NOTICES OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Books Received During the Week Ending February 2.

Sedgley's Neuman and Barettis Spanish Pronouncing Dictionary. By Velasquez. 1 vol.

Adler's German and English Dictionary. New edition; 1 vol.

Spier's and Surenne's French Pronouncing Dictionary. 1 vol.

The Attaché in Madrid. 1 vol.

Confidential Correspondence of Napoleon with his Brother, Joseph Bonaparte.

Olmsted's Sea Board Slave States. 1 vol.

The Hunter's Feast. By Capt. Mayne Read. 1 vol

Kate Weston. By Jennie De Witt. 1 vol.

The Year Book of the Nations, for 1856. By Elihu Burritt. 1 vol.

Macaulay's History of England. 4 vols. in one. Philadelphia (Butler's) edition.

THE ATTACHE IN MADRID; OR, SKETCHES OF THE COURT OF ISABELLA II. Translated from the German. Appleton & Co.

It is long since we have made acquaintance with such a rattling, off hand and agreeable companion as our German Attaché. He has a faculty of skimming lightly the surface of things—of giving his readers just as much as they want to know of the gossip and scandal of a court and capital not over remarkable for the correctness of their morals—of investing everything he touches with a freshness and piquancy which impart interest even to familiar subjects, and of leaving the impression all the while that they have been listening to a man of remarkable conversational powers, so rapidly does he carry one along with him. This is about the highest praise that can be awarded to a work of this class. Descriptions of the manners, customs and peculiarities of other nations, to be life-like, must be touched with a master hand. Like a clever painting, they must present at a glance all the salient features of the sketch, whether serious or grotesque. This talent our Attaché possesses in an eminent degree, and his book has consequently the merit of being one of the most picturesque, racy and amusing books that have as yet been published on Spain. We regret that we have only space for a few brief extracts:—

THE BANKER OF SALAMANCA.

When I saw Don Jose Salamanca I wondered at my hardihood in calling him my banker. Some day I shall give you an account of this extraordinary man, one of the most striking characters in this or in any other country—daring, energetic, spurning all obstacles—a millionaire at one time, at others *arbitre de dettes*—a man of business, a man of pleasure, royal in his expenditure—according to his enemies, unprincipled—according to all, generous; sometimes living like a prince, at others hidden in a garret and escaping for his life—full of talents, inexhaustible in resources—a kind of practical Monte Christo, only that his resources lie in his own abilities, rather than in any hidden treasure.

But at present it is with his *personnel* alone that I have to do. I found a tall, gentlemanlike man of a certain age—extremely handsome, rather gravely dressed—with a simple, frank expression of countenance, a quantity of brown hair, very negligently dressed and falling a good deal over his forehead; good penetrating eyes and almost a boyish smile. How my Irish friend, to whom I have not yet introduced you, laughed afterwards, when I gave him my first impressions of Salamanca! He received me with great kindness, and when we had despatched our business entered into conversation with me. His manners are extremely agreeable and as he also knows my father, and even received some service from him during his residence in Paris, we have many subjects in common. He made me many offers of service, apparently sincere, offered to introduce me to the casino, to the *tertulia* of the Senora B——l, and invited me to dine with him on Sunday next, besides putting his house, in general terms, *a mi disposicion*. His study was beautifully fitted up, even luxuriously, but in excellent taste. Fine paintings on the walls and choice books on the shelves of his library. We smoked a segar and separated, I will not say mutually pleased, but will answer for the good impression made upon myself.

FRENCH MEANNESS AND SPANISH LIBERALITY.

We drove in the first instance to the French Embassy, an old palace belonging to the Dukes of Ossuna, known as the Palace of Benavente, where the duchess of that name, grandmother of the present duke, resided, and where, as Count A—— told me, she used to reunite all the distinguished society of Madrid. "Nothing," he added, "could be more charming than these *tertulias*; no one was ever more graceful or more witty than the duchess, no one more generous and splendid. She was also very eccentric and independent. I remember her reading a lesson, in her own way, to the French Ambassador. At a ball which he gave her the champagne came to a close before the entertainment was over. A few evenings after his Excellency came to visit the duchess, in great state, with a numerous suite. To the surprise of his servants large pails of champagne were brought from the stable and set before the horses. But here we are at the Cuesta de la Vega, and on the extremity of this hill stands the embassy, almost in the country, as you will observe."

THE ALVA FAMILY.

I stopped M—— to ask him the name of a pretty woman, to whom he took off his hat. She was lying back in a small open carriage with beautiful horses, the smallest of English jockeys, and servants in the French imperial livery. She was dressed in the most perfect of French toilettes and the whole turnout was irreproachable. Half a dozen young men were galloping by the portière of her carriage. "That," said M——, "is the Duchess of Alva, sister of the Empress of France, the greatest *élégante* in Madrid. The Palace of Siria belonging to the ducal family of Alva, is one of the finest in the city. It was built nearly a century ago by James Stewart Fitzjames, third Duke of Berwick and Siria, under the direction of R driguez, a celebrated architect. The interior is magnificent, and it has been lately refurnished with, I am told, extraordinary splendor." "Do you not visit the duchess?" "I leave my card at the palace occasionally, but she receives no one. It is three years since I have been admitted. But it is almost a royal residence. I particularly admire the chapel, beautifully paved with marble and the walls painted with frescos by Galiano. There is also an immense terraced garden, filled with flowers, and fountains and marble statues, disposed with a great deal of taste, and a fine gallery of paintings, collected in Italy by the father of the present duke." "But why does not the duchess receive? From pride?" "Not at all. She is as simple in her manners and as free from pride and affectation as a child. I must do the Spanish aristocracy the justice to say that, whatever their pride of family may be, it is never offensively shown. You will find that the grandees here receive very little, and I will leave it to your own philosophy to discover the reasons when you become acquainted with Madrid society."

AN EVENING AT THE COUNTESS DE MONTIJO'S.

Some days ago Count A——, having received an invitation to a diplomatic dinner at the Countess de Montijo's, at Caramanchel, recommended me to ride out in the cool of the evening, when he would, he said, present me to the countess. I set off about eight o'clock, together with B—— and others of the French legation, on one of the most beautiful evenings imaginable, crossed the fine solid bridge of Toledo, with its nine bold arches, and entered the pretty village of Caramanchel when it began to grow dusk. When we arrived we found some of the guests playing at billiards, but the greater part, amongst whom was the countess, were enjoying the cool breezes of the evening in the beautiful and extensive gardens and shrubberies, in the arrangement of which she takes the greatest pride and pleasure.

We walked out through a labyrinth of trees and flowers until we met the party returning in different groups, almost all laden with large bouquets of roses. I was presented by the count to the mother of the Empress Eugenia, and received with that kindness and cordiality for which she is remarkable, even amongst Spanish women. In conversation she is delightful, perfectly unaffected and extremely *spirituelle*. I think that in almost any other country the mother of an Empress would consider herself as rather elevated by her position above her peers. Not so here; if any difference is to be remarked between the Countess de Montijo and other ladies of her rank, it is that she is even more simple in her manners and more anxious to please than they are.

Since I came here I have heard a thousand anecdotes of Eugenia when Countess of Teba; of her eccentricities, her charity, her courage and her talents. Of her beauty I can judge, having seen her on the memorable day of her marriage, when the deep emotion of her feelings made her deadly pale. It is said that she was always ambitious, and would have been contented with no ordinary fate; but in spite of all the wild dreams that may have filled the heart of a beautiful and clever girl, raised by her talents and position above her associates, spoiled and capricious, generous and fanciful, what strange sensations of unreality and wonder, and even of fear, must have made her heart throb when she heard herself hailed as the Empress of a mighty nation, and felt her brow pressed by the diadem that had encircled the head of Josephine and that of Marie Antoinette!

The country house of the Countess de Montijo is large, airy and furnished with great simplicity. Nearly all the foreign ministers and their ladies had dined there; also the President of the Council. There was also a number of pretty girls, who live there at present, and by whom the countess takes pleasure in being always surrounded. Nothing can be more sociable and unceremonious than these reunions, which take place weekly. A good many ladies arrived from Madrid, amongst others the Dowager Duchess of Alva, and a number of young men. Music, dancing and billiards for those who preferred it, made the time pass quickly. Some of the foreign ladies expressed their regret at having arrived too late in Madrid to be present at a representation which had been got up at Caramanchel in honor of the Empress, in which the actresses were those young girls, who had been the friends and companions of the former Countess of Teba. The piece was composed by Rubi, the famous dramatic writer. It is called a "loa," and is written in verse. The music is by Heradier, a celebrated composer. Its title is "La Perla del Genil," the Pearl being, of course, the fair heroine. Love, glory, beauty, &c. had each an appropriate representative.

The Pearl has been carried from her native shores by the Imperial eagle. The verse is easy and flowing, and the music so well adapted to it that it is in its way a little *chef d'œuvre*. As Heradier was present and also several of the performers, the countess complied with the general request, and some of the choruses were sung with a spirit and taste that would have done no discredit to professional singers. There is one part of the "Loa" particularly pretty. The young maidens approach the tomb of time and ask what the future fate of their friends will be. Time answers, in melodious verse, that the future is unknown to him; but that, whatever be her fate, the descendant of the Guzmans will never be found unworthy of her high destiny.

Our Attaché was present at the scene which led to the duel between Mr. Soulé and the Duke of Alva. His account of it, however, differs in no material respect from that published in the newspapers at the time.

