Business Notices.

THE SMITHSONIAN HOUSE, BROADWAY.
This new and large Hotel, newly furnished and in thorough order, having all the appointments of the highest priced Hotels, invites the attention of travelers.
GOOD ROOMS AND BOARD, $1 75 TO $2 PER DAY.
or Rooms only (Meals extra and as ordered), 50 cts., 75 cts. and $1 per day. Parlors, with Bedrooms, $1 50 to $3 per day.
SIDNEY KOPMAN.

WILDER'S PATENT SALAMANDER SAFE,
THE ONLY SALAMANDER SAFE MADE,
AND THE BEST FIRE-PROOF SAFE IN THE WORLD.
Secured with Wilder's Patent Powder and Burglar-Proof Lock.
All Safes made by us are
WARRANTED FREE FROM DAMPNESS.
NOTICE.—SILAS C. HERRING NO LONGER makes or sells this celebrated Fire-Proof Safe, his license having expired.
Depots No. 122 Water-st. (near Wall,) New-York,
Nos. 22 Walnut and 9 Granite-sts., Philadelphia, and
No. 12 Wells-st., Chicago, Ill.
B. G. WILDER & Co.,
Patentees and Manufacturers.

WILDER'S PATENT SALAMANDER SAFES,
With STEARNS & MARVIN'S improvement,
Secured by the celebrated La Belle Powder-Proof Locks, with a small key—all made under the immediate inspection of our Mr. STEARNS, who has for fourteen years superintended their manufacture, during which time not a dollar's worth of property has been consumed in one of them.
WARRANTED FREE FROM DAMPNESS.
For sale by STEARNS & MARVIN,
Nos. 40 Murray and 139 Water-st.
Burglar-Proof Safes and Money Chests made to order. Second-hand Safes of other makers at reduced prices.

FIRE AND BURGLAR PROOF SAFES, ROTARY LOCKS, &c.—Merchants, Bankers, and others desiring perfect security against fire and burglars, are invited to examine our stock of Aiken's Patent Safes, and Rotary Locks for Dwelling House Doors. Numerous testimonials of their superiority over all others now in use, will be exhibited.
VALENTINE A. BUTLER,
successors to
HOLMES, VALENTINE & BUTLER,
No. 90 and 92 Maiden-lane.

MALLEABLE IRON, GAS AND STEAM FITTINGS,
Manufactured with
CHAPIN'S PATENT MACHINERY,
with a perfection and accuracy heretofore unattained.
By the use of this machinery one-half the labor of making these goods by old methods is saved, and consequently they are offered at very low prices.
New-York Agency at
MESSRS. ARCHER, WARNER & CO.'S,
No. 376 Broadway.
CHAPIN, TREADWELL & CO.,
Springfield, Mass.

"The last feather breaks the camel's back." It would take two of Ray's Zephyr Under-Shirts to do the same; their airy lightness and delicacy of texture hold the palm over all other Summer Under-Garments. The prices range from three to sixteen shillings. JOHN F. RAY,
No. 102 Lowery, near Grand-st.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—PROMPT RELIEF.—No sooner do these searching pills influence the system, through the fluids which pervade it, than the stomach and bowels begin to perform their entire vigorous ty, the appetite returns, and new life seems infused into the patient. Sold at the manufactories, No. 80 Maiden-lane, New York, and No. 244 Strand, London; and by all druggists, at 25c., 62½c., and $1 per box.

RUPTURE.—Only PRIZE MEDAL awarded to MARSH & CO. by the Industrial Exhibition of all Nations at the Crystal Palace for their new PATENT RADICAL CURE TRUSS. References as to its superiority: Professors VALENTINE MOTT, WILLARD PARKER and JOHN M. CARNOCHAN. Office, 7 a. m. to 9 p. m. MARSH & CO., No. 2[illegible] Maiden-lane, N. Y.

PIANOS AND MELODEONS from eight different manufactories—which is the largest assortment in the city—besides 15 Second-hand Pianos, all of which will be sold at prices that defy competition. Pianos to rent, and rent allowed on purchase, at H. WAYENS'S, No. 293 Broadway.
Pianos tuned, repaired, polished, boxed and moved. Cash paid for Second-hand Pianos. Music at reduced prices.

HUSBAND'S CALCINED MAGNESIA is three times the strength of the common Magnesia, and is clear of unpleasant taste. Four first-premium silver medals and a World's Fair medal awarded, as being the best in the market. For sale by the Druggists generally, and wholesale by the manufacturer. T. J. HUSBAND, Philadelphia.

