Our Italian Correspondence.

ROME, Jan. 31, 1856.

The Peace Question—Position of the United States—German Neutrality Untenable—Statesmanlike Views of M. Manteuffel—Peace Only a Temporary Patch Up of Old Sores—The Struggle of Democracy Against Absolutism Yet to Come—Hostile Tone of the French Press Towards England—Universal Amnesty to be Granted by Louis Napoleon on the Birth of an Heir—England in a Political Crisis, dc., dc.

Peace is certainly nearer than it ever was since the Emperor Nicholas first discovered that Turkey was very sick, and that he was the proper physician to prescribe for her. There may be some equivocation, some attempt to prevaricate and obtain better terms; but the sober aspect of things does not admit of a doubt that Russia will make important concessions rather than continue the war, which annihilates her commerce, increases her debt, and diminishes the best and most valuable portion of her population. Great as the sacrifices of the allies were, those of Russia were not inferior to them. England, by reason of the popular freedom of expression which there prevails, did not underrate her losses, but rather loquaciously augmented than diminished them, while the despotism of Russia was taciturn and never attempted to enumerate its losses. Russia will no doubt sign an armistice, and the negotiations of peace will not be suffered to be prolonged indefinitely. Russia must come to terms before the month of April, or there will be more fighting, and the war will assume a more general character.

Certain it is that Russia will surrender her protectorate over the Principalities, that she will give up a portion of her present territory of Bessarabia, that she will give the navigation of the Danube free, and that she will agree not to maintain or build a large fleet in the Pontus. On that point, however, she may quibble; for while she may apply these terms to the Black Sea, she may exempt from them the Sea of Azof, which would in no manner either accommodate Turkey or Austria, even if France and England were permitted to station a small flotilla at the mouths of the Danube. England will probably insist on Russia not fortifying the Aland Islands; but whether she will obtain that favor is as yet doubtful. There is plenty of room for haggling out all round; but the situation is such that, if Russia be sincere and serious, the preliminaries will be signed before the first of April—in all probability before the first of March. An armistice will certainly be signed forthwith.

You will see that the information I gave you from Germany—from Vienna, Frankfort-on-the-Maine and Augsburg—was all correct and if not official, certainly next door to it. I begged the government in Washington not to be too hasty, and not too visibly inclined in favor of Russia, because the war in the East might terminate and leave us alone in the imbroglio. I also stated and always maintained that Austria was sincere in her attachment to the allied Powers—that she was so, perhaps, less from choice than from necessity, and that any hope that Austria would ultimately side with Russia was futile, if not absolutely absurd and ridiculous. Austria wanted nothing but money, a year ago, to draw the sword against Russia, and nothing but being backed by the smaller States of Germany to prevail, either diplomatically or in the field, against Russia. Austria has for a year past and better been engaged in inducing the Diet, at Frankfort, to adopt her views as a principle of action, and there is now every probability that she will at last succeed in that extremely difficult task, in spite of the Russian party in Germany, which extends only to the nobility and the Lieutenants of the Guards, and the King of Prussia, who, being nearly related to the Emperor of Russia, was disposed to uphold the cause of the Czar in Central Europe.

I was also right in writing you, from Marseilles, that of all the prominent personages in Europe, engaged in mediating a peace, there was none more busily employed in bringing matters to a favorable issue than M. Von Manteuffel, the Prussian Premier, who is far more of a statesman and a true Prussian than his royal master of Cliquot celebrity. He foresaw that the neutrality of Prussia, so much aimed at and vindicated by the King of Prussia, was untenable if the war continued after the fall of Sebastopol; and it was for this reason that, though disliking the policy of Austria, he remonstrated with the Czar, and represented to him the political proclivities of Germany. Now, the Prussian papers would claim the merit of the approaching peace for Prussia, because it was her representations which at last prevailed with the Czar. To this the Austrian organs very properly reply that it was the Austian policy, approved of by Bavaria, Saxony and Wurtemburg, which rendered it dangerous for Prussia to persevere in her unnatural position, and that it was the fear of the consequences, for Prussia and Germany, of the Prussian policy pursued thus far, which made Prussia intercede in St. Petersburg in favor of peace. At last, then, the situation was more powerful than the sentiments of second hand despotism which animated the King and his Court, but by no means the Prussian people. Neither the Swedes nor the Sardinians dislike the Russians more than the Prussians, and the same concessions which the King of Sweden made to his people in the recently concluded treaty with the allied Powers, Baron Von Manteuffel has, at last, induced his master to make to the Germans in reassuring the peace of Europe. The King of Prussia has not positively demanded the adhesion of Russia to the ultimatum of Austria as a condition of his neutrality, but he has advised it through his ministers, and supported that advice by the most cogent arguments of State. Thus, then, Russia is really isolated—she stands alone in her pretensions as regards the East; but the solution of the Eastern problem is, at the same time, as far removed as ever.

