

Business Notices.

The Fashion of the Season in Gentlemen's Hats will be introduced by the... SILKS, SILKS, SILKS... LINENS, LINENS... CLOTHING... SILKS, SILKS... CARPETS... ALBERT H. NICOLAY... PHILLIPS' ANTI-PERIODIC OR PEVER AND ACNE PILLS... C. D. DEWITT... AN ANTI-TOE TIBI... HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT... NEW-YORK DAILY TRIBUNE... MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1855.

between Marysville and Sacramento. The details of the calamity, which we give at length in our columns, will be read with fearful interest.

THE NEW TARIFF BILL.

The House of Representatives on Saturday adopted an amendment or postscript to the General Appropriation bill, by which the rates of Duties on Imports payable under the existing Tariff (of 1846) are to be reduced, from and after the 1st of July next, as follows: Schedule A, (comprising Brandy and all other Distilled Liquors, including Cordials,) from 100 per cent. to 80 per cent. ad valorem.

Schedule B, (including all Wines, Cigars, Snuff and other forms of manufactured Tobacco, Cut Glass, Meats, Raisins and other preserved Fruits, Game, Spices, manufactures of Mitology and other fancy Woods, with a few more articles of no importance,) from 40 per cent. to 32 per cent. ad valorem.

Schedule C, including Iron in all shapes, Cotton fabrics, Woolen do., (with exceptions,) Carpets, Arms, Ammunition, Clothing, Bonnets, Boxes, Coal, Crockery, China, Cutlery, Furniture, Fur manufactures, Glass Tumblers, &c., not cut, Hats, Hemp, Jewels, Laces, Linen manufactures, Molasses, Paper, Pepper, Plated Ware, Silk manufactures, Soap, Sugar, raw Tobacco, Umbrellas, Wood (common) and manufactures of do., Willow do., Waxes of Brass, Iron, Copper, Tin, &c., which have hitherto paid 30 per cent. shall hereafter pay 24 per cent. ad valorem.

Wool, unmanufactured, hitherto paying 30 per cent., will, after July next, pay but 5 per cent. Blankets, (all kinds,) hitherto paying 20 per cent., and Flannels, hitherto paying 25, will both pay 20 per cent. hereafter, while the imported Wool used in their manufacture will pay but 5 per cent. instead of 30.

Flax manufactures will continue to pay 20 per cent. as at present. Silk manufactures, hitherto paying 25 per cent., are hereafter to pay 24 per cent.

Flax, raw, Silk, raw, with or without the gum, hitherto paying 15 per cent., Manila, Sisal Grass, Brimstone, India Rubber, Indigo, Cobaltine, Acids, &c., hitherto paying 10 per cent., or over, shall hereafter be charged but 4 per cent.

Books, Engravings, Enamels, Furs, (dressed or undressed,) Periodicals, &c., hitherto paying 10, will hereafter pay but 5 per cent.

Salt, Brazil Wood, Madder, and Dyestuffs unmanufactured except as before enumerated, Barr Stones, Bolting Cloths, Seeds, Ice and Animals of all kinds to be hereafter free.

Articles not named above will nearly all pay 20 per cent. less than they have hitherto done.

This bill corrects many of the gross blunders of the act of 1846—for instance, that of charging Wool 30 per cent., and admitting that same Wool in the form of Blankets at 20, and in that of Flannels at 25 per cent., and several more such. It will help our sorely tried Woolen manufacturers, on whom the act of 1846 took especial delight in wreaking its malice, and whose distress is, undoubtedly, one main cause of the acquiescence of the Massachusetts delegation in its passage. We believe it does not mean any harm to our infant Silk and Flax manufactures, and we hope will do none. We deeply regret the fact that it will bear hard on the Iron interest, already sorely depressed, and we fear it will prove the death blow of many furnaces that have deserved a better fate. We will hope, however, that the Senate will do something in behalf of Iron; for, surely, this is not the time, with so large a share of our laboring population out of work, and so heavy a load of foreign debt weighing us down, to close our iron-works. If any Senator thinks it is, we trust he will look at our returns of Importations at this emporium for the last week, and think again before casting his vote for a reduction of the Iron duty. Pennsylvania is hardly dealt with by this bill, and we think her two Senators have done enough at Union-saving to entitle them to a hearing from the Senatorial majority when they ask for a mitigation of her sentence. The passage of the heart in some shape seems now inevitable: let us hope and strive to make the best of it.

SUPPLEMENTARY FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW.

We wish our Nebraska friends in Congress much joy of their labors in tightening up the rivets of the Fugitive Slave Law, by means of the bill introduced, on Friday last, by the very honorable Mr. Toucey, of Connecticut, who, we rejoice to say, exhibits grace enough to be ashamed of the job he performed.

Gentlemen, go ahead! Put on the steam, and resolve that the boiler shall not burst. Make just as many laws as you please, to suppress the rising indignation of the people. The more you make, perhaps, the better. Whenever one of our Free States concludes not to be held in subjection to your unconstitutional edicts, we fancy she will not be. Gentlemen, your rage at the exhibitions of the people's determination to resist your iniquitous legislation, is impotent. You cannot chain the free spirit of the North. It is certain to show itself, and you should be delighted to know that it proposes to go according to law. The North is just now taking lessons in Southern jurisprudence. South Carolina, Georgia, and little Florida have, at one time and another, displayed a glorious independence of federal legislation whenever it suited their purposes. We trust that, under the influence of such illustrious examples, the States of the North may be excused for an occasional assertion of their notion of their own rights. We doubt not that it is the opinion of a large majority of the people of the Free States that the existing Fugitive Slave Law is unconstitutional, and their present aim is to make their State Courts so declare it, and adhere to the declaration. We are a law-abiding people. But we propose to have laws fit to abide by, and Courts fit to obeyed.

The difficulty has always been, and now is, that our Northern Courts derive their inspirations from a Federal Slavery-upholding Court. Our local judiciary has been poisoned by the virus of a national bench, whereon sits a majority in the interest of the peculiar institution. But happily a most refreshing example of independence of this influence is to be seen in the late action of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin. The Judges of that State have won a lasting title to regard and admiration by their late decision in the case of

Booth and Eyecott, and this Congress will have to legislate fast and long in order to deprive them of it. The example which Wisconsin has set will be rapidly followed as circumstances admit. By another year we expect to see Ohio holding the same noble course. After that, we anticipate a race among all the other free States in the same direction, till all have reached the goal of State independence. By that time we expect to see the United States Court so constituted that all preexisting edicts will have been ended. Improper decisions will have been reversed, and truth and justice commence their way. Such, at least, is our hope, and we have an abiding faith in its realization, for such evidently seems to be the tendency of events, and we see no power which is likely to arrest them. The most offensive laws have been imposed upon the North, in the conviction that the northern people were a law-defying people. They have maintained that reputation, albeit while doing it they have been crowded to the very verge of civil insurrection. They now propose to vindicate their own rights by the same process that have been set in motion to reduce them to subjection. And they evidently mean not only to make laws, but to make Judges who will honestly expound them, and give them full effect by an intrepid discharge of their duties. This, we think, we plainly see, and we joyfully chronicle the cheering indication. Let the North but maintain its high purpose, its undaunting resolve, that it will not submit to slave-driving detraction, whether coming through Courts pledged to the support of that institution, or in whatever way it may show itself, and the usurpations enacted by Congress will be torn to ribbons, and its impudently unconstitutional laws defied. All that is wanting to this end is independent State Courts, fearless Legislatures, Governors with backbone, and a determined people behind them. In looking over the elections of last year, we think we see signs that we have begun to get them—signs, O' Toucey, Douglas & Co., that perhaps will be interpreted even to your opaque understandings one of these distant days. As to the people of the free States being deceived by unconstitutional enactments of Congress, we have not the most remote apprehension of it. The people may be abused and daunted up to a certain point with impunity—we have seen so much as this, but the inevitable expiation which follows will work a cure. The medicine already operates. Come on, then, gentlemen, with your hated laws!

