Business Notices.

AT HOME TO YOU, SIR.—We address you particularly, Mr. Reader. You are the man who will find KNOX always at home to you. He believes, candidly, that he can fit a castor to your head so as to give you the air and appearance of a man of fashion. He is right; he can do that little thing. He don't pretend to write epic poems or improve steam engines, but he is precisely the man who knows what a hat is, was, and ought to be. More than that, he can make it what it ought to be. KNOX continues to see his friends at No. 212 Broadway, where they see the Winter style of HATS and CAPS, such as our first men prefer.

BEEBE & CO.,
No. 156 Broadway.
HATS
FOR THE HOLIDAYS,
Of every desirable pattern and fabric.

BANTA'S NEW STYLES OF FANCY BEAVER HATS, for little Girls, Boys and Infants. Beautiful and appropriate articles for Christmas and New-Year's Presents. Sold at BANTA'S, corner of Canal and Wooster-sts.

LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S FURS—GIFTS FOR THE SEASON.—Splendid sets of Mink, Hudson Bay Sable, Marten and Fitch FURS; also beautiful sets of Children's FURS—appropriate articles as Christmas and New-Year's gifts. For sale at BANTA'S Fur store, corner of Canal and Wooster-sts.

SINGER'S SEWING MACHINES.—The excitement of election having ceased, we invite the attention of all judicious and money-making persons to our improved extra-rapid SEWING MACHINES. Loss of time, while attending to political matters, and loss of office, or the failure to obtain office, may speedily be made up by the use of a SEWING MACHINE.
We say to every mechanic in whose trade a SEWING MACHINE can be employed, that a loss of $1,000 a year is suffered by going without one.

JET ORNAMENTS, BROOCHES, BRACELETS, &c.—A lot, embracing the latest styles and patterns, to be sold at greatly reduced prices; also, every Variety of Fancy Goods and Toys, at ROGERS'S Bazaar, No. 499 Broadway, four doors above Spring-st.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS.
Persons about purchasing PIANOS or MELODEONS for the Holidays are invited to call and examine the superior assortment of
PIANOS AND ÆOLIANS
at the warerooms of the subscribers, which they confidently believe cannot be excelled by any others.
GROVESTEEN & TRUSLOW,
No. 565 Broadway, adjoining St. Nicholas Hotel.

GREAT FIRE AT SYRACUSE.
[From The Daily Standard, Syracuse, Nov. 15, 1856.]
HERRING'S PATENT CHAMPION SAFES.
One of HERRING'S FIRE-PROOF SAFES, sold by D. S. & S. P. GEER of this city, passed through the ordeal of a recent fire in the First Ward of this city, and its contents came out in excellent order, as the following certificate triumphantly proves:
"SALINA, Nov. 13, 1856.
"Messrs. D. S. & S. P. GEER, Agents, or to all whom it may concern:
"This is to certify that the Safe of S. C. HERRING & Co., which was bought of you October 16, was burned at the great fire which occurred here on the morning of the 8th inst., and that the Safe underwent and resisted the most intense heat, and was not removed until the afternoon of the 12th, having remained in the fire full 108 hours, and brought out the contents in a good state of preservation, and the paper on which this is written was part of the contents of said Safe.
"AVERY & EVANS."
Purchasers are invited to call upon the subscribers, examine and compare the HERRING'S PATENT CHAMPION with Wilder's and other patented Safes for sale.
SILAS C. HERRING & Co.,
Green Block, corner Water and Pine sts., and
No. 5 Murray-st., one door from Broadway.

JET ORNAMENTS.—Every variety of Jet, Jet and Gold Jewelry, Necklaces, Bracelets, Sets, &c., at
OSBORNE, BOARDMAN & TOWNSEND'S,
No. 527 Broadway, corner of Spring-st.

IMPORTED FRENCH GAS FIXTURES and CLOCKS, superior articles only; Carcel and Moderator Lamps; Statues for niches and newel posts, Paris Bronzes, Candelabras, Brackets, Candlesticks, with flexible tubing for Gas; Rapeseed Oil, for sale by H. DARDONVILLE, No. 445 Broadway.