The peace that will now be patched up will not last many years, and there may, before the lapse of ten years, be another trial of strength, under different circumstances and combinations. This it is which England has to fear; this it is which Austria has to fear, and this it is which, in a very short time, will make excellent friends of England and Austria. It may be, too, that the Turkish question, being for the moment postponed, that of Italy may become more prominent; for the States of Italy are evidently too weak to count in the balance of Europe, and a diversion in that direction, if managed by statesmen, and not by political or anti-religious fanatics is not altogether impossible. The truth is, Germany and Italy are both on the verge of political re-organization; at first, under dynastic auspices—the only ones that are now possible—but in the end, undoubtedly under more liberal institutions. It is not enough for the purpose of checking Russia that material forces of equal weight should be opposed to her and watch her progress, but the moral strength, too, must be brought into play, which cannot be done without an appeal to public opinion, and such forms of government as allow that opinion to make itself felt and understood. The war, which has commenced for considerations of material strength, so far as territory and geographical condition were concerned, has imperceptibly led to a reform of public sentiment, and a disposition on the part of the governments to indulge these sentiments to an extent compatible with their own safety. If the continental Powers continued on their road to despotism, they must acknowledge the Czar for their master; and practise absolutism with his leave; if they wanted to set up as independent governments, they must adopt forms which shall induce the hearty co-operation of their subjects, without the expense and danger of coercion. This was the moral centre of gravity in Germany, and this may before long become the starting point of the Italian Union; not after the fashion of Mazzini, but under the auspices of France, Sardinia and Austria.

There is very little gained for the church, in abandoning to it the care of the political management of the Papal States, and there is certainly no gain on the part of the five millions of Neapolitans, in continuing their present form of government, the weakest, most senselessly despotic and most unpopular of any in Europe. The government of Naples is a disgrace to despotism, and a positive injury to the monarchial form, recognized as the type of all governmental institutions of Europe. It increases the hatred toward the one and the distrust and dislike toward the other. You may depend on it that France will take that matter into consideration, and that the enormous power which she has now developed in the Mediterranean, and the occupation of Rome by a very respectable division of her army, will give force and consideration to any suggestion Napoleon III. may judge proper to make in that direction. Let the Oriental question go to sleep to-morrow, and the European questions will instantly supply its place. England feels that, and it is this which makes her accept the peace which is tendered her with fear and suspicion.

The tone of the French press, as yourself will have noticed, is by no means friendly to England; and if it were not for the official alliance between the two countries, one might doubt whether these are the sentiments of a friendly nation. It is, indeed, not unlikely that after the conclusion of peace, the relations between Russia and France will become very intimate—this is indeed expected by all Continental diplomatists—and such an event might very materially disturb the *status quo* produced by the war. The Emperor of the French, who has so well and so cruelly played off England against Russia in the Oriental question, may find it convenient to play off Russia, if not against England, at least against Germany and Italy, or succeed in completely isolating England, as his great uncle did during the time of the introduction of his Continental system, only with more effect, because with the voluntary assent and co-operation of his Continental neighbors.