A STARTLING DEVELOPMENT.

We have obtained from Watertown, Jefferson Co., documents proving conduct on the part of Mr. D. B. St. John, Superintendent of the Bank Department of our State, which seems to us a very gross betrayal of his official trust. We desire, however, that no one should adopt our conclusions, but ask each to consider well the facts and give his own judgment thereon.

When the Excelsior Bank at Meriden was closing its business, the projectors of the Union Bank at Watertown desired to procure a part of the stocks given as security for the Excelsior, and to have those stocks transferred to their new bank, in the books of the Superintendent. Such transfers are allowed by law under certain conditions, which require that at least ninety per cent. of the notes issued by the bank closing business shall have been redeemed; when that is done, the Superintendent may receive cash for the amount of notes still outstanding, and either return the stocks deposited with him to the projectors, or transfer them to the credit of some other bank, as may be desired. Now, when (Aug. 15, 1852) the Union Bank people applied to Mr. St. John for the transfer of \$25,000 of the stocks of the Excelsior Bank, the latter, instead of having already redeemed 90 per cent. of its circulation, had not redeemed more than about sixty per cent. of it; indeed, on the 1st Dec. following, or three months and a half subsequent to this transaction, the Excelsior Bank, though it had been redeeming notes all the time, still had outstanding \$19,000 out of \$50,525. Thus, even at this late period, any transfer of its stocks must have been an entire and flagrant violation of the law on the part of the Superintendent; and of course was much more so at the time when the transfer actually took place.

But this is by no means the whole story, nor the worst of it. In transferring the stocks of the Excelsior to the Union Bank, the Superintendent had received specie for the amount, though the transaction would have been illegal, and would have exposed him to impeachment, the billholders would, at least, have been secure. But, instead of specie, or its equivalent, what was it that he took? Why, simply a certificate of deposit in the same Union Bank, and a certificate, too, made before that Bank was organized! On this head the following statements leave no possibility of denial:

I, the subscriber, President of the Union Bank of Watertown, New York, do hereby certify that the following is a correct transfer from the Ledger of said Bank:

D. B. ST. JOHN, Superintendent.  
1852, Sept. 14, To cash... \$125,000  
1852, Sept. 14, To cash... 100,000  
1852, Sept. 14, To cash... 100,000

WATERTOWN, Aug. 18, 1852—Henry Keeple has deposited in the Union Bank of Watertown Twenty-five Thousand Dollars to the credit of D. B. St. John, Superintendent, in trust for the Excelsior Bank, on the 15th of August, 1852, and the following is a true copy of the certificate properly returned: (Signed) D. B. ST. JOHN, Superintendent.

The Union Bank was not organized until August 15, 1852. W. K. HAWKS, President.

I, the subscriber, President of the Union Bank of Watertown, N. Y., do hereby certify that D. B. St. John, Superintendent, transferred to the said Union Bank Stocks of the Excelsior Bank, and received from the said Union Bank a certificate of deposit, of which the following is a true copy: (Signed) D. B. ST. JOHN, Superintendent.

WATERTOWN, Aug. 18, 1852—Henry Keeple has deposited in the Union Bank of Watertown Twenty-five Thousand Dollars to the credit of D. B. St. John, Superintendent, in trust for the Excelsior Bank, on the 15th of August, 1852, and the following is a true copy of the certificate properly returned: (Signed) D. B. ST. JOHN, Superintendent.

Henry Keeple took the said certificate to Albany and returned, giving the said St. John credit upon the books of said Union Bank for Twenty-five Thousand Dollars on the 18th of August, 1852. WATERTOWN, Feb. 27, 1855. W. K. HAWKS, President.

