"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 9, 1859.

The river continues to decline rapidly at this point. Several boats are detained above the raft owing to low water. Since our last the B. L. Hodge, Lafitte, Lecomte, W. A. Andrew, and Joseph Holden, have arrived from New Orleans; the Osceola, Morning Light, Era No. 2, Era No. 3, and Rescue, from upper Red River; the Telegram, from Jefferson.

After a week of clear and cool weather, yesterday morning brought us showers of rain, accompanied with thunder, lightning, hail, and heavy gusts of wind.

BODY FOUND—The body of a white man was found Saturday evening floating down Red River, opposite this place. He had a wound on his head, and it is supposed was either knocked or fell overboard from some boat. The deceased was not recognized.

THE RAFT.—We learn from the South Arkansas Democrat that the charter of the Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas navigation company has passed the legislature of Arkansas.—Col. Hervey was to proceed immediately to Baton Rouge, with a view of obtaining the approval of the Louisiana legislature to the charter. He will then visit Washington and solicit the authorisation of congress to commence the removal of the raft immediately.

We are indebted to the hon. John Slidell and hon. J. M. Sandidge for interesting public documents.

Thanks to the officers of the B. L. Hodge, Lecomte, W. A. Andrew, and Joseph Holden, for late New Orleans papers.

FOR N. ORLEANS.—The fine steamer Judah Touro, captain Ewing, will leave on Saturday evening.

The fleet steamer Lucy Holcombe, captain Bateman, will leave on Tuesday next, immediately after the arrival of the stages.

THEATRE.—An unusually attractive bill is offered for to-night's entertainment, consisting of the great drama of the "Drunkard, or the Fallen Saved," and the amusing farce of the "Stage Struck Yankee."

SALE.—Mr. Sweet will sell this morning, at his auction store, a variety of personal property belonging to the succession of Clark Claflin, consisting of carpenters' tools, lumber, household and kitchen furniture, &c. Also, a comfortable dwelling house and out-buildings, opposite the ferry landing, and the lease of the cattle yard or shipping pen.

REMOVAL.—Mr. Frank has removed to Col. Watson's spacious brick building, corner of Texas and Market streets, where he is opening an entire new stock of superior gold and silver watches, splendid jewelry, silver and plated ware, fancy goods, etc., all of the richest and latest styles. Those wishing to purchase are invited to pay him a visit.

FURNITURE.—Mr. Wm. Enders has recently made large additions to his stock of furniture, which now embraces every article needed for the complete outfit of a household. The furniture having been manufactured expressly for this market, in accordance with his orders, is of the best workmanship and latest styles, in addition to which he is enabled to sell at unusually low prices. An establishment similar to Mr. Enders' has long been needed by our citizens, and he cannot do otherwise than receive an extensive patronage.

BOOKS AND STATIONERY.—Messrs. Ball & Dashiell have received and keep constantly on hand all the standard, scientific, theological, medical, poetical and literary works issued from the press, together will the most popular and approved school books. They likewise keep up a complete assortment of blank books, plain and ruled cap, letter and note papers, together with every description of plain and fancy stationery, including an endless variety of Valentines, suitable to all tastes.

The curtain has dropped on the farce of the "Southern Pacific Railroad," the committee of arbitration having decided that the Fowlkes company had failed to comply with their engagements, and thereby forfeited all claim to the possession of the road. The "new company" will now push on the work.

The recorders of our large cities, in their capacity of committing magistrates, frequently render decisions on very intricate questions of law. A case of this kind came before recorder Wolfe, of the second district, New Orleans, last week, which he made short work of. John Walsh, U. States consul at Monterey, was charged by D. Wolf, with having induced two persons to commit perjury, by swearing falsely so that he (Walsh) might obtain the rights of citizenship and take out naturalisation papers.—The recorder decided that the act of congress of 1848 repeals the 12th section of the act of 1813 on naturalisation, and declares that uninterrupted residence of five years is no longer required; and that, inasmuch as it had been demonstrated that Walsh has resided five years in New Orleans, his naturalisation was in conformity to law, and, therefore, he dismissed the complaint.

The official dispatches of commodore Lavalette, of the Mediterranean squadron, contradict the report that the British and French legations protested against the U. States steam-frigate Wabash passing the Dardanelles, on account of the Americans not being a party to the treaty of Paris. The commodore speaks in high terms of the civilities of the Turkish authorities, who not only visited the Wabash, but were warm in their expressions of esteem for her officers.

Major E. Barksdale, editor of the Mississippian, (Jackson,) declines the candidacy for governor of the State. Barksdale says that it is his occupation to manufacture governors, and not to run for office.

