NEW-YORK TRIBUNE.

NEW-YORK, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

To Correspondents.

C. L. E.—We cannot publish your elaborate vindication of the possibility of spiritual communications with human beings, as signed in the matter of the "Mysterious Knockings" or noises at Rochester, or Table-tipping, &c. There is no occasion for any such. The *a priori* argument against the spiritual hypotheses in these cases is by no means conclusive, has never been so represented in our columns, and needs no refutation here. We have not yet disposed of the previous question of fabrication here. We have not yet disposed of the previous question, namely—What are the *facts* in the case? Have noises, rappings, &c. been produced that the sounds, &c. are indeed the work of the alleged controlling power? Here is the question that takes precedence of all others, and until it is settled, none other is in order. Let the *fact* of spiritual agency be unquestionably proved, and ten thousand civil assumptions would not amount to a cipher. Let it be no amount to nothing. C. L. E. *Let it not* be because *it can't be* no amount to nothing. C. L. E. Facts are light—the light of the primary question, and when the *facts* are settled other light will not be needed. It was here we thought the Andover prophet deficient, and we are informed that a new edition is now in press, wherein the wonderful affirmation of the former is backed up by abundant testimony. We shall appeal of that when we see it.

☞ OUR SUPPLEMENT.—Those of our readers who do not look into the Supplement this morning will lose some good things, such as newspapers do not contain every day. It has a letter from JULES LECHEVALIER, and another from HUGH DOHERTY; a rich letter from Washington on the Contract method of plundering the Government; an excellent story by Miss Sedgwick on Woman's Rights, and a variety of other interesting matter in Prose and Verse. It is not often The Tribune prints a Supplement which will so well repay reading.

☞ The great fact in Congress yesterday was Mr. CLAY's speech and resolutions, which will be found reported in our telegraphic dispatch in another column. It is not necessary to commend them to the careful attention of the public. The late hour at which the dispatch reached us precludes further remarks on them till to-morrow.

Mileage Reform—Light!

The Telegraph informs us that Mr. SWEETZER of Ohio, Chairman of the Committee on Mileage, (and who owes his election to Mileage,) yesterday reported to the House from his Committee a resolution *prescribing that Mileage shall hereafter be computed on the nearest or most direct Mail Route* instead of "the *usually* traveled road," or route, which is the present standard. Mr. Johnson of Ark. [who pockets $1,600 Mileage per annum, which this proposition would cut down to $852] promptly moved that it *do lie on the table*, which was negatived—Ayes 57, Noes 117—so that the House by more than two to one sustained the Committee's just and timely resolution. Should that resolution prevail, if applicable to the Mileage of the House only, it will save to the Treasury $52,326 per annum; if applicable to both Houses, it will save $73,472.

Let no simple one suppose the Mileage Reform is carried. You will find such votes as that above in the journals of the two last Houses. Gen. McKay's bill, which was nearly as good as Mr. Sweetzer's resolution, passed the late House by 158 to 16, (Mr. Johnson of Ark. being one of the 16,) and was sent to the Senate, under the weight of whose dignity the breath of life was squeezed out of it.

Unless the Senate is greatly changed, it is perfectly idle to send up independent propositions of Mileage Reform for its concurrence—they will never be even looked at. This renders the support of such propositions in the House a cheap and safe operation. One of the Senators remarked to the writer hereof last winter that if the House Members didn't stop passing Retrenchment, and especially Mileage Reform bills, and running around to the Senate to have said bills stopped there, he would be impelled to punish them by putting such bills through the Senate. There was but one way last winter to effect the Mileage Reform, and that was by attaching it to the General Appropriation bill and keeping it there. This failed, because those who earnestly desired its triumph were not a majority of the House, in spite of the 158 to 16 aforesaid. The simple proposition for Straight Mileage was killed in Committee of the Whole (where the names of those voting Yea and Nay respectively are not recorded,) and a proposition to pay each Member $2,000 per annum and ten cents per mile foisted in its place. This was killed dead enough in coming out of Committee (where the Yeas and Nays may be taken,) but the Straight Mileage proposition was not revived thereby. It was laid out stiff, and the Previous Question kept it so.

We certainly understand from our dispatch that the Committee's proposition is confined by its terms to the Mileage of the House. This is right. Let the House straighten its own Mileage first, and then call on the Senate to do likewise, by bill, Joint resolution, or otherwise. It is not a whit too soon.

—We infer that the Mileage Committee of the present House is an improvement on that of the last. We trust the improvement on this subject will not be confined to the Committee; but time will show.

Protection and Profits.