These documents prove the following points: 1. That Mr. St. John gave up the securities of the Excelsior Bank contrary to law. 2. That he gave up those securities for a certificate of deposit in a bank as yet without any existence, that is to say, in a perfectly fictitious institution; in other words for a paper which could be no legal or positive security.

3. That thus the Superintendent was party to a transaction by which the same securities were made to serve as the basis for the circulation of two different banks; since the Excelsior still had notes outstanding to their full amount, while he proceeded to issue notes upon them to the Union Bank. 4. That thus the Superintendent was substantially and practically guilty of the misdemeanor contemplated by section 14 of the Banking Law of 1838, which forbids him to counteract bills to an amount exceeding the securities deposited with him, under penalty of "a fine not less than five thousand dollars, or imprisonment for not less than five years, or both such fine and imprisonment."

THE STRUGGLE IN THE CRIMEA.

Immediately after the battle of the Alma, and the march of the Allies on Balaklava, we expressed the opinion that the ultimate result of the Crimean campaign must depend on which of the contending parties should first bring up new forces sufficient to render it superior to its antagonist in numbers and efficiency. The aspect of affairs has, since then, greatly altered, and many illusions have been destroyed; but, throughout the whole time, both the Russians and the Allies have been engaged in a sort of steppe-chase at reinforcements, and in this effort we are compelled to say that the Russians have the advantage. In spite of all the boasted improvements in mechanical skill and the means of transport, three or five hundred miles of road are still far easier traversed by an army of Russian barbarians than two thousand miles of sea by an army of highly-civilized French and English—especially when the latter make it a point to neglect all the advantages which their high civilization places at their disposal, and when the Russian barbarians can afford to lose two men to the Allies one, without impairing their ultimate superiority.

But what can be done for the Allies when one of their armies—the British—inspiring of being destroyed by the Russians, deliberately sets about destroying itself with a systematic consistency, an eagerness, and a success which beat all its former achievements in any line whatever? Yet such is the case. The British force, we are now informed, has ceased to exist as an army. There are a few thousand men left, under arms, out of 54,000, but they themselves are reported "fit for duty" merely because there is no hospital room for them to die in. Of the French, some 50,000 may be still under arms, out of twice that number; and, at all events, they have managed to keep in a serviceable state at least five times as many, in proportion, as the British. But what are fifty or sixty thousand men to hold the Herculean Chersene the winter through; to keep Sevastopol blockaded on the south side; to defend the trenches and—what may be left of them—to take the offensive in spring?

For the present, the British have ceased to send reinforcements. In fact, Reglan, despairing of his army, does not appear to wish for any, not knowing how to feed, house and employ even what is left to him. The French may be preparing a fresh set of divisions for embarkation in March, but they have plenty to do to prepare against the eventuality of a great continental spring campaign, and there are ten chances to one that what they send will either be too weak or come too late. To remedy this state of things two steps have been taken, both of which denote the utter helplessness of the Allies to avert the fate which seems inevitably, though slowly, to approach their armies in the Crimea. First, in order to redress the colossal blunder of having attempted this expedition four months too late, they commit the incommensurably greater blunder of sending to the Crimea, four months after their own arrival, and in the depth of winter, the only remnant of a decent army which Turkey still possesses. That army which was already being ruined and dissolving itself at Shumla under the neglect, incapacity and corruption of the Turkish Government, once landed in the Crimea, will melt away by cold and hunger, at a rate which will put to the blush even the achievements of the English War-Office in this branch—that is, if the Russians have the sense to leave the Turks, for a time, to themselves, without attacking them. If the weather permits an attack they will be destroyed at once, though at a greater cost to the Russians, and with hardly any advantage, except a moral one.