The Central Organ, published in Avoyelles parish, gives some cogent reasons why the legislature of Louisiana should exercise a little economy. The indebtedness of the State falls but little short of eleven million of dollars, and is hourly increasing. Such is the impovished condition of the public money chest that the treasurer is forced to inform the legislature "the State would have been protested for the interest due on the public debt in July, August, September, October and November, had not the State Bank voluntarily paid it!" In other words, that the State of Louisiana would have been dishonored and her credit ruined but for the liberality of the directory of the State Bank, who are more solicitous for the character of the commonwealth than the members of the legislature appear to be. Who is to be held responsible for this deplorable condition of public affairs? Surely, the political party who now and for many years past have managed the State just as suited their pleasure or caprice. Cannot something even now be done to mitigate the evils? It is apparent that the legislature must inaugurate a system of "retrenchment and reform," otherwise our citizens must submit to an increase of taxation. The latter alternative would not prove very palatable. The people of Louisiana are more heavily taxed than those of any other State—nearly 50 per cent. greater than any of their neighbors bordering on the Mississippi river. Then let the expenditures be curtailed and kept within the limits of the annual revenue—let our legislators be just before they are generous. The governor estimates the expenses of the State this year at $746,000; but many of the items can be cut down, and not a few dispensed with. He puts down for public printing $43,000, when to our personal knowledge for many years the public printing of Louisiana never exceeded $8000. In South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee, States more thickly settled and with greater populations than Lotisiana, consequently requiring larger expenditure for a general diffusion of governmental affairs, the annual expenditures for public printing, including binding, etc., never exceed $15,000; while in Maryland they average $9000, and in North Carolina $7000. Last year strenuous efforts were made to abate this scandalous waste of public money, but they were successfully met and defeated by the plea set up by an enthusiastic democratic member of the house of the necessity of keeping up "a central organ" in the southern parishes. We are at a loss to discover why the people at large should be taxed from $25,000 to $30,000 per annum to maintain a "central organ" of democracy. The expenses of the legislature might also be considerably reduced, $90,000 being more than the labor is worth.—A few years ago, when the legislature comprised a larger number of members than at this time, $70,000 per annum proved sufficient to meet all demands; but then the present race of hungry hangers-on and expectants were not fed out of the public crib. In 1857, our generous legislators voted $16,400 to pay off the clerks of the senate alone, when the work could readily have been executed for $6000, and money been made by the job. The same thing occurred with the clerks of the house, only they cost a little more. As it was in 1857, so it was in 1858. Vast amounts were thrown away, without benefit to the State, her citizens, or any one save the particular friends of those in place and power. Every year thousands of dollars are donated for useless purposes, and the embarrassed condition of the State demands that henceforth its means should be husbanded, at least until we are out of debt.

It is an interesting item, and one almost unknown to travelers, that with the exception of a gap of 60 miles on the Mississippi Central railroad—which is graded, the ties, trestle-work and bridges progressing rapidly and the iron for the track to be on the ground by the 1st of July, and the eighteen miles of steamboating between Columbus and Cairo—the whole distance between New Orleans and Cincinnati, as well as Louisville, St. Louis, Chicago, New York, and all the principal northern and eastern cities, can now be traversed by railroad direct and without detention. The route entire is as follows: from New Orleans to Canton, by the N. O. and Jackson railway; from Canton (including the 60 miles of staging named above) to Grand Junction, Tenn., on the Memphis and Charleston road, 52 miles east of Memphis, by the Mississippi Central road; from Grand Junction to Jackson, Madison county, Tenn., by the Mississippi Central and Tennessee road; from Jackson to Columbus, Ky., by the Mobile and Ohio road; from Columbus to Cairo by steamboat; and from Cairo, by the Illinois Central road and its connections, to Cincinnati, Louisville, St. Louis, Chicago, Pittsburg, New York, &c. When the Shreveport road is completed to the Mississippi, we will be in direct daily communication by railway with all the above places.

GREAT DISCOVERY.—Dr. Beck, of Dantzic, claims to have made a curious and important discovery—nothing less than an antidote or preventive to drunkenness. It is a mineral paste, enclosed in an olive, which, once absorbed, destroys not only the rising effect, but all the evils arising from an over indulgence in ardent spirits and wines. The doctor tried a number of experiments on a Pole, named Radevil, an irreclaimable drunkard, with astonishing success. Radevil swallowed three bottles of brandy in rapid succession, and after draining each bottle ate one of the prepared olives. He experienced neither the effect of intoxication nor the slightest indisposition. The doctor is to receive a gold medal for the discovery. Instead of enclosing the antidote in an olive, we think that the better method would be for the distillers and fabricators to mix it with the brandy, gin, whiskey, etc., and omit the arsenic and strychnine which they now so profusely dispense.

Charges or corruption are coming before congress, and more "astounding developments" are promised. Mr. Sherman last week claimed a committee of investigation, on various charges of corruption and fraud, on the part of those connected with the navy department, in the awards of machinery contracts, and further that a certain member of congress received the sum of five hundred dollars for influencing one contract; while affidavits from different parties declare that they have been forced to pay a percentage of their wages to the master mechanics of the New York navy yard, to obtain employment. In fact the black mail absorbed nearly all the wages they were promised.

