclude the possibility of our publishing them. According to the official statement, the total value of the vegetable products for 1855 was $1,355,887,500, and the value of the animals and animal products are put down at $1,352,005,000; making the total value of the agricultural products of the year the enormous sum of $2,707,892,500. For a correct appreciation of the agricultural prosperity of our country, it is necessary to compare the fruits of 1855 with the estimate of the same nature made for the years 1849-50, which, according to the census reports amounted to only $1,299,197,982, showing an increase of over one hundred and eight per cent. in five years. An incident unparalleled in the history of nations. The crop of corn for 1855 is estimated at 600,000,000 of bushels, valued at three hundred and sixty millions of dollars. Wheat, 165,000,000 bushels, valued at two hundred and forty-seven millions of dollars. Sugar, from cane, 305,000,000 lbs., valued at thirty-five million three hundred thousand dollars.—Rice, 1,700,000,000 lbs., valued at ten millions of dollars. Cotton, 1,700,000,000 lbs., valued at one hundred and thirty-six millions of dollars. Tobacco, 190,000,000 lbs., valued at nineteen millions of dollars. This estimate is highly flattering to the agricultural condition of the south. The value of the cotton crop against the estimate of 1850, $98,603,720, presents an increase of 38 per cent. The value of the rice crop has increased in the five years, $6,000,000, or 250 per cent. Tobacco, from $12,982,686 to $19,000,000, or nearly 36 per cent. Sugar from $12,368,820 to $35,356,000, or 180 per cent. Within the same time the production of wheat at the south has increased from $106,485,934 to $247,500,944, or from 100,485,944 to 165,000,000 bushels.

We glean the following particulars in regard to the population and products of Louisiana, from the annual report of colonel S. F. Marks, auditor of public accounts: Total value of property in the State, $319,354,654; increase in one year, $19,358,478; total amount of taxes assessed, $1,609,475; increase in one year, $580,565; acres of uncultivated land subject to taxation, 3,976,520. This latter item is somewhat singular, as the auditor in his report for 1855, set it down at 5,420,254 acres, and the increase in cultivated land is only a few thousand acres. The amount of land planted in sugar cane is put down at 346,205 acres; in cotton, 541,912; corn, 566,944; rice, 5396; total acres in cultivation, 1,400,457; being an increase in one year of 42,378 acres. No. of hogsheads of sugar produced, 361,660; barrels of molasses, 614,376; bales of cotton, 340,585; bushels of corn, 9,915,730; bbls of rice, 38,420. Total population, 575,922, viz: free whites, 209,626; free colored, 26,613; slaves, 252,683. This shows a decrease of 10,000 from the auditor's preceding report; although there appears to be an increase of free negroes. The report was made up from the returns of the assessors of the various parishes during the year 1855, and the totals of agricultural products of course belong to the previous year. The information is not worthy of much attention, as, like all other State matters in Louisiana, it is generally inaccurately and carelessly attended to. A comparison of the reports for 1855 and 1856, will show no marked progress has been made in developing the resources of the State. In some productions there has been a falling off.

THE OLD SOLDIERS.—The convention of old soldiers of the war of 1812-15, which reassembled at Washington, on the 8th January, adopted the following among other resolutions:

2d. Resolved, That we have witnessed with pleasure the efforts now making in congress for the final settlement and payment of our revolutionary debt. We consider that our government is under the most solemn obligations to carry out the promises of the continental congress, as contained in the resolutions of October 21, 1780; January 7, 1781; and March 8th, 1785, by allowing to the officers of the revolutionary army the half-pay for life to which they were entitled under those resolutions, for the payment of which the faith of the nation was pledged, and all those senators and members who have taken an active interest in behalf of the officers of the revolution, their widows and children, are entitled to the thanks and gratitude of the country.

Senators Slidell and Benjamin have given the measure a hearty approval, and we trust that the hon. John M. Sandidge will also support it. The old soldiers—the men who defended and watched over our country in its infancy—deserve to be rewarded and cared for.

