The Nebraska-Kansas Bill.

We give annexed, for the benefit of all concerned and emigrants particularly, a condensed epitome of the House bill enacting a law for the government of Nebraska and Kansas Territories. This bill has passed the Senate and House, and on Monday it will receive the signature of the President, and thereby become the law of the land. We have preserved the important sections of the bill, and omitted only those of no particular import :—

A BILL

TO ORGANIZE THE TERRITORIES OF NEBRASKA AND KANSAS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That all that part of the territory of the United States included within the following limits, except such portions thereof as are hereinafter expressly exempted from the operation of this act, to wit :—Beginning at the western termination of the boundary line dividing the States of Iowa and Missouri; thence west on said parallel to the summit of the highlands separating the waters flowing into Green river or Colorado of the West from the waters flowing into the Great Basin; thence northward on the said highlands to the summit of the Rocky mountains; thence on said summit northward to the forty-ninth parallel of north latitude; thence east on said parallel to the western boundary of the Territory of Minnesota; thence southward on said boundary to the Missouri river; thence down the main channel of said river to the place of beginning—be, and the same is hereby, created into a temporary government by the name of the Territory of Nebraska; and when admitted as a State or States, the said Territory, or any portion of the same, shall be received into the Union, with or without slavery, as their constitution may prescribe at the time of their admission : Provided, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to inhibit the government of the United States from dividing said Territory into two or more Territories, in such manner, and at such times, as Congress shall deem convenient and proper, or from attaching any portion of said Territory to any other State or Territory of the United States : Provided further, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to impair the rights of person or property now pertaining to the Indians in said Territory, so long as such rights shall remain unextinguished by treaty between the United States and such Indians, or to include any territory which, by treaty with any Indian tribe, is not, without the consent of said tribe, to be included within the territorial limits or jurisdiction of any State or Territory; but all such territory shall be excepted out of the boundaries, and constitute no part of the Territory of Nebraska, until said tribe shall signify their assent to the President of the United States to be included within the said Territory of Nebraska, or to affect the authority of the government of the United States to make any regulation respecting such Indians, their lands, property, or other rights, by treaty, law, or otherwise, which it would have been competent to the government to make if this act had never been passed.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the executive power and authority in and over said Territory of Nebraska shall be vested in a Governor, who shall hold his office for four years, and until his successor shall be appointed and qualified, unless sooner removed by the President of the United States. The Governor shall reside within said Territory, shall be commander-in-chief of the militia thereof, shall perform the duties and receive the emoluments of Superintendent of Indian Affairs, and shall approve of all laws passed by the Legislative Assembly, before they shall take effect; he may grant pardons and respites for offences against the laws of said Territory, and reprieves for offences against the laws of the United States, until the decision of the President can be made known thereon; he shall commission all officers who shall be appointed to office under the laws of the said Territory, and shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That there shall be a secretary of said Territory, who shall reside therein, and hold his office for five years, unless sooner removed by the President of the United States; he shall record and preserve all the laws and proceedings of the Legislative Assembly hereinafter constituted, and all the acts and proceedings of the Governor in his executive department; he shall transmit one copy of the laws and journals of the Legislative Assembly within thirty days after the end of each session, and one copy of the executive proceedings and official correspondence semi-annually, on the first days of January and July in each year, to the President of the United States, and two copies of the laws to the President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, for the use of Congress; and in the case of the death, removal, resignation, or absence of the Governor from the Territory, the secretary shall be, and he is hereby, authorized and required to execute and perform all the powers and duties of the Governor during such vacancy or absence, or until another Governor shall be duly appointed and qualified to fill such vacancy.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That the Legislative power and authority of said Territory shall be vested in the Governor and Legislative Assembly. The Legislative Assembly shall consist of a Council and House of Representatives. The Council shall consist of thirteen members, having the qualifications of voters, as hereinafter prescribed, whose term of service shall continue two years. The House of Representatives shall, at its first session, consist of twenty-six members, possessing the same qualifications as prescribed for members of the Council, and whose term of service shall continue one year. The number of representatives may be increased by the Legislative Assembly, from time to time, in proportion to the increase of qualified voters: Provided, That the whole number shall never exceed thirty-nine.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That every free white male inhabitant above the age of twenty-one years, who shall be an actual resident of said Territory, and shall possess the qualification hereinafter prescribed, shall be entitled to vote at the first election, and shall be eligible to any office within the said Territory; but the qualifications of voters and of holding office, at all subsequent elections, shall be such as shall be prescribed by the Legislative Assembly: Provided, That the right of suffrage and of holding office shall be exercised only by citizens of the United States, and those who shall have declared, on oath, their intention to become such, and shall have taken an oath to support the constitution of the United States and the provisions of this act: And provided further, That no officer, soldier, seaman, or marine, or other person in the army or navy of the United States, or attached to troops in the service of the United States, shall be allowed to vote or hold office in said Territory, by reason of being on service therein for six months, unless said Territory is and has been for that period otherwise his permanent domicil, residence, habitation and home.

