FROM WASHINGTON.

AN ORIGINAL VIEW OF THE CRISIS.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5, 1857.

The rumor that the Supreme Court has decided against the Constitutionality of the power of Congress to restrict Slavery in the Territories has been commented upon in the most unreserved manner at this metropolis. It is very generally considered that the moral weight of such a decision would be about equal to that of a political stump speech of a slaveholder or a doughface.

Many have expressed the opinion that the question would not be met by the Court, and numbers are still of that way of thinking. It makes but little difference to Slavery whether it gets a decision in its favor now or after the public mind shall have had time to cool a little. But it would be best for Anti-Slavery that the decision should come now, while the popular heart is in a fused condition. The impression it would thus make would be deeper and more distinct, and the whole series of Pro-Slavery aggressions and triumphs would then be burned into it together. The Congress, the Court and the Executive would then take their proper position of joint association, in the mind of the people, as confederates in the work of extending the intolerable nuisance of Slavery. It is, therefore, to be preferred that the judicial department shall now put itself actively upon the side of the slaveholders while the mind of the country is warm and burning, rather than wait and do it by and by when apathy shall have again overspread it. When a political scheme is to be furthered by judicial action, it is a thousand times better that that action should be taken boldly, when every man, woman and child have their eyes upon the Court, than to have that body steal silently and stealthily in the same direction. Judicial tyranny is hard enough to resist under any circumstances, for it comes in the guise of impartiality and with the prestige of fairness. If the Court is to take a political bias, and to give a political decision, then let us by all means have it distinctly and now. The public mind is in a condition to receive it with the contempt it merits.

It is a matter of surprise that everybody does not see, or at least will not acknowledge, that many of the steps taken by Slavery to strengthen itself, are more weakening to it than any other course of policy that could be devised. Instead of trying to propitiate the Northern conservative sentiment which really pervades Northern society everywhere and in all ranks, in its religion, its literature, its industry, Slavery defies, insults and exasperates it. Instead of the people of the South demanding the toleration, sympathy and commiseration for the existence of a gigantic curse among them, which are really their due, while they behave with decency before the world, they insanely swear their curse is a blessing, hug their rottenness, and claim to shove it upon others, all the while exhibiting a demeanor that provokes uncharitableness, and contumely, and hate. They are thus alienating the North from the South, and abolitionizing the whole of the former in the most rapid manner. They are in so doing provoking their torments before their time.

Thus far, the popular sentiment has only taken the form of desiring to circumscribe Slavery. Directly, if foiled in this, it will assume that of desiring to separate from Slavery. It will rush to this position all the sooner for a decision of the Supreme Court, that the General Government has no power to restrain the spread of an evil which is felt to be so formidable and so damning. There has been, and is now, a strong prejudice against separation of the States. The public mind is not awake to the urgency of the necessity that is driving the country in this direction, and which controls the question against all individual desires to prevent it. And it would be long in awaking, if not abused in its slumbers. But when stimulated to passion, its perceptions will be wonderfully quickened, and it will rush precipitately on to this goal. The tendencies in this direction have hitherto been obstructed by mild counsels and a compromising policy on the part of our public men. But the present assumes to be wiser than the past, and we slide on toward the inevitable result almost without a jolt.

Are we asked what is this necessity thus urging us forward? It is the necessity of a full and fair experiment of a free Democratic Republic which our institutions have created, and which will work its way through or over every obstacle, the slave oligarchy and the black race on this continent not excepted. That race is now its great impediment, and thus it will come to pass that, justly or unjustly, righteously or unrighteously, that race with those who love their company will be ejected, crowded out and sent over to the semi-tropical belt which destiny seems to have awarded to the black race on this continent. The fact that Capt. Rynders, or John Mitchel, or the Democracy of the Five Points, or the Irish Roman Catholics generally are in favor of Slavery, proves nothing but that they are un-Democratic, no matter whether intelligently or unintelligently so. They are the outer and decaying limbs of a vigorous tree whose sap and energies are within. They are the weights that Democracy carries in its race, not the springs of its motion. The Irish Roman Catholics, for example, are good enough as voting machines; but pray who would look to them to generate or yield support to an idea looking to either the temporal or spiritual emancipation of mankind? or who shall find his *political bible* at the Five Points? The great, swelling, vitalizing, heartfelt Democratic sentiment to which is owing the growth and expansion of our national character and resources and prosperity does not flourish in such a soil. It will never derive its nutriment therefrom; and it is idle and unphilosophical to hold such or kindred influences up to view by way of showing that the Democratic sentiment is not now vital and will not grow and flourish and fructify in the future of our history as it has in the past.

Holding these opinions, we regard the question of separation as an eminently proper one to be considered. We regard the tendencies of the time to be all in that direction. Public men whose political lives depend upon the breath of political favor cannot speak, or at least *do not* speak, on the subject with that entire independence which belongs to men differently situated. But the Press is open to every heresy.

