THE GREAT POISONING CASE IN ENGLAND.

THE INQUESTS ON THE BODIES OF PALMER'S WIFE AND BROTHER—CONTINUATION OF THE TESTIMONY—HOW MRS. PALMER SICKENED AND DIED—WHAT PALMER PRESCRIBED FOR HER.

[Correspondence of London Times.]

RUGELEY, Jan. 11, 1856.

The inquests upon the bodies respectively of Walter and Anne Palmer, the deceased brother and wife of William Palmer, late surgeon of this town, who has been committed upon the Coroner's warrant charged with the wilful murder of William Parsons Cook, were resumed this morning in the Town Hall, here before Mr. W. W. Ward, Coroner, and a jury of twenty-two gentlemen, of whom Mr. W. Fowke was the foreman.

Mr. John Smith, of Birmingham, solicitor, was present to watch the case on the behalf of William Palmer, who is suspected of having poisoned the deceased. A large number of assurance companies were also represented by Mr. Deane, solicitor, of London; and, as osfers, Mr. Gardiner, solicitor, of Stafford, conducted the case for the Crown.

When the jury had assembled the Coroner said that the inquest was adjourned because Dr. Taylor had not completed his analyses. That witness had not yet arrived, and in his absence he proposed to take the evidence which was ready as to the post mortem examination.

Mr. Smith objected to any medical testimony being taken in the absence of Dr. Taylor.

The Coroner said that the evidence might be read over to Dr. Taylor when he arrived.

Sarah Palmer, the sister-in-law of the deceased, said she remembered having accompanied the deceased to Liverpool. While there she was tolerably well, but on the Tuesday they were in Liverpool they went into the town and came home tired, and Mrs. Palmer sat fatigued upon the sofa. When she arrived back at Rugeley (the witness continued) she sat by the fire, took some tea, and complained of being very cold. My brother, continued the witness, advised her to take some medicine and put her feet in warm water, but she declined to do so; I did not go home with her from the railway station, but left her on our way up; she told me what I have stated when I called on the following Saturday, on which day I was with her from 2 o'clock in the afternoon until 8 in the evening; I should say, however, that on the Tuesday evening we went to the concert at St. George's Hall, in Liverpool, when she was dressed in a thin white dress; on the Saturday she complained of a cold in her chest, and said that she felt sore; when I left her on Saturday evening I said I would call again on the morrow, but she said that I need not hurry, my mother being ill, I saw her again on Sunday evening, and again on the next Tuesday, and that was the last time I saw her; when we went to Liverpool we intended to stay until Thursday, but came home on Wednesday, because the deceased felt unwell; I don't say, however, that she was ill.

By Mr. Deane.—I walked up only part of the way with the deceased from the the railway station at Rugeley. My brother George accompanied Mrs. William Palmer from my mother's house (which is half way between the railway station and her house), my sister having stayed at my mother's to rest herself.

Mr. Smith.—I should like it to be known that the accused was a duly qualified surgeon. I know this of a certainty, but the contrary has been stated.

By Mr. Smith.—My brother used to attend as well as prescribe for us all when we were ill. His practice was almost confined to his own family.

Mr. Smith then put questions to the witness with a view to ascertain whether she knew that her brother (the accused) was a member of the College of Surgeons as well as an associate of Apothecaries' Hall.

Mr. Deane.—There have been found among his papers evidence which proves that he was a duly qualified surgeon.

Witness.—I know that my mother has had his diploma in her possession for some time.

The Coroner.—I have seen documents which give the date of his license. The document is dated the 10th of August, 1846.

Cross-examination by Mr. Smith resumed.—I know that the deceased had a life interest in some property; I don't know that it was of the yearly value of £300, but it ceased with her life; I should add that Mrs. Palmer was always in delicate health, and in the summer of the year of her death she was particularly so, and had gone to several watering places, with a view to establish her health; when at Buxton, together, in August, 1854, I perceived that her tongue was exceedingly white, and I said to her, "Oh, Annie! whatever is the matter?" She replied she attributed it to a want of medicine, as during the time that she was with Mr. Dawson at Abbots Bromley she used to take a great deal of medicine; when we left home for Liverpool it was arranged with Mr. Palmer that we should return on the Thursday, and I don't know if we wrote to my brother to say that we were coming on Wednesday; his little boy was at the station to meet us, not because he knew when we were coming, but because, as he was out walking almost every day, he might as well be at the railway station as elsewhere; we were upon the railway on our journey home from Liverpool from about half-past 12 to half-past 5 o'clock; we took lunch before we left Liverpool, and partook of cold roast beef.

Matilda Bradshaw deposed that she had known the deceased, Anne Palmer, ever since she was a very young woman, and attended her in her several illnesses as her nurse. Witness went to see her on the Monday after she returned home from Liverpool, when she was in bed, and said that she thought she had taken a severe cold through wearing thin clothes. Deceased said that in coming from Liverpool she took something that she thought had done her good, and on the following morning attempted to get up, but was unable, being seized with sickness, and that sickness had continued. Deceased added that when Dr. Knight came he gave her something which had done her good, but she soon got ill again. After she had said this, in reply to my question as to what was the matter with her, she said, "My dear Mrs. Bradshaw, I am glad the you are come; sit by me on the bed." Witness did so, and then the accused left the room. After he had left she said that it was the sickness that exhausted her. This was all (continued the witness) that I heard her say; but I am deaf. She vomited several times after I was with her. She took gruel, tea, wine and water, and grapes and bread. I proposed other things, but with reference to almost everything she said that it would make her sick. She never complained of any pain to me, excepting that arising from sickness. She was not purged much while I was with her until the last. She frequently said that she hoped her bowels would not trouble her again, or she should soon be dead. She said this the morning before her death. When she felt some little unpleasant sensation in her bowels I told Mr. Palmer that her bowels had not acted, but he said that was of no consequence. He spoke words to the effect that that was better for her, as she took so little support. I had attended upon her up to that time, during three days and a half, and during the whole of that time her bowels had not been moved. They were not moved until the morning of her death. She was then purged several times. After that she appeared very weak and very low, and as soon as her bowels were moved the sickness abated. She did not live more than three or four hours after that; and the purging continued up to the time of her death. To the best of my recollection she died at about one o'clock in the day.

By Mr. Deane—During the time that I was with her Mrs. Palmer had no solid food at all. I tried to persuade her to eat, but she replied, "I cannot take anything." She said that her throat felt sore from the vomiting, which strained her throat. She complained at times of her mouth being dry. She was not particularly thirsty. The medical men who attended the deceased were Mr. Bamford and Mr. Palmer, her husband. I gave her some medicine. It was a little mixture, but not much. I tasted it. I tasted her mixture because I was in the habit of doing so in attending upon sick people. She had two pills as well as the mixture. I don't remember that she took more than two pills. I gave her that medicine, and only that. I saw no one else give her more. The night that she took the pills she slept more comfortably than before. This was two nights before her death. She had some effervescing draughts; I forget to mention that. They were given to her by Mr. Palmer, her husband. I cannot recollect how many she took. She generally asked for the effervescing mixture. They were given in my presence in this way; he brought some quite clear water in a glass and a spoon with some powder in it. The glass was an ordinary tumbler, and was half filled with water. He put the mixture into the water, and when he stirred it with a spoon it effervesced. The mixture looked like the ordinary effervescing draughts; and she frequently said that the preparation was very refreshing, and did her more good than anything else. She would take those draughts two or three times in the course of the day. She was sick in a few minutes after taking food. She had a little port wine and water. I don't know that she had an injection. Mr. Bamford did not give me instructions to give one. I was in the room when she died. She appeared to be quite low and composed, and for some time before she begged I would not trouble her to give her anything. I did not notice anything particular in her breathing. She appeared quite sensible to the last. She was never otherwise, night or day, during the time that I was with her. She had no convulsions nor spasms. It was two or three hours before her death that she told me not to trouble her. The last thing she took before her death was the juice of some grapes. I asked her to take some grapes. She said she could not suck them, when I replied, "I can squeeze them into a spoon." I did so, and put into her mouth, when she looked at me in a very pleasing manner and said, "Oh, that was very nice." This was before the purging which preceded her death. No one else besides Mr. Palmer and myself gave her anything during the time that I was there. He did not give her anything the day that she died. He was with her very frequently—coming into the room very often. Mrs. George and Mr. Palmer came to see her in her illness. I don't recollect whether Mr. Thirlby called to see her. The deceased's vomit appeared a good deal like that of people who are troubled with bile. It was like discolored water, of a rather yellow hue. It was thin, but not quite so thick as gruel. It was not frothy. She said nothing about the time she died, except that she hoped I would not allow any strange people to come about her to do anything for her, but do everything myself. Mr. Palmer came up when I rang the bell, after Mrs. Palmer had died. He did not quite come round the bed. I said to him—"I fear Mrs. Palmer is dying." He appeared very much hurt, and went out into the next room and returned again directly. I think that then she was gone. After she was dead I stayed with her twenty minutes. I went into the next room to Mr. Palmer. He appeared quite unconscious of what had taken place. I asked him to take a little brandy. Upon this he looked at me, and said he thought that he had been asleep. I rubbed his hands, and he appeared a little better. I gave him the brandy before rubbing his hands. I got the brandy from Eliza, the servant girl, who brought it from down stairs. I remained a few minutes with him after he had taken the brandy, and he appeared a little better. He said, "Mrs. Bradshaw, you must have Mrs. Rowley to assist you." Mrs. Rowley came up stairs immediately afterwards, as she was in the house at the time. Mrs. Rowley and I laid out the body. There was nothing peculiar in the appearance of the body. The limbs were not stiff till she was cold.