A bill has been introduced into the legislature of Michigan to abolish the grand jury system, and to provide for the trial of all offences on information without their presentment.

AN OLD CITIZEN GONE.—Gloom was thrown over our community on Wednesday evening, by the arrival of the steamer B. L. Hodge, with the remains of Capt. Lawrence P. Crain, who died at the St. Louis hotel, New Orleans, on the 29th ult. Although the precarious health of Capt. Crain had prepared the public for the sad intelligence, the sudden announcement of his decease took them by surprise. He was one of our cherished friends, and we would pay a fitting tribute to his memory, but the following article from the Gazette renders it superflous. It is from the pen of one who has known the deceased from his youth.

Through the dispensation of a divine Providence, we are called upon to mourn the loss of an esteemed and honored citizen of Shreveport, LAWRENCE P. CRAIN. He died in the city of New Orleans, at 2 o'clock, on the morning of the 28th January, whither he had repaired for the sole purpose of a change from the protracted confinement of his own home, without the hope of ultimate recovery. He read his fate in the encroachments of that insidious disease which is without a remedy, and met it with heroic fortitude. We learn from those who watched by his deathbed, that he was sensible almost to the last breath, and his soul, in calm repose, bade adieu to earth and winged its invisible flight to the land of spirits.

For twenty years he had been a citizen of this place, and his lamented death has left but few, who, with him, braved the obstacles incident to early settlement. His adopted town bears many a testimonial to his suggestive genius, and the pride of improvement, for which he was distinguished; and many will revert with grateful recollection to occasions signalized by his brilliant hospitalities and spontaneous munificence.

In a notice like the present, the merits of the dead rise in pleasing array before us, and the pen, moved by the sensibilities which friendship excites, is prone to glide into fulsome eulogy; but the writer of this is not annoyed by restraints. Whatever tribute he may bestow, is unbiassed by heartless necessity or conventional form.

An intimate association of nineteen years with LAWRENCE P. CRAIN, has, with each successive year, renewed our attachment, and magnified his virtues.—He was no ordinary man. As a friend, he was true; as a member of society, his life was marked by a high toned demeanor; as a lawyer at the Shreveport bar, while he was first in priority of time, he had no superior as a skillful tactician and cogent reasoner.

Farewell, dear friend! Though the clods now cover you, you are present before us, and while life remains, memory will linger around you! H. J. G. B.

The office-holders' organs at the south are eternally heaping abuse upon those who refuse to accept as bible truths the political dogmas which they retail out at the bidding of the chief wire-workers, Washington. One of these democratic organs (the Memphis Appeal) a few days ago denounced the Americans as "a motley crew, ringed, streaked and spotted." Jere. Clemens, editor of the Memphis Eagle, replies to the assault in an appropriate style, and winds up as follows:

"Taken altogether this is the richest exhibition of the season. It comes from a paper that has for months been engaged in proving the entire harmony of the democracy, by waging active war upon a democratic organ in the same city! At least, the pleasant recreation in which it has been engaged, would be construed into hostilities, in any other but the democratic camp.....It is the organ of a party whose president and his secretary of the treasury are at open warfare upon one of the most important questions of government policy. The organ of a party, whose members agree upon no one thing, save an equal avidity for the spoils.—Bigler and his wing of democrats are the zealous advocates of a tariff for protection. Hunter and his wing pronounce it unconstitutional.—The agrarian, Johnson, of Tennessee, sits cheek by jowl with the aristocratic Hammond. Stewart, and the north-western democracy, in a body, are the warm advocates of the wildest system of internal improvements. Toombs, and the south-eastern democracy, bitterly oppose all just and necessary appropriations for works of national importance. Slidell and Benjamin favor the improvement of the Mississippi and its tributaries, while the leading democrats of the south-west denounce all such work as unconstitutional. Douglas maintains the doctrine of absolute sovereignty in the people of a territory, with the right by "unfriendly legislation" to exclude southerners and their property from the public domain; and Jeff. Davis denounces it as worse than the Wilmot proviso. Bright advocates the right of unnaturalized foreigners to vote in elections, and Brown, of Miss., utterly disclaims it as a democratic principle. The governor of South Carolina recommends the reöpening of the African slave trade, and a democratic congress vote it unwise and iniquitous. Mr. Boyce advocates free trade and direct taxation. Mr. Florence regards the originator of such a proposition as a madman. Mr. Cushing believes that our maritime strength depends upon a continuance of the fishing bounties, and Mr. Clay pronounces them a monstrous imposition upon other industrial pursuits. Mr. Soulé aids and encourages filibuster enterprises, and judge Campbell does his best to imprison the whole batch, from Walker down to the cook of the Susan. Mr. English makes a compromise of the Kansas issue, goes home and repudiates it, and comes back to congress an unchanged democrat. Martin Van Buren votes the democratic ticket, and John Cochrane has become an oracle among the faithful. Jas. C. Jones makes democratic speeches. Preston is appointed a democratic minister, and Clingman fills a democratic chair in the senate. The publisher of the Washington Union is elected public printer by a democratic congress, and the editor of the Washington States (another democratic organ) charges him with stealing a hundred thousand dollars of the public money.

We rather imagine that if there exists "a motley crew, ringed, streaked and spotted," the Appeal man must admit they are to be found on the "national" democratic side of the house.

The democrats of the southern parishes are troubled about the manner in which a portion of the democratic legislators from north Louisiana comported themselves during the late contest for U. S. senator. The Baton Rouge Advocate (democratic organ of the legislature) closes a long leader on the subject as follows:

"It is with sincere regret and reluctance that we speak thus censoriously of those with whom we have always been on such warm political and social terms. We have endeavored to speak as kindly as possible of the men we have named, but shall not be so dainty in alluding to others who participated and we believe took the lead in the attempt to break up the caucus and defeat the nominee. The true friends of Mr. Gray we believe went into the caucus with the honest desire of presenting their claims to their brethren, and with a sincere intention of abiding by the result, whatever it might be; but there were others who acted with them with no such motives. More than one of these were known to have avowed sentiments of opposition in the event that either of a certain two of the four candidates obtained the nomination. With such a spirit and entertaining such feelings, what object but a desire to make mischief prompted their pretended friendship for Mr. Gray? None whatever. These intrigants, aided by outside influences at the capitol, a cunning pimp or two from New Orleans, smelling of Pilgarlic & Co., were the instruments who exerted themselves to deceive good democrats and true men, and provoke them to a course which we trust they already sincerely regret. A statement will shortly be prepared by a committee of the caucus to be sent to the people, and we doubt not it will completely exonerate our democratic friends from all intention of acting unjustly towards those who left the caucus."

The city council of Vicksburg has passed an ordinance levying a tax of $100,000 for the benefit of the Vicksburg, Shreveport and Texas railroad. The ordinance is subject to the approval or the rejection of the tax-payers.

The following paragraph, from an article in the Washington Union, is reproduced by the black republican press with an exhibition of temper which the reader may easily imagine:

"They have no foundation in actual occurrences, but are intended for the mere purpose of agitation. They are the coinage of imagination, the base coinage of vicious and malicious imagination. But they are only a part of many cotemporaneous circumstances, which reveal to the country an important fact. They warn it of a widespread and desperate conspiracy in the southern States against the authority of the laws, constitution and government, the continuance of the Union, and the integrity of all existing institutions, not only in the southern States, but in every quarter that can be reached from the southern States. We see evidences of this movement in the efforts to revive the African slave trade against the wish and conviction of nine-tenths of the southern people."

Until we determined the authority of the quotation by actual reference to the original article, we refused to believe that any such statement had appeared in the columns of the Union. As the reputed organ of the administration, that paper is supposed to observe a circumspection in its conduct with which so violent an instinctive against the democratic section of the confederacy, is an incompatible idea. But, after research among our cotemporary's files, our incredulity was dissipated by the discovery that the obnoxious language was actually employed in the leading editorial of the Union on the 6th of January.

It is a grave indictment, and in our judgment, is as unjust as it is inculpatory. With our information of the prevalent public opinion of the south, and the character of its people, we do not hesitate to stigmatize the accusation as equally unfounded in fact and malevolent in motive. The charge is explicit, that "a wide spread and desperate conspiracy exists in the southern States against the authority of the laws, constitution, and government, the continuance of the Union and the integrity of all existing institutions, not only in the southern States, but in every quarter that can be reached from the southern States."

The circumstances adduced in support of this sweeping and overwhelming indictment, which can be justified by nothing whatever less than the most positive and irresistible evidence, are the insignificant incidents of the slave trade agitation and the expedition to Nicaragua. If, instead of being partial ebullitions of popular feeling and episodical incidents in the progress of southern development, these enterprises were approved and supported by every individual in the slave holding States, they would not warrant the charge of a conspiracy against all law, government, and morality. The Union does not restrict its impeachment to a particular class, but alleges the existence of a "wide-spread" plot of treason and anarchy throughout the southern States. And this after the Nicaraguan expedition has miscarried for want of support in the south, and the inhabitants of the slave States have pronounced against any infraction of federal law, no matter what the inducement of profit or power! Nay more; such are the prevalence and the exuberant energy of southern sedition that it is not content with the conquest of its own section, but aspires to propagate its poison among every coterminous community. According to the Washington Union, the contact of the slave States is pregnant with infection!

If these blasting aspersions on the south had appeared in the columns of a black republican paper, they would be laughed at as the rhapsody of a lunatic abolitionist. Emanating from the official organ of the president, and propagated without rebuke from the administration, they will exert no inconsiderable influence on the issues of sectional and party controversy.

They are accepted by the abolitionists as unimpeachable proof of all their calumnies against the slaveholding community.

What will the representatives of the south say in response to this indictment?

[Washington States.

THE NAVAJO WAR.—The Galveston Civilian of the 24th ult., has late dates from New Mexico. The Navajoes sued for peace, and the Indian agent and military commander, believing the Indians sufficiently castigated and humbled, agreed to an armistice for thirty days.—The armistice provided only for the surrender by the Indians of property taken from the fort and which belonged to the United States, but did not provide for the surrender of private property of the territory. The armistice did not provide for the surrender of the murderer, which was the cause of the war, nor even for the payment of the negro boy who was murdered, although the Indians, before the war, agreed to pay any price for him, however extravagant. The superintendent of Indian affairs and the commander of the military department left Santa Fé a short time ago for the seat of war. They will consent to no peace upon the terms of the armistice. They will require at least the surrender of private as well as public property taken by the Indians during the war, and a meridian line shall be established, east of which the Navajoes shall neither plant, nor graze their stock. A peace less favorable to us would be unjust, a mere delusion, and could not last. If the Navajoes are humbled, as it is said they are, they must give some better proof of it than empty words. If a peace should be agreed upon, the terms will be known to you long before the termination of your session, and if no peace should be agreed upon, the war, no doubt, will be prosecuted with renewed vigor.

SPEECHES FOR CONGRESS.—We presume that few persons, not favored with a peep behind the scenes, are aware that most of the speeches which appear in the Congressional Globe are got up by letter-writers for the members whose name they bear. Yet such is the fact. The Washington correspondent of the Cincinnati Enquirer thus refers to the subject: Many members who remain here to spend "merry Christmas," I discover, are, in parliamentary language, "cramming" themselves. That is, they are at the departments and the library room getting data for speeches. Speech making is a business. It is an art to be studied, and requires material for success as every thing. There are persons who follow the occupation of "crammers." They provide all the facts, figures, and quotations for persons who wish to make a speech on a particular subject, and who have not the time or inclination to search books, papers, records, or the bureaux for the desired information. They are very useful gentlemen. They can tell you in a moment where to look for what will be useful in illustrating or proving almost any position. Nor do their useful qualities stop there; they are good at getting up a speech on almost any given subject, and put them together with all oratorical ornament, if you desire it, and will pay for it. I know that to have been done.

HANDSOME REPORT.—The following incident strongly inculcates the propriety of every man attending to his own business: At a dinner party, not long ago, a certain member of congress had the indelicacy to press the Spanish minister frequently concerning the acquisition of Cuba. These thrusts were parried with that becoming grace and good taste which are well known characteristics of Mr. Tessara, who, from the sphere of journalism, has come to be recognised as a leading orator, poet, statesman and diplomatist of Spain. At last his officious interrogator said, substantially, "Come Mr. Minister, what will you take for Cuba, name your price?" Mr. Terrasa instantly replied, with crushing calmness and dignity:—"When you are president of the U. States and I am prime minister of Spain, that will be time for such a proposition." It may be supposed the subject was not renewed.

We notice that many of the peach trees in this vicinity are in bloom.

General Intelligence.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—The democratic senatorial caucus on Saturday, favored the increase of the rate of postage on letters to five cents.

In the house, Mr. Kilgore asked for the suspension of the rules, for the purpose of introducing a preamble and resolution against the foreign slave trade.—The house refused to suspend the rules by a vote of 115 yeas to 84 nays—a two third vote being required.

The introduction of a bill authorising the president to effect a loan of $20,000,000, was also refused.

SENATE.—The resolution offered by senator Mason on Saturday, to the effect that it is inexpedient to change the tariff at the present session of congress, was offered and adopted in the senatorial caucus, and not in the senate, as reported on Saturday night.

JANUARY 31.—In the senate to-day, a resolution in relation to commodore Paulding was under consideration, when Mr. Hunter interrupted the discussion by calling up the Indian appropriation bill.

Mr. Bigler introduced a resolution to regulate the revenue laws, so as to pay off the present debt and meet the current expenses of the government.

Mr. Slidell endeavored to introduce his Cuban resolutions, but was unsuccessful.

Mr. Seward proposed by a joint resolution that the president should intervene for the defence of commodore Paulding against suits arising from the performance of his duty in Central America.

An amendment was offered to the appropriation bill from the finance committee looking to the further abolition of the reservation system. The amendment was adopted. The senators from Texas and California opposed it as likely to produce a general Indian war. Another amendment was adopted, relieving the U. S. from damages to traders in suits against poor friendly Indians.

In the senate to-day Mr. Mallory made a report in favor of the increase of our steam naval vessels. He said it was evident that the next naval war would be on the Gulf of Mexico, and six heavy steamships of war could, by signals, bridge the Gulf from Florida to Cuba, and other great maritime powers could spare this number of vessels without weakening their fleets materially, while we were wholly unprepared for such a contest.

HOUSE—The report of the committee on foreign affairs upon the acquisition of Cuba, as prepared by Mr. Branch, of South Carolina, traces the various acquisitions of territory by our government from the revolution to the present time. It estimates the commerce of the Gulf of Mexico, (exclusive of coastwise trade,) between the Atlantic and the Pacific at $260,000,000; and expresses the belief that within five years, it will increase to $500,000,000. It asks whether the nations which, for an adequate consideration, placed us in a position to render the use of the Gulf of Mexico a necessity, can refuse the concessions necessary to the enjoyment of those possessions. It says it is as important to remove Spain from Cuba now as it was to remove France from Louisiana in 1803. The report contrasts Napoleon Bonaparte's willingness to sell in 1803 with the reluctance of Spain to sell the island of Cuba to the United States, while making no objections to selling territory to France and England. The report cites the acts of 1811 and 1812, authorising the president to seize Florida. It complains of the conduct of Spain in the purchase of Florida, and says that Louisiana and Florida were transferred between Spain, France and England, but when Florida became necessary to the United States, Spanish pride revolted; and we could not buy Florida on any terms. The report details the advantages of the acquisition of Cuba under several classes. It shows that the sugar and molasses consumed in the United States cost the consumers $9,000,000 more than if Cuba belonged to United States, and that our farmers would sell flour, pork and lard to the value of $8,500,000, where they now sell none. The committee say this exhibit is made to show that we can afford to pay a liberal price for Cuba and not to excite the cupidity of our citizens. The report says the native white population of Cuba eagerly desire annexation to the United States, and that no civilized people whatever, a majority of whom are averse to our institutions, ought to be taken into the Union. It approves of the president's sentiments against the acquisition of Cuba by any dishonorable means, and expresses the opinion that notwithstanding Spain shows no apparent disposition to sell and threatens to refuse a sale under any circumstances, yet that the president had a motive in proposing the purchase at this time, and to reject the bill would be construed by Spain as indicating the dissent of our people as well as of congress, from the views of the president. The bill is similar to those under which the acquisition of Louisiana and California were made.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—Reliable information has been received here that since the first of January the commanders of the British and French naval forces sent a joint note to the governor of Vera Cruz, demanding the payment of the debts due to the subjects of England and France, with a monthly statement of the imports, duties and the payment of the damages sustained by the subjects of the two governments during the various Mexican wars. They also demand a repeal of the present revenue laws, and the restoration of those which were in force a year ago. The governor replies that the propositions shall receive due consideration; that he is disposed to yield what is just, but no more. He considers the question involves the right of interference by foreign government in the internal affairs of another, and of dictation in regard to import duties.

The special agent of the treasury department sent to California to enquire into the completion of the U. States mint and customhouse, reports mismanagement and abuses in all departments of the public service in California. It is believed extensive removals will be made in the various departments there. The squatters on the Mariposa claim in California, have petitioned government to set aside the Fremont patent, on the ground of fraud in the survey. The petition has been referred to the attorney general.

The telegraph brings us intelligence of the decease of one of our most distinguished literary men, Wm. H Prescott, esq., the author of the "History of Ferdinand and Isabella," "The Conquest of Mexico," "The Conquest of Peru;" a new edition, with important additions, of Robertson's Charles V., and Philip II., of Spain, upon which he was engaged at the time of his death. Mr. Prescott's fame as one of the leading historians of his times is world wide, and his loss, in the prime of life and in the full vigor of his intellect, will be regarded as a calamity wherever the language, in which he wrote so much and so well, is spoken.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—J. M. Spullock was confirmed by the senate to-day as United States marshal for Georgia, vice Stewart removed.

Davis, of Miss., at the evening session of the senate last night for general discussion, advocated the acquisition of Cuba as necessary to the preservation of the United States as a nation. He said that England and France were not now in a position to interfere. No reasonable man believed that Cuba could be purchased, and there never was a period when the forcible acquisition of the island would be attended with less injury to all parties than the present.

Baron Von Gerolt is to return to Washington by the next steamer from Europe. It is believed that the decided demonstration of congress towards the acquisition of Cuba has created much uneasiness among the European powers.

The reference of the French spoliation bill in the house to the committee of the whole, is considered as indicative of its defeat.

The committee on territories have agreed to report a bill for the organisation of Jefferson territory, embracing in its limits the Pike peak country.

NEW HAVEN, Jan 31.—The extensive iron belt manufacturing establishment at Southington, in this State, was destroyed by fire this morning.

BOSTON, Jan. 31.—A vessel arrived at this port from St. Domingo, reports that the emperor Soulouque had been compelled to return to Port-au Prince, and will probably be forced to abdicate. The empress advised him to abdicate, and for this treasonable piece of advice he threatened to shoot her, but was prevented by his generals. If the revolution is successful, which appears probable, and the republicans secure the government, it is said that the ports which have been closed for years by Soulouque, will be opened to commerce and the monopoly law established by the emperor Soulouque will be revoked.

BOSTON, Feb. 1.—The brig Monticello has arrived at this port from Port-au Prince, with advices to the 9th ultimo. The captain of the Monticello reports that a few slight collisions had taken place between general Jeffard's forces and the troops under his colored majesty Soulouque. Soulouque had advanced to Moro, and meditated an advance on St. Marie. An engagement of some importance had taken place, but no reliable information had been received as to which party was victorious. A republican movement was in course of organisation at Port-au-Prince. Soulouque had called for more troops, but was unable to raise one hundred more recruits. It is rumored that Jacmel and Aux-Cayes had declared for a republic. His colored majesty's force do not exceed 3000 men. The general opinion at Port-au-Prince is, that general Jeffard will succeed in displacing Soulouque, and establish a republic. Business at Jeremie and Port-au-Prince was almost entirely suspended, and an embargo had been established on coasting vessel.

A letter in the Richmond (Va.,) Dispatch, dated Rockingham, January 23d, says: "The State senator from this district, Mr George E. Deneale, was arrested and lodged in jail on Tuesday evening last, on a charge of swindling the banks at Staunton out of several thousand dollars, as well as several citizens of this county. Mr. Deheale has been dealing largely in cattle for the last two or three years, and not being able to pay for all he bought, has resorted to means which led him into this difficulty. He gave a mortgage on all his property a few days since, to pay his indebtedness, which, we understand, amounted to about $70,000. He was taken to Staunton on Wednesday evening by officer Braithwait, where he will have his trial. The affair has caused the greatest excitement throughout the country. He has represented the district composed of Rockingham and Pendleton counties, for the last eight or ten years, and there was some talk of running him for congress. His wife accompanied him to prison, and remained there with him. She also accompanied him to Staunton, and seems determined to stand by him to the last."

Mr. Morphy, says the London Illustrated News, may now fairly take rank as the chess champion of the old world as well as the new. No Englishman is found to do him battle, and every foreigner of note has now, with the exception of Der Luja, fallen an easy prey to the youthful conqueror. It is a question whether he be not the greatest player to whom the world has yet given birth.

The whole expenses of the State government of New Jersey were last year $320,000, about three-fifths of which was raised by a tax upon railroad passengers

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—It is understood that the president has stated in private that secretary Cobb will positively send to congress, to-day, a communication recommending a revision of the tariff.

An effort is making in the senate finance committee to abolish the newly established overland mail from New Orleans via San Antonio, El Paso and San Diego, under the plea of retrenchment. The doubly expensive Butterfield contract from St. Louis to California, via Fort Smith and El Paso, it is not proposed to disturb.

NEW YORK, Feb. 2.—In the cotton market to-day, prices were in favor of the buyer. Operators are awaiting the arrival of the steamship Kangaroo, from Liverpool, with dates to the 19th ult. The sales of cotton to-day were 1509 bales.

MARRIAGE BY PROXY.—Rev. doctor Gregory, formerly of this city, pronounced at De Veux college, Suspension bridge, the marriage ceremony between parties who were not at the time within 6000 miles of each other. It was done by proxy, the lady's father acting as proxy for the bridegroom. The affair took place on the opening of the new year, under the following circumstances: "The bride, for seven years a resident of California, after the death of a former husband, became engaged to a gentleman residing in that State, but having a large landed property in Mexico. By some arrangement between the parties, the lady returned to her paternal home, at St. Catherines, Canada West, where her intended was to meet her about this time, and claim her as his bride. The recent troubles in Mexico, however, being in the vicinity of his plantation, demanded his immediate presence in that country, and forbade his coming north to fulfil his engagement. He, therefore, frankly wrote her of the circumstances which detained him, and enclosed a regularly executed power of attorney, which authorised the lady's father to stand instead of the bridegroom, and for him to enter into matrimonial vows. The papers being executed in the United States, it was thought necessary to have the ceremony performed on this side of the Niagara, and father and daughter came over to the De Veux college, and the lady became the legal wife of her California lord. She will sail for her Pacific home about the 5th of February and there join her proxy husband, or seek him in Mexico.

[Syracuse Journal.

There is a most remarkable rumor from Japan to the effect that the emperor suffered a violent death in consequence of signing the treaty with the United States. It is said that some of the subordinate rulers, upon being asked for their approval to the treaty, refused any sort of concurrence, and notified the emperor that in obedience to the laws of Japan the time had come for him to commit "Harikari," (suicide.) The great ruler therefore stabbed himself in bowels, receiving at the same moment a severe blow on the back of the neck, from a friend and relative, which, dislocating the vertebra, produced instant death. These reports come through the Dutch traders in Japan, and are considered reliable.

We learn from the New York papers that circulars have been signed by the leading Irishmen of that city, calling a meeting at Tammany hall, to consider what action should be taken, regarding events transpiring in Ireland. It is in contemplation to issue an address to the friends of Irish independence from the friends of freedom in America. The Germans are also moving with a view to promote another revolution in Italy.

