KANSAS.

ITEMS OF NEWS.

From Our Special Correspondent.

LECOMPTON, K. T., April 8, 1857.

OFFICIAL MURDER.—I have just heard of the shooting and death of a Free-State man named Martin Kline, at a place between this point and Leavenworth. The murder, being "official," is of course a "Law and Order" transaction. The individual who performed this "National Democratic" service for the Pro-Slavery party, is a man named Merrill Smith. He is, or pretends to be, Deputy Sheriff of Leavenworth County. The deceased was arrested last Fall on the charge of being at the battle of Hickory Point. Then nothing could be proved against him, and he was discharged. He was not really present at that time. A warrant had been issued against him on which he was charged with horse-stealing. The stealing was alleged to have been done at the time of the Hickory Point affair, but, I have no doubt, was also untrue. The probabilities are that some of his Pro-Slavery neighbors dislike him, or want his claim. Deputy Sheriff Smith tried to make the arrest on Sunday. As if still further to show his contempt for everything sacred, he waited until his victim was in attendance on religious services. Being evidently bent on mischief, he took a "posse" with him, who, no doubt, felt themselves authorized to disturb the public worship of "Abolitionists." The warrant was read in church. No doubt this is part of the services of the "Democratic" religion professed by the *Rev.* Martin White. Mr. Kline refused to go with the Deputy Sheriff then, but expressed a willingness to do so on Monday, or any week day. On his persisting in his refusal Smith drew his revolver and commenced firing at Kline. He discharged every barrel of his pistol. One of his "posse" fired a couple of times. By one or both he was mortally wounded, as he had several severe wounds. He has since died. The house was crowded, and the incident occurred during service. Luckily, no other person was shot. As Smith and his band of miscreants were the only persons who appeared to be armed, they made good their retreat. I would commend the claims of this man Smith to the consideration of Mr. Buchanan. Had he merely murdered a Free-State man, he might have been entitled to no more than the immunities of carrying on such a pleasant pastime; but his violation of an "Abolition" sanctuary, his delicate perception of the proper day to make arrests, and the fact of his firing resolutely in among a crowd of unarmed Free-State men and women, all point him out as a fit subject for Executive reward. He is almost as meritorious as Emery, and the services of *Mayor* Murphy pale before him.

AMUSEMENT OF THE LECOMPTONITES.—There are various ways by which the Law-and-Order men of this place vary the monotony of the present comparative peace. Two men are confined here on a charge of murder. One of them, a person named Wright, who has a claim near the Wakerusa, was brought here two days ago by the indignant and suspicious neighbors. Another man, his neighbor and friend, had sold his claim for a few hundred dollars and disappeared. The neighbors were suspicious. A search was made, and the body of a murdered man found, supposed to be the absentee. Several circumstances seemed to attach suspicion to Wright. He protested his innocence, but was seized and carried to Lecompton. As he was a Free-State man, he was taken and committed. Hearing that an Abolitionist murderer was in jail, a crowd of Lecompton loafers paid him a visit for the purpose of amusing themselves. They told him they had come to hang him; and as their past course rendered such a spontaneous exercise of judicial might at least probable, the unfortunate wretch was beside himself with fear. Tearful and fearful he protested his entire innocence, and besought them at least to let him have a trial. They told him no, and placing a cord round his neck, threw it over one of the joists of the miserable frame shanty used for a prison. The blasphemous wretches told him to pray. Trembling and protesting his innocence, the poor wretch knelt and poured out his agony in a supplication—in an agony of fear. Imagine the delight of the Border-Ruffian spectators. Fancy Nero tickling his sentimental vision with the expiring throb of a dying gladiator, or a Caligula listening to the music of the dying Christians' scream as the wild beasts sprung upon them, and you can realize the exquisite delight of our Lecomptonites.

I passed close to the building during these performances, and saw the man on his knees, and heard the shout and laughter, but thought it was merely some drunken frolic, and went on. Learning the facts from a young man I went down. The house was cleared when I got back. No one was in it but the two prisoners, and two men guarding the door. In answer to my inquiries, the latter informed me, with vehement protestations, that the report was false. I had seen enough myself to know that this was false, and I have since learned that it was too true. Wright was bound and lying prostrate on the floor of the building in evident exhaustion. The other prisoner had his hands tied, and was pacing backward and forward like a hyena in a cage. Poor fellow, he is insane. There is no doubt but this man took the life of another in a frightful manner, but it was an idiot's wildness. This Winter he had been found by Captain Prather in a perishing condition, his mind evidently disturbed. As he seemed to be harmless, he was kindly cared for, but in a moment of idiotic fury he chopped an unfortunate man named Hopper to death. He now has a wild, haggard look. He has made his escape from custody once or twice, but does not go away. He got out two nights ago, and was found in the morning sitting on the stones that form the foundation of the future capital of Kansas.