We think every reflecting man must concede that the end of Slavery will be an Ethiopia in the South. Such is the retribution the crime of Slavery will work. The islands of the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf States are to be Africanized. The precise extent of the area to be thus blackened within our own limits, will be proportioned to the time that shall elapse before the necessity of this result shall be recognized and acted upon. It might now be made comparatively small. We have but four millions of blacks. But directly we shall have ten millions. And what then? They must have more room. Can we not see that? We really ought to begin to stake off their ground now. History shews that they are the only race that will flourish in our tropical latitudes, and that they rapidly increase there, even under all the hardships of a condition of servitude. As to swallowing them up by amalgamation, they are too many in numbers, and they multiply altogether too fast for that. If they were a decaying or even a stationary race, it might be otherwise. But as it is, such a result is entirely out of the question.

Now, can anybody suppose that the Free States are going to be forever, or long, tied to such a body of prolific barbarians under any circumstances, whether as freemen or as slaves? In the latter case, creating a pretended or real necessity of mastership, engendering an offensive oligarchy to mar the workings of a genuine democracy; and in the former, looking to their admission to political equality out of a condition of besotted ignorance and infinite degradation? How will it be when the negro slaves shall number ten millions? Who can reflect upon such a mass of human blackness among us, darkened in intellect, crushed in spirit, groping in ignorance, impelled only by motives of hate and revenge, gross, groveling and treacherous, without the overmastering desire to find a method by which the hideous ulcer can be struck from our political system? Especially is this so, since the Supreme Court is to declare that the Federal Government has no power to arrest the spread of this terrific evil; and since our Southern brethren, their masters, have come to advocate the eternity of the institution, the more thorough barbarization of the slaves, and demand and use, and mean hereafter more and more to use, the whole power of the existing Union in aid of their policy, thus forever quenching the hope of our revolutionary ancestors that Slavery was a temporary evil to be borne only until time enough had elapsed to discover the best means for its extinction—a hope shared by every patriot since, until these modern days of delusion, when it has suddenly been found that it is a blessing to be eternized.

It is, therefore, our relations in the Union to Slavery in this new aspect that we are called upon to consider and treat. It is an aspect never contemplated by the founders of the Government, and which, if suggested when it was formed, would have shivered every hope of consummating a union of the Free and Slave States. And the question thus comes home to us, if our Union has become such a one as the fathers would not have made, is it such a one as the sons should perpetuate?

Where do these considerations lead us? Is it not directly to the thoughts of extrication from the calamities that impend, under the new regime of Slavery in perpetuity—Slavery forever? The curse is widening and deepening, and instead of promised or hoped for modification, or amelioration, or limitation, in the future—hitherto the patriot's only hope—we are treated to nothing but visions of a severer, more crushing and still-extending field of oppression. What then shall be done? Stake off their ground. Give our lower latitudes to the blacks and those who desire to go with them. Lop off the festering limb. Cut out the cancer. Give to the democratic principle underlying our system a fair chance to work. Give it scope, unhindered, untrammeled. By doing this, we shall launch the nation upon a new and loftier career. We shall bring our domestic quarrels over the Slavery question to a close. Freed from connection with men who love Slavery, and believe in slaveholding, we shall be able to treat those unhappy dreamers as they deserve. Instead of resisting their folly and wickedness as we are compelled to do now in consequence of our political association, we can then regard them as men deserving the pity of the world for their delusion; as a class commanding the commiseration of mankind for the evils that environ, the sorrows that poison their domestic condition, and the inevitable fate that awaits their posterity.

J. S. P.

FROM PENNSYLVANIA.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 6, 1857.

The caucuses of the two Houses met last evening at 7 o'clock. In the Senatorial caucus Mr. Taggart of Northumberland, an able and gentlemanly man, was nominated for Speaker by the Republicans. The Democrats, having no show, made no nomination. Mr. Hammersly of Lancaster was nominated for Clerk. The Democrats will make no opposition.

In the House, where the Democrats have a majority of four, their candidates will of course be elected. Mr. Gerz of Reading is the nominee for Speaker, and Mr. Ziegler of Butler for Clerk. Mr. McCalmont of Venango is the Republican nominee for Speaker.

The contest for United States Senator will be close and exciting. The Democratic candidates are Gen. H. D. Foster of Westmoreland, Wilson McCandless of Allegheny, John W. Forney and John Robbins, jr., of Philadelphia, and Charles R. Buckalew of Columbia.

Judge Black of the Supreme Court (not Col. Sam or Boaz Black) might secure the nomination if he desired; but it is generally understood here that Mr. Buchanan will require his services in the Cabinet. I think that Forney may be considered "*the flower of the Forrest*," notwithstanding the Roberts letters and the fraudulent naturalization papers, issued by the Democratic State Central Committee in every part of the State during the late Presidential canvass. Gen. Foster may run him close, but the *prestige* of Buchanan's preference will insure the caucus nomination to Forney.

Nevertheless, I do not think he can be elected. The working majority of the Buchanan men on joint ballot is only three, and I think that out of sixty-nine of them, two or three may be found of sufficient moral sensibility to vote against him. In the event of a bolt, that wary old fox, Simon Cameron, may come in and win.

Everybody is here with petitions for office, and the avowed disposition of the party in this State is for a practical demonstration of the old wholesome Whig doctrine of rotation in office. The principle has been inaugurated by the decapitation of Col. Jack, who has been for many years the capable Clerk of the House of Representatives. The colonel is a first-rate Democrat, but he cannot come in, and to save defeat, avoids being a candidate. I do not think the party would suffer much by a removal of two-thirds of the appointees of Pierce, but I am sure it will suffer some unless this policy is pursued.

But is it not cool that the Democrats of Pennsylvania are just discovering that the Catholics hold too many offices, and loudly demand a reform in this regard? As Mr. McMaster of *The Freeman's Journal* has recently married a lady from Pittsburgh, where there is but one federal officeholder who is not of his faith, it would be well enough for him to interfere for his brethren who are in danger.

M.

OYSTER TRADE AT FAIRHAVEN.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

NEW-HAVEN, Dec., 1856.

Although a resident of this city for fifteen or twenty years, and, as I had supposed, tolerably well posted relative to its many sources of prosperity, I was not, till within a few days, aware of the importance of one branch of business in adding to the wealth of this community. I refer to the Oyster Trade; and notwithstanding our place has been noted for it for a long period, I doubt whether many, even of our most intelligent citizens, have any very adequate conception of its extent or importance, or the influence its discontinuance would have upon the growth of this vicinity. Fairhaven—a flourishing suburb of this town and of East Haven, lying upon both sides of the Quinnipiac River—is the great depot for the business, and has been almost entirely built up and populated through the influence of this species of shell fishery. It is here that the many operations connected with the trade can be said to commence, although the greater portion of the bivalves are brought from waters of the Chesapeake Bay.

On a brief visit to Fairhaven a few days since, I obtained some meager statistics relative to this branch of industrial pursuits, which were interesting to me and possibly may be so to your readers, especially that portion of them residing in the Western States. As I have already stated, the oysters are principally taken in Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and inlets, and thence transported to Fairhaven, where they are "planted" or laid down in our waters, or else taken immediately from the vessel to the various places occupied by the many employed in opening, packing, and otherwise preparing them for market. The whole number of vessels engaged in the transportation of oysters to this place is about 80, mostly schooners, each capable of carrying cargoes varying from 2,000 to 4,500 bushels. These vessels are generally owned in Fairhaven, but in busy seasons their number is largely increased by chartered craft. The amount of capital invested in this business cannot fall much short of $1,000,000, and perhaps exceeds that amount, though I could not get any very correct data to form a decided estimate.

The *modus operandi* of preparing the oyster for market is novel, and divided into several distinct departments. There are the openers, the washers, the measurers, the fillers, the packers, &c., each of which performs only the duties pertaining to its own division. At this season of the year, few of the oysters are "planted," but are generally taken directly from the vessel to the places occupied by the openers, who form a large number of operatives, and are composed of females and boys, who earn from $5 to $9 per week. An expert at this branch will open 100 quarts per day, but the average is not, perhaps, over 65 quarts. The standard price is, I think, 2½ cents per quart. This work gives employment to many hundreds, and much of the work is performed at private dwellings, thus affording opportunity for labor to many who cannot go into a general workshop. The oysters, as they come from the vessel, are heaped up in the center of the room, the operatives occupying the wall sides. Each person has before him a small desk or platform, some three feet in hight, on which is placed, as occasion requires, about half a bushel of oysters, from which the opener takes his supply. On the stand is a small anvil, on which, with a small hammer, the edge of the shell is broken. The operative is provided with a knife and hammer, both of which are held in the right hand at the time the shell is broken, when the latter is dropped and knife does its work. Two tubs or pails, of about three gallons capacity each, are placed within about three feet of the workman, into which he throws, with great dexterity and rapidity, the luscious morsel which is to tickle the palate and gratify the taste of some dweller in the Far West. The object of placing these vessels of reception so far from the operator, is to prevent, as much as possible, the deposit of the original liquor with the oyster; for, strange as it may appear, none of that liquor is deposited in the kegs or cans which convey the oyster to market, as they are all thoroughly washed in fresh water, and into each keg, according to its size, is poured a certain quantity of the same fluid. From the opening room the oysters are taken to the filling room, and thence to the packing department. In the filling room, on a platform, are placed a dozen or more kegs or cans, with the bungs out. The oysters are first poured into a large hopper pierced with holes, in which they are thoroughly washed and drained, when they are ready to be deposited in packages. This is done by placing a funnel in the aperture of the keg, by one person, who is another "measures and pours." This operation is performed with great rapidity, two or three men being able to fill some 2,000 kegs in a day. After depositing the requisite quantity of "solid oysters," as they are termed, in each package, a pipe conveying fresh water is applied, and the vacant space filled with nature's beverage—the bungs placed and driven home—when one of the greatest delicacies of the world is ready to start on its uncertain journey, for it may not reach the shores of Lake Erie, and yet it may be "gulped down" by some appreciative genius on the plains of Kansas, or still far her from its starting point.

