WESTERN AFRICA.

THE KINGDOM OF YORUBA.

From Our Own Correspondent.

IJAYE, Tuesday, Jan. 17, 1854.

BOUNDARIES — EXTENT — POPULATION — SURFACE — SOIL—RIVERS—SEASONS—CLIMATE.

The kingdom of Yoruba, improperly called Yarriba, lies between the Bight of Benin and the Niger. The eighth parallel of N. lat. and the fourth meridian E. lon. intersect each other about the center of the kingdom. It is bounded on the West by Dahomi and Mahi,* on the North by Borgu and Topa or Nufi, on the East by Kakanda and Ijebu, and on the South by Egba and Ikêtar. The extent is about 30,000 square miles; the population perhaps 500,000, but in the opinion of some considerably more. The principal towns, with their probable population, are Iborrin 100,000, Ibadan 50,000, Ishakki 40,000, Ijaye, Ikishi and Agbomrshaw 35,000 each; Igboho, Ifeh, and Aggaw-ojà, or Awyaw, the capital 25,000 each; Ishabbeh, Iganna, Iséi, Ideh, and Idoko 20,000 each; and besides these there are numerous towns and villages containing a population varying from a few hundred to ten or fifteen thousand.

The surface of the country is chiefly a gently undulating plain rising almost imperceptibly from the sea till it attains an elevation of more than 1,000 feet. In some places there are heavy forests, but the plains are mostly open and resemble prairies covered with tall grass and a few scattered trees. Very often, however, these trees are so numerous as to give the country the appearance of a grassy woodland. From the plains of the interior there arise numerous rugged and abrupt hills, which are sometimes six or eight hundred feet in hight. These are the Kong Mountains. They are not here disposed in a continuous chain, but in detached masses and short ridges. The scenery is often exceedingly beautiful—mountains of naked granite, steep wooded hills, rocks piled upon rocks in grand confusion, lovely valleys winding among overhanging hights, and level prairies ornamented by scattering trees and intersected by streams of clear water. The soil of Yoruba and of Western Africa generally is rather productive than exceedingly fertile. Travelers who have entertained a different opinion have erroneously supposed that a luxuriant covering of bushes, weeds and grass indicates a soil capable of producing crops equally luxuriant.† In many places the land is really poor. On an average it is about as productive as in most parts of the United States. In a few places it is very rich. I have seen farms which were literally stocked by the luxuriance of the Indian corn, and where the average hight of the Sea Island cotton was about 10 feet.

Yoruba abounds in streams of clear and pure water, which generally flow over rocky beds, and form numerous rapids. There are few bold springs and no lakes or swamps. The wells are generally from 5 to 15 ft. in depth, and the water is never cool in them or the springs. None of the rivers are large. The Yeriwa and its tributary the Idi, which water the western part of the country, are only about 30 ft. wide. The Ogun in the central parts of the Kingdom is from 100 to 150 yards in width, and too deep to be forded in the rainy season. It receives many tributaries. The Oshun* in the east is said to be a little wider. These larger rivers flow southward to the sea and are navigable from 100 to 200 miles. Yoruba does not reach to the Niger, but the boundary of Nufi is on this side of that river.

The seasons in Yoruba are more favorable than in some other parts of Africa. The former rains commence about the first of March, and increase gently till June, when they are most violent. Yet even then we sometimes have two or three dry days together. The latter part of July, the whole of August and the first three weeks in September are nearly free from rain and at the same time cool and pleasant. The latter rains fall in October and November. Then follows the dry season till March. By the first of February the grass in the prairies is brown and dry, various species of trees are stripped of their leaves, and many streams are nearly destitute of water. Three years' continued drouth would convert the country into a desert. On the approach of the former rains, vegetation awakes from its repose. The fields and prairies send forth a new crop of grass, the trees are clad in leaves of tender green and loaded with showy flowers, and we have all the beauties of Spring here in the midst of the torrid zone.

The dry season is the hottest time of the year—the thermometer commonly ascending to 90° during the day, and sometimes to 95°. Yet when the harmattan blows from the northeast the mercury often sinks to 70° during the night, and on one occasion since I have been in the country, to 60°. This was cold weather. The harmattan does not visit us more than three or four times during the three months of the dry season, and never continues more than a day or two at a time. It is not only chilly, but a very dry wind. The tubes of the hygrometer sometimes indicate a difference of 24°. The usual difference is from 2° to 6°; the usual range of the thermometer from 76° to 85°. It commonly sinks 3° or 4° from 3 to 8 o'clock P. M.

To the natives of the country the climate of Yoruba is more healthy than that of the United States. Here they have no winter pleurisies, pneumonias and colds, no summer fevers, no cholera, consumptions, dyspepsias and nervous disorders. A stronger and more active race than the Yorubast would be difficult to find. Both men and women, whose profession it is to carry loads for pay, think nothing of going sixty miles in three successive days, with a burden of 60 lbs. weight on the head. I have repeatedly seen boys amusing themselves in the streets by turning summersets.

The principal diseases which I have observed among the people, are rheumatism, yaws, leprosy, fever, liver complaint and dysentery. Small-pox is common. The patient takes little or no medicine for this disease, but lays off all his clothes and passes his time on a mat in his room. Very few die under this practice, and notwithstanding every part of the body is equally exposed to the light, the face only is pitted.

But though the climate of Yoruba is healthy to the native race, who have been acclimated for three or four thousand years, it is not favorable to the constitution of Europeans. This is not easily accounted for. The soil is everywhere firm and dry, (in its nature,) there are no swamps, the water is good, the country open and refreshed by constant breezes, the temperature uniform, and the rains not excessive. Some, to account for the unhealthiness of the African climate, have called in that universal resolver of mysteries, electricity. Others have fancied that there may be some chemical cause in the nature of the soil which poisons the air. It seems probable that the chief cause is some kind of gas, which is capable of being absorbed by water, because if a person sleeps on board of a vessel no more than half a mile from the land there is little danger of sickness. Neither is there much danger on shore during a sunny day, but if a dozen men should sleep ashore a single night, they would all be pretty certain to have an attack of fever. A closer observation of the country, moreover, discloses visible causes of unhealthiness. The soil, though firm and dry in its nature, is covered by so dense a coating of vegetation that the surface is always damp. The deep and dark forests near the coast are particularly moist, and emit disagreeable odors. Here also there are many swamps, especially of mangrove, a plant which Humboldt supposes to be deleterious to human health. Even on the prairies the soil is seldom dry, being covered with thick-set grass from eight to twelve feet in hight. Besides this, the subsoil in most places is composed of clay, which retains the water within a few feet of the surface on the driest plains. It is not impossible also that the south-west breezes may convey the noxious exhalations of the swamps and forests near the coast to a great distance interior. These breezes, though cooling, are not favorable to evaporation, being often moist and always confined to the lower strata of the atmosphere. As a general thing, the upper clouds or cirrus lie spread out in the sky as motionless as the moon. We may add to all this that African towns have very narrow, crooked and filthy streets, and dirty, leaky, thatched houses, the grass of which is constantly decaying. If the country were cultivated and the towns clean, I have no doubt the climate would be more favorable to white people; but even then they would be liable to debility, fevers, and dysentery, which is still more dangerous, unless they should drink less gin, brandy and ale, and eat less meat, puddings and pancakes than they generally do on the African coast.

In most parts of Africa, when a silly negro gets sick, he applies to a conjuror to cure him. This practice is not unknown in Yoruba, but is less common than in many other places, for the people are more civilized and more intelligent than those on the coast. In every Yoruba market a variety of barks, roots, seeds, &c., are constantly exposed to sale by women who make this business their profession. They seldom know the qualities and uses of their drugs. The physician prescribes what medicines must be used, and the patient or his friends generally purchase, mix and administer them. Some of their compounds are ingeniously made and produce very good effects. African doctors never bleed, and seldom administer emetics or purges, but rely chiefly on alteratives and tonics. I have used native medicines in my own sickness with benefit, and prescribed them for others.

It is not improbable that this country may make some useful additions to our materia medica. At some convenient time I wish to send home a variety of specimens, with the flower, fruit and leaf of each, where they can be procured, and with notes on their properties and uses, so far as I can ascertain them. I may here take occasion to observe that Africa presents a vast and almost unknown field to the learned in every department of natural science. If a party consisting of a botanist, zoölogist, geologist, &c., were sent out by the Kingdom of Yoruba, for instance, and were provided with proper interpreters and servants among the recaptured blacks colonized in Sierra Leone, these men might soon become useful assistants in preserving flowers, stuffing the skins of animals, &c. The party should land at Lagos and penetrate into the interior by way of Yoruba, for here they would enter at once among the courteous people of Central Africa; whereas it would be very difficult if not impossible to proceed through the barbarous and bigoted tribes adjacent to Sierra Leone and Liberia. They should be provided with water-proof boxes to preserve specimens. They should remain a year in Yoruba, and become well acquainted with the productions of that country, which would serve as a standard of comparison for others farther interior. The botanist could learn the native names and uses of drugs by frequent inquiries among the people, and he could find the plants by taking proper persons with him into the woods and prairies. The zoölogist could engage natives to catch animals in traps and snares, at which they are expert, and hunters to shoot larger ones, as elephants and buffaloes. It would expose him too much to hunt these creatures himself. An ethnologist also might discover many interesting facts in the languages, manners and customs, superstitions and traditions, of different nations. Beside the direct objects of their mission, the party might further benefit mankind by becoming acquainted with the resources and facilities for trade of the country, and perhaps by discovering new fields for the benevolent labors of missionaries. Such a party would be in little danger from the climate, provided they were of sound constitution, and would be chaste and temperate, and would avoid exposure to the sun, rain, night air, and damp clothing and bedding. They should be of what is called the motive mental temperament, and should be endowed with a large portion of energy.

* A rounded as in far or fat; e as in prey or met; i as in machine or pin; o as in so or not; u as in brute or tuk; ou as in how; ai like i in pine or like ow in now; n, final, is a very slight nasal like ng, sounded with the mouth shut; p is equivalent to kp as in Yopo, pronounced Ya-kpo.

† In Africa, as among the Indians, countries derive their names from tribes. It is just as proper to say the Cheesecome, the Chickawaw, &c., as Yorubans or Dahomans.

LETTERS FROM OHIO.

NEWARK AND GRANVILLE.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

COLUMBUS, O., Saturday, July 1, 1854.

Some of the pioneer settlers of Ohio were rough, hardy men, thoroughly bred up to hate the "Injuns." Of this class were Ellis Hughes and John Ratliff, who built the first cabin in Licking County as early as 1795 or 1796. The place of settlement was a few miles below Newark, on the Licking bottoms—probably on some land cleared up by the Indians. In some respects these men adopted the codes of manners and morals which prevail among the savages, since their wives had to raise the corn while they hunted game, and occasionally vented their hatred on the Indians by shooting such as they could with impunity. In 1802 the town of Newark was commenced by the building of a log cabin. Six years afterward the people joined to put up a rude log building for a court-house, to be used also as a church, or any other public purpose. The Valley of the Licking, in which Newark stands, was noted in early times for the hard characters who congregated here—horse thieves and horse racers, gamblers, carousers, &c.—and many incidents are related which show this fact. The following specimen of special pleading and effectual practice of the bar is related as having occurred at Newark:

A man was on trial for horse-stealing, and employed a lawyer much noted since that time. Before the trial commenced the lawyer stated that he wished to consult with his client a moment, and begged his Honor to allow him to hold a short conference with the man alone. The request was granted, and as soon as they were outside the door the counsel with commendable directness said to his client, "You stole the horse, "didn't you?" "Yes, I did," was the explicit answer. "And you want me to clear you?" "Yes." "Well, hand over the *tin* and *cut sticks for the woods!*" The fellow was not slow in his compliance with such practical advice. As soon as Mr. ——— thought his client was fairly off he returned to the court-room, and on being asked where the prisoner was replied coolly that he "had been employed to clear him, and, "seeing no more likely means to accomplish so desirable a result, he had told him to run for the woods, "which advice his client had been complying with "about ten minutes!"

It is stated by intelligent old men that the first sermon ever preached in Newark was by a Presbyterian Missionary, the Rev. John Wright, in 1803. He came to the town on Saturday, and finding that there was but one Presbyterian family in the town, and that a poor one, he put up at the tavern. The town happened to be in a very lively condition on account of a horse-race. After he went to bed the drunken racers broke into his room and told him he must get up and take a horn with them or be "pumped," which meant to be held under the pump for an ablution of cold water. He managed, however, to get away from them, and put up with the Presbyterian family. As soon as the gentlemen of the turf found out that he was a minister, they sent him a humble apology, but petitioned him to put off preaching till afternoon, as there was to be a horse-race in the morning! and after that they would be at liberty to attend preaching! This request he did not comply with, but preached to a small audience; but in the afternoon he had a crowd from the race-course. Mr. Wright preached a plain and pointed sermon on Sabbath-breaking to these rough fellows, which they heard patiently, and at the close of the sermon took up a collection for the minister of seven dollars.

The country around Newark is very rich, and some of the farms are on a princely style. The churches and schools show that a vast change has been going on since the days of Hughes, the Indian Hater, and of horse-racing on Sundays. The common schools of Newark, and in fact of all Licking County, are kept in admirable condition, and employ excellent teachers who receive wages somewhat worthy of their important post.

Nearly west from Newark, some six miles, we come to one of the most remarkable towns in the State. In 1805, a number of families, mostly from East Granville, Mass., formed a company for the purchase of a township of land. Before they left, the Rev. Dr. Cooley, (who still survives,) their pastor, organized them into a church. In traveling to Ohio, they stopped every Sunday and had religious worship, and the first Sabbath spent in Granville witnessed acts of religious worship, and the very spot, near by where the church now stands, is pointed out. The Rev. Jacob Little, now their pastor, states in his history of the place that the first time the choir attempted to sing amid the grand old forest of their new home, the contrast was so painful between their present place and the home they had left, that they broke out into weeping instead of singing. The people were of the best New-England ever had, and right well have they laid the foundations of society. Among the pioneers was Deacon Rose, noted as the good man at whose door LEMUEL HAINES, afterward so noted as the colored preacher, was laid at the instance of his inhuman master. The old man is said to have had a wonderful affection for "Lemmy" and to have encouraged him to aspire to distinguished usefulness.

From the very first Granville has been noted for its schools, and since 1805 there has probably not been a year in which there have not been schools in which a scholar might acquire a thorough English education. The township is one of rare agricultural wealth, and such have been the temperance, frugality and equality of the people, that to this day the farms are usually only large enough for a single family to manage to advantage. The churches are crowded, and a finer specimen of a moral community cannot be found in the western country. The extensive Female Academy ranks among the first institutions in the country, and has been built and sustained by the liberality of this farming community.

The most remarkable man in Granville, if not in the whole County, is the Rev. Jacob Little, pastor of the Congregational Church. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College, and keeps his polite studies bright by practice. He is extremely plain in his appearance, and in the pulpit has none of the mannerisms of his profession. In style he is perfectly simple, and yet there is such robust good sense in all that he does, and such sagacity of judgment rarely in error, accompanied by a rare purity and integrity of character, that it may be said he stands among the foremost ranks of his profession in this great State. His goodness is so good as to amount to genius, and his simplicity of manner and style at times produce the effects of the highest eloquence. He has a wonderful passion for statistics connected with his own locality, and can tell you how many get drunk, how many drink intoxicating liquor, how many use tobacco, how many have died since he was in Granville, and at what age, and of what disease, how many attend church and who visit or travel on Sundays, &c., &c. The following extract from one of his historical sketches of Granville, is perfectly characteristic of the manner in which he attacks public vices. In early times it seems that rattle snakes and copper-heads, very poisonous snakes, abounded in the township, and that the people banded themselves to exterminate the dangerous reptiles. Three hundred were said to have been killed in one day, and 700 or 800 in one year. Describing the effect of the bite of one of these poisonous snakes, Mr. Little says:

"The limb became immediately swollen, turned the color of the snake, and the patient was soon unable to walk. In some cases the poison broke out annually, and in others the limb for years was exposed to frequent swellings. After all that was suffered from poisonous reptiles, it was proved to a demonstration that no animal is so poisonous as man. Carrying more poison in his mouth than any other creature, he can poison a venemous serpent to death quicker than the serpent can him. Martin Root and two other young men chopping together, saw a rattlesnake, set a fork on his neck, and put in his mouth a new quid from one of their mouths. They raised the fork and the poor creature did not crawl more than his length before he convulsed, swelled up and died, poisoned to death by virus from the mouth of one of the lords of creation. Deacon Hayes and Worthy Pratt tried the same experiment upon copper-heads with the same results. Many others killed venomous reptiles in the same way, and one man pretended that by the moderate use, he had taught a copper-head to take tobacco without injury."

DELAWARE.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

DELAWARE, O. Monday, July 3, 1854.

For many years this beautiful town has been noted for its fine sulphur springs, the largest of which is on the grounds of the Ohio Wesleyan University. The Olentangy, as the Indians called it—the Whetstone, as the pioneer whites called it—is a pretty stream, bordered by alluvial plains of wonderful fertility, which give way to gently undulating uplands for some distance, which gradually sink down into a country too flat to be altogether pleasing. Delaware itself was many years ago the seat of an Indian town of that name; and when the first settlers came to the place the remains of their encampments were distinctly visible on the bank of the river, and half a mile west, near a sulphur spring on the charming grounds of the late Mr. Litell, which have been recently purchased for a female seminary by the Methodists, and I venture to say that a more charming spot cannot be selected in the State. If the followers of Wesley will leave those grounds as they are, with their sweet valley richly shaded by venerable maples, black walnuts, beaches, oaks and buckeyes, taking out only the underbrush, they will have as beautiful a retreat as heart can desire. There are two splendid springs near these grounds, one a sulphur and the other chalybeate. The grounds are capable of almost indefinite improvement in every respect but their primeval forest trees.

The first settlement of the county was made in 1801, the year Ohio was admitted into the Union, and the first cabin was put up in Delaware itself seven years afterward. It is said that the Indians had several hundred acres of cleared land which now are included within the corporation limits, and that they used it for raising corn. The field was on the river bottom, on the east side of town. In early times the people suffered great privations from two causes—the almost worthlessness of produce and the exorbitant costliness of goods. These were brought by wagons to the Ohio River and then shipped to Portsmouth, to be conveyed more than a hundred miles over such roads as are not known east of the Alleghenies. It goes beyond California prices to hear an old settler talking of having paid from one to two dollars a yard for ordinary calicoes, and five dollars a pound for tea, and perhaps a dollar per pound for coffee. In those days a farmer might take thirty bushels of wheat to Delaware and not be able to realize enough cash to pay eight or ten dollars of taxes. The opening of the Ohio Canal produced a great change in these things, so that by taking wheat to Columbus it would bring from seventy-five cents to a dollar and a quarter for sixty pounds. Since that time the county has made great advancement in developing its large agricultural wealth. The town itself had in former days an "oldish" appearance, and it was difficult to say whether it was gaining or not, and the reason of it was that there were seasons of the year when it was a great undertaking to go to any of the commercial centers of the State on account of the roads. Seven or eight years ago the stage coach, with four horses attached, required from twelve to fourteen hours to make the distance from Columbus to Delaware in the winter, a distance of only 24 miles. This isolation kept many away from the town who would otherwise have been attracted by its pretty situation, and especially its health-giving waters.

This difficulty has also vanished before the march of that giant enterprise which now pervades all the free States of the West. The Columbus and Cleveland Railroad runs its air line track within two miles of the town, and has also constructed a curve along which the accommodation trains pass just upon the edge of the town. Since that was completed another railroad has been put in running order from Springfield to the town, and still another is now being built in an air line from Xenia to Delaware, to connect with some great eastern thoroughfare—I believe, that from Sunbury to Philadelphia. The effect of this has been marked on the town. The "oldish" look of the houses has disappeared, and a bright, thrifty look, is on everything. Old houses are repaired or pulled down, and new ones are going up in all parts of the town. Town lots have doubled and trebled in value and farming lands have increased. The merchants of Delaware are only thirty hours from New-York City, and can actually go to the Metropolis with less fatigue and greater punctuality than they could formerly make the journey in winter to Columbus. Butter, formerly worth sixpence a pound or less; eggs, worth from four cents to nothing per dozen, can be put in the New-York market, and the heavier produce of the country—pork, wheat and neat cattle—are in constant demand at remunerative prices. Seven years, as I know by observation, has wrought a wonderful change in the town and County of Delaware, and everything here indicates how much more productive are the energies of freemen toiling for themselves than of slaves working for others.

The Ohio Wesleyan University at this place bids fair to become the great Methodist College of the West, and one of the finest among those new institutions which are starting up in all direction through the Great Valley. The main College building was once a hotel, but was purchased with its grounds and presented to the Ohio and North Ohio Conferences, and they are doing a good work there. The fine library building was provoked into existence by the offer made by Mr. William Sturges of Zanesville, who told the Trustees that if they would put up a Library building worth ten thousand dollars, he would give them ten thousand dollars to buy books for the nucleus of a library, an offer which they had the good sense to accept.

ZANESVILLE AND PUTNAM.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

COLUMBUS, O., Monday, July 3, 1854.

The towns of Zanesville and Putnam lie on opposite banks of the Muskingum River, and were it not for the smutty, dingy look of the houses on account of the general use of bituminous coal, would be among the pleasantest towns in the State. The first takes its name from Ebenezer Zane. In 1796 Congress granted Mr. Zane "three military warrants not to exceed one mile square each" as a compensation for cutting out a road from Wheeling to Maysville; the first of these was to be where the road should cross the Muskingum, the second where it should cross the Hockhocking, and the third where it should cross the Scioto. With far-seeing sagacity, he located his first land warrant where Zanesville now is, attracted to this place by the large facilities for water mills. His third warrant was located not quite so fortunately, yet the land became valuable. It was on the opposite bank of the Scioto across from Chillicothe. The law making him the grant compelled him to keep boats at all the ferries on the road. It is a fact worth noting, as a point from which to reckon progress, that "the "first mail ever carried in Ohio was brought from "Marietta to McCulloch's cabin—he was the ferry-"man at Zanesville—by Daniel Convers in 1798, "where, by the arrangement of the Postmaster-Gen-"eral, it met a mail from Wheeling and one from "Limestone—now Maysville. McCulloch, who could "barely read, was authorized to assort the mails and "send each package to its proper direction, for which "he received $30 per annum."

The town was laid out in 1799, and called Westbourn, because I suppose the proprietor thought he had reached the West, but it was afterward changed to its present name. Mr. M'Intire, Zane's brother-in-law, kept the first tavern in Zanesville. It was built of logs and roofed with split clapboards, and enjoyed a great reputation in its day, on account of the nice table and lodgings provided for travelers. Those who have read Gen. Cass' "Camp and Court of Louis "Philippe," will recall the fact that this man of such singular and varied fortunes, then a fugitive from France, was a guest in this wilderness-inn, and if I mistake not, the royal Philippe showed Mr. Cass the very entry, which he made at the time, of the cash expended at the place.

No place at the West has been more noted for the enterprise of its business men, and so early was this characteristic developed that the town was of sufficient importance to aspire to be the capital of the State, and succeeded so far as to have the Legislature hold its sessions there during the two winters of 1810-11 and 1811-12. These facts are derived from *The Zanesville Gazette* of 1833.

The hills surrounding the town are filled with coal and the river furnishes extensive water power. The slackwater navigation of the Muskingum gives trade a thoroughfare to the Ohio, and a side cut to the Ohio Canal has opened the way to the lake and the East for the vast quantities of flour here manufactured. The national road also passes through the town, and a railroad from Columbus to Wheeling also is completed from the former place to Zanesville.

Among the noted men of Zanesville was John M'Intire, who assisted to cut the road from Wheeling to Maysville, and who kept the first tavern in the town. He amassed a valuable estate and left it by will to provide schools for the poor of Zanesville, and this property, now worth some three hundred thousand dollars, is accomplishing its beneficent purposes. On the hill, in a beautiful spot overlooking the river and the city, the M'Intire Academy is built, and the school, said to be one of the best in the State, is in full operation. The common schools of the city are of a high order, and those who are unable to pay receive all the advantages of instruction free.

The most remarkable business man the city has had, was Mr. Buckingham, who is said to have begun his fortune at the wood pile of Gen. Rufus Putnam at Marietta. Tradition says that one evening just before sundown, a rugged young man with his ax and budget on his shoulder, called at the general's door, and inquired for work, and was told by Gen. P. that he wished that wood pile chopped up, and that he might go at it in the *morning*. The young man had been walking all day, but he instantly threw off his coat, and mounted a log with the energetic expression, "why can't I begin now?" And suiting the action to the word, he sunk his ax with a hearty good will into the wood, and worked till night. This was the prophecy of his own fortune. He afterward married Gen. Putnam's daughter. His activity and business foresight were prodigious, anticipating by years the duller perceptions of others and accumulating money with a rapidity truly astonishing. I am told he even anticipated that shrewd old gentleman "Uncle Sam" as to the location of a bridge for the national road across the Muskingum, and that he secured the only eligible site, and put up a bridge which levied a tribute on all who passed over the national road, as well as the vast local travel of the city. In raising the bridge which now spans the Muskingum and Licking Rivers, a part of the frame fell, precipitating him and several others into the river. He was drowned, leaving an estate worth perhaps more than half a million. His widow, who has been dead but a few years, was a munificent patron of the Putnam Female Seminary, giving thousands of dollars to it, as well as to other public charities.

Perhaps the most noted young man Zanesville has numbered among her business characters is a nephew of Mr. Buckingham, the son of Mr. B.'s sister. He has displayed a capacity for business and a breadth and boldness of plan which seem to overshadow the activity of his uncle and his father—both of whom are reckoned among the ablest financiers Ohio ever produced. To engage in gigantic schemes of business seems as natural to William Sturges as to breathe; and he seems to accomplish them with as little trouble or vexation. With a capital in cash of $20,000, and his father's name for another considerable sum, he seems to have acted on Shakspere's oft quoted philosophy:

> There is a tide in the affairs of men
> Which, taken at the flood,
> Leads on to fortune.

Venturing boldly into immense flour speculations, he closed them up with heavy profits. With the steadiness of a Wall-st. broker, he opened banking business with brilliant success. For all sorts of ventures as yet "his stars have been lucky;" and yet with vast enterprises to be executed resting on his shoulders, he is as blithe as a bird, and frets not as much as ordinary country shopmen under the ventures of their sixpenny speculations. Withal, he is not a mere money-maker, but feels himself a man yet, and owns the obligation by giving sums which seem extravagant to aid forward the great charities of the day. Of course the end has not been reached yet, but present signs seem to indicate large accumulations, which past events show cannot fall into more worthy hands.

On the opposite side of the Muskingum is the beautiful town of Putnam, so called, I suppose, in honor of the commander of the first colony at Marietta, whose son was one of the original proprietors of the place. There is as marked a difference between the business of Zanesville and Putnam as between that of New-York and Brooklyn. The Buckingham and Sturges families, the great financiers of Zanesville, reside in Putnam. There is another difference yet perceptible, but not so much as formerly, owing to the workings of the Compromise measures of 1850, and the abolition of the Missouri Compromise in 1854; I refer to Anti-Slavery feelings of the Putnamites, and quite a different class of feelings in their neighbors. In the days when Birney, Wild, Thom, and Blanchard, were mobbed in so many places in Ohio, Putnam was the place of more than one State Anti-Slavery Convention. It was once honored by a mob from Zanesville, and would have had another but for an old man named Nye, resolute as a bull-dog, and deaf as a post. The Putnam Mayor headed a party to resist the mob from Zanesville, and met those patriots at the bridge, reading the Mob Act and warning them against proceeding at their peril. Our friend of the Indian wars, Mr. Nye, had his trusty musket honestly loaded for an emergency, but he could not hear what the Mayor said. So he touched his next neighbor on the shoulder—his gun was cocked and all ready—and asked him the significant question, "Does he say *shoot?*" The Mobocrats heard the question, and it had more potency than the Mob Act, for knowing the iron resolution of Mr. Nye's character, and fearing he would fancy he heard the command "fire," they took to their heels! much to the merriment of all present.

LARGE FIRE AT SYRACUSE.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

SYRACUSE, Monday, July 17, 1854.

On Saturday evening, about 10 o'clock, the extensive wood shed of the New-York Central Railroad Company, at this place, took fire from the sparks of a passing locomotive. The sheds were new, and were well filled with wood, containing about six thousand cords, sawed, piled and seasoned, ready for immediate use—the whole of which was consumed. The loss to the Company in building and wood cannot vary much from $20,000. The wind was blowing strong from the north when the fire commenced, which communicated the flames to three or four small houses located on Lysander-st., which were also consumed. The houses belonged to poor Irish laborers, and were not insured.

Crops in this vicinity are parched up with the long-continued drouth. Yesterday (Sunday) we almost had a rain storm, but not quite. The hay crop is being generally gathered, but is light, owing to the dry weather.

The morning express train from Albany, over the Hudson River Railroad, was delayed near Tarrytown by the bursting of one of cylinders of the locomotive New-York. After a delay of about one hour the train came on, working one cylinder only.

From The Syracuse Journal, 17th.

The cry of fire rang through our streets on Saturday evening about 6 o'clock, and on ascertaining where the conflagration was, we found the wood piles belonging to the Central Railroad, situated near the railroad buildings west of the Onondaga Creek, in a blaze. The wood and sheds erected over the piles being very dry, the fire spread with wonderful rapidity, and aided by a pretty stiff north-western breeze, the most of them were soon enveloped in flames. We never saw a fire spread so rapidly, and when it first broke out great fears were entertained that not only the wood belonging to the Company, but the splendid buildings which they have recently erected in that quarter of the city, together with the dwelling houses contiguous to them, and the various machine shops in the vicinity, would be totally destroyed. Three dwellings were burned as it was, and it was with the greatest effort that Powell's machine shop and other buildings near were saved.

The fire is supposed to have caught in the wood from a spark from a locomotive as it was passing. The wood was covered with long sheds to keep it from the weather, and was consequently very dry and combustible. The flames shot up brilliantly, and presented a grand spectacle.

As near as we could ascertain about two thousand cords of wood were burned. Besides the wood, a car for carrying wood and dirt was consumed; the tracks near the sheds were greatly injured, the ties being burned and the rails rendered about useless, and several freight cars which were standing on a side track were considerably injured by the heat. The sheds erected over the wood, which were well built and valuable, were also entirely destroyed. This constituted, as far as we could learn, the loss of the Company. The amount cannot fall much below $7,000.

CUNNING RASCALITY.

From The Rutland Herald.

Matthew Matthews, (an old, decrepid and bejewelled sinner,) John Gill, Wm. L. Mentzer, and C. Saxton, came from Philadelphia about four weeks since, to Rutland, and began to lay a plan to obtain money from the Rutland Bank. They held little or no visible intercourse with each other. They made small deposits of money in the Rutland, Vergennes, and Farmers' & Mechanics' Banks, and took certified checks. These enabled the fellows to obtain the signatures of the cashiers, and for two weeks they practised their devilish chirography in attempts to counterfeit these signatures. Their checks were honored at the Rutland Bank and found genuine. On Wednesday last, some one of the quintetto presented a check of $300 on the Farmers' & Mechanics' Bank, at the Rutland Bank, and the counterfeit was so perfect that the check was cashed. On Thursday, another certified check of $2,000 on the Vergennes Bank was presented at the Rutland Bank, just as Cashier Page was busily making up packages for express, and it was paid. Within twelve hours the cheat was discovered, and officer Putnam with assistants was sent in pursuit of the four worthies. On Saturday Matthews and Gill were arrested at Montreal, and Mentzer was arrested at Rouse's Point. Their guilt is clear, and they readily own up. They are in confinement, and are only awaiting the requisition of the Governor, for deliverance into the hands of Vermont justice whose tender mercies will be experienced at Windsor. Saxton, the youngest of the four, is still at large. The whole amount of the forged paper was $3,700. The amount already restored is $3,350.

John Gill opened an account at the Bank of Rutland about four weeks since, and made deposits several times, in the course of each week drawing his checks and presenting certified checks on other banks, all of which proved good, except the last.

Gill was a horse trader, and paid the money in the Bank, for a span of horses. He was the only one of the four known at the bank, and when the forged check was paid, a part of the money ($700) passed to the credit of Gill, and $350 paid for the horses.

Considering the experience, and the deep laid and cunning plan of the forgers, their re-capture and the return of nearly all the money, may be regarded as very fortunate, and reflects great credit on the skill and perseverance of those in pursuit of the fugitives.

KIDNAPPING CASE.

From The Philadelphia Bulletin of July 15.

Thomas Wright and Taylor Ingram were before Ald. Hibberd yesterday on the charge of kidnapping a colored boy belonging in this city. From the evidence elicited before the Magistrate, it appears that the defendants own a race-horse, which they have taken lately to different race-courses for the purpose of running the animal. They had a colored boy in their employ named Purnell Johnson, who recently accompanied them to Maryland. They were required to give bonds for his return. The boy came back with them to Philadelphia, and afterward accompanied his employers to New-York, whence he has not returned. The defendants say that they sent him from Long Island to the City of New-York with a valise, and that since that time they have heard nothing of him. During the present week the following advertisement appeared in the columns of a morning paper in this city:—

"SENT FROM J. J. SNEDAKER'S, Long Island, on the 23d of June, in charge of Baggage, to Pier No. 1 Hudson River, a Black BOY, 11 or 12 years of age, named PURNELL JOHNSON, dressed in dark clothes. Said boy has never been heard of. Whoever will give information will be suitably rewarded for their trouble; and all persons are forbid harboring said Boy, under the penalty of the law. *N. Y. Herald* will confer a favor by copying this advertisement.

"TAYLOR INGRAM, No. 455 Market-st., Philad."

From some circumstances, the suspicion that the boy had been kidnapped by his late employers was excited, and a warrant was issued for their arrest. The hearing came off yesterday before Ald. Hibberd, as we have already stated. It is alleged that Wright told a man named Helmbold that the boy had been sold in New-York for $650, and that $800 had been offered for him in Maryland. The defendants were held to await a further hearing at 12 o'clock on Tuesday. Wm. S. Peirce, Esq., appeared on behalf of the friends of the boy, and ——— Johnson, Esq., for the defendants.

THE DOMESTIC SLAVE TRADE.

The following mass of advertisements, which we cut from *The New-Orleans Picayune* of the 18th, looks as if this branch of commerce was flourishing, but on examining them carefully it appears that most of them refer to the cases of run-a-ways. Probably these fugitives have not yet found out how much better they are off as the chattels of their owners than in going about as their own property in this illicit way:

50 DOLLARS REWARD.—Ran away or kidnapped, from the steamboat Laurel Hill, about the 20th of May, the negro boy HENRY, about 22 years of age, about 5 feet 6 inches or 5 feet 8 inches high, very black, round face; he has a scar between his shoulders. The above reward will be paid to any person that will return him to No. 18 Conde-st. or to the steamer Laurel Hill. [jel5—tf*] URSIN JACOB

RAN AWAY—The boy CHARLES, belonging to Capt. Matthews. Said boy is a dark mulatto, slightly pock marked; about 18 years of age; 4 feet 3 to 5 inches high, and pretty stout built; has his hair shaved from his forehead in the shape of a crescent; had on when he left, a pair of cotton pants and a white cotton cap. It is supposed he will endeavor to get to Mobile, where he has a sister living. A reward of ten dollars will be given to any person bringing said boy to the Wood House, corner of Gravier and Tchoupitoulas-st., or giving information where he may be found. [jel5—tf*] WHEELER & WESTON.

TWENTY DOLLARS REWARD.—Ran away from the steamer Bella Donna, on the 5th May last, the Negro Boy JIM, about 22 years of age, 5 feet 10 or 11 inches high, dark complexion, large lips, and teeth, large feet, and quick and active. The above reward will be paid by returning him to me, or securing him in any jail so that I get him. jel1 1m JOHN RIST, Port Hudson, La.

FIFTY DOLLARS REWARD.—Ran away from the subscriber, on the 7th day of May, 1851, the Negro Boy ISAAC, aged about 20 years; 5 feet 5 or 6 inches high, black, rather heavy set, likely, full face, and very intelligent countenance, with a scar running on the forehead about one inch long. When closely questioned, bites his lips and distorts his eyes. He was raised in Missouri, and lately from Texas with his owner. I will give the above reward, or any part of it, pro rata, for his apprehension and delivery to Moses Greenwood & Co., New-Orleans, or to me at Hatesville, Ark. I will give the above reward. For his detention in any jail, or where I can get him, thirty dollars. [je9—1m] E. T. BURR.

NEW-ORLEANS SLAVE DEPOT, Nos. 68 Barcadie and 137 Common-st.—SLAVES for sale on reasonable terms for Cash or City Acceptances; particular attention paid to the sale of Negroes on commission from merchants and others, and will always have on hand Mechanics, Field Hands and House Servants, and will be receiving Negroes throughout the season. Having a large and dry house, I will be able to accommodate the Slaves for those who import from other States. City guarantees given when required. Titles undoubted.

And will pay the highest prices in Cash for sound Negroes. THOMAS FOSTER.

FOR SALE—By JAMES WHITE, at No. 137 Gravier-st.—A likely lot of SLAVES, consisting of Men, Women and Children, which I will sell low for cash or city acceptance.

I will buy any number of young SLAVES that may be offered. I will also receive, board and sell on commission. I have a good House, large Yard and healthy location. Any one having business in my line would do well to call before making arrangements elsewhere. [oct25 3m—tf] JAMES WHITE.

FOR SALE—At No. 73 Baronne-st., a No. 1 Carpenter; a No. 1 Cooper; a No. 1 Engineer; two first-rate Levee hands; a Man Cook; dining-room Servant and carriage driver, black, aged 21 years; three first-rate Women Cooks, Washers and Ironers; five likely young Girls, Nurses and House-Servants; and four likely Field hands, two Boys and two Girls, from 16 to 19 years.

The above are all fully guaranteed. [je6—tf*]

THE MICHIGAN CENSUS.—In St. Joseph Co., the population in 1853 is 15,045, showing an increase of 2,428 since 1850.

The following statement shows the amount of agricultural products raised or marketed the past year: wheat, 365,221 bush.; corn, 644,492 bush.; wool, 80,382 lbs.; pork, 660,920 lbs.; peppermint oil, 10,782 lbs.

Allegan Co. in 1854, has a population of 7,877, to 5,127 in 1850, an increase of 53 per cent. Lapeer Co. has