Sec. 6. All the laws passed by the Legislative Assembly and Governor shall be submitted to the Congress of the United States; and if disapproved, shall be null and of no effect.

Sec. 7. And be it further enacted, That all township, district, and county officers, not herein otherwise provided for, shall be appointed or elected, as the case may be, in such manner as shall be provided by the Governor and Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Nebraska.

Sec. 8. And be it further enacted, That no member of the Legislative Assembly shall hold, or be appointed to, any office which shall have been created, or the salary or emoluments of which shall have been increased, while he was a member, during the term for which he was elected, and for one year after the expiration of such term.

Sec. 9. And be it further enacted, That the judicial power of said Territory shall be vested in a Supreme Court, District Courts, Probate Courts, and in Justices of the Peace. The Supreme Court shall consist of a Chief Justice and two Associate Justices, any two of whom shall constitute a quorum, and who shall hold a term at the seat of government of said Territory annually, and they shall hold their offices during the period of four years, and until their successors shall be appointed and qualified. The said Territory shall be divided into three judicial districts, and a District Court shall be held in each of said districts by one of the Justices of the Supreme Court, at such times and places as may be prescribed by law; and the said judges shall, after their appointments respectively, reside in the districts which shall be assigned them. The jurisdiction of the several courts herein provided for, both appellate and original, and that of the Probate Courts and of Justices of the Peace, shall be as limited by law: Provided, That Justices of the Peace shall not have jurisdiction of any matter in controversy when the title or boundaries of land may be in dispute, or where the debt or sum claimed shall exceed one hundred dollars; and the said Supreme and District Courts, respectively, shall possess chancery as well as common law jurisdiction. Each District Court, or the judge thereof, shall appoint its clerk, who shall also be the Register in Chancery, and shall keep his office at the place where the court may be held. Writs of error, bills of exception, and appeals, shall be allowed in all cases from the final decisions of said District Courts to the Supreme Court, under such regulations as may be prescribed by law; but in no case removed to the Supreme Court shall trial by jury be allowed in said court. The Supreme Court, or the justices thereof, shall appoint its own clerk, and every clerk shall hold his office at the pleasure of the court for which he shall have been appointed. Writs of error, and appeals from the final decisions of said Supreme Court, shall be allowed, and may be taken to the Supreme Court of the United States, in the same manner and under the same regulations as from the Circuit Courts of the United States, where the value of the property, or the amount in controversy, to be ascertained by the oath or affirmation of either party, or other competent witness, shall exceed one thousand dollars; except only that in all cases involving title to slaves, the said writs of error or appeals shall be allowed and decided by the said Supreme Court, without regard to the value of the matter, property, or title in controversy; and except also that a writ of error or appeal shall also be allowed to the Supreme Court of the United States, from the decisions of the said Supreme Court created by this act, or of any judge thereof, or of the District Courts created by this act, or of any judge thereof, upon any writ of habeas corpus, involving the question of personal freedom: Provided, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to apply to or affect the provisions of the "act respecting fugitives from justice, and persons escaping from the service of their masters," approved February twelfth, seventeen hundred and ninety-three, and the "act to amend and supplementary to the aforesaid act," approved September eighteenth, eighteen hundred and fifty; and each of the said District Courts shall have and exercise the same jurisdiction in all cases arising under the constitution and laws of the United States as is vested in the Circuit and District Courts of the United States; and the said Supreme and District Courts of the said Territory, and the respective judges thereof, shall and may grant writs of habeas corpus in all cases in which the same are granted by the judges of the United States in the District of Columbia; and the first six days of every term of said courts, or so much thereof as shall be necessary, shall be appropriated to the trial of causes arising under the said constitution and laws, and writs of error and appeal in all such cases shall be made to the Supreme Court of said Territory the same as in other cases. The said clerk shall receive in all such cases the same fees which the clerks of the District Courts of Utah Territory now receive for similar services.

Sec. 10. And be it further enacted, That the provisions of the act entitled "An act respecting fugitives from justice, and persons escaping from the service of their masters," approved February twelfth, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-three, and the provisions of the act entitled "An act to amend and supplementary to the aforesaid act," approved September eighteenth, one thousand eight hundred and fifty, be, and the same are hereby, declared to extend to and be in full force within the limits of said Territory of Nebraska.

Sec. 11. And be it further enacted, That there shall be appointed an attorney for said Territory, who shall continue in office for four years, and until his successor shall be appointed and qualified, unless sooner removed by the President, and who shall receive the same fees and salary as the attorney of the United States for the present Territory of Utah. There shall also be a marshal for the Territory appointed, who shall hold his office for four years, and until his successor shall be appointed and qualified.