THE DELAWARE LANDS.—It is still reported here that no part of the lands will be sold, and that Robinson, the Indian Agent, will drive off all settlers in a few days. As the people hereabouts have not given up the hope of holding it, I receive this statement with grains of allowance. The remainder of the Delaware Trust lands will be sold here in June. The Land-Office will be open for preëmption on Monday for all the Government lands except the portion ceded by the Shawnees, which includes all the portion south of the Kaw River, from the Shawnee Reserve to Council Grove, and twenty-five miles wide.

I hear a rumor that Col. Lane has been arrested at the town of Atchison. I do not believe it. Some persons were set up here for the arms taken by Col. Cooke from the Eldridge train last Fall, under Gov. Geary's orders. I believe the parties who came for them had an order from Gov. Geary, which has been sent up here by Mr. Thaddeus Hyatt to the brother-in-law of Gov. Geary, who is still here. The arms were delivered, and were taken away in wagons quietly, without exciting observation. The cannon taken by the troops with the men captured at Hickory Point, has been here on the Capitol Hill all Winter, but lately it has disappeared. The Law-and-Order men here have hidden it.

The weather has been cool. Emigrants still arrive, but not so numerously. Breadstuffs and everything else are rising. The Missouri River is reported as being quite high for the season, having risen rapidly of late. It will be in good stage now till midsummer.

GREAT FREE-STATE VICTORY IN LEAVENWORTH CITY.

ARRIVAL OF STANTON—HIS RECEPTION AND SPEECH.

Correspondence Chicago Tribune.

LEAVENWORTH CITY, K. T., April 13, 1857.

Three times three for Leavenworth City! a thousand cheers for the success of the Free-State ticket, and the election, decided and triumphant, of Henry J. Adams. Leavenworth stands redeemed in the eyes of the nation. Her voice rings out in clarion tones for Free Kansas—for Free Labor; her honor is vindicated, her mettle proved, and her position established. The "reign of terror" is over, and the reign of peace inaugurated. The importance of this Free-State victory, insignificant as it may appear in its immediate results, can scarcely be over-estimated. In the evidence it furnishes that Freedom has triumphed in this stronghold of Border-Ruffianism, in the confidence it will inspire in the hearts of the Free-State men throughout the length and breadth of the Territory, in the effect it will have upon Congress and the country at large, it assumes a magnitude and importance almost incalculable.

As when of old the oracle at Delphi spoke favorably of successful enterprises and victorious exploits, the warriors and soldiers felt animated by a confidence in success and victory; so now, as the oracle at Leavenworth has sent forth tidings of good cheer, will it inspire the Free-State men of Kansas with new hope for the future. Since the settlement of the Territory every election in this city has been carried, through fraud and violence, by the Border Ruffians. Packs of ragged and dirty hounds, imported from Missouri, have stuffed the ballot-boxes with illegal votes, and openly violated the most sacred of all our rights and privileges—the elective franchise. The streets have been filled with these boozy invaders, loaded down with revolvers and picking their teeth with bowie knives, while the honest and actual residents have been driven from their homes and exposed to every species of insult and indignity.

But, at last, a purification has been effected, and the citizens of Leavenworth have taken the reins of the city government out of horse-stealing and man-shooting hands, and placed them under the control and management of as true a man as ever stood on this soil.

The pro-slavery partizans are "ramping mad," furiously excited, awful profane, and shockingly inebriated. They maintain, and with much truth, that the success of the Free State ticket kills all their hopes, and annihilates every prospect of future success. They consider themselves completely "used up," but they die hard, and submit to it as honest a verdict as was ever rendered, with anything but grace. The poor devils, in their agony and despair, are almost objects of pity and commiseration. I would suggest the propriety of their drowning both their grief and bodies in the Missouri, but that it is desirable to keep the water as free from additional filth as possible.

The Pro-Slavery party had two nominees in the field, but Mr. Adams out-stripped them both. The vote stood:

	Adams.	Taylor.	Shannon.
First Ward	132	10	54
Second Ward	158	19	39
Total	546	29	133
	162		29
Majority	184	Total	162

This handsome majority was also obtained in spite of a so-called enactment, dug up from the bogus Legislature records, of which a six months' residence was required in the city as a qualification for a voter. This cut off a large Free State vote which has come into the Territory since Spring.

During the day an attempt was made by a squad of ruffians to disturb the quiet of the election. The leader—glorying in the name of "Jim Murphy"—insulted a Free-State man, who drove the braggart from the polls. This same Murphy subsequently got up another crowd, and when the polls were closed and the Free-State men at dinner, fell upon a Mr. Mitchell, whom they pounded barbarously. This created an intense excitement, revolvers peeped from every breast or belt, and it would have taken but the slightest aggravation to arouse a terrible commotion. The Free-State men stood to their posts like old Castilians, and the glorious result of this good day's work will be long and widely felt.

ARRIVAL AND SPEECH OF MR. STANTON.