THE YEAR BOOK OF THE NATIONS FOR 1856. By Elihu Burritt. Appleton & Co.

The plan of this little work is good, if it were properly carried out. It professes to give us, amongst other things, the vital statistics of the different nations, but although it dates for this year, most of the returns are only brought down to 1850. Both as regards the United States and Great Britain, the materials were at hand for late returns of their imports and exports, without reference to the census of either country; but of these Mr. Burritt has not availed himself. To be really useful, an annual of this kind should be fresh in its facts, as well as comprehensive in its design; otherwise it will prove valueless for the purpose of reference.

SPIER'S AND SURENNE'S FRENCH AND ENGLISH DICTIONARY. A new edition, edited by G. P Quackenboss. Appleton & Co.

Spier's French and English Dictionary has long been acknowledged to be one of the best and most reliable lexicographic aids that we possess. Incorporated with the results of Surenne's labors, no dictionary that has as yet been published has obtained more general currency and popularity. By the aid of Surenne's system of notation, the sound of each word is given as indicated by the acknowledged standards of orthoepy in both languages, an advantage that cannot be too highly appreciated. In the present edition four thousand new French words connected with science, art and general literature have been inserted, and the numerous typographical errors of former editions have been corrected. The work altogether reflects credit upon the research and conscientious accuracy of the American editor.

A PRONOUNCING DICTIONARY OF THE SPANISH AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES, BY MARIANO VELASQUEZ DE LA CADENA. Appleton & Co.

This work is based upon the well known Dictionary of Don Matteo Seoane, but for the orthography and prosody of Seoane, now almost entirely disused the editor has substituted the new and improved orthography and prosody of the Dictionary of the Academy. He has also added to Seoane's work more than eight thousand articles. For the English portion he has taken as his guides the dictionaries of Webster and Worcester, and in some instances Bartlett's treatise on Americanisms. With these aids he has succeeded in presenting us with the most complete Spanish and English Dictionary that has as yet been published.

DICTIONARY OF THE GERMAN AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES. By J. G. Adler, A. M. Appleton & Co.

The value of this work has already been stamped by three large editions. The fourth, which is now before us, is recommended by its careful revision and improved typographical appearance.

MORSE'S GENERAL ATLAS OF THE WORLD. Appleton & Co.

Nos. 1 and 2 of this work are now before us. So far as its plan and general execution are concerned they are entitled to commendation, but we are rather disappointed with the appearance of the plates. They are not what we are accustomed to look for in atlases, in which typographical excellence and fine paper are usually considered indispensable features.

NEW WORKS IN PREPARATION.

Dr. Valentine, who has been well known throughout the United States for at least a quarter of a century, as a delineator of eccentric characters, and who commenced his public career at the old Park theatre in 1835, has turned author, and is about favoring the world with a couple of his literary productions. One, a story of a local comic character entitled "Richard Tremaine, or the Lottery Victim," is already completed, and the second, called "Alfred Reed, or the Reclaimed One," is nearly ready for the press. It is a comico-religious temperance tale, embodying the vagaries of the leading temperance men in the city for the last fifteen years. From the peculiar vein of the author's mind, these works will no doubt produce a considerable sensation.

OBITUARY ADDRESSES ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEATH OF THE HON. JUDGE MORRIS.

The proceedings of the New York bar on the occasion of the death of Judge Morris, of the Supreme Court, the funeral orations, &c., have been published in a very neat book form, for private distribution among the relatives, friends and professional brethren of the deceased Judge. The proceedings were reported by Messrs. Hayes & Co., stenographers. The clearness and beauty of the typography, which embraces Mr. Morris' celebrated letter to Governor Seward in 1841, and the life-like engraving of the deceased clutching the "Glentworth Papers," render the work, as a record of the life of a great public favorite, one that every member of the profession would desire, if possible, to possess. The engraving is admirably executed by Capewell & Kimmel, and the book has been altogether beautifully got up by Messrs. Sibel. It is not for sale, being merely intended for gratuitous distribution among the friends and relatives of the deceased.

The Council, Assembly and Senatorial Districts of this City.

The city charter of 1853, miscalled the "reform" charter, under which the Board of Councilmen was organized, provides that "the said city shall be divided (by the Common Council) into sixty districts, of contiguous territory, as near as may be of equal population, each of which shall choose one Councilman. * * * Within one year after the State and national census shall have been completed, the Common Council shall, in like manner, re-district said city." The reader will observe that nothing is here said about "unnaturalized foreigners and colored persons who do not pay taxes." In forming Assembly districts such persons must, under the State constitution, be excluded from the computation of the number of inhabitants. But according to the law, as it now stands, the occupants (always numerous, yet constantly changing) of the emigrant boarding houses in the First and Fourth wards, and the colored people of the Fifth and Eighth wards, will be entitled to an equal representation in the Board of Councilmen with the Americans and taxpayers of the city.

