Our Boston Correspondence.

BOSTON, April 1, 1854.

The Contest in the First Congressional District—Free Soilers and Whigs Coming Together—Whig Legislative Caucus—Election of State Auditor—Poem and Lecture on "The Press"—The Hoosac Tunnel Question—Gen. Whitney—City Officials Charged with Peculation—The Ten Hour Bill Lost—Correction—April Fools Scarce—Important Law Case.

The contest in the First Congressional district is getting to be quite warm Mr. Eliot has pronounced against the Nebraska bill, which is gaining abolition and free soil votes for him. Mr. Howland does not seem to stand so well as it was supposed he would, though there may be some things in course of secret operation that shall work in his favor. Mr. Howland, though popular, has, to many minds, the reputation of being a loose fish in the waters of politics, and some are shy of him on that account. Nebraska, however, will be the cause of his failure, if he is to fail. The convention that nominated him did not so much as allude to the question of the day. There is trouble in Nantucket, where at least a portion of the free soilers have refused to support Mr. Howland. The national democrats, too, of that place, have done the same thing, and have put a candidate in nomination—a Mr. E. M. Gardner—who used to be a regular democrat, then was a whig, and now is a "national;" a smart fellow enough, and who will probably get a few votes. He used to fight against the coalition, and probably had something to do with the success of the whigs in Nantucket and Dukes county, last fall. At the election at which Mr. Gardner was chosen, that gentleman received a majority in every town in the district, except one—Chilmark, in Dukes—and a plurality in the entire district, of 1,648, which is a pretty good basis for the whigs now to start from. Were it not for the Know-Nothings, or rather the fear of them, there would seem to be no particular occasion for doubting Mr. Eliot's election, in view of the state of opinion on the Nebraska bill. Quite a change has come over the district within a few days, according to the assertions of those who are on the ground, and some of whom are likely to be there on Monday next, in a metaphorical sense.

Mr. C. G. Davis, of Plymouth, a free soil leader, has come out in support of Mr. Eliot, and the Boston *Commonwealth* seems rather to favor his election. These things are quite annoying to many of the free soilers in the district, who do not at all fancy being transferred to the whigs. The whigs, indeed, declare that the sole principle of the free soilers—their "one idea"—is hatred of the whig party, and that, to injure it, they are ready to do almost anything. If this be correct, it shows that the exercise of a due degree of skill on the part of the democrats might have led to the lasting defeat of the now dominant party.

The whig members of the Legislature had a meeting on Thursday evening, in the Representatives' Hall, at which a State Central Committee was chosen, with J. Thomas Stevenson at its head, and the usual business transacted. Very strong anti-Nebraska resolves were passed, declaring the opposition of the whigs of Massachusetts to the extension of slavery, and adding, that "if the Compromise of 1820 shall be repealed, the only safe and reliable platform for the North to stand upon will be a firm, united and determined opposition to the admission of another slave State into the Union, from whatever quarter the application may come." This may be regarded as in the nature of a "broad hint."

Mr. Mitchell has been chosen State Auditor by a vote of 203 to 93. This creates a vacancy in the Senate, which must be filled by the choice of some democrat or free soiler.

Mr. Shillibar has been very successful in delivering his poem on "The Press," which is a lively and witty production, and abounding with what are called "hits." A lecture on the same subject has been prepared by another member of our city press, of a grave and solid character, and giving an account of the characteristics of American, French and English journalism; but it will not be delivered before next winter, or rather the commencement of the next lecture season. It is well spoken of by those who have seen it.

The large majority, in a full House, by which the Hoosac Tunnel bill was carried on Tuesday, rather cut into some of our Boston people, who have been some time of opinion that the bill was about to be lost, though on what they could have founded any very strong opinion of that kind, it would be difficult for themselves to now say. Opinion has for a few weeks past been settling decisively in favor of the bill, though the majority has been larger than was calculated upon by most friends of the project. The State has been well secured against loss, and now gentlemen have only to go into the business and through the mountain. The member who probably did the most to forward the passage of the bill was Gen. Whitney, of Conway, the same gentleman who made himself conspicuous in opposing the anti-Nebraska resolves that almost unanimously went through our Legislature. The whig Tunnelites, who had an idea that they would make a good stock of "political capital" out of the question, by keeping it all to themselves, at first refused to consult Mr. Whitney, or call upon him for aid; but before they had got through with their work, they were glad to avail themselves of his talents and knowledge.