Mr. Stanton, Secretary of the Territory under Walker, and acting Governor during Walker's absence, arrived in the city to-day, and delivered an address to the people, in opening which he announced himself as a native of Virginia and a resident of Tennessee, and then very coolly informed his hearers that they might judge from this fact "of his proclivities." He thought that the Free-State people were making a great mistake in not voting for Congressional Delegates, and further, that the Constitution there adopted would pass Congress. He deeply regretted the disturbances that had occurred in the Territory, and hoped that there would be no further trouble, but maintained that the laws of the Territorial Legislature must be enforced. Mr. Stanton is a fine looking man, and, it is said, means to do about right; but the Free-State men are greatly disappointed in his speech, which betrayed, so they think, an unaccountable ignorance of Kansas affairs and a hostility to the Free-State cause. I will take occasion to see Mr. Stanton and endeavor to learn his views and policy more distinctly.

It may be mentioned as a singular fact in connection with Mr. Stanton, that he followed Dr. Stringfellow, who delivered a pre-eminently Pro-Slavery address, holding that he had, as a National Democrat, two great objects in view—the first to do all in his power to make Kansas a Slave State, and failing in this, to make it a Democratic Free State, which is about the same thing.

HOW SCROGGS COOLED DOWN.

A Pro-Slavery individual by the name of Scroggs got excited a few days since and marched about the streets with a loaded double-barreled shot-gun, swearing that he would exterminate the whole race of d—d Abolitionists. Mr. Haller, a glorious young Buckeye, took a revolver, and catching old Scroggs by the collar, ordered him about his business. Scroggs didn't like the looks of either Haller or his revolver, and promised to be very good and quiet if his life was spared. In fact, the fire-eaters are modifying their tone amazingly, and quite a number of former Pro-Slavery men are becoming in favor of making Kansas a Free State. They see that the best interests of the Territory can only be subserved in this way. Never was the Free State party stronger or in better spirits than at present.

FREE-STATE MAN MURDERED.

Felix Brandon, a Free-State man, recently located a claim in the Delaware Lands, above Grasshopper Falls, whereon he built a cabin and made other improvements. On Monday evening last he was sleeping in a tent with a companion when some murderous scoundrels shot through the canvas and killed him instantly. The gentleman who was sleeping with the murdered man, saw some five men making off in the distance, but was unable to distinguish any of them. The murder created great excitement in the neighborhood and attempts have been made to secure the murderers, but as it is only a Free-State man that has been shot, I don't suppose the Government will think it worth the while to endeavor to make arrests.

THE MISSOURIANS DAGUERREOTYPED.

I have taken occasion of late to visit some of the border towns in Missouri, and inspect the inhabitants. They are a queer looking set, slightly resembling human beings, but more closely allied, in general appearance, to wild beasts. An old rickety straw hat, ragged shirt, buttonless corduroys with a leather belt and a coarse pair of mud-covered boots constitute a "full dress." They never shave or comb their hair, and their chief occupation is loafing around whisky shops, squirting tobacco juice and whittling with a dull jack knife. They drink whisky for a living, and sleep on dry goods boxes—are all "National Democrats," and delight in robbing hen-roosts, and pilfering from Free-State men. They generally carry a huge bowie knife and a greasy pack of cards, and expatiate at length on their exploits in Kansas among the d—d Abolitionists. They are generally about six feet high, spindle-shanked and slab-sided. It would be an insult to the brute creation to call them brutes, although it must be confessed that there seems to be no little congeniality between them and the "porkers," so much so, indeed, that they frequently spend the night in close proximity, in some convenient mud-hole. Their conversation is interspersed with original oaths, and generally ends in a free-fight. They are "down on" schools, churches and printing offices, and revel in ignorance and filth. After visiting them, one cannot but feel the truth of the doctrine of total depravity, so far as it applies to parts of the human family.

It almost makes a person blush to think that our Government should cater to such a set of specious scamps, and indorse them in the outrages and crimes they have perpetrated upon the fortunes and lives of the intelligent and industrious Free-State residents of Kansas. Wonder if it wouldn't be a good idea for Frank Pierce, who is in want of a congenial home, to take up his residence among them. They would follow him devotedly, and, benefitting by his experience, he could make profitable sorties in Kansas and acquire considerable plunder.

COL. JIM. LANE.

Among the Border Ruffians "Jim. Lane" is a perfect terror. Breathe his name and they turn deadly pale. Sound his approach and they beat a retreat. To their diseased imaginations he appears as the embodiment and incarnation of all that is to be dreaded and avoided. Lane is at present in the Territory, engaging in speculations and endeavoring to interest the people in some projected railroad enterprise. He was at Atchison recently, and stopped with Dr. Stringfellow, who resides in the town. Their meeting partook of the character of the meeting between Coriolanus and Aufidius, if we may believe general report, though unlike that meeting in the fact that both Stringfellow and Lane were desirous of burying the hatchet, and living in peace.

A new Free-State paper is to be started soon at Lawrence—the need of which many assert to have existed for a long time.