We have ceased replying to that order of chimpicus of Free Trade whose warfare consists in an incessant ringing of charges on the words 'Monopoly,' 'Monopolists,' and so on. No matter what may be urged in favor of giving our own workmen a preference in doing our own work, their pertinacious answer implies that the sole object and effect of Protective Duties is an increase of the prices paid by consumers and of the profits realized by the manufacturers. Drawing their illustrations solely from the case of Great Britain, where Protective Duties on Grain do have some such tendency as they suggest, *simply because the land from which only Grain can be produced in Great Britain is a fixed quantity, and the property of a limited class*, they like results from the Protection of Manufactures here, where the elements of their production are illimitable in extent, unmonopolized by any class, and in good part the property of the Nation.—We have answered this class of logicians repeatedly with facts and arguments to which they pay no sort of attention, but repeat their assertions whenever it may seem convenient as if they had never been confuted or even questioned. We do not care to pursue them further, but we do not object to their refuting each other. The following truthful suggestions are copied from an Editorial on Abbott Lawrence and the Cotton Manufacture in the last *Evening Post*:

"The cotton mills do not at present yield as large profits to the shareholders as Mr. Lawrence might desire, the reason may be, not that the duties are too low, but that there are too many mills.

"If the duties were raised is it not very likely that the number of mills would be increased, and the profits kept nearly the same rates as now? There is little doubt of it in our minds. When profits in any business are large, capital always flows into it until it brings them down to a reasonable standard. When profits are small in any business, capital deserts it until they are raised to a level with the profits of other occupations."

That is just as true as that two and two make four. It is a simple statement of a law of trade as unfailing as that which causes water to run down hill. If one man owned all the iron ores, water-power or coal beds in the United States, it would be possible to enrich him by Protective Duties. If the quantity of either were definite, inadequate to the demand therefor, and owned by a small class, as the wheat-lands of England are, then it would be practicable to enrich that class by a Tariff. But as the facts are, you might as well talk of making every owner of wood-land rich by a duty of $5 per cord on the importation of fuel as enriching manufacturers by a duty on fabrics. The why is clearly stated by The Post in the above extract. Yet the very next numbskull who indites a Loco-Foco leader on Protection will be certain to represent it as a mere contrivance to fill the pockets of 'Monopolists' at the expense of our own consumers! Is it worth while to argue with men who pay so little attention to what is said on the other side of the question, or even on their own?

☞ HENRY COOK, late Editor of the 'Rochester Democrat,' died of consumption on the 26th inst. aged 36 years. He had been connected with the Democrat since 1840, and its chief Editor since 1847, when George Dawson left it for the Albany Evening Journal. Mr. Cook was an upright and worthy man, whose death is deeply lamented. He has been gradually sinking through the last two years.

☞ Notwithstanding the explicit directions of the MS. the name of GOETHE was barbarously printed GÖTHE in the article on AELFRICS HOMILY yesterday, through the oversight of Compositor and proof reader yesterday.—[Newark Daily.

You needn't have felt badly neighbor! Göthe is as correct as Goethe and if anything a little more so.

New-Mexico in Peril.

The bill submitted to the Senate by Hangman Foote "To provide for the organization of Territorial Governments for *California*, Deseret, and New-Mexico, [Thank you for nothing, Mr. Foote! says California, with a snap of her fingers] and to make a new Slave State called 'Jacinto' out of Texas, thus opens with respect to New-Mexico:

"SEC. 36. *And be it further enacted*, That from and after the passage of this act, all that part of the Territory of the United States called New-Mexico, acquired by the treaty of peace, friendship, limits and settlement, between the United States of America and the Mexican Republic, concluded at Guadalupe Hidalgo, on the second day of February, eighteen hundred and forty-eight, *and not included within the boundaries of the State of Texas, as laid down in the act of the Republic of Texas*, of the year eighteen hundred and thirty-six, entitled 'An act to define the boundaries of the Republic of Texas,) shall be organized into and constitute a temporary government by the name of the Territory of New-Mexico."

This bill is as gross a fraud as any counterfeit bank note ever uttered. It professes to organize New-Mexico as a Territory, when in fact it gives away three-fourths of that Territory and nineteen-twentieths of its people to Texas, in defiance of their own most earnest remonstrances and determined opposition. *They* are to be 'organized' as dependents of Texas, her subjects, her vassals, with her Slavery fixed upon them for ever in their own despite and to their lasting injury.

There is no New-Mexico if this bill should pass, and the pretence of 'organizing' one is a farce and a cheat. Let this bill pass, and there is no New-Mexico to organize, and we might as well organize the Territory of Coney Island or of Sandy Hook as that of New-Mexico. The whole drift of this bill is to make a new Slave State out of Texas, subjugate New-Mexico to Texas as Slave Territory, and preclude the possibility of ever organizing New-Mexico as a Free Territory or State. Such is Foote's bill.

Free Soil in the Michigan Legislature.

On the 16th inst. Hon. NELSON G. ISBELL, a member of the State Senate, gave notice that he would, on some future day, ask leave to bring in a joint resolution of instructions to the Senators and Representatives in Congress from Michigan respecting the Territories of the United States.

