The Spartan.

SPARTANBURG:

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1857.

AGENCY.

Mr. A. R. Smith is our authorized agent at Columbus, North Carolina.

TEMPERANCE LECTURE.

There will be a temperance Lecture delivered by Hon. J. B. O'Neall, in the College Chapel, on FRIDAY EVENING, April 3, at 7½ o'clock.

The public are respectfully invited.

VISITORS.

Among the visitors in attendance upon court is Col. J. L. Orr, in the enjoyment of good health. At the close of the Ladies' Entertainment at the Walker House, on Tuesday night, the young men complimented our Representative with a serenade and called him out. He made a short speech, gracefully acknowledging the courtesy, and seemed highly pleased at the presence of so many ladies in his audience. We are proud of our Congressman, and hope many years of usefulness and honor are before him.

THE CHURCH PARTY.

The Ladies of the Presbyterian Church, to liquidate a debt for repairs, held a splendid supper party, at Washington Hall, on Tuesday night. The attendance was large, and the affair highly successful, judging by what we saw and heard, as well as from the satisfied looks of the ladies who projected and carried out the plan. They deserve much praise for their successful exertions.

SPRING COURT

The Spring Term of our Court began on Monday, in the new Court House, which was sufficiently far advanced to allow Judge O'Neall the proper honor of holding in it the first court. We are well pleased to see his honor so hale looking, and so well attempered for the despatch of the very full dockets before him.

His charge to the Grand Jury was comprehensive and pointed, embracing roads, public buildings, public offices and officers, retailing, gambling, carrying concealed weapons, trading with slaves, the penitentiary system, codifying and revising the statutes and condensing the reports, and the too great number of magistrates in the several districts. These subjects were indicated as coming within the sphere of the grand inquisition, as well as the duty of finding bills of indictment for such offences as might be brought to their notice by the Solicitor.

The following gentlemen compose the Grand and Petit Juries:

Grand Jury.—Foreman, Govan Mills, P. C. Caldwell, J. P. Martin, Wilson Alexander, Ambrose Watson, Jos. Collins, John N. Miller, David H. Smith, Saul A. Camp, Isaac Pennington, Joel W. Ballenger, Jeremiah Glenn, Samuel G. Smith, Elisha Wyatt, Hiram Lockhart, Lenoir Linder, J. N. McDowell, John Hammett.

Jury No. 1.—W. C. Camp, Owen White, Benj. Clark, Wm. T. Kirby, Martin Otts, Wm. Pearson, Alx. Wakefield, Robt. McCarley, Wm. T. Briant, Edmund Cooley, George Debard, James Lee.

Jury No. 2.—J. R. Wilkins, Robt. Rakestraw, Jas. F. Jackson, Wm. P. Ray, Wm. Chapman, J. H. L. Wood, Thos. Harris, Jas. Cannon, R. W. Foster, Geo. Chumner, Robt. Clark, Daniel McHam.

CORRECTION.

By referring to the communication in our columns from a Charleston Commissioner, it will be seen that there is a very serious error in the legislative synopsis, page 387, from which we made our comparison some few weeks ago of the Free Schools in Spartanburg and Charleston. The following is the corrected statement:

In Spartanburg, for the year 1856, there were 1,813 scholars, attending in all 28,170 school days, at a cost of $3,673.58, equal to about 13 cents per day each.

In Charleston there were 1,182 scholars, attending in all about 237,000 days, at a cost of $14,365, equal to about 6 cents per day each.

The blunder belongs to the Legislature, and we cheerfully correct our statement to correspond with the facts.

GOVERNORSHIP OF KANSAS.

The Washington Star says that Hon. Robert J. Walker has accepted this position. Of the fact we have no longer a doubt. The enemies of the Administration at the North had hoped that Kansas would be a thorn in President Buchanan's side. Their anticipations have soon been dissipated by Mr. W's patriotic course in undertaking this arduous and responsible position. He has thus relieved the Democratic masses of the country, by this noble and unselfish act, of a weight of anxiety easier imagined than described, and will be duly remembered for so doing.

We have also every reason to believe that the post of the Territorial Secretary of State has been tendered to Hon. F. P. Stanton, of Tennessee.

NEW PAPER.

We see that J. Forrest Gowan, Esq., late of this city, and A. D'G. Tumbro, have bought the office of the Western Eagle, a paper lately published at Rutherford, N. C., and have associated themselves in the publication of a weekly paper at that place, to be called the Rutherford Democrat. We have often seen and admired Mr. Gowan's productions, and know him to be a yong man of fine writing powers. We wish them abundant success in their new and arduous enterprise, and cordially extend to them the right hand of fellowship.

[*Charleston Evening News.*

Queer.—Judge Fleming arrived at Statesboro, Bulloch county, Ga., recently, for the purpose of holding court. Soon after his arrival, he was waited on by a delegation of citizens, who informed him that the Court-house had been nailed up; so the Judge, remarking that it would afford him no pleasure to hold a court there, took his departure from the town.