By Mr. Smith—Mr. Palmer was with her several times shortly before she died. On the day before she died she took the sacrament in my presence. The ordinance was administered by the Rev. Mr. Atkinson, the vicar of Rugeley. I can't say positively whether she said to Mr. Atkinson, "Pray for my dear husband and my dear little boy," but she did say "Pray for my dear little boy." Mr. Palmer appeared affectionate to his wife, and he appeared to be anxious to do everything for her comfort that lay in his power.

Mr. Bamford, the surgeon referred to, said that when he was called in to the deceased he found her in bed, laboring under nausea, and so much debility, that she had great difficulty in giving him an answer. She did not appear to have vomited then. Her bowels were in a very constipated state, and did not appear to have been moved for 12 or 14 hours. I prepared her (he said) two pills, to be taken immediately, and in four hours after an opening draught. This was on the Sunday. I called again the next day, and desired that Dr. Knight should be called in. I declined to prepare any more medicine till Dr. Knight should have met me. Dr. Knight came and saw her in the afternoon of Monday, and he prescribed two small pills. Mr. Palmer and the nurse were present with Dr. Knight. The bowels were in so constipated a state that it was necessary to give a medicine that would act upon the bowels; but he did not write a prescription. Finding her with a feeling of so much nausea, Dr. Knight thought that she would retain a pill better than anything else. I prepared six or eight pills, but she took only one. They were made of 2½ grains of the compounded extract of colocynth, a ½ grain of calomel, and a little oil of carraway. After I had prepared the pills I took them down to Mr. Palmer, and they were sent up stairs. I then suggested to Mr. Palmer, the accused, that she should have an injection. The pills were to be taken every three or four hours till the bowels were acted upon; but she took but one; for at this time she was rapidly sinking. I saw her again on the next day (Tuesday), when she refused to take any sustenance. This was the last time that I saw her alive. The mixture was composed of 1 drachm of tartarate of potash, 8 grains of rhubarb, 1½ ounces of mint water, and 8 drops of sal volatile. The mixture I have in my hand is the same color and precisely the same kind of mixture as that which I made for Mrs. Palmer. I will swear so, because I mix all the medicines that go out of my shop, and have done so for the last twenty years. I used the tartarate of potash first, then the rhubarb, in mixing up the ingredients. The tartarate of potash was a long time in dissolving. I could not by any accident have taken tartar emetic for tartarate of potash. I have both in my shop, but the bottles containing them are kept upon different shelves, and I never made such a mistake as that you suggest. The draught was to be taken four hours after the pills; and I am told that she threw it up immediately afterwards. The symptoms of the deceased were those of a person sinking in an advanced state of cholera, and in my certificate as to the cause of death I made an entry to that effect. On the second day after I saw her she was in so exhausted a state that she could scarcely articulate. When I said that Dr. Knight should be called in, Mr. Palmer readily consented to it, and sent for him instantly. Dr. Knight came. I did not see that Dr. Knight wrote any prescription. Palmer paid every attention to his wife during the time that I was there; no man could have been more attentive. He supported her in bed while giving her something that appeared to be barley water or something of that kind. I don't mean Asiatic cholera, but a bilious cholera, of which latter, in my opinion, from the symptoms described to me, and in the state in which I found her, she died. I am still of opinion that she died of bilious cholera. Constipation frequently follows powerful purging suddenly stopped. The witness declined to give any opinion as to the general character of Palmer. This witness is 82 years of age.

CASE OF THE POSTMASTER OF RUGELEY—HOW PALMER GOT THE LETTER RELATIVE TO THE CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.

[From the London Times, Jan. 12.]

In connection with the above matter, there is now being prosecuted at Rugeley an inquiry in which the Postmaster is seriously implicated.

It will be remembered that in the *Times* a few days since there was reported a conversation which took place after the adjournment of the inquest on last Wednesday week. It had reference to the contents of a letter that had been sent from Dr. Taylor to Mr. Gardiner, the solicitor of the Crown in this case, relative to the progress of the analysis which was then being made upon the stomach and intestines of the deceased Cook. After that conversation certain representations were made to the Secretary of State, who immediately communicated with the Postmaster General, and without the least delay two Post office inspectors were sent down to Rugeley from London to investigate certain statements which had been made to the Secretary of State.

The Postmaster of Rugeley was removed temporarily from the duties of his office. The inspectors continued their inquiries, and thought the matter of so serious a nature that they caused the Postmaster to be arrested and conveyed before the magistrates.

The magisterial inquiry commenced on Thursday and was continued yesterday, when—

Dr. Taylor—Would it not be better to read the whole?

The Chairman—Oh, certainly, if you wish.

The letter was then handed to the clerk of the court to be copied into the depositions.

Dr. Taylor—You have made reference to the third page of that letter. There we stated that we had not found strychnine, prussic acid, or any kind of opium.

Upon receiving the information which was contained in the letter of Drs. Taylor and Rees to Mr. Gardiner, Palmer sent a letter to the Coroner stating the purport of that examination.