Sec. 12. And be it further enacted, That the Governor, Secretary, Chief Justice and Associate Justices, Attorney and Marshal, shall be nominated, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appointed by the President of the United States. There shall be appropriated annually the sum of fifteen hundred dollars, to be expended by the Governor, to defray the contingent expenses of the Territory, including the salary of a clerk of the executive department; and there shall also be appropriated, annually, a sufficient sum, to be expended by the Secretary of the Territory, and upon an estimate to be made by the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, to defray the expenses of the Legislative Assembly, the printing of the laws, and other incidental expenses.

Sections 13 and 14 provide that the Legislature shall assemble at such place as the Governor may direct, and that the Territory shall be entitled to a delegate in Congress under the usual restrictions, and finally that the constitution, and all the laws of the United States which are not locally inapplicable, shall have the same force and effect within the said Territory of Nebraska as elsewhere within the United States, except the eighth section of the act preparatory to the admission of Missouri into the Union, approved March sixth, eighteen hundred and twenty, which was superseded by the principles of the legislation of eighteen hundred and fifty, commonly called the compromise measures, and is hereby declared inoperative.

Sec. 15. And be it further enacted, That the sum of five thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be expended by and under the direction of the said Governor of the Territory of Nebraska, in the purchase of a library, to be kept at the seat of government, for the use of the Governor, Legislative Assembly, judges of the Supreme Court, Secretary, Marshal, and Attorney of said Territory, and such other persons and under such regulations as shall be prescribed by law.

Sections 16 and 17 provide for the appropriation of land for schools, and the location of judicial districts, and section 18 that all officers are required to give security for moneys that may be intrusted with them for disbursement, shall give such security at such time and place, and in such manner, as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe.

Sec. 19. And be it further enacted, That the President of the United States be, and he hereby is, authorized to enter into negotiation with the Indian tribes of the said Territory of Nebraska, for the purpose of securing the assent of said tribes to the settlement of the citizens of the United States upon the lands claimed by said Indians, and for the purpose of extinguishing the title of said Indian tribes in whole or in part to such lands; and that, for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this section, the sum of one hundred thousand dollars is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Sec. 20. And be it further enacted, That as soon as the Governor of said Territory of Nebraska shall enter upon the discharge of his duties as such, the Superintendency of Indian Affairs at St. Louis, in the State of Missouri, shall be abolished, and the duties shall be transferred to and performed by the the said Governor of Nebraska, so far as they relate to, or are to be performed within, said Territory.

Sec. 21. And be it further enacted, That all that part of the territory of the United States included within the following limits, except such portions thereof as are hereinafter expressly exempted from the operations of this act, to wit: beginning at a point on the western boundary of the State of Missouri, where the thirty-seventh parallel of north latitude crosses the same; thence west on said parallel to the eastern boundary of New Mexico; thence north on said boundary to latitude thirty-eight; thence following said boundary westward to the summit of the highlands dividing the waters flowing into the Colorado of the West or Green river, from the waters flowing into the Great Basin; thence northward on said summit to the southern line of Nebraska; thence along the southern line of Nebraska to the western line dividing the States of Iowa and Missouri; thence south with the western boundary of said State to the place of beginning, be, and the same is hereby, created into a temporary government, by the name of the Territory of Kansas; and, when admitted as a State or States, the said Territory, or any portion of the same, shall be received into the Union, with or without slavery, as their constitution may prescribe at the time of their admission: Provided, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to inhibit the government of the United States from dividing said Territory into two or more Territories, in such manner and at such time as Congress shall deem convenient and proper, or from attaching any portion of said Territory to any other State or Territory of the United States: Provided further, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to impair the rights of persons or property now pertaining to the Indians in said Territory, so long as such rights shall remain unextinguished by treaty between the United States and such Indians, or to include any territory which, by treaty with any Indian tribe, is not, without the consent of said tribe, to be included within the territorial limits or jurisdiction of any State or Territory; but all such territory shall be excepted out of the boundaries, and constitute no part of the Territory of Kansas, until such tribe shall signify their assent to the President of the United States to be included within the said Territory of Kansas, or to affect the authority of the government of the United States to make any regulation respecting such Indians, their lands, property, or other rights, by treaty, law, or otherwise, which it would have been competent to the government to make if this act had never passed.

The remaining twenty sections in the act prescribe the same form of government for Kansas as for Nebraska—the difference is only in the alteration of the names of the Territories.

ACCIDENT ON THE MICHIGAN CENTRAL RAILROAD —THREE LIVES LOST.—The evening train which left Detroit on Tuesday, at 6 o'clock, for this place, on arriving at a road which crosses the track about three miles this side of Jackson, ran over a large bull which had laid himself down upon the track, with his back towards the approaching train. The shock threw the locomotive entirely off the track, and smashed the emigrant car to pieces. The engineer, Mr. Clock, of Detroit, and the fireman, Mr. Fuller, of Marshal, and a young man who got on the engine at Jackson to come on to Marshal, were all instantly killed, and several of the emigrants in the car which was broken, were slightly injured. The engineer leaves a wife and two children in Detroit, and the fireman, Mr. Fuller, had a brother killed on the road about three years ago. The accident took place about 9 o'clock, and no vigilance on the part of the engineer could have avoided it, as there is a curve in the road at the place where the accident occurred.—*Chicago Tribune, May 25.*

Domestic Miscellany.