Some interest has been created in "civic" circles by the charges of official misconduct made against Mr. Forristall, Boston Superintendent of Internal Health, by Charles Mayo, Esq., and which are six in number. The amount of the charges is, that Mr. Forristall has been endeavoring to acquire property at the expense of the city of Boston. I know nothing of their truth, and have always heard Mr. Forristall, previous to this affair, spoken of as an honest man. He is charged with having used some of the city's horses for private gain, with having sold other horses belonging to the city, with having "boarded" some of his own horses and some that belonged to his friends at the city stables free of charge, with having "cribbed" a lot of hay that belonged to the city, with having paid for improvements made on his own estate out of the city's funds, and, finally, with having stolen two hogs of the value of $60, belonging to the city. Mr. A. B. Turner is coupled with him in these last two charges. The case was commenced before a joint committee of the City Council on Thursday last, and, after several witnesses had been examined, further proceedings were postponed until next Tuesday. The most interesting occurrence of Thursday's setting was the appearance of a witness of the name of Dodivah Sketes, which I recommend to any novel writer who may happen to be hard up for a "commodity of names." In New York, I presume you would laugh at the whole affair, but here the city officials have been kept with so tight a rein that even the mysterious disappearance of two hogs (four legged) belonging to the city, is enough to cause a very fair sort of an excitement. Most people think it will turn out to be a kind of Toby Watkins affair.

Our House of Representatives has again refused to pass a ten hours law, which will do no good to the whig party, said party acting as if it thought its rule was about to be perpetual in Massachusetts. There has been some very tyrannical conduct lately exhibited by the managers of one of the manufacturing corporations at Clinton, in Worcester county. These corporations are the most lawless concerns in the country, and treat their "help," whenever opportunity occurs, as brutally as ever a Russian serf was treated by a Russian boyard. Had anything like some of their deeds been perpetrated by a planter of South Carolina or Georgia, we should have heard a roaring about it all over New England; but our fanseeing philanthropists cannot discover the evils that exist right under their immaculate noses. More than one fat-bodied, muddle-headed, and big-paunched abolitionist complacently pockets dividends derived from modes of labor whereby poor white people are greatly oppressed.

There was a slight error in your printing of the last paragraph of my letter of the 25th of March. The amount received by the Fitchburg Railroad Company for transporting freight was eighteen mills per ton a mile, and eleven mills per passenger a mile. This, you will see, is quite a different matter from what I was made to say. Those "dollar marks," though delightful things on some occasions, are sometimes productive of mischief when not properly placed.

There have not been any *Poissons d'Avril* made here, to-day, up to noon. Boston is generally very good at such kind of fish catching, but the weather is now so bad that all powers of invention are too feeble to produce anything worthy of being laughed at.

The Court of Common Pleas in Middlesix county—Wells, C. J., presiding—has been engaged in a very important case, the final decision of which may cause Boston people to stare, and lead them to the belief that they will have to pay very dear for (wetting) their whistles. The Middlesex Corporation, or manufacturing company, at Lowell,—a great concern, in which the Lawrences are largely interested,—has brought an action against the city of Boston for damages growing out of the effect of bringing the water from Long Pond on the corporation's property. The damages are laid at $40,000, and a whole array of able lawyers has been engaged on each side. For the city there appeared Messrs. Bemis, Farley of Groton, and Train; for the plaintiffs, Messrs. Abbott, Butler, and Sowerby The case occupied more than a week's time, but the jury were unable to agree. It is said they stood eleven to one in favor of the city. The fate of a whole crop of suits will depend upon the settlement of the one spoken of. The damages would amount to more than half a million of dollars. One of the persons who would share largely in these spoils is a certain eminent politician and manufacturer, who is supposed to have been a zealous advocate of the bringing water from Long Pond, in order that he might have a chance to come down upon the city for swinging damages. He certainly was a Long-Pondite, but what were his motives I cannot say. ALGOMA.

THE MAINE LIQUOR LAW IN PORTLAND.—Since the fourteenth of April last, four thousand and twenty-seven gallons of liquor have been seized in Portland, Me., by the authorities, under the prohibitory law, of which quantity twenty-two hundred and seventy-six gallons were destroyed, twelve hundred and ninety-four gallons were returned to the owners, and four hundred and fifty-seven gallons are awaiting the order of court. The number of complaints under this law before the Municipal Court was sixty-five, of which number fifty-nine were for keeping liquor intended for sale, thirty-seven were for the first offence, nineteen for the second offence, and nine for the third offence. Besides these, there were also a number of indictments in the higher court, the statistics of which have not been made public. These figures indicate that the authorities of Portland still continue to make efforts at executing the law, though the quantity of liquor returned to the owners after the examination of complaints, twelve hundred and ninety-four gallons, looks rather suspicious.