There is yet another question I would allude to, and which, I think, will receive a favorable solution after the conclusion of peace. It is that of the political government of France. The Emperor, I have no doubt whatever, means to grant an universal amnesty at the birth of an heir to his throne, and such a step would not be connected with serious dangers, if he could boast of having confined Russia to proper limits, and secured the peace of Europe. This proposition was, in my humble opinion—and events will prove that I am not in error, and not merely indulging in idle political speculation—the principal inducement to peace on the part of France, and its consideration not only outweighed the financial problem, but, to a certain extent at least, the most intimate relations with England. The Peace of Amiens was once necessary to his uncle, though it was little more than a *coup de theatre*, and lasted scarcely the year out. I believe, however, that Louis Napoleon is more sure in this respect than his great uncle, and that one of the steps he will take, after the conclusion of peace with Russia, will be the pacification of France, not by military coercion, but by a more extended parliamentary freedom. He could not have done so a year or two ago without danger to the Empire, but he may do so now, not only with a view of securing the throne to his family, but also with a wise regard to those future combinations which will enable him to lay the weight of constitutional France in the political scale of Europe. As to the United States, France has certainly not the most distant idea of joining in a crusade against them, and England alone will not undertake such an expensive job. The tone of the London *Times* and other British papers, as well as public opinion in both countries, will not justify such a course, and Governor Marcy is sure to have an easy triumph over Lord Palmerston and his Central American idiosyncrasies. England, after the conclusion of peace, will be in anything but a comfortable situation. She will enjoy peace with a continued prospect of war, coupled with the consciousness that alone she is not equal to the struggle, and that she cannot with positive certainty count upon her allies. Such a conviction is not apt to make England anxious for a quarrel with the United States, or for exciting hostile sentiments on our side of the water which could not easily be allayed by reasonable and well timed concessions. That portion of England which is called its government—in other words, official England—has earned no reputation by the conduct of the war, and I doubt much whether it will improve its condition by the conclusion of peace, which will not bring back its lost army or recover the glory of the flag which has

Braved a thousand years
The battle and the breeze.

England has suffered, and is destined to suffer more, and to be exposed to greater trials, unless that class, or rather caste, which has always been most bitter and unreconcilable to the United States, makes room for men not historically worn out and used up, but possessing all the vigor necessary for the approaching crisis, and all the courage to meet it. Unless England make a step forward toward the emancipation of the thinking classes and the preponderance of capacity over the mere accident of birth, she will indeed stand out from all Europe, but not in a condition to be envied. The Revolution of 1789, which has metamorphosed every European State, though it has not revolutionized them in the same degree, has developed powers and resources which the old feudal institutions cannot rival or contend against. England, with superior political institutions, has, up to this period, combatted the revolution, till at last she derived aid and comfort from its latest offspring. She cannot stop here; but must either continue on the road of progress, rendered necessary by the situation, or lose power and influence throughout the world. Every particle of feudal plunder which she retains over and above the balance of political power in Parliament, acts as a dead weight on her strength and resources, and deprives her of the sympathies, not only of her cousins in the United States, but also that of her cousins German on the continent of Europe. If England were a mere island, this species of isolation might produce no harm; but England is a vast continental power in Asia, and the management of that immense empire requires more than the usual governmental farming process, which has kept the wealth of England in a few families. Frederick the Great once helped England to conquer India from France. Louis Napoleon has helped her to preserve it against Russia; but England herself must guard it in future. F. J. G.

How to Make a Paris Letter.

Resemblances have often been discovered between the Paris correspondence of certain New York papers and that of certain European papers. Most marvellous coincidences of idea and of expression have been repeatedly traced, and a decidedly French manner of thinking and of writing has been found in the gentlemen who do the foreign news of our New York neighbors. One of the most remarkable coincidences of this kind that we have yet seen is that in a certain letter published in the Brussels *Independance Belge* of Jan. 12th, and one in the New York *Daily Times* of Feb. 7th. For the sake of exhibiting this miraculous resemblance in its clearest light, we print, side by side, extracts from the two journals.