A young man named James Larkin, in a scuffle with Thomas Scott, at St. Louis on the 18th inst., was thrown over a balustrade on the pavement, and so much injured that he died in two days.

Two children of Mr. Voorhies, teller in the New Brunswick Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank, died suddenly lately, supposed to have been poisoned by Lyon's magnetic powders.

The village of Towanda has been visited with another fire. The Female Seminary in that place was burnt to the ground on the 18th inst.

Our Texas Correspondence.

BROWNSVILLE, (on the Rio Grande,) Texas, April 28, 1854.

The Struggle between Alvarez and Santa Anna—General Cardenas—Brownsville and Rio Grande Railroad.

The failure of the mails from the city of Mexico keeps us in the dark as to what is transpiring in the southern portion of Santa Anna's dominions, and our kind neighbors on the other side anxiously look for intelligence from that quarter, as it is now known that Alvarez had left his mountain passes and advanced on to the table lands to engage Santa Anna in person. The final result of the struggle now going on between these two chieftains will satisfy you that Alvarez is more than a match for his Serene Highness.

The probable failure in the Senate of the Gadsden treaty has been highly pleasing to our friends on the opposide side of the line, who would feign hope that the "conscript fathers" of the great republic may not, by a solemn vote, give their petty despot the means wherewith to perpetuate his despicable rule in that country. The treaty is very unpopular with them on account of the clause which gives Santa Anna so many millions per month, and the American Senate, they say, by doing this, virtually encourages and upholds tyranny on the American continent.

The ex-Governor of Tamaulipas, Don Jesus Cardenas, so far from being on this side of the river, as had been asserted, was some days ago arrested in El Valle del Maiz, within the Department of San Luis Potosi, so that the standing order against him to be shot if taken within Tamaulipas, will hardly be carried out against him. He has, nevertheless, been sent to San Luis to be tried on the charge of having been within the prohibited territory.

The commissioners appointed by the Legislature of Texas for organizing the "Brownsville and Rio Grande Railroad Company gave notice on the 17th of this month that books for stock subscriptions are now open in this city, and will be kept open for thirty days thereafter in this place, at the expiration of which time the same will be transmitted to New Orleans, there to be opened for subscriptions, and to be kept open for whatever time the board may deem necessary. Each subscriber is required to pay five per cent down on the amount subscribed.

Our indefatigable fellow-citizen, P. C. Shannon, Esq., has furnished the *American Flag* with a condensed statement, compiled from reliable statistics, of the amount of freight, &c., between this place and Brazos Santiago, from which estimate it would appear that the actual cost of the road, in fact, will only be some $144,000. Persons familiar with enterprises of this nature affirm that the dividends must be larger than any other in the country, and feel sanguine of its entire success.

We have no news from the upper Rio Grande, and the health of this place is fine. RIO BRAVO.

Our Albany Correspondence.

ALBANY, May 26, 1854.

Lamentable State of Affairs—The Union upon the Verge of again Toppling—Wailing of the Alarmists—Peckham's Position—His Fall, &c.