We are indebted to Mr. T. B. Peterson, (102 Chesnut street, Philadelphia,) for a copy of the "Holly-Tree," Dickens' new "Christmas and New-Year's Story for 1856." It has been remarked by one of the ablest reviewers of the day that, "the productions of no other writer, living or dead, have been so generally read and admired by all classes as those of Charles Dickens," and we believe no one will dispute the assertion, therefore it would be useless to recommend the new candidate for public favor. Copies of the book can be obtained by mail, free of postage, by forwarding 25 cents to T. B. Peterson, Philadelphia.

Major Heiss, ex-proprietor of the N. Orleans Delta, and formerly copartner with "father" Ritchie in the editorship of the Washington Union, proposes to establish a new weekly democratic journal of the "national" order at Washington; but he does not inform us which wing of the democracy he considers to be entitled to the name of "national."

The New York Mirror states that Wm. G. Kendall, Pierce's ex-postmaster at N. Orleans, has adjusted his accounts with the department, by the payment of $3869, which was the balance found against him. The department claimed $27,000 balance. We are uninformed as to how the great discrepancy was adjusted.

Resolutions have been adopted in nearly every county in Indiana, where democratic conventions have been held, recommending Jesse D. Bright as their first choice for the presidency and instructing the delegates to urge his claims before the national convention, to be held at Cincinnati.

The Minden Herald says, a few days ago, D. J. Morris killed John Markham—both of Claiborne parish—by stabbing him in the breast and side. It occurred at the house of Morris. The case was investigated before judge H. A. Drew, and Morris discharged.

The peach and pear trees throughout Virginia have been killed by the cold weather.

"Ion," the Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun, in his last letter, says that the explosion of the war rumors and the dissipation of all fears and hopes of a collision with Great Britain, have had a remarkable strong effect upon the house, and rendered it entirely indifferent to an organisation. By the same token, the house is the most quiet and composed, and, apparently content body of men that were ever assembled. It is no longer to be believed that the general government is very desirous to obtain appropriations for deficiencies, and lacking in their trouble with Palmerston, they have no trouble whatever, and are not likely to have. Mr. Crampton is on the most cordial terms with our government, while his conduct is approved by his government, and therefore he is even less likely to be dismissed than he is to be recalled. The true is, the appointment of Mr. Dallas as minister to Great Britain, demonstrates in a manner not to be misunderstood that president Pierce has again crawfished, and that, notwithstanding the high and manly tone of his message, he is now seeking to cultivate friendly relations with her majesty's government.

He goes on to say that the Kansas message does not involve the necessity of immediate legislation. Its recommendations are very judicious. A law authorising the inhabitants, when they desire it, by a duly elected convention of delegates to frame a state constitution, and thus prepare through regular means, for its admission into the Union, would prevent any threatened disturbances in future. An appropriation to defray the expenses attending the execution of the laws in the territory is also very proper, but is not of an urgent nature. The expense already incurred under governor Shannon's order calling out the militia, amount to several hundred thousand dollars, which has to be paid by the general government, and will in all probability meet with strong opposition from the freesoilers and black republicans in the house. There are many who believe that law and order in the territory can be best preserved by a refusal on the part of the general government to interfere in the disturbances that may arise.

The above was written previous to the election of Banks as speaker.

Senator Brown, of Miss., presented to the U. S. senate, on the 7th ult., a memorial from John A. Ragan, setting forth that he has discovered a plan to prevent the overflowing of the Mississippi river and to reclaim inundated lands and asking a grant of every alternate section he may so reclaim, in order to enable him to carry his plan into execution. The memorialist, as a matter of course, declares his plan entirely practicable and comparatively cheap, and says it can be completed in three years. The gentleman is not very modest in his demands at any rate. The memorialist also proposes to turn the superfluous waters of the Mississippi river into Hudson's bay and the Atlantic ocean through a canal of one mile in length to the head of the great Assiniboin river, in Minnesota territory, which canal he asserts will open steam navigation from the Atlantic almost to the great south pass of the Rocky mountains, and from Hudson's bay to New Orleans. He also proposes, by authority from Texas, to turn the superfluous waters of Red River into the gulf of Mexico through very short canals to the heads of the Sabine and Trinity rivers, which canals, he says, will open steam navigation from the gulf of Mexico to the gold regions of Santa Fé. The hon. Mr. Brown is a smart man and Mr. Ragan a great genius, we would therefore be greatly obliged to them if they would inform the people of Louisiana and Texas where they can find the "superfluous waters of Red River."