FRONTIER INDIANS.—The Council Bluff *Bugle* of the 18th ult. gives an account of a fight between the whites and Indians, on the Little Sioux, early in the present month. It is stated that six lodges of the Two Finger band of Sioux, from St. Peters, on the Mississippi, encamped near the Little Sioux on the 6th, and stole some hogs and a yoke of oxen. They were pursued by the inhabitants, overtaken, and hemmed in. They made a halt and called a parley, which was granted. The whites stepped forward, and then the Indians levelled one gun at them, but missed, and one or two arrows were shot at them. The whites fired at them in return, wounding or killing at least one. Both parties then retired. A bad feeling is said to exist on the part of the whites, and a war of extermination is threatened against the Indians.

Interesting from China.

THE DEPARTURE OF THE UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER FOR HOME—THE PROGRESS OF THE REVOLUTION—THE RUSSIAN SQUADRON.

[From the China Mail, Jan. 27.]

Amongst the passengers from China by the P. and O. mail steamer Ganges, is his Excellency Col. Humphrey Marshall, the United States Minister, whose career in China has been cut short by the ordinary operation of the "peculiar institutions" of his country, by which the public service is so often sacrificed to the the tyranny of party. The period of Col. Marshall's service has been little more than a year, but it has been fraught with important events, with which no foreign representative in China was more competent to deal, or out of which more advantages might have been obtained. But having sent an able man as Minister to China, the great republic left him helpless for action; though we doubt not his despatches, even more than the few papers from his pen which have reached the public, evince unusually clear views of international and commercial justice, which, honestly and wisely followed, are calculated to exalt the character of his nation with the Chinese The principles he laid down, and the course he was thereby compelled to adopt, created great outery and active opposition, and no small misrepresentation, from those whose individual interests were affected; but the time will come when the able discharge of his functions will be admitted, and it will be found that no man under the circumstances could have achieved more for the true interests and reputation of his country than Humphrey Marshall.

Beyond the little news extracted from our weekly issues, there is nothing real to communicate; but among credible rumors we may mention:—

1. That the northern army of the rebels is not making much progress, and has captured neither the capital of Peking nor the port of Tein-tsin; so that the reports originated in China, and circulated by the home papers months ago, were very premature, and do not seem likely to be speedily realized.

2. That the reception of the French at Nanking was even less cordial than we have already supposed, and augurs ill for improved intercourse with foreigners in the event of the rebels being ultimately successful.

3. That Shanghae is likely soon to be retaken by, or restored to, the imperialists—the latter perhaps the more probable, a conspiracy for a surrender having been recently discovered, and two hundred of the conspirators put to death; but the actuating spirit is still alive, and waiting a convenient opportunity to manifest itself; and while foreign confidence in the city rabble is waxing faint, the following paragraph, copied from the *North China Herald* of the 21st January, shows how little deserving they are of sympathy:—

On Thursday, January 12, three shots were fired from the city walls, which fell close to the gates of Dr. Lockhart's hospital. There was no attacking force at the time, and no apparent cause why these shots should be fired. Dr. L. therefore went into the city and inquired at Lew's office, when he was told by a person there, that they had not fired at his house, but that the men at the battery fired at the sick establishment, because they knew there was a number of imperialists soldiers lying there. We since understand that an energetic remonstrance has been made to the rebel leaders in the city—who have promised to be more cautious in future.

To these rumors we may add the facts, that Canton was never quieter, and that the exports from China were never on a larger scale.

[From the China Mail, Jan. 19.]

It would appear the Czar does not anticipate a very pressing occasion for his ships of war in Europe; while in these seas, where before they were unknown, the Russian squadron promises soon to come little short of the American or the English.

At Japan, or somewhere not very far from it, are the 50-gun ship Pallas and the steamer Vostock, besides, perhaps, a corvette, some time ago reported at the Cape for Sydney, thence to Japan. The frigate Aurora and the sloop Navarin, according to the Danish papers, destined for the North Pacific, were undergoing repairs at Portsmouth in October; and the Java *Bode* of the 12th December, among its October English news states that the frigate Diana and brig Nieman, formerly reported for China, were daily expected to follow.

[From the China Mail, Jan. 12.]

On the night of Thursday, the 7th, an entertainment was given on board the United States steamship Mississippi, similar to those that have afforded so much gratification on board the Powhatan and Susquehanna. On this last occasion Captain Lee made one material addition to the theatricals—minstrelsy and supper—by following up the latter with a dance on the starboard main deck of his magnificent vessel. Most of the fair sex and all the higher officials in Hong Kong were present, and none of them seemed in a hurry to leave.

The Sing Sing State Prison.