The Coroner had been requested to give information with reference to the communications which he had received, but had not kept his promise, and to-day (Friday), during the interval of the adjournment, he promised to attend before the magistrates with this view. He came into the room and left, saying that he was going to take a little refreshment in the same house (the hotel) and should be ready to be examined in ten minutes.

In order to take the coroner's evidence, Dr. Taylor's testimony was made as brief as possible; but when a messenger was sent to look after the coroner, it was found that he had returned to the Town-hall, whence he sent to say that he could not come.

Dr. Taylor stated—On the 27th of November, 1855, I received for examination a jar, containing the viscera of Mr. John Parsons Cook; they were contained in a stone jar, sealed. On Tuesday, the 4th of December, I received a letter from Mr. Gardiner, solicitor, of Rugeley, dated Rugeley, December 2, 1855, on the subject of that examination; and on Tuesday, the same day, I wrote to Mr. Gardiner, in reply, a letter written by myself, and signed by Dr. Rees and myself. The letter now produced is the letter; it is addressed as follows:—"James Gardiner, Esq., Messrs. Landor and Gardiner, solicitors, Rugeley, Staffordshire." I enclosed that letter in a common adhesive envelope so addressed. I know it to have been the same letter, from the fact of its having been written with a particular kind of ink, which I only use there, made by myself from oxide of croden. The envelope was secured in the usual adhesive manner. My practice, when closing such a letter, is not only to press it down, but also to feel at the sides to satisfy myself of its being securely fastened. I kept it in my possession, posted it in King William street, and am as satisfied of its being securely sealed as it is possible for a man to be satisfied of any transaction in life. This was about 4 o'clock in the afternoon; consequently in ample time for the post of that night.

Post office Inspector.—Will you refer to third page of that letter?

The Chairman expressed a strong opinion upon this proceeding on the part of Mr. Ward, and suggested that the inquiry should be adjourned, and a summons taken out compelling the coroner's attendance at the next inquiry.

This inquiry was yesterday, and during a part of to-day, considered private.

Dr. Taylor regretted that the inquiry had not been conducted more publicly, as it was one of great importance, tending as it did to remove all confidence on the part of the public in the security of the Post office as a medium of secret correspondence. During the year he conducted 100 or 150 inquiries into circumstances which involved the safety or character of a very large number of persons; and the Post office was, for the most part, the medium through which the result of his examination was communicated to the parties by whom he had been employed at a distance from London. If he could not feel satisfied that in the Post office his communications were safe from the perusal of other persons than those to whom they were addressed he should be greatly confounded.

The magistrate granted a summons for the appearance of the coroner, and the inquiry was adjourned.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF THE STOMACH OF MRS. PALMER, AND ITS CONTENTS—TARTRATE OF ANTIMONY USED AS THE POISON.

[From the London Times, Jan. 12.]

We subjoin the report by Dr. Taylor and Dr. Rees of the analysis conducted by them in the case of the deceased Anne Palmer. This analysis will be handed in to the jury to-day (Saturday):—

On Monday, December 24, 1855, one of us (Dr. Alfred Taylor) received at the chemical laboratory, Guy's Hospital, from Inspector Ellis Crisp, a box containing three white jars, sealed and otherwise well secured, labelled "Anne Palmer, Nos. 1, 2 and 3."

No. 1 contained the stomach and duodenum.

No. 2 contained the large and small intestines (portions) and one kidney.

No. 3 contained the liver, spleen, heart, and right lung (portion).

No. 4 a packet, containing part of the lining of the shell, placed on the lid of No. 3.

The seals were compared with an entire seal sent by Dr. Monckton. They were unbroken. The contents of the jars had obviously not been interfered with since they were first packed. The jars were securely locked up until Wednesday, December 26, when they were examined by us.

NO. 1.—THE STOMACH.

The coats were firm and well preserved, considering the length of interment. Externally they presented nothing remarkable, except a slight yellow streak near the greater end. This had the appearance of mineral matter in the coasts, such as might be produced by arsenic or antimony on the inside of the stomach. When the stomach was opened a highly offensive gas escaped. There were no liquid or solid contents, but a thin pasty-looking substance, of a coffee-brown color, was spread over the whole of the lining membrane. The whole quantity of this pasty matter on the surface of the stomach was estimated at about half a teaspoonful. The lining membrane presented slight patches of redness; but there was no ulceration, perforation, or organic disease of the stomach.

NO. 2.—LARGE AND SMALL INTESTINES.

The duodenum, part of the ileum, coecum, and rectum, or lower bowel, were examined. They presented no appearance of disease. The small intestines were empty, but covered on the inside with a thin brownish colored substance. The inner coat of the rectum, or lower bowel, was covered with a deep orange-red substance closely adhering to it. On removing this substance there was no appearance of ulceration on the surface, or of any disease. The intestines were, comparatively speaking, well preserved, like the stomach.

The kidney enclosed in this jar was minutely examined, and found to be quite healthy.

NO. 3.—THE LIVER, LUNGS, HEART, AND SPLEEN.