LYON'S EXTRACT OF PURE JAMAICA GINGER.—The preparing of a pure and unadulterated article of Jamaica Ginger is now a great desideratum with every family. Its power and great efficacy for Diarrhea, Nervous Debility, Indigestion, &c., is known; but for its quality, we have to rely upon the reputation of the maker.
LYON'S EXTRACT OF JAMAICA GINGER is guaranteed a perfectly pure article, and should be always inquired for.
Sold throughout the world by every respectable dealer.
HEATH, WISKOOP & Co., Proprietors,
No. 63 Liberty-st., New-York.

TO WHOLESALE
AND COUNTRY DRUGGISTS.
BARNES & PARK,
No. 204 Broadway, N. Y., invite the attention of close buyers to their immense stock of European and American
PATENT MEDICINES,
the most complete assortment in either hemisphere, at and below proprietors' prices, by the dozen, package or 100 gross.
BARNES & PARK N. Y. Cincinnati and San Francisco.

WIGS — HAIR-DYE — WIGS. — BATCHELOR'S WIGS and TOUPEES have improvements peculiar to their house. They are celebrated all over the world for their graceful ease and durability—fitting to a charm. The largest and best stock in the world. Twelve private rooms for applying his famous DYE. Sold at BATCHELOR'S, No. 233 Broadway.

POSTAGE STAMPS (3 cents and 10 cents) FOR SALE at the Office.

New-York Daily Tribune.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 1856.

ADVERTISEMENTS for THE DAILY TRIBUNE must be handed in before TEN o'clock in the evening in order to secure their appearance the following morning.

A few more advertisements will be received for THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE of this week if handed in early to-day. Price $1 a line.

The Commissioners of Health yesterday ordered the City Inspector to break up the tenement-houses in Third and Sheriff streets known as Rag-Pickers'-row and Cottage-row. The penalty on the part of the property-holders for disobeying the order is fine of $1,000, or imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both.

We invite the attention of all beef eaters in this City to our Cattle Market report, and to the fact that cattle sold yesterday at prices only equal to 9 or 9½ cents a pound for the meat of the very choicest beeves in market, where upward of 3,000 head were offered, and where at least half that number were sold at not over 8 cents a pound for the beef. Now, in view of the fact that butchers are retailing meat at about the same rates they did last Spring, when they paid 12½ to 15 cents a pound, and all because they have (for apparently discovered the difference in cost, we suggest to consumers to read our report and bring the subject to the notice of all retailers of beef. At wholesale in Washington market, it appears to be low enough. Good quarters of beef were sold there last week at 4½ cents a pound. Unless the retail price of beef last Winter and Spring was very much too low, it is decidedly too high now, and in justice to the consumers we think it should be reduced. But with the facts before them, we leave it for the parties interested to decide. There is no prospect of high prices for beef cattle again this year. The producers may as well make a note of that.

The Republican and American State Conventions of Connecticut yesterday united upon an electoral ticket for Fremont and Dayton. Ex-Gov. Dutton and Julius Catlin are electors at large.

In the Senate yesterday, Mr. Seward introduced a bill to change the venue of the criminal (treason) cases pending in Kansas. It was referred to the Judiciary Committee. A number of Internal Improvement bills were passed; also the bill for a wagon-road to the Pacific.

The House passed a bill giving Mississippi 1,500,000 acres of land for internal improvements. The Legislative, Judicial, and Executive Appropriation bill was taken up, and Mr. Grow moved to amend so that no money should be drawn for the judiciary in Kansas until all prosecutions for treason and alleged violations of the Kansas laws be abandoned, and every person restrained of liberty set free. This amendment was adopted in Committee by 69 to 57, and in the House by 84 to 69. A further amendment, that no part of the money shall be expended for prosecuting or defending any person charged with treason, was passed by 82 to 62. The clause of $20,000 to pay the expenses of the Kansas Border-Ruffian Legislature was stricken out by 90 to 58. The bill then passed as amended, 84 to 55, the Democrats, Southern Americans, Bennett of New-York and Dunn of Indiana, in the negative.

Our returns of the elections held on Monday are of course meager as yet, but they indicate that South Americanism is caving in at the South as well as elsewhere.

From Kentucky we have the following reported majorities which we compare with the vote for Governor in 1855:

Counties.	1856. K. N.	1856. Dem.	1855. Morehead.	1855. Clarke.
Bullitt	200	..	160	..
Hart	240	..	..	193
Hardin	460	..	305	..
Henry	200	..	242	..
Franklin	200	..	182	..
Shelby	300	..	194	..
Clark	..	230	..	267
Nelson	..	450	..	210
Campbell*	..	450	..	18
Kenton*	..	450	421	..
Pendleton	..	450	192	..
Bracken*	..	450	579	..
Jefferson	2,100	..	2,066	..
Bath	191	..	239	..
Estill	..	1,100	..	321
Grant	..	400	..	153
Scott	254	..	624	..
Fayette	..	..	..	..
Total	4,658	3,830	5,815	1,252

Know-Nothing maj., 828; dec. to '55, 4,563.