Court of Reconciliation.—It is stated that a bill has been introduced in the English Parliament by Lord Brougham to prevent litigation by providing "courts of reconciliation." The judge of the court will hear the parties at strife, and give his advice and opinion on the matter. If the parties abide thereby, the agreement will be final and binding.

Leavenworth City.—The Kansas Herald says:

"Leavenworth is still advancing with rapid strides to a great city. John Gist sold a few days since his claim, two miles from town, consisting of 120 acres, for $15,000 cash, or $125 per acre. We give this only as a specimen of numbers of others. Five hundred buildings will be put up in this place this summer. Every boat brings crowds of emigrants to this place."

Minister to Russia.—A correspondent of the Baltimore *Patriot*, from Washington, says:

Mr. Aiken, of South Carolina, will probably be appointed minister to Russia. The important foreign missions, however, will probably be deferred for some time yet.

The new treaty between our government and Persia begins in this way:

"In the name of God, the element and the merciful, the President of the United States, and his Majesty, as exalted is the planet Saturn—the sovereign whom the sun serves as a standard, whose splendor and magnificence are equal to that of the skies" &c.

CHINESE SUGAR CANE.

It may be that the experiments of last year exhibit results too favorable as to the productive qualities of this new plant, and those who are now entering upon its culture will find themselves to some extent disappointed in relying upon it for their supplies of sugar and molasses. It would be by no means remarkable should this prove to be the case, for all are aware how difficult it is in a single or even in several, seasons fully to develop any new vegetable product—not only from ignorance of the kind of ground and quality of manure adapted to its growth, but from want of confidence in a favorable result. All are more or less prejudiced against new-fangled notions. Even cotton had to rely upon steady experiment and demonstrated results before its culture became general. It has been so with almost every plant of modern introduction. Perhaps slowness of belief is well in agriculturists. It is not a speculative profession—that characteristic belongs to merchants, whose ventures necessarily develop it. The husbandman cannot afford to fritter away the productive energies of his soil, and his own labors, upon untried and perhaps worthless plants. These are left to the model farmer, whose capital is not invested with a design to make money or even a living. Having amassed a fortune in mercantile pursuits, he thinks health and enjoyment are best secured by removing to a small extent of land within easy reach of large cities, and spending the remainder of his days amid the green meadows and free winds of the country. He can there embellish his houses and grounds to taste—fill his stock yards with fancy breeds—and indulge experiment to his heart's content. He thus renders a real service to agriculture, however little he may be doing for himself. Everything really valuable is made known, while the worthless is discarded, and the public guarded against its attempted introduction.

Many of just such farmers have tried the sugar cane, and have been very successful in its culture. But experiments have gone much beyond them. Our own planters—men of substance and large landed estates, who delight not in new notions unless they promise large pecuniary results—have so far prosecuted their experience with this plant as to be fully satisfied that it is destined to become one of our most important crops. This year many of them will plant largely of it, and establish its value beyond question.

We have urged upon our district farmers a general trial of the Chinese sugar cane, and we are glad to know that many have procured seed for trial. We hope each one will give the crop a fair chance, so that future operations shall be free from all doubt. If it prove as good and productive as claimed, molasses will no longer rule so high in our mountain country, neither will our wagons be compelled to haul from the disant depots such heavy and treacherous freight. It may be difficult at first to grind out the cane and express all its juices, but this will soon be got over. Ingenuity is everywhere, and necessity will perfect inventions, cheap and efficient, for these purposes. Let every farmer plant seed—no matter how little. If nothing more is done, enough will be attained the first year by securing a supply of cheap seed for another season. The price is too high just now, and will come down if every farmer will follow this plan.

To show what they are doing at the West—in Illinois—we give the following from the Washington Union, merely remarking, that it would be shameful to let the Northern States surpass the sunny South in growing sugar cane:

"The Prospective Sugar Crop in Illinois.—Mr. E. S. Baker, of Rochester Mills, Wabash county, in Illinois, writes to the Belleville Advocate that he shall plant twenty-five acres with the Chinese sugar-cane the present season. 'I am convinced,' he says, 'that the State of Illinois will in five years make her own sugar; and if I have luck I shall make this season enough sugar, and certainly enough molasses, to supply my little town. At all events, I shall try.' Mr. Krob, of Wabash county, who some months ago made a statement of the result of his experiment with the sugar-cane last year, offers to bet the skeptical editor of the Charleston Courier $500 that he will manufacture from one acre, planted with the Chinese *weed*, five hundred gallons of molasses, a superior article to any manufactured in the South, and sold by the merchants in Coles county in 1856 for 75 cents per gallon; and, further, that he will manufacture it at the cost of ten cents per gallon."

[Communicated.]

TO INCOGNITA.

However surprised I may have been at receiving your communication of February 10, 1857, the sentiments expressed are too partial to be offensive, and the purpose too solemn for levity. But such things have been, and may occur again. I prefer to consider your communication as *earnest* and jest, and await the solution with some *interest*. Without discovering any "*feeling*" at present, and without employing the gift of "Milton, Shakspeare, or Byron," I pray you execute the purpose avowed in your concluding lines, and all may "go merry as a marriage bell." I invite you to the discovery you have promised. Truly, AMO.