Governor Wells, the new chief-magistrate of Maine, in his message to the legislature, admits that he believes slavery to be an evil, but thinks it is not the part of wisdom, in order to remove one evil, to bring upon ourselves an avalanche of evils. He believes that when the owners of slaves desire to relieve themselves of the institution, they will adopt gradual emancipation, and points to Liberia as the scene of the future greatness of the negro race. He is quite a philosopher; but the negro is only "great" when he is in a sugar, cotton, corn, or tobacco field. The governor acquiesces in the abrogation of the Missouri compromise, endorses the doctrine of squatter sovereignty, and sums up the subject of slavery with: "The southern people are subjected to the burden of slavery; they know how to treat it better than we do, and it is alike alien to patriotism, and a true sense of religious duty to inflame the minds of southern citizens and aggravate their condition by a constant course of censure, and an unnecessary interference with their affairs." The governor talks good sense.

A bill is now pending before the New York legislature, which provides that all bills of exchange, drafts, or checks, payable at sight, shall be due on presentation without any days of grace, and that it shall not be necessary to present for acceptance any such check before it becomes due; but all parties thereto shall be and remain equally liable, as if the same had been presented and accepted. At present banks and bankers are unsettled as to the law, and to the practice, and all they want on this subject is that a statute shall provide either that grace shall or shall not be allowed on sight bills. In Massachusetts the law provides that grace on sight bills shall be allowed, but not on paper payable on demand, such as bank checks. It is a matter of no importance as to which way the question may be settled, so that a definite practice is recognised and enforced by law.

The New York Herald notices it as a remarkable fact that the three chief counsellors of general Jackson—the men who, of all others, most received his confidence and influenced his opinions, Martin Van Buren, Churchill C. Cambreleng and Francis P. Blair—are all rank freesoilers, and leading "black republicans!" If the old hero could rise from the grave, how he would storm and rave. Cambreleng, however, has published a long letter in the N. Y. Evening Post and the Tribune, urging his political friends, freesoilers, black republicans and abolitionists, to support "the regular democratic party and its policy." He wants to gather all "the faithful" in one fold and pen them up.

The Texas house of representatives, on the 28th ult., passed, by a vote 42 to 38, the bill accepting the act passed by congress, appropriating $7,750,000 for the payment of the creditors of the late republic of Texas. The bill now only requires the signature of the governor to become a law. He will sign it.

HOW TO SAVE THE UNION.—There is, we think, a very simple and easy way to prevent disunion, and allay sectional strife and ill-feeling, if the good, the wise, the prudent and the patriotic will unite their efforts. Let each man, according to his opportunity, examine for himself, with an impartial and truth-loving spirit, the evils of slavery and the evils of free society, and nine out of ten will arise from the examination with a more tolerant and fraternal feeling. That slavery is not attended with evils, we shall not pretend to maintain; but thousands are engaged in depicting and exaggerating these evils, and it is needless for us to attempt to portray them. Living in the midst of the institution, we may be unobservant or insensible to its abuses—we leave the task of exposing them to other hands, and are even willing that the comparative evils of slave society and of free society shall be ascertained and decided on by the accounts of the working of the two systems of society, written by authors living in free society and prejudiced against slavery.—Nay, we will go farther; we will give free society all the advantages which it can derive from fiction and imagination, in magnifying and increasing the evils and abuses of slavery—we will let the student take for fact the most hideous portrait that the genius of a Mrs. Stowe can depict of slavery, and ask him to compare it with the stern realities of free society, carefully investigated, exposed and reported by committees of the British parliament. We speak far within the bounds of truth, when we assert that he will find ten times as much of evil, of crime, and of human suffering, in free society in England, and in all western Europe, as fiction, regarding "vraisemblance," ever dared to attribute to southern negro slavery. He will find no domestic animal, no game or fish in prisons or ponds, half as badly provided for, nor half so cruelly treated, as the laboring man in western Europe. The impartial student would not hesitate a moment, like Mr. C. Edwards Lester, of New York, to subject his children to southern slavery, sooner than place them in the condition of the free laborers of southern Europe. And yet, as population becomes dense, this is the condition to which all free society seems to tend. No men see this fact so clearly as northern abolitionists, and hence their anxiety to invent and put in practice some new form of society, before pauperism and crime, and ignorance and famine, overwhelm the north, as they have overwhelmed western Europe. But there is a vent for centuries to come in the mighty unsettled west, for the surplus population of the north-east, and whilst that vent continues, it is premature to agitate the subject of white slavery as a practical question in this country. Before that day arrives, some social organization for old societies, better than the domestic slavery of the south may be discovered. The student will find, that, as yet, none half so good has been discovered, and he will feel charitable towards southern domestic institutions, because he will find them more natural, more permanent in their character, and more promotive, in the long run, of human happiness, than any other as yet discovered and tested. If he extends his examination and finds out how mutually dependent the north and the south are, he will learn to value the Union, and to detest and execrate abolitionists and disunionists.

Almost all the light literature of France, England and Germany, for the last twenty years, is but pictures of the evils of free society. The plays, the novels, the poetry of these nations are tinged in every page with the sufferings of the poor. All philosophy has run into what the North British Review calls the philosophy of "social reference." For fifty years, the British parliament has spent its time in fruitless endeavors to mitigate the sufferings of the poor. All the English and French reviews, since '48, have teemed with articles on this subject. All the riots, incendiarism and revolutions of Europe, for seventy years, have been the direct and immediate consequences of the privations and famine of the poor. The history of the English poor laws, if investigated alone, will show that free society in Europe has been from the first, and throughout, to this day, a cruel, awful and appalling failure. Free society has not as yet failed at our north; we hope it never may! But it has failed everywhere else, and we feel assured that all who examine its past history, and present starving condition, will be willing to stick to the Union as it is, rather than snatch the bread from the well-fed negro, in order to elevate him to the condition of the proletariat of France, the starving peasantry of England, Ireland and Scotland, the lazzaroni of Italy, the gypsies of Spain, and the lepero of Mexico!

We solemnly believe there is but one way to save the Union, and to save northern society from anarchy and agrarianism, licentiousness and infidelity; that is by dispelling the monomania about slavery. This will be effected so soon as the conservatives of the north, and of the south, search into history and statistics, and ascertain, weigh and compare the respective evils of the opposing systems of society. None, but a madman, after such an investigation, will be ready to dissolve this Union, to risk peace or to incur civil war, in order to emancipate the negroes, or to prevent the extension of slave territory, pari passu with the extension of free territory. Heretofore slavery has been assumed to be an evil. Be it so. But see whether free society, in old countries, be not a far greater evil;—and our country is growing old.

[Richmond Enquirer.

To save their country from the misery and crime which have engulphed all Europe, and which the Enquirer so well pictures, is the great aim of the American party. Who for so doing incurred the most violent abuse and hate of this same Richmond Enquirer and all other office-holders' organs. We are glad to find they are at last opening their eyes to the truth.

The Philadelphia Bulletin translates from the Independence Belge, at Brussels, the following passages of a letter from Madrid, dated December 19, which contains some allusions to diplomatic correspondence with the United States in relation to Cuba, which are curious and interesting:

"Lovers of scandal will soon be fully satisfied. In the session of December 1, as well as in that of December 2, on the occasion of the violent attack of the democrats on marshal O'Donnel, M. Orense in order to vindicate himself from some allusions that had been addressed to him in regard to the understanding established between the Spanish democrats and Mr. Soulé, declared that a man who was at the Saladero at the time of the revolution of July, had falsified signatures and documents designed to make it appear that negotiations had been concluded between the late minister of the U. States and the Spanish democrats on the subject of the sale of the island of Cuba. M. de Lazen (the person accused of the forgeries by M. Orensey) had resolved, in view of this public accusation, to publish a pamphlet which will reveal every thing on this grave question, and to make known the names of all the principal democrats who were pledged, in case they came into power, to sell the island of Cuba to the United States."