Morehead's (K. N.) majority in the State last year was 4,403.

Our dispatch says these counties average 450 majority each, and we have accordingly put them down so in the table.

The Democrats have carried the Lexington Judicial District over the present (K. N.) Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

From Iowa our returns do not come in such shape that we can make any comparisons with former elections. Our dispatch informs us that ten counties heard from give a Republican majority of 1,950. We have the vote of only two counties—viz., Jackson, which gives 150 Republican majority, a gain of 250; and Des-Moines, which gives 400 Republican majority, being a gain of 268 over the vote of Gov. Grimes in 1854, when he was elected by 1,300 majority. Davis, Republican candidate for Congress in the 1st District, was largely ahead as far as heard from.

We have a few more returns from Missouri, but not in such form as to admit of a comparative statement.

The New-Jersey Democratic State Convention met at Trenton yesterday, and nominated the Hon. Wm. C. Alexander of Mercer County for Governor and an electoral ticket. Mass meetings were held in the afternoon and evening, at which speeches were made by Messrs. Smith of Penn., Bigler of Pa. and John Van Buren and John A. Dix of New-York. The Democrats estimated that there were 3,000 persons present. Enthusiasm was not remarkably abundant.

John Rome was nominated by the Pennsylvania Democratic State Convention held at Chambersburg yesterday, for the office of Surveyor General.

A serious accident happened on the Baltimore and Philadelphia Railroad at 11 o'clock on Tuesday night. A train was thrown off the track near Gray's Ferry in consequence of running over two cows. The engines, baggage, and two passenger-cars were thrown down an embankment and demolished. Fortunately no lives were lost, though three or four persons were badly injured.

In another part of our impression this morning we publish the Oration of Mr. GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS, delivered on Tuesday last before the Literary Societies of Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn. We earnestly bespeak for it the attention of our readers to this remarkable production, which cannot fail to attract their notice both by the interest of the subject and the manner in which it is treated. "The Duty of the American Scholar to Politics and the Times" is the theme announced by the orator, and he handles it with a manly freedom and earnest eloquence worthy of the topic and the occasion. The discourse throughout is inspired with a glowing love of letters—the dignity of the scholar's vocation is emphatically asserted—the composition is adorned with innumerable felicities of expression—but the speaker, in accordance with the brave and noble spirit which animates his literary career, could not lose sight of the imperative duties which the times demand of the educated young men of this country. He admirably illustrates the position which they are bound to occupy in the present struggle for national freedom. His exposition of historical facts is as clear and forcible as his literary allusions are choice and exquisite. It is rarely that a discourse, so abounding in the daintiest fruits of ripe culture, so humane and genial in its tone and so rich in the suggestions of political wisdom, is elicited by an anniversary occasion; but the urgency of the present crisis has given a fresh inspiration to the most intellectual classes of society, and naturally calls forth a new form of holiday eloquence. Mr. Curtis, in his own example, furnishes a shining illustration of the character of the "ideal scholar" as the representative of thought and the champion of freedom. His oration, we trust, is the first fruits of a new epoch in the eloquence of literary festivals.

We call attention to a letter on the political aspects of Mormonism, which may be found on another page. It comes from an intelligent and well-informed source, and its statements merit consideration.

The defeat of the Fillmore men in Kentucky comes unexpected to us, and we presume still more so to themselves. The contest was as vehement last year as it well could be in any other than a Presidential Election, and the "Americans" carried everything—State Officers, Legislature (both branches), and six of the ten Members of Congress, by from 1,000 to 5,000 majority. There was good reason to suppose—as we certainly did suppose—that they would hold it this year. But there has of late been a strong demonstration of "Hodgeites" or "Whigs," headed by James Barion Clay (son of Henry Clay, and his successor at Ashland), Thomas B. Stevenson, &c., against Fillmore and in favor of Buchanan as an alternative, and they have probably carried the State with them. Kentucky has also a considerable element of native-born Catholic population, hitherto mainly Whig as in other States; and this has now been driven over by Know-Nothing prescription to Buchanan. The result of this election, we apprehend, secures the vote of the State in November to Buchanan. And what State Fillmore can carry, if not Kentucky, we cannot imagine.