These organs were found to be in a healthy condition. They had undergone some changes as the result of putrefaction. The gall bladder contained bile, which was thickened to the consistency of a brown paste. The cavities of the heart were empty; the valves were firm and free from disease. The lungs and spleen were softened from putrefaction, but they presented no appearance of disease.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.

A chymical analysis, directed to the detection of mineral and vegetable poisons, was made of the following parts:—

1.—THE BROWN PASTY CONTENTS OF THE STOMACH.

1. They were found to contain in rather large quantity, a preparation of antimony. A very minute portion of arsenic was also detected; but as arsenic was not found deposited in the viscera, and is an occasional impurity in ordinary tartar emetic, we consider that the presence of this poison in the stomach of deceased may have been owing to such impurity. There was no trace of any other poison.

1. The coats of the stomach were examined, and yielded antimony.

1. The large and small intestines contained antimony.

4. The orange red deposit on the rectum or lower bowel was removed and separately examined. Antimony was found in this, in larger proportion than in the stomach or other parts of the body. The color of this substance was found to be owing to the partial conversion of the mineral to orange sulphuret of antimony, as a result of putrefaction. The coats of the rectum also yielded antimony.

5. The thickened bile, removed from the gall bladder and separately tested, yielded antimony in a proportion nearly as large as that found in the rectum.

6. About two ounces of the liver yielded antimony in well marked quantity.

7. The spleen contained antimony, but in a smaller proportion than the liver.

8. The kidney contained a small quantity of antimony.

9. Antimony was detected in the substance of the heart.

10. Antimony was also detected in the substance of the lungs, but in smaller proportion than in the other viscera.

11. The contents of the jars Nos. 2 and 3, consisting chiefly of blood, were tested, and found to contain antimony.

12. A portion of the lining of the shell and part of the dress of deceased were examined. They yielded no trace of antimony or of any mineral poison.

In this investigation fifteen different analyses were made, occupying us from the 26th to the 31st of December. No other poison but antimony was detected in any part of the body. The conclusions at which we have arrived from this analysis and examination are as follows:—

1. That all parts of the body of deceased examined by us contained antimony. In the stomach and intestines the antimony was partly in a soluble form; while in the liver, heart, spleen, kidney and lungs, it had been deposited as a result of absorption during life.

2. The largest quantity of antimony was found in the rectum, next in the stomach and its contents, then in the bile taken from the gall bladder, and the smallest quantity was found in the lungs.

3. The presence of antimony in the contents of the rectum proves that the discharges from the bowels of the deceased contained antimony up to the time of her death; that she was passing antimony by purging when she died; and the presence of this mineral is sufficient to account for the vomiting or diarrhœa, or both, from which deceased is stated to have suffered.

4. From the discovery of antimony in the contents of the stomach we infer that a preparation of antimony must have been taken by deceased within a few hours of her death.

5. From the discovery of antimony in the stomach and intestines, especially in the rectum, we infer that the antimonial compound, if not taken by deceased as the result of a series of accidents, were improperly administered, to her either through ignorance or by design.

6. That in our opinion the antimony found by us in the body of deceased has not been the result of one large dose, but of several doses, taken at intervals some days before death, and to within a few hours of her death.

7. That the antimonial preparation taken by deceased was what is commonly called tartar emetic, and this may or may not have acted as a poison, according to circumstances. It may or may not have been the cause of death. In the event of the existence of any natural cause for the illness of deceased, it may have accelerated her death by producing great depression and exhaustion of the powers of life.

8. In the examination of the stomach, bowels and other organs of deceased, we could not detect any changes as a result of natural disease. There was nothing to account for death. On the other hand, there was nothing in these appearances inconsistent with the death of the deceased from frequent doses of tartar emetic.

ALFRED S. TAYLOR, M. D., F. R. S.
G. OWEN REES, M. D., F. R. S.
Chemical Laboratory, Guy's Hospital, Jan. 4, 1856.

Political Intelligence.

KNOW NOTHING MEMBERS OF THE TENNESSEE LEGISLATURE ON THE ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

The American members of the two houses of the General Assembly of Tennessee met at Nashville on the 17th instant, and passed the following preamble and resolution endorsing the stand taken by the Know Nothing members of Congress:—

Whereas, we, the members of the American party in the Senate and House of Representatives, of the State of Tennessee, now in session, have observed with pride and satisfaction the course pursued by the American portion of our delegation in the House of Representatives of the United States, in the exciting and protracted struggle that has been, and up to the date of our latest advices, was still going on in that body, in its attempt to elect a presiding officer, exhibiting on their part a determined purpose to secure, if possible, the triumph of conservative and truly national principles in the organization of the house, upon grounds free from the radicalism of the abolitionist and the fire eater, and the sectionalism of that class of small and illiberal politicians, both at the North and the South, who are incapable of extending their views beyond the limits of their own portion of the Union, and who, to subserve party purposes, seem willing to jeopard the dearest interests and brightest hopes of our beloved country; and, whereas, we feel it to be our privilege and duty to express our most hearty and unqualified approbation of the conduct of our own American representatives, and of all those who, prompted by the same noble and patriotic considerations, have voted with them, in more than one hundred ballotings, in said election for the office of Speaker—therefore,

Resolved, That we, the American members of the two houses of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, this evening, in convention assembled, do unanimously and most cordially approve the conduct of our own representatives and those who, with them, have cast their votes for Hon. H. M. Fuller, of Pennsylvania, for the position of Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.

