Tribune's Special Dispatches.

From Washington—Extra Session of the Senate—The River and Harbor Bill.

WASHINGTON, Monday, March 3.

It is probable that there will be an Extra Session of the Senate for Executive purposes.

Gen. Cass appears to be determined to defeat the River and Harbor bill at all hazards.

It is probable that the Senate will set through to-night until Tuesday noon, which is the utmost limit to which the Constitution can be stretched.

WOUTER VON TWILLER.

By Telegraph to the New-York Tribune.

Washington Items.

WASHINGTON, Monday, March 3.

Senator Benton is recovering.

William Jones, a worthy young printer at the Union office, had his room robbed of $1,500 in gold on Saturday night, the savings of many years industry.

Joseph Wilson, of Massachusetts, Clerk in the sixth Auditor's office was wounded, it is feared mortally, by the accidental discharge of a pistol in his pocket on Saturday.

News from Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, Monday, March 3.

The steamer City of Glasgow has just reached her wharf.

The packet ship "Tonawanda" cleared to-day for Liverpool with the largest cargo ever taken out of this port.

A barn on the point road in Aramingo, was destroyed by fire last night. Two horses and nine cows were burned to death.

The Fugitive Rescue Case in Boston, &c.

BOSTON, Monday, March 3.

In the case of T. P. Smith (colored) for aiding in the late rescue, the Commissioner held him for trial at the next term of the U. S. Court.

The case of Levi Hayden, for aiding in the rescue, is now under examination.

Weather Items.

By Morse's Line, 16 Wall-st.] MONDAY, March 3—9 A.M.

BUFFALO—A fine, clear morning; snow about 3 inches deep; ther 15; bar. 29.40.

ROCHESTER—Snowed nearly all day yesterday and still snowing rapidly; snow about 4 inches deep; wind W.; ther. 22.

AUBURN—Beautiful, pleasant morning, but rather cold; sun shining brightly; wind S W.; ther. 20.

OSWEGO—Cold, wintry morning; wind N.W.; about a foot of snow fell last night and morning, and looks like more; ther. 29; bar. 29.96.

SYRACUSE—Clear, pleasant morning; some snow fell last night; wind N.W.; ther. 20.

UTICA—A stormy morning; 3 inches snow fell last night, and still falling rapidly; wind W.; ther. 24½; bar. 29.600.

ALBANY—Snowed a little last night, but cleared up this morning and sun shining brightly; wind strong from N.W.; ther. 31; bar. 30.010; mercury in bar. 62.

TROY—Clear and cold; slight sprinkling of snow last night; wind N.W.; ther. 28.

ST. JOHNS—Clear and fine morning; yesterday snow fell about 2 inches; no wind; ther. 24.

BURLINGTON—Clear; wind N.W.; ther. 25; snowed about 3 inches last night.

WHITEHALL—Wind S.; ther. 43.

NEW-YORK LEGISLATURE.

SENATE....ALBANY, March 3.

Mr. DART gave notice of a bill authorising the Cayuga nation of Indians to purchase land in the State.

On motion of Mr. MANN, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the several Savings Banks in the State of New York are requested to report, within twenty days from this date, to the Senate, a statement of all the deposits made in said Banks respectively, from the time the Banks first commenced receiving deposits, up to Jan. 1, 1848, and which have not been reported to the depositor, or his or her legal representatives—giving the names of the depositors, their residence when the deposit was made, if known, the amount of the deposit, and when made, and the rate of interest payable thereon. But this resolution shall not require said Banks to report such deposits, or the names of depositors, in any case where the depositor is known to the officers of the Bank, making the report to be living at at the date of the report; such statement to be verified by the oaths of the Presidents and Book Keepers of such Banks respectively.

The bill providing for the election of Senator in Congress, was taken up. Mr. CROSS addressing the Senate in explanation of his views.

The debate was continued by Mr. BEEKMAN of New York. He said that any interference with the present Fugitive Slave Law, which the present U. S. Senator from N. Y. is attempting, and to arrest which interference or disturbance the new Senator ought to be elected, would lead to bloodshed. Other Senators followed and then the vote was taken and the bill lost, lacking one of a constitutional vote. All the Whigs except Mr. BEEKMAN (who voted with the Locos) voted for it. The vote was Ayes 16; Nays 16. Adjourned.

ASSEMBLY.

Petitions were presented for and against the passage of Mr. Coffin's bill to prohibit treasonable and seditious meetings; of Mechanics of New-York, for the passage of an alien law for that city, similar to the Richmond County law.

Reports were received—of the Judiciary Committee, favorably on the bill to facilitate proof for payment of debts; and of the Railroad Committee on the subject of the reduction of the fare on Railroads from Albany to Buffalo. They state that the reduction asked for has been already accomplished by the voluntary action of the different companies on the route, to take effect April 1st, 1851. As regards the law compelling other Companies to make similar reduction, they speak in unfavorable terms, and are decidedly opposed to any such enactment. The Committee advise an adherence to the policy of the General Railroad Law.