The weather in this vicinity has been exceedingly unpleasant of late, and the Spring is very backward, more so than has been known for many years. The emigration increases rather than diminishes, and every boat to this point is loaded down with freight and passengers.

DISCOVERIES IN THE GALENA LEAD MINES.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

GALENA, Illinois, April 10, 1857.

During the past Winter there have been several very valuable "leads" struck in these mines. At Shurborough, on Capt. Esty's ground, there has been a fine "discovery," and the Hempstead diggings yield well. But the largest lead (or more properly lode) which has ever been discovered in the mines is about ten miles from this city, near Hazel Green. It is considered good for *six millions* of pounds of mineral. The fortunate discoverer, who is an Englishman by the name of Mills, can take one hundred thousand dollars for his "show" as it stands. With the exception of some twenty-two hundred pigs shipped at Dubuque, Galena will send off this year nearly the entire product of the Galena mines. MINER.

THE VIRGINIA COLONIZING SCHEME.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: My object in writing is to give my mite, in hope of eliciting other information from other men who may know more upon the subject. Soon after the war of 1812, the project of establishing colonies of New-England men in Western Virginia was started, and a large company was formed in Eastern Massachusetts for the purpose. Among those who took an active part was my grandfather, then a resident of one of the small towns near Boston. He went twice to the lands purchased, lying in what now constitutes Randolph and Lewis Counties, built a saw-mill upon one of the streams, and spent much time and money for himself and for the Company. But it proved to be upon the wrong side of the Ohio River. The colonists on the Virginia side could make no headway. They were cheated in the matter of recording their deeds; they were thrown into constant litigation by the action of the Governor, who gave *quitclaim* patents to whoever applied, oftentimes to the same tract over and over again. Taxes were increased and multiplied, nothing done to aid in opening roads, no assistance given but rather obstacles thrown in the way by the Legislature of those who desired to make the south side of the river flourish, as the Ohio side had even then begun to do. The consequence was that after a long and vain struggle, when the State had got all she could out of the "Yankees," they were obliged to give up their project.

In 1836, I went thither in company with another man, in whose family was also a claim to a very large tract of land, some 75 miles from the Ohio, and near the Great Kenawha, and a legal gentleman of the Boston Bar, to see how the matter then stood. We examined the registers in Richmond, and afterward those in the offices of the counties in which our claims lay. We found patents upon some of these lands, signed by "Robert Brooke, Governor," actually to the number of five and six deep. We found also at Clarksburg and other places in the vicinity, men who called themselves agents of the old companies, and who had bills against them for services rendered (!) in taking care of the property (!), amounting to far more than the entire value of the lands. The result was, that after spending weeks of time, and any quantity of money—for every examination at the court-houses and registories, wassomehow made to cost us lucre—we gave the matter up as a bad job, and to this day laugh when we think of our greenness in supposing that the Ancient Dominion, the Mother of Presidents, would condescend to make any provision for doing justice to the heirs of those who, in good faith, had bought and paid the cash for her wild lands.

Of course I felt some interest in the matter, enough to cause me to keep in some degree the run of legislation, and of executive orders in relation to those lands. The State inaugurated a system of turnpikes, canals and railroads, which were to open the paradise of her western section—for in sundry thousands of miles of travel in the United States and in Europe, Western Virginia seems to me the loveliest land I ever saw—and make a grand source of wealth. Whether these internal improvements are finished and *paid for* the public knows pretty well! Then came the sale of lands for taxes, with all sorts of contradictory regulations as to the right of redemption, and great land sales took place. In the Spring of 1852 I was again in that region, and stopping at Marietta, Ohio, a short time, I became acquainted with a gentleman from near Portsmouth, Va., who had obtained possession of large tracts of those old lands and, as he hoped, held good titles to the same. I laid before him a plan of colonization, with which he seemed much struck—one which had occurred to me in my foot journeys among the common people of the Rhine region, in Germany. The fact, however, that the result would be a colony of free laborers—though, as he assured me, just what he could wish personally—would probably be an insuperable objection to carrying out the project.

Some months later, one of the first geologists of the country did me the honor to call upon me in relation to a similar project. He had just returned from a survey of a large tract of the best coal lands of the State, and one which was readily accessible by water communication. The question was as to the feasibility of colonizing the tract, if a company could secure a valid title—a warrantee from the State—of which, in that case it was thought there could be no doubt.

The plan which I proposed was, as soon as the title was secured, to bring on lumbermen from the East and clear away the timber from the south and south-western sides of the mountains, and lay open the spots best fitted for cultivation. Something certainly might be done in this way with the lumber, which is very much wanted in places now by railroad and the rivers of easy access from the Virginia rivers, to reimburse the expense of opening roads and preparing lands for another class of laborers. This second class should be composed of vine dressers, agriculturists and the necessary mechanics, brought from the wine-producing parts of Germany. In the Summer of 1854, I was again upon the Rhine, and made inquiries as to the practicability of securing emigrants for such a colony, upon the plan of granting them small farms in fee simple, retaining the right of mining in the hands of the company, and a certain share of the produce of the vintages, for a term of years. The result of my inquiries was favorable. It would be useless to follow out the plan into detail, for however practicable it might be in Free States, is there any possibility that it could be made successful in one cursed with the rule of the Slavocracy?