SING SING PRISON, Agent's Office, March 27, 1854.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir:—A paragraph, which appeared in a letter of your Albany correspondent, in the HERALD of the 24th inst., is calculated to create the most erroneous and injurious impressions as to the actual indebtedness of the Sing Sing Prison. The part I allude to of your correspondent's letter, is as follows: "A report from the County Clerk of Westchester was received in the Senate, in answer to a resolution, by which it appears that there are in his office records of judgments against agents of the Sing Sing Prison, amounting to the enormous amount of one hundred and eighty thousand dollars! Why don't the Legislature at once issue proposals to the proprietors of the Astor, Metropolitan and St. Nicholas for the board of the State prisoners?" A few words of explanation will show how unfounded are the facts and inferences here stated. In the first place, your correspondent only made a mistake of $108,678, as will appear by the following official report of the Clerk of Westchester county. He having reported instead of the enormous amount of $180,000, as stated, $71,322 09, amount of judgments as remaining unsatisfied of record in his office.

The following is the communication from the Clerk of Westchester county, transmitting a list of judgments against the agents of Sing Sing prison:—

TO THE HONORABLE THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK:—

In pursuance of a resolution of your honorable body, adopted March 16, 1854, I hereby certify that the following is a correct list of the judgments docketed in my office against the agents of the Sing Sing prison, and remaining unsatisfied of record on the docket, with the amount of each when docketed, and in whose favor:—

George E. Stanton agt. Agent of the Sing Sing Prison. Judgment, Westchester Supreme Court, $1,798 62; docketed January 13, 1852. John P. Jenkins, attorney.

Zalmon J. McMaster and Jacob T. Merritt agt. Agent of Sing Sing Prison. Judgment, Westchester Supreme Court, $18,133 25; docketed December 8, 1852. D. Wright, attorney.

Abijah Fitch, Thomas M. Hunt and Henry H. Cooley agt. Agent of the Sing Sing Prison. Judgment, Westchester Supreme Court, $31,625 83; docketed March 15, 1853. Warren T. Worden, attorney.

Horace Hotchkiss and Wm. P. Smith agt. Agent of the Sing Sing Prison. Judgment, Westchester Supreme Court, $2,180 48; docketed March 15, 1853. Warren T. Worden, attorney.

The President, Directors and Company of Westchester County Bank agt Agent of the Sing Sing Prison. Judgment, Westchester Supreme Court, $169 98½; docketed Oct. 23, 1848. Wm. R. Nelson, attorney.

Same agt. same. Judgment, Westchester Supreme Court, $383 55½; docketed October 23, 1848. Wm. R. Nelson, attorney.

Wm. Radford, Chas. L. Archer, and Jno. Squires, Jr., agt. Agent of the Mount Pleasant State Prison. Judgment, Westchester Supreme Court, $571 81; docketed October 27, 1849. Wm. R. Nelson, attorney.

John Romer and Alfred Riggs agt. Agent of the Sing Sing Prison. Judgment, Westchester Supreme Court, $182 58; docketed June 19, 1850. F. Larkin, attorney.

The Stamford Bak agt. Agent of the Sing Sing Prison. Judgment, Westchester Supreme Court, $2,390 72; docketed November 9, 1850. Slosson & Schell, attorneys.

Minot Mitchell agt. Agent of the Sing Sing Prison. Judgment, Westchester Supreme Court, $2,116 59; docketed Dec. 10, 1850. M. Mitchell, attorney.

Stephen Marshall and John M. Stevens agt. Agent of the Sing Sing Prison. Judgment, Westchester Supreme Court, $107 87; docketed September 18, 1851. John P. Jenkins, attorney.

Zalmon T. McMaster and Jacob T. Merritt agt. Agent of the Sing Sing Prison. Judgment, Westchester Supreme Court, $10,980 68; docketed November 13, 1851. D. Wright, attorney.

I, Robert R. Oakley, clerk of the county of Westchester, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the docket of judgments kept in my office.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and affixed the seal of said county, this 20th [L. S.] day of March, A. D. 1854.

ROBERT R. OAKLEY, Clerk.

Time of filing and docketing—1854, March 21, 5 hr.

Name of party against whom judgment has been obtained—Munson J. Lockwood, Agent of the Sing Sing Prison.

Name of party in whose favor judgment has been obtained—Daniel Quinby.

Attorney's name—John J. Clapp.

Damages and costs—$780 38.

CLERK'S OFFICE, Westchester county—Supreme Court.

I certify that the foregoing contains all the facts necessary to make a perfect docket of the judgment rendered in the Supreme Court for the county of Westchester, in the above cause. ROBERT R. OAKLEY, Clerk.

Dated March 21, 1854.