Of Committee on Charitable and Religious Societies for the incoporation of the New-York House and School of Industry. Of same Committee the bill for incorporation of the Society for the Relief of the Colored Orphans of the City of New-York.

The annual report of the Trustees of the Brooklyn Institute was received.

The annual report of the Trustees of the New-York Prison Association was received. Recess.

The Committee of the Whole resumed the consideration of the Free School bills.

Mr. ROBINSON of Dutchess moved to strike out of the bill $800,000 and insert in lieu thereof the sum of $300,000, and advocated the adoption of the amendment.

Messrs. Macomber, Baker, O. Allen, J. L. Perry, Bradley and others, discussed the bill generally.

The amendment of Mr. ROBINSON was lost.

The question then recurred upon the motion of Mr. BURROUGHS to strike out the first section of the Majority bill and insert the first section of the Minority bill.

Pending this question the Committee reported progress.

The Committee of the Whole resumed the consideration of the Library bill. Adjourned.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE INCOME OF THE LITERATURE FUND.—At a meeting of the Regents of the University on the 28th ult. the distribution of $40,000 of the income of the Literature Fund for the last year was made among the several Academies entitled to participate therein. The appropriations for Institutions in this City and vicinity are as follows:

Deaf and Dumb Institution New-York	566 92
New-York Free Academy	830 70
Rutgers Female Institute	633 10
Grammar School of Columbia College	411 60
Grammar School, University City of New-York	263 31
Brooklyn Female Academy	741 35
Sag Harbor Institute	67 00

FROM CARDENAS.—By the schr. Cardenas, Capt. Burns, which arrived this morning (Monday) from Cardenas de Cuba, we are put in possession of files of Havana and Matanzas papers to the 20th, which, however, have been anticipated by the steamer Isabel, at Charleston. Capt. B. informs us that there were some 35 or 40 sail of vessels in port, all apparently taken up as fast as they arrived. Business was brisk; freights for Molasses at $3 per 110 gallons; Sugar, $6 per hhd. and other articles in proportion.

There were many cases of cholera which had proved fatal among the negroes on shore, and some few among the whites; but it was very healthy among the shipping.

It was reported that a cargo of slaves had been landed from a schooner a few miles to leeward of Cardenas just previous to the departure of the Peerless. There were said to be 420 of them.

—Dr. Kreitsir, the distinguished Hungarian scholar, is about to deliver in Salem, Mass, a course of Lectures on Philological subjects.

CITY ITEMS.

MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.—The cause of African Missions was presented on Sunday afternoon in the Spring st Presbyterian Church (Rev. Dr. Campbell's) by Rev. Mr. Thompson, who has recently returned from the Mendi Mission—located midway between Sierra Leone and Liberia, about fifty miles from the coast. Mr. Thompson has been laboring in this field for two and a half years past, in the midst of great privations and much suffering,—but gives a cheerful account of the awakened state of the native mind and the growing desire throughout that interesting region for the benefits and opportunities of civilization. The field for the spread of Christian influences is represented as already extensive and still widening. The mission embraces a number of the Amistad captives, who have been thoroughly civilized and are now engaged in teaching. Established in times of war, in the midst of the Slave-Trade—its land rented from a chief engaged in that infamous traffic—the Mendi Mission has met with a degree of success beyond anything that could have been anticipated. The trade in human flesh has been abolished, and a peaceful and profitable commerce established in its place; a strong slave-trading port at Gallinas having been broken up and its conductors departed to other quarters. The natives have always entertained a feeling of reverence for this Mission, and it has been the neutral ground where peace has more than once been made between conflicting tribes. Until recently, access to the interior was impossible, but Mr. Thompson succeeded in penetrating to a considerable distance, and was everywhere received with open arms. There is, however, a great demand for laborers, and it is hoped that many will be found among us who will avail themselves of the opportunities now offering to explore a country which has hitherto been bidden from the view of Christian nations, and seemed almost forbidden ground to scientific research. The missionaries have contracted with the natives to whom they have been called to furnish tuition, books and clothing to the children placed under their care, and their efforts can hardly succeed so fully as they could wish without aid from brethren at home. We understand that Mr. Thompson returns for the re-establishment of his health, and will probably resume his post within a few months. He brings a number of specimens of native idols, fetishes, etc., which will serve as a picture of the ignorance and degradation of the people before the light of civilization is given them. We bespeak for this devoted laborer the cordial sympathy and aid of all interested in the welfare of the African race.

FIRE.—A fire broke out at 3 o'clock yesterday morning in the house No. 586 Grand st. occupied by A. Modolinger, baker. Damage, $160.