From Washington Territory.

The Commissioner of the General Land Office has received a letter from Surveyor General Tilton, of Washington Territory, which is dated Olympia, Nov. 2, 1855, and which states that the surveying business, both in the field and in the office, is greatly impeded by the present general Indian war. All men of health and spirit in the Territory are bearing arms against the savages. Three clerks in the Surveyor General's office have laid aside their quills, shouldered their muskets, and taken the field; and the Surveyor General himself, in addition to his duties as Surveyor General, has been performing duty as adjutant general to the volunteer forces of the Territory, and, during the temporary absence of Acting Governor Mason, (then in Oregon, consulting with the Governor of Oregon,) has been Governor *pro tem.* of Washington Territory.

The war is stated to be very general, and includes all the aborigines inhabiting the country on each side of the Cascade Mountains, with the exception of a few tribes on the Sound, Upper Columbia, and on the shores of the Pacific. At least six thousand Indians (fighting men) have taken the field, and have driven the settlers from their claims into the block houses or villages.

Olympia is being fortified with stockades, garnished with bastions and the like, on which some small ship cannon are to be mounted. It is also stated that no surveys are progressing east of Puget Sound or on the Columbia river; that but one party is at work near Shoalwater bay, on the Pacific ocean; and that all the tribes who inhabit the shores of Puget Sound are vacillating, and will join the strongest party, as soon as they discover which party that is.

Items from Texas.

The vote of Texas at the last election exceeded that of Louisiana by more than three thousand.

The election for municipal officers at Houston resulted in the success of all the democratic nominees, with the exception of two Aldermen in the First ward. The following are the officers elected:—

Mayor—James H. Stevens.
Marshal—Boyce.
Wharfmaster—Bringhurst.
Treasurer—Robert Brewster.
Recorder—Wm. Anders.
Aldermen—First ward, Hogan and McGown; Second Ward, William M. Rice and John Dickinson; Third ward, Emmis and Lubbock; Fourth ward, King and House.

The Huntsville *Item* is informed by Mr. Randolph, Postmaster, that a destructive fire occurred at Nacogdoches, which consumed some eight or ten buildings, together with a large amount of property. The District Court Clerk's office, the County Court Clerk's office, a large new hotel and several stores are among the buildings destroyed. The loss is estimated at $50,000.

A VETERAN CANADIAN PATRIOT IN TROUBLE.—On Sunday evening last an old man, calling himself John Bateman, went to the station house in this city and asked to be permitted to remain all night, alleging that he had no means and no place of lodging. The officers feeling unwilling to turn a human being out in the snow storm to suffer from the cold and probably perish, gave him a comfortable place to lodge, and yesterday morning he was taken before the Mayor, when he made the following statement:—I was born in Virginia, within four miles of this city, and when quite young my parents removed to New York, where I resided until I arrived at the age of manhood, and was married. I then removed to Canada, purchased a farm and lived happy until the rebellion of 1836 and '7, my family consisting of a wife and six children, when I joined the patriot army and fought under the banner of liberty, but, with many of my companions, was compelled to surrender to the royal arms, at the Wind Mill, and became a prisoner. Our leader and ten other rebels, taken at this time, werehung, and I, with many others, was sent to Van Dieman's Land for life, my property confiscated to the Crown, and my family reduced to beggary. On reaching the land of felons, I was forced to labor on the public highways for six years, at the expiration of which time I was released at the instance of the United States Consul, but having no means with which to return home, I remained in that inhospitable country, barely making enough to subsist upon, for four years longer, when I succeeded in getting a passage on a whaling vessel and worked my passage to Charleston. From there, after undergoing many privations and sufferings, I came here with the hope of being able to work my way to New York, and thence to Canada, to see my family and spend the remainder of my life with them. I am now 61 years of age, poor, destitute and among strangers; but I trust that Providence will preserve me until I can again look upon the partner of my bosom and my children, all of whom I trust I shall again see cheerful and happy. When the old man had concluded his narrative, he sat down, his cheeks suffused in tears, and with a heavy sigh, exclaimed almost inaudibly, "my wife—My children—shall I ever behold them again on earth?"—*Richmond Dispatch, Jan. 22.*

A BROTHER OF ANTHONY BURNS ON HIS TRAVELS.—Henry Burns, brother of the notorious Anthony Burns, belongs to a gentleman on Red river, in Louisiana. His master recently gave him written permission to visit his relations in Virginia. On his way Henry was forced by ice to quit the Ohio river and travel through the State of Ohio. He stated on his arrival here that the abolitionists bothered him mightily in Ohio, especially when they found out that he was brother to Anthony. They offered to set him up in business and raise him a large sum of money if he would abscond; but Henry spurned their offers. He said his master had more money bet upon his return than they can raise, and that his master "is bound to win."

