mark, and other portions of the continent, has also been unwontedly great. The results of so sudden and extensive a transfer to America of what is there the most desirable of all kinds of capital, viz: efficient labor, can scarcely yet be calculated. But it is not labor alone that has been thus transferred. Money has gone along with it in unprecedented quantities, thus still further enhancing the rapid acquisition of the means by which a free and industrious people accelerate their individual fortunes and national developement.

But if labor is the foundation of all wealth, it is evident how great a desideratum it must be to a country of boundless resources like America, to have an ample and steady stream of effective labor directed upon its shores. How far America has gained within the last 10 years, in an element so essential to national wealth and prosperity as population, it will be for the present census definitely to determine. But, judging from the premonitory indications which have already reached us, we cannot be far wrong in assuming that, during that period, nearly 50 per cent has been added to the population. By the census of 1840 the population of the Union was a little upwards of seventeen millions. By the present census, it will fall but little short of, if it do not exceed, twenty-five millions. This is, for the whole Union, more than doubling in twenty-five years, and when we consider that in some of the States, population is actually, though slowly, on the decline, the rate of increase in other directions may be conceived.

Take for instance the valley of the Mississippi. In 1810 its population did not exceed 400,000 souls. The census of the present year will probably show it to contain close upon thirteen millions. Thus, in forty years, a region, the population of which fell short of half a million, has come nearly to equal in number the population of England. In 1860, the population of the valley will exceed that of England and Wales.

The rise of some of the western cities seems to have more of magic than of reality in it. The man is yet living who built the first log hut on the spot which is now the site of Cincinnati, and that city is now larger than Bristol, containing 150,000 souls. Ten years ago its population did not amount to 50,000, so that it has more than trebled in that short space of time. In 1840, the population of St Louis was only 16,000. It is now upwards of 90,000. This city is destined to be the greatest interior entrepot of trade upon the American continent.

But the most extraordinary feature in the case is the growth of New York. In 1840 its population, including its suburbs, was about 312,000. It is now estimated at close upon 750,000. The progress of the continent is typified by the rise and progress of New York. In 1860 its population will be 1,200,000, and in 1870 it will be but little short of two millions. There is no limit to New York but such as may be imposed upon it by the commercial wants of the continent.

An important consideration connected with the census is the new distribution of political power to which it will give rise. Representation being based exclusively on population, the preponderating numbers of the west will transfer to it all political power. We must confess that in the political balance between the different sections of the confederacy, power could not be deposited in safer hands than in those of the west.

Ten years hence the population of America will exceed that of the British isles.

Our California Correspondence.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 15, 1850.

Introduction—Ladies in California—Chances for Husbands—Distinguished Arrivals—Commercial Affairs—The City Property—The Cholera—A Fire, &c., &c.

For several weeks past, I have intended to write to you how we were getting along here on the shores of the Pacific; but, from various causes, I have been unable to carry out my intention. However, I avail myself of the opportunity afforded me by my friend, Daniel Cronin, Esq., who leaves here to-day for New York, on board the steamer California. He is one of the oldest merchants of this city—of the firm of Cronin and Markley—and goes to New York for the purpose of bringing on his family and renewing his stock of merchandise, when he will return here, to make his pile still larger. It is to such men, capable, prudent and enterprising, that the growth of this city is, in a great measure, to be attributed.

It is, indeed, gratifying to see by the arrivals of the various steamers lately, that the feeling of reluctance formerly entertained by the fair sex of the eastern cities to emigrate to this golden land, no longer exists. A large number of ladies have arrived during the last few months. Most of them however, were married, and came to rejoin their husbands. It would touch the hardest heart to see the speculating eyes with which the young men view this new importation; but as the article is not in the market, it is useless, as the Scotch say, to speer the price. I would not hesitate to say that much could be done, if you were to exert the influence of your powerful journal to persuade many of the fair daughters of Eve to repair to this beautiful land, where they could enjoy all the comforts of life, and gain excellent husbands.

There is no paragraph in our daily papers more eagerly examined by our young men, every morning, than that in which the list of passengers is given—a fact which must be attributed to a very different feeling from that of mere curiosity. Among the late arrivals, I observed the name of Mrs. Hayes, wife of Col. Jack Hayes, (who obtained so much notoriety as a Texan Ranger, and who is now Sheriff of this county.) She was accompanied by her brother. Mrs. Oliver, wife of D. J. Oliver, Esq., one of our merchants, also arrived; and Mrs. Gallagher, wife of Edward Gallagher, Esq., Coroner of this county, and formerly of your city. These ladies were accompanied by Daniel C. McGlynn, Esq., brother to the Recorder of this county. They, as well as many others, have come to make California their permanent home. As another evidence of the growth of this country, I have to inform you of the arrival of the Rt Rev. Joseph Alemany, Bishop of California, who has been long expected by the Catholic population. You will see by the newspapers that this distinguished personage received a very cordial welcome. I have sent you one of the papers in which the congratulatory address and reply are given. The address, with the reply, appears in the San Francisco papers, in English, Spanish, and French.