During the warm season, or from April till December, the kegs are packed in boxes holding from 16 to 24, and surrounded with broken ice. In cold weather they are transported in bulk. The result of each day's labor is dispatched to some Northern or Western depot, and thence distributed to subordinate stations. This portion of the business is transacted with all the precision and regularity of the United States Mails. The Hartford and New-Haven Railroad are at present running from six to ten cars daily, loaded with oysters, mostly destined for the Western market, though a portion pass up the Connecticut valley and find their way into Canada East. A large portion of that section of country is supplied with oysters from Fairhaven.

I cannot, perhaps, give a more intelligible impression of the extent of this large and increasing interest than by recording some facts connected with the business of one among the many large houses concerned in the trade. I select that of Rowe & Co., which has been in the business some 12 years, and their market is almost entirely north and west of Buffalo. This firm, which consists of three members, has two starting points, Norfolk, Va., and Fairhaven, Conn., and three principal depots—Buffalo, Detroit and Hamilton, C. W. Fairhaven is the headquarters East, and Buffalo at the West. Their Norfolk house, although at certain seasons it forwards opened oysters north, mainly attends to the buying of the oysters in the shell and sending them to Fairhaven or "planting" them on the grounds owned by the firm in the Nanticoke River (some 1,800 acres) or in the waters near Norfolk. Their object in "planting" oysters South, where they lie over one season, is to obtain a larger article than they could otherwise. They keep one person constantly employed South in searching for and buying the extra quality, and they keep their boats "planting" the year through.

This Company have in their employ over twenty vessels plying between Chesapeake Bay and Fairhaven, of which they are whole or part owners, and yet their demands are such that they are obliged to charter many more. These vessels, except for a month or two during the Bahama fruit season, are engaged entirely in the transportation of cargoes from the waters of the Chesapeake to those of New-Haven.

Messrs. R. & Co. open and put up daily at Fairhaven from 900 to 1,200 kegs, and from 800 to 1,000 cans during the busy season, and at Norfolk also a large quantity, but we have not the figures for the latter place. Their number of openers is from 125 to 140, and they also employ about twenty other operatives. The cans are of tin, similar in shape to sardine boxes, but of greater capacity. Those packed in cans are designed mostly for the Cincinnati and other markets in that direction. The cans are manufactured by themselves, on their own premises; but the kegs, in which much the larger quantity are transported, are made to order, and their yearly consumption is 150,000, at a cost of about $15,000. They paid the New-York Central Railroad, last year, $15,000 freight money, but this only includes transportation to Buffalo, to which should be added large amounts for transportation still further north and west.

This house has its distributing office at Buffalo, from whence its branches extend to Toronto in Canada, and to St. Louis and St. Paul on the Mississippi, embracing a large portion of the principal intermediate points.

W.

OHIO ON SLAVERY.

Gov. Chase sent his Message to the Legislature on Tuesday. We have room to-day only for the following remarks upon the great question of the day:

Immediately after the close of your late session, in conformity with your instructions I transmitted to the Governor of each State a copy of joint resolutions of the General Assembly relative to Kansas affairs. The Governor of Mississippi has returned the copy transmitted to him, in pursuance, as he states, of the requirements of a joint resolution of the Legislature of that State, of which he transmits a copy. I submit his communication to your consideration without comment.

The relations of the National Government to Slavery still engross a large share of the public attention, but I have little to add to the considered views which I have already expressed.

That Slavery is contrary to reason and natural justice, that it is of such a nature that nothing short of positive law can sustain it; that no power to enact such laws has been granted to the National Government, and that Slavery, therefore, outside of Slave States, can have no valid legal sanction, seem to me incontrovertible propositions.

The original policy of the country was in harmony with these ideas. It contemplated the exclusion of Slavery from National Territories; the exertion of the legitimate influence of the General Government on the side of Freedom; and the amelioration and final eradication of the great evil by the action of the State Governments, without intervention or interference by national legislation.

"The abolition of Slavery," said Mr. Jefferson, at the commencement of the Revolutionary struggle, "is "the greatest object of desire in these colonies." "It "is the pride and boast of America," said Mr. Madison speaking at the close of the war in behalf of the American Congress, "that the rights for which she "contended were the rights of human nature." "There "is but one proper way," said George Washington, speaking at a still later period of the abolition of Slavery, "by which it can be accomplished, and that is by "legislative authority; and this, so far as my suffrage "can go, shall not be wanting."

We need not hesitate to walk in the paths marked by the footsteps of the Fathers.