Had Virginia a democratic, or really republican Constitution, there might be hope. But where a State is divided into three sections, as is Virginia, and each section is allowed a fixed and determinate number of members of the Legislature, no matter what the rate of population be, it is clear that the ruling section, which is the East, the seat of the slave-power, can checkmate any movement, however sagacious, on the part of those who would colonize the Western section with free labor. So far as I am informed, the only rock on which the proposed company was wrecked, was the political, Pro-Slavery, and anti-enterprising character of the ruling section of the proud State, which is soon to sell her free-black population—possibly to pay her honest debts—though there is little hope of this.

"History is philosophy teaching by example." Future generations, when they turn over the pages of history for examples of unmitigated municipal and civil rascality, will point to the governments of the State of California, the City of New-York, and the tender care of Pierce and Buchanan for Kansas; Mississippi repudiation will be another name through all time for swindling; but for threadbare pride and vanity-out-at-elbows, Virginia will stand until the last trump sounds, like Lot's wife, an unsavory monument.

A. W. T.

EAST TENNESSEE.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

CHARLESTON, E. Tenn., April 7, 1857.

This morning, at sunrise, the thermometer indicated a temperature eight degrees below the freezing point, and a heavy frost covered the fields, making havoc of the vegetables which the genial temperature of February and March had invited to an early appearance. Won't this little sample of Winter do pretty well for the "Sunny South"—and in April, too? Yesterday morning we were surprised to find a mantle of snow covering the landscape, the storm of the preceding day having changed during the night from a warm southerly rain to a biting "norther." It is believed that this "killing frost" has made an untimely end of fruit-germs, and our chance for peaches the coming Summer is therefore rather unpromising.

The season has been an unusually backward one, with cold northerly winds, and the corn-planting has hardly commenced. East Tennessee is the granary of the South, wheat and corn being the great agricultural staples. The product of wheat is estimated to exceed three millions of bushels in the thirty counties comprising the portion of the State so designated; while of Indian corn, there is probably a still larger quantity grown. The early harvest gives the farmer the top of the market for wheat in the Northern markets, which renders it the most profitable crop. The soil would yield largely in cotton and tobacco, but these crops are seldom grown. The plantation of Major Mee, one of the largest in the Cha-da-tee Valley, is 500 acres in extent. He has about 150 acres sown in wheat, and will plant as many in corn, and is esteemed one of the best agriculturists in this part of the country. Land which would scarcely find purchasers a dozen years ago at $10 an acre, though fertile, are now held at from $40 to $60. This appreciation in value has resulted from the construction of railroads, which now open the whole valley to the best markets of the Union.

The country is well timbered, though not heavily, with oak, hickory, poplar, gum, locust, pine, &c. Coal, however, can be brought from the Cumberland Mountains by water to Charleston, a small village on the Hiewasse River, four miles distant from this point. The Hiewassee is navigable for small boats forty or fifty miles above its junction with the Tennessee, but, from the lack of enterprise, no steamer yet enlivens its waters.

A railroad is talked of to connect the copper mines of Ducktown with the East Tennessee and Georgia road. Such an enterprise would give immense impetus and value to these mines, but it is not one that promises an early completion. Things move more slowly here than in the more densely populated and active North. An infusion of Yankee go-ahead-ativeness would greatly advance the material progress of the South, and East Tennessee offers an inviting as well as a profitable field for its development. The railroad from Cleveland, our county town, to Chattanooga, about 30 miles in length, is in rapid progress, which will give us more direct communication with the South-west, and bring the coal-fields almost to our doors.

A new work on the Geology of Tennessee is in press and will shortly be issued, at Knoxville. The author is Dr. R. O. Currey, a gentleman well qualified for the task. I shall have an early copy, and may send you some extracts illustrating the mineral wealth of Tennessee, so little known to the world, but of unequaled richness in many of the most valuable metals.

J. W.

LANDS IN MINNESOTA.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: The impression prevails to some extent, that the late grant of lands to Minnesota for the construction of railroads, in connection with the order of the General Land Office closing the local offices, will prevent pre-emptions upon the public lands in this Territory. This impression is incorrect. The right of pre-emption, at $1 25 an acre, will attach to all of these lands, "*until the lines or routes of the several roads are definitely fixed.*" This will make necessary an extra session of our Legislature, for which no call is yet made. It is safe to say that the coming Spring and Summer emigration will have ample time to secure and settle upon their claims before the railroad companies will have selected their lands. After such selections are made, the alternate sections designated by even numbers within six miles on each side of the lines of the roads will be subject to pre-emption at $2 50 an acre. Those seeking Western homes can now find them in Minnesota, with the certainty of immediate connection by railroads with the East.