The commerce of San Francisco is still on the increase. A great number of vessels have arrived since the departure of the mail steamer on the first instant, each having a cargo of goods and merchandise for this market. The consequence has been a temporary depression in the price of almost every description of goods; but as the consumption is immense, this state of things will shortly give place to one more favorable. As long as the supply is adjusted to the demand, adventures of this kind prove very advantageous; but when the market is glutted, as has occasionally been the case with some kinds of goods, for some time past, the consequences are most ruinous to all concerned. Business in general is becoming more systemized. The blind speculations of United States and European shippers, like other excesses, have overdone themselves, and mercantile operations are fast settling down into regular and safe channels.

There is considerable excitement throughout the city in consequence of a judgment lately delivered in the Supreme Court, in which the powers of the old ayuntamentos and alcaldes of this town to dispose of corporate property is seriously questioned. The question is still pending before the court, and the whole bar of San Francisco is invited to a joint conference to argue it. If the judgment should hold good, it will invalidate the present title to two thirds of the property of the city. In all probability the whole matter will remain unsettled till the Judges of the United States Court dispose of it.—It has opened a wide field for litigation, and it is pretty generally believed that whatever may be the result the "gentlemen of the long robe" will not come off second best in the long run.

The cholera has disappeared, after carrying off some of our most respectable citizens. In proportion to our population, we have suffered, it is generally considered, as much from the scourge as New York did in 1832.

I have taken the liberty of sending to you, by Adams & Co., a specimen ring; it was manufactured at Woodruff's jewelry store, on Clay street, and it was very much admired by those who have seen it, being made of specimens of gold in their native state. I have also sent a similar one to Daniel Sweeny, Esq., who, by the way, is one of my most esteemed friends. I hope Mr. Sweeny and yourself will accept them as an emblem of the friendship I feel towards you, although they may seem trifling memorials to send such a distance. Before closing, I must inform you that our Common Council are beginning to attend to the affairs of the city with much more energy and application than formerly. I had considerable difficulty to get them to work right in the traces, as a great deal of their time was formerly occupied in endeavoring to vote themselves salaries, a measure which I of course have strenuously opposed. They are now beginning to benefit by my experience in legislation.

Last night we had another large fire. It occurred about 9 o'clock, and burned until after 2 o'clock, destroying property to the amount of $75,000. It broke out in an unoccupied building on the corner of Sacramento and Leidsdorff streets, burning all the buildings and property on the block. It was no doubt the work of an incendiary. The office of Howland & Aspinwall was immediately opposite, and was only saved by the superhuman efforts of No. 1 Engine Co. who won for themselves fresh laurels. The steamer sails to-day, and it was no doubt presumed by the incendiaries that there was a large amount of gold in that office—that it would be impossible to save the building, and in the hurry and excitement they would reap a harvest.

Very respectfully, yours, &c,
JAMES GRANT.

Items from the California Papers.

MURDERS, ROBBERIES, ASSAULTS, ETC.

The Stockton *Journal*, of November 27th, mentions a collision between the Americans and Indians, at Mokelumne Hill, or in that vicinity, in which fifteen Americans were killed, and the same, if not a larger, number of Indians fell.

Mr. Hall, a gentleman of San Francisco, was attacked on the night of the 4th of December, about 10 o'clock, near the foot of K street, and robbed of $1,200 and a watch seal. He stated the matter to the police, and took one of that body with him in search of the robber, whom he thought he could recognise. After a short walk, they came upon the man, and recovered all the valuables, which may be set down as remarkably good luck, to say the least of it.

Mr. Samuel Norris, of Norris' rancho, was robbed of $7,000 on the night of 3d of December. He has been for some time confined to his bed from severe illness, and the key of a small safe, containing the money, was placed under his pillow. Some one entered the apartment during his sleep, opened the safe, and took off the money, replacing the key where it had been found. This is one of a succession of serious misfortunes which have attended Mr. Norris of late. Stock to the value of $50,000 has, we learn, been stolen from him during the past four months.

The Marysville *Herald* says that a young man, named George Rogers, was frozen to death in the snow, on the 23d or 24th of November, while endeavoring to walk from Poor Man's Creek to Grass Valley. Two other men, in company with him, also nearly perished, but were picked up by another party.

The *Placer Times* of the 7th ult., states that a cabin boy on board of the steamer New World, fell overboard on the morning of the 30th November. No one on board knew of the accident until Mr. Frank Johnson, who was walking on the levee at the time, saw the poor fellow's cap floating upon the water, and called the attention of the hands on the boat to it. Soon the boy rose to the surface, at some distance from the steamer, but immediately sunk, and was seen no more.

MINING INTELLIGENCE.

The mining intelligence presents no feature of any extraordinary character or interest, and the specimens of gold that have been found, since the last arrival, are not worthy of remark.