The Southside *Democrat* states that a day or two since a gentleman named S. A. Kewson, of Wilmington, N. C., on a bridal tour to Petersburg, went down to the river to skate, his wife standing on the bank watching him. He broke through, but got out safely; but his wife was so overcome by the accident that she has become a maniac.

Virginia Know Nothing Convention.

THE TWELFTH SECTION SUSTAINED—MR. BOTTS' RESOLUTIONS THROWN OVERBOARD.

[From the Richmond Dispatch, Jan. 22.]

We have already announced the fact of the assemblage of what is styled "The American Grand Council of Virginia" in this city, and their organization by the appointment of B. H. Smith, of Kanawha, as President; R. C. Stanard, of this city, and Arthur L. Boreman, of Wood, Vice Presidents, and John L. Cochran, of the Charlottesville *Advocate*, and Tyre Maupin, of the *National American*, in this city, Secretaries.

On the first day of the Convention, as we have already stated, the Eastern and Western civil arms of the Council merged into one "Grand Council." Yesterday's *American* publishes the official proceedings of the Convention; and from this we make out the following narrative of its doings.

On the first day, Mr. IMBODEN moved, and the Convention adopted, resolutions admitting to seats members of the Legislature who belong to the American party from counties not represented, and any resident citizen of such unrepresented county, (upon his enrolling his name as a member of the order,) not so represented by a member of the Legislature.

On Wednesday, Mr. P. A. BOLLING, from Prince Edward, moved a reconsideration of the resolutions of Mr. Imboden, on the ground that they were informal. This motion prevailed, and after a long debate Mr Imboden's resolutions were re-adopted, and gentlemen entitled to seats under it, entered and took part in the deliberations.

On motion of Mr. WOOD, a committee of thirteen was appointed to prepare business, viz:—Messrs. Wood, Botts, Imboden, Lewis, Burwell, Boreman, Davis, Berkeley, Murdaugh, Towner, Tyree, Taylor and Parks.

On motion of Mr. JOHNSON, a committee of thirteen was appointed to report permanent officers for the State Council, viz:—Messrs. Johnson, Christian, Maupin Segar, Staples of P., Tazewell, Bolling, Flood, Carter, Brooks, Towner, Holiday, Frost.

On Thursday, Mr. WOOD, from the Committee on Business, reported as follows:—

A union of the Eastern and Western State Councils of the American party in Virginia having been effected, under a single organization, co-extensive in its jurisdiction with the limits of this State, the following is adopted as the basis or plan of its future organization:—

1st. That so far as this State Council is authorized, it is

Resolved, That the State Council and the subordinate Councils are continued in being, but all ceremonies of initiation into the American party are abolished and all obligations of secrecy removed from its members; and the Councils, State and subordinate, may at any time hold open and public meetings, and invite the presence and co-operation of all men who approve the principles and objects of the party, and who will enroll themselves amongst its members.

2d. There shall be a President of the party in the State, thirteen Vice Presidents, selected from the several Congressional districts, a Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary and Treasurer, to hold office for the term of twelve months, or until their successors are appointed; said officers to be elected at the present meeting of the State Council.

The President, immediately after his election, shall proceed to appoint a Central State Committee of thirteen members of the American party, and each Vice President shall, in like manner without delay, appoint a central county committee of five persons in each of the counties of his district; and said county committees shall appoint sub-committees in each magisterial district, of not less than three; all of which committees shall be charged with the duty of promoting the best interests of the party and the country, within their respective jurisdictions.

Mr. BOTTS moved to strike from the first resolution the words, "all ceremonies of initiation into the American party are abolished." He heartily approved the abolition of secrecy, test oaths, &c., but thought it better to have some form for the admission of members into the order. Mr. B.'s motion was rejected.

Mr. JOHNSON moved to strike out from the same resolution the concluding words: "and who will enroll themselves amongst its members." He did not think that anything should be required except an approval of the principles and objects of the order. Mr. Bolling and Mr. Imboden preferred the resolution as it came from the committee.

The resolutions, as reported, were then adopted.

On Friday, Mr. BURWELL, of Bedford, submitted a series of resolutions, the two first of which the secretaries, in their official report, say have been mislaid; but they give their substance, and the 3d resolution is as follows:—

They adverted to the agitation at the North on the subject of the institution of slavery, and the necessity for an expression of approval, by this Grand Council, of the Philadelphia platform, and particularly of the 12th section, instructing the delegates to the National Convention from Virginia to resist any and all attempts to alter or modify the 12th section, and to vote for the nomination of no candidate for the Presidency or Vice Presidency who will not pledge himself to stand to, and abide by, the intent and spirit of the said section. The last resolution is in these words—

Resolved, That the State Council hereby tenders its sincere approval to those gallant American members of Congress who, proscribed by their party associates and assailed by their enemies, have maintained their duty to the Union and the rights which it guarantees, as above all considerations of political or personal advantage.