Respectfully, S. P. JONES.

Rochester, Minnesota, April 1, 1857.

TENNESSEE.—The Democratic Convention of Tennessee have nominated Hon. Isham G. Harris for Governor of that State.

The Know-Nothing Congressional Convention for Nashville district, nominated Gustavus A. Henry, anti-Kansas-Nebraska, as their candidate for Congress.

The Beatty Guard, Capt. Charles S. Fox, and the Isaac Edge, jr. Guard, Capt. James Wakefield, of Jersey City, will unite in the parade to-day in New-York.

CORONER'S INQUEST ON FOUR PERSONS—SINGULAR CIRCUMSTANCES.—Coroner Madden was yesterday called upon to repair to Petersburgh, in the eastern part of this county, to hold an inquest on the bodies of four persons who were found dead on Williamstown Mountain, about half a mile from the Massachusetts line. The Coroner found, on his arrival at Petersburgh, the bodies of four persons, whose names, respectively, were Amasa Blew and his wife Hannah Blew—apparently 40 years of age; Taut Curtiss (colored) and her son Henry Curtiss—the woman 35 or 40, and her son 10 years old. These persons were found lying together in the open air on the summit of the mountain on Sunday morning. Life was entirely extinct, and their limbs were frozen stiff. They were seen in Petersburgh on Friday afternoon, and to pass along the road leading to the mountain toward nightfall. It appeared on the Coroner's investigation, that the deceased persons lived in Williamstown Massachusetts," and followed the business of basket-making for a living. They had come over to Petersburgh to sell their baskets to farmers and others in the vicinity. Before they left on their return they had disposed of most of their stock, and it was in evidence that previous to their leaving they had bought three bottles of whisky of a tavern-keeper in Petersburgh. When found, two of the bottles were empty. It was first supposed that the deceased persons had been poisoned; but it was the unanimous opinion of physicians and others at the inquest, that *they were all frozen to death!* The snow was a foot and a half deep on the mountain, and in different places there were snow-drifts six and eight feet high. The Coroner's Jury returned the following verdict:

"That said persons came to their death by drinking ardent spirits, getting intoxicated, and freezing, by being exposed to the weather on the Williamstown mountain."

The Williamsburgh authorities were notified on Sunday of the circumstances of the case, and some of them appeared to take a view of the bodies. They however declined to have anything to do with them. The Petersburgh people will bury the bodies to-day at 10 o'clock a. m., from the Baptist Church.

The Coroner relates one fact which must be passed to the credit of the canine race. Attached to the company of basket-makers was a faithful dog, that was found lying between the dead bodies. He fought with desperation the persons who came to take the bodies away, and when he could do no more, he followed the corpses to Petersburgh, and insisted upon being near them. With the basket-makers was found a quantity of cold victuals, of which the dog refused to partake of a morsel; but other food being offered him, he devoured the same with the avidity of a starveling. The dog was given by Coroner Madden to B. B. Hewitt, esq., overseer of the poor of the town.

[Troy Daily Whig.

EXCITEMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA.—On the night of the 18th inst., at Charlottesville, two of the students of the University of Virginia, one named Baxter from Georgia, and the other Martin of Virginia, having knocked at the door of a grocery store kept by an Italian named Manoni, were fired upon by one of the inmates from the second story and both wounded—Baxter slightly and Martin severely, though not dangerously. What subsequently ensued is thus narrated in a letter to *The Alexandria Gazette*, dated the 19th:

"This morning a large crowd of students collected at Manoni's store, and searched throughout, but found no one except the clerk, from whom nothing concerning the shooting could be gotten. About an hour after that another search was made, and Manoni and his brother—the latter of whom fired the gun—were found under a bed in the back part of the house. They were immediately bound, and though many were for hanging, and some for tar and feathering, it was decided to flog them both severely and drive them from the county. As soon as it was determined to flog them, they were dragged to an adjoining field, and due preparations were made for carrying it into effect; but just at this moment the Chairman of the Faculty appeared, and by a forcible and gentlemanly appeal he prevailed upon the students to give the culprits over to the proper authorities, and they are now lodged in the jail at Charlottesville.

We have a letter from a correspondent at Charlottesville, giving the particulars of the above unfortunate affair. The two accounts agree in the main facts. Our correspondent says that Manoni (a name familiar to many an old student of the University) keeps a restaurant, at the door of which the two students were when fired upon. The gun was charged with small shot. One of the students received only a few shot in his coat and on the side of his face, but the other was less fortunate; nearly the whole load took effect on the back of his head and neck, lacerating the flesh terribly, fracturing the bone and severing several of the smaller blood-vessels. As yet his wounds are not supposed to be mortal. Many shot, however, passed on, entered his face and otherwise mutilated it horribly.