The fact is, Mr. Fillmore stands in a false position. The Country is quite in earnest with respect to Slavery Extension or Limitation, the fate of Kansas, and all the topics connected therewith. The great majority have decided opinions, one way or the other, on this main issue, and will vote accordingly. The heedless, ignorant or indifferent are gradually being won over to one camp or the other. Now Col. Fremont represents the principle of Free Kansas and Free Territory, as every man knows. Mr. Buchanan, on the other hand, stands on the ground of nominal indifference but practical subserviency to Slavery Extension. His platform affirms the right of any slaveholder to make any Territory slaveholding, by the simple act of taking his human chattels thither and demanding the aid of the Law in enforcing his claim that these chattels labor for his profit rather than their own. Having thus allowed one slaveholder to establish the blighting "institution" in a Territory, it permits a determined Anti-Slavery majority to abolish or expel it *when said Territory comes to be made a State*, but not before. Up to that time, the People may be twenty against Slavery to one for it; yet they must stifle their own convictions, and enact laws to enforce the slaveholder's unnatural and unjust pretensions. That it may be seen that we state the literal truth, we quote from the late Cincinnati National Convention's Platform (in which Mr. Buchanan has merged his personal identity) as follows:

"*Resolved*, That claiming fellowship with and desiring the cooperation of all who regard the preservation of the Union under the Constitution as the paramount issue—and repudiating all sectional parties and platforms concerning domestic Slavery, which seek to embroil the States and incite to treason and armed resistance to law in the Territories; and whose avowed purposes, if consummated, must end in civil war and dissolution—the American Democracy recognize and adopt the principles contained in the organic laws establishing the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska as embodying the only sound and safe solution of the "Slavery question," upon which the great national idea of the people of this whole country can repose in its determined conservatism of the Union—NON-INTERFERENCE BY CONGRESS WITH SLAVERY IN STATE AND TERRITORY, OR IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

"*Resolved*, That we recognize the right of the people of all the Territories, including Kansas and Nebraska, acting through the legally and fairly expressed will of a majority of actual residents, and whenever the number of their inhabitants justifies it, to form a Constitution, with or without domestic Slavery, and be admitted into the Union upon terms of perfect equality with other States."

—Here Congress is expressly bound to "non-interference with Slavery in State and Territory," which clearly implies that Slavery is carried thither by the Constitution, as the South has contended so stoutly. It could not be interfered with in Territories if it were not legally there. Having thus got into the Territories by the mere fact that any slave-holder chooses to carry it thither, the Platform decides to *all* the people of such Territory a right to drive it out again until it shall have a sufficient population "to form a State Constitution, and be admitted into the Union," as a State. Now, all precedent assures us that a Slave Territory never becomes anything else than a Slave State—never. The history of this country, and of all countries, may safely be challenged for an exception to this law. Of course the Slavery propaganda have in the above resolves all that they could desire. They don't want a law to compel slave holders to emigrate with their slaves to new Territories—they will look out for that, as they have done in regard to Kansas. And whenever one *does* go to a new Territory, they insist on "non interference" by Congress with his right of property, and deny to the people of the Territory all right to abolish or exclude Slavery until they, having the requisite population, come to form a State Government. In other words, they shield effectually the infancy of Slavery in any community, knowing well that in its maturity it will take care of itself. What more could Atchison, Buford & Co. demand?

Now, the supporters of Fillmore are under more restraint at the North than are those of Buchanan, because many of them are Old Whigs, and formerly professed, if they did not heartily maintain, the doctrine of Slavery Restriction. They dare not drive so deep as the Buchanan men can and do; hence, in their race for slave breeding favor at the South, they labor under a perpetual disadvantage. Virginia, the great slave-breeding State, is fixed as a flint against them—dazzled by Gov. Wise's brilliant perspective of the "million of dollars" they would have gained by selling negroes at $3,000 to $5,000 per head to work the gold mines of Southern California if Buchanan had only succeeded in running the line of 36° 30' straight across to the Pacific. To be sure, Fillmore officially approved the Fugitive Slave act; but while his supporters in the South make the most of this, and adduce certificates that it was done cheerfully and heartily, we know that Fillmore men in this State are whispering in credulous ears that their candidate is at heart Anti Slavery—that he is opposed to the Nebraska policy and to Slavery Extension—and that he signed the Fugitive act reluctantly, and only because his Whig principles did not allow him to use the veto power.

The result of the Kentucky Election convinces us that the Presidential contest, as it approaches its termination, is more and more narrowing itself down to the single issue of Slavery Extension or Restriction, and that the votes will be cast either for Fremont, for Buchanan, or scattering. And this is as it should be.

The principal objection urged by the Border-Ruffian Ostend Manifesto presses, whether in the North or the South, to Fremont as a candidate for the Presidency is, that no ticket of electors to vote for him can be formed in any slaveholding State. With respect to the larger part of the slaveholding States, the truth of this statement cannot be denied; but, so far from being any objection to Fremont, it only goes to show how imperatively necessary his election is.