The constituents of Gen. Cass are justly indignant at the position he has taken on the Slavery question, and ere the Proviso comes up in Congress in any tangible shape, their judgment will, we trust, be reaffirmed. The positive refusal of Gen. Cass to vote for the Wilmot Proviso is evinced by his letter to the Editor of the *Jefferson City* (Mo.) *Metropolitan*, a print bitterly hostile to Col. Benton, meets with no favor in Michigan.—The *Grand Rapids Enquirer*, a rabid Loco-Foco print, and ardently attached to the political fortunes of Gen. Cass, in a recent number administered the following severe rebuke to the General when it became known that he would "never obey the instructions imposed upon him by the Michigan Legislature:

"Gen. Cass is individually famous and industrial; but a cipher merely in contrast with the People of Michigan.—Before their sovereignty he sinks into insignificance. They are not slaves; the creatures and followers of no man; nor is *their* will, *their* opinion, *their* command to be avoided, sullied or disobeyed by any one acting as their representative with impunity. Upon the common matters of legislation, they leave their Delegate to act according to his own judgment and feelings. But upon some fundamental propositions of Government; some leading measures of national or international policy; some great interests of humanity they speak, and they must be obeyed. Nothing can save even the political fortunes of Gen. Cass from utter demolition, should a conflict be precipitated between himself and the State he represents in the Federal Council."

The language of the *Enquirer* faithfully portrays the state of feeling evinced by the people throughout the State, so far as we can judge by the public press.

At the last accounts from Lansing, the Editor of the *Detroit Free Press*, the immediate expounder of the views of Gen. Cass, was at the Capital, striving for the rescinding of the Free Soil instructions of last Winter. Hon. ROBERT MCCLELLAND was also at the Capital, and there was not the least chance that those resolutions would be rescinded, as a great portion of the members were elected on the strength of the Free Soil professions they made to their constituents. That the pro-Slavery friends of Gen. Cass are making a desperate effort to rescind the "incendiary" resolves of last Winter is demonstrated by the following, which we clip from the *Detroit Tribune* of the 23d:

"Letters have been written from Lansing to every county in the State, to get up meetings in order to make public sentiment to induce the many members of his party who will not now listen to the proposition, to vote for the rescinding of them."

"Lenawee county has already responded to the call, and has passed resolutions to relieve the General from his dilemma. The meeting was got up by a few persons unknown to the mass of the party. The home and elsewhere now circulating petitions against the repeal, and have written to Lansing that the pretended meeting is a libel on the party, and concocted in a "secret conclave," held by some half dozen persons."

Thomas Paine—Intemperance.

To the Editor of The Tribune:

I think you labor under several very serious misapprehensions of the true character of Thomas Paine; but without lumbering your columns with a defense of a now so unpopular man, whom I am willing should be judged by his works, I will feel obliged if you will give place to the accompanying extract from Mellish's Travels. I will merely add, that at that period "Total Abstinence" societies were utterly unknown, and "temperance" meant almost anything this side of helpless intoxication; while almost every clergyman that could afford it had a loaded sideboard. "A better time" has come, thanks to an army of cold-water heroes. J. W.

Mr. John Mellish, a Scotchman, and a traveler in America and Canada in 1806, and decidedly a religious though candid writer, thus concludes a notice of Mr. Paine, to whom he was introduced Aug. 20, 1806:

"Paine is a slender man, rather tall, and has an uncommonly penetrating eye. His face is subject to a scorbutic eruption, which circumstance has probably contributed to propagate the report that he is habitually intemperate; but I was informed by those who know him well that it is not correct. When he meets with a person of his own way of thinking, he will frequently indulge himself to a late hour over a glass of toddy, but seldom carries it to excess. His income is but small, but he is in independent circumstances, having a tract of land for which he could obtain ten thousand dollars. He is pleasant in conversation, and speaks very much in the style he writes, quite clear and perspicuous." [Mellish's Travels, Phil. ed. 1812. Vol. I. p. 86.

Remarks.

That Mr. Paine was a man of great natural powers and rendered great services to the cause of American Independence and Human Rights generally, we have freely and cheerfully affirmed. He ostensibly hated Tyranny, and threw his wholesome influence into the contest with its champions. Having presented those points in his character which should cause him to be gratefully remembered, ought we to speak as frankly of his errors and failings?—We have spoken our earnest convictions, and they are such as facts abundantly confirm. The simple fact that Jefferson and his triumphant party, though under so great obligations to Paine, never saw fit to give him an office, for which his talents so eminently fitted him, would of itself broadly imply some fatal defect in his character or his habits. We believe it was in the latter. As early as 1778, in the very agony of our Revolutionary struggle, Paine's indolence and dilatory habits were complained of—he took months to prepare a No. of the 'Crisis,' for which a week at most should have amply sufficed him. This indolence at such a time was a subject of complaint among the Members of Congress and other devoted friends of the American cause. The cause was the testimony convinces us) excess in eating and drinking. And that excess clung to him through life and hurried him to his grave. Mellish's 'guess not' is no answer to the dozens of witnesses who spoke from personal knowledge of Paine's excesses. And it is quite idle to talk of the freer habits of half a century ago, when we well know that Paine's intemperance was then the triumph of his enemies and the sorrow of his friends. It was proved on his trial in England, after his flight from that country to France. It was notorious in France and notorious here. Why seek to deny it?—*Ed.*

BROOKLYN ITEMS.