A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT AT LACYVILLE, PENN.—MAN AND HORSE THROWN DOWN A PRECIPICE TWENTY-FIVE FEET DEEP.—Young Mr. Spring, son of T. D. Spring, esq., proprietor of the Lacyville Hotel, met with a frightful accident on the evening of the 21st of October. As he was riding along the towpath of the canal his horse became frightened, and suddenly plunged down a precipice 25 feet deep. The horse was instantly killed, and the mangled body of Mr. Spring was carried home to his afflicted parents as a corpse. * * * We will here give the father's evidence as to the result of the accident:
"On looking on the bleeding and mangled face of my son my heart sickened. I never saw such a horrible sight before. All his front teeth were knocked out; large holes were cut through his throat and chin up into his mouth, his jaw was broken, and his body was full of bruises and cuts. Every one thought him dead, and many said they would much rather find him dead than alive. I set to work and washed the blood from his face and wounds, and for 36 hours rubbed his whole body with a remedy—God bless it!—that will never be forgotten—RADWAY'S READY RELIEF. He then became sensible to pain. It seemed as if a new life had entered his mangled body. After this I applied the Ready Relief every five minutes for three days and two nights. To the cuts and wounds I applied Radway's Ready Relief and sweet milk. He is now nearly well, and is walking about the house; his wounds are healed and but little scarred; the bruises are all well. If any one requires further information let them address me, at Lacyville, Penn. I am the proprietor of the Lacyville Hotel, at this place, and well known in this State. T. D. SPRING.
"To Messrs. RADWAY & Co. Dec. 8, 1856."
The original letter of T. D. Spring, esq., can be seen on application at our office. RADWAY'S READY RELIEF quickens the action of the heart, and equalizes the circulation of the blood; it establishes in the system of the weak, crippled, feeble and those who labor with sudden accidents or falls, by which, to all appearance, the organs of the system cease to perform their functions, new life. Let those who are in pain give RADWAY'S READY RELIEF one trial. Sold by druggists, merchants and others. RADWAY & Co.,
No. 162 Fulton-st., New-York.

BRANDRETH'S PILLS are vegetable, and of universal usefulness in all cases of sickness. They purify the blood, and so expel disease from the body. They have been established one hundred and five years, and have been used by many persons now living for upward of seventy years. Many honest physicians use them in their practice as their safe purgative and alterative. They are believed to possess a vegetable cell, similar to that which constitutes the vitality of the blood. Dr. BRANDRETH has concentrated this principle in the LIFE ADDITION PILLS, one of which is intended to contain five times as many of this vegetable cell principle as the BRANDRETH PILLS, and are used in doses of only one or two pills.
These medicines, mildly but surely cleanse the whole extent of the alimentary canal. They give increased power to the circulation of the blood, by which it deposits any impurities it may contain in the bowels, which organ expels them from the body.
This action may be continued for days, or weeks, or months, as the mildness or urgency of the disease may demand. Or until the entire body has been evacuated and re-made from the food consumed.
How important it is that persons of feeble frame, of impure constitutions, should without delay commence with these pure and wholesome medicines.
Sold at No. 43 Canal st., New-York, with full directions.

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 beauty, 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.

CURTAIN MATERIALS AND WINDOW SHADES, AT WHOLESALE.
KELLY & FERGUSON, No. 291 Broadway, and No. 54 Reade-st., have a full and choice stock of BROCATELLES, SATIN DE LAINES, WORSTED DAMASKS, LACE and MUSLIN CURTAINS, CORNICES, GIMPS, &c., which are offered at the lowest prices.
WINDOW SHADES.—Our stock of WINDOW SHADES is the largest in New-York, and our superior manufacturing facilities enable us to offer these goods less than other houses. We invite the attention of close buyers.

GOLD AND SILVER WATCHES,
DIAMOND RINGS and PINS, JEWELRY and SILVER WARE for sale at wholesale and retail, at less than the usual prices, by G. C. ALLEN, Importer of Watches and Jewelry, No. 11 Wall-st., second floor, near Broadway.

TAILORING, 1856-7.—GEORGE P. FOX has removed to his recently purchased store house and lot, No. 87 Amite-st., near Broadway, thereby freeing himself from the exclusive and unenviable trammels of a Broadway landlord, at a saving in favor of his customers at the rate of $5,000 to $6,000 per annum. The general arrangements, particularly the Cutting and Sewing departments, are admitted by those who have already patronized his new establishment to be decidedly superior to any of his former establishments on Broadway.

MEDICINE WITHOUT PAY.
I will present one box of my MAGNETIC SALVE to any respectable patient who will call and receive it. For Burns, Scrofula and Salt Rheum, unsurpassed. S. B. SMITH, Electro-Magnetist, No. 77 Canal-st., between Broadway and Church-st.

Owners of Horses will find Dr. TOBIAS'S LINIMENT in pint bottles, at 50 cents, superior to anything else for curing Colic, Swells, Galls, Bruises, Lumps, &c. Sold by all the Storekeepers and Druggists. Depot No. 56 Courtlandt-st., New-York. Price 25 and 50 cents.

WINTER CLOTHING of every description will be sold at reduced prices during the remainder of the season. Those about to purchase will promote their interest by giving me a call. R. R. BOUGHTON, No. 256 Broadway.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS are an excellent family medicine, and are recommended to all sufferers from diseases of the Liver and Stomach. It is indisputably admitted that they have never failed to cure these disorders. Sold at the Manufactories, No. 80 Maiden-lane, New-York, and No. 244 Strand, London; and by all Druggists, at 25c. 62½, and $1 per box.

ARTIFICIAL LEGS—PALMER'S PATENT.
At No. 376 BROADWAY, New-York; No. 376 Chestnut-st., Philadelphia; Springfield, Mass.—THE BEST AND ONLY RELIABLE LIMB EVER INVENTED and in use, in America and Europe, as adjudged by the Scientific Jurors at the World's Fairs at London and New-York; also by all the Scientific Institutes and first Surgeons in America. *Pamphlets sent gratis.*

NORTH CAROLINA DISGRACED.—The Supreme Court of North Carolina has confirmed the decision of Judge Manly that members of the Universalist Church are incompetent to testify in courts of justice, according to the laws of that State! By this decision, the Universalists of North Carolina are virtually outlaws, as no member of that religious denomination can collect his debts, swear to an assault, or testify before the courts in any case, even if his wife or child should be insulted!

FROM THE BAHAMAS.—Dates from Turk's Island to the 22d ult. have been received at the Bahamas. Heavy rains had closed the salt season. The stock on hand amounted to 185,000 bushels, which is selling at 18 cents per bushel. Several large vessels were in port waiting cargoes.

New-York Daily Tribune

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1856.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.
No notice can be taken of anonymous Communications. What ever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guaranty of his good faith.
We cannot undertake to return rejected Communications.
Subscribers, in sending us remittances, frequently omit to mention the name of the Post-Office, and very frequently the name of the State, to which their paper is to be sent. Always mention the name of the *Post-Office* and *State*.

Subscribers to THE TRIBUNE wishing their Post-Office address changed, should in all cases give their present *Post-Office* and *State*, and specify which edition, whether Daily, Semi-Weekly, or Weekly; and club subscribers should give date of subscription. This would frequently prevent delay.

TO ADVERTISERS.—THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE will go to press to-morrow morning at an early hour. We shall print of this week's issue over 175,000 copies. A few more advertisements will be received if handed in early to-day. Price, One Dollar a line.

In the SENATE yesterday Mr. BROWN (Miss.) gave notice of a Pacific Railroad and Telegraph bill.

Mr. WILSON (Mass.) introduced a bill to amend the Nebraska-Kansas act. Referred to the Territorial Committee.

Mr. RUSK (Texas) got up the joint resolution giving time to the 1st of January, 1858, for creditors of Texas to file their claims. He advocated the extension of time.

Mr. BENJAMIN (La.) moved to refer to the Finance Committee. Lost.

After some debate, the subject was laid over.

Mr. FESSENDEN (Me.) moved a bill amending the United States Criminal Code. As the law now is, a homicide at sea is not punished unless the victim dies before landing. The same is true as to poisoning at sea. Another anomaly is a greater punishment for assault where the victim does not die than where he does. Mr. F.'s bill is to remedy these inconsistencies. It was sent to the Judiciary Committee.

In the HOUSE, Mr. WHITFIELD (Kansas) introduced a bill to indemnify citizens of Kansas for losses sustained by the late disturbances. Also, establishing a District Court at Leavenworth, and two additional Land Districts.

Mr. CAMPBELL (Ohio) reported the Indian, Civil and Army Appropriation bills, which went to Committee of the Whole.

Mr. CAMPBELL also reported certain amendments to the Tariff of 1846, which were passed. On his motion the bill to reduce the tariff on imports was postponed to the first Tuesday in January.

Mr. NICHOLS (Ohio) took up the debate on the President's Message, and defended the Republicans from the charges made in that document. He also showed up the "Free Kansas" electioneering swindles of the Democracy of Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Mr. CRAWFORD (Geo.) approved every word in the Message. He charged the Republicans with a design to interfere with Slavery in the States by attacking it in the Territories.

Mr. JONES (Tenn.) attempted to show that the Government had and had not power in the Territories. He said the Fremont men were not Republicans but despots in their coercion of the people of the Territories.

The storm of Sunday was very severe from Cincinnati, eastward, along the Lakes. Our exchanges from Buffalo, especially, are filled with details of the destruction of property.

A jury was impanneled yesterday in the Court of Sessions, in the case of Huntington, indicted for forgeries. The case will be opened to-day.

Gov. King has gone to Albany, accompanied by his Private Secretary. He is for the present at Congress Hall.

The navigation of the Hudson River appears to be finally suspended. The boats which left Albany on Monday evening were unable to get through the ice at Van Wie's Point.

We have looked with some care in our exchange papers from the West to find the truth about the reported slave insurrections. They are mostly silent, and those who do speak do it evidently under such extreme caution that one would naturally suspect a design to conceal the real facts. We give elsewhere all that we can gather upon the matter from the neighborhood of the disturbances.

The struggle in which our Mexican neighbors are at present engaged is not only of vast interest to themselves, but one in which they have, or ought to have, the best sympathies of the rest of the civilized world. Mexico, so far as relates to the tenure and ownership of her landed property, stands now much the same position in which England and the European Continent generally stood previous to the Reformation. A large part of the lands, and the best of them, belong to the Church, and an insuperable obstacle is thus placed in the way of that free circulation of landed property so essential to its improvement and the development of its resources.

It is unjust to stigmatize the recent measures of the Mexican Government as a confiscation of the property of the Church. It is no more a confiscation than the measure adopted some years since by the English Government in relation to tithes was a confiscation of the property of the English Church. Seeing how much the payment of tithes stood in the way of landed improvement, the English Government converted the tithe into a rent charge, taking the current amount of the tithe as the standard of value by which this rent charge was to be determined. This is very much the same thing that the Mexican Government has done or proposes to do with the property of the Mexican clergy. Under the recent law on that subject, should it be fully carried into effect, the Church indeed would no longer be proprietor of the land, but it would still retain a lien upon the land in the nature of a mortgage for the value at which it was transferred to the new proprietors, and the interest upon this debt would still furnish a revenue to the clergy not materially less than that which they enjoy at present.

Instead, however, of submitting quietly to this change, the Mexican clergy have preferred to spend their money in fomenting rebellions against Comonfort's Administration, trusting that they might find, as usual, some ambitious chief ready, by their aid, to elevate himself to the head of affairs. This, in the past experience of the Mexican clergy, has proved a pretty safe calculation; but by the latest news which we publish to-day, things look rather squally for these clerical politicians. The arrangement already reported with Vidaurri is confirmed, and the diversion looked for in the North, by his means, is thus disposed of. Not are the Mexican priests the only persons disappointed in this result, since the triumph of Vidaurri seems to have been looked to in certain quarters as likely to lead to an independent republic in the north of Mexico, and ultimately to further annexations to the United States. While the difficulties with Vidaurri and the northern provinces thus disappear, the City of Puebla, which the priests had stimulated to insurrection, surrenders to the Government forces; and what is a still severer blow to these priestly attempts at revolution, Alvarez, by whose influence Comonfort was originally placed in power, has again taken up arms to support him.

To the list of outrages which have lately been perpetrated with impunity, we have to add one novel in its character and startling in its nature. It is the first time in the history of the City Government that such an act has been committed, and we sincerely hope it will be the last. The facts, which we have derived from a trustworthy source, are these: A gentleman, to supply the pressing necessities of one of the Democratic Members of Assembly elect, at the urgent entreaties and importunity of that gentleman, loaned him some money and took as security for the repayment of the same, a chattel mortgage upon household furniture and other property. This transaction took place over a year ago. After the money became due, application was made for it, and payment evaded. The mortgage would have expired on the 12th instant. A few days before it expired, it was placed in the hands of Mr. John Somerindyke for collection. Previous to this, the holder of the mortgage ascertained that nearly all the articles embraced in the mortgage, except the household furniture, had been disposed of by the mortgagor in violation of the rights of the mortgagee.

Before placing the mortgage in hand for foreclosure, repeated solicitations had been made for the payment of the money, but without success. Mr. Somerindyke then called at the house of the mortgagor and demanded payment. Payment was promised the next day at 3 o'clock. At the time appointed, Mr. S. called for the money but it was not paid. He then went to the house of the mortgagor to remove the property, and there found a policeman who informed him that he had been sent there by Mayor Wood to prevent the removal of the property, and that, if Mr. Somerindyke attempted to remove the property, he had *orders to arrest him!* This interference of course prevented the removal of the property. The next morning Mr. S. and the attorney for the mortgagee called on the Mayor to ascertain whether he really had been guilty of thus interfering with the rights of a citizen in attempting to enforce the collection of a lawful demand. The act was disavowed by the Mayor, and an order given for the removal of the policeman, or at least he promised to give such an order. On the next day the Sheriff's officer again went to the house of the mortgagor prepared to remove the property, and there found the same policeman, who again stated that he was there by the express order of the Mayor to prevent the removal of the property, and to arrest Mr. S. if he attempted to remove it. The Sheriff's officer was compelled to leave. The attorney for the mortgagee, after ascertaining the facts, began at once to prepare the necessary papers to procure the arrest of the Mayor, the officer and the mortgagor, when he received notice from the attorney of the mortgagor that the money would be paid. This gentleman being a trustworthy person, proceedings for the arrest were suspended and the money paid.

Comment upon this state of facts is unnecessary. The outrage is so high-handed, so glaring, the precedent so fraught with danger, that all who read this article can appreciate the necessity of a speedy change, not only in the law with regard to the police, but also in the men we select to hold office. The law, it is true, expressly forbids policemen from interfering in civil matters—and the interference subjects both the Mayor and officer to criminal punishment. It is no defense for the officer that he acted under the orders of the Mayor, though it might be a proper consideration in mitigation of punishment; but in the case of the Mayor, the full penalty ought to be awarded. The example would be of the utmost benefit. It would strike at the root of the lawlessness which, sanctioned by precedents in high places, is running unchecked in the city. It is but a short time since that the house of a citizen in the Twenty-second Ward was demolished, his property destroyed, his family driven from the premises by a gang of ruffians; but the Mayor did not cause a single arrest, though policemen and office-holders were on the ground during the riot! The man whose house was thus demolished opposed the reelection of Fernando Wood. The man whose property was protected against the just claim of the mortgagee, was one of Wood's partisans, and was very active in the late canvass.