The *Pacific News* states that active preparations are being made to enter largely into the branch of quartz mining. At the iron works in Springfield, Mass., several stamping machines are nearly completed, and more in progress. A short time prior to the departure of Senator Fremont from New York, he is understood to have executed leases to work his mineral lands to parties of known responsibility, who will lose no time in taking the field.

A company of twenty-five have associated together for the purpose of cutting a race through a ledge of rocks, on Oregon bar, in such a manner that half a mile of the bed of the river will be laid bare.

THEATRICALS.

The Jenny Lind theatre, in San Francisco, is now in the full tide of success. Mr. Stark, and Mrs. Kirby, and Mrs. Hambleton, by their superior acting, attract, nightly, overflowing houses.

The Atheneum was to be again opened on the 18th Dec., under new and favorable auspices. It is engaged for the season by Messrs. Smith and Davison, the great American magicians, who will commence their series of entertainments at that time, and having put the tickets at a low price, hope to receive their share of the public patronage.

The performances at the Dramatic Museum are constantly attended by crowded houses; in fact, the popularity of this theatre has outgrown its size.

At the Adelphi theatre, there is always a fair attendance to witness the dramatic performances.

The *Stockton Journal* states that it is contemplated to erect a new theatre in that city, where Mrs. Kirby and Mr. Stark, together with a company of the talent in the State, will be the first to grace its stage. This new theatre is to be called the El Placer theatre of Stockton.

As additional items of curiosity, we may mention the following:—

FIVE WEEKS' SICKNESS IN CALIFORNIA.

We observe, by the *Placer Times*, of the 12th December, that amongst the accounts presented for adjustment, to the City Council of Sacramento, is the following bill of expenses attending the illness of the late Mayor of the city of Sacramento, who was wounded during the squatter riot:—

SAN FRANCISCO, NOV. 29, 1850.

Hon. H. Bigelow, Mayor of Sacramento City,
To J. W. Stillman, Dr.

To cash advanced for sundres during his illness at my house	$480
To cash paid out for washing clothes soiled by his wounds	165
To five weeks' use of the best and largest room in the house, at $100	500
To one carpet, ruined by chloride of lime, used in sick room	77
To cash paid for pair boots	16
To sundries, bandages, extra jeandles, extra refreshments, wines, &c., for self and attendants at night, &c., five weeks	500
To five weeks' attendance of Mrs. Stillman, night and day	500
Total	$2,536

Intelligence from Oregon.

[From the Oregon Spectator, Oct. 27.]

The late rains have had quite a beneficial effect upon vegetation; the whole surface of the earth begins to wear the appearance of spring; all nature, as it were, is starting up afresh. This is rather a novel sight to one who has lived all his life in a latitude less north, by several degrees, but more frigid and destructive; where, at this season of the year, we were accustomed to see vegetation and the foliage in the "sear and yellow leaf." It is now the 24th day of October, and there has not been a frost sufficiently severe to kill the green leaves of the trees, or even the most tender plants. This will give the folks at a distance some idea of the delightful climate we enjoy on the Pacific. It is true we are shut out, in a great measure, from the world; but nothing daunted or weighed down by this, our people are cheered with the hope that we will have a world of our own, or that the country will be a world unto itself.

We do not mean, however, in the South Carolina acceptation of the term—Oregon is destined to be the great germ of the Pacific, where, at no distant day, the great interests of the Pacific must concentrate. California has led off in this matter; the excitement was kept up by misrepresentation; a reaction has taken place, and the tottering fabric is fast sinking into insignificance. Oregon requires no such means to keep her afloat. The noble rivers of limpid water that course the interior—the rich valleys that lie on either side—the heavy forests of timber of the finest growth—and the mild and healthy atmosphere that ever prevails, all conspire to render it one of the most delightful countries on the globe. It only requires to be seen to be appreciated. The acorn, and grass covered hills of the country above, and the thick matted growth of bottom grass below, relieve the farmers of all necessity in preparing provender for their stock during winter.

The appearance of the country at this time, reminds us more of the approach of spring than the advent of winter. Such is the nature of the climate, we are told, that grass continues to grow all winter.

In an agricultural point of view, (we were raised on a farm ourself,) Oregon has not, we verily believe, its equal in North America. Not only are the prices of stock and produce immensely high, but the greatest yield, for the smallest amount of labor, is here awarded to the laborer, of any country we have ever lived in. We do not wish to be understood as favoring, in the least, a diminution of labor on the part of our producers; that seems too well impressed already—but there is no country where labor is so much respected. Aristocracy has no abiding place in the territory. From the highest to the lowest, the most exalted and the humble, all have their influence. In other words, the great democratic principle governs our every walk and conversation.

IMMIGRANTS IN THE MOUNTAINS.

From some of the immigrants who have just arrived, we learn that there were some fifty wagons and teams in the mountains. We regret, very much, that during the snow storm of last week, that a large number of the cattle belonging to the teams perished. The snow fell to the depth of ten inches, which so completely covered up the little grass there was, and which, together with the fatigue incident to travelling, proved too much for the weak condition of the stock; many of them sank down, never more to rise to the bidding smack of the well applied thong of the hardy and way worn traveller.