EXAMINATION OF JOHN DALY.—The examination of John Daly, the Stage Driver, who caused the death of Wm. Jamesson, of Brooklyn, about two weeks since, will take place to-day, before Coroner Ball. Daly, it will be remembered, left his horses insecure, while he got off the stage to have an altercation with a passenger that had broke his stage lights. His horses ran away and threw out Jamesson, who was on the stage, and caused his death, for which Daly will be examined on a charge of manslaughter.

☞ Police Justice Trueman Smith was taken suddenly ill last evening, in consequence of which it is doubtful whether the examination of One-eyed Thompson will be continued to-day.

☞ The Board of Supervisors of King's County meet to-day at the Jail, foot of Willoughby-st.

☞ The Common Council meet this evening to further consider the proposed Charter.

NAVAL.—U. S. sloop-of-war St. Louis was at Rio Janeiro Dec. 13.....Frigate Brandywine sailed on the 10th December from Rio Janeiro for the River of Plate; and sloop-of-war John Adams same day for Coast of Africa.

Mercantile Library Lectures.

LECTURE NO. II.... THE SPIRIT OF THE AGE.

BY R. W. EMERSON.

Mr. EMERSON's lecture last night was attended by an equally numerous and brilliant audience with that which crowded Clinton Hall to suffocation on the evening of his first lecture. The private room of the Directors was opened and furnished seats to a number of ladies and gentlemen who were unable to gain admission to the Hall.

Mr. EMERSON said the topic on which he was about to speak was one of universal pertinence and must awaken the interest of every individual. The spirit of the Age presented a different aspect according to the position of the observer, and it was well for every one to report the facts which had been brought to his notice.

All the various features of the Age, said Mr. E. cannot be described in a single discourse. Those only which possess a special efficiency can be pointed out. We wish to give our attention to those elements which are new, fresh, vigorous, breathing a robust vitality, as war with the crumbling images of the past, and showing the dawn of the morning which they announce.

The spirit of the new age spreads everywhere. Its tendency is to recall the individual, to make no account of anything but individual wants, individual tastes, individual interests. The individual sentiment asserts every other. This is clamorous for freedom, hates restraint, revolts against authority, repudiates tolls, taxes, hierarchies, throws off and contempts society itself into an engine for its own uses.

As a result of this we find a striking predominance of the intellectual over the balance of human powers. No two persons have points of contact with each other. The intellect repels, divides, separates, forms vulgar fractions of humanity, and drives every one within himself a cold, unsympathizing unity.

The age of brute force has passed away. The pen is more potent than the sword. Fraud accomplishes what was once the result of high strength. The power of feudal barons over serfs is now diminished, but if they are not doomed to yield their lives at the will of their lord, the modern serfs are a prey to the all devouring appetite of the capitalists.—The roads once infested by highwaymen are now safe for travelers, but many a brigand in smooth raiment now lurks before the bureaus of money-changers and diplomatists. We see the effect of this in literature. Original creation to a great extent has given place to criticism. The critic seizes every production of genius, with a knife in his brain, and submits it to the operation of his merciless dissection. No thought or opinion, no taste or custom was exempt from the process. This is equally the character of two of the most remarkable works of modern times, the Faust of Goethe, and Kant's Critique of Pure Reason. It forms the very essence of the subtle analytic chemistry of France, which after melting down the Universe with its furnace and crucibles, tells us that we eat gas, drink gas, tread on gas, and am gas.

The Mission is a new fact in modern society. In France, there are 500,000 thinkers and orders in Missions, who know what they want, whose ideas are clear as the light, who speak with admirable diction and force, and who cannot but make considerable felt, whatever old fixtures may fall to pieces at their touch.

Premising that all the traits of any period exist in a certain degree in every epoch, Mr. E. went on to describe three periods of deep and general significance in the history of the world.

1. The Grecian, when with little science man accepted nature as it lay before him—the age of a healthy, vigorous, well-developed sensuousness—the age of the gymnasium, the chariot-race, the wrestling-match, and of unrivaled sculpture and painting.

2. The Christian—The age of moral sentiment—a reaction against the Grecian sensuousness, achieving the triumph of the soul. Christianity was culture and civilization to all Europe and made religion the center of all the institutions of society. The Grecian age might be called the age of the soul. The Christian age, the age of woman. It at length became exaggerated, gave birth to monkery, asceticism, superstition and a meager, barren, ungenial view of life.

3. The Modern Age—with ideal tendencies returning to nature, and attempting to make the world an instrument of right reason. It is the age of Commerce, which itself the great quicksuner of the Middle Ages, is now reversing, losing itself in itself. Trade is the balloon, Government the parachute. The defence of property is the chief function of law. Commerce governs education, and requires Arithmetic as the most important of the sciences. Religion, too, is valued as it helps to keep smooth the passages of trade. It was commerce that broke the power of the Church and brought in the era of Cash-Payments. Our services are rendered for pay, honor, from reverence, from love; now a quid pro quo is always demanded, and the most delicate offices of friendship are duly posted amount the materials of the balance sheet.