It will be the duty of the present Common Council to reconstruct the Council districts.

No town or ward can be divided in forming an Assembly district, nor can an Assembly district be divided in forming a Senatorial district. The principle is a wholesome one, and we have no doubt that it will be observed in forming the new Council districts, as it was in forming the present, though there is nothing in the charter requiring it. But if so much is assumed to carry out the evident intent of the law, why shall not the representative population of the several wards, according to the State constitution, be taken as the basis, in the award of Councilmen to them? We commend this question to the consideration both of our Legislature at Albany and of our Common Council.

We shall proceed to indicate the number of districts to which each ward will be entitled, if the districts are reformed on the basis observed in 1853.

The total population of the city is 629,810. There are 60 councilmen. The ratio to each district will, therefore, be 10,497. The following table will show the population of the several wards, the number of Councilmen to which they are entitled, with the fractions over:—

Wards.	Population.	No.	Fractions.	Additional for Frac.
1	13,486	1	2.989	—
4	22,895	2	1.901	—
5	21,617	2	.623	—
6	25,562	2	4.568	—
7	34,422	3	2.931	—
8	34,062	3	2.561	—
9	39,982	3	8.491	1
10	26,378	2	5.384	—
11	52,979	5	.494	—
12	17,656	1	7.159	1
13	26,597	2	5.603	1
14	24,754	2	3.760	—
15	24,046	2	3.052	—
16	39,823	3	8.332	1
17	59,548	5	7.053	1
18	39,415	3	7.924	1
19	37,886	3	7.360	1
20	47,055	4	5.087	—
21	27,914	2	6.920	1
22	22,505	2	1.611	—
		—		—
Total		50		8

Fifty districts are provided for, with the full population required. The Second and Third wards have not each sufficient population to entitle them to Councilmen; but each will be awarded one. This disposes of two of the other ten. The remaining eight will be awarded to those wards having the largest fractions over—which are the Ninth, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth and Twenty-first, as indicated by the two right hand columns.

The First, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Eighth, Tenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth wards each lose a Councilman. The Twelfth, Seventeenth, Nineteenth, Twentieth, Twenty-first and Twenty-second wards each gain a Councilman, and the Eighteenth ward gains two; but if they were divided among the several wards, according to their representative population, Twelfth and Seventeenth would neither gain a Councilman, while the Twentieth would gain two instead of one, and the Ninth would gain one instead of remaining stationary.

The peculiar character of the laws concerning the formation of Assembly districts favor the down town wards. Although the unnaturalized aliens and persons of color not taxed are not included in their population, and a large proportion of the population of the lower wards is composed of these two classes, the requirement that the Assembly districts shall be formed of contiguous territory, and that wards shall not be divided, nullifies the advantage to the upper wards, which it was supposed they would gain from their large American population.

This city will be entitled to eighteen members of Assembly. The districts, for the next ten years, except in cases mentioned, will be composed about as follows:—

First District—1	7,381
2	1,801
3	5,004
Total	14,186
Second district—4	12,030
6	12,002
Total	24,032
Third district—5	12,313
Fourth district—7	21,998
Fifth district—8	20,825
Sixth district—9	30,258
Seventh district—10	15,905
Eighth district—11	31,457
Ninth district—12	9,645
19	10,713
Total	20,358
Tenth district—13	17,277
Eleventh district—14	13,763
Twelfth district—15	15,900
Thirteenth district—16	25,975
Fourteenth district—17	32,420
Fifteenth district—18	23,570
Sixteenth district—20	32,095
Seventeenth district—21	19,659
Eighteenth district—22	14,397

It will be seen that unless some new rule is adopted for the formation of Assembly districts, some of them will have more than double the population of others. The rule militates with great severity against the Ninth, Eleventh, Seventeenth and Twentieth wards. If a ward is formed from the Eleventh and Seventeenth, the Fifth and Fourteenth will be united in one district.

In forming the Senatorial districts, it will be remembered, Assembly districts cannot be divided. This city, owing to operations of the constitution respecting the basis of representation, will have but four Senators. The respective districts will be composed somewhat as follows:—

FIRST SENATORIAL DISTRICT.

First Assembly district representative population	14,186
Second do. do.	24,032
Third do. do.	12,313
Fourth do. do.	21,998
Seventh do. do.	15,905
Eleventh do. do.	13,763
Total	102,197

SECOND DISTRICT.

Fifth Assembly district	20,825
Sixth do.	30,258
Twelfth do.	15,900
Thirteenth do.	25,975
Total	92,958

THIRD DISTRICT.

Eighth Assembly district	31,457
Tenth do.	17,277
Fourteenth do.	32,420
Fifteenth do.	23,570
Total	104,724

FOURTH DISTRICT.