A relief meeting was held on Saturday last, and some thirty horses, loaded with provision, &c., were despatched the next day to relieve the suffering. On Tuesday morning, an additional number were sent out. It is to be hoped they will reach them in time to prevent much suffering from want of food. The broken down condition of the remaining stock, renders it impossible for some of them to proceed on their journey. They will be under the necessity of remaining where they are, until they can receive such aid from here as our good citizens may be prompted to give. We are happy to say that the right kind of spirit prevails here. No sooner had the information reached here, than immediate steps were taken to rescue them from want. Good and efficient men volunteered to perform the task, who have, in all probability, ere this, completed this praiseworthy undertaking.

We have been informed that the citizens of Portland have established a line of boats from that place to the Dalles, for the express accommodation of the immigrants. The far better plan is to rid the wagons of all extra baggage and passengers too. The teams, be they never so stout, will find it load enough to draw over the mountains the empty wagons, carrying nothing more than the little provision that may be needed for the trip. If the line of boats is established as an act of humanity, the good people of Portland deserve our highest esteem; but we have not been advised as to whether it is an act of humanity or a plan of speculation.

People from other parts of the territory are on the look-out for their relatives and friends. Now that the immigrants have got within reach of their assistance, it behooves our people generally to avail themselves of this chance to do good towards their fellow-men. The trials and difficulties of such a journey are known to you all; although you may not have had many favors of this kind shown to you when similarly circumstanced, you had probably the best the country could afford at the time. It is your duty to do the best you can now. The people of Oregon City have done nobly—may we not reasonably expect like goods deeds from other quarters.

We have been informed that a lady emigrant, who has just arrived, had in her charge, for a good part of the journey across the plains, two infants, a sister and a sister's child, the mothers of both having died on the road. Both of the children were of so tender an age that they were dependent upon the breasts of their mothers for nourishment. This is but one, however, of the many cases that have occurred of a similar kind. We congratulate the living upon their safe arrival in our midst.

We were informed by Mr. Jessup, a few days since, that Mr. J. C. Angel, of San Francisco, on board the Sea Gull, whilst lying at Astoria for repairs, was robbed of $2,500; and Mr. Samuel Campbell, at the same time and place, was robbed of $200. The money has not been recovered, nor the perpetrators ascertained. It has not been ascertained whether the robbery was committed by some persons on board, or some of the professors of the gambling fraternity, resident at Astoria.

It will be seen, in another column, that the citizens of Portland have had a meeting with the view of obtaining the means and sending relief to the suffering immigrants, who are still beyond the Dalles; probably in the mountains by this time. They have raised some seven hundred dollars. This is truly praiseworthy, and evinces the right kind of spirit.

[From the Spectator, Oct. 24.]

The brig Desdemona, belonging to Messrs. Abernethy, Clark & Co., made the quickest trip, but one, ever made from New York to Astoria. She left New York the 16th day of May, and arrived at Astoria on the 20th day of October. She is on her way up to this city. She comes freighted with goods principally for the firm, and will land within four miles of this place.

Since the rains have subsided, the river has receded here several feet. It is predicted, by those who know, the prognosticators of course, that there will be fine weather for a month to come. If we had had the management of the weather, we could not have made it more pleasant than the Dispenser of all events has seen fit to favor us with, during the past four or five days.

A gentleman handed us one day last week a piece of stone coal, which, in our opinion, approaches very nearly in appearance the anthracite coal, as found in Pennsylvania. He informed us that it was found in Admiralty Inlet by a Mr. Hancock; he states further that it exists in vast quantities—that there is a sufficiency to propel all the steamers that may float on the Pacific for centuries to come. It has been examined by scientific men at Portland, and has been pronounced coal of a superior quality. In burning it leaves no cinder, and makes very little ashes. As coal is worth $3 per bushel in this country, we hope that the expectations of the discoverer may be realized. Should his statements prove to be correct, its existence, even there, must eventually become of immense value to the territory. We would be obliged to any person, who may be in possession of the full facts connected with its discovery, if they would report them to us.

Execution of Albert Baham, at Auburn, N. Y., for the Murder of Adler.

[From the Auburn Advertiser, Jan. 24.]

The terrible, but just demand of the law was carried into effect against Albert Baham, in the jail of this city, at 11 o'clock 13 minutes A. M. today. There were present Professor J. Few Smith, of the Theological Seminary, and Rev. H. A. Nelson, of the First Presbyterian Church, who had attended upon the prisoner since his sentence; the counsel who defended the prisoner on his trial, the District Attorney, and twelve citizens, besides the sheriff and his assistants.

We have it from good authority that the prisoner, as a general thing, from the time he was sentenced up to last night, did not seem to regard his fate with anything like the seriousness which one would suppose should have been exhibited by a person in his situation. He indulged quite freely in jokes yesterday, and seemed to be less thoughtful than those who were making preparations for his execution. In speaking of the arrangements for his execution, he carelessly, and in a sort of jovial way, said that if the gallows was not completed till after twelve o'clock to-day, it would suit him just as well; meaning that if he was not executed by twelve o'clock, the sentence of the Court could not be carried into effect.