The present Age is also the age of tools. Every truth is converted into one of the mechanical powers. The citizen is now made comfortable by the perfection of practical science. He is cushioned, steamed, coached, cabbed, telegraphed, his mind is stuffed with facts, and his life alone is as well off as if the whole earth was covered with leather. The clocks are regulated by the chronometers—the rail-road and the great sea walls for the invasion of the telegraph. Our streets and houses are lighted by new methods, and the terrors of surgery abated by the invention of Chloroform and Ether. Gravitation is made to pull to some purpose, and the sea, no longer allowed to welter in lazy monotony, is used for the objects of industry also made to pay for its salt.

We might expect immorality from this universal domination of mechanism. But every thing comes at the right time. We have no more power than we can be trusted with. The locomotive came just when it was wanted, as a new bond to the Union, and an agent and pioneer of civilization. Astronomy was wanted to bring us into the Unity of which bound our Continent. Soon specks of gold were found on the surface by the Indians of California. The news spread. The right men rushed in at the proper time. Such a promising, true-bred, well-appointed colony was never known,—every colonist trained in the principles and details of politics in this country, being a walking American Constitution among the placers of Sacramento.

Mr. E. said he was led to hesitate as to the application of any tools, enginery or Stephenson machinery to Social organization. I honor, said he, the noble and admirable spirits who cherish the hope of a better order of society and who have devoted the best energies of their life to its realization. I honor the Socialist, who, alive to the Social discrepancies of the present state, believes in the advent of an age of Harmony, when the sublime reign of Justice and Love shall be fully inaugurated on earth. When I look upon the immense labor, the burning zeal, the self-devotion of the well being of the masses, I cannot withhold my reverence. (Applause.) When I see FOURIER calmly probing the revolting evils of modern social life with the keen insight into the springs of human action, with a mathematical mind not inferior to that of La Place or Napoleon, and his gigantic plans for ameliorating the social condition, not taken from the brain of a madman, but from the mind given by palaces and universities, and the highest spheres of Art, I cannot curl my lip in vulgar scorn, or take the position of a sneering critic in regard to such a man and such purposes. It is a glorious thing even to have conceived of such a hope. They who cling to the faith of the elevation of Humanity deserve the reverence of the world. (This sentiment, uttered by Mr. E. with his usual impressive, inspiring, semnity, called forth a spontaneous burst of applause from the whole audience.)

But dependence can be placed on nothing, said Mr. E. but the purity and strength of the private soul. There will be no true Revolutions until there are true Revolutionists. No balance of rogues can produce honest men, no combination of fools can make a society of sages. The great evil, said he, is that the poetical element was never offered to the crowd. It thrives the best in the hermit's cell, at the farmer's fireside, among the lonely mountain-tops and the quiet river-sides of sequestered nature. Spoons and skimmers may be packed together; vases and pedestals must each have their own place.

The lecture was concluded with some profound and admirable remarks on the peculiar tendencies of the age among which the impulse to universal unity was described at length, with masterly discrimination and precision, and a rich store of illustrations from the history of modern science. We greatly regret that we have no room for the condensed and highly graphic sketch, in which an eloquent tribute was paid to the scientific merits of Goethe, Oken, Schelling, Hegel, Geoffrey St. Hilaire, Richard Owen and Agassiz.

The whole lecture was a splendid specimen of Mr. Emerson's peculiar vein of thought and expression, and was listened to with respectful appreciation, often manifested by loud expressions of applause.

The report which *The Tribune* has so industriously circulated that Mr. Wetmore has refused to pay up, is (as I have informed you by telegraph) totally without foundation. Mr. Clarke has returned. No offer of any kind is made, and the account stands as it was at a little over $502,000.

☞ The above from the Washington correspondent of the *Enquirer* is as clear as mud. We are glad to learn that we were mistaken and that Mr. Wetmore has not refused to pay up. The District Attorney shall be informed of the fact at once.

TROOPS FOR CALIFORNIA.—The ship Monterey, Capt. McManus, sailed from Baltimore on Sunday last for San Francisco, having on board Company I, of the First Regiment of Artillery, lately stationed at Fort McHenry, and a large quantity of Government stores, for the conveyance of which she has been chartered by the War Department. The company is commanded by two commissioned officers and private Lieut. Bryant Powell is accompanied by his lady, to whom he has been but recently united; several of the soldiers of the company are also accompanied by their wives and families. In addition to the battery of the Company, the Monterey also takes out ten 32 pounder and ten 24 pounder iron guns; 1,000 32 pounder balls; 1,000 24 pounder balls, and a large quantity of ammunition. She is also on board the following Government stores: 1,000 blue substistence stores, 30,000 brick, 3,000 feet dressed flooring, and 3,000 bushels of oats. Col. Magruder, who is to have command of the company, will go out by the Panama route.