We may learn more than one valuable lesson from this war, says the New York Times. What have the most powerful fleets the world has ever seen effected upon the Baltic? Nothing at all. Under the most enterprising leader known in the British navy, they have not attempted a real attack upon any of the well fortified harbors of Russia. No more convincing argument of the protection afforded by judiciously planned, well constructed and powerfully armed fortifications need be sought than this, and, it is hoped, will have its due effect with those who provide for the national defence in placing our great harbors in a state of complete security.

The Minden papers report the lake and bayou to be rising fast, with sufficient water to afford navigation for steamboats.

ERRONEOUS VIEWS.—The London Chronicle of a late date contains an article semi-mournful, semi-exultant upon the evidences of the approaching downfall of our republican system. The proof of this impending catastrophe is discerned by the ingenious editor in the fact that the house of representatives at Washington had failed to organize even after forty ballots, and that the president's message, fraught with information and suggestions of the highest moment could not be submitted.

We persume that when the Chronicle learns that after more than one hundred and twenty ballots the house remains unorganized, its doubt of the durability of our free institutions will be converted into absolute expectation of a speedy dismemberment of the Union; unless the official promulgation of the message convinces that journal that one of the terrible dangers threatening the United States has been averted, and induces it to reflect that peradventure the other may be somewhat exaggerated. The Chronicle tells us that such an interruption of parliamentary business could not occur in England, without producing a revolution. We believe it, and this is precisely the difference between that country and our own. It is the fault of the British press to judge us from their, and not our stand-point; to assume that in a given case, we ought to act exactly as they would—forgetting all the while that we are a different people, with a widely different polity, and that we possess in the nature of our government an inherent, self-sustaining power of which theirs is destitute.

To apply this view: the disorganization of the house is certainly regarded as an evil, because it is the result of factious discord, and a puerile strife between party leaders, none of whom will advance a single single step towards an understanding and a compromise. The tendency of such a quarrel is unquestionably bad. As a precedent it is pernicious, and merits the condemnation and castigation it has received from all sensible and patriotic citizens. But beyond this there is no immediate injury. The government moves in its accustomed orbit, without the dislocation of a single joint in its complicated machinery. The nation at large looks on, partly amused and partly indignant; scandalized at the frivolous and unworthy game played by reckless partizans, yet rather interested in the checks and counterchecks, the expedients and devices employed by the three contending factions. The difficulty creates no perceptible hitch, as yet, in public affairs. From Maine to California, federal and State governments continue in their wonted harmonious and well-defined relations.

As a matter of course, this quasi-anarchical condition of the national legislature could not continue eternally. We might manage without new laws, as bad usually preponderates over good legislation. But the government would be unable to meet its ordinary disbursements, in consequence of the lack of authority to draw money from the treasury. Long before such a crisis, however, the plain common sense of the whole masses, and the bold outspeaking of public sentiment, would compel congress to do its duty. Hence, there is none of that dread of the overthrow of the government, or of a dead lock in the federal administration which haunts the imagination of the London Chronicle. If that sheet were well informed, it would know that there never has been, and never will be, but one source of peril to the stability of our Union and that is the slavery question, and with respect to this eternal source of agitation, wise and good men, have thus far, under Providence, found the means of rescuing the country, and restoring civil concord in the darkest hour of sectional strife. So mote it be forever.

[New Orleans Bee.

EXTRAORDINARY PHENOMENON.—The link of the Mobile and Ohio railroad between Lockheart's and Lauderdale springs is literally on fire! According to the Lauderdale Republican, "it seems that the road at that place runs over a bed of ignite or coal; about four weeks ago a man applied fire to it, and it has been burning ever since. This is strange, but we are assured that it is nevertheless true; the atmosphere for miles around, is laden with the stench of burning sulphur, and some of the b'hoys in the neighborhood begin to believe that the devil will soon make his appearance, horns, tail and all, and supercede the locomotive in that region.

Let that be as it will, we are informed that Mr. Williams, the contractor, has been compelled to throw in a great quantity of earth, in order, we suppose, to keep the devil down, until he could lay the track over this new volcano which has really burnt the Mobile and Ohio railroad smack in two.