ACCIDENT.—Wm. H. Nolan of Jersey City, a machinist employed in the railroad shop of the Morris and Essex Railroad Company in Newark, was badly injured yesterday afternoon. By some mismanagement in moving a locomotive which was upon the turntable in the engine-house, the tender was forced violently through a partition into the shop where Nolan was at work at a lathe, and he was struck; he was other his legs was broken in three places, and he was otherwise badly bruised. He was brought to his home in Jersey City, but was in so bad a condition that his leg could not be amputated last evening.

A steam stage wagon has been constructed, to run on common roads, by a company formed of citizens of Cincinnati and Dayton, Ohio, which was recently tested, and is said to have given complete satisfaction.

MARINE AFFAIRS.

THE NIAGARA.

The United States steam frigate Niagara, Capt. Hudson, sailed yesterday afternoon, crossing the bar about 5 p. m. After a trial trip of two or three days she will return to Sandy Hook to land Mr. Murphy and his assistants, and then put to sea for England, without returning to the city.

THE AMERICAN BARK ADRIATIC.

As we predicted, the Tribunal of Commerce of Marseilles, before which the owners of the Franco-American steamship Lyonnais sued the American bark Adriatic, Capt. Dunham, for the loss of their steamship by collision at sea, on the 2d of November last, has decided in favor of the defendants. The Court held that the fault, if any, lay with the commander of the steamship, the evidence showing that Capt. Dunham, at least twenty minutes before the collision, as soon as he saw the steamer, hoisted a light in the after rigging, although it did not appear that there was any law compelling him to take such a precaution. The Adriatic held on her course N.W. by W., steering close to the wind on the larboard tack, the topgallant sails furled, topsails double-reefed, and the captain and watch on deck, and did not make any maneuver until collision with the Lyonnais became imminent. The steamer, three minutes before the collision, perceived the bark for the first time, and putting her helm a-starboard, attempted to cross the bows of the bark at full speed. At the same instant, the Adriatic luffed, causing her sails to back, and slackening her speed. The steamer, in her rapid movement, struck the bark, doing her considerable damage, and passed on her course without inquiring if the injured vessel needed assistance. The bark stopped in the wake of the steamer to repair damages, before proceeding on her course. The Court decides, in view of these facts—

That the Brothers Gauthier would vainly endeavor to found the condemnation of Captain Dunham upon the absence of regular lights on board the Adriatic, upon the pretended absence of men on deck at the moment of collision, and upon the pretended false maneuver which Captain Dunham executed, as they in no way prove that American ships are obliged to have a regular light on board; on the contrary, from the documents furnished, it appears there is not any law or regulation in the United States which obliges sailing ships to have such lights in open sea; that Captain Dunham having had the precaution, as soon as he perceived the Lyonnais, to hoist a lantern on the stern of the Adriatic, as being the point most in sight under the then circumstances, and considering the respective positions of the two ships, he (Captain D.) did what a wise prudence prescribed him to do, as also whatever else he might be expected to do so detailed of legal prescription to this effect. The presence of Capt. Dunham and a sea watch on deck is testified to in a precise and unanimous manner by the witnesses. Capt. Dunham, who was commander of a sailing ship, was going close to the wind, and of course at a slow rate, and was not permitted to do any other thing in presence of a steamship going with full wind, all sails set, and employing all her steam, but to continue his route without changing anything in his movements, leaving to the steamer, mastering all her movements, the care to avoid her. At the moment when the collision was imminent, and Capt. Dunham saw the Lyonnais arrive with full steam toward the bows of his vessel, he was evidently not free to make any other maneuver than he did, which alone was calculated to prevent the encounter or mitigate its effects. The captain of the Lyonnais, who, in consequence of the foggy night, had perceived the Adriatic too late, by putting the helm a-starboard and continuing his way without stopping the engine, had evidently the intention to pass before the Adriatic, which doubtless then seemed to him possible, and Captain Dunham, by his maneuver, facilitated this movement instead of putting any obstacles in his way. The Brothers Gauthier, moreover, reproach Capt. Dunham with having left, in spite of all laws of humanity, the place of the disaster without lending any help to the distressed Lyonnais, and having thus, by aggravating his fault, increased his responsibility. If the tribunals must always energetically blame such acts when they have occasion to recognize and prove them, it is also their duty to loudly proclaim the innocence of those who are reproached with them, when, as in the present case, there is every proof that the accusation is entirely unfounded.

The Court proceeds to say that in reference to the alleged signals of distress from the steamship, it is proved that she went on her way for some time without inquiring what damage the bark had sustained after the collision, before discovering that she had received any injury; and that when it was discovered the bark was too far off to perceive them. It continues:

With respect to Capt. Dunham's claim for damages, considering that he proves no other damage than the loss of time incurred by him in consequence of the delay occasioned by this proceeding, and his detention thereby, it is decided that Gauthier & Brothers, in bringing this action, have done no more than their duty, and that the magnitude of the disaster, the great number of victims caused by it, and the important interests concerned, made it their duty to institute the proceedings they have done. Capt. Dunham himself cannot but be aware that it was for his own personal interest to have all the circumstances connected with this affair cleared up and explained before a proper legal tribunal, and to have the serious charges which weighed upon him effectually removed by a legal inquiry.

In conclusion, the Court declares the demand of Messrs. Gauthier & Brothers against Capt. Dunham to be inadmissible and unfounded. Furthermore, that there is no cause existing why any damages should be paid to Captain Dunham on account of impediments put in the way of his departure with his ship, up to the day of the rendition of this judgment. The Court stays all further proceedings threatened by Messrs. Gauthier & Brothers in view of preventing the departure of Captain Dunham, takes off and dissolves the attachment laid upon the freight due to him by the Imperial Messageries for the use of his ship, and removes the opposition to departure and the order of detention issued by the President of the Tribunal of Commerce of La Ciotat.

The Court therefore decrees and orders that the Captain of the Port of La Ciotat, the Commissary of Marine, the Collector of the Custom-House, and the Captain of the Customs at said port be, and are hereby, required to deliver immediately to Captain Dunham his proper clearance papers, and a receipt for duties duly paid, and also a permit for his sailing. Also, in the event that obstacles to the sailing of the ship should still be interposed by Messrs. Gauthier & Brothers, they are hereby condemned to pay five hundred francs damages per diem for every day of such forced detention, to date from April 5, and they are also adjudged to pay the costs. This judgment is declared to be executory, and is to be carried into execution or security given. Also, with all necessary reservations to the contrary, the Court admits the exceptions taken by Captain Dunham, both against the jurisdiction of the French Courts, as also against the decree refusing his demand for the damages which he alleges he has suffered in consequence of the proceedings had.

VESSELS IN PORT.

On Tuesday there were 31 steamers, 142 ships, 97 brigs, and 297 schooners in this port.

NAVY CREWS.

Mr. Secretary Toucey has issued a general order that the complement of officers and crew for vessels in the Navy already established shall be so modified that after rating the petty officers, the number of seamen allowed to each vessel will be reduced twenty-five per cent, the number of ordinary seamen increased five per cent, and that of landsmen and boys increased twenty per cent. It is believed that this organization will be a decided improvement upon the usual complement, and that the apprentice-system has rendered the step necessary and proper.

A BUOY WANTED.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: Please call the attention of the Superintendent of Buoys to the necessity of having one placed on a rock that lies nearly or quite in range of the boiler-crane at Ninth street, East River, and the buoy that stands nearly opposite, and about half-way between the two. There is about five feet of water on it at low water, and right in the range of sailing vessels, and consequently very dangerous. I think it is of a conical shape and might easily be blasted away.

A BOATMAN.

CHARTER ELECTION.—The Charter Election in the City of Hudson on Tuesday, resulted in the choice of a ticket mostly Democratic. The following are the principal officers elected by a large plurality over the Democratic ticket headed by Mayor Van Reipen, for reëlection, and over a Reform ticket headed by James Montgomery, jr., for Mayor.

Mayor—EDMUND T. CARPENTER.
Aldermen—George V. De Mott, John M. Wilson, Jas. Monroe, Joseph Schoonia, Joseph F. Talson, James Cumming, Joseph Aldridge and Wm. H. Scott.
City Clerk—Charles J. Roe.
School Superintendent—Norman W. Camp.
Assessors—George Ryerson, John Tice.
Collector—Charles Luxton.

ANOTHER WIFE MURDER.—Murders of wives by husbands and of husbands by wives, by poison, pistol or poinard, are terribly frequent now. We find the following account of the latest and one of the most atrocious in *The Wabash Express* of Saturday:

"A young man named Aleck Mulinix, it is said, murdered his wife yesterday morning, at his residence near Manhattan, Putnam County. The facts are these: He got on his horse after breakfast and rode to his father's and told him somebody had killed his wife, while he was gone to feed his horse at the stable. He told others that his wife fell on the stove. Those who went to his house found that the young woman's skull was broken, and that she had received three blows, one with a shovel and two with an ax. She was breathing, but senseless, when first seen by the neighbors, and lived about two hours. They say the breakfast-table was standing with the victuals upon it, and that the biscuit were still warm, and that, therefore, the horrid deed had been committed but a short time when they (the neighbors) came to the house. The couple had been married just *three* weeks. The young woman was a daughter of David Sublette. Mulinix is in the custody of the officers of the law.

MUSICAL INTELLIGENCE.

CONCERT AND OPERA.

The concert of Mr. or Master Harry Sanderson was inadequately attended. As this young person is a wonder, full of strong points and good specialties, and equally remarkable for erratic blundering, we think he owes to his talents to mend his deficiencies and to study. He knows how does some things before which almost any other pian. st might recoil. His great lack is persistent correctness in giving every note and in "singing." Every good instrumentalist should learn vocal music well as the basis of expression. If Mr. Sanderson study he will have a great career before him.

ITALIAN OPERA.

A thin house, number three of the season, attended the third performance of the Italian