Again the country is ruined. Once more the discontented fanatics are upon the eve of dissolving the Union, all on account of the organization of the Territories of Nebraska and Kansas, for the purpose of facilitating emigration, and preparing them for admission as States, as all others outside of the original thirteen have been admitted. But the country has been frequently on the verge of ruin in previous days, and the disappointment of the alarmists, that it would not stay ruined, as they hoped and predicted, was never greater than it will be now. We, of the second generation, have a thousand times perused the records and papers relating to the purchase of Louisiana by President Jefferson—how indiscreet it was to pay fifteen millions for a tract of wild lands, inhabited only by savages, Frenchmen and howling animals, extending to the far West—even to the Mississippi—beyond the region of law, gospel or civilization. For this act Jefferson was burnt in effigy, his intentions villified, his motives impugned, and his administration most vehemently slandered and strenuously opposed. While negotiations were pending for the acquisition of Florida, in order to extinguish the Spanish title upon our southwestern border, then again the spirit of alarm was awakened, and the opponents of the measure set the country, in Congress and out, in a blaze, asserting that Florida was inhabited only by Creek and Seminole Indians, living in morasses, of which the territory was mostly composed; that the savages could never be subdued and civilization never enter; that the lands were unfit for any kind of culture or cultivation, and the purchase of them was nothing but a gratuity to Spain. When the annexation of Texas was mooted, and a proposition to admit it into the Union as a State, then the howlings of the same alarmists became more desperate than ever. They spread the alarm that Mexico would never submit, that Santa Anna would form an alliance with other powers, and forcibly wrest Texas from us, tear the lone star from our national emblem, and thus disgrace our union. Aye, and they threatened, too, that in such a crisis a mighty host of American citizens would be found with armor on, ready to assist in restoring Texas to Mexico. We all recollect the excitement of that occasion—how Clay, Van Buren, and other ambitious aspirants for Presidential honors, opposed the annexation, and how, by that opposition, they became politically entombed; and when, in 1845, Texas was invaded by hostile armies, and the soil crimsoned with the blood of American soldiers—when chastisement became indispensable, and a war with Mexico inevitable, loud lamentations again resounded through the land—from the press, the stump, and the pulpit—denouncing the war—that it was aggressive on the part of the United States; that its only object was the grasping of more Mexican territory, and that all defenders of our country's honor were "human butchers," and should find "hospitable graves" in Mexico. And when that country was conquered by the valor of American arms, and indemnity demanded, Mexico had nothing in her treasury to offer. General Scott might have held possession, by conquest, of the entire Mexican possessions to this day, and the United States forever after. But in lieu of money, Mexico offered to cede a portion of her territory lying upon our northwestern border. But the fanatics—the free soilers and abolitionists—became highly exasperated at the proposition. They taught the doctrine that California could never be subjected to the federal government—its inhabitants consisted only of illiterate Mexicans and Indians, and a few soldiers from the Atlantic coast, sent out at the commencement of the war, under Col. Stevenson. It would cost many millions annually to support a standing army to keep the people in awe, without the least benefit to the country or to mankind.

Such has been the uniform conduct of a band of restless discontents for half a century. What would be the condition of this country this moment, had the several administrations in power lent them a listening ear? Who would possess the Louisiana country now?—who Florida, Texas, California, if destruction had visited this Union as often as these disorganizers desired? Instead of weakening, every acquisition of territory—the admission of every Territory and State in the Union since the original thirteen—has added might, strength and greater consolidation to the government. And who is there, at this day, fool-hardy enough to advocate the separation of either of those acquisitions from the confederacy? There is no man so wild and fanatical. As well might a proposition be entertained to separate the Empire State from the Union, as Texas, Florida or California; and though the latter lies thousands of miles distant from the national capital, it is as easily governed, and the laws are as highly respected, as in old Virginia or the Bay State.

Just so with Nebraska. The spirit which persecuted Jefferson, which opposed Louisiana, Florida, Texas, California, is the same which burned Douglas in effigy, and which now threatens a dissolution of the Union upon the acquisition of the Territories west of Iowa. The infection has fastened itself upon our immediate representative in Congress, Rufus W. Peckham. He made a speech against the organization of those Territorial governments, and recorded his vote in accordance with his speech. There are some remarkable passages in that speech. Among other things, he said that "he was no politician"—that he went to "Congress against his own wishes and inclinations," and only at the "earnest solicitation of his personal friends." No "politician," aye! Why, such an assertion out of the State of New York may be listened to; but in this region, in this vicinity, where the honorable gentleman is so well known, it is not believed by a single individual. He has been a politician from his very childhood, taking in his latter days a very prominent leadership; and since John Yan Buren defeated him in the race for the Attorney Generalship, Rufus has been one of the most bitter opponents of the free soilers, and among the cherished apostles of hunkerism. Peckham no politician! In whom, then, have the hards confided? Again: Our worthy representative remarks that he was elected to "Congress against his own wishes and inclinations." When making this remark, his mind must have been in a state of wonderful hallucination. He might have deserted the hunkers and gone over to the soft and free soil enemy with a much better grace than to accompany his defection with an assertion which every voter in this Congressional district well knows to be untrue. The hundreds who were in attendance upon the convention when he received his nomination, can attest to the activity, anxiety and determined energy which he displayed on that occasion. They recollect the desperate efforts made by him and his friends for the nomination. The contest between him and Colonel Temple was most animated and spirited—so close that both claimed the victory before proceeding to ballot. One or two votes only gave the nomination to Peckham, though the friends of Temple contend to this day that bribery and other means of corruption had an effect in producing the result. And still our worthy representative, as an excuse for voting against Nebraska, must needs assert that he was elected to Congress against his own wishes and inclinations! Certain it is—and the fact should be known at Washington—that no man ever labored more zealously for an election than did Mr. Peckham during that exciting canvass—With an industry never surpassed, with an energy indomitable, and a restlessness unparalleled, he devoted himself towards electing himself, after his nomination. All other business was suspended—his law clients had to defer their cases until after the election—as an attorney, he abandoned his profession until the end of the contest; and night and day, in the country and city, Mr. Peckham was unceasingly and most arduously engaged in making speeches, and resorting to all other manner of expedients, endeavoring to convince the people that the welfare of the country, its union and prosperity, and the prevention of misrule, depended altogether upon the election of "Pierce and Peckham." As a tolerably successful advocate before petit jurors, heretofore, he also succeeded in convincing a majority of the people. Nevertheless, he declares at Washington that he occupies a seat in Congress "against his wishes and inclinations!" Another session will close his political career in this locality. Where will he go? The hunkers have discarded him on account of his opposition to Nebraska; the softs and free soilers thank him for his vote, but denounce him for opposition to the administration, and to Governor Marcy in particular. His resignation, upon his return, will be thankfully received, and a certificate given him as an introduction to Wisconsin.

Affairs in Washington.

[Correspondence of the Baltimore Sun.]

WASHINGTON, May 24, 1854.

England Taking Possession of the Russian Ports and Territories—No Depredations on Private Property—The Despatches from Spain—The Foreign Affairs Committee and Cuba—The Strength of the Filibusters—Their Movements and Designs—Speedy War Expected, &c.

Notice has been given to our government by the government of Great Britain, that they will take possession of the port of Sitka, and all other Russian ports on the Pacific. So the British government will maintain a strong fleet, and hold important naval stations in our vicinity on the Pacific coast during the war with Russia, and probably afterwards. This will be very convenient for the British in case of any war with the United States. The Russians may, and probably will, hold their possessions in the interior, and, possibly, may overrun the British settlements.

The calamities resulting to the inhabitants will be lessened by an agreement that has been made between the British and Russian Fur Companies, to avoid all private warfare and depredations on private property.

There was yesterday a considerable flurry among politicians, in consequence of an alarming report of a speedy war with Spain. The despatches just received are, probably, of a character that will enable the President to maintain the warlike tone that he assumed in the message of the 14th of March, on the Black Warrior case.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Senate yesterday held a meeting on the subject of the resolutions before them relative to Cuba. They came to no conclusion on the subject, and are to take another consultation, after obtaining the Spanish documents which they have called for—one which will embrace the edicts relative to the slave trade, apprenticeships, &c. There is no probability that the committee will make a report, very soon, in favor of the propositions of Senator Slidell, or of a blockade of the Cuban ports.

Great preparations have been made by the filibusters for a descent upon Cuba. The association now commands a fund of a million of dollars, and they have an able and experienced American general at their head. They put their general, the Governor, against the Governor-General, and, with five thousand troops, to be armed and equipped, with the aid of the "mysterious muskets," they are to undertake to land in Cuba. They do not expect to conquer the island and keep it without the aid of the United States.

Upon the failure of Mr. Slidell's resolutions, a blockade will be resorted to. At all events our filibusters will be enabled, without hindrance, to carry out their own plans until Congress can be dragooned into the measure. Preparations are now making to get in readiness a naval force to enable the President to give some efficiency to the blockade in opposition to the French and Spanish fleets. It is supposed by many that we shall be in a state of flagrant war with foreign powers in ninety days.

The Last Dog Train Mail.

A FOOT RACE—AN INDIAN WHO DRINKS TEA.

[From the Cleveland Herald, May 24.]

EAGLE RIVER, April 18, 1854.

The majority of deaths that occur here are caused by dissipation or accident. Yesterday a man was killed at the Copper Fall mine by falling eighty feet down a shaft. The same morning another was blown up by a blast that is supposed to have gone off accidentally, while a man was at the bottom of a shaft 316 feet deep, in the Waterbury mine. Heretofore some have been frozen to death every winter, but I have heard of no case this season.

The sun has come northward over thirty degrees, and shines with much power, but the ground in the woods is covered two feet with snow. In the few open spaces and fields it has nearly disappeared. The lake presents everywhere a white field of ice, with dark lines of water running through it.

Last year a boat reached here on the last day of April, but there is now little prospect of one before the middle of May. Dog trains and ox-sleds are still in motion, but they drag heavily. Among buildings and fields they go as hard as if it was midsummer; but on well-trod paths in the woods the snow is yet solid. A few birds now break the solitude of the forest with an occasional chirp. The roosters, released from their dark and warm winter houses, flap their wings and crow; and hens have been heard to cackle lustily over the event of laying an egg.

So you see there are signs of life in hitherto dormant nature. Another symptom of spring appeared in the shape of a township election. The removal of a county seat was in question, and as this usually causes more exertion than the election of a dozen Presidents, the excitement, the warmth and the liquor of the occasion may have had some effect upon the atmosphere.

About a week previous to the election, a grand foot race occurred at Eagle Harbor, for a purse of $100. It took place on the ice, on a circular course one mile in length, and the purse belonged to him who made ten miles in the best time. It was contended for by a Frenchman named Antoine Le Duc, two Indians and an Irishman.

In the early part of the performance, no one made so much noise as the Paddy's wife, who stood at the corner of the course, swinging her handkerchief and shouting "Run! Mike, run!" She probably foresaw in the $100 purse, divers new dresses, combs and bonnets.

But it seems that even a woman's handkerchief, and smiles, and even her cheers, may not always win. At the end of the fourth mile, Mike withdrew to the domestic hearth without any more dollars than he had before.

One of the Indians held out to the eighth round and disappeared. The other continued to run till Le Duc had made the tenth mile, and found himself exactly even with Le Duc, but exactly one mile behind.

The winner made his ten miles in fifty-eight minutes. When he passed the post, an admiring crowd seized him, and bore him off upon their shoulders, but he disengaged himself and out-ran them all. He intends to run in New York against any one who may offer.

The fights and pow-wows that succeeded the race evinced a most commendable degree of public spirit.

I intended to have said more about the mines, but it is very doubtful whether this mail gets through, and if it should not, such an epistle as this can afford to be lost; but a carefully prepared notice of a mine requires too much time and examination to be entrusted to the chances of the last dog-train mail.

The snow is melting, rivers are breaking up, and the ice in the bays is becoming rotten, so that both man and mail-bag may sink to rise no more.

A train that is now being dragged over the sand before my window, by three dogs driven by an Indian, reminds me of old Wimptegoshee. He is a hospitable old Indian, who lives on Portage Lake, and it is his son who is driving the dogs.

The packages that are strapped on that sledge give it the appearance of a corpse of full length, lying on its back, the feet to the rear.

Wimptegoshee has a cabin on Portage Lake and a patch of potatoes. In winter he hunts deer and takes white fish, which he sends to the mines for a market, by his dogs and his sons. If a white man comes to his cabin, there is a slice of venison and a piece of white fish always ready for him, and also a cup of tea. He is so much liked in that region that a mine has been named the "Wimptegoshee Copper Company," and its stock has been in the market. Whether the mine is equal to the old man's fish and venison, I do not know, nor do I know where it is situated. There are many mines that exist principally on paper.

In a month or six weeks to come we shall not be winter bound, but spring bound. If there is ice and snow the dog-train is a sure mode of conveyance. If there is any water we have boats that are sure also, but the mixture of ice and water presents an impassable field to any known mode of travel.

Interesting from the Chincha Islands.

HAMPTON ROADS, Norfolk, Va., May 16, 1854.

Condition of Things at the Chincha Islands—The Late Guano Difficulty—The United States Frigate St. Lawrence—How they Amuse themselves there—Boat Racing, Dinner Parties, &c.—How Long will the Supply of Guano Last?—Horrible and Outrageous Treatment of the Chinese Laborers, or Coolies, &c.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

The ship —— reached the Chincha Islands in October, 1853. It is unnecessary to state particularly where those islands are situated, or what they contain, for it is pretty generally known that they are the great guano depot of Peru and the world, and that hundreds of ships, displaying the flags of all nations, visit them annually for that "precious dust," the virtue of which is known to every agriculturist in the States. When a ship arrives near the anchorage, she has a visit from several of the waiting shipmasters, one of which, who has made himself acquainted with the best unoccupied ground, acts as pilot, and conducts the new arrival to a clear berth. The "mudhook" down and a convenient hour, visits are numerous, to inquire for letters, and break the monotony of a life at the islands. The required time for lay days is ten for every one hundred tons; but it depends entirely upon the size of the ship how long you are detained among the Ammonias. The most numerous part of the great California fleet now stop at Ammonia Islands for a return cargo, among which are our beautiful clipper ships; and as they are of heavy tonnage, so in proportion are their lay days of enjoyment. We made our appearance at the seat of the "Pelican war" not long after peace was restored, and the talk upon the subject had not yet died away. There were different opinions as to the culpability of the parties engaged; but in one opinion all the Americans were united, and that was, if government had done her duty, and had had a national vessel there to protect the interest of her citizens, and defend American ship masters from the tyranny of a petty government, the "Pelican war" would not have occurred. About six months after this insult to the "Star-spangled Banner," the frigate St. Lawrence lay at Callao, giving parties and returning visits, exchanging salutes and honoring the little would-be-great men. If you asked any of the gentlemen what they were doing, the invariable answer would be—"Waiting despatches." We left her in Callao waiting despatches, and, for aught we know, she is still performing the same monotonous duty in Callao or elsewhere. About one hundred and twenty ships are continually at the islands, averaging, say, thirty souls on board, making a "floating population" of 3,600—quite a town upon the water. It was very pleasing, too, to see the fair sex so well represented by the wives of many ship masters, both American and English; and that natural influence of the ladies over the sterner sex was as apparent among the ships in a distant land as upon the soil of our native homes.

Boat races were "got up" both by sailing and "pulling," dinners given, card parties made, and by some few who did not know how to enjoy, or could not appreciate, the society where innocent amusement reigned in triumph, sought the secret societies which meet at midnight, and can't "go home 'till morning." A pulling match came off on the 26th of November at the appointed ship; the boats gathered at the starting point before the sea breeze set in strong, for a pull around North Island and back to the given point, the shortest time being entitled to a small prize made up from the entrance money of each boat. The two leading boats appeared pretty nearly matched, and when they reached the west end of the island it was ahead No. 1, and then No. 2; but No. 2 seeing that the chances were not so favorable as they wished, shot in between a rock and the point of the island, to windward of No. 1, thereby expecting to gain a boat's length ahead of their opponents; but it required a most skilful steersman to put a boat through this dangerous pass in safety. It would have been accomplished had not the "after oarsman" "crabed his oar." The instant that fault was committed, No. 2 sheered up upon the rocks, and was immediately dashed to pieces. No. 1, viewing the catastrophe, "hauled up" to the rescue of life, giving the chance to No. 3, close at their heels, who continued on, and won the race. After the boats all got in, about fifty gentlemen sat down to a collation, and ended the amusements of the day. The next race was a sailing match. About forty boats entered, such as the ships could muster, forming a great variety, among which were the English clinker-built, of four tons burthen; the American whale boat, yawls, and surf-boats—in fact, boats of all sizes and models, from the four tons down to no tons. We stood upon South Island, elevated one hundred feet above the level of the sea, when the tiny fleet was entering between the islands. It was an interesting sight to behold, and an exciting one to those immediately concerned. The stern boats were trimming their sails, and manœuvring to get to windward, or vie with those ahead. The four-toner won the race; a New York boat followed in her wake, and was within two minutes of her time; the others continued to arrive for more than one hour before they were all in.

The last dinner previous to our departure was an American one, got up by subscription, and given on board of the American ship Celestial Empire, a three-deck ship, of some sixteen hundred tons. Every American shipmaster, from the boys to the "old gray backs," were invited to join, and a number of English gentlemen. The ladies—"God bless them!"—were the invited guests, together with the newly-appointed guano Governor and suite. No pains or expense were spared to make it the grand affair "of the season;" and they succeeded. The upper between decks, was decorated with foreign flags as well as national. A representation of the father of our country on canvass, with the words, in a royal arch over his head "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen," was obtained from the New York ship Baltimore, and held a conspicuous place. Plates were laid for one hundred and twenty. The between decks was converted into a grand hall for the occasion, and furnished, together with the table, by contributions from other ships. A committee obtained the wines and marketing at Pisco, a town some ten miles distant, on the continent. A part of the cooking and pastry was executed on board of other ships; in fact, every arrangement made and every precaution taken to prevent "miss-stays." Among the viands were all the delicacies of the season, including delicious grapes, which appeared for the first time. The dinner was served up at five o'clock, but nothing was hurried—all had ample time to enjoy the banquet. Pleasure, cheerfulness, and enjoyment were general. After the cloth was removed the wine-glass passed temperately around, the ladies politely not refusing to respond to a compliment by sipping one glass from the "south side of Madeira." Among other toasts, "Health to the President of the United States" and "Queen Victoria" were drunk, when the three following were presented to the company by a bashful gent, and repeated by the vice-president of the board, with good emphasis, eliciting general applause. Standing, and pointing to the portrait of Washington: "The memory of that portrait! Although the original form has long been crumbled into dust, may his spirit never forsake us." "Union of all Nations—May the day be not far distant when 'honorable war' will be struck from the world's vocabulary, and 'honorable peace' be the countersign of all nations." "To Captain Pierce, President of the Board—May he not, like his illustrious namesake, be obliged to retire at a limited period, but continue to command an 'Empire' (Celestial) long after Franklin Pierce retires from a republic." After which some sentimental and patriotic songs were sung by the gentlemen, and echoed back by the sweet voices of the ladies. All retired in harmony at an early hour, highly gratified with the banquet.

The Ammonia Islands contain layers of guano from three feet thick to sixty, and the time to clear them has been variously computed from nine years to twenty. We would think the latter nearest the truth. The merchants of the present day, however, need not be apprehensive of having return freights for their ships from Peru for the next thirty years to come, when, from the natural course of events, by that time they may expect to be converted into guano themselves.

The Administrador ruled supreme until last January, when his power was superseded by an appointed Governor, to whom he is now obliged to report. General Seratta has filled his place well, and is generally liked, although some have found fault with his management. True, he sometimes replies in a fractious spirit to unimportant questions; but the idea of his having forty or fifty shipmasters, representatives from all nations, running to his office daily, wanting favors, and to be served first, and all impatient, is anything but cheering. One day at a visit to "Seratta's," an English captain came in, seated himself at the same table where the General was writing, and not succeeding in drawing the immediate attention of the "administrador," jumped from his seat, caught up an axe within reach, and literally split the table in pieces. Certainly such annoyances are not promoters of amiability. Seratta's quarters are on the north or principal island, where he has the opportunity of viewing the progress of digging, in person. His second in authority is a man who claims to be an Hungarian, has flourished under the name of "John Smith," or some other popular name, but now Kossuth. He is now generally known at the islands, and signs all documents with the name of the great Magyar, boasting of having served with him in the cause of