Shooting at Philadelphia—Markets.

PHILADELPHIA, Tuesday, Jan. 29.

Two boys (whose names I have been unable to learn) were shot last night by some rowdies at the corner of Third and Catharine sts. as they were returning from a night school. One was shot in the neck and the other in the arm.

An infant of Thomas Goodchild, residing near the corner of Seventh st. and Passyunk Road, was scalded to death on Saturday last.

SALES OF STOCKS.—*First Board*—10 Girard Bank, 12; $1,000 Pittsburg Bs, 96; $2,000 City 5s, 72, 89; $6,500 Penn 6s, 89; 1 Phila Bk, 150; 4 Far and Mech Bk, 65; 10 Reading RR, 15; $1,000 Reading RR Mort Bds 6s, 63; $1,000 do, 63, 63; 200 Morris Canal, 10; 10 Camden and Amboy RR Bds, 115; 3 Northern Bk, Ky, 101; 55 Kentucky Bk, 100; $400 Spring Garden 6s, 94; 150 Sch Nav 6s, 62, 63; 24 Norristown RR, 35; 1 Penn Bk, 39.

Second Board—$1,000 Penn 6s, 87, 89; $815 Lehigh 6s, 67; $1,200 Norristown R R Bonds, 6s, 82; 30 Mechanics' Bank, 29; 5 Reading R R, 18; 81 Union Bank, Tenn, 50; 200 Morris Canal, 10; 5 Pennsylvania R R, 30; 20 Penn Township Bk, 13; $1,000 Susquehanna Canal Bds, 51; 8 Germantown Bk, 32; 10 Camden & Amboy R R Bds, 112.

STEAMBOAT OREGON BURNED.—About half past 5 o'clock this morning fire was seen breaking out of the upper works of the steamboat Oregon, fore and aft, by persons at McCormick's Reaper Factory, nearly opposite which the Oregon was lying. The alarm was immediately given, but on account of the combustible character of the cabin, and other woodwork, all the upper works were destroyed before the firemen could get the engines on the ground, and at work. The fasnes upward so rapidly that no power upward was saved. The crew, who was sleeping aboard, barely had time to escape without saving any of their clothes but the suit he was wearing. It was even that the only chance of preventing a total loss of the hull and machinery was by sinking her. Accordingly, a large gun was launched on the bow, drawn to the stern, and, several persons, with axes, soon got alongside the hull and scuttled her. She sunk in which a short distance of her guards, it is supposed before the fire made much progress in the hold. The fire-engines played upon the deck, and the large steam-engine on it. It was feared that the deck would give way and precipitate the engine and machinery into the hold, but this was prevented.

The Oregon was owned principally by Mr. G. L. Chapman, who commanded her last season. She has been running five years between Chicago and Buffalo, and has the reputation of being among the best boats on Lakes. For the ensuing season, she was to be under the command of Capt. D. C. Goldsmith.

The value of the Oregon was estimated at about $50,000. She was insured for $28,000, divided equally between the Etna, Howard, Columbus, and Northwestern Companies. It is impossible at this time to judge, with any degree of accuracy, of the extent of the damage.

We learn that the fire is believed to be the work of an incendiary, as no fire had been used aboard the boat after 9 o'clock on last (Friday) evening. [Chicago Tribune.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE.

Dreadful Steamboat Accident—Fifteen or Twenty Lives Lost—Shameful Conduct of a Steamboat Clerk.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. Tuesday Jan. 29.

The steamer St. Joseph, from New-Orleans, blew up and burnt to the water's edge on the 25th inst. near Napoleon, at the mouth of the Arkansas River. The St. Joseph had on board a large cargo and a number of emigrants. Fifteen persons were killed outright, and thirty-eight horribly scalded—many of whom have since died. At the time of the explosion, the steamer South America was near at hand. Capt. Baker of the St. Joseph, immediately hailed the South America to board the wreck and take off the survivors, as his crew was engaged in picking up those who were blown into the river. The South America towed the wreck to the shore. Capt. B. with the assistance of part of his crew and some passengers, succeeded in recovering the iron chest from the wreck, which contained $1,200 or $1,400. He took the money out of the chest, counted it, and handed it to the clerk of the South America for safe keeping. The next day Capt. Baker asked the clerk for the money, as he wanted to pay off his crew. The clerk refused to pay over more than $50 of the sum—claiming the balance *for salvage*.

Captain Baker and his clerk stopped here for the purpose of complaining to law, the clerk of the South America of giving up the money.

When the facts of the case were made known here, our citizens became justly indignant at the shameful conduct of the clerk of the South America, and serious threats were made to mob the boat if the money was not given up.

Interesting Items by the Southern Mail.

BALTIMORE, Tuesday, Jan. 29—9 P.M.

The Southern Mail brings us papers from New-Orleans to the 21st. The U S steamer Fashion had arrived from Fort Brooke. She spoke, in a fog, off the Pass, a brig belonging to Bangor, Me. from Cuba.

The U S ship Germantown was at Pensacola, and the U S steamer Col. Clay at Tampa Bay.

(Here follows some news which appeared in our columns two weeks since.)

The upper portion of a tower on a cathedral, erecting at New-Orleans had fallen with a tremendous crash, and one man is supposed to have been buried beneath the ruins.

The Quebec Elections—Further Returns.

QUEBEC, Tuesday, Jan. 29.

The result of the election for a member of Parliament stands for the Ministerial candidate 1,500, Annesaide do. 650.

XXXIst CONGRESS....First Session.

SENATE....WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Jan. 29.

Mr. KING, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, reported a bill to carry into effect the recent Treaty with Brazil.

Mr. SEWARD introduced a bill granting land to refugees who took part in the struggle for Independence in Hungary and other European countries.

Mr. UNDERWOOD submitted a resolution which he would propose at a proper time as a substitute for Mr. Cass's, on the Hungarian question. This proposition is, that while sympathizing with the movements of reform in other countries, and would be glad to see them all adopt our Republican form of government, we disclaim the right, and repudiate all attempts to intermeddle with the internal affairs of other countries, as we would resist all attempts by others to intermeddle with ours.

Mr. CLAY said, Mr. President, I hold in my hand a series of resolutions which I desire to present to the consideration of the Senate. Taken together, they propose an amicable arrangement of all the questions in controversy between the Free and Slave States, growing out of the subject of the Institution of Slavery. It is not my intention this time to enter into a full and elaborate discussion of the resolutions, as proposing a system of measures. I desire to present a few remarks in support of the resolution, for the purpose of placing them fairly and fully before the Senate and the country,—and I may add, with the indulgence of the Senate, towards the conclusion of my remarks, some general observations about the state of the country, and the questions to which the resolutions relate, whether they shall, or shall not meet with the approbation and concurrence of the Senate, as I must earnestly hope they may—as I sincerely trust they will, if I can contribute a some portion of that time which I have devoted with careful deliberation to the preparation of these Resolutions, and to the presentation of this great national scheme of national compromises and harmony.—I hope, I say, that some portion of that time will be employed by each Senator before he pronounces against the proposition. These Resolutions are preceded by a preamble, as follows:

"Being desirous to put the country in a strong attitude of peace and tranquillity, and to settle amicably all questions of controversy between them, arising out of the institution of Slavery, upon a fair equality and just basis, therefore—

"Ist, *Resolved*, That California, with suitable boundaries, ought to be admitted into the Union, as one of the States of the Union, without the imposition by Congress of any restriction or exclusion or introduction of Slavery within those boundaries.

It must be acknowledged that there has been some irregularity in the movements in California, which have resulted in the formation of her Constitution, and in her proceeding to ask admission. A Congress authorizing a Convention, and designating the boundaries of the proposed State, according to all the cases of the admission of new States into the Union, which were admitted prior to that of Michigan, if I am not mistaken, which, unauthorized by Congress, undertook to form for herself a Constitution, and to knock at the door of Congress for admission into the Union, I find myself at this time, in the discussion of that subject, when Michigan presented herself, opposed, in consequence of that deviation, from the early practice of the Government, to her admission. The majority determined otherwise, and it must be in candor owned, by all men, that California has much more reason to do what she has done, unauthorized, and unauthorized, by a previous act of Congress, than Michigan had to do what she did. Sir, notwithstanding the irregularity of the admission of Michigan into the Union, it has been a happy event. Sir, now one of the brightest States of this glorious Confederacy. She has sent here to mingle in our councils Senators and Representatives so distinguished that we must all associate with them with pride, pleasure and satisfaction. I trust that if California, irregular as her previous action may have been, in the adoption of a Constitution, but more justifiable than was the action of Michigan, if she also shall be admitted, as proposed, by the action of Congress, she will be to us, I say, may make her contribution of wisdom, patriotism and good feeling to this body, to conduct the affairs of this great and boundless Republic. The resolution proposes her admission when she applies. There is no intention on my part to anticipate such an application, but I thought it right to present this resolution as a part of the general plan on which I propose to adjust the existing unhappy question. The second resolution is as follows:

"2d, *Resolved*, That as Slavery does not exist by law and is not likely to be introduced into those territories acquired by the United States from the Republic of Mexico, it is inexpedient to provide by law, either for its admission or exclusion from any part of those territories, or for the establishment of any Territorial Government, and that appropriate Territorial Governments ought to be established, by Congress, in all of the said territories, not included in the boundaries of those proposed States of California, without the imposition of any restriction or condition in respect to Slavery.