Then the Allies have taken into their pay—for that is the only way to express it—fifteen to twenty thousand Piedmontese, who are to fill up the thinned ranks of the British army, and to be fed by the British Commissariat. The Piedmontese showed themselves brave and good soldiers in 1848 and '49. Being mostly mountaineers, they possess an industry which, for skirmishing and fighting in broken ground, is naturally adapted in even a higher degree than the French, while the plains of the Po furnish cavalry soldiers whose tall, well-proportioned stature resembles one of the crack regiments of British horse. They have, besides, not passed through the severe campaigns of the revolution without profit. There is no doubt that these two Piedmontese divisions will turn out as good a "foreign legion" as will figure in this war. But what are these light-footed, agile, handy little fellows to do under the command of an old British martinet, who has no ideas of maneuvering, and who expects nothing from his soldiers but the dogged stubbornness which is the glory and at the same time the only military quality of the British soldier? They will be placed in positions unadapted to their mode of fighting; they will be prevented from doing what they are fit for, while they will be expected to do things which no sensible man would ever set them to. To lead a British army in that senseless, point-blank, stupid way to the slaughter-house, as was done at the Alma, may be the shortest way to make them settle the business before them. The old Duke generally took matters quite as easy. German troops may be made to do the same thing, although the high military education of German officers will not stand such want of generalship in the long run. But to attempt such things with a French, Italian or Spanish army—with troops essentially fitted for light-infantry duty, for maneuvering, for taking advantage of the ground—with troops whose efficiency, in a great measure, is made up by the

agility and quick glance of every individual soldier—such a clumsy system of warfare will never do. The poor Piedmontese, however, will probably be spared the trial of fighting in the English way. They are to be fed by that notorious body, the British Commissariat, which could never feed anybody but themselves. Thus they will share the fate of the fresh arrivals of British troops. Like them, they will die at the rate of a hundred a week, and furnish three times that number to the hospitals. If Lord Raglan thinks that the Piedmontese will stand his and his Commissaries' incapacity as quietly as the British troops, he will find himself sadly mistaken. There are none but British and Russian who would remain in submission under such circumstances; and, we must say, it is not to the credit of their national character.

The probable development of this melancholy campaign—as melancholy and bleak as the middy plateau of Sevastopol—will be this: The Russians, when fully concentrated, and when the weather permits, will probably attack the Turks of Omer Pasha first. This is expected by British, French and Turks, so well aware are they of the unenviable position assigned to the latter; it shows, at all events, that the Turks are sent to the North with open eyes; and no better proof of the desperate condition of the Allies can be conceived than is contained in this involuntary admission of their own Generals. That the Turks will be beaten may be taken for certain. Then what will be the fate of the allied and Piedmontese armies? The blunder about an assault on Sevastopol is now pretty much abandoned. On this head we find in *The London Times* of Feb. 3, a letter from Col. E. Napier to the effect that if the Allies attack the south side of Sevastopol, they will most likely get into it; but they will be pounded into dust by the overwhelming fire of the north forts and batteries, and at the same time besieged by the Russian army in the field. That army, he says, should first have been defeated, and then both the north and south sides of the place invested. As an instance in point, he recalls the fact that the Duke of Wellington twice recalled the siege of Badajoz, in order to march against a relieving army. Col. Napier is quite right, and THE TRIBUNE said quite as much, at the time of the famous flank march to Balaklava. As to the Allies getting into Sevastopol, however, he appears to overlook the peculiar nature of the Russian defenses, which make it impossible to carry the place at one single assault. There are, first, outworks, then the main rampart, and behind this the buildings of the town converted into redoubts; streets barricaded, squares of houses loopholed; and, finally, the loopholed rear walls of the strand-forts every one of which, in succession, will require a separate attack—perhaps a separate siege, and even mining operations. But beside all this, the successful sorties of the Russians of late have sufficiently proved that the town has been approached to a point where the forces of the opponents are fully balanced, and the attack deprived of any superiority except in point of artillery. As long as sorties cannot be made impossible, all idea of an assault is preposterous; the besieger who cannot confine the besieged to the space of the actual fortress is much less able to take that fortress by a hand-to-hand encounter.

"SAM" AT TOWN MEETING.

Whoever reads only or mainly those journals devoted to Nativism would naturally infer that most of the Towns of our State which have recently held their Elections have been carried by the Hindoo conspirators against other men's rights, though the truth is quite otherwise. In many towns, they claim officers elect who utterly repudiate them; in others, they by secret concert, go into the Whig and Democratic caucuses, nominate their own men on one ticket, or the other, or both, and not until they have been elected do the majority of those who support them suspect that they have been voting for Hindoos. Another way in which towns are carried by those birds of night is exposed in the following account, which we transcribe from the letter of a correspondent who witnessed the operation:

The agricultural township of Truxton, in the County of Cortland, with a population of some 3,000, has about six hundred voters, usually gives some fifty or sixty Whig majority, and elects Whig Town Officers. This spring the Whig Town Committee called a meeting to nominate the Saturday before Election as usual, which was attended by about forty voters.—The Town Committee themselves coming up missing. The meeting nominated a full Whig ticket, as usual, and adjourned. A Democratic meeting to nominate was to be held in another part of the town the same evening, but few attended, and no nomination was made. The Whigs who attended the Town Meeting on the following Tuesday went there expecting to meet little or no opposition, and were taken rather aback when they found "Sam" on hand with a full ticket, printed on both white and colored ballots, and headed by one hitherto known as a leading Democrat. Three of the regular Whig candidates were also on this ticket. The Whigs at once set to scratching off these two-faced renegees, while "Sam" amused himself with putting in votes for his ticket. The contest became excited, and the live Whigs applied to the Elders, Deacons and other devoted Protestants who had usually voted with them to come up to the work, but were rebuffed with—"We don't want our throats cut while we sleep by the bloody and treacherous Catholics." Finding these so far gone in lunacy, the active Whigs turned to the old-line Democrats; but no—they could get a Democratic Supervisor and half the ticket by going Know-Nothing—so they did. As a last resort, the Whigs appealed to the dozen or two Irish Catholics having votes in the town, asking them to save the town from Hindoo rule; but the Hindoos also appealed to the Irish through the medium of Democrats of the school of Chansey Shaffer and Ambrose Stevens, saying—"You know us as life-long Democrats; you know Squire P., our candidate for Supervisor, as a first-rate Democrat; and will you turn against us now, and put your trust in Whig 'electioneering lies'?"—Of course, Pat wouldn't do it; but (as usual) put in what was given to him as "the right old Democratic ticket," and so, by the votes of Democrats, Hindoos and Catholics, the secretly concocted Native ticket was elected, and a shout sent up for the triumph

of "Sam," in a township of which not one-third of the voters have ever seen" him or even know to—This is of a piece with a large portion of the vaunted Know-Nothing victories in our Town Elections.

In reference to the proposed Police bill at Albany, to which we alluded the other day, we understand that the arrangements are all cut and dried, and the Commissioners, two Whigs, two Democrats and two Know-Nothing, agreed upon. It is only an additional thirty or forty thousand a year (besides salaries) plucked from that fat goose, the City, and transferred to the pockets of six honest politicians. But it is not so much on account of the money that we call attention to this new scheme, though heaven knows that our taxation is already sufficiently grievous; but because of the dangers which the proposed change threatens to our lives, limbs and properties. We all know what the condition of the Police was only two years ago, and how great a change for the better has been effected since then. But it may not be generally known that all that our present Mayor has done in shutting up the groceries and in the other laudable reforms which he has effected, he has been enabled to do solely through the Police. He has made himself what the law designs that he shall be, the Head of the Department; and by the Police as his agents, and by them only does he work. In the Police resides his only power. Take away his control over them, as this bill proposes to do, and he is a cypher—a mere stick, like some of his predecessors. Let it pass, and in spite of the Maine Law, Rum and Riot will again be rampant through the City.