[Correspondance particulière de l'Independance Belge.]	[Special Correspondence of the N. Y. Times.]
PARIS, 11 Janvier.—La société hivernale lente à se reconstituer, les théâtres promettant beaucoup et ne donnant pas grand'chose—voilà pour la morale. L'ensemble ne constitue pas un Paris très-amusant; mais que voulez-vous, c'est Paris! car Paris, c'est le pays des ressources de toutes sortes, des changements à vue, des étonnements, des ébloniss-ements, des merveilles? On s'assied triste, et on se lève gai! On sort l'humeur noire, on rentre couleur de rose! C'est ici que les jours se suivent et ne se ressemblent pas. C'est la ville des antithèses et des disparates, des abimes et des cimes, des fleurs et des cloaques, de la noce et de l'enterrement du blanc et du noir, de toutes les misères et de tous les vices, de toutes les prospérités, et de toutes les vertus!	PARIS, Jan. 14—With the bad weather, the winter society slow to organize itself, the theatres promising a great deal and giving nothing, Paris is not very amusing. But then it is still Paris; which is to say that it takes a nothing, the sunshine, a scandal, no matter who or what, to amuse the whole town to the point of a furore. Paris is the city of resources of all sorts, of sudden changes, of astonishment, of charms, of miracles. You sit down melancholy, and you get up gay. You start out gloomy, and you return *couleur de rose*. It is at Paris that the days follow, but do not resemble each other. It is the city of antitheses, of hills and of valleys, of flowers and of filth, of black and of white, of all the miseries and all the vices, of all the fortunes and all the virtues, of life. If one cannot be satisfied in such a beehive of feverish existences, where else will he go?
De quoi vous parlerai-je donc aujourd'hui, par ce temps si gris, si mou, si énervant que les brumes du ciel semblent s'infiltrer dans le cerveau de celui qui aurait besoin d'avoir l'esprit sur le qui-vive? Ah! un lecteur, c'est bientôt trouvé, et est bientôt prêt! Monsieur s'accote dans un bon fauteuil, le dos à la fenêtre où cingle la pluie, les pieds sur les chenets ou le feu se mire, et... allons! à l'autre de l'informer! de l'amuser! L'informer de quoi? il n'y a rien! L'amuser de qui? Cruvelli est mariée! Que dis-je, Cruvelli! il n'y a plus de Sophie ni de Cruvelli, il y a une baronne de plus, et de quel droit parler des baronnes!	But of what shall I talk to you to-day, with the weather so gloomy that the vapory fog seems to infiltrate into the brain at the time when it has most need to be on the *qui vive*? Ah, a reader. A reader is soon found and is soon ready. Mr. Jones props himself in a soft arm chair, the back to the window where the rain patters down, or the cold wind whistles, the feet against the fender where sparkles a warm fire, and *allons!* it is the business of the other, that is my business, to inform and to amuse him! But inform him of what? There is nothing! Amuse him about who? Cruvelli is married. There is no longer neither a Sophie, nor a Cruvelli—there is a Baroness more in the world, and what right have I to talk of Baronnesses?

It does not require much knowledge of French to discover the resemblance between the styles of these writers. The question is, does the Paris correspondent of the New York *Times* reside in Paris, New York or Brussels? His letters with a file of the *Independance Belge* before him, might be written equally well in either city.—*Philadelphia Bulletin.*

Theatres and Exhibitions.

BROADWAY THEATRE.—The great spectacle of "Herne, the Hunter," is as popular as ever. Aside from the merits of this piece as a drama, the performances of Messrs. Nixon & Myers' troupe of equestrians, and their beautiful and thoroughly trained horses, are worth the price of admission, and in some measure account for the crowded houses.

NIBLO'S GARDEN.—The entertainments will this evening open with "La Fête champêtre"—Francois Ravel in his very amusing part of Lourdan. Mlle Robert and the ballet corps will follow in the brilliant little ballet entitled "Les Abeilles." To close with the new and highly successful pantomimic spectacle of "The Elf King."

BOWERY THEATRE.—The romantic drama entitled the "Broken Vow" appears to have created a considerable amount of enthusiasm among the patrons of this popular house. It is again announced for this evening, together with the successful burlesque of the "Female Forty Thieves." Miss Denvil, who has become a decided favorite here, will take her benefit to-morrow.

BURTON'S THEATRE.—Mrs. C. Howard, who was most enthusiastically received and frequently called before the curtain on the occasion of her first appearance last Monday, will to-night personate the character of Letitia Hardy in the comedy of "The Belle's Stratagem." The comedy of "Sweethearts and Wives" follows—Mr. Burton as Billy Lackaday.

LAURA KEENE'S VARIETIES.—The ever popular comedy called "Masks and Faces" will be presented to-night with the same excellent cast that marked its previous representations, viz.: Miss Keene in her great character of Peg Woffington, supported by Miss K. Reignolds, Mrs. Hough, Messrs. Jordan, Johnston and others. To close with the amusing burlesque of "Novelty."

WALLACK'S THEATRE.—Bourcicault's fine comedy, