

Burning of the Dickson House.

This popular house of entertainment, we regret to announce, was destroyed by fire last night. The alarm was given about half-past nine o'clock. Our efficient Fire Company was, as usual, on hand, and saved the surrounding buildings. To them and to the citizens and soldiers, and freedmen, who cooperated, all praise is due.

The loss is estimated by Mr. Dickson at \$35,000. The insurance policy expired a few weeks ago, and we learn was not renewed. Most of the furniture was saved, although in a damaged condition. The fire originated in the kitchen. We witnessed many acts of the firemen and others worthy of special commendation, but the lateness of the hour prevents further mention this morning.

The Legislatures of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Missouri, Massachusetts and Kentucky are now in session.

The Vicksburg Times has been informed that there was a fire in Grenada, on the night of Monday, the 31st ult., which destroyed the Collins' House and several other buildings.

The New York Times takes a gloomy view of the prospects of business in the West and South, and argues that the attempt to pay off a portion of the national debt should be postponed until trade and industry revive, and that to secure this, the burdens of the people should be lightened. Trade and industry, the Times should know, will not revive while the radicals undertake to "run" the Government.

We see that Gen. Th. J. Wood has been relieved from duty and given a three months leave of absence. He will be succeeded by Gen. A. C. Gillem, Colonel of the 24th U. S. Regular Infantry, who has not yet arrived. The Vicksburg Herald says Gen. Gillem comes to us only known as the commander of the regiment which murdered Gen. John H. Morgan, after he had surrendered to Col. Gillem.

John Thompson McMurrin, a distinguished jurist of Natchez, who was one of the unfortunate passengers on the ill-fated steamer Fashion, and who in attempting to jump ashore from a tier of cotton fell and broke his thigh, died on the night of the 30th ult. in New Orleans.

THE PRESIDENT CONFIDENT.

A Washington telegram announces that President Johnson, the other day, in conversation with a friend, expressed his unabated confidence in the final triumph of his restoration policy. He also took occasion to condemn the project agitated in Congress for the overthrow of the present State governments, south and north, and declared that it would not reach that state.

A few renegades held what they styled a republican convention at Fort Smith, Arkansas, on the 13th ult. Resolutions were adopted declaring that Congress has the exclusive right to prescribe terms of restoration to the late seceded States, including the power to amend the constitution of the United States, as to carry out the designs of the declaration of independence; alleging the adoption of the pending constitutional amendment as absolutely necessary for the safety, honor and dignity of the nation; asking Congress to take the earliest possible steps as will enable the loyal people of Arkansas, without regard to race or color, to reorganize the State government on the basis of sincere and active loyalty to the United States government, and upon clearly-defined republican principles. They also ask Congress to declare the present state government of Arkansas abolished, and extend the right of suffrage to all loyal men, without distinction of color, except Indians untaxed.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS BILL TO BE TESTED.—The constitutionality of the civil rights law will soon be tested in a case before the Supreme Court, which has been made up in Maryland.

The Vicksburg Herald is informed that Capt. King was assassinated in Washington county, last week, by negroes, and robbed of his watch, money and pistol. His body was not discovered for several days. Capt. K. was from Iowa, and had been an officer in a negro regiment.

Mrs. Surratt's house, in Washington, is said to be haunted—the ghost of the murdered woman walking its floors every night dressed in the robes of serge in which she was executed. City she doesn't get after Stanton, instead of the innocent occupants of her old house.

Forney's Press is responsible for the following mendacious inquiries: "Why have a changing in Richmond, Va. Why not put Jeff Davis on the streets and make him walk for his living?" Was there ever so much of dog, thief and coward combined in any other man as in Forney?

REPORTED EXPRESSLY FOR THE CLARION.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—The day is delightful, and is devoted to receptions and feasts. The coronation of the White House is said by old citizens to be of unprecedented brilliancy.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—The Tribune announces that James Stephens was in New York, boarding at 13th street, under the assumed name of Wm. Scott, until four days ago, when he suddenly decamped. He had been paying forty-five dollars per week for board and lodging.

BANGOR, Me., Dec. 31.—Ground will be broken on the European and North American Railroad in this city on January 1st.

HALFAX, Jan. 1.—The Royal mail steamer China from Liverpool on Saturday, Dec. 23d, via Queenstown, 23rd, arrived here at 6 o'clock this morning.

The subscription in England for the relief of the sufferers by the great fire at Quebec had reached thirty thousand pounds.

The Paris correspondent of the London Times, of the 23d, says the opposition of the press to the army reorganization scheme, was growing so decided, and public opinion was generally so adverse that it was rumored yesterday it would be withdrawn.

NEW YORK, Jan. 1.—A Havana letter of December 29th, states that the financial crisis had nearly abated. Boro Espanol paid \$600,000 in gold the first day of November and afterwards \$350,000 per day. All the banks except Bossier & Co., who are supposed to be hopelessly insolvent, resumed payment. Jas. A. Vesie, a Boston broker reported failed—liabilities being half a million.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—The tariff report of Commissioner Wells will be presented to the Senate on Thursday next. It is said on the best authority that the statements heretofore published purporting to give the substance of the report, are wholly fallacious, and very far wide of the facts. The report cannot be regarded as a free trade report, as it recommends an increase of the tariff where it can be borne. It is simply a plain, lucid, common sense statement of the results of patient and intelligent investigation into the condition of our industrial affairs.

NEW YORK, Jan. 1.—Gold 132 1/2. Money unchanged. Stocks better. Coupons of sixes of 1861, \$106 1/2; ditto of 1864, 104 1/2.

Arrived—steamer San Salvador from Savannah; sailed—the steamer Grenada from Charleston with cargo of Andalusia.

Cotton firm but quiet. Uplands 34 1/2; Orleans 35 1/2.

PARIS, Jan. 2.—Napoleon's speech, delivered to the Diplomatic corps on new year's day is of very pacific tone.

BELFAST, Ireland, Jan. 2.—Fenian arrests continue to be made here, and also seizures of arms.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Jan. 2.—The Legislature has convened in extra session. Message is confined to state affairs. Over one million in treasury, and no additional taxation required.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—There is good authority for saying the bill impeaching the President will be introduced in the House on Monday next by Ashley. The President was every prospect of success. The bill expressed nothing to-day of the fact and expressed himself ready for trial.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Jan. 2.—The Governor, speaking of the amendment, says it contains provisions which, in the wisdom of the National Legislature, are necessary to secure permanent peace throughout the country and correct palpable errors existing in the States lately in rebellion. He is not without hope that the seventeen States will reconsider the rejection of the amendment.

ANNAPOLIS, Jan. 2.—The Legislature assembled to-day. The Governor's message will be delivered to-morrow.

The New York Commercial says stocks, though not active, have decidedly improved. Gold weaker at 32 1/2. Money moderately active—unchanged. Foreign exchange a shade lower at 96 1/2.

The Commercial's Washington special says the Sherman-Campbell mission to Mexico is abandoned. Campbell received leave to visit home. Sherman will be in Washington next week.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—The United States steamer Dan leaves Annapolis on a secret mission, having on board Admiral Porter and Hon. Frederick Seward, Assistant Secretary of State. The object is supposed to be to establish United States authority on some island lately discovered, as it is understood the vessel will not be heard from until she returns home.

It is not true that Gen. Grant accompanies the mission. Onro, Jan. 2.—The Governor, speaking of the amendment, says it contains provisions which, in the wisdom of the National Legislature, are necessary to secure permanent peace throughout the country and correct palpable errors existing in the States lately in rebellion. He is not without hope that the seventeen States will reconsider the rejection of the amendment.

ANNAPOLIS, Jan. 2.—The Legislature assembled to-day. The Governor's message will be delivered to-morrow.

The New York Commercial says stocks, though not active, have decidedly improved. Gold weaker at 32 1/2. Money moderately active—unchanged. Foreign exchange a shade lower at 96 1/2.

The Commercial's Washington special says the Sherman-Campbell mission to Mexico is abandoned. Campbell received leave to visit home. Sherman will be in Washington next week.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—The United States steamer Dan leaves Annapolis on a secret mission, having on board Admiral Porter and Hon. Frederick Seward, Assistant Secretary of State. The object is supposed to be to establish United States authority on some island lately discovered, as it is understood the vessel will not be heard from until she returns home.

It is not true that Gen. Grant accompanies the mission. Onro, Jan. 2.—The Governor, speaking of the amendment, says it contains provisions which, in the wisdom of the National Legislature, are necessary to secure permanent peace throughout the country and correct palpable errors existing in the States lately in rebellion. He is not without hope that the seventeen States will reconsider the rejection of the amendment.

ANNAPOLIS, Jan. 2.—The Legislature assembled to-day. The Governor's message will be delivered to-morrow.

The New York Commercial says stocks, though not active, have decidedly improved. Gold weaker at 32 1/2. Money moderately active—unchanged. Foreign exchange a shade lower at 96 1/2.

The Commercial's Washington special says the Sherman-Campbell mission to Mexico is abandoned. Campbell received leave to visit home. Sherman will be in Washington next week.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—The United States steamer Dan leaves Annapolis on a secret mission, having on board Admiral Porter and Hon. Frederick Seward, Assistant Secretary of State. The object is supposed to be to establish United States authority on some island lately discovered, as it is understood the vessel will not be heard from until she returns home.

It is not true that Gen. Grant accompanies the mission. Onro, Jan. 2.—The Governor, speaking of the amendment, says it contains provisions which, in the wisdom of the National Legislature, are necessary to secure permanent peace throughout the country and correct palpable errors existing in the States lately in rebellion. He is not without hope that the seventeen States will reconsider the rejection of the amendment.

ANNAPOLIS, Jan. 2.—The Legislature assembled to-day. The Governor's message will be delivered to-morrow.

The New York Commercial says stocks, though not active, have decidedly improved. Gold weaker at 32 1/2. Money moderately active—unchanged. Foreign exchange a shade lower at 96 1/2.

Cotton active at 32 1/2. Corn 106 1/2. Flour 2 1/2. Sugar 11 1/2. Pork 42 1/2.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 2.—Steamer Monte Star bound to New York that arrived on Saturday last. The steamer passed by here Saturday night.

Gen. Sterling Price and three thousand men arrived here from Cordova, Mexico. The Imperial Mexican forces of December 1st order new enrollment of all states, real and personal to be taxed for the support of the Government. The taxes established by the decree of December 3rd, in pursuance whereof this enrollment ordered must be paid, within the first and tenth days of every month.

Maximilian is fully established at Puebla. The city council presented an address welcoming him to the city. Cabinet still engaged upon the new national Congress, no account of their deliberations has yet been published. The French Minister and Castellan are also at Puebla.

A sanguinary conflict occurred at the Bridge Italia between a small force of Imperialists conducting convoy and 800 Liberals, wherein the former suffered severely. The Colonel was made prisoner and one whole company missing. The Imperialists had captured and shot one Col. Bravo and three other Liberal chiefs.

Collector Kellogg was summoned before the committee yesterday and again to-day to testify upon the subject of the riot and condition of the people of the whole Union; and, whereas, the people inhabiting said territory, occupying such lands, joined the inhabitants of other insurrectionary districts waging war against the Government and people of the United States, thereby forfeiting their political rights as citizens of the States of the Union, and destroying the practical relations of the said State of Texas to the extent that all territorial rights and possessions appertaining to be exercised or enjoyed by the people of the said State of Texas, become and remain forfeited and lost to them by reason of their own acts of treason and rebellion aforesaid; and, whereas, the people and the public authority have been, and still are, disposing of the public lands remaining unsettled therein, not only in a reckless and improvident manner, but to persons who have been, and are still disloyal to the Government of the United States, and rewards for treason and rebellion against the said State of Texas, and the people and public authority of said State, in defiance of all law, municipal and divine, have, and are still committing every species of violence and outrage upon each other, and more particularly upon Union men and freedmen within its borders; and, whereas the said district of Texas has been, and is now the resort and refuge of desperate and lawless characters and criminals so that the very name by which that country is recognized and named throughout all lands is suggestive of the penal colony of the old world—the name and history thereof indicating little else than bloodshed, ingratitude, violence and wrong; therefore, to end the political power and public domain thereof, that they may not further strengthen the hands and advance the purposes of those who have been and are now the most active, untiring and malignant foes of liberty and union of the States, and with a view of a speedy settlement of the entire region of said District with a loyal and industrious people, and for the purpose of establishing justice, enacting and executing the laws and maintaining order and securing tranquility therein.

Resolved, That said District heretofore known as the State of Texas be divided into four territories with a suitable government thereof.

Resolved, That when any of said territories have sufficient population to entitle it to be represented in the Congress of the United States of not less than 125,000 persons and shall by convention duly called for that purpose composed of delegates voted for and elected by loyal male persons of twenty-one years of age and upwards, having resided in the territory 6 months and who has not been a traitor of any infamous crime, or is a lunatic, or pauper, shall have adopted a constitution of a republican form, and constitutional amendment proposed by the 39th Congress at its first session thereof, shall be eligible to admission into the Union, and upon election of members of Congress who can duly qualify, shall be admitted into the Union upon an equality with the other States thereof. The civil governments of said territories of other territories of the Union; and until such governments are provided, the Government and laws of Texas shall remain in full authority and force; that all sales and grants of lands hereafter made in Texas by the public authorities thereof to disloyal persons or traitors, shall be null and void, and the right of pre-emption to any public lands therein, under the laws thereof, shall not inure to the benefit of such persons or persons.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 2.—Cotton sales stiffer. Sales ten thousand bales. Low Middling 31 1/2; Middling 33 1/2; receipts thirty-nine hundred bales. Exports 4000. Sugar, good demand; fair 10. Molasses good demand; common 59 1/2; primes to choice 64 1/2-70. Flour firm; superfine \$11; extra \$12 1/2-15. Corn, good demand \$1 05; extra 4c. higher, 82 1/2; hay quiet, \$7 25. Pork firm; higher 32 1/2; Bacon, shoulders 12 1/2; Sides 12 1/2-14; Lard quiet, 19 1/2-21. Gold 32 1/2. Bank Sterling 43. New York exchange 1/2 to 1/4 discount.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—The Times says the only question that England at the present time is at all involved in with other powers, are questions waiting for settlement between her and America; it then assumes the prompt settlement of those on a satisfactory basis. The Times believes the Eastern question is now approached in a proper spirit. There can be a speedy settlement of it by the powers of Europe in the interests of peace.

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—The cotton market is quiet and steady to-day; estimated sales 10,000 bales.

LESSON, Jan. 4.—NOON.—The King assumed Cortes this morning and urged the reorganization of the army.

LONDON, Jan. 4.—NOON.—The cotton sales for the week amount to 64,000 bales; at

Rosen—Thursday, Jan. 2.—The committee of action has issued a proclamation calling for the early rising of the inhabitants against the authorities, and in aid of incorporation with the Kingdom of Italy.

YIENNA—Thursday, Jan. 2.—The Austrian Government has issued a special order of the Reichsrath to consider the question of amending the constitution of the empire.

RICHMOND, Jan. 3.—Returns from twenty-three Conferences of the Southern Methodist Church show that the proposition to change the name is defeated, and also indicate the probable defeat of the lay delegation proposition.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—Stevens has called up his bill for the reorganization of the Southern States. In doing so he remarked that the late decision of the Supreme Court was more dangerous—he would not say more infamous—than the Dred Scott decision.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—Mr. Bundy of Iowa introduced the following joint resolution for the establishment of four territorial governments within the so-called State of Texas:

Whereas, by joint resolution, approved March 1st, 1845, that district heretofore known as the State of Texas, was admitted into the Union and wrongfully permitted to retain in her own right, as the said State, all unsettled lands within the limits of the entire territory thereof, consisting of 257,000 square miles—of which were so-called common treasure, sacrifice and blood of the people of the whole Union; and, whereas, the people inhabiting said territory, occupying such lands, joined the inhabitants of other insurrectionary districts waging war against the Government and people of the United States, thereby forfeiting their political rights as citizens of the States of the Union, and destroying the practical relations of the said State of Texas to the extent that all territorial rights and possessions appertaining to be exercised or enjoyed by the people of the said State of Texas, become and remain forfeited and lost to them by reason of their own acts of treason and rebellion aforesaid; and, whereas, the people and the public authority have been, and still are, disposing of the public lands remaining unsettled therein, not only in a reckless and improvident manner, but to persons who have been, and are still disloyal to the Government of the United States, and rewards for treason and rebellion against the said State of Texas, and the people and public authority of said State, in defiance of all law, municipal and divine, have, and are still committing every species of violence and outrage upon each other, and more particularly upon Union men and freedmen within its borders; and, whereas the said district of Texas has been, and is now the resort and refuge of desperate and lawless characters and criminals so that the very name by which that country is recognized and named throughout all lands is suggestive of the penal colony of the old world—the name and history thereof indicating little else than bloodshed, ingratitude, violence and wrong; therefore, to end the political power and public domain thereof, that they may not further strengthen the hands and advance the purposes of those who have been and are now the most active, untiring and malignant foes of liberty and union of the States, and with a view of a speedy settlement of the entire region of said District with a loyal and industrious people, and for the purpose of establishing justice, enacting and executing the laws and maintaining order and securing tranquility therein.

Resolved, That said District heretofore known as the State of Texas be divided into four territories with a suitable government thereof.

Resolved, That when any of said territories have sufficient population to entitle it to be represented in the Congress of the United States of not less than 125,000 persons and shall by convention duly called for that purpose composed of delegates voted for and elected by loyal male persons of twenty-one years of age and upwards, having resided in the territory 6 months and who has not been a traitor of any infamous crime, or is a lunatic, or pauper, shall have adopted a constitution of a republican form, and constitutional amendment proposed by the 39th Congress at its first session thereof, shall be eligible to admission into the Union, and upon election of members of Congress who can duly qualify, shall be admitted into the Union upon an equality with the other States thereof. The civil governments of said territories of other territories of the Union; and until such governments are provided, the Government and laws of Texas shall remain in full authority and force; that all sales and grants of lands hereafter made in Texas by the public authorities thereof to disloyal persons or traitors, shall be null and void, and the right of pre-emption to any public lands therein, under the laws thereof, shall not inure to the benefit of such persons or persons.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 2.—Cotton sales stiffer. Sales ten thousand bales. Low Middling 31 1/2; Middling 33 1/2; receipts thirty-nine hundred bales. Exports 4000. Sugar, good demand; fair 10. Molasses good demand; common 59 1/2; primes to choice 64 1/2-70. Flour firm; superfine \$11; extra \$12 1/2-15. Corn, good demand \$1 05; extra 4c. higher, 82 1/2; hay quiet, \$7 25. Pork firm; higher 32 1/2; Bacon, shoulders 12 1/2; Sides 12 1/2-14; Lard quiet, 19 1/2-21. Gold 32 1/2. Bank Sterling 43. New York exchange 1/2 to 1/4 discount.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—The Times says the only question that England at the present time is at all involved in with other powers, are questions waiting for settlement between her and America; it then assumes the prompt settlement of those on a satisfactory basis. The Times believes the Eastern question is now approached in a proper spirit. There can be a speedy settlement of it by the powers of Europe in the interests of peace.

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—The cotton market is quiet and steady to-day; estimated sales 10,000 bales.

LESSON, Jan. 4.—NOON.—The King assumed Cortes this morning and urged the reorganization of the army.

LONDON, Jan. 4.—NOON.—The cotton sales for the week amount to 64,000 bales; at

FRANKFURT, Ky., Jan. 4.—Gov. Bramlett's message was delivered this morning. He says: "I trust your wise and prudent Legislature may be such as to remove the flimsy pretenses of an unreasoning fanaticism for any further disregard of the Constitution of our fathers; through the freedom's bureau and civil rights bills. He asked the adoption of such laws as will invite a superior class of laboring population to the State, by marking that the freedmen, bestowed upon the inferior race withdrawn from him the inferior race of the superior, and protecting care of the superior, and causing him to meet the superior race in the struggle of life, and must by a universal law of nature rapidly destroy the inferior race. True statesmanship admonishes us to make timely provision for the supply of a laboring population. Until the leopard can change his spots, the negro his skin, all the efforts of fanaticism to repeal or annul God's will, must be unavailing.

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—Gen. Meigs is reported dangerously ill at San Louis Potosi. Two columns of Liberal troops are marching on the place. The Liberals advanced in a strong line to within eight miles of the City of Mexico.

Demarax advises state that yellow fever had made sad ravages among the troops.

A delegation of loyal Tennesseans headed by Judge North and Gen. Eaton was received by the Union League last evening.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—Specials say owing to Indian troubles the fourteenth infantry has been ordered to Orizaba, and two regiments from the Department of the Potomac (Infantry) have been ordered to the frontier. The President's veto of the district anti-franchise bill will be sent to Congress Monday.

The Senate committee on territories will probably provide for the immediate admission of Nebraska on condition of no distinction in political rights on account of color. It is understood that the Secretary of War assumes the responsibility of transferring prisoners from Tortugas to Fort Delaware. The committee on revenue frauds concludes that the tax on whisky must be reduced to fifty cents a gallon or the manner of collecting it be radically changed.

Senator Sherman expresses the opinion that Congress will not interfere with the present currency.

DUBLIN, Jan. 3.—Six suspected persons were arrested here last night. They came from Liverpool where they just arrived from America.

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—Gold 134 1/2. Money unchanged.

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—The Commercial says the money market shows a steady increase of ease, but rates are unchanged. Gold firm at 33.

The rubber goods establishment of Henry G. Norton & Co., 359 Broadway was badly damaged by fire this morning. Loss \$35,000, partially insured. Peck, Randolph & Smith, clothiers, lost by water fifteen thousand dollars. The building owned by Norton & Domeged lost seven thousand dollars. All are fully insured.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—Commissioner Wells' revenue report recommends one dollar tax per gallon on liquors, but opposes the reduction of the cotton tax.

A development of facts about shipping is discouraging. The foreign tonnage is a million and a half against two millions and a half in 1859. There are but 32 against 131 vessels in the Brazilian trade, instead of building ships for other nations New Brunswick has built for the United States.

The appropriation bill for coast defenses was reported by Stevens to-day. It is a law of \$20,000; Tortugas \$50,000; Ship Island, Miss., \$20,000; Clinch, Florida, \$50,000.

Legislation for special interests has been our bane. Mr. Wells argues against a high tariff, but he suggests as a measure of temporary expediency some increase on cotton tariffs.

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—Cotton easier—3,000 bales middling uplands at 32c.; Orleans 36c.; Washington, Jan. 4.—In the House Hubard introduced a resolution that in the present prosperity of the country no additional tax be levied with a view to reducing the debt.

The committee on ways and means was instructed to inquire into expediency of a modification of the tariff to discriminate against slave grown products. The thirteenth section repealed to-day by the Senate is as follows: That the President is hereby authorized at any time hereafter by proclamation to extend to persons who may have participated in the present rebellion in any State or part thereof pardon and amnesty with such exceptions and at such times and on such conditions as he may deem expedient for the public welfare.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—The Arkansas delegation visited the President again this morning, and were presented to the Cabinet which was in session and to Gen. Grant. The members of the delegation were highly pleased with the reception. Mr. Andrew Hunter, Senator elect, made a brief speech explaining the object of their mission. Attorney General Stanbery in reply stated that Arkansas was considered already reconstructed. The delegation declines to-morrow with Secretary Seward. The Secretary said they never made speeches in the presence of their Chief, but that to-morrow at dinner both he and his guests should talk matters over. The members of the delegation have sent cards to-day to Sumner, Wade, Stevens, Foster and others, and will call on them to-morrow.

A Washington telegram, written, obviously, by a Washington radical, says that "a number of prominent men of Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and South Carolina are urging their respective legislatures to ratify the constitutional amendments to the 'promissances' of the southern men who are advocating the congressional amendments is very much like the prominence of the 'southern loyalists' who swung around the circle last fall. Their chief prominence was found in the records of northern jails.—Chicago Times.

MONROE BEFORE THE RIOT INVESTIGATION.—In obedience to a subpoena issued by the Congressional Investigation Committee now in session at the St. Louis Hotel, in our city, Mayor Monroe yesterday appeared before them. In answer to interrogatories propounded by the Chairman, Mr. Eliot, he gave his name in full, and stated that he was the present Mayor of the city of New Orleans. Mr. Eliot then desired to know whether Mr. Monroe had anything to advance in his defence. Mr. Monroe replied by stating that he was not aware that he was upon trial, but that he was ready to answer any and all questions that the gentlemen of the committee might desire to ask. Mr. Eliot then desired him to make a full statement concerning the riot of the 30th of July last. The Mayor here produced two printed reports of statements relative to the riot made by him previously, one before the military commission, and the other before the Grand Jury, and stated that as these had been sworn to by himself they would probably answer the purpose. The committee objected to receiving these as testimony, whereupon Mr. Monroe proposed to read them.

This, Mr. Boyer thought would be sufficient, but he was overruled in his opinion by Messrs. Shellaberger and Eliot. The Mayor then proceeded to state in substance his testimony as given on the occasions above alluded to. Mr. Monroe took occasion to remark that he was not an original secessionist, but a co-operationist, though he believed then, as he did now, that the States have rights separate and apart from those of the General Government.

That at the outbreak of the war, in his opinion, there was but one Union man in the city of New Orleans, and that was Dr. Dostie, for he was the only man who left the city under the proclamation of Jefferson Davis, leaving all he was worth behind.

In conclusion, Mr. Monroe stated that the first secession speeches he heard made were delivered by Messrs. Michael Hahn and R. King Cutler, and that the most prominent States Rights man, at that time, was Mr. W. R. Fish, whose name was second on the Southern Rights Association of New Orleans. During most of the time Mr. Monroe was giving his testimony, but only one member remained in the room, Mr. Boyer, of Pennsylvania.

THE NEW FASHIONED SKIRT.—A lady correspondent lamenting over the new fashioned skirt, says, "It looks as if it had been of any old, half-worn material that one happened to have in the house. Oh, how much prettier the full dress looked over a snowy skirt! Farewell, little glimpses of embroidery! Farewell to the fluted flounce of pure white silk with which we were wont to freshen our dusty dress for the street! There was too much poetic distinctiveness in your style; the radicals must need put you away. I trust they are satisfied. We look like storm-rigged schooners. We look like the daughters of the sturdy Norwegians, ready to walk along the shores of the Categat and Skagerack, with the mercury frozen and the wind blowing a gale. I saw the other day, on a tremendously large woman, a brown dress of some heavy material made in this new style. The longest stripes of black velvet, the upper skirt was trimmed diagonally, and the baser part was bordered straight around. The poor woman looked as if some body had been pulling her bias wise. Then I saw a young miss with the same style of dress, of a heavy mottled material called Victoria, edged with a narrow band of fur. It was just such a garb as the damsel wears who is about stepping into the reindeer sleigh up in Lapland; but as it was a mild day, and the street was dusty and not icy, it suggested a pity that fashion could never control the weather. So much for revolution in street-skirts. Out-door acquaintances will no longer consider us stylish, for they are certain want of style and an angularity about the new fashion that prevents one's thinking better of it than that it is serviceable."

ESQ. COM.—You have noticed in your paper that General Morgan L. Smith was married in Vicksburg. This is to certify that I, his true and lawful wife, know nothing of the matter, and therefore it must be a false and malicious lie. I hope every paper that copied the report will also copy this denial.

MARY ANN SMITH. NEWPORT, Ky., December 24, 1863.

[There are so many General Smiths, that of course, this is all a mistake as to the individual. We have no doubt some body named Smith has been guilty of lawful matrimony in Vicksburg, but it by no means follows that the gallant General Morgan L. Smith has furnished the raw material for another fashionable novel by Miss Estlin.—Vicksburg Clarion.]

The above card appears in the Cincinnati Commercial with the request that it should be copied in all the papers which have announced the marriage of Gen. Smith in this city. In justice to the parties concerned, we can only state that we have seen a decree of the Supreme Court, of New York City, that divorces Gen. Smith from his former wife, the author, we presume, of the above card. This decree, emanating as it does from so respectable a widower, we deem a sufficient answer to the "card," at least, until the whole record is produced.—[Vicksburg Times.]

A mad way says Hiram Powers has just executed at Florence a figure of "Eve After the Waterfall."

A MAD CASE—A FATHER TESTIFIES AGAINST HIS SON FOR FORGERY.—We never remember to have witnessed a sadder scene in court than one which occurred in the City Court yesterday morning. J. I. Foster was presented before his Honor, Judge Craig, upon a charge of forgery, having forged two checks on the Citizens' Bank, each one on the Second National Bank, each for \$50, purporting to be signed by R. J. Foster & Co., wholesale grocers on Main street, between Eighth and Ninth. The two checks on the Citizens' Bank were passed on Stratten & Spodgrass, and the one on the National Bank on the Superior House.—The first witness on the stand was R. J. Foster, father of the accused, who testified that the checks were forgeries. When asked if he had not paid similar checks for his son, he replied, bursting into tears, that he had paid between \$15,000 and \$18,000 for him.—The heart of the old man could stand it no longer, being compelled to thus make public the faults of his son.—The scene in court, as the stout man shed tears like an infant, was most sad. Judge Craig, after making some appropriate remarks on the conduct of young Foster, required him to give \$600 bonds to answer.—Louisville Democrat.

BEAUTIFUL THOUGHT.—Life is beautifully compared to a mountain fed by a thousand streams, that perishes if one is dried. It is a silver cord twisted with a thousand strings, that parts asunder if one be broken. Frail and thoughtless mortals are surrounded by innumerable dangers, which make it much more strange that they escape so long, than that they all perish suddenly at last. We are encompassed with accidents every day, to crush the moulding tenements that we inhabit. The seeds of disease are planted in our constitutions by nature. The earth and the atmosphere, whence we draw the breath of life, is pregnant with death. Health is made to operate its own destruction! The food that nourishes contains the elements of decay; the soul that animates it by vivifying fire tends to wear it out by its own action; death lurks in ambush along our paths. Notwithstanding this the truth so palpably confirmed by the daily examples before our eyes, how little do we lay it to heart! We see our friends and neighbors perishing among us, but how seldom does it occur to our thoughts that our knell shall, perhaps, give the next fruitless warning to the world!

The following is said to have been found in the boot of a man who had committed suicide, he having become insane, as is supposed, by trying to unravel the mystery:

"I married a widow who had a grown up daughter. My father visited our house very often, fell in love with my step-daughter and married her. So my father became my son-in-law, and my step-daughter my mother, for she was my father's wife. Some time afterward my wife had a son—he was my father's brother-in-law and my uncle, for he was the brother of my step-mother. My father's wife, i. e., my step-daughter, had also a son, he was of course my brother, and in the meantime my grandchild, for he was the son of my daughter. My wife was my grandmother, because she was my mother's mother. I was my wife's husband and grandchild at the same time. And as the husband of a person's grandmother is his grandfather, I was my own grandfather."

Official reports from Florida indicate considerable ill-feeling between the citizens there, arising from the possession of confiscated property, parties who purchased real estate at Confederate confiscation sales refusing to relinquish their claims to refugee owners. The courts in some counties sustained the holders of such property, but issued writs of ejectment against persons holding property confiscated and sold by the United States. General Jasper, commanding the State, thinks the troops cannot be safely removed.

Miss Virginia Penny, a teacher in the Third Ward School, in Louisville, was tried, on Tuesday, on indictment for assault on Adam Hagg, one of her pupils. The boy disobeyed the teacher's