Within the last two months I have received several communications from emigrants to Kansas from Ohio, earnestly appealing for protection and aid. Of these appeals one was in the form of an affidavit from eleven citizens imprisoned under various charges at Lecompton. Ten of these prisoners, though formerly citizens of Ohio, are now residents in Kansas. The eleventh, an old man of seventy years, a soldier near half a century ago under Jackson, was still a citizen of Ohio, on a visit to some friends in the Territory. The real offense of all was the defense of Free State homes against Slave-State invasion. Their seizure, their imprisonment, their indictments, and their cruel treatment constitute a dark chapter in the dark history of wrong and outrage in Kansas.

On receiving this appeal I thought it right to address an earnest letter to Gov. Geary in behalf of the prisoners. I also sent for their immediate relief a sum of money contributed by private beneficence, which, however, failed to reach the destination in consequence of the necessary return of the gentleman to whom it was intrusted without having entered the Territory. It gives me pleasure to inform you that most of these prisoners have since escaped or have been acquitted. I am not aware that any of them yet remain in confinement.

Another of these communications comes from a Committee of Ohio settlers in Kansas, representing that the emigrants from Ohio number several hundred; that they emigrated to Kansas in the full faith of peace and protection; that they held no doctrines other than such as are common in Ohio; that, coming from a Free State and holding such sentiments, they are practically disfranchised by odious test oaths; that many of their number have been killed; many robbed; and all subjected to grievous indignities and injuries; that they have appealed in vain to the Federal Government for protection; and that the strife, which has at present ceased, may recommence at any moment when a new attempt shall be made to enforce the spurious code of an alien Legislature. In the event of a new outbreak, these settlers ask the protection of Ohio.

The other communications detail the circumstances of particular outrages.

These representations cannot be properly disregarded. As an equal member of the Confederacy, Ohio is entitled to demand for her citizens emigrating to the Territories, free ingress and egress by the ordinary routes, and complete protection from invasion, from usurpation, and from lawless violence. If the General Government refuse this protection, I cannot doubt the right or the duty of the State to intervene.

There are good grounds, however, for the hope that the worst is over in Kansas. From the Free-State Press of the Territory, and from other reliable sources, assurances are received that peace, order and security are reestablished, for the present at least, within its limits. Many of the most dangerous of the marauders have left the Territory, and a disposition is manifested by the present Territorial Governor, to respect and protect the rights of Free State settlers. There is reason to expect that the most obnoxious acts of the Pseudo-Legislature will be abrogated and that the bad design of the repeal of the Missouri Prohibition, will be defeated by the virtue and intelligence of the People.

Meanwhile there is much distress, occasioned by the civil disturbances, which requires relief. It is gratifying to observe that the propriety and duty of affording this relief is recognized by the humane and liberal of all parties. The people of Ohio will, I doubt not, approve whatever you may find it expedient and necessary to do in order to protect the emigrants from the suffering, disease, and death to which they are exposed.

Such, gentlemen are the views which I have thought it my duty to submit to you. I shall rejoice if they meet your approval and the approval of our common constituents. Should it be otherwise, I shall still rejoice if, supplying my defects and correcting my errors, your legislation shall be wiser and better than my suggestions. Among the States of the Union, Ohio holds no secondary place. Surpassed by many in extent and by two in population and wealth, she confesses inferiority to none in the elements which constitute the true greatness of a State. Great in power, and great in resources, she is greater still in her unsullied faith in her zeal for education, in her sympathy with suffering, in her fidelity to right, and in her devotion to liberty. These are the jewels in her crown of honor. Let it be our honorable ambition to preserve their brightness untarnished and undimmed.

NEGRO MARRIAGES.

From The Richmond Whig.

BERLIN, Va., Dec. 29, 1856.

To the Editor of The Whig.

DEAR SIR: Quite a novel marriage took place in our county on the 18th inst. The parties were free colored—William Diggs to Miss Clementine Nicholson, at the residence of the bride's mother, by the Rev. A. A. Drewry. The parties married were the elite of the colored aristocracy.

The bridegroom hired a fine carriage and horses, and was driven by a colored slave servant; accompanying the bridegroom were four buggies, each with a colored gentleman and lady. They were married about noon, and after partaking of a large dinner prepared by the mother of the bride, returned in the evening to the residence of the bridegroom's mother, where a large supper was furnished for the occasion. At the marriage, quite a large number of white persons were present of our most respectable citizens. Everything was conducted in fine order, and a great display of colored beauty was present.

The ladies (colored) were dressed in the most fashionable style, in white dresses, their heads dressed with large wreaths of flowers and ribbons, with white, silk, kid and colored gloves. The gentlemen, with their stand-up collars, silk and fancy neckties, gloves of various kinds, and a large boquet of ribbon attached to their left shoulders, composed of two long ribbons of white and blue, reaching down to the elbow.

At the supper, the party enjoyed themselves till late in plays of the old Virginia style, such as "going Boston," "Old Sister Phebe," "Susan in the Ring," &c., &c. After playing and enjoying themselves, the party dispersed in fine order, nothing occurring to mar or disturb them.