We look to the Legislature for relief. New-York is at present the worst governed city in the world. It is said that $100,000 have been or will be raised to retard the action of the Legislature upon these matters. This label upon the Republican members of that body we trust will meet with its just and proper reward in their speedy action to relieve us from the incubus that now hangs over this metropolis.

The Hon. Lucien B. Chase, formerly a Democratic Member of Congress from Tennessee, and of late a Democratic lawyer and politician in this city, writes to *The Mirror* his view of the recent alleged slave insurrection in his old Congressional District, from which we extract the following. Mr. C. premises that Tennessee has for many years been almost equally divided in politics, and has all along been very ardently and laboriously contested, until almost every white man has the Bank, Sub-Treasury, Tariff, Public Land and kindred questions at his tongue's end, and even "something "more than a faint idea of their bearing was obtained by the Blacks." Mr. Chase then proceeds:

"From 1835 to 1855, the Negro question was rarely discussed. It was reserved for the Presidential conflict of 1856 to cast this firebrand into the political arena. These insurrectionary movements *cannot be attributed to Abolition emissaries*, or Abolition documents, *within* the State, but to *the speeches of Democratic and Fillmore orators*. It is quite possible that the effect of those speeches might have been fomented by some prowling Abolitionists. Each speaker, undoubtedly, insisted that his candidate was the strongest throughout the Union, and that the only way to defeat Fremont was to vote for him. Then followed a critical examination of the views entertained by the supporters of Fremont. It was asserted, doubtless, that the Republicans had formed an alliance with, or were acting in concert with, a body of men who were waging a relentless warfare upon Slavery, and who were determined at every hazard, to abolish it. They doubtless, also, gave expression to the fear that the Republican party would become Abolitionized, in spite of the conservative portion of it, who are opposed to disturbing the institution where it exists. While the whites listened to these statements with indignation, a long line of sable visages upon the outskirts of the crowd were turned eagerly toward the speaker, and 'Freedom' seemed to fall at every sentence from the lips of the orator. They managed to comprehend one idea, and that was the announcement of the belief that the institution of Slavery would be much less secure if Fremont was elected, than if either Mr. Buchanan or Mr. Fillmore should be chosen. This one idea was repeated in the cornfields, at the forge, by the furnace-blaze, at the corn-shuckings, along the wayside, until at length they came to entertain the belief that the inhabitants of the North were so thoroughly enlisted in their cause, that they would assist them in their work of slaughter."

—Mr. Chase has here told a part of the truth. It is unquestionable that the recent movement among the Slaves of the South, so far as there was any perturbation, was excited by the desperate efforts of the rival Buchanan and Fillmore stumpers of that section to make capital at each other's expense by frightening their hearers with appalling pictures of the consequences of Fremont's election, and then urging that Fremont could only be defeated by supporting Fillmore or Buchanan as the case might be. But Mr. Chase cannot be ignorant that, long before Fremont was nominated—before the Republican party was formed, in fact—"the Negro question" was thus made a football between the rival parties in the South. We can recollect Southern assaults on J. Q. Adams and Clay, as long ago as 1827-8, for appointing John Sergeant, a Missouri Restrictionist, an Envoy to Panama. In 1828, no State south of the Potomac gave a vote for any man who lived north of that river for either President or Vice-President. In 1836 and 1840, Mr. Van Buren was fiercely assailed as unsound on the Slavery question, and lost the votes of some Southern States on that ground. In 1844, Mr. Clay was denounced as an Abolitionist, because he opposed the acquisition of Texas at the time and in the manner proposed. In 1848, both parties tried to make capital at the South out of "the Negro question;" but the Whigs made the most of it by supporting an extensive slaveholder against an eminent doughface. In 1852, the Democrats ran the ebony line out of sight ahead by supporting a thorough doughface against one who had voluntarily ceased to be a slaveholder and had not begun to be a doughface. And in 1856, the two "National" parties each tried to carry the South by proving its candidate more consistently and thoroughly doughface than the other, and showing that the other's success would undermine the foundations of Slavery. Beyond this, they each undoubtedly shook the raw head and rattled the bloody bones of Abolition in the other's face, insisting that Slavery would be upset if Fremont were elected, and that Fremont would be elected if the South did not rally as one man to the support of Buchanan (or Fillmore). Thus the demagogues of either party imbued the ignorant slaves' mind with the notion that Fremont was the Abolition candidate, and that his election would insure their freedom. Now that the mischief is apparent, they generally try to saddle it on the backs of the Fremonters; but that is not just. The two Pro-Slavery parties fired red-hot shot at each other, and, now that they have set each other's houses on fire, they want to charge the conflagration on us. It won't do.

The Albany Atlas devotes three columns to THE TRIBUNE, full of complaints of dodging, evasion, and "hopping about" on our part, but, though it asks us four questions, it very carefully evades any answers to the single question which we asked in our last. That question was as follows:

"*The Atlas* observes that it is 'perfectly natural' that THE TRIBUNE should stand on one side of this 'question [of Congressional inhibition of Slavery in the Territories], and we [*The Atlas*] on the other.' But, if this is so natural, will *The Atlas* be good enough to tell us how it happened that THE TRIBUNE and *The Atlas* stood on the *same* side of this very question a few years ago, and that the very side still maintained by THE TRIBUNE?"

Now, though *The Atlas* can find no room in three columns to answer our single question, we shall proceed at once to answer its four questions, viz:

"1. Does not the Kansas organic act give to the people of the Territories the whole control of Slavery—the right to establish or to prohibit it—subject only to the Constitution of the United States?"

Answer—No, Sir! Practically, that act subjects the rights of the People of Kansas, not to the Constitution, but to what the present Supreme Court—a majority of its Judges being Democratic slaveholders, and nearly all the rest conspicuous doughfaces—shall decide or infer that said Constitution requires—which, to our mind, is a very different thing. If you don't believe it, wait and read carefully the decision which that Supreme Court is about to pronounce in the case of Dred Scott. We can remember the time when *The Albany Atlas* concurred in this view, and rejoiced with us when the House, by eight majority, laid on the table John M. Clayton's Senate proposition to submit the whole question of Slavery in the Territories to the decision of the Supreme Court.

"2. Have not the people of Kansas, under that act, clearly the right to prohibit Slavery, unless the doctrine is sound that the Constitution of the United States carries Slavery into the Territories?"

Answer.—No, Sir! And, if they had the *right*, they were divested of the *power*, when the Border Ruffians usurped the Legislative rights of the People of Kansas through their invasion and fraudulent election of March 30, 1855—an election which your party, in defiance of incontestable proof of its fraud, has upheld and enforced as legal and valid; and thus the right which the Nebraska Act seemed to concede to the settlers of Kansas has been wrested from them by the direct action of a part and the connivance of the residue of that act's supporters.

"3. Do you believe that the Constitution carries Slavery into the Territories?"

Answer—No, Sir! but we believe the Supreme Court will *say it does*, which is practically the same as if it did.

"4. Under the provisions of the Constitution and the Kansas act, do you hold that the people of Kansas and Nebraska have the constitutional and legal right, by territorial legislation, to prohibit Slavery?"

Answer—No, Sir! We hold that a true interpretation of the Constitution would give them that right; but the Nebraska Act was never intended to give, and therefore does not give, them any such right. We cannot assume to construe a measure which we have steadily resisted and denounced, in opposition to the construction of its authors and steadfast supporters. We believe there was a juggle in this act from the first—that it was purposely so framed as to wear two opposite faces, and for a time bear two antagonist constructions. We believe its authors were in the interest of Slavery Extension from the start—that they knew that the Supreme Court would take the slaveholder's view of the whole subject—and that therefore Slavery would have its will in the premises precisely as if the Constitution had so prescribed.

—Having thus answered *The Atlas's* four questions, we will thank it to answer our *one* question aforesaid, and to let its readers see our answers to its own. If there is any "dodging" or "hopping around" in these answers, they will then know it, and not be constrained to take it on trust.

There seems to be at last a prospect that Chief Justice Lecompte will be removed. In fact there does not seem any occasion for his longer stay in Kansas. He is an excellent hand, no doubt, at getting up bogus indictments for treason. If there were just now any printing presses or Free State hotels that needed to be presented and destroyed as nuisances, Lecompte is precisely the sort of Judge best adapted to that business. But just at this time, there seems to be nothing for such Judges as Lecompte to do. He has got all the Free-State men that he could indicted for murder and other high crimes, and has succeeded in convicting and sentencing some twenty or more of them. He has released on bail all the Pro-Slavery men against whom indictments were found, taking care, in the case of the murderer of Buffum, to release him twice over. He has fully accomplished the work for which he was sent to Kansas. Since it has been found impossible to drive out the Free-State men either by force of arms or force of indictments and prosecutions, and since a decent respect for the opinions of the world has demanded a change of policy, nothing remains but to send Kansas another Chief Justice.