Ringsley S. Bingham, recently elected by the legislature of Michigan, to the U. S. Senate to succeed Mr. Stuart, was formerly a democrat, but is now an "intense" black republican. His election adds one more to the black republican strength in the senate, which after the fourth of March will be twenty-three, without counting the New Jersey and Minnesota senators yet to be chosen, or the Indiana contestants.

General John M. Davis died in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, last week, aged 87 years. The Pittsburg Post says, he received commissions from presidents Jefferson, Madison and Monroe. As private and officer, he served his country for fourteen years. In the year 1807 he passed through Pittsburg, with a company for the southwest, which descended the Ohio in keelboats. He served for seven years under the command of general Jackson. In the Indian wars in Florida he distinguished himself, and especially so at the battle of the "Horse Shoe." He was afterwards at the battle of New Orleans, as a captain in the army, and was one of general Jackson's aids. Here he undertook a most dangerous duty—that of obtaining a supply of ammunition for the American army—which he successfully accomplished, with the loss of a number of men and the mules attached to the wagons. For his success in this hazardous undertaking, he received the honorable appointment of brevet major. In 1815, he retired from the army, after the close of the war had rendered his active services no longer necessary to his country. During the administration of president Jackson, he received the appointment of United States marshal for the western district of Pennsylvania.

How the following, which we find in the Louisville Courier of the 15th ult., must wring the tender hearts of those great philanthropists, Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe and Horace Greely. Only to think of it, a live white man, a free American citizen, sold for one dollar! Chas. Yater, who for years past has been an exceedingly dissolute character in this city, was sold on Saturday, in front of the courthouse, under the vagrant act. One dollar was all that was paid for the unfortunate specimen of the Caucasian race.

Consignees of Merchandise per Steamboats

At White, Smith & Baldwin's.—W. R. Johnson; R. C. Boney; Wm. Wyche; Doct. Bickham; J. C. Medford; R. B. Casey; C. F. Harris; J. Slater; J. H. Ross; Mrs. Susan Christian; Richard Bert; D. I. Hooks; J. McMillin; Mrs. A. Hollingsworth; S. B. Skidmore; T. W. Rochelle; B. Witherspoon; M. W. Pierson; F. Richards; A. B. McMillin; John Ashlin; Isaac McKee; T. D. Kennedy; T. Gilliam; D. S. Garrett; A. Crawford; E. Echharts; J. W. Gamble; T. Holt; G. A. Fisher; B. & S. Wells; J. Wilder; T. D. Gary; W. W. Attaway; J. M. Wiggins & Co.; A. S. Fields; Edward Ellis; B. F. Estes; T. A. Green; J. Walpole; Pegram & Greenhill; W. E. Moore; Griswold & Co.; Chancellor & Shepherd; Harris & Shuttleworth; T. M. Gilmer; J. B. Lancaster & Co.; James Bray; W. G. Boney; A. W. Tucker; Walter Cates; W. U. Foster; Mrs. E. C. Powell; L. F. Pugh; James McCracken; O. G. Woodall; N. Graham; Wm. Woodson; J. W. & W. Flannagan; James D. Blair; John A. Ross; J. W. Ross; P. G. & R. J. Rhome; R. T. Rhome; Jacob Irvin; D. Henry; C. W. Arnold; W. A. Green; David Lipscomb.

At Howell & Buckner's.—F. M. Foster; F. Foster; D. Shaw; W. W. Harper; T. M. Gatlin; M. Roth; R. T. Hyde; Smith, Ballard & Co; J. F. Rasbury; Albert Johnson; R. Hollingsworth; Nathan Marshall; A. J. Powell; P. H. Martin; W. B. Campbell; Dr. W. Evans; Dr. A. Parker; C. L. Jordan; Mrs. N. Bateman; Barnett Station; J. Ward; Peter Dudworth; Edward Franklin; Joel Cheatham; A. B. McMillan; S. Hollinsworth; J. Chapple; Judson & Bro; Jas. S. Davis; Henry Pomant; E. Johnson; K. Sullivan; T. G. Davenport; R. E. Smith & Bro; A. S. Hayter; F. W. Rounshill.

At Dunn & Ritchie's.—L. & A. Mayer; J. B. Likens; Valentine & Reed; G. K. Grimes & Bro; J. F. Caldwell; J. M. Foreman & Co; B. B. Cameron; S. M. Warner; B. F. McDonough; Jiles S. Boggess; Robert H. Hamby; Jones & Shelton; W. H Estill; Estill & Likens; S. G. Swan; Clinton Lodge No 2 (Henderson, T.;) W. H. Burtis; T. Camp; E. C. Stuckey; D. W. Glass; W. Her; J. H. Muckleroy; C.J.H.Betts.

Steamboat Register.

ARRIVED

Feb. 2—Osceola, from Upper Red River.
Morning Light, from Jefferson.
B. L. Hodge, from New Orleans.
3—Lafitte, from New Orleans.
Banjo, from Alexandria.
4—Eleanor, from the Bluffs.
Telegram, from Jefferson.
Era No. 2, from Upper Red River.
Era No. 3, from Upper Red River