Ninth Assembly district	20,358
Sixteenth do.	32,095
Seventeenth do.	19,659
Eighteenth do.	14,397
Total	86,509

The Assembly and Senatorial districts are formed by the Board of Supervisors.

We have thus given some indication as to how the different districts—Council, Assembly and Senatorial districts—must be formed under existing circumstances. They are not without interest to all classes of readers.

In former times, when party lines were distinctly drawn—before the independent press had given birth to independent thought, and consequent freedom from party trammels among the mass of voters—when, year after year, certain counties were considered "reliable" for certain majorities for either the whig or democratic party—it was considered of no little moment to a party to have the power of reconstructing districts for the election of members of legislative bodies. In the rural districts, Senatorial and Congressional districts are often composed of two or more counties, and to arrange these to the advantage of the party in power at the time was a work of no little difficulty, and called into action a good deal of partisan effrontery. The minority were obliged to content themselves with hurling at the majority the now almost obsolete epithet of "Gerrymandering," as characterizing the unfairness which had been shown in the formation of the districts. The origin of the word we have quoted was at one time familiar; but lest it should be forgotten, we will again recite it. When Elbridge Gerry was Governor of Massachusetts, a majority of the Legislature was of the same party faith. The State was re-districted into Congressional districts, and, in the attempt to compose them to the advantage of Mr. Gerry's party, the spirit of the law requiring them to be compact in territory was said to have been outraged. A map of these districts was made, and two of the opposition were one day looking over it. "See," said one, pointing to a particular district, "does not that look like a salamander?" "Say rather a Gerrymander," replied the other; and the word has obtained universality ever since.

The present Congressional districts of this State were formed in 1851. At the regular session of the Legislature the census had not been so far completed as to afford the information necessary. But twelve democratic Senators resigned under circumstances which gave rise to the necessity of an extra session. Before the extra session adjourned, the population of the State had been determined, and thus upon a whig Legislature fell the advantage of forming the Congressional districts for ten years. The next Legislature was democratic; so that, however patriotic the motives which actuated the twelve democratic Senators, the result in this particular apparently added to the misfortunes of their party, which followed the course they pursued.

The whig Legislature so formed the Congressional districts that, with the old party lines stiffly drawn, and with only moderate good fortune, they might count with a good degree of certainty upon twenty of the thirty-four members of Congress from this State. Strong democratic counties were put together, and counties which gave small democratic majorities were paralyzed in the embrace of some gigantic whig neighbor. For instance, Herkimer and St. Lawrence, each in the halcyon days of democracy good for from twelve to fifteen hundred democratic majority, were put into one Congressional district, although it is some hundred and fifty miles or more from one extremity of the district to the other, and the settled portions are at two extremes on the Erie Canal and the St. Lawrence river, while the central portion is an almost unexplored wilderness. Delaware and Otsego, also two democratic counties, form another district; Steuben, then a democratic county of moderate strength, was swamped in Livingston. The small democratic counties of Seneca and Yates were associated with Ontario, then a whig stronghold. In this city the policy pursued may be illustrated more clearly. Those homes of the democracy and "the brogue," the Fourth, Sixth, Fourteenth and Tenth wards, were erected into one district. The then moderately democratic First and Fifth wards were overshadowed by the Second, Third and Eighth. The Eleventh and Seventeenth were attached to the Fifteenth. The Seventh and Tenth wards were democratic, and they were associated with the city of Williamsburg, also democratic. The Ninth, Sixteenth and Twenty-first wards formed another district. Thus was the democratic strength so concentrated into two districts, that of the six Congressmen to which this city and Brooklyn are entitled they could not calculate with certainty on carrying but those two, although on a general ticket they could probably carry the whole.

But the best laid plans often fail, as did those of the whig Legislature. At the first election under their apportionment, the democrats, owing to the disaffection towards Gen. Scott, carried twenty, and the whigs fourteen of the Congressional districts. The small democratic counties overshadowed the large whig counties, and in this city and Brooklyn every democratic candidate was elected.

The existing state of confusion among parties will serve to discourage any attempt at "Gerrymandering" in the Legislature, the Common Council or the Board of Supervisors. No man can foresee what a day will bring forth—most of all, politically. If there were any such disposition in the Legislature, it cannot develope itself successfully, in consequence of the fact that neither party has a majority in either branch. The districts to be formed of this city, whether Council, Assembly or Senatorial, cannot be so "Gerrymandered" as to afford any guarantee whatever that they will promote any end which may be in contemplation by those making the division. The character of the population of any district, and, consequently, under the present landmarks, the strength of the respective parties, may change so suddenly, and from such incomprehensible motives, that there can be little satisfaction in laboring to establish districts with certain boundaries. We caution, then, all who have "Gerrymandering" inclinations to beware, lest they are "hoist by their own petard."