Sir, it proposes the declaration of two truths, one of law and the other of fact. The truth of law which it declares is that there does not exist at the present time Slavery within any portion of the territory acquired from Mexico. When I say what that truth is I speak my very deliberate and solemn conviction. I am aware that some gentlemen have held a different doctrine, but I persuade myself that they will not, upon a fair review of the question, be so long upon that ground, will see sufficient reason for a change or modification of their opinion; and if they adhere to it they will compose a very small minority of the whole mass of the people of the United States. The next truth which the resolution asserts is that Slavery is not likely to be introduced into any portion of that Territory. That is a matter of fact, with all the evidence before us that I have, which I suppose is as accessible to other Senators as to myself. I must say that from all I have heard or read, from all the witnesses that I have seen and conversed with, from all that has transpired and is transpiring, I do believe that not within one foot of the territory acquired from Mexico will Slavery ever be planted; and I believe it could not be done by the force and power of public authority. I have thought proper to specify the conclusion. I invite Senators, from the Free States especially, to consider what has occurred since the last session, and ever since we have left our respective constituencies without an opportunity of our consulting with them upon that great and momentous fact. The fact is that California herself, although it was assented and predicted that she never would establish Slavery when she came to be a State, has in a Convention, by a unanimous vote, declared against the introduction of Slavery within her limits. I think, Sir, taking that leading fact into consideration, with all the evidence which has reached me, I am warranted in the conclusion which constitutes the second truth, that I have stated in this resolution, that Slavery is not likely to be introduced in any of the Territories acquired from Mexico. The latter part of the resolution asserts that it is the duty of Congress to "establish appropriate Territorial Governments within all that territory, exclusive of California, not embracing in the acts by which these Governments shall be constituted, either a prohibition or an admission of Slavery. Much as I am disposed to defer to the authority, anxious as I really am to find no cause for a power which would vest me with a discretion nearly with other Departments of the Government in conducting the affairs of this great people—I cannot concur in the propriety of a dereliction of those Territories—of an abandonment of them, leaving them without Government to all those scenes of disorder, confusion and anarchy, which, I regret to say, with respect to some of them, there is too much to anticipate will arise. It is the duty—the solemn duty I was going to add, almost the sacred duty of Congress—to legislate for them and give them the benefit of law, order and security. The next resolution, Sir, are the 3d and 4th, which, having an immediate connection with each other, should be read together.

3d—*Resolved*, That the eastern boundary of the State of Texas ought to be fixed by a line to commence on the Nueces, one mile south of the town of Dolores, and running up that river to the Southern line of New Mexico, thence with that line Eastwardly, and continuing in the same direction, to the line established between the United States and Mexico, including all portions of New Mexico, which lie to the East or West of that river.

4th—*Resolved*, That it be proposed to the State of Texas, that the United States will purchase for the payment of all the portion of the debt of Texas, and those fair public debts of that State contracted prior to its annexation to the United States, and which the United States have assumed to pay, a portion of Texas, extending from the river Nueces to the Rio Grande, on the following terms, in consideration of the duties, in consideration of the duties so paid, being no longer applicable to that object after the said annexation, but falling thenceforward become payable to the United States; and upon the conditions also, that the said State of Texas will relinquish to the United States any claim which it has to any part of New Mexico.

Mr. CLAY did not intend to go into the comprehensive one to what were the due limits of Texas. His opinion was that Texas had not a good title to any portion of what is called New-Mexico; but he was free to admit that looking at the conduct of the Senate and House of Representatives of Texas of 1836, the treaty with Santa Anna, and so on—looking to all these facts, but not yielding to them all the force which gentlemen claim for them, he must say there was plausibility in the claim which she sets up. He proposed then, that whether the Nueces or the Bravo is, or is not, the boundary of Texas, that the Western one shall be on that Department from the mouth to the source of the Nueces. He proposed also, in connection with this decision of the question of boundary, that Congress shall pay the debts of Texas for the liquidation of which the duties on foreign goods imported into Texas were pledged prior to annexation. After some remarks relative to the circumstances connected with the contraction of those debts, by Texas, Mr. Clay said, in his humble opinion, he thought if there was justice in truth, we owe to the creditors of Texas the duty of Texas, the duty of reimbursing them for money loaned upon the pledge of those revenues, which were cut off by annexation. He proposed also, that Texas should, for the consideration mentioned, relinquish any claim she may have to any portion of New-Mexico. He was willing to give something for even an imperfect claim of this kind for the sake of peace. The fifth and sixth resolutions were as follows:

5th, *Resolved*, That it is inexpedient to abolish Slavery in the District of Columbia, while that institution continues to exist in the State of Maryland without the consent of that State, without the consent of the citizens of the District, and without just compensation to the owners of slaves within the District.

6th, *Resolved*, That it is inexpedient to prohibit within the District the slave trade, in slaves brought into it from States or places beyond the limits of the District, either to be sold therein as merchandise, or to be transported to other markets, without the District of Columbia.

The first of these, said Mr. CLAY, simply asserted that Slavery ought not to be abolished in the Federal District, except on the conditions named. The 6th resolution expressed the expediency of prohibiting the slave trade in the District. He did not propose to interfere with the sale of slaves from one family to another in the District; the slave trade which he proposed to prohibit was that which Mr. Randolph, forty years ago, pronounced an abomination. It was a mistake on the part of the North, if they supposed that the people of