Yesterday the prisoner was taken from his cell into one of the upper rooms of the jailor, for the purpose of having his likeness taken; and during the time he was out of his cell, he was remarkably sociable. In referring to his execution, he said, that "where there is much loss there is some gain;" and when asked to explain, he said he should get rid of his iron fetters after he was hung.

During the periods when the prisoner's spiritual adviser was in conversation with him, he always appeared quite penitent—ready to converse on the subject of religion, confessing that he had led a very wicked life, but professed to believe he had been forgiven all his sins, and was prepared to die. In acknowledging his sinfulness, he was generally careful to state, that whatever other crimes he was guilty of committing, that of murder could not be justly charged to him.

To prove that his penitence was feigned at such times as he was visited by ministers of the gospel, it is only necessary to state, that between such visits, on one or two occasions, he was heard to use language which would indicate that he had no especial regard for religion.

It was only yesterday that the prisoner, immediately after an interview with the Rev. Mr. Nelson, ridiculed the idea that ministers should call upon him to converse on religious subjects, stating that his regard for such things was very slight.

John Baham, the brother of Albert, who is under sentence of death for participating in the murder of Adler, was removed from the jail to the court house previous to the execution. This was a wise and humane move on the part of Sheriff Fancher. The other prisoners in the jail were taken to a distant part of the building from where the execution took place, and locked in cells. It was supposed by some that Baham would make an attempt to take his own life last night, and to prevent such an act great caution was used. He was constantly watched during the night, and no person allowed to see him alone, except those in whom the utmost confidence could be placed. The prisoner slept apparently as undisturbed last night as though he had been on his own couch in his father's house. It has been a subject of general remark and surprise, that a person so young could remain so entirely unconcerned in view of his approaching end. At 20 minutes past 10 o'clock this morning, Rev. Mr. Nelson entered the prisoner's cell, and was engaged in conversation with him till 20 minutes to 11. Mr. N. informs us that the prisoner appeared very much as he had at other times during his visits. At ¼ to 11, the prisoner was led from his cell and seated under the gallows, when his death warrant was read by District Attorney Pomeroy, in a clear but somewhat agitated tone of voice. During the reading of the warrant the prisoner seemed deeply agitated, but soon regained his self-possession. At 10 minutes to 11, Rev. Mr. Smith requested the prisoner to kneel, after which Mr. S. addressed a most solemn and affecting prayer to the Throne of Grace, beseeching, in the most earnest manner, that the Almighty Ruler would have mercy on the soul of him who was so soon to be ushered into His presence. During the prayer the prisoner again showed deep agitation; but upon resuming his seat, there was no signs of a broken and subdued heart. During the entire ceremonies, we did not discover that the prisoner shed a tear, although those around him were under deep emotion. At 11 o'clock, the prisoner's counsel, and the Revs. Mr. Nelson and Smith, shook hands with him, bidding him an affectionate farewell. The prisoner, then asked for a glass of water, and after partaking of it, the under Sheriff asked him if he had any remarks to make. He replied that he had not, only that he was innocent. At five minutes past 11, his arms were pinioned behind him, and the Rev. Mr. Nelson held a brief but inaudible conversation with him. We were not able to learn the amount of what he said. At 11 minutes past 11, the cap was drawn over the prisoner's face, when he exhibited deeper emotion than at any other time during the sad ceremonies. He distinctly gave utterance to the words, "O! dear me," which were the last he uttered. At 13 minutes past 11, the Sheriff touched the spring to the gallows, and Albert Baham was ushered into another world. He struggled but very little, considering the fact that he was in full health. At 25 minutes past 11, the doctors examined the body and pronounced life extinct. The body was then taken down, placed in a coffin, and delivered to the father of the prisoner.

If there are any who have doubts as to the guilt of the prisoner, to remove them it is only necessary to state, that since he and his brothers were sentenced, they have, in conversation with each other, at times when they supposed no person was in hearing, convicted themselves, time and again, of the murder of Adler. And yet Albert Baham, with his last breath, protested that he was wholly innocent of murder.

The grounds about the jail and the court house were crowded by persons actuated by a morbid desire to be where they could at least hear the drop of the weight which sent a fellow being into eternity. This curiosity with men is generally expected on such occasions, but that women should disgrace themselves by mingling with the crowd, was quite surprising.

We understand that John Baham, Jr. has made a full confession of all that he knows in reference to the murder of Nathan Adler, to his counsel; and that the same will be published in pamphlet form in a few days.

The Late Fire at New Orleans.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE ST. CHARLES HOTEL—GREAT LOSS OF PROPERTY.

[From the New Orleans Delta, Jan. 19]

No one who has not visited New Orleans can estimate the extent of the calamity which has fallen on our city by the great fire of yesterday. The St Charles Hotel was the pride, the boast, the ornament of our city. As a model of architectural beauty, it was not surpassed, if equalled, by any edifice in the United States. The grace, beauty, and perfection of its plan, the combination of solidity with elegance, of convenience with beauty, of grandeur with classic proportions, rendered the St. Charles a source of inexhaustible pleasure and interest to all beholders. As a hotel, it was the largest and most complete, and under its present managers, the best conducted, perhaps, in the world. The day before it burnt, we dined at the hotel, and were told by the proprietors that six hundred persons would dine there that day. Everything essential to the comfort and entertainment of guests, was embraced in the building. There was a splendid bar-room, spacious billiard rooms, elegant bath establishment, and in the basement stories were several variety stores. Not less than eight hundred persons slept nightly under its roof. The building was in the finest Grecian style, with the most splendid and classical portico in the United States, supported by Corinthian pillars of great beauty and elegance. The cupola, which ascended from the centre of the building, was also a very beautiful and prominent feature in the edifice, the most conspicuous object discernible at a distance in approaching our city. That cupola was a dear object to all of our citizens. The heart of every true Orleanian clung to it as the beacon and landmark of the Crescent City.

The St. Charles was so identified with our city in all its aspects and associations, that we regard its loss in the light of the deprivation of a limb of our body. The countenance of every citizen yesterday was clouded with sorrow and gloom, during the progress of the destructive element, and universal sadness prevailed when the once beautiful edifice had sunk into a mass of smoking ruins. "Alas!" exclaimed our oldest citizens, "what a loss. How shall we rebuild it. When will we be able, in our day, to look upon its like in beauty and magnificence?"

The St. Charles was built in 1834; it was the pioneer of the old Faubourg St. Mary, now the Second Municipality. Around it clustered all those fine buildings which contributed so powerfully to start the Second Municipality in its wonderful progress in prosperity and greatness. It was the sun which diffused fructifying rays far and near around it. The cost of the building was six hundred thousand dollars. Its architect, Mr. Gallier, acquired by its design a reputation co-extensive with our whole country. It was built by the old Exchange Bank, a corporation which became extinguished, but whose privileges, so far as the possession of the hotel was concerned, descended to the present company, at the head of which is Mr. Jacob Barker, who has had for years the management of the building.

Various accounts are given of the origin of the fire. Some represent that it caught from some one of the various chimneys or flues; others state that some plumbers were engaged in soldering the zinc on the roof, and the fire was communicated from their stoves. Whatever may have been the cause, it is pretty certain that the fire originated within the building, somewhere under the roof, and had diffused itself pretty extensively before the alarm was given. It was long before any adequate means could be brought to arrest the flames. The whole roof was smoking, sending forth a thick volume of dun vapor; and yet the fire could not be reached. It was some time before the engines came to the spot. The bells, by some most culpable carelessness, were not rung, and those engines which arrived early were not fully manned. Then, too, how could they bring their machines to operate at so great a height? There was scarcely an engine in the city that could throw the water to the roof of the hotel. Within the building the most energetic steps were taken to meet the danger. The proprietors and their various employees formed themselves into an efficient fire company, and by the aid of their forcing pipes and engines kept a constant current of water on the flames wherever they could be reached. But the insidious element had evaded its foe and penetrated into every part of the roof where it could find food.

The hose pipes from the engines were then drawn by ropes to the roof, and soon a considerable body of water was brought to bear upon it. But alas! it was too late. The vast crowd assembled in the neighborhood, with one voice cried out, "it is gone;" and though there was no relaxation of effort, it soon became painfully manifest that the building was of a very combustible character. Presently, the flames broke forth from the roof, and passing with the rapidity of lightning around the cupola, suddenly embraced that graceful and elegant structure, and then towered to the heavens, one bright, glowing pyramid of fire. At the same time, the plaster began to fall from the roof of the portico, admonishing those below of the danger of that position, the only one from which the engines could operate with effect. Rapidly the flames involved the whole building, and, nourished by a brisk east wind, proceeded on their devastating course with inconceivable velocity. The splendid cornice of the portico was soon one bright sheet of fire; presently it fell with a great crash, crushing in its ruins the noble marble statue of Washington which stood at the main entrance, the present of our respected fellow citizen, John Hagan, Esq., who had it executed by the best artist in Italy. On went the flames in their mad career, while the willing winds served as their vassal and guide; and tower and column fell down, one after another, till nothing but an unsightly ruin remained of what, in the morning, towered so palace-like in its "pride of place!"

After the St. Charles had been nearly consumed, the fire was communicated by sparks to the Rev. Theodore Clapp's church, corner of St. Charles and Gravier streets, which was soon destroyed. At the same time, the Methodist Episcopal church, on Poydras street, was in flames, and in twenty minutes, nothing but a mass of crumbling walls remained. This church, we are happy to learn, was insured for $30,000. Two adjoining buildings, occupied as boarding houses, Nos. 137 and 139, the former owned by Mr. Maunsel White, and occupied by Mrs. Souter; and the latter occupied by Mrs. Purcel. Both were mechanics' boarding houses, and partially insured. Two houses of ill-fame, near these, were also burned.