All but three of the judgments named in the above report have been satisfied out of appropriations made by the Legislature in former years, and paid to the respective creditors by the Comptroller himself. He, no doubt, has the satisfaction pieces in his office. Why they have not been filed in the clerk's office of Westchester county, I am unable to state, as well as to enforce. It is out of my province. The three judgments remaining unpaid in the above list are the following, viz.:—Abijah Fitch, Thomas M. Hunt and Henry H. Cooley against the Agent of the Sing Sing prison. Judgment for $31,525 83 damages and costs. This judgment was obtained for alleged damages by fire, which fire occurred long before my official connection with the prison.

Horace Hotchkiss and Wm. P. Smith against the Agent of the Sing Sing Prison.—Judgment for damages and costs, $2,180 43. This judgment, also obtained for alleged violation of contract, was long before my agency of the prison.

Daniel Quinley against Agent of the Sing Sing Prison.—Judgment for damages and costs, $780 38. This debt was for coal, and has lately been put in judgment in order to save the interest. This debt was also reported by me in compliance of the Board of Inspectors as a part of the indebtedness of the prison up to the 31st of December, 1853. As to the pleasant suggestion of your correspondent, of issuing proposals to the proprietors of the Astor, Metropolitan and St. Nicholas hotels for the board of the State prisoners. A single fact will probably be sufficient to show how expensive such a joke would be to the State if it were capable of being carried into effect. The cost of a ration, which supports a prisoner for twenty-four hours, was, the year past, exactly nine and a half cents. This, multiplied by 365 days, gives as the product thirty-four dollars and seventy-two cents, as the annual cost of the mere board of each prisoner. But your correspondent is greatly mistaken if he supposes that the mere subsistence of the convicts is the only item of expense, in supporting a convict. They must be watched and guarded by thirty-three keepers and thirty guards, whose salaries, together with the other affairs amounted, the last year, to $59,226 92. They must have clothes, shoes, and stockings in cold weather, bedding and a large quantity of fuel to cook with, and keep them warm, and also shops to work in. We have expended the last year about $17,000 in buildings and repairs. All these expenses are deducted from the earnings of the prison labor, or charged upon its income.

I trust that this statement will be sufficient to dissipate the fog which has been so industriously created for some time past on this subject. The real indebtedness of the Sing Sing Prison up to the 31st day of December last, was correctly stated by me in my report to the Inspector in charge, after deducting the available and unavailable debts due to the prison, to be about $63,920. The judgments for damages by fire not included.

I have, I fear, trespassed too much already on your valuable space; but a sense of justice to my predecessors, to the interest of the State and to myself, has compelled me to make this appeal to your candor.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

MUNSON J. LOCKWOOD, Agent Sing Sing Prison.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

MONEY MARKET.

SUNDAY, April 2—6 P. M.

The week closed yesterday dull and depressed, so far as the stock market was concerned. We have not seen such a heavy, gloomy day in Wall street for a long time. The bears were, however, in fine spirits, and seemed to enjoy the mishaps of their opponents in the field of speculations. Quotations for nearly every stock on the list, good, bad, and indifferent, closed at a decline, compared with those ruling at the close of the week previous. Stocks generally have been active, but the demand is confined entirely to the street, and the brokers have all the buying and selling among themselves. Outsiders hardly dare make their appearance in the street, and keep at a very safe distance. There are a number of causes for this depression in stocks. The first, and perhaps the most powerful, is the growing stringency in the money market. It is the impression among financiers that the banks have been, for some days past, contracting their regular line of discounts. This is possible and very probable, as the course pursued by these institutions never has been very consistent for any length of time. We should not be surprised at any exhibit they might make. The demand for money has increased faster than the supply from all sources, and the street rates have therefore advanced considerably. The outward movement of specie has lately been limited, but the sub-treasury has drawn pretty heavily upon our supplies and kept the banks under a tacit rein. They have been compelled to be cautious, and the probability is that they have reduced the amount of loans. These checks have a wholesome influence upon the operations of finance and commerce, and but for the frequent contractions which have lately been experienced, we should, without doubt, by this time have been in a very dangerous state of expansion, and perhaps in the midst of a serious revulsion. These lulls or pauses in the creation of credits, give time for liquidation, and a short period of inactivity tends materially to the reduction of liabilities. The position of European affairs, and the condition of things in California, counsel caution, and the commercial classes are by no means disposed to endanger their existence by rushing headlong, heedlessly, into operations which may prove fatal. We are glad to see these checks, and believe they serve to postpone, and perhaps prevent the occurrence of those financial revolutions, which hitherto have proved so disastrous.