The Fisheries.—The good people of Newfoundland, when last heard from, were almost entirely engrossed with the reported fishery convention between England and France. So seriously alarmed are the people on this subject, that two influential members of the legislature have been sent to England to remonstrate against the measure, and two others have been deputed to visit the other British colonies for the purpose of explaining the ruinous effects of the convention thus made. All the documents on the subject have been laid before the legislature. It appears that the concessions made are subject to the sanction of the imperial Parliament and of the Newfoundland legislature. As the latter cannot be obtained, there appears to be no danger of the loss of the fisheries to the British.

Antiquities in Bath, England.—An English paper says:

"Within the last few weeks, in excavating the floor of the building formerly known as the Riding School, near Christ Church, several interesting remains have been discovered. Among the many objects were coins of Julia Mamæa, Gallienus, Victorinus, Tetricus, Claudius Gothicus, Diocletian, Constantinus, Magnus, Crispus, Constantinus junior, Constans, Constantinus II, Magnentius, Valentinian I, Valens, Gratian. In addition to these there was a perfect hand mill, fourteen inches in diameter, for grinding corn."

Chief Justice Taney.—A exchange says:

Chief Justice Taney has administered the oath of office to Presidents Van Buren, Harrison, *Tyler, Polk, Taylor, Fillmore, Pierce and Buchanan.

*Justice Taney did not administer the oath to Mr. Tyler as acting President. It was done by Hon. Wm. Cranch, President Judge of the Circuit Court of the United States for the District of Columbia. We question also whether the statement is true as to Mr. Fillmore.

John A. Washington, yielding to the importunity of public opinion in Virginia, has consented to part with Mount Vernon to that State, on the terms proposed to Gov. Johnson in 1855. The arrangement must be perfected before the expiration of the next session of the Assembly, or his consent is to be considered withdrawn.

Not So.—Several of our Virginia exchanges have copied a statement from a Charlottesville paper, that the Hon. W. C. Preston was about to remove his residence to that city. We are pleased to state on the highest authority that this item of news was as much news to our respected fellow-citizen as to his friends here.

[*Columbia South Carolinian.*

FREE SCHOOL RETURNS.

Charleston, March 26, 1857.

To the Editors of the Spartan:

A few days ago I saw a statement copied from your paper, comparing the Free Schools of Spartanburg with those of Charleston as to expense and numbers. It gave to Spartanburg for the last year 1,813 scholars, 28,170 days of schooling, at an expense of $3,673; and to Charleston 1,182 scholars, 2,370 days of schooling, at an expense of $14,265.

As this statement would allow to each scholar at Charleston only two days of schooling for the whole year, I saw clearly that there was a very great mistake, and referring to the synopsis from which you have taken it, I find that from a memorandum at the foot of the synopsis, published with the Resolutions of the Legislature, the original was lost some way or other, and that this has been made up from memory. By referring, however, to the original return of the Commissioners of Free Schools for the city of Charleston, it appears that there were in fact 1,182 scholars, about 800 of whom were at school for the entire year, and the remainder for six months; so that the days of schooling ought to be set down at upwards of 200,000. It is probable, therefore, that the number of days' schooling, which in your statement is set down at 2,370, wants two ciphers, and should be set down as 237,000, and the result would be that, at Spartanburg, 28,170 days of schooling costs $3,673.58, which is 13 cents per scholar. At Charleston, 237,000 days of schooling costs $14,265.00, which is 6 cents per scholar; or, in other words, the cost per day at Charleston is less them one half of that at Spartanburg.

I send you this correction, not because I deem the difference of expense a proper subject of comparison, but merely to remove any prejudice to which it might give rise against the Charleston schools. The true question is, which plan gives the best education. One dozen well educated children would return to the Stae the whole difference. What money can estimate the value of such men as Calhoun and Judge O'Neall; and, even in the humbler walks of life, an intelligent mechanic or merchant, like Fulton or Whitney, would return tenfold advantage to his country. The common school system which has been commenced in Charleston is intended to raise the grade of public education. If it can succeed at double the cost of the present system, no one who has seen it in operation will doubt that it is a gain to the State. We cordially invite our country friends to call in when they are in our city, and look at it for themselves.

A Charleston Commissioner.

THE WAR IN CHINA.

The following extract from a private letter, dated Hong Kong, January 14th, received in London, shows that apprehension existed lest the British should be overpowered by the Chinese:

Matters are growing worse and worse, and will, I fear, continue to do so, until we have a force to give the Chinamen such a thrashing as they have never yet had. I fear we must do something that will sadly shock the propriety of the people at home before we can bring them to reason. You will judge from my Singapore letter, that I am opposed to any harsh measure so long as there is a chance of gaining our point in any other way; but I fear it is now too plain that nothing else but the most extreme of harsh measures will bring Yeh to reason. The position at present is this—he, and he alone, of all the great Governors General in the empire, has effectually put down the rebellion in his provinces. He and many of the people look on us in a similar light to what they do the rebels; he has exterminated one, and he has said he will exterminate the other, and thus far, if you put aside the taking of the forts, which were mostly undefended, he has gained the advantage in every instance, and at the present moment our forces are utterly paralyzed and acting only on the defensive, while the Chinese take the offensive, and that with considerable success, in the light in which they view such affairs. They have burnt down the factories, and driven us to within fifty feet of the river. They are making Whampoa so unsafe that the admiral is abandoning it. They have taken one river steamer (the Thistle,) murdered all the foreigners on board, and burnt her. They have attacked another, and nearly taken her. They came down in force on one of their forts held by us, and attacked at the same time Her Majesty's ships Cosmos and Hornet, stationed at the barriers, some two miles below the fort, and were with great difficulty and some loss of life driven back. They nearly took a large river steamer, the Fie Ma, she escaping only by her speed. They have taken an American cutter on her way to Hong Kong, and while I am now writing fears are entertained for the safety of three river steamers that left this place five days ago for Whampoa, one of them with forty Yankee mariners on board, to tow down a lot of chops (or hulks,) and have not yet arrived here. If they are safe they are at Whampoa, and dare not attempt to move till they get the convoy of some men of war. This is a pretty state of things for foreigners, and no wonder the Chinese think they are gaining the advantage over us. I do trust the Admiral will be able to hold his own at Canton. He has two large steamers off the town, a steamer and a brig and sloop at the Barrier, and two frigates at the Bogue. There is no fear of any regular attack proving successful, but what we have to apprehend is the Chinese burning the ships, and also—and this is the great one—blocking up the river, and thus preventing us sending provisions or ammunition. It will be an awful calamity if they do this, and they are making the attempt. When the gun boats arrive I hope we may be able to take the offensive, and chase and destroy every junk we find in the river.

The Troubles in Utah.—A despatch from Washington to the Baltimore *Patriot* gives the following extract from a letter received in the former city from Hon. W. W. Drummond, U. S. Judge in Utah. It is said that the administration have given serious attention to the matter, and will soon appoint another Governor.

The leading men of the church are more traitorous than ever. Only a few days since all the papers, records, dockets, and nine hundred volumes of the laws, were taken out of the Supreme Court Clerk's office, and burned. And this is not the only instance of the kind. I say to you again, and through you to the President, it is impossible for us to enforce the laws in this territory. Every man here holds his life at the will of Brigham Young, and here we are without protection. I am firmly of opinion that Babbit was murdered by Mormons under direction of Brigham Young, and not by Indians. Murder is a common thing here; and Mormons cannot be punished with a Mormon jury, witnesses, officers and Governor to pardon. It is too cruel and must not be endured. A man, not a member of the church, is murdered, robbed, castrated and imprisoned, solely for questioning the authority of the church. Persons are now in the penitentiary, convicted before the Probate Judge, who are wholly innocent of any crime. Is there any other country where this abuse is or would be endured? Let all, then, take hold and crush out one of the most treasonable organizations in America.

Pryoress Entered.—We learn by the last number of Bell's Life in London that Pryoress, the three year old filly of Mr. Ten Broeck, now in England, has been entered for the Stewards' Plate at Stockbridge, to come off on the 25th June next. This is a plate of 100 sovereigns, or $500, added to a sweepstakes of 10 sovereigns, or $50 each, half forfeit; and the conditions are, three years old carry 94 lbs.; four year olds, 116 lbs.; five year olds, 123 lbs., six and aged, 126 lbs. Mares and geldings allowed 3 lbs.; Maiden three years olds allowed 4 lbs. The winner to pay $50 towards expenses. Distance single dash of two miles. So we have something to fix the eye upon at last.

[*Porter's Spirit of the Times.*

A Hint to Planters.—The Mississippi *Chronicle* very pertinently remarks:

"The planter who raises an abundance of corn this blessed year of '57 will make money largely. All the agricultural world is perfectly wild on the subject of cotton, and the largest crop ever known will be planted. If the seasons prove favorable, it would not astonish us if the next crop was greatly over four millions—perhaps four million five hundred thousand bales. The prices will fall—money will be tight—provisions scarce, and big corncribs exceedingly valuable.

CORRESPONDENCE OF CAROLINA SPARTAN.

Millstown, Alabama, March 5, 1857.

Editors Spartan: I take this method to relate to you two recent occurrences in this country.

In Randolph County, Alabama, near me, a rock 270 feet long, 90 feet wide, by 5 feet thick, was instantly torn asunder from a missive rock, and one end thrown some 3 feet high and lodged upon the edge of the one from which it was torn off. It made a most tremendous report, to be heard 5 miles, and shook the houses a mile or two in the vicinity. It occurred at a mill. The miller says that there was no sign of smoke or any gaseous emanation. It made two loud reports, and then, as it were, made this wonderful explosion. What the cause was no one has been able to tell, as no visible causes could be traced. The piece blown off, it is presumed, will weigh 1,000 tons or more. This Messrs. Editors, I turn over to your sage philosophers to solve, and give us the cause of such tremendous convulsions of nature. I want to know, as I am really not satisfied of its nature.

Second Case.—On last Saturday morning Mr. Wm. Welch and Mr. Wm. Dauster left my house to finish off a well at a new place I have, and after being gone some three quarters of an hour, Mr. Welch returned in haste, and stated that Dauster was in the well dead. We got there as soon as we could. I found him, from his stertorous breathing, in *articular mortis*. We made preparation as fast as we could, and Mr. Welch descended the well with a rope around him, and tied a rope around the then dead body of Dauster, and stated that he himself was nearly dead, but ascended the well half way—say 26 or 27 feet—and gave up the ghost, and swung off on the rope. We drew him up as soon as we could, immersed him pretty well with cold water, and eventually resuscitated him. We then drew out Dauster, but all efforts failed to restore him from his state of *apnœa*. We found the back of his head much cut, apparently from a fall. The skin was torn up, his skull was not broken as we could perceive; but *post mortem* operation not being allowed, we really can't tell to what extent the wound participated in exterminating life.

Now, here is the question. Was it gas, or was it from the displacement of the oxygen in the well. On the day before we put a match in it, and put shavings in, for the purpose of firing the match. It did not take fire, but the shavings burned briefly till we put in a second supply, when it put out the blaze. Twice after it was put out. It puffed up with tremendous quantities of smoke, and then went entirely out, either from smothering or some other cause.

Now, was it carbonic acid gas or was it displacement of the oxygen by the combustion? The last idea is one that I have advanced, from the fact that after we got Danster out we put down a torch, and it burned briefly, and late in the evening a dog was let down, and after being in there five minutes we took him out, and he was not at all injured.

P. S. On Monday following the occurrence a Mr. Wadkins went down into the well, and staid there some half hour with entire impunity.

The Route to the Pacific.—The press of New Orleans is endeavoring to arouse the city to the advantages that it possesses in having the shortest passage to the Pacific, by way of the Tehuantepec route. Hitherto, a person travelling from the Mississippi valley to San Francisco had to go to New York, and then travel by the Panama route 6,218 miles, when it is just as possible, with sufficient enterprise on the part of the citizens of New Orleans, to make that city the starting point for all the southern section of the Union, and the great point of distribution of the Pacific commerce. The following is a comparison of distances between New Orleans and San Francisco on the shortest route: To the mouth of the Coatzacoalcos is 720 miles; the transit is 236 miles; from Ventosa to San Francisco, 3,260 miles. The distance from New York, by the shortest route, Tehuantepec, is 4,815 miles; by Panama, it is 6,218 miles. New Orleans, therefore, by establishing a line of steamers from that port sufficient to accommodate the wants of travel and trade, and regular in their trips, would become a formidable rival to New York in the Pacific trade.

Judge Loring.—The following answer has been presented by Judge Edward G. Loring to the prayer of the petitioners, that he may be removed from the office of Judge of Probate, for the reason that he continues to act also as a Commissioner of the U. S. Supreme Court:

To the Honorable the Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Representatives on Federal Relations.

I, Edward G. Loring, Judge of Probate for the county of Suffolk, respectfully submit, in answer to the petition of Frances Jackson and others, asking for my removal from said office of Judge of Probate:

That I have held the office of Commissioner of the Circuit Court of the United States, and also the said office of Judge of Probate, since the enactment of the statute of Massachusetts, A. D. 1855, chapter 489, as the petitioners allege.

That I considered the said statute to be unconstitutional, in the provisions to which the petitioners refer; that it had been held to be unconstitutional by His Excellency the Governor of the Commonwealth, upon the opinion of the Attorney General of the Commonwealth.

That the people of Massachusetts have made the Constitution the rule and measure of every man's rights and duties under it; and that every man, by claiming its rights of citizenship, and more especially every magistrate, by taking his oath of office, pledged his faith "to support the Constitution," and thus makes that duty a solemn obligation to the people of Massachusetts.

That, if citizens are bound and magistrates are sworn "to support the Constitution" against anything, it is against unconstitutional laws, and the magistrate who furthers by obedience or otherwise, directly or indirectly, and in any degree, an unconstitutional law, violates his duty, and is guilty of perjury.

And I respectfully claim, that in withholding all furtherance from the statute, on which the petitioners found their prayer, I directly fulfilled my duty, as a citizen and a magistrate, to the constitution and people of Massachusetts.

In submitting this answer to the committee I respectfully protest, that it is the meaning and purpose of the constitution that the official acts of judicial officers shall be inquired into only on impeachment, before the appointed tribunal and according to the due forms of law; and there is no other protection for the judiciary against popular excitements, the dominance of party and the legislation it fashions; and that I have appeared before the committee only because I would not avoid any tribunal formed within the letter of the constitution, and because of my conviction that the committee, in the performance of its own duties, would assure exact justice to all persons, according to the constitution and constitutional laws.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Edward G. Loring,
Judge of Probate.

Boston, March 9, 1857.

Political Preaching.—One sentence in the fast proclamation of Gov. Gardner, of Massachusetts, reads as follows:

"And may those called to minister at God's altar, impressed with the truth that national transgressions can only be corrected by removing individual sins, abstain from political discussions and secular considerations, to address the spiritual wants of the individual heart."

Ports of Japan Open.—It is stated in a foreign journal that the Emperor of Japan has resolved that two ports of the empire, those of Nangasaki and Hakodadi, shall be open to the vessels of all nations. There they might repair, take in provisions, establish depots of coal, &c. The other ports of the empire, moreover, are to be accessible to vessels in distress, which may take refuge in them, but which will have to put to sea the moment the danger is over. No foreigner is to be allowed to penetrate into the interior of the country without a special permission from the chief of the State.

HOW THE DUTY ON COTTON WAS REDUCED.

The following letter, copied from the Providence Journal of the 12th ultimo, and said to be from an entirely authentic source, explains the blunder by which the duty on cottons came to be reduced lower than had been provided by either House, and lower than any interest demanded or than any body required:

Washington, March 5, 1857.

I seize a moment to explain *how* the amendment in relation to cottons came to assume its present form.

Mr. Letcher, of Virginia, refused peremptorily to sign the report of the committee of conference. Pennsylvania, Ohio, and other interests were in open opposition, and, with the opposition of Mr. Letcher, backed by Mr. Houston, of Alabama, it became doubtful whether the House would pass the bill. Hence to secure the support of Mr. Letcher became indispensable. Mr. Letcher then stipulated two things: First, to put blankets at 15 in lieu of 20; second, coarse cottons to be put at 19 in lieu of 24. His stipulations were agreed to. When asked to put the cotton amendment in writing Mr. Letcher declined to do so, and said they might *phrase it* as they pleased so that his object was accomplished. *Then* Mr. Campbell drew from his pocket a written memorandum; that amendment verbatim (with one exception) was copied by Mr. Letcher. With that memorandum in his hand Mr. Letcher wrote the amendment on the margin of the bill, where, in the handwriting of Mr. Letcher, it will now be found. Mr Campbell suggested that the word "*printed*" should be put into the amendment. This Mr. Letcher agreed to and *interlined* it; the interlineation is now to be seen. Mr. Letcher's only and sole object was to lighten the burden on the unprinted *coarse* cottons, and therefore told your friends on the committee that they might write the amendment, and they did furnish its exact phraseology. I make this statement upon the authority of Mr. Letcher, to whom I have read this.

It will thus be seen that the error, if any there is, in relation to fine cottons, occurred without any fault of any body. The blunder was made by your own friends upon the committee and by him who furnished the memorandum to Mr. Campbell. Mr. Letcher says that he doubts whether a single member of the committee even read the amendment except Mr. Campbell and himself. All supposed the memorandum had suitably protected interests other than the one he sought to reduce. It did occur to him, however, as soon as he read the memorandum, that they had granted to him more than he had ventured to demand.

SPAIN AND MEXICO.

The following is the text of the note addressed by the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs to the embassadors of that country abroad, relative to the affairs of Mexico:

Having been informed of robberies and assassinations committed in the Mexican republic on the person and property of Spanish subjects, by the soldiers of General Alvarez, the chief of that republic, the impression which such an odious attack has produced on the government of her Majesty is the most profound, as it had manifested a desire to lend itself to a pacific solution of previous differences which prevent the accomplishment of the treaty of the 12th November 1853, concluded between Spain and the said republic, and relative to the payment of the debt admitted by the Mexican government as due to Spanish subjects. Without having any idea of wishing to render the Mexican people or its government jointly responsible, we remain in the expectation that Mexico would use its greatest efforts to wash out the stain which would sully the Mexican republic in the eyes of civilized nations if she allowed such crimes to pass unpunished, either because the Mexican government could not or would not chastise the guilty parties. It is, however, the imprescriptible duty of the government of her Catholic Majesty to go to the defence of her subjects, and to exact a just reparation, in order to prevent the recurrence of similar outrages. The Legation of the Queen at Mexico has received the most precise orders to demand from the government of the republic the immediate chastisement of the criminals and an indemnity for the injury caused to its subjects, with a formal injunction to quit the Mexican territory in case prompt justice were not done. It will be readily seen that the dignity of the Spanish name could never consent that the representative of the Queen should sanction by his presence the assassination and robbery of his countrymen. In anticipation of the eventuality of the Mexican government not being able to assure an effectual protection to Spanish subjects, the government of her Catholic Majesty has ordered the departure of some vessels of war from Havana with troops on board, with a view to give the necessary protection to the legation, and, at the same time, to the lives and property of the Spaniards, should they be menaced. Orders were also given for five vessels of war to proceed from Spain to reinforce a squadron at Cuba with a further body of troops. In this manner Spain will then have thirty vessels of war, and a numerous and disciplined army to watch over, if necessary, the defence of the honor and interests of the nation. The government of her Majesty would deplore that such things should happen, principally because it concerns a nation with which Spain is united by bonds of origin, language and religion; but no one, under similar circumstances, could misunderstand either the justice of our cause, or the necessity under which Spain is placed to avenge her dignity and her rights.

NEWS ITEMS.

Gen. Wool has been ordered to assume the Department of the East; General Twiggs the Department of Texas; and Brevet Brigadier General Clarke the Department of the Pacific.

Gen. J. H. Hammond, Col. A. G. Summer and Gen. A. C. Gurlington, decline running for Congress in the Brooks district.

Dr. William Yates, who first introduced vaccination into the United States, died at Morris, N. Y., on the 7th ultimo, at the extreme age of 90 years.

It is stated that 235 officers of the United States Navy have resigned their commissions within the past ten years, to seek private employment.

Hon. L. M. Keitt will deliver the annual address this year, before the societies of the University of Georgia.

John J. Searing, Esq., of Newark, New Jersey, has been appointed Commissioner of Deeds for the State of South Carolina in New York and New Jersey.

The Governorship of Kansas has been tendered to Hon. Robert J. Walker, and that of Utah to Hon. Fayette McMullin.

John Bigler, of California, is to be Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Chili, in the place of David A. Starkweather.

Large numbers of hogs that have died of the cholera, at the West, have been salted down for the Eastern markets. Is not this a trick of speculators, to enhance the price of bacon in the Atlantic markets.

Colin and Wagner, of Philadelphia, have invented a new surveying instrument, for delineating sections of surveys for railroads, &c., and for computing the solid contents of cuttings and fillings.

On the 26th the President heard of the death of a nephew at Lancaster, Pa.

The Black Party have nominated the notorious David Wilmot as their candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania.

Wier & Co.'s Cotton Factory, at St. Louis, Mo., was destroyed by fire on the 21st ultimo. Loss $100,000—insurance $61,000.

Col. Yeadon, of the Charleston Courier, is urging upon that community the building of a monument over the grave of Hugh Swinton Legare, now lying unmarked in Mount Auburn Cemetery, Boston.

Dred Scott—who is remanded to slavery by the recent Supreme Court decision—is the slave of one of the Massachusetts M. C's, Dr. Chaffee, through his wife. Dr. C. represents the Springfield district, the Argus of which place states the fact how Scott became Chaffee's slave by Chaffee marrying the widow of Dr. Emerson, of Missouri The decision of the bench that Dred Scott was not a citizen of the United States and could not sue in the United States Court has remanded him and his family to the chattelhood of Mrs. Chaffee.

A Monument to Luther.—The King of Bavaria, who is a Roman Catholic, has authorized the Protestant pastors in his Kingdom to raise subscriptions for a monument which is about to be erected to the memory of Martin Luther at Worms.

BONNET FASHIONS.

Perhaps we could not do a greater service to our lady readers than by transferring to our columns, from the Charleston Mercury's New York Fashionable correspondence, the following sketch of the bonnets exhibited at the "opening of the Spring Millinery," which took place on the 19th ult.

Among the most striking of the Spring styles, are the Leghorn, the Tuscan, and the fine English Dunstable and French split straw, which last are exceedingly fashionable in Paris and London. The shapes are exquisite, rather larger in the crown than last year, and extremely sloping, with a small cottage front, which arrives almost to a point at the centre, and projects considerably more over the forehead than formerly. The trimming is costly and *pronounce*, and disposed in such a manner as to give the sides the appearance of the Gipsy; this style is said to be that in which the Empress particularly delights, and is, therefore, called the "Eugenie."

One of the finest Leghorns was ornamented with soft, full, fancy ostrich plumes, slightly drooping towards the shoulder, while on the other side, rich falls of blonde were disposed in the form of drapery. Inside, a loose band of ribbon was disposed across the forehead in novel style, and the sides were filled up with very full blonde *ruches* and purple velvet leaves and balls. A very fine French split straw was separated into three distinct parts by small puffings of white imperial silk placed between. A full bow of white taffetas ribbon, with a narrow green edge, ornamented one side, and the other was decorated with a rare and beautiful novelty, in the shape of a small white bird on a green branch, formed of green crape leaves. The bird is understood to be picking at a spray of white blossoms, which are attached to the branch The effect is the prettiest imaginable. The curtain corresponds with the rest of the bonnet—the lower part being composed of the straw, and the upper part of three small puffings of silk. A very modest spring bonnet was composed of *rouleaux* of white imperial silk, edged with narrow blonde—these were about as large round as the taper end of a lady's finger, and placed very near together, on a foundation of lace. The only ornaments were a bow and ends, of broad white ribbon, which were placed at the back over the curtain, and a cluster of blue forget-me-nots in the full blonde cap.

The bonnets most popular and generally worn for Spring, are all kinds of mixed and dark fancy straws. Some of these are fine as hair, and exquisitely beautiful; but the more costly ones can be so easily imitated in cheap materials, that they do not rank as highly, and are not as much sought after by the *elegantes* as their artistic beauty would lead one to suppose. The most costly of these have crowns composed of various kinds of coiffures, some of which terminate in a kind of hair lace barbe, which descends to the shoulder; the flowers on these beautiful chapeaux are superb, and the trimming is sometimes mixed with chains of white and black straw beads, which are also formed into tassels, producing quite a novel effect.

The summer bonnet, the finest we have seen, is called the "Alexandrine." It is imperial in shape, and is composed of the finest white chip, in sectional parts, separated by fine puffings of tissue and blonde. The sides are ornamented with large dark green leaves, and clusters of bright green enamelled balls, about the size of wortleberries. This decided contrast, together with the shape so imposing and recherche, produces the most striking effect. A charming imported "pattern" hat was composed of very small *rouleaux* of white silk, alternating with tiny puffings of white crape, upon a foundation of lace. The shape was a perfect Gipsy, and the inside was ornamented with a wreath of moss rose buds, while upon the outside were large moss roses, mingled with heliotrope, mignionette, and wild grasses.

One of the novelties was a round hat, with a slightly drooping crown, and made of fine English Dunstable straw. It was bordered with real Chantilly lace, and ornamented with long, full, green plumes, and bow and floating ends of wide green ribbon. It is intended for watering places, and as a riding hat for the carriage as well as on horseback, and for these purposes it is perfectly adapted and quite charming. An entirely new riding hat is a low crowned black felt, drooping in front, with rolling sides. A deep binding of velvet is placed on the edge, and a narrow band of velvet round the crown. A full flat bow without ends, and rosettes and strings of wide black satin ribbon, complete this becoming addition to the costume of the lady equestrian. The price is $6 50.

Wild Cat Banks.—For the information of the public, and to protect our citizens against fraud and loss, (as there is at present much Georgia money in circulation in our section,) we publish a list of the Wild Cat Banks in Georgia, taken from the Augusta Chronicle and Sentinel, 'not one of which,' says that paper, we deem worthy of confidence or credit. Let the people, therefore, beware of the bills of these Banks:

Merchants' Bank, of Macon.
Interior Bank, Griffin.
LaGrange Bank, LaGrange.
Bank of Greensboro', Greensboro'.
Southern Bank, Bainbridge
Cherokee Insurance and Banking Company, Dalton.
Planters' and Mechanics' Bank, Dalton.
North-western Bank, Ringgold, Georgia.
Bacon.—Manufacturers' and Mechanics' Bank, Columbus.

Fire.—On Tuesday night, 17th inst., about 3 o'clock in the morning, a baggage car on the Greenville and Columbia Railroad was burnt down opposite the east door of our Depot, and within twenty feet of it. Against the door upon the inside were three hundred kegs of powder, which in a few moments more must have exploded but for the timely cry of "fire," which raised a force sufficiently large to propel the car along the track, far enough off to save the Depot. The door opposite the car was sufficiently charred to have taken on fire in a very short time. No assistance would probably have been rendered if all parties had been conscious of their danger, and the good people of our village would have been aroused from their slumbers by an explosion terrific indeed. It probably originated from a stove which was in the car.—*Anderson Gazette.*

The Wild Hunt after Office.—South Carolina is the most Democratic State in the Union. The Democratic majority is so overwhelming that there has not been a contest in the State for Governor, member of Congress, or any other prominent position for many years, on party grounds. One would naturally suppose, therefore, that of all people in the world the South Carolinians would be the most revenous for the spoils of office—if there were any truth in the charges of Know Nothingism against the Democracy. Such, however, is not the case It is stated that there were but four office seekers in Washington from South Carolina, among the thousands who had gone thither on pilgrimage 4th March last. This fact is honorable to the State of South Carolina and to the Democracy of the South.—*Columbus Sun.*

A Nicaraguan Rumor.—It is reported from Washington that the Government has received lengthy despatches from Nicaragua, which will lead to an early recognition of the Minister and Government of Walker, and the speedy re-establishment of the Nicaraguan Route. The exact purport of these despatches has not transpired, but it is understood that President Buchanan holds the opinion that it is the duty of this Government to maintain open the communication by the San Juan route in the Pacific. The aid which the British have furnished the Costa Ricans in closing the Nicaraguan Route is contrary to their treaty engagements with this country, and Mr. Buchanan won't stand it.

The Joliffe Case.—The Court of Appeals granted a new trial in the case against the Executors of Joliffe, who left his property to colored persons under peculiar circumstances.

The new trial has just taken place at Barnwell Court, and the will has been sustained by the action of the jury, thus reversing the former decision. Mr. Bauskett and Mr. Bellinger have gained the case under the most unfavorable circumstances, and against long odds.—*South Carolinian.*

The Strong-Minded Woman.—The Carol