But in dismissing Lecompte, the President would do well to call to mind that there are other officials in that Territory, appointed under similar auspices and for similar objects, and whose services might now, for the same reasons applying to Lecompte's case, be very properly and advantageously dispensed with. Governor Geary, in a letter of his which forms one of the documents appended to the President's Message, and of which we published the other day an extract, complains that every package addressed to him through the mail is broken open and inspected before it reaches his hands. It is utterly unsafe, he says, to send information through the Kansas Post-Office, unless it is intended to be made public, and still more unsafe, if possible, to send money or anything of value. The Kansas Post-Offices, from beginning to end, seem to be conducted on pure Border Ruffian principles; indeed, it would appear, from Geary's letters, that some of the Postmasters, not content with rummaging the mails for themselves, invite in their neighbors to help in the operation. That we may not be accused of exaggeration, we give the Governor's own words:

"Every package addressed to me through the mail is broken and inspected before it reaches my hands. It is entirely unsafe to send information through the Post-Office, and more especially so to use that medium to forward anything of pecuniary value. Postmasters are either ignorant of their duty and obligations, or, being acquainted with these, act in violation of both. Indeed, I have been credibly informed that in some places persons not connected with the offices are permitted to enter and overhaul the mails previous to their distribution. This is a serious evil, upon which some prompt action is needed."

Certainly the Governor is right. This *is* a serious evil, upon which some prompt action is needed. So long indeed as Lecompte remains at the head of the administration of justice there is a beautiful correspondency between the Courts and the Post-Offices. But if Lecompte is to be turned out of the one, there certainly ought to be some change in the other.

FREE KANSAS.—There never has been any danger of Slavery, as a system, being established in Kansas under the Nebraska law, except that which was occasioned by the interference of Emigrant Aid Societies, Kansas Leagues, &c. It was always palpable on the surface that, without some artificial, forced and unnatural agency, Slavery never would or could prevail in Kansas: for, beside that under the Nebraska law the land was to be divided up in sections altogether too small for slave plantations, the whole Territory is in the direct line of emigration from the Northern States and from Europe. It is, moreover, too cold for slave constitutions or slave productions. Southern planters would never have thought of going there if Abolitionists had not told them they should not. As it is, very few have gone there. [Journal of Commerce.

—There are those who ridicule the pertinacity of THE TRIBUNE in keeping the facts with regard to the origin and character of the struggle in Kansas before the public. We ask such to read what we have copied above from the leading editorial column of a journal established for the promotion of morality and Christianity, and judge what, when such assertions are made by the more respectable Nebraska journals, must be the general tone and temper of the worst of them.

In reply to the above statements of *The Journal of Commerce*, we call attention to these undeniable facts:

1. Kansas lies in just the same latitude with Missouri, and if the former is "too cold for slave constitutions and slave productions," so is the latter.

2. It is "divided up in sections" just as Missouri and other Slave States are.

3. The north-east angle of Kansas, about the size of Rhode Island, which was stealthily wrested from her and added to Missouri by Col. Benton's management in Congress twenty years ago, is now the most slaveholding and Pro-Slavery section of the latter State.

4. Before the Nebraska bill had passed, or Emigrant Aid Societies in the Free States had been thought of, David R. Atchison, then a Democratic United States Senator, and just before acting Vice-President of the United States, visited the Missouri border towns to stir up their people to seize upon what is now Kansas at the earliest moment in order to plant Slavery there. The Rev. Frederick Starr, then pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Weston, Mo., testifies that he heard Gen. Atchison, in a speech at that place, ask those Missouri slaveholders:

"'What will you do if the Missouri Compromise is not repealed? Will you sit down here at home and permit the *serfs, the nigger-thieves, the cattle, the vermin* of the North, to come into Nebraska and take up those fertile prairies, run off your negroes, and depreciate the value of your slaves here? I know you well; I know what you will do; you know how to protect your own interests; *your own rifles will free you from such neighbors*, and secure your property. You will go there with your slaves, and you will stay there with them, even if the Missouri Compromise is not removed. You will go in there, if necessary, with the *bayonet* and with *blood*. But we will repeal the Compromise. *I would sooner see the whole of Nebraska a hundred times in the bottom of* HELL *than to see it a Free State.*'

"The speech was received with loud cheers and intense excitement. I stood from the beginning to the end of his speech about twelve feet directly in front of him, and heard every syllable he uttered."

Accordingly, within two weeks after the passage of the Nebraska bill, the Missourians swarmed over into Kansas, hunting and claiming the best locations, and held a great meeting at Salt Creek to form a "Squatter Association," by which it was

"*Resolved*, 8. That *we will afford protection to no Abolitionists* as settlers of Kansas Territory.

"*Resolved*, 9. That we recognize the institution of Slavery as *already existing* in this Territory, and recommend to slaveholders to introduce their property as early as possible."

To the same effect, *The Weston Argus*, then and now a Missouri Democratic organ, commenting on the prospect of emigration to Kansas from the East, said:

"The Abolitionists will probably not be *interrupted* if they *settle north* of the FORTIETH PARALLEL of NORTH *latitude, but* SOUTH *of that line*, and WITHIN KANSAS TERRITORY, they need not SET FOOT. *It is* DECREED by the people who live *adjacent* that THEIR *institutions* are to be established there."