Notes on the Progress of Science.

It is reported that a plan has been matured and laid before the Smithsonian Institute for the diffusion of copies of the masterpieces of sculpture. The project has been well received, and there will probably be favorable action upon it early this winter.

The art—now and for so long a time past almost dormant—of using various colored bricks and stones in building is now exciting some attention in scientific circles. It is suggested that a great variety of fine effects of color might be produced with the several shades of red and yellow brick at the command of the builder. There are few buildings so beautiful in color as the church of Murano, and its beauty is owing almost entirely to the masterly arrangement of the colored bricks of which it is constructed; and there is no doubt that an artist of taste, by the judicious use of such materials at the present day, might greatly beautify the buildings of his creation.

The group of sculpture carved by Gibson, the English artist, for the Parliament House, representing the Queen enthroned between Justice and Clemency, is completed. The London *Athenæum* says of the Queen's statue, that as a likeness it is a failure; the figure is too plump, the *posé* too theatrical and the face too heavy. But apart from the mere want of resemblance to the original, it has a certain grandeur of outline, and a massiveness of conception, which bespeak the hand of the accomplished artist. Mr. Crawford, the American sculptor, is now busily engaged in completing his models, twelve in number, for the pediment of the capitol at Washington. These figures are designed to represent the progress of civilization.

According to the English journals, the Minie weapon must soon be superseded. Lancaster's elliptically bored carbines having been subjected to various proofs in the arsenals at Woolwich, her Majesty's corps of sappers and miners are now being armed with them. These muskets have several qualities which have caused them to be pronounced superior in construction and power to the Minie rifle, and have a range of upwards of 1,000 yards.

Mr. Stephen Brown, a practical printer in Syracuse, has effected some very noticeable improvements in card presses, the chief advantage consisting in the ability to print different colors at one and the same time, while running at the rate of about twelve hundred per hour. It takes up about the same space as the Rugales press, and is nearly as simple in its construction. The bed and plates are in the same position as the Adams press.

The war has by no means impeded the progress of scientific pursuits in Russia. During the last year a numerous party started for the exploration of Eastern Siberia; another party was sent to the steppes of the Kirghiss; a third was deputed to fix the exact geographical positions of a number of points in or near the Ural mountains, to form a base for the construction of an exact topographical map of the vast districts of mines in that part of Russia; a fourth expedition, with forty chronometers, was to join, first, Moscow with Saratow, and this latter town with Astrachan; and finally, the great trigonometrical operations in the southern part of Russia and in the trans-Caucasian provinces are carried on without the least interruption. There are, also, at present 6,000 miles of telegraph wires erected in Russia, all of which are continually used for the transmission of telegraphic despatches.

Mr. L. L. Chapman, of Philadelphia, has developed a new theory in respect to the weather. This is, that light, polarized at certain angles, will generate much more electricity than when polarized at certain other angles. Proof—Light, polarized in some angles, will, when converged, perfectly magnetize wire in less than an hour, while rays polarized at other angles will have no such effect. Therefore, currents of rays polarized by reflection from the different bodies of the solar system, in greater and less degrees, according to the "more or less highly electrical angles," must necessarily produce fluctuations in the electrical condition of the atmosphere. To these fluctuations Mr. Chapman ascribes storms, earthquakes, and all meteoric changes, as well as cholera, vegetable blight, &c.

An Englishman has obtained a patent for the following method of making pipes:—He takes thin strips of wood and bends them spirally and diagonally, and fills up the interstices with asphalt or cement—a process which is said to accomplish the purpose very successfully.

A new material for building purposes is now claiming the attention of builders. It is artificial sandstone, and is composed entirely of sand and lime. The ingredients are mixed in the required proportions, and then, by a very powerful machine, subjected to great pressure, which immediately induces a chemical change, rendering the blocks in a short time as hard as sandstone from the quarry, and like it in appearance. These blocks, which are about three times the size of common bricks, have been subjected to chemical and atmospheric tests that crumbled brick into powder at once, without injury. Experiments with it, in respect to its power of resisting cold and heat, have been performed by Professors Henry and Silliman, and from the opinion given by them the new material would appear to possess merits likely to render it of substantial value.

The New Haven *Register* states that a patent has just been taken out by a gentleman of that city for the prevention of the counterfeiting of bank bills in every manner, either by photographing, altering or otherwise; and so highly approved is his invention, that four of the New Haven banks will at once proceed to issue bills after the new method. The invention is the result of chemical experiments. The paper to be used for the new bills is of light straw color; red is also employed. These colors are rendered necessary by the chemical process to which the paper is required to be subjected in its manufacture.