Mr. Seward presented to the Senate, on Saturday, a proposition to Mr. Ludwig Richter, asking for an appropriation to him to erect a bronze statue to commemorate Thomas Jefferson. Congress, we trust, will do nothing of the kind. If we are to have a statue to Jefferson, let there be a competition among our artists, and let the plaster model most approved carry the day. The public have had enough of such irregularities, resulting in the productions of Mr. Clark Mills—the shabby statue called after Jackson and Washington. Open, fair competition is needed to increase or secure our chances of having a good work of art, if one is needed in this case.

Any one curious to know what street-opening costs, will find the bill for the proposed extension of the Bowery about 1,300 feet among our Law reports.

THE LATEST NEWS, RECEIVED BY MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

FROM WASHINGTON. WASHINGTON, Feb. 25, 1855. The speech of SENATOR SEWARD on the Fugitive Slave Law is pronounced, on all hands, a masterly effort—transcending in ability any speech oration made by him. An immense number of pamphlet copies will be issued, by desire of his friends.

Many leading Pennsylvanians here protest against the passage of Houston's Tariff bill, and probably an effort will be made in the Senate to amend by adding duties on railroad iron.

THE CUBAN ENTERPRISE. WASHINGTON, Saturday, Feb. 25, 1855. Some of the new Cuban bonds, issued by the Cuban Junta, have been received here from New-Orleans; they do not differ materially from the old ones put forth by Lopez, and a copy of which was published in *The Intelligencer*, but are signed by Gen. John A. Quitman, Commander-in-Chief; Gaspar Botasso, President of the Junta at New-Orleans; and John S. Thrasher, as Secretary. The Bonds are of various denominations, from \$50 up. Gen. Quitman arrived in New-Orleans on Friday, the 16th, for the purpose of taking command of the invading army, and it was expected would leave there within a week.

Private letters from Cuba assert that the men arrested in Havana have no connection with the Quitman Expedition.

POLITICS IN NEW-HAMPSHIRE. BOSTON, Feb. 25, 1855. The National Democracy of New Hampshire held a mass gathering on Tuesday next. All parties in that State are organizing with much spirit for the coming election. The meeting of the Democracy will be held at Manchester.

Weather extremely cold to-day, 12 degrees above zero. No arctic wind reported.

FROM BALTIMORE—CUBAN NEWS. BALTIMORE, Feb. 25, 1855. New-Orleans papers of Monday, containing the details of the Havana news up to the 15th, have been received. The *Geographer* of the 13th publishes a decree by Gen. Concha for the purpose of taking effectual measures to defeat piratical expeditions now preparing in various parts of the United States against the Island. By the decree, the whole Island is declared in a state of siege, and subject to martial law; the coast declared to be blockaded by the navy of Her Most Catholic Majesty. Every vessel desiring to enter the port will be required to exhibit her papers, and will be scrupulously examined. Vessels arriving filled with people are considered suspicious from that fact alone; if their papers are regular and perfect, they will only be required to depart; if the papers are irregular, or the vessels have arms or munitions of war on board, they will be considered piratical, and subjected to the penalties proclaimed against piracy. H. B. M. ship *Meda* had sailed with Spanish troops for Vuelta De Abajo, and that circumstance had caused rejoicing among the Spaniards, who deemed it a manifestation of god will from England. Volunteer forces have been raised, and additional defenses built around Havana. French ships are being loaded with ammunition and arms for other ports in Cuba.

THE MONUMENT ASSOCIATION OFFICERS. WASHINGTON, Saturday, Feb. 24, 1855. There is a quarrel between the old and new Board of Managers of the National Monument Association. The old Board say that their time does not expire for a year, but the new Board threaten to go on. The superseded officers propose to refer the matter to Gen. Walter Jones, but the new Board is not inclined to make the reference.