I have given you a mere outline of the wedding, and as there is now no political excitement in the country, and the columns, perhaps, of your valuable paper not being overfilled with matter, necessary to publish, I wish you would put this marriage in a "ship shape order," and publish the same.

Yours, &c.

The following description of a similar scene was sent to *The New-Orleans Bee* a few days ago by a lady, who is temporarily residing on a beautiful plantation near Augusta, Georgia:

"And after all I am beginning to be in favor of Slavery, as it is. In the beginning, England fastened the institution upon us, and it is true even Americans used to steal them, but that is past now, with the exception of traders from some of our ports who break the law to procure them for the Cuban market. It would seem to me that the captives bought of King Da Homey are better off even in Slavery than to undergo the killing and burning, and eating which they suffer there. Thousands are tortured to death for the mere amusement of the captors; and which is preferable? that they should remain in Africa in that way, or be brought to America—slaves it is true—but ten times more comfortable than any white servants in the North—nice houses to live in—plenty of clothing, and plenty to eat! It is only once in a while that you hear of slaves being abused, and the master of such slaves is despised and kicked out of society.

"A week ago yesterday I attended a party at 'R. H.' given to the slave bride and bridegroom of whom I wrote a week or two since. The servants were all dressed genteelly, and some of them elegantly. All were invited from this plantation. Middy, the mistress of the feast and housekeeper at the 'Hill,' wore a plain black silk. She did not think it *proper for the hostess to dress too much*. The rest were all very gaily attired, I wish you could have seen one of the guests from town, a *lady*, one of the *aristocracy*. She had a very large head, and a great deal of hair, puffed out to its utmost extent, and just at the back of the head a small *white* hat. She was arrayed in a very gay colored silk dress, and such tossings of the head, such airs and graces, I never saw. She was assisted from the *carriage* by two gentlemen of color taking her by the tips of the fingers, and escorting her to the reception room. I did not dare to laugh, for the yard was full of them, and they do not like it.

"The dinner-table was in one room, the dessert table in another. They had everything that was excellent, a dinner that you would not have objected to take part in. For dessert they had two bride's cakes, almonds, raisins, and every variety of pie.

"And THESE are the *poor, abused slaves* you read about! They come and go here when they please, keeping you waiting almost any given time before they answer a call, and are treated more like favored persons than inferiors. Oh! the poor, abused slaves! The case here is not an isolated one, but often occurs, and you may find them all over the State. Come and see us, and judge for yourself."

OFFICIAL VOTE OF TEXAS.—The official vote of Texas has all been received except for the counties of Tyler and El Paso. *The State Gazette* gives the following as the result:

Total vote for Buchanan	31,623
Total vote for Fillmore	15,739
Majority	15,884
Add Democratic majority in El Paso	1,000
Say for Tyler	200
Buchanan's majority in Texas	17,084
Total popular vote cast in Texas	48,562

Thirty-five policemen, most of them new appointments, were sworn into office yesterday.

INDUSTRIAL AND SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.

SEWING MACHINES.—Machinery for sewing has been introduced only within the last ten or twelve years, but is now availed of to a very great extent both in this country and in France. Great Britain is pretty much excluded from all the benefits of this invention by a kind of dog-in-the-manger policy of the holders of the first patent there. About 20,000 machines have been manufactured in the United States during the year just closed, and a still larger number will probably be produced during 1857. In this estimate we have included only those manufactured by the three great companies, viz: Wheeler, Wilson & Co., at Springfield, Mass.; Grover, Baker & Co., at Boston, and I. M. Singer & Co., in this city. Twenty-five or more workmen are employed in the construction of a single machine, each performing a distinct part of the labor, and the machines are turned out in a very high degree of mechanical perfection. The average value of the machines is about $100, so that the total production of this branch of industry at present reaches $2,000,000 annually. Grover, Baker & Co. employ, to a considerable extent, the cabinet-work cases patented by Ross & Marshall, of this city, which makes the machine an ornament and by no means the least really valuable ornament of the sitting-room.

PUMPING ENGINES.—A contract for the heaviest pumping machines ever made or used in America will soon be awarded by the parties engaged in pushing forward the Brooklyn Water Works. Twenty millions of gallons of water per day are to be hoisted 170 feet by steam. There are many plans before the Committee of Engineers employed to decide on the subject, some involving new and untried, and in some cases very unpromising devices, while others involve a degree of expense and magnificence too serious to be entertained. The fact is, American engineers, with all their smartness in some lines of business, do not seem to understand pumping water on a large scale. The very large, slow, single-acting engines and pumps in the mines at Cornwall, in Great Britain, are believed to be the most economical in the world; and although there exists in theory room for considerable improvement on these, with shame be it said, we cannot even imitate them. The proportion of water raised to the coal burned varies, of course, with the hight to which it is to be raised; but reducing the effect in all cases to that of lifting water only one foot, the Cornish engines, in Cornwall, lift from 75 to 100 millions, and in some cases as high as 125 million pounds of water per pound of coal burned, while the latest and, we think, the best of our American imitations is that at Belleville, which raises the water for Jersey City, and attains a duty of 52 millions. American designers of steam engines and pumps must rub up their ideas.