Artificial rearing of salmon is likely to elicit some interesting facts in physiological science, and it is now becoming largely extended as a business in various parts of Europe. The re-filling of the breeding boxes at Stormontfield is now nearly completed. Some of them have been filled with ova taken from grilse, and kept separate from those stocked with salmon ova. It is said to be the intention of the superintendent to impregnate the ova of a salmon or grilse from the melt taken from one of the pars in the pond, many of which at present are full of melt.

A London architect has discovered a simple process by which a beautiful effect may be produced in stained glass, for ecclesiastical purposes, at a very moderate expense. By union of two pieces of flashed glass, having different patterns and different colors, a design is produced of great beauty of form, richness of color, and possessing a sparkling brilliancy, which is almost unrivalled in any other variety of glass. The process is a unique and beautiful one.

The horizontal single cylinder engine is gaining ground in Europe on the double cylinder vertical engine. At one time, the great objection to horizontal engines was the excessive unequal wear of the piston upon the lower side of the cylinder; but owing to the accuracy with which pistons are now made, the wear and tear upon cylinders is greatly reduced. In France, the consumption of coal per horse power, in the most common steam engines, is very low—only about three pounds, and the makers of them guarantee that they will not exceed that amount. The steam is used at about 50 lbs. pressure on the square inch, and is cut off at one-fifth of the stroke; and so far as economy of fuel goes, they are equal to an engine with two cylinders, the one for high pressure, and the other for expansion—the well known Wolfe principle.

Gun cotton is now extensively used in blasting rocks. The objections to its more general use are the inequality of its action compared with gunpowder; the effect on the gun is greater; its projectile force varies with the compression of it in the gun; it attracts more moisture, alters slowly from loss of acid, and explodes under some circumstances at 154 degrees Fahrenheit.

At the Boston locomotive establishment, a twenty-two ton passenger locomotive is building, as an experiment. In the generation of steam in the engine, coils of pipes are placed one upon the top of the other, which contains the water, and upon which pipes the fire is directly brought. It is intended to burn coal, and it is thought steam can be made in ten or twelve minutes from the time of kindling the fire. Another novelty is, that the engineer is placed ahead of the smoke pipe. The fireman is to be placed behind the boiler.

A patent car brake, involving some new improvements designed to meet a long felt desideratum, has been invented by Mr. Paul Moody. It consists of an additional steam chest on the locomotive, inside of which is a piston similar to that used in all steam cylinders, and connected with this piston is the machinery for "brakeing" the train. The machinery is merely a moveable arm or lever, which connects with another lever, and that with another, continuously, running the whole length of the train. These levers are connected with the brakes, and perform the operation of checking and stopping the cars simply by the hand of the engineer applied to a spring or valve.

The London *Mining Journal* says that Messrs. Adams & Gee, printers, of London, have found that metallic plates, of the thickness of ordinary sheet tin, may be printed upon with the usual printing types, if the plates be first coated with a composition, the secret of the inventor. If sheets thus printed upon be afterwards subjected to a certain japanning process, an even lustrous surface is produced, which cannot be acted upon except by a sharp steel instrument. It may be applied in any instance where printed matter is either to be exhibited, or even handled, for any length of time, and may be advantageously substituted for the hitherto mounted lessons. However soiled a copy of the metal print may become by exposure to dust of every kind, it can be cleaned and washed, even without being taken off.

M. Barrére, of Paris, has exhibited a graving machine, by which medals, cameos or any other relieved surfaces may be reproduced. A medal, for instance, is placed flat on a metal disk, to which it is firmly attached, and a metal pencil the size of an ordinary crayon, and very sharp at the end, so as to trace a line no larger than the finest hair, is brought down upon its centre. The sheet of ivory or metal which is to serve as the basis of the copy is placed on another disk, upon which is brought down a similar pencil furnished with the sharpest possible diamond point. The medal and the copy-plate being now perfectly adjusted, the two pencils, which are connected by a rod, are set in movement by the machinery of this very ingenious invention, and which may be worked by hand or steam at pleasure. The reproductions are perfect fac-similes of the original, and of great delicacy and beauty.

Later from Fort Pierre.

The St. Louis *Democrat* says:—We have received by telegraph from our correspondent at Weston the following news from Fort Pierre:—

WESTON, Jan. 31, 1856.

Messrs. Dunlap and Woodford, pilot and mate of the steamer Grey Cloud arrived from Fort Pierre night before last *en route* to St. Louis. The Grey Cloud got within 230 miles of the Fort on the 24 of November. Sent on an express to the fort, and received an answer to wait for Major How, who was coming with two hundred troops to take charge of the boat and cargo. On the 21st the river closed, and it commenced snowing very fast. The next day the boat was visited by seventy-five Indian warriors, who demanded ammunition and provisions. We heard of the troops fifty miles off. The thermometer at this time had fallen to 35 degrees below zero. On the 31st December the crew was discharged by order of General Harney, and he took possession of the boat and cargo. The cold was so great that several of the men were badly frozen. On the 7th of January General Harney arrived, twenty-two days out from the fort. He traveled all the way on the ice, with only thirty men. During his journey he saw a large number of Indians, and told them that "this was the time for them to fight while the cold weather lasted; he had but few men, and they might kill him now, but he would give them hell in the spring."