In the rear of Dr. Clapp's church, the Pelican House, stretching from Union to Gravier street, was entirely destroyed. It was owned by Jacob Barker, and occupied by Messrs. Moore & ——. The "Pelican" was insured. The large commission house, occupied by Henderson, Peale, and others, fronting on Common street, and adjoining the St. Charles Hotel, was burned. The buildings between that and Carondelet street were saved with difficulty. The dwelling-house owned by Mr. Lyal, and occupied by Mr. Mensing, dentist, situated at No. 136 Carondelet street, was consumed, as was also a paint shop adjoining.

Among the buildings destroyed, we have also to mention three houses on Carondelet street, represented by Nos. 171, 173, and 175, owned by Mr. B. F. French. These houses were insured. One of them was occupied by Drury & Philips, painters; the others by families.

The residence of William Barry, who keeps the Crescent restaurant, on St. Charles street, adds another to the list of the destroyed buildings. It was situated at No. 37 Hevia street. No. 35 Hevia street was also greatly injured.

The splendid private residences of Mr. Samuel J. Peters amd Mr. Savillebouvre, on Carondelet street, caught several times, and were in great danger; so also was the fine row known as the Carondelet row; but at this point in the progress of the conflagration, the force of the fire department had been judiciously distributed, so as very effectually to arrest the extension of the flames, in spite of the high wind.

Great numbers of thieves were busy at the fire. The arrests of them numbered thirty-six at dark, last evening. We noticed no less than a dozen, in our line of march, on their way to prison.

The loss by this fire will amount to more than half a million, of which about one-half was insured. The insurance on the St. Charles was only $165,000, of which $20,000 were taken in the Sun Mutual. Messrs. Mudge & Wilson had a policy of $40,000 on wines and furniture, a great deal of both of which has been saved; their loss, however, is very heavy. The whole community sympathize with these enterprising gentlemen in their great calamity, and will lend a willing hand to resuscitate them.

The St. Charles must be rebuilt, and that speedily, and on a scale fully equal to its former magnificence. This is the voice of the whole people. Every citizen will come forward to lend a helping hand to raise it, Phœnix-like, from its ashes. We trust the good work will be entered upon immediately. If the present company is unable to rebuild it, we hope that a corporation will be immediately organized for that purpose. The cost of rebuilding it is variously estimated at from $300,000 to $500,000.

The loss of the Congregationalist church will fall heavily upon our able and eloquent divine, Dr. Clapp. It was the property of our venerable and benevolent fellow-citizen, Judah Touro, who, though a member of the Hebrew faith, has for years permitted the congregation of Mr. Clapp to occupy this church free of rent, and allowed the reverend gentleman to enjoy the rents of the pews.

Last night we visited the scene of the conflagration. It was a melancholy change from the magnificence we were wont to contemplate with so much pride and admiration. The spacious and noble edifice had disappeared, and a mass of dark ruins, and a few pillars still standing, marked the place where the pride of New Orleans once shone in all the splendor of architectural grace, beauty and symmetry. The scene drew deep sighs from the heart of every old Orleanois, and silent gloom and sorrow seemed to enwrap the vast crowd that hovered around the scene of desolation.

The New Orleans *Bulletin* of the 20th inst., gives the following losses of the insurance offices by the late fire in that city:—Columbus (Ohio)—on stock of liquors, &c., of St. Charles Hotel, $5,000. Crescent Mutual—on St. Charles Hotel building, $15,000; on Pelican coffeehouse, Gravier street, $4,000—$19,000. Delaware Mutual Safety—on St. Charles Hotel building, $10,000. General Mutual—on St Charles Hotel building, $10,000; St. Charles Hotel furniture, $5,000; Methodist church, $10,000—$25,000. Lexington—on St. Charles Hotel building, $5,000. Merchants' and Planters'—Material in basement of Clapp's church, $2,000; boardinghouse No. 137 Poydras street, $800, (half of property saved—$2,800. Memphis—on stock in building in rear of St. Charles Hotel, $3,000. Merchants—on St. Charles Hotel building $10,000; Beach's carriage warehouse, adjoining the St. Charles Hotel, $15,000—$25,000. Nashville Life and Trust Co—St Charles Hotel building, $15,000; Methodist church, $10,000—$25,000. New Orleans Ins. Office—on St Charles Hotel, $5,000; store of Mr. Montgomery, on Gravier street, $6,000—$11,000. Protection (Hartford)—on St. Charles building, $10,000. San Mutual—on St. Charles Hotel building, $20,000; furniture, St Charles Hotel, $5,000—$25,000. Tennessee Marine and Fire—on Methodist church, $10,000. Union Mutual—on St. Charles Hotel building, $5,000. Total loss by insurance offices, $180,000.

We received, also, an account of the fire from Messrs. Stimson & Co., of the New York and New Orleans Express, which corresponds with the above.

New Motive Power for the Fast Presses.

[From the Boston Traveller, Jan. 25.]