There has been more business than usual done during the past week at the mining board. The stocks chiefly dealt in have been North Carolina and Parker Vein. Prices have generally declined since Monday, which is due of course to the general decline in all securities. North Carolina opened on Monday at 4½ and closed yesterday afternoon after rallying, at 4¼. It has been the most active stock on the list, in consequence of Mr. Borneo's experiments for extracting silver from the ore. It was currently reported on Wednesday that he had found $1,600 worth of silver in each ton of ore; it must be presumed, however, that this statement was not generally credited, as such an unexpected accession of value would have made a difference of more than a quarter in the price of the stock. Gold Hill has been steady during the week; selling at 4 on Monday with the dividend, and at 3⅞ yesterday, dividend off. McCulloch has fluctuated a good deal. At the Mining Board the bid has generally been 6⅞, but at the Stock Exchange 7 has been bid every day this week, we believe, and sales were effected yesterday at 7⅛ cash and 7¾ buyer 60. Lehigh has dropped from 3¼ to 3; but a large quantity of stock has passed into the hands of Philadelphians and there is but little offering in this market. Parker Vein has declined ½ since Monday. Should the next news from England prove favorable to operators, the solid mining stocks will soon recover their position on the list.

The receipts at the office of the Assistant Treasurer of the United States for the port of New York, on Saturday, April 1, were $191,224 16; the payments amounted to $78,292—leaving a balance on hand of $8,426,848 07.

The exportation of specie from this port last week was only to a limited extent, as will be seen by the annexed statement:—

SHIPMENTS OF SPECIE FROM THE PORT OF NEW YORK.

Steamer Washington, Bremen, Am. gold bars	$150,483 45
" " " " gold & sil. coin.	59,710 00
Brig Orinoco, Nuevitas, specie	300 00
Brig Putnam, Carthagena, five francs	551 55
Schr. Heinrich, Aquadilla, Am. specie	25,000 00
Total for the week	$236,044 98
Previously reported in 1854	3,655,489 51
Total this year	$3,891,534 49

—The steamship Pacific has no specie on freight.

Mr. A. H. Nicolay's semi-weekly sale of stocks and bonds will take place as usual on Monday, the 3d inst., when he will offer a large amount of railroad bonds. Attention is particularly called to $25,000 of the Great Western (Illinois) Railroad, bearing an interest of ten per cent, and secured by a first mortgage, which does not exceed $15,000 per mile, or about one-half the cost of the road. One hundred miles is finished and reported to be in profitable operytion, under a highly respectable management; and the remainder of the line from Danville to Hannibal on the Mississippi river is to be completed by the 1st of June, 1855, when it will be consolidated with the Lake Erie and Wabash Valley road, forming one of the most important lines in the West. Capitalists will no doubt appreciate the value of these bonds. The terms of sale will be ten per cent on the day of sale and the remainder in thirty days.

The Shoe and Leather Bank has declared a dividend of three and a half per cent; the National Bank a dividend of five per cent; the North River Insurance Company seven per cent.

The warrants entered on the books of the Treasury Department, Washington, on Thursday, the 30th of March, were:—

For the redemption of stocks	$54,106 99
For the payment of other Treasury debts	23,960 35
For the Customs	9,522 71
Covered into the Treasury from Customs	14 79
Do do. miscellaneous sources	478 36
For the War Department	26,382 70
For the Navy Department	18,401 12
For the Interior Department	16,268 30
For repaying in the Interior Department	2,278 68

The annexed table exhibits the coinage at the Mint of the United States, Philadelphia, for the three months of 1854:—

OPERATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES MINT, PHILADELPHIA.

	Jan. and Feb.	March.	Total.
Double eagles	$6,222,940 00	$2,260,260 00	$8,438,200 00
Eagles	—	240,120 00	240,120 00
Half do	—	245,735 00	245,735 00
Quarter do	81,580 00	204,955 00	286,535 00
Dollars	55,808 00	182,814 00	238,622 00
Total gold	$6,360,328 00	3,133,883 00	9,494,212 00
Half dollars	341,000 00	116,000 00	457,000 00
Quarters	609,000 00	566,000 00	1,175,000 00
Dimes	117,000 00	18,000 00	135,000 00
Total silver	$1,067,000 00	700,000 00	1,767,000 00
Copper	3,024 38	6,738 17	9,762 55
Gold, slv'r & cop.	7,430,352 38	3,840,622 17	11,270,974 55
Gold bars	368,883 00	626,000 00	994,883 00
Total	$7,799,235 38	4,466,622 17	12,265,857 55
In 1853	7,948,579 10	5,865,189 26	15,813,768 36
Decrease	$149,343 72	$1,398,567 07	$1,547,910 81

The whole number of pieces coined in March, 1854, was 3,800,785, against 6,697,648 the corresponding month of 1853. Of the pieces coined this year, 450,968 were gold, 2,676,000 silver, and 673,817 copper.

The gold bullion deposited in March was:—

From California	$3,867,000
From other sources	115,000
Total	$3,982,000
Silver bullion deposited	147,500

The deposits of precious metals for the first quarter of the year were:—

	1853		1854	
	Gold.	Silver.	Gold.	Silver.
January	$4,962,097	$14,000	$4,215,579	$108,000
February	3,548,523	13,000	2,514,000	1,166,000
March	7,533,752	70,000	3,982,000	147,500
Total	$16,044,372	$97,000	$10,711,579	$1,421,500

Showing for the three months of this year a decrease of $5,332,793 in the deposits of gold, and an increase of $1,323,940 in the deposits of silver.

The London *Economist* gives the annexed statement of the operations of the three great mint establishments of the world—England, France and the United States—during the year 1853:—

THE THREE GREAT MINTS OF THE WORLD.

COINAGE OF THE UNITED STATES.

	Pieces.	Value in Dollars.
Gold	7,252,576	$51,888,880
Silver	55,751,068	1,570,514
Copper	6,770,825	67,059
Total	69,175,460	$55,808,513

COINAGE IN ENGLAND.

	Pieces.	Value in Sterling.
Gold	13,396,789	£11,952,594
Silver	25,187,592	701,551
Copper	12,813,804	9,073
Total	51,398,185	£12,663,008

COINAGE IN FRANCE.

	Pieces.	Value in France.
Gold	17,404,846	f.330,493,463
Silver	5,090,536	20,080,718
Copper	50,869,285	1,974,929
Total	73,364,667	f.352,549,109

In the three principal mints of the world there was therefore coined, (in pounds sterling) in 1853:—

	Gold.	Silver.	Copper.	Total.
U. States	£16,377,776	1,570,514	13,412	£11,961,702
London	11,952,391	704,544	9,073	12,666,008
Paris	13,218,536	808,588	78,996	14,101,120
Tot. co'ge	£35,548,703	3,078,646	101,481	£38,728,830

The total amount of coin of all kinds, coined during the year, in the three mints, was £38,728,830, which consisted of no fewer than 174,448,021 pieces—or in American money the total coinage of the three mints, was $193,644,150.

When we consider the complaints made in regard to the scarcity of coin, we cannot help asking the question, where has this immense amount of money gone to? In the three countries, great complaints were made during the year of the scarcity of coin. The *Economist* answers the question in not only a satisfactory but a pleasing manner. It says that this enormous amount of coinage, and the complaints still heard of an insufficient currency to conduct the domestic transactions of these great countries, "points to an increase of trade and activity in the productive industry without any parallel in the history of the world."

The annexed statement exhibits the quantity and value of certain articles other than foreign dry goods, imported into this port during the week ending and including Friday, March 31, 1854:—

COMMERCE OF THE PORT OF NEW YORK—WEEKLY EXPORTS.

	Quantity.	Value.		Quantity.	Value.
Baskets	13	3,349	Instruments—		
Books	56	10,252	Mathematical	2	517
Bottles	—	77	Leather	5	1,436
Brushes	9	1,650	Boots & shoes	5	734
Bronzes	7	860	Skins—		
Bristles	3	415	Dressed	112	27,016
Buttons	28	4,893	Undressed	—	22,315
Chinaware	277	13,551	Liquors—		
Segars	200	19,069	Ale	116	954
Cheese	40	1,013	Whiskey	1	112
Clocks	3	322	Sugar	3,436	118,787
Coal, tons	502	895	Copper	9	1,877
Coffee	12,471	73,703	Brass goods	22	3,884
Corks	1	56	Iron	137	6,567
Drugs—			Railroad iron	991	6,798
Arsenic	100	830	Sheet, do	600	2,621
Ammonia	75	3,270	Tubes, do	185	2,686
Assafœtida	5	190	Chains	67	5,763
leach. powd.	131	2,022	Cutlery	100	47,500
ammine	3	197	Guns	61	10,022
ochineal	10	1,861	Hardware	68	9,639
Cinchina bark	265	10,720	Needles	52	3,141
Gum sandlse.	12	493	Saddlery	8	1,533
Iodine	10	3,393	Wire	10	1,119
Potash	10	268	Old metal	—	1,117
Rus'an berries	10	663	Plated ware	27	11,926
Lico. paste	282	4,947	Steel	215	16,343
Otto roses	1	1,048	Tin	3,751	48,403
Quinine	42	2,201	Molasses	1,077	20,883
Med. prep	148	6,696	Mustard	300	530
Soda	208	2,732	Oils—		
Fenna	46	587	Linseed	141	10,707
Shellac	51	1,290	Olive	150	371
Vermillion	3	336	Paints	281	7,223
Engravings	21	7,394	Paper	22	1,153
Dyewoods—			Hangings	115	13,007
Fustic	40	680	Perfumery	5	1,378
Fans	3	1,130	Plants	50	2,355
Fish—			Paintings	1	120
Sardines	51	857	Port monnales	16	4,087
Furs	103	33,331	Salt	680	623
Furniture	13	997	Pepper	640	3,924
Glass	1,450	12,047	Soap	500	1,086
Glassware	8	780	Stationery	46	12,053
Glass, plate	39	4,512	Tea	16,325	95,464
Manf. hair	5	1,894	Toys	39	3,804
Hats	3	607	Watches	29	49,443
Honey	125	2,367	Wines	278	1,719
Indigo	30	5,720	Champagne	1,845	16,871
Instruments—			Wool	105	5,902
Musical	22	5,709	Waste do	64	1,321
Nautical	3	1,328	Crystal Palace	144	19,905
Optical	7	1,820	Other imports	4	716

Value of merchandise put on the market week ending March 31	$900,242
Do. drygoods do	1,285,544
Total	$2,185,686

The leading items of import during the week were as follows:—Coffee, $73,703; furs, $33,331; sugar, $118,787; cutlery, $47,500; tin, $48,493; tea, $95,464; watches, $49,443. The aggregate last week was unusually limited. This moderate importation at this season is a very favorable feature in our foreign trade, and any exhibit of this kind strengthens materially our position in the adjustment of balances. We are glad to see these occasional checks in the importations, for they serve to enlarge our means of payment through our exports.

The Commissioners of the Sinking Fund of the State of Ohio, in their report to the Legislature of that State, gives some very interesting facts relative to the operations of the fund and the progress of the reduction on payment of the public debt. It appears to us that the finances of that State are managed with a great deal of judgment and skill. It will be recollected by many that the State of Ohio was, not many years since, plunged into the greatest financial difficulties and embarrassments by the recklessness, ignorance and extravagance of those who, at that time, controlled the public revenue and expenditures. The credit of the State was nearly ruined, and it narrowly escaped delinquency, and, perhaps, repudiation. Fortunately, better counsels prevailed at the seat of government, and the finances of the State were taken out of the hands of Wall street stock jobbers, and from that time the improvement has been gradual, and now the credit of the State stands as high as any other in the Union.

During the past year the domestic debt of Ohio has been reduced in the sum of $104,697, leaving an unpaid balance of $301,128 70, no part of which, except $2,445 70 is payable until after 1863. The certificates of this debt, now outstanding, are in the ownership of the "independent" and "free banks" of Ohio.

The Commissioners have purchased six per cent certificates of the foreign debt falling, after the 31st December, 1866, to the par value of $73,646, and paid for the same the gross sum of $77,014 17, being at the rate of 4½ per cent premium. The amount of interest which the State would have paid on said bonds on the 1st day of last January, had they not been cancelled, is $2,209 38, and the aggregate amount of interest which they would have drawn from the State, in case they had been left unpaid till maturity, (three and a half years,) is $15,465 66.

Besides the Ohio stocks of 1856, six per cent stocks of the United States were purchased by the Commissioners, at an aggregate cost of $119,417 50, at a premium ranging from 9½ to 22¼ per cent. The Commissioners declined to make further investments in stocks of the United States, on account of the high rate of premium which they commanded in the market, and from an apprehension that they might become depreciated if the efforts which were making by the Pacific Railroad companies to interest the general government in their schemes, should be successful.

Of the State debt due after 31st December, 1860, the commissioners, previous to 1st of January last, purchased the par value of $146,145 47, for which they paid a premium of eight per cent. Had these bonds remained unpaid until maturity, (seven years and a half,) the interst due by the State thereon up to that period, would have amounted to $65,765 46
Deduct premium paid in their purchase 11,844 27
Amount saved above cost of purchase $53,921 19

It will thus be seen that, notwithstanding the embarrassments by which the action of the commissioners have been trammelled, the purchase of Ohio bonds, which they have succeeded in making, has saved the State the net sum of $66,018.

The suggestions and figures contained in the extracts copied below, are of general interest:—

The Commissioners are constrained, however, to remind the Legislature of the fact that neither the debt due in 1856, much less the debt due in 1860, can be met at its maturity, without providing by additional taxation the necessary revenue to accomplish an end so desirable to the property holders of the State. An intelligent people will not expect their public liabilities to be paid off without themselves first furnishing the money to accomplish it. Neither will they claim, after the proper facts have been placed before them, that this desirable end can be attained except by the payment of more taxes than were assessed on the property of the State during the seven years ending on the 15th of November, 1852. For the satisfaction of the Legislature, and more especially for the consideration of