Dunlap and others left the Grey Cloud on the 12th of January, and came on the ice as far as Council Bluffs.

MARRIED WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN KENTUCKY.—The following bill has become a law in Kentucky:—"The Circuit Courts of this commonwealth, and other courts having equity jurisdiction equal to the present equity jurisdiction of circuit courts, may, upon the petition of a married woman, to which her husband shall be a party, render a judgment authorizing her in her own name to transact business, and to receive and collect her own earnings of her minor children, for her support, and the support and education of her children, free from the control or interference of her husband, or of any person claiming to act by his authority, and from his debts and liabilities. But before the judgment is rendered, the court shall be satisfied judicially that the husband, from drunkenness, profligacy, or other cause, neglects, refuses, or is unable to provide for the support of his wife, and for the support and education of her minor children. The petition contemplated by this act must be filed in the county of the husband's residence, if he be a resident, or in the county in which the wife is commorant, if he be a non-resident of this commonwealth, and shall be governed by the rules applicable to actions for alimony.

MURDER IN BUFFALO.—An affray occurred on Saturday night, resulting in the death of a man named James Ryan, and another man of the same name receiving a severe stab in the arm. The person who committed the deed is named John Donnovan. The affair occurred on Mechanic street. Donnovan, the murderer, occupied the first story of a house on Mechanic street, the second story was occupied by a man named Dennis Maher. On Saturday evening, Donnovan and his wife, and a young man named James Ryan (not the one killed,) who boarded with Donnovan, were sitting in Donnovan's premises, when Mahar came down to make a visit. Words ensued about cutting wood over Donnovan's head. A scuffle finally occurred, in which the young man Ryan received a cut in the right arm. Donnovan went out into the street, and there another affray occurred, resulting in the death of James Ryan, senior, who was stabbed in three places, one piercing the heart, another in the neck, and one in the groin. He lived ten or fifteen minutes.—*Buffalo Advertiser, Feb. 4.*

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

MONEY MARKET.

SATURDAY, Feb. 9—6 P. M.

There was a very buoyant stock market this morning. At the first board Missouri 6's advanced ½ per cent; Illinois Central bonds, 1¾; New York Central 6's, ½; Nicaragua Transit, ½; Cumberland Coal, ⅞; New York Central Railroad, ½; Erie, ¾; Michigan Central, 2; Reading, 1¼; Hudson Railroad, ¼; Michigan Southern, 2¾; Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati, ½; Illinois Central, ½; Galena and Chicago, ½; Cleveland and Toledo, 1; Chicago and Rock Island, 1¾. We have not had such a spirited market for many months, and according to the opinion of some of our largest operators the rise has but just commenced. The transactions in all the leading stocks to-day were immense. Nearly nine thousand shares of Erie were sold at the first board, opening at 54¾ and closing at 55 per cent. There were four lots sold of over 1,000 shares each, and sales were made as high as 55¾, buyer 60 days. Michigan Southern opened and closed strong. It run up to 98½ per cent cash. All the Western railroad stocks were in demand at the improvement, and holders are confidently looking for par for those which have so long been so unwarrantably depressed.

At the second board the same spirit prevailed, and prices were well sustained. Nicaragua Transit advanced ¾ per cent; Erie Railroad ¾; Galena and Chicago ¼, Reading ¼. Michigan Southern closed at 96 a 96½ per cent.

The steamship Persia, at this port from Liverpool, brings seven days later intelligence. The news is highly important, and politically of the most favorable character. The probabilities of peace are daily becoming stronger. The preliminaries are progressing rapidly. The effect of the fact that negotiations are about being resumed was visible throughout all departments of trade, and upon prices for all public securities. The first effect has been well sustained. The period which had elapsed between the departure of the steamers had strengthened and confirmed the first impressions, and the public mind was gradually settling down upon a peace basis. A few weeks will suffice to bring public opinion up to the proper point. The last quotation for consols was 90½ per cent; on the 24th of January 91 per cent was touched. The last bank return makes a good show. The following variations from the previous week were reported:—

Public deposits, increase	£219,628	—
Other deposits, decrease	—	£455,623
Notes and bills in circulation, decrease	—	26,196
Rest, increase	34,539	—
On the other side of the account:—		
Government securities, increase	£314,787	—
Other securities, decrease	—	558,498
Coin and bullion, increase	8,481	—

In produce markets there had been no change of importance. The cotton market was inactive, with a slight advance in prices. Breadstuffs