The resolutions were advocated by Mr. Burwell, and the two first were opposed by Mr. Maupin.

On Saturday morning the debate on Mr. Burwell's resolutions was continued by Mr. MAUPIN. After his speech, Mr. WOOD moved the following as a substitute for the resolutions:—

Resolved, that this Council do hereby adopt the entire platform adopted by the National American Council at Philadelphia, June 12, 1855.

The question being on the adoption of the proposition, as amended, Mr. BOTTS moved the following as a substitute for it:—

Whereas an unfortunate, and it appears to us an unnecessary dissension exists among the members of the American party, North and South, which as indispensable to our future success should be healed; and whereas no platform, or resolutions that can be adopted by a national convention, will go so far to secure the objects and interests of our party, as success in the next Presidential election, or, in other words, that the success of our principles is of more importance than any declaration of principles that can be made:—

1. Resolved, as the opinion of this Council, That the American party was formed for national and not sectional purposes, and that if it is allowed to degenerate into sectional factions, the great evil of foreign influence upon our free institutions, (which we so much deprecate, and for the correction of which men of all political parties, and of every section, have agreed to stand upon one common platform of Americanism,) will be greatly increased, and perhaps irrevocably fastened upon the country.

2d. Resolved, That in our individual capacities, and as citizens of Virginia, in whatever situation we may be placed, we will maintain and uphold every constitutional right of the South, and discourage and discountenance every man and every party, whether in the North or the South, who will seek to distract the peace of the country by agitating the question, or disturbing the institution of slavery.

3d. Resolved, That without expressing any opinion as to the existence of a constitutional power on the part of Congress to refuse a new State admission into the Union, because slavery is or is not recognized in its constitution, we unhesitatingly and indisputably declare it as our opinion that such consideration does not present just ground for the exercise of the power, if it does not exist, and that we will oppose such exercises of power in every form that the constitution and laws of our country will sanction.

4th. Resolved, That as individuals and citizens of Virginia, we are in favor of abiding by the present legislation of the country, as the best settlement of the slavery question, that under existing circumstances can be had, and that we are therefore opposed to any further disturbance of the same, and to further legislation on the subject.

5th. Resolved, That whilst these are our sentiments, which we will adhere to in good faith, we claim no right as a portion of the national American party to insist upon them as a part of the platform of the party of the Union, as the only condition of our active and energetic co-operation in the next Presidential election, with those Americans who, as individuals and citizens of other States, may hold opinions not coinciding with our own on these questions, but as long as the party confines itself to the legitimate objects of our organization, we will submit to the will of the majority, when expressed in a lawful manner.

6th. Resolved, That we tender a brotherly greeting to every Northern man who is in heart and in good faith a friend of the Union and to the cause of Americanism, and that fidelity to the constitution, obedience to the laws, acquiescence in the decision of the judiciary and an essential change in the naturalization laws, is all that we have a right to ask, but is what we must require, as constituting the original objects of our organization.

Mr. BOTTS gave his views at length on the inexpediency of retaining the twelfth section, and concluded by moving the indefinite postponement of the whole subject, which motion was rejected.

The question recurring on the adoption of Mr. Botts' resolutions as a substitute, they were opposed by Messrs. Burwell, Bolling and Towner, who urged the passage of the resolution of Mr. Wood. Mr. Botts' substitute was then rejected, and the resolution of Mr. Wood adopted.

The last of the resolutions offered by Mr. Burwell (approving of the course of the Americans in Congress) was then moved by Mr. Bolling, seconded by Mr. Lewis, and unanimously adopted.

Messrs. P. A. Bolling and I. D. Imboden were, on motion of Mr. Botts, unanimously appointed delegates to the National Convention, and on motion Messrs. James M. Stephenson and Samuel M. Watts were appointed alternates, to represent the State Council in the convention in case of their absence.

ATTEMPT TO MURDER THE PRINCIPAL WITNESS IN THE IRISH FILLIBUSTER CASE IN CINCINNATI.—While the Irish Fillibuster case was in progress of examination before the United States District Court, it was made manifest that personal violence was intended, or at least threatened, against Mr Barbour, the principal witness for the prosecution, and an excited crowd were daily in the habit of following him to his lodgings at the Gibson House. Early yesterday morning a note was thrown under his door, at his present place of residence, No. 32 Laurel street, between Western Row and John, of which the following is a copy:—

Mr. Barbour, I, your friend, send these lines to warn you that you shall be murdered very soon. TRUTH.

Your friend.
Leave soon, you're in danger.

About six o'clock in the morning, being shortly after he received this note, Mr. Barbour left his residence to go to the planing mill of Messrs. Merritt & Kempton, on the corner of Laurel and Western Row, where he is employed as engineer; as he was passing the lumber yard of Taft, Wise & Co., on Western Row, below Laurel, a shot was fired, and the bullet passed directly in front