What is the reason that no electoral ticket can be formed in the slave holding States to vote for Fremont? We know perfectly well from numerous communications that reach us through the Post-Office, as well as from other reliable sources of information, that there is in every Southern State, even in South Carolina itself, a very considerable body of voters who ardently desire the election of Fremont as the only means by which they can be delivered from a despotism most inquisitorial and oppressive. It is not that Fremont has no friends in the Southern States who desire to give him their votes; it is not that the great party of intelligent and Christian men, hostile to the further spread of Slavery and desirous rather of its contraction than of its expansion, which formerly existed in those States, has become extinct. The opinions of Henry, of Washington and of Jefferson, on the subject of Slavery are still entertained by the most intelligent and enlightened of the Southern voters. Even among those who think Slavery no evil, there are men of honor and good faith at the South who look upon solemn compacts as binding, and who, however under other circumstances they might have regarded with indifference or with favor the erection of Kansas into a Slave State, yet abhor the repeal of the Missouri Compromise as a gross breach of faith, detest the painful fraud attempted to be practiced on the North by setting up the doctrine of Squatter Sovereignty, and regard with all the indignation proper to Freemen and Republicans the atrocious outrages inflicted upon the settlers of Kansas by invasive ruffians from Missouri, Georgia and South Carolina, and the still more atrocious outrages practiced upon them by Shannon, Lecompte, Donaldson and other officials, under color of law, with the connivance and consent of President Pierce, with the approbation and promised support of the Cincinnati Convention by which Buchanan was nominated, and with the applause of his supporters in both Houses of Congress and throughout the country.

To suppose that the Southern States have no citizens, who, if they were allowed a free expression of opinion, would condemn these outrages with all the emphasis of honest indignation; to suppose that there are no in all the Southern States a very respectable number of men, who would delight, if they dared, to vote for a candidate whose accession to the Presidency would put a period to all these outrages and to the faithless, aggressive and usurping policy in which they have originated—such a supposition would be a libel upon human nature. But the truth is, there exists at this moment no political liberty at the South. The forms of republicanism are preserved; but France, Austria, Russia, or Naples allows quite as much of political freedom as can be exercised at this moment by any citizen of Virginia or South Carolina. Is not Mr. Underwood an exile from Virginia, merely because he exercised his undoubted political right of taking a part in the nomination of Fremont for the Presidency? Is there, at this moment, among all the political exiles from Europe to be found in this country, one whose case can compare with that of Mr. Underwood, obliged to abandon his home, though not even charged with the violation of any law, and merely for having exercised an undoubted and unquestionable political right? The case of Mr. Underwood, thus driven into exile because he assisted in nominating Fremont, helps us to see very clearly the reason why no Fremont electoral ticket can be formed in that and some other Southern States. Freedom, both of opinion and political action, is totally suppressed in these States. The Ruffian rule which it has been attempted to establish, and which is already partially established in Kansas, exists in full force and energy in almost every Southern State. It is true that in these States it has not been necessary, as in Kansas, to call in a force of invasive ruffians from abroad; nor in general have the politicians of the Atchison and Stringfellow school, predominant now in all the Southern States, found it necessary to resort to the same atrocious acts of outrage by which they have sought to establish their rule over Kansas. Enervated and emasculated by the influence of Slavery, the Southern States we are sorry to say, have produced in this crisis of their fate few heroes and few martyrs. But though the yoke has been submitted to with but faint and feeble struggles against it, for all that it is none the less bitter and galling.

The election of Buchanan as President would not only confirm that yoke; it would go very far to impose it on ourselves. The United States are now much in the same predicament in which they were at that crisis of the Revolutionary War when Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina had been subdued by the British armies, and Virginia also was invaded and threatened with a like subjection. As at this time there are in those States no Fremont electors and no canvassers for Fremont voters in the field, so at that time, Georgia and South Carolina, held in subjection by the British, were unable to contribute a single soldier to the Continental line, while in North Carolina and Virginia resistance to the British was only kept up by troops detached under Greene and La Fayette from the Middle and Northern States. At the very moment, however, when the prospect seemed most gloomy, the war was brought to a sudden close, and American liberty was established on a firm foundation by Washington's unexpected move from New-York at the head of a Northern army—an operation resulting in the siege of Yorktown and the surrender of Cornwallis, and the acknowledgment of our independence; but an operation to which the more Southern States contributed nothing, and Virginia very little except the Commander-in-Chief. At present, Georgia and South Carolina between them contribute the Commander-in-Chief, who is preparing to march at the head of a Northern army to the rescue of the helpless and subjected South, at a moment hardly less critical, and with a success, as we trust, no less signal.

The existing state of things in California—the authority exercised there by the Vigilance Committee, who, without any regard to the judicial and political authorities existing under the laws and Constitution of the State, have taken it upon themselves to try, to hang, and to banish—is generally regarded as an anomaly in our politics; a new expedient, which, however it may be in a greater or less degree justified or excused by the peculiar character of the California authorities and the means by which they obtained office, is yet not only a novelty, but one of a most alarming character, which, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, may be tolerated for the moment, but which will barely bear repetition, and the operation of which cannot be prolonged for any considerable time without a fatal result to republican institutions, in the substitution of force and violence in place of the ballot-box and the law.

In this opinion, so far as relates to the exceedingly dangerous character of the authority assumed by the Vigilance Committee of San Francisco, and the evils to be apprehended from its prolongation, we entirely concur. At the same time it is due to that Committee to say that the kind of rule which they have established in California is no new invention of theirs, but that on the contrary they have only imitated numerous examples in which authority has been assumed on much less plausible pretenses and exercised with much greater rigor in near half the States of this Union, in which States it is at this moment in even more vigorous operation than in California. It is well known that citizens of Southern birth have taken a leading part in the politics of California; nor can it be doubted for a moment that it was with that class of citizens that the idea of the San Francisco Vigilance Committee had its origin. Vigilance Committees, to exercise an authority superior to the laws, have been an institution familiar to the South for the last twenty years, and it is doubtless after this model that the Vigilance Committee of San Francisco has been formed. But if we compare the objects proposed to themselves by these committees—those of the Southern States and that of San Francisco—it must be confessed that the Californians are able to make out much the most plausible case. The Californians complained that the laws were not enforced, that the persons elevated to office were in league with ballot-box stuffers, shoulder hitters, gamblers and rogues, by whose activity, votes and fraudulent contrivances they had been elected, and that by the connivance or negligence of these unworthy officers, murder, theft, robbery and fraud went unpunished till there was no security for life or property. The Vigilance Committee was therefore formed for the express purpose of enforcing the laws—for doing that which the ordinary magistrates ought to have done, but neglected to do.

This professed object, and and aim of the San Francisco Vigilance Committee is certainly much more moderate, and much better calculated to enlist sympathy and approval, or at least toleration, than the objects proposed to themselves by the Vigilance Committees of the Southern States. These committees, from their first formation down even to the present moment, exist, not for the purpose of enforcing laws, to the efficient execution of which the ordinary magistrates and the ordinary machinery for the administration of justice have proved inadequate; but for the avowed purpose of transcending the laws, of suppressing a freedom of opinion, a freedom of speech and of the press, and a freedom of intercommunication expressly given by law, but which these committees judge to be dangerous. Their first energy was directed against the United States mails and Post Offices, which they took the liberty to search and to sack as being the means of circulating papers and pamphlets, the sentiments and ideas of which were disapproved by those committees as calculated to endanger the safety of slave property and to instigate insurrection among the slaves. At present they are employed in stopping steamboats and preventing all travel by Free-State emigrants across the State of Missouri. But though these Southern Vigilance Committees thus took and take upon themselves to supply deficiencies, not merely in the execution of the laws, but in the laws themselves, they too pleaded, and still plead, as the San Francisco Committee does, a sacred regard for the public welfare and the supposed approbation of a large majority of their fellow citizens.

The experience, however, of the Southern States, wherever they have imitated this institution of a Vigilance Committee, ought, we think, to operate as a serious warning to the good people of California to abandon as speedily as possible the use of this dangerous expedient, and to return forthwith to the methods of administration prescribed by the Constitution and the laws. The Southern Vigilance Committees were first started twenty years ago, as temporary expedients. They have now become an established and ordinary part of the social system of those States, and with a result highly fatal to individual rights and republican liberty. Originally they were aimed against Northern interlopers who, under the name of Abolitionists, were objects of general detestation as seeking to set on foot an insurrection of the slaves. In the course of twenty years they have taken under their cognizance the great body of the citizens of the States in which they exist, who are no longer allowed to subscribe for newspapers, to express opinions, to attend conventions, to nominate tickets or to vote for candidates which these committees do not approve. The Vigilance Committee of San Francisco has not yet attacked the liberty of the press. It allows the publication of newspapers in which its objects, aims and doings are very freely criticised. In this it exhibits a far greater liberality than the Vigilance Committees of the slaveholding States, with whom the destruction of printing presses, even for the slightest expression of opinion not approved of by them, is one of the most ordinary operations.

The good people of San Francisco may see, however, in the state of things now existing in Virginia, to what the government by a Vigilance Committee is likely to lead. In that State a man cannot even address a debating club without danger of being called to account by some Vigilance Committee and driven from the State. In ten or twelve of the Southern States, the Vigilance Committees, who rule everything, will neither allow the advocacy of Fremont's claims to the Presidency nor the formation of a Fremont electoral ticket. In South Carolina no man could avow himself an admirer of Senator Sumner, or refuse to vote for Preston S. Brooks, without danger of being warned out of the State by some Vigilance Committee. These Committees have assumed the regulation also of ecclesiastical matters, and ministers even preach and pray only by their sufferance and permission. This surely is not a state of things which the good people of California can be desirous of introducing into that State. A government by a Vigilance Committee is a despotism, of which there is sometimes no means of getting rid except by a civil war. It is possible that the institution of Slavery cannot securely exist under any other form of Government; but California is not a Slave State, and has no necessity on that score to adopt this dangerous system. Having been so providentially rescued from becoming a Slave State, we are sure she will not allow herself to be seduced by any temporary exigency into the permanent adoption of one of the worst features of the slaveholding system of policy.

FROM WASHINGTON.

From Our Own Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Aug. 5, 1856.

Let the public be prepared for every sort of recession in Kansas on the part of the Administration. The game now is not to uphold what has been done, but undo all that has been attempted. The panic which is known to have seized Mr. Buchanan's prominent friends in Pennsylvania has extended to the Court circles here. And as the Administration considers its character—Heaven save the mark—staked upon the issue of the Presidential election, it is ready to make any concession to secure success. This purpose is animated by no love of Mr. Buchanan, but by a weak desire to obtain the indorsement of a Democratic triumph. It is pretty well decided to serve several of the Territorial officers after the fashion of Shannon. Judge Lecompte and District-Attorney Isaacs are particularly marked, and will get their walking papers as soon as reliable successors can be obtained, unless the President changes his mind. They are more than suspected of being engaged in speculations, at which the Administration never fails to turn up the whites of its eyes. The officers from Pennsylvania are supposed to be pure, as the candidate of the party hails from that region, and hence the uplifted ax will not fall on their heads. There is something more than a division on the part of a majority of the Cabinet to release Gov. Robinson and his companions from custody, and directions to that effect may be issued any day. In fact, the advisers of Kansas are frightened at the long, lengthy shadows of their own misdeeds, and now seek to propitiate, by temporizing and insincere retractions, those whom they have outraged by oppression, and the people whom they deceived and betrayed.

Commodore Vanderbilt is here again looking with anxious eyes after the contract with Uncle Sam. The bill reported by Mr. Yulee to the Senate in his favor is liable to objection, for the reason that there are two lines already plying from New-York to the points proposed—one with an annual allowance of $150,000, and the other of $200,000. If any alteration is to be made in the existing arrangements, it should be upon a plan which will throw the enterprise open to free and fair competition. Neither Commodore Vanderbilt nor any other steamboat proprietor has special claims above the rest of his class to this sort of exclusive legislation, and no just ground can be assigned for a preference which partially shuts out claims of equal merit, and inducements quite as favorable as those proposed. If it be desirable to increase the ocean service, the Postmaster General should be authorized to contract with whoever will perform it best, and upon the most advantageous terms to the public and Government. Democratic Members of Congress are horrified at any suggestion of protecting, even by indirection, industrial pursuits in which the masses of laboring men are interested, but they do not scruple at all to vote away millions yearly to build up huge monopolies or to enrich overgrown corporations.

The House has been occupied all day with business of the District of Columbia, mustering but a thin attendance, and manifesting but little concern in the matters submitted. There was considerable pressure from the outside, against the favorite schemes of Water Works and Charters, while the advocating lobby was less formidable in numbers than heretofore. As a method of bringing Congress to terms, the corporation has cut off the supply of water to the principal hotels and some of the private dwellings, which were heretofore furnished from the mere waste, and with little if any charge.

In the Senate, they drag the internal improvements along, as if performing the labor of Sisyphus. The ghost of a quorum only appears, and the galleries are deserted, as if it were midnight. Now and then a traveler turns up to enliven the scene, and to break the outline of dreary monotony. Mr. Toombs has galvanized every abstraction and constitutional refinement that was ever applied to this question, and exhausted the patience of even his hair-splitting confederates. There are but ten talking days left, which is some consolation in these trying times.

Gov. Marcy has prepared his reply to the proposition of the Allies, for the abolition of privateering and submitted it to the Cabinet. The paper is spoken of as exhibiting much statesmanlike ability, and will probably be laid before Congress. Its conclusions have long since been made known to the readers of this correspondence. While declining to accede to the overture according to the terms of the Treaty of Paris, the Administration is prepared to accede to an arrangement by which, if the Powers of Europe shall agree, not to seize or molest private property on the High Seas, or to use their vessels of war in capturing the merchant vessels of an enemy, the United States will relinquish the right of arming privateers.

INDEX.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune:

WASHINGTON, Monday, Aug. 4, 1856.

In the Senate, to-day, the Appropriation bill introduced by Mr. Sumner in February last, for continuing certain public works in the State of Massachusetts, and which was subsequently reported by the Committee on Commerce, to which it was referred, as originally drafted by that Senator, was passed, to wit:

For continuing the repair of the sea-walls on Deer and Lovell's islands, in Boston Harbor, Massachusetts, $9,500.