This curious occurrence, remarks the Paulding Clarion, has, we are informed, excited the superstitious fears of many of the simple minded, who actually believe that the dominions of his santanic majesty have made an exhibit of themselves upon the line of the Mobile and Ohio railroad! It is further rumored and credited that Satan has appeared in propria persona, upon the brink of this terrestrial opening to hell, and that he has already dedicated the good people themselves to his future platonic service. But we give no credence to this scandal. The people of Lockhart's, Lauderdale springs, and contiguous neighborhoods, are a most excellent people in all the relations of life, public and private; and we, therefore, reject as a calumny the assertion that the infernal moloch has any thing to do with them whatever.

REV. RUFUS W. GRISWOLD.—Ten or twelve years ago, Rufus W. Griswold, the author, married a wife in South Carolina, and resided in Charleston six or seven years, after which he removed to Pennsylvania, and made an unsuccessful application for a divorce. He then sent her a paper for signature, acknowledging she had abandoned him without cause—which she refused to sign; she was then residing in New Jersey with their daughter, of whom she had been appointed guardian without any opposition on his part. The child he forcibly took from her, offering to restore the daughter if the mother would sign the paper he had sent her, so that he could marry again. Implored by letters from the daughter, and advised that a signature thus wrung from her would avail nothing, she reluctantly signed the falsehood to obtain the child. Mrs. G. then wrote to the woman her husband was addressing, stating these circumstances, but was surprised afterwards to see a notice of her husband's marriage. Having received no notice of any divorce having been granted, she consulted her counsel, who examined the records, discoverd that the papers in case had been removed from the office of the prothonitary, and was informed by the judge that a decree of divorce had been granted on the representation that she consented to it. The loss of the papers prevented an appeal to the supreme court, but her attorney, David Paul Brown, esq., of Philadelphia, had taken a rule to show cause why the decree should not be annulled, on the ground of fraud. This is a strange case, and puts the rev. Mr. Griswold in an unenviable position before the public.

FLORIDA.—Colonel Monroe has mustered into service several volunteer companies, for the purpose of defending the frontier settlements. Preparations are being made for an active campaign against the Indians, and it is said to be the fixed determination of the government to force them to leave the country. It seems to be the Seminole's game to cut off or attack all small parties that are sent out, and it is not considered safe to despatch less than fifty men.

Very vigorous measures have been adopted to suppress the liquor traffic among the English soldiers in the Crimea. Rum is doing more mischief than the Russians. The liquor is seized and thrown into the sea, and the sellers are sent away. Cargoes of liquor have been confiscated and the vessels driven away. Temperance is now the order of the day.

General Intelligence.

WASHINGTON, FEB. 4.—The house has elected Colonel (know nothing) clerk by a vote of 126 to 57.

The senate discussed the proceedings of the naval board.

The appointment of George M. Dallas, as minister to England, is confirmed.

Upwards of a hundred students in Dickinson college, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, have rebelled in consequence of the unjust expulsion of four students.

LOUISVILLE, FEB. 4.—11 A. M.—All prospects of a speedy resumption of navigation have vanished with the coming of Jack Frost. The thermometer now stands at 10 degrees below zero.

Dispatches received here to-day from Independence, Mo., announce that the Santa Fe and Salt Lake mails thence had been compelled to return on account of the heavy snow which had fallen. It lay 4 feet deep on the plains. The mail due from those places had not arrived. It was feared that the carriers had all been frozen. The accounts here from all directions report intense cold to be prevailing.

In the lower house of the Tennessee legislature, on the 30th ultimo, resolutions approving the principles of the Nebraska-Kansas act and instructing the Tennessee representatives in congress to oppose its repeal, were adopted.

The southern commercial convention met at Richmond on the 30th ult. Two hundred and twenty delegates were present. Gen. Tighman, of Maryland, was elected president. Resolutions were submitted that notwithstanding the baleful opinions held in the north, the Union must be preserved.

WASHINGTON, FEB. 2d.—In the house, a resolution was adopted to decide the speakership by a plurality vote, by a majority of nine. At the time opinions were divided as to whether the result would be the election of Aiken or Banks. On the 4th ballot under the resolution, Banks obtained 103 votes; Aiken 100. Fuller having been withdrawn, received only half a dozen votes. The tellers then declared Mr. Banks elected, and the announcement was received with loud cheering.