This monster press (Hoe's fast printing press) is driven by a novel and most convenient and powerful little machine, which is seen on the right of the printing press, consisting of a small cylinder, with cog-wheels and a pully attached. It is called a water metre or power metre, and was invented by that ingenious mechanic, Mr. Samuel Huse, of this city, well known for his efficient labors as assistant superintendent of the Cochituate water works. This machine was originally invented as a water measurer; and this is the first application of it as a motive power, it being found to possess this power to a most unexpected and extraordinary degree. It is simple, yet wonderfully efficient. It consists of a hollow cylinder, 10 inches wide and 16 inches in diameter; inside of which is a flange cylinder, about 6 inches in diameter. This inner cylinder has flanges, on which are four valves, extending from one end to the other of the cylinder, and attached to it by hinges. These valves, when folded, or shut into the cylinder, form a little more than half its surface. Upon one side of the metre, the space between the inside of the hollow and the surface of the flange cylinder, is so filled as to occupy something more than the width of one of the valves. This filling is made to fit so exactly as to prevent the water from passing. Upon one side of this filling, the water enters the metre, and upon the other side the water is discharged. The metre is so placed that the valves will, by the force of gravity, open as they reverse from under the solid filling, and shut upon the opposite side previous to coming in contact with it. When thus arranged, the water is let into the cylinder, and comes in contact with the open valves; the inner cylinder revolves until the water escapes upon the opposite side; and of course, for every revolution of the interior cylinder, a given quantity of water must pass through the metre. This is carefully marked by means of a clock which is attached to the cylinder, and which will indicate the precise quantity of water which has passed through the machine in any given time.

The revolving flange cylinder is connected, externally, with cog wheels, a shaft, and pulley; and from the pulley a belt extends to the driving wheel of the printing machine.

This metre, or water wheel, is driven by the Cochituate water, introduced from a six inch distributing pipe through a two inch lead pipe; and the flow of the water is regulated by means of a screw gate near the metre. This wheel, though so small as to occupy only about 24 inches of room, affords about three horse motive power.

ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATIONS.—The following extract from President Sparks's annual report to the overseers of Harvard College, will show what has been done in the observatory during the last year, and the important agency of that institution in the promotion of astronomical science. It will be recollected that the telescope is one of the largest in the world, it being of the same dimensions as the great telescope at the Observatory of Pulcova, in Russia, which is the first of the kind in Europe:—"The same activity and success have been manifested at the observatory which have heretofore appeared in that establishment. The great refracting telescope continues to justify the sanguine anticipations originally formed of its superior power and admirable construction. Regarding this observatory, as acting in co-operation with others in various parts of the globe, for the promotion of astronomical science, the director has wisely adopted a method of proceeding by which his observations have been directed to new and unexplored objects, rather than to the task of repeating or verifying what has already been done. The nebulæ, which appear as dim patches of light through ordinary instruments, are separated by the great refractor into brilliant clusters of stars, with their positions and various magnitudes so distinctly defined that they may be easily transferred to a map. The success of the director in delineating the beautiful and remarkable nebula in Orion, is well known to astronomers, and he has been for some time employed upon another cluster scarcely less remarkable in the constellation of Hercules. The measurement of double stars, and the close inspection of the planets, and of comets, when in positions not to be reached by common instruments, have likewise called into use the powers of the great telescope. Three new stars have been discovered, during the past year, in the neighborhood of the Trapezium, in the nebula of Orion, and also a variable star, which appears and disappears at intervals of a few weeks; but the observations have not, as yet, been sufficiently numerous to furnish data for ascertaining accurately its period. The great telescope has also revealed to the searching eye of the observer, a third and interior ring of Saturn, which had escaped the power of all other instruments. The indefatigable and skilful labors of the assistant observer, Mr. George P. Bond, enabled him to detect two new comets, one in May, and the other in August, before either of them had been seen in Europe. Special attention has been given to the accurate adjustment of time-keepers, by observing the transits of stars over the meridian, aided by the long experience of the director in this branch of mechanical science. By a specific arrangement, made for that purpose, the motion of every railroad car in the commonwealth is regulated by the time at the Observatory. The vast benefit thus conferred on the public will be at once recognized, when it is considered how much human life often depends on the accuracy and uniformity of time, with which all the movements on the railroads are directed. An important accessory to the Observatory is an apparatus for applying the electro-magnetic communication to astronomical purposes. Telegraphic wires extending from the Observatory and connecting with the great lines of telegraphs, convey the result of an observation instantaneously to an observer at a remote place, thus affording the means of an immediate and precise comparison of time. By this process the differences of longitude are ascertained with the greatest exactness, an attainment of the utmost importance in perfecting the art of navigation, and in all geodetic measurements."

THE LEAD MINES OF IOWA.—A correspondent of the Detroit *Daily Advertiser*, writing from Dubuque, Iowa, under date of the 12th inst, speaking of the lead mines near that city, says:—"I would give you a description of one of the heaviest leads that has ever been struck in