BREAK-DOWNS ON MARINE STEAMERS.—The breaking of shafts, or other principal parts on steamships, is not as unusual an occurrence as many suppose. The disabling of the Atlantic a few years ago, and the more recent accidents to the Tennessee, and Hermann, as also to the English steamer America, the French steamer Vigo, and sundry others of less note, have attracted especial attention, because the delay was especially important, giving rise to apprehensions for their safety, or the like; but whether common or rare they are due in almost every case to the furious struggles of the engine in a gale. The "marine engine-governor," by Thomas Silver, a most effectual preventive of all this, cannot be too soon known and adopted. This governor is of no effect except when—by reason of the wheels being thrown out of water by the receding of the wave—the engine is tempted to turn too fast, when it immediately shuts off and reduces its speed. The breakages occur in consequence of the momentum of the parts when not thus controlled. With both wheels whirling very rapidly, if one only is plunged suddenly into the water and checked the other acts like a fly-wheel, and, aided by the ever active engines in the center, twists off the shaft.

EXHIBITIONS OF INVENTIONS.—Halls for the exhibition of models, &c., of inventions appear to be springing up simultaneously in all our principal cities, but we have not learned with what success. At Philadelphia, in addition to several previously advertised, Thomas M. Cash, an enterprising railroad supply agent, announces such a repository in connection with his establishment, at No. 22 Walnut street. At Boston a large concern, comprising two halls, each 210 feet long and 50 wide, at the corner of Lincoln and Essex streets, is now nearly ready to receive goods. In this city, on Broadway, a few doors above Niblo's, two very fine rooms are already prepared, with the intention of making it, by its extremely favorable location the principal exhibition of the kind in the country. Both this and the Boston concern charge a small rent to exhibitors, but this is announced as free to visitors, although we predict that it will be expedient very soon to charge a dime or half dime for admission.

WATER-PROOF FABRICS.—Cloth may yet be fabricated which will behave like ordinary goods in every other respect, but will resist the penetrating action of rain. Such has in some degree been done by Dr. B. Wiegert of Hoboken, N. J., who obtained a patent last Summer for his process. Dr. W.'s method is something like the French water-proof article described some months ago, but employs additional materials. Dr. W. mixes sugar of lead with alum, both dissolved in water; sulphate of lead forms and settles, and the remainder he terms acetate of alumina, and is drawn off and mixed with a solution of soap, glue and alum and in this mixture the fabrics to be treated are simply dipped, and manipulated until thoroughly wet, after which they are dried and smoothed. Water certainly exhibits a strong reluctance to penetrate the pores of such goods, and although it flow through quite freely after the cloth is wet, the interstices of the cloth assume again their repellant quality as soon as the cloth is dry.

CORN-HUSKER.—John Taggert and L. A. Grover of Roxbury, Mass., have patented, and are introducing a machine which at a moderate cost, seems well designed to strip the husks from Indian corn very rapidly and effectually. The husks are loosened by sawing off the but of the cob so close as to graze and perhaps nearly destroy the first row of the grain, and the loose husks are then readily removed by teeth projecting up through a grate on which the ears fall. The ears in their natural state are seized and carried through very rapidly and quietly; and the power for the whole is supplied, though we should judge by rather too great exertion, by the foot of the operator. Even allowing a man or a boy to turn a crank, it will evidently be a very great saving of labor.

INTERNAL CARRYING BUSINESS OF RUSSIA.—Railroads are almost a new thing in Russia, a fact partly due, no doubt, to the cheapness of carrying on common roads. This is so great that teas and other light goods are transported on sledges and wheel carriages with profit from China to Moscow direct, in preference to being shipped by sea. The facilities for postal intercourse and transportation of goods throughout the whole of Liberia have been attended to with great care, and carrying passengers and goods, almost invariably at a high speed, seems to be the business of a large proportion of the inhabitants of some sections. Trains of fifty sledges each, with a single horse, are frequently driven in Indian file by a very few drivers, each animal being induced to adhere to the path by a knowledge of a quantity of provender stored for him in the rear of sledge immediately preceding him.

CAR SPRINGS.—The great question with regard to what is the best and cheapest spring to soften the motion of railroad cars, seems to have been answered by the success of the conical volute steel spring made in this city by machinery, invented by P. G. Gardiner. The steel in this spring is coiled up like a ribbon and occupies far less space than the old-fashioned elliptic, while it is far more durable than India-rubber.

CROCKETT'S TAN FURNACE.—Mr. —— Crockett, a tanner at Newark, N. J., burns wet tan for heating his steam-boilers, and is enabled to consume it with great profit by simply constructing the furnace so that it is at considerable distance from the boilers and connected by a flue of brick-work. The great heat in the furnace decomposes the water contained in the tan, and the whole is burned under such conditions that the presence of the water is believed to be no damage, but rather a benefit to the fire, as it promotes its cleanliness and avoids the obstruction of the draught which accrues from the presence of fine material when perfectly loose.