For continuing the sea-wall for the protection of Great Brewster Island, in the Harbor of Boston, Massachusetts, $30,000.

For continuing the repairs of the injuries done to the Government Works on Plymouth Beach, Mass., $13,000.

For continuing the repairs of the breakwater at Hyannis Harbor, Mass., $15,000.

For continuing the improvement for the preservation of the harbor of Great Wood's Hole Harbor, Mass., $2,000.

For continuing the improvement of the harbor at New Bedford, Mass., $12,000.

Mr. Wilson of Mass. asked the unanimous consent of the Senate to introduce the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to report, forthwith, a resolution authorizing the President of the United States to direct the District Attorney of the Territory of Kansas to enter a *nolle prosequi* on the joint indictment against Charles Robinson, G. W. Smith, O. W. Jenkins, John Brown, jr., H. H. Williams, G. W. Brown and G. W. Deitzler, for treason against the United States.

Objection was made and the resolution was not acted upon. It will be called up again to-morrow.

What a difference there be
Between a tweedledum and tweedledee.

For several days past Senator Bigler has been down upon his knees before his master, Toombs, praying for permission to introduce a similar proposition into the Senate, in order to get ahead of the Republicans and save Buchanan in Pennsylvania—*the native State of most of the prisoners named in the above resolution!* The dogmatical and arrogant Toombs would not budge an inch. He shook Bigler off. Prefers the traitors would remain in prison. It is good enough for them. Beside, if Buchanan carries Pennsylvania and is elected, where is the chance for the "Little Giant" in 1860? Let the prisoners remain where they are. Let the Black Republicans have Pennsylvania. Fremont is a southern man and a Californian. Let him in and we can push "Doug." next time as a Northern man. Poor Bigler turned away in despair. Like Toombs, he thinks the traitors *deserve* imprisonment; but if, by releasing them and professing sympathy for them, he could take the wind out of Fremont's sail and save Old Buck in Pennsylvania, it would be a glorious thing. But that splendid bucket of milk has been kicked over by Toombs, and the cream of the joke is that Wilson has got to the windward of the Border Ruffians. He has taken all the wind out of their sail and left them to the leeward. Geo. Case exclaims, "Wilson is right. That resolution ought to have come from our side. I told the President, long while ago, that those men ought to be released. It is a great outrage." Douglas smiles exultantly, thrusts his hands inside his waistbands, shrugs his shoulders, teeters on his toes and heels, winks at Toombs, and they both slide into the liquor saloon of the Senate lobby and take a couple of juleps. The former is delighted. He remarks, "If Bigler had been allowed to introduce such a resolution it would have ruined me, sure. The prisoners would have been released, Buck elected, and my chance for 1860 would be blown to atoms. Wilson saved us; for we are sworn to oppose him anyhow. All right; let the squirrel rip. We must oppose the resolution, and take care that Bigler don't make an ass of himself." Toombs assents. "Doug." tells the "big black nigger" who tends the bar to "put that down," and they both return to their Senatorial duties!

In the House, to-day, Mr. Purviance of Pennsylvania introduced a resolution similar to that introduced in the Senate by Mr. Wilson, and asked that the rules be suspended, and that it might be considered at once; but the House refused to suspend by a vote of 106 to 74.

An attempt was also made to suspend the rules for the consideration of the Pacific Railroad bill, but the House refused by a vote nearly the same as the last.

On motion of Mr. Campbell of Ohio the House went into Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union (Mr. Haven of New-York in the chair) for the consideration of the bill making appropriations for the legislative, executive and judicial expenses of Government for the year ending the 30th of June, 1857, and the details were disposed of with dispatch, the Chairman exhibiting great skill and promptness in the discharge of his duties.

It was generally regretted that the Chair felt it his duty to rule out of order Mr. Campbell's amendment to give $300 extra compensation to each of the clerks, reporter and sergeant-at-arms of the Kansas Investigating Committee, upon the ground that $10,000 were appropriated to pay the expenses of said Commission. This was the more surprising in view of what followed. Mr. Orr of South Carolina moved an amendment to the bill to give *The Globe* reporters (*gentlemen not in the employ of the Government*) the sum of $300 each, as it was ruled in order. Now these gentlemen are paid by a private establishment the sum of $4 per column for their reports, which acts them a very handsome sum per week. The clerks, reporter and sergeants-at-arms of the Kansas Commission were not employed the year round, but were severally called from a lucrative business to go upon a perilous expedition. They were engaged during that expedition from twelve to sixteen hours per day. It was no genteel kid-gloved work that they did. They sometimes performed their clerical