RAILROAD DISASTER IN MAINE. PORTLAND, Saturday, Feb. 24, 1855. While the Kennebec train, this afternoon, was going out to the Cape Elizabeth junction, to connect with the train for Boston, the engine and tender ran off the track, killing the engineer, Alfred S. Griffin. No one else was injured, and no other damage done.

XXXIII CONGRESS. SECOND SESSION.

SENATE... WASHINGTON, Feb. 24, 1855. The CHAIRMAN laid before the Senate a Message from the President, accompanied by a letter from the Minister of Peru, respecting the Lobo Islands controversy, which was read, and on motion of Mr. Mason, ordered to be printed.

Also, a Message from the President, transmitting a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, recommending certain appropriations. Read, referred to the Committee on Finance, and ordered to be printed.

Also, a communication from the Secretary of War, transmitting a report in relation to the survey of the

New-York Daily Tribune.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1855.

CONGRESS, SATURDAY.

SENATE, Feb. 24.—The Diplomatic and Consular bill was taken up, and talked about for a short time. Mr. Mason stated briefly the nature of the bill; it reduces the grades, abolishes Charges and Ministers Resident; takes away outfit and inst; gives Ministers a fixed salary, not to commence until their services begin, and to cease when the duties of their office terminate; prevents double pay for the same services at the same time; prohibits any foreign Minister from being absent from his post for more than ten days, without leave from the President of the United States, and if more than that time, either with or without leave, his salary ceases; although the salaries of Ministers will be raised on the face of the bill, the expenses of such Mission will be reduced, because no outfit, no gift, no overlapping of salaries, and no gratuities to subordinate officers of Missions will be allowed, as heretofore. Various bills relating to the District of Columbia, were disposed of. The Civil and Diplomatic Appropriation bill, with the Tariff bill attached, came in from the House, and was referred to the Finance Committee. A number of special Harbor Improvement bills were then passed. The bill to erect \$125,000 worth of Forts in Louisiana, was also passed. Adjourned.

HOUSE, Feb. 24.—Mr. Giddings protested against the practice of rushing important bills through Congress without affording a chance for examination, but the House would not listen to him. The House then proceeded with the Diplomatic and Civil Appropriation bill, to which Mr. Letcher's Tariff bill was hitched and adopted, 126 to 82. This bill provides that articles now bearing duties of 100, 40 and 20 per cent., shall, after the 1st of July, pay 80, 30 and 20 per cent., or reducing the present rates 20 per cent., the number of articles paying 25 per cent. to be reduced to 20. The Diplomatic bill was finally adopted, with this tariff rider, 126 to 39. The Naval Appropriation bill was taken up, pending a discussion of which the quorum ran out, and the House adjourned.

Oliver Lee, convicted in the Kings County Court of Oyer and Terminer of the murder of Wm. H. Harrison, during the Williamsburgh election riots, was on Saturday sentenced to eighteen years imprisonment.

We have a batch of interesting news from California to Feb. 1, by the steamer *George Law*, which arrived yesterday from Aspinwall. She left that port on the morning of the 16th, with \$1,170,549 in gold and 304 passengers. The Panama Railroad is in full operation, and was to be publicly inaugurated with civic and military ceremonies on the 23rd inst. The party of directors and other persons from New-York, who went out in the *George Law*, were expected to share in the celebration. The passengers from San Francisco by the John L. Stephens, who arrived at Panama on the morning of the 15th, were safe on board the steamer on the Atlantic side in the evening of the same day, and left the next morning. Among the passengers by the *George Law*, is Gen. Echenique, President of Peru, who is with his family on a visit to the United States.

After no less than thirty-eight ineffectual ballottings for United States Senator, the Legislature adjourned sine die, by which measure the Gwin party insist that the election is indefinitely postponed. A terrible steamboat explosion took place on the 27th ult., by which it is supposed at least sixty lives were lost. The accident occurred in the steamer *Pearl*, a small vessel plying be-