CONSTRUCTION STOPPED.—The construction of the mammoth cotton mill, 960 feet long, near Norwich, Conn., which we noticed some months since as having been commenced by the late Wm. Sprague, ex-Governor of Rhode Island, has, since his decease, been temporarily, and, we presume, finally abandoned.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.—About 600 piano-fortes per week are produced in the United States, of which about 200 are made in the vicinity of Boston. The total manufacture of musical instruments in Massachusetts amounts to $2,295,680 per annum.

LIST OF PATENTS.

Issued from the United States Patent Office for the week ending Dec. 23, 1856—all bearing that date.

HAND PRINTING PRESS—Platt Evens, jr., of Cincinnati, Ohio.
ARRANGEMENT OF RAILROAD PLATFORM SCALES—Les Pasey of Downington, Penn.
FOUNTAIN PEN—A. F. Warren of Brooklyn, N. Y.
MACHINES FOR FEEDING PAPER TO PRINTING PRESSES—Moses S. Beach of Brooklyn, N. Y.

IMPROVED

MODE OF SECURING BRACES IN THE SNATH OF A GRAIN CRADLE—Wm. W. Bryan of Schaghticoke, N. Y.
PORTABLE FIELD FENCE—Wm. B. Burnett of Lyons, N. Y.
SPRING HINGE—John T. Gartick of New-York, N. Y.
HOOP EXPANDER—C. B. Galentine, Samuel Galentine and Andrew J. Russell of Nunda, N. Y.
MACHINE FOR POINTING SHOE-PEGS—Jesse Ladd of Holderness, N. H.
DOOR FASTENER—James Lefort of Wytheville, Va.
DEVICE FOR OPERATING FLUID METERS BY HAND—Wm. Mason of Weston, Mass.
MODE OF CONNECTING SHAFTS WITH THE AXLETREES—Alfred E. Smith of Brookville, N. Y.
METHOD OF HANGING RECIPROCATING GIG SAWS—John Stowell of Charlestown, Mass.
MACHINE FOR TRIMMING BOLTS—Wm. Hannah of Middlesex, N. Y., assignor to L. H. Bowen and Wm. Hannah aforesaid.
MACHINE FOR CUTTING VENEERS FROM THE LOG—Joseph H. Goodell of Bridgeport, Conn.
METHOD OF ADJUSTING THE BITS OF CARPENTERS' PLANES—Thos. D. Worrall of Lowell, Mass.

IMPROVEMENTS

IN PLOWS—Jonathan Adams of Eatonton, Ga.
IN CIDER MILL—Harry Abbott of Huron, N. Y.
IN STEAM BOILERS—John Armstrong of New-Orleans, La.
IN PRINTING PRESSES—G. H. Babcock of Westerly, R. I.
IN MACHINERY FOR FOLDING PAPER—Chauncey O. Crosby of New Haven, Conn.
IN ROTARY EGG BEATERS—Ralph Collier of Baltimore, Md., assignor to Alfred H. Relp and Ralph Collier of same place.
IN STOVES AND FURNACES—Theodore Cook of Springfield, Mass.
IN MACHINE FOR CUTTING INDIA RUBBER THREAD—Henry Davenport of New-York, N. Y.
IN LOOMS—Andrew L. Fuller of Clinton, Mass.
IN MOWING MACHINES—Andrew M. Hall of West Falmouth, Me.
IN TRIMMING CARD CLOTHING—Edward B. Howe of Lowell, Mass.
IN BEDSTEAD FASTENINGS—Sandy Harris of Philadelphia, Penn.
IN PLOWS—Jacob Heckendorn of Elkton, Md.
IN PAPER PULP ENGINE—Joseph Kingsland, jr., of Franklin, N. J.
IN HEMP BREAKES—Edward W. Lacy of Oak Park, Va.
IN SEWING MACHINES—William R. Laudlear of Manchester, Conn.
IN BLACKSMITH CRANE—Wm. Maher of Slack, Ky.
IN THE MANUFACTURE OF HOSIERY—Wm. H. McNary of Brooklyn, N. Y.
IN HOT AIR FURNACE—John H. H. Perkins of Utica, N. Y.
IN BREECH-LOADING FIRE-ARMS—Hermann Schroeder, Louis Salewski and Wm. Schmidt of Bloomington, Ill.
IN SHIRTS—Seligman H. Strouse and Joseph Strouse of New-York, N. Y.
IN TINNERS' SHEARS—Levi Skeels of Ostrander, Ohio.
IN CORN-SHELLERS—Edgar M. Stevens of Boston, Mass.
IN TRUSS PADS—Sylvester J. Sherman of New-York, N. Y.
IN PREPARING VEGETABLE FIBERS FOR STUFFING MAT