The same paper, upon the first tidings of systematic efforts at the East to promote emigration to Kansas, said:

"It is time now to sound the alarm. We know we speak the sentiments of *some* of the *most distinguished statesmen* of Missouri, when we advise that counter organizations be immediately made, both in Kansas and Missouri, to thwart the reckless course of the Abolitionists. *They must be met*, if need be, with the RIFLE. We must *meet them* at the very threshold and scourge them back to their caverns of darkness. *They have made the issue*, and it is for us to *meet* and *repel* them, *even* AT THE POINT OF THE BAYONET."

On the 20th of July, 1854—still before a single Eastern immigrant had reached Kansas since it was opened to settlement by the passage of the Nebraska bill—"The Platte County Self-Defensive Association" was formed in Senator Atchison's own county—B. F. Stringfellow, Secretary—expressly to forward the object of fastening Slavery on Kansas. They resolved that all Abolitionists among them should be tried and punished. And this, says the Rev. Mr. Starr, an eye-witness, was the way they set to work:

"The first week of the existence of this Association, they seized a resident of Weston, late an ex-Sheriff of Iowa, Mr. Thomas A. Minard. He was building a house in Kansas. He had one day *over* in the Territory said he should vote to have Kansas a Free State; he was *arrested*—was tried—was condemned as an Abolitionist—was ordered to *leave the country in twenty-four hours*, or RECEIVE FIFTY LASHES ON THE BARE BACK!

"He was a man worth thousands of dollars; the 'Kansas Aid Society' sold tickets to him; he helped elect the present Administration, and was *one* of the mover of the Kansas-Nebraska bill. With a wife and two children, all sick—one expected to die—he went into Kansas (his own house being just begun) with no shelter for them.

"An old citizen of Weston, named Osborn, was tried; was without proof, except a negro's testimony (unlawful testimony), condemned as an Abolitionist; the hair was shaved off the right half of his head, and he was ordered to leave the country in FORTY-EIGHT HOURS, or receive ONE HUNDRED LASHES on the BARE BACK! He left."

Such were "the artificial, forced and unnatural agencies" by which Slavery *was* planted in Kansas—the fraudulent election of March, 1855, and the bogus Legislature's tyrannical acts at Shawnee Mission, being but the ripe fruits of the seed sown by Atchison, Stringfellow & Co., *before there was any Free-State emigration to Kansas.*

Is it *true*, reader, that the danger of Slavery being established in Kansas was *caused* by Emigrant Aid Societies, Kansas Leagues, &c.? Have not those Societies and Leagues rather counteracted and diminished than created that danger? Either *The Journal of Commerce* or THE TRIBUNE is willfully, wickedly, impudently falsifying the history of this struggle respecting Slavery in Kansas, and striving to mislead the public mind with regard to it? Which is the culprit?

The fact that California has given Col. Fremont but 20,000 votes, is trumpeted by his adversaries as evidence of personal unpopularity on his part "where he is best known." We venture to say that a large majority of all who were in California when Col. Fremont was its Provisional Governor supported him now for President. He lost the votes of the State, not because he was personally unpopular, but because there had never been even the outline of a Republican party there down to the hour he was suggested for President. California is largely peopled from the Slave States, and is the most intensely Pro-Slavery of all the legally Free States. The year 1856 sees for the first time the standard of resistance to the Slave Power raised in her valleys. The name of Col. Fremont has not sufficed to crown it with victory, but it has given to the Republican cause at least twice as many votes as it could have obtained with any other candidate. This is not all we hoped, but it is, perhaps, all we had a right to expect. Over One Million Three Hundred Thousand Votes have been polled in the Free States for candidates standing square on the Republican platform—some hundreds of thousands more than those States have given to any other ticket. If our opponents can derive any comfort from the contemplation of this vote, we bid them welcome to it.

PROSPECTS IN KANSAS.—An intelligent and reliable friend in Kansas, who has been despondent with regard to her prospects, writes us, under date of Lawrence, Dec. 5, as follows:

"Everything now looks encouraging. Gov. Geary, I believe, with an honest purpose, is striving to establish justice. The Judiciary stands as much in his way as it does in ours. If Pierce should cut off the head of that infernal villain, Lecompte, I believe I should forgive him to about one-quarter of my hate. My impression is that this will be done, and that the next Bogus Legislature will likewise vote a grand sponging operation all around—as much perhaps to save the heads of their own men as to conciliate those whom they have found it an expensive operation to try to 'SURDUK.'

"Kansas is not yet conquered! Property in Lawrence is to-day worth fifty per cent more than it was before the administration of Gov. Geary was inaugurated. Tell the North to be of good cheer. Roll the emigration in! There never was a better time (I mean next Spring). It is too late now for comfort. But when Spring shall again unlock the flowing waters and the juices of the earth, and every vale and every hillock shall be vocal and verdant with a reawakened nature after a Winter's repose, then let the notes of preparation be heard—the preparation of a great army—an army invulnerable in their principles—glor