ANOTHER SWINDLING CONCERN BROKEN UP.—A complaint was yesterday preferred by Mr. John C. Coleman, of No. 285 Madison st. before Justice Osborne, charging one I. Townsend, whose office is at No. 50 Wall-st. with (under pretense of being Secretary of "The World's Fair Art-Union," which he advertises as being an incorporated Institution, but which statement is alleged to be false) obtaining by such false representations money from different individuals, in various sections of the country, for shares (at $5 each) in this corrupt concern. He is also charged with a violation of the statute relative to gambling. He was committed for examination.

ARREST FOR EMBEZZLEMENT. — Saml. McCoun, a young man in the employ of Martin Hill, baker, of 180 Avenue D, was yesterday arrested on a charge of embezzling $150 from his employer. The accused, it seems, was employed by Mr. Hill to carry bread to his customers, and is charged with collecting the money for the same and appropriating it to his own use. He was locked up by Justice Mountfort for examination.

DEATH BY APOPLEXY.—An inquest was yesterday held at 3 Hudson-place upon the body of George Spencer, a native of Ireland, 53 years of age, who died suddenly of apoplexy on Sunday night. Mr. Spencer's health for some years past has been poor. He was the contractor of the buildings in Twenty-first-st. which fell some weeks since, burying beneath the ruins a number of laborers.

ACCIDENTALLY DROWNED.—An Inquest was yesterday held on the body of J. Powell, a colored waiter on board the steamboat "Belknap," who was drowned by accidentally falling into the water from the gang plank of the boat. Deceased was 25 years of age. Verdict, "Death by Drowning."

GRAND LARCENY.—Henry Bluff was arrested yesterday, charged with stealing clothing to the value of $30 from the house No. 30 Bayard-st. He was committed for examination.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. — *Monday, March 3.*—A bill of R. French, for $70, being 140 meals on the trial of Patrick Delany, was ordered to be paid; as was one of $163, for printing report of superintendents schools. Several small bills were also ordered to be paid.

A bill of the County Clerk for $700, for copying Docket of Supreme Court, and two or three others were referred.

Notice was given that Ann Cox has been selected as the beneficiary for Asylum of the Blind.

A petition was presented from the Justices and Clerks of Police, for extra compensation for keeping Courts open on Sunday. Referred.

Also, a petition from A. B. Mblard, assignee of Alex. Young, mason, for $1,370, for extra work in fitting up old Alms House, in 1848, for Court rooms. Referred.

The draft of a law was adopted to have two branches of Court of Sessions, and as many terms of Special Sessions as the Judges may see fit. Adjourned.

YEAS AND NAYS IN THE HOUSE.

The Charges against Mr. Webster.

Washington, Saturday, March 1.—On the motion of Mr. Julian, of Ind., to suspend the rules to enable him to offer a resolution demanding an inquiry into certain charges preferred by Mr. Allen, of Mass. a few days ago, against Hon Daniel Webster, Secretary of State, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and resulted as follows:

YEAS.—Messrs. Albertson, Allen, Bingham, Booth, Brisbin, W J Brown, Cable, Carter, Cleveland, Daniel, Danner, Dimmick, Durkee, Fitch, Gerry, Giddings, Gilbert, Harlan, Howe, Hunter, Andrew Johnson, Julian, Lindsley, H. Mann, J. Mann, McLanahan, Morris, Orr, Parker, Penn, Phelps, Potter, Robinson, Sweetser, Wentworth—35.

NAYS.—Messrs. Alexander, Ashe, Averett, Bayly, Bell, Bocock, Bokee, Bowdon, Boyd, Breck, Briggs, Brooks, A G Brown, Buel, Burrows, Burt, Butler, G. A. Caldwell, J. P. Caldwell, Calvin, Casey, Chandler, Clingman, W. R. W. Cobb, Cole, Conger, Doherty, Dimmick, Dixon, Doty, Dunham, Edel, N. Evans, Ewing, Featherston, Freeman, Fuller, Gentry, Goodenow, Gorman, Gott, Gould, Green, Hamilton, Hammond, Haralson, Harlan, I. G. Harris, S. W. Harris, Hebard, Henry, Hibbard, Hilliard, Hoagland, Holmes, Howard, Inge, J. W. Jackson, W. T Jackson, J. L. Johnson, R. W. Johnson, G. W. Jones, G. G King, J. G. King, J. A. King, La Sère, Leffler, Levin, McGaughey, McLane, Meacham, Meade, Moore, Morse, Morton, Nelson, Outlaw, Peaslee, Peck, Putnam, Reed, Reynolds, Riley, Robbins, Rockwell, Ross, Ross, Rumsey jr, Sackett, Sawtelle, Schenck, Schermerhorn, Schoolcraft, Seddon, Silvester, Spalding, Spragur, Stanly, F. P. Stanton, R. H. Stanton, A. H. Stephens, Stetson, Strong, Taylor, Thomas, Jacob Thompson, James Thompson, Thurman, Vandyke, Venable, Vinton, Walker, Waldo, Wallace, Watkins, Wellborn, White, Williams, Wright, Young—119.