Hon. A. K. Marshall raised the question that Mr. Banks was not elected under the resolution, and could not take the chair unless declared by another resolution. Mr. Rust, of Ark., sustained this view. Great excitement ensued in consequence of this announcement. Finally, Mr. Clingman, of N. C., offered a resolution declaring Mr. Banks elected. Cobb, Clingman, and other southern democrats supported the resolution and earnestly urged that it was the duty of the house to adopt it. This was done, and Mr. Aiken then, amidst the loudest applause, conducted Mr. Banks to the chair. The new incumbent was then inducted by Messrs. Aiken, Fuller and Campbell. Mr. Banks made a brief speech, returning thanks for the honor, after which John R. Giddings administered to him the customary oath.

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.—The news brought by the Arabia is very important, as indicative of an early and favorable consummation of the peace negotiations.

The Vienna correspondent of the London Times, under date of January 16, telegraphs that Russia accepts the propositions of the allies unconditionally.

The above, being repeated as authentic news, caused an immense sensation, and funds rose three per cent., and cotton experienced an advance of one farthing. A panic ensued in the other markets.

The next day the English government published a dispatch from minister Seymour, at St. Petersburg, as follows:

"Russia agrees to accept the allies proposals, provided the basis of negotiation is qualified."

This announcement curbed the excitement, and the alarmists begin to fear that Russia merely wants to gain time by deceptive negotiations. In the meantime, funds remain steady, as previous to the above announcement.

The actual facts are that count Nesselrode, upon being handed the Austrian allied note, and informed by Esterhazy that he, Esterhazy, was not authorized to enter into discussion, but that if said note was not accepted unconditionally before the 18th, that himself and all the Austrian embassy must leave St. Petersburg; to prevent this, Nesselrode communicated with Vienna direct, and prince Gortshakoff had a talk with count Buol, in which the former produced a memorandum expressing the general inclination of Russia to negotiate, but proposing certain alterations in the propositions submitted by the allies.

Count Buol answered that as Russia did not unconditionally accept the proposition of Austria, he could not reply without the concurrence of France and England.

The ambassadors of those powers accordingly sent to London and Paris for instructions, and received for reply that the western powers had no motive to change the decision already carefully considered, and, further, that if Russia did not accept the note, by or before the 18th, it was certain that Esterhazy and the whole Austrian legation would leave St. Petersburg, and that Austria would seek to obtain the armed co-operation of the German diet.

The Vienna papers represent affairs in a most serious and alarming state, and say that all persons connected with the Austrian embassy have received orders to quit St. Petersburg and that the Russian embassy will leave Vienna during the week elapsing between Russia's first and second reply.

Intense apprehension existed in Vienna on the 16th, but subsided on the announcement stating that Russia agrees to negotiate on the terms proposed.

We learn from the papers brought by the Arabia that gen. Mourivieff has advanced within three hours march of Ezeroum.

Omar pacha's troops have begun to arrive at Frabizonde.

Omar pacha had tendered his resignation, but the sultan refused to accept it. There is some talk that he will be sent as minister to England.

Persia announces her continued neutrality.

Prince Paskiewitch's dying injunction to the czar was to make peace. The docks at Sebastopol are nearly all destroyed.

Both the French and English papers more than intimate in the strongest terms that Prussia is about being called to a severe account, not for her neutrality, but for want of it; not for her refusing to aid the allies, but for her covertly aiding their opponent.—The London Morning Post says, "this must and shall have an end."

A deep interest is manifested by the British government in the question of the sound dues. Public opinion would seem to be divided in London as to the justice and expediency of the attitude which the U. States has assumed on the subject. The London Times views the matter through a political medium, argues at large against the United States, and trusts that Denmark will not lower her pretensions. The Mercantile Gazette, on the contrary, speaking for the maritime and commercial interests, applauds the government at Washington, and fully sustains the positions advanced by the American secretary of state.

A letter from Katsch bay states that Mr. Debeny, second master of the British screw gun-boat Lynx, was tried by court martial for cowardice exhibited during the attack on Kinburn. He was found guilty and sentenced to be hung.

It has been generally supposed that Sweden, by a recent treaty with the western powers, engaged to enter into an offensive alliance with England and France against Russia, but such is not the case. In a circular addressed by baron Stierneld, the Swedish minister of foreign affairs