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.—Alston, Anderson, Andrews, Ashmun, Baker, Bay, Beale, Bennett, Bissell, Bowie, Bowlin, Bullard, Cabell, Campbell, Clarke, Colcock, Corwin, Crowell, Dickey, Disney, Duer, Duncan, Edmundson, A. Evans, Fowler, Gilmore, Grinnell, Hackett, Hall, Halloway, Hampton, T. L. Harris, Hay, Haymond, Holladay, Houston, Hubbard, Kerr, P. King, Marshall, Mason, Matteson, McClernand, McDonald, McDowell, McKissock, McLean, McMiller, McQueen, McWillie, J. K. Miller, D. P. Miller, Millson, Morehead, Morrison, Newell, Ogle, Olds, Otis, Owen, Phenix, Powell, Richardson, Rose, Savage, Shepperd, T. Stevens, J. R. Thompson, Toombs, Tuck, Underhill, Whittlesey, Wildrick, Wilmot, Woodward—75.

THE WHIGS OF KENTUCKY.—At the Whig State Convention held at Frankfort, Feb. 22, Ex-Gov. Thomas Metcalfe, in the Chair, the following resolutions were adopted:

1. *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Whig party of Kentucky, that to the Union of the States we owe our Liberty, Peace, National Character, Prosperity and Renown; that as it has been a guarantee in the past, so it is a pledge for the future continuance of these inestimable blessings; that on this appropriate and auspicious day we renew our vows of unabated loyalty, according to the principles of the Constitution, to the sacred Union which it designed to render immortal and indissoluble; and that, as taught by Washington, we "indignantly frown upon the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest or to enfeeble the sacred ties which now link together the various parts."

2. *Resolved*, That the Whig party of Kentucky, recognizing the spirit of conciliation and compromise in the measures of Congress for adjusting the territorial and slavery disputes which so fearfully distracted and menaced the Union, and regarding them as constitutional and substantially just in practical operation, cordially approve the same, and that the gratitude and applause of the whole country should be fervently accorded to the wisdom and patriotism of the noble hearted statesmen who contributed to their success.

3. *Resolved*, That we still adhere, with unswerving fidelity to the great principles of the Whig party, deeming them enormously important in practical operations, to the maintenance of our institutions and the promotion of the solid interests of the people; reasonably adjusting the *measures* proper for carrying them out, to the circumstances and wants of the country.

4. *Resolved*, That these principles are beneficent and conservative, founded on a practical construction of the Constitution, to make it accomplish its designed objects, "to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity."

5. *Resolved*, That prominent among the *measures* which we deem expedient at the present time, are the improvement of Rivers, Lakes and Harbors of national importance; and the observance of the principles of equity towards all the States in administering the public lands.

6. *Resolved*, That the public lands, having been acquired by the common blood and treasure, are held in trust by Congress for the common benefit of the States; and that we earnestly protest against the unjust policy to which the Federal Government is fast tending, of granting them away to the States in which they lie; and that we also insist that all the States should be placed on an equal footing as it respects grants of public lands for special purposes.

7. *Resolved*, That the administration of President Fillmore, thus far developed, in upholding the Compromise Measures, and its general conduct, has been eminently characterized by wisdom and patriotism, by dignity and firmness, by manliness and sincerity, all tempered by moderation and justice; and is signally entitled to the warmest applause of his countrymen of all sections.

8. *Resolved*, That all questions of a sectional character, rising under the Federal Government, having been wisely and happily adjusted by the compromise measures of Congress, and that all great questions of disputed State policy having been settled by the adoption of the new Constitution, it is the imperative dictate of patriotism and duty that the Whig party of Kentucky, as they love the Union and pant for the welfare of the country, rally their forces, in solid phalanx, as of old, in defence of their great principles; and we earnestly appeal to their patriotism and to the integrity of their principles, to display the utmost charity, harmony, and unanimity in all their political action, as the only means of acquiring a just ascendancy in the councils of the nation and preserving it in the State Government.

9. *Resolved*, That the new Constitution of Kentucky, having been adopted by the people, the sovereign authority to which all should bow with respectful and cheerful submission, every loyal citizen should dutifully do everything in his power to give it easy and efficient operation as the supreme fundamental law of the land, (according to the intention of its framers;) and that, in the distribution of political honors and offices, no discriminations should be made, founded on the opinions of citizens in regard to that instrument when its adoption was an open question; but that all Whigs should be recognized as standing on a perfect equality, without invidious favor to one class of them, or odious proscription of another.

10. *Resolved*, That the Constitution of the United States and the laws made in pursuance thereof, constitute the supreme law of the land; and it is the duty of the officers of the Federal Government to enforce the same.

11. *Resolved*, THAT HENRY CLAY, for a long life of eminent (and beneficent) public service, and especially for his patriotic and almost superhuman labors in devising and advocating the great measures of peace and harmony, known as the COMPROMISE, is entitled, in an especial manner, to the gratitude of Kentucky, of the Union, and of the friends of civil liberty throughout the world.

Liability of Ship-owners.

The following Act in regard to the liabilities of American Ship owners has passed both branches of Congress and become a law:

A BILL to limit the Liability of Ship-owners, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled—No owner or owners of any ship or vessel shall be subject or liable to answer for or make good to any one or more person or persons any loss or damage which may happen to any goods or merchandise whatsoever, which shall be shipped, taken in or put on board any such ship or vessel, by reason or by means of any fire happening to or on board the said ship or vessel, unless such fire is caused by the design or neglect of such owner or owners: *Provided*, That nothing in this act contained shall prevent the parties from making such contract as they please, extending or limiting the liability of ship-owners.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, If any shipper or shippers of platina, gold, gold dust, silver, bullion, or other precious metals, coins, jewelry, bills of any bank or public body, diamonds or other precious stones, shall lade the same on board any ship or vessel, without at the time of such lading, giving to the master, agent, owner or owners of the ship or vessel receiving the same, a note in writing of the true character and value thereof, and have the same entered on the bill of lading therefor, the master and owner or owners of the said vessel shall not be liable, as carriers, in any form or manner. Nor shall any such master or owners be liable for any such valuable goods beyond the value and according to the character thereof so notified and entered.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, The liability of the owner or owners of any ship or vessel for any embezzlement, loss or destruction, by the master, officers, mariners, passengers, or any other person or persons, of any property, goods or merchandise, shipped or put on board of such ship or vessel, or for any loss, damage or injury by collision, or for any act, matter or thing, loss, damage, or forfeiture, done, occasioned, or incurred, without the privity or knowledge of such owner or owners, shall in no case exceed the amount or value of the interest of such owner or owners, respectively, in such ship or vessel, and her freight then pending.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, If any such embezzlement, loss or destruction shall be suffered by several freighters or owners of goods, wares or merchandise, or any property whatever, on the same voyage, and the whole value of the ship or vessel, and her freight for the voyage, shall not be sufficient to make compensation to each of them, they shall receive compensation from the owner or owners of the ship or vessel in proportion to their respective losses; and for that purpose the said freighters and owners of the property, and the owner or owners of the ship or vessel, or any of them, may take the appropriate proceedings in any Court for the purpose of apportioning the sum for which the owner or owners, of any ship or vessel, may be liable among the parties entitled thereto. And it shall be deemed a sufficient compliance with the requirements of this act, on the part of such owner or owners, if he or they shall transfer his or their interest in such vessel and freight, for the benefit of such claimants, to a trustee, to be appointed by any Court of competent jurisdiction, to act as such trustee for the person or persons who may prove to be legally entitled thereto, from and after which transfer, all claims and proceedings against the owner or owners shall cease.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, The charterer or charterers of any ship or vessel, in case he or they shall man, victual and navigate such vessel at his or their own expense, or by his or their own procurement, shall be deemed the owner or owners of such vessel, within the meaning of this act; and such ship or vessel when so chartered shall be liable in the same manner as if navigated by the owner or owners thereof.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, Nothing in the preceding sections shall be construed to take away or affect the remedy to which any party may be entitled, against the master, officers or mariners, for or on account of any embezzlement, injury, loss or destruction of goods, wares, merchandise or other property, put on board any ship or vessel, or on account of any negligence, fraud, or other malversation of such master, officers, or mariners, respectively, nor shall anything herein contained lessen or take away any responsibility to which any master or mariner of any ship or vessel may now by law be liable, notwithstanding such master or mariner may be an owner or part owner of the ship or vessel.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, Any person or persons shipping oil of vitriol, unslacked lime, inflammable matches, or gunpowder, in a ship or vessel taking cargo for divers persons on freight, without delivering at the time of shipment, a note in writing, expressing the nature and character of such merchandise, to the master, mate, officer, or person in charge of the lading of the ship or vessel, shall forfeit to the United states one thousand dollars.

This act shall not apply to the owner or owners of any canal-boat, barge, or lighter, or to any vessel of any description whatsoever, used in river or inland navigation.

INDIANA.

Indiana Roads—Singing—Liquor—Murder—License and No License—Influence of one Man.

Correspondence of The Tribune.

GREENFIELD, Ind. Saturday, Feb. 22.

Yesterday I took the cars at Shelbyville, on the railroad from there to Knightstown—a distance of 28 miles. Knightstown is a new and flourishing village, lately and suddenly sprung up out of a wilderness, containing 700 inhabitants. It is the northern terminus of the "Knightstown Railroad." That road cost $6,000 per mile. In traveling anywhere, West, you will often meet persons from all and distant sections of the Union.

A gentleman in the cars related to me a very serious affair, the scene of which was in Huth, an adjoining County, as follows. A Mr. Robinson sold his wife and other personal property to a Mr. Tyler, for $30, (this was night before last,) but her brother, a Mr. Hamilton, dissenting from the trade, interfered, and tried to take his sister home with him. This rendered Mr. Tyler, the purchaser, highly indignant, and he very coolly shot said Hamilton through the heart. Mr. Tyler and his *bought* wife slept in the house—in the room where her dead brother lay in his blood—and the next day he escaped. All the parties were *intoxicated*. The Coroner said that the neighbors who called in to see the dead body drank about twelve gallons of liquor—to assuage their grief.

Railroads are being rapidly multiplied in Indiana. The levelness of the country renders their construction here easy, expeditious and cheap—This morning, at 6 o'clock, I took the stage, and came from Knightstown to Greenfield—*there* town of Hancock County—a distance of 14 miles, in the short time of 3 hours—4½ miles per hour. We were drawn by four very decent horses, but the resistance of mud 15 to 20 inches deep is not lightly overcome. No roads in the world are better than ours in Summer, nor worse in the Fall, Winter and Spring.

In this State everything, in legislating, is ruined by localizing. In Knightstown, in this County, no sort of license is allowed; in all other parts of the County every man makes, drinks, buys and sells liquors as he pleases, by permission of the Legislature; and such laws, here, are the result of the tremendous influence of *one man*. Personal responsibility is vast, and nature and God will hold man *responsible* for the manner in which their influence is used.

The people, all over these regions, are decidedly and unequivocally in favor of Free Farms for all the heads of families. EUREKA.

☞ James Roberts of Webster, Me, is on trial for causing the death of an idiot pauper woman whom he had contracted to support, by cruel treatment, exposure to the cold and refusal of sufficient and suitable food.

FRANCE.

The Mishaps of the Collins' Steamers and European opinion of America—Louis Napoleon and his Dotation.

Correspondence of The Tribune.

PARIS, Thursday, Feb. 13, 1851.

The accident which lately befel the Baltic and the Arctic, but more especially the disaster which befel the Atlantic, has occasioned an amount of talk and done an amount of mischief which it is impossible to compute. During a four years residence in Europe I have heard one charge against our countrymen has been increasing. It is this that however brilliant may have been our political and social achievements; however rapid our increase in population and commerce; however successful we may have been in "annexing" territory, or "removing" our neighbors; however fortunate in establishing a republican form of government; that we are wanting in some of the most essential elements of strength; that our country is large but not great; populous but not wise; practical but not profound. In proof of such statements it is common to adduce, especially, all those peculiarities which indicate a transient or a temporary policy. The critic points to our public buildings, to our steamboats, to our bridges, to our railroads, to our turnpikes, to our police, and asks, with an air of triumph, "Where on the face of the earth, can anything be found more unstable and more unsatisfactory?" He echoes the opinion of Dickens, that "everything in America appears weak and transient." When, at last, the New Yorkers proposed to establish a rival line of steamers to Cunard's, the English merely laughed at them. They admitted that we could build river boats (so well that not more than one in three will collapse or blow up;) that we could manage a steam engine or so in our cotton mills, and water-works; but as for building solid, substantial steamships, competent to breast the storms of the Atlantic, they treated the idea as a mere chimera. Now you and I know, Mr. Editor, that Americans can build as good steamships as anybody; but, alas, up to this moment they must yield the palm (or the trident,) however unwillingly, to JOHN BULL. Why? Simply because JOHN BULL, more staid and cautious than we, never launches a sea-boat till he knows what she is made of. He spares no toil, no money, no care, no *anything*. He is equally careful with his river boats. They are not as elegant as ours, nor so swift; but they are much stronger and safer. The sad experiences of our Atlantic steamers (above alluded to,) has confirmed the English critics in all their notions as to our "national superficiality." It will take long years of success to change those notions; for John is as slow in forming his opinions as in building his boats, or his railroads. (His railroads, by the way, are *much* better than ours; better laid, better made, and affording much swifter travel.)

I do not mention these things because I believe the American character will suffer any, on the whole, in comparison with the British; nor yet because the particular criticism in reference is just. Indeed, so far as this last point is concerned, I might easily show that, *as a rule*, we lay the foundation of many things much deeper, much broader, much more permanent, than the English: witness our Constitution, our form of Government, our Common Schools, our Courts of Justice, our Manufactories, our Water-works, and every institution (but *one*) affecting the welfare of the people. It is possible that some things are transient in America which ought to be permanent; but it is certain that there are many things permanent in England which ought to be transient—for example, the Law of Entail, the Law of Primogeniture, the union of Church and State, the Titled Aristocracy, the *Crown itself*. I repeat, then, that I have not thrown out the above suggestions because Americans need fear either comparisons or criticisms, but in order that we may profit by both.

And now about things in France. The Prince President has again been checkmated by the Assembly, and the game is getting to be deep and interesting. The *Dotation* was refused last Monday, by a vote of 396 to 294; the Republicans and the Legitimists, with a sprinkling of Orleanists and Nobodies, voting against it; the Republicans from principle, the Legitimists from policy, the Orleanists from spite, and the Nobodies from nothing. The Napoleonists are mad enough. They complain that they have been the victims of a *coalition*; and sneer at the purple Legitimists for having coalesced with the Red Republicans. But let it be well understood, that in this, as in several other instances, *the Mountain has not gone to the Legitimists, but the Legitimists have gone to the Mountain*, which latter has been, all the while immoveable and upright.

The chief advocate of the Dotation was MONTALEMBERT! The proud, pious, priestly, *ultra montane* MONTALEMBERT! His speech deserves a place in the curiosities of Parliamentary Literature. It was one continuous attack, mean, insidious, unmanly against the Republic. It eulogised the President for having reinstated the Pope in Italy and overrun that country with foreign soldiery; for having destroyed Universal Suffrage in France: and for having suppressed the Republican movement throughout Europe! It insulted the French People by saying that they elevated Louis Napoleon because he was a Prince, and that by that token they meant, in their hearts to reestablish the EMPIRE—and as much more such trash as you can think.

Who, after a speech containing such sentiments, will pronounce either the orator or his client a Republican, or fit to have any place in a Republican Government?

The papers say that the news of his defeat was received by the President with great *sang froid*. *Charivari* says that he was shaving himself at the time, and that the unpleasant tidings never so much as made his hand tremble, whereas "an ordinary mortal would at least have cut off his nose."

The next day after the vote the, *Moniteur* contained the following clumsy communication:

"In anticipation of the rejection which has taken place on the subject of the *expenses of representation*, numerous subscriptions have been organized. This was an imposing and manifest testimony of sympathy, and approval of the conduct of the President. He is profoundly moved (*touché*) and thanks all those who have entertained this thought. But he thinks it his duty to sacrifice a personal gratification to the repose of the country. He knows that the people will render him justice, and that is sufficient for him. The President therefore, refuses all subscriptions, however spontaneous and national their character."

Allow me, Mr. Editor, to draw your attention to an error in the above communication, which will show that the *Moniteur* is not always infallible.

For "*subscriptions*," read subscription *lists*. Subscriptions have been scarce, far too scarce to be "organized." Agents have been sent to every part of the country to sound the Napoleonistic purse, but it has been found very shallow; so that the President's alarm, lest the expense and *spontaneity* of the subscription should interfere with the repose of the country, was, to say the least, superfluous.

The Orleanists, the Legitimists, the Republicans, the Nobodies, and Monsieur Thiers, all being opposed to a subscription, and the few soldiers and peasants who, "for a consideration," will now and then bawl out *Vive Napoleon!* not having anything to offer but lungs—you will easily see that the amount subscribed would at best, have made but a sorry substitute for the *dotation*.

And as the Prince-President must retrench, he must be less a Prince and more a President. In fact the papers say that his retrenchment is already "organized," and that on Tuesday he had to dine from the following meagre bill of fare:

1. Potage de bisque.
2. Huitres d'Ostende.
3. Croquettes de volaille.
4. Perdreau truffé.
5. Une sollème.
6. Une croque-en-bouche.
7. Pain à discretion.

Am I treating this subject, so full not only of French, but of European interest, too lightly for a serious, earnest journal like *The Tribune*? But how can it be treated gravely? Were Louis Napoleon a great man, were he a NAPOLEON in anything but name, and as such did he ground this incredible demand for millions of the people's hard and insufficient earnings, on some broad political basis, the case would be different. As it is, the fact that this mere remnant of a man, this mere shadow of an "illustrious predecessor," comes forward, hat in hand, and coolly asks an enormous sum, for no earthly reason except that he may keep up the pomp, and maintain the prestige, of a Prince, presents itself in no other light than that of a wretched farce. An ordinary mendicant excites our pity, but this prince of mendicants, bursting with "mean ambition and the pride of kings," excites only one's ridicule. The only paper which handles him according to his deserts is *Charivari*.

A NEW-ENGLANDER.

P. S.—You will remember that when the Provisional Government decreed the complete abolition of slavery in the FRENCH WEST INDIES, they also decreed that, after the expiration of two years, any Frenchman, persisting in holding slaves *in any part of the world*, should be denationalized. A proposition introduced into the National Assembly this week, to extend the operation of the last provision for *ten years*, has been passed by a large vote, the Republicans, *of course*, declaring against the extension.—What horrid wretches these Republicans are! How opposed to religion, and order, and family, and society, and property!

MAIL GLEANINGS.

—We gather the following Prison statistics of the United States from the Annual Reports of the Institutions named, and other sources. In New-Jersey, the number of prisoners received in the State Prison during the year 1850 was 122. These are sentenced for terms varying from nine months to fifteen years. Of the whole number, 66 are entered as persons of "no trade." The Prison is full to overflowing, an unusual increase having occurred during the year; with 'every probability (says the Report,) that it will continue.'....The Warden of the Ohio Penitentiary, Mr. Laurin Dewey, has made an able and interesting Report to the Legislature of the State on the subject of Prisons and Prison Discipline. Mr. Dewey was commissioned by the Legislature to examine and report upon the modes of discipline adopted in the different States of the Union, and gives the results of his mission in a voluminous Report. It appears from these statements that the Western Penitentiary of Pennsylvania was erected in 1817, and that the whole number of prisoners received from that period to the present is 1,370. The Eastern Penitentiary of the same State was erected in 1829; total number of prisoners received not given; number now in confinement, 313. The Virginia Penitentiary was opened in 1800, and is now the oldest in the United States; contains 198 prisoners. The Maryland Penitentiary has been completed forty years; has 24 officers, and 228 prisoners.—The Sing-Sing Prison was erected in 1825; contains 734 inmates. In Connecticut, the Penitentiary was erected in Wethersfield in 1827; has 161 prisoners. In Massachusetts, there were in October last, 450 State Prison convicts. In Michigan there are 131 convicts; being an increase of 22 during the past year.

—New-Orleans is brilliant this season. The *Delta* says: "There is scarcely any trade which is not now doing three times as much business as it did last year. Our hotels and boarding-houses are all crowded. The restaurants swarm with people. The dry-goods and fancy stores glitter with gay attire and places of amusements are crowded all the time. It would be an interesting calculation to examine into the effect produced upon various departments of human industry in our city, by the single fact of Jenny Lind's presence and Concerts. It would not be extravagant to estimate the number of persons who have come here mainly to attend these Concerts, at twenty thousand. There are two thousand present every night of her Concerts. It would be a pretty fair calculation to put the amount expended, by these persons in ornaments alone, including jewelry, opera glasses, gloves, &c. at seven thousand dollars."

—A new wing is in progress of construction at the Cambridge Observatory, to be devoted to astronomical and meteorological purposes. It is to contain a comet-seeker constructed upon a new plan, by which it is expected that the labor of searching for these transient visitors will be considerably diminished. A set of self registering photographic instruments will be placed in the basement, from which important results may be expected. In the remainder of the building there will be a computing-room and a library, to the collection of which a very liberal sum can now be annually devoted. If it is deemed advisable, other instruments can be introduced. The expense of the building is defrayed by a subscription raised through the efforts of J. Ingersoll Bowditch, Esq. of Boston.

—Some interesting relics of the Revolution have been discovered at Savannah, Geo. in the excavations for a new Dépôt of the Central Railroad.—The site of the Dépôt is the ground formerly occupied by Spring Hill Redoubt, before which PULASKI fell in 1778. The laborers were excavating along a trench, three feet deep, in which it is supposed the dead of the British were buried. Bones and skulls almost returned again to dust, musket bullets, hair of a yellowish color, pieces of clothing, buttons, &c. have been disinterred. One of the buttons bears the number 90, and another 2—probably indicating the numbers of Regiments. In the clothing, an occasional button hole may be detected, worked with great nicety.

—A Correspondent of the *Buffalo Commercial Advertiser* furnishes a detailed account of the Commerce of the Empire of Morocco during the year 1848 and 1849. The vessels engaged in the trade were British, Moorish, Austrian, Dutch, French, Portuguese, Prussian, Sardinian, Spanish and Tuscan; no American vessels. The contraband trade is stated to be double the value of the lawful Imports and Exports, which for the years above named were as follows: Imports in 1848, $1,869,254 54; in 1849, $1,759,827 04....Exports in 1848, $1,532,701 64; in 1849, $1,839,012 94.

—The Third Annual Report of the Board of Education of Syracuse shows that the whole amount expended in that city for educational purposes during the past year, was $14,106. The total resources of the Board in 1850 were $19,729. There are 10 Schools under the care of the Board, with 30 Teachers. The number of volumes purchased during the year was 370, making the aggregate number of volumes 3,959.

—The First Commencement of the Homeopathic College at Cleveland, O., took place on the 19th inst. The degree of M. D. was conferred upon 17 young men, 3 of whom are New-Yorkers. The friends of the School are highly gratified by the success of their first course of Homeopathic Medical instruction.

—The value of imports at Montreal for the season of 1850 amounts to $8,864,085. This value is principally for goods from England, by way of the St. Lawrence. The amount of exports from the same port was $2,000,000.

—The number of Immigrants arrived at Boston during the last ten years (July 1840 to July 1850,) was 132,903—exclusive of those who were Americans. During the twenty years previous, there were only 33,589.

—Nathaniel Childs, Jr., the defaulting Cashier of the Bank of Missouri, has been suspended from his official relations with the M. E. Church South in St. Louis, until after the final decision of the civil suits now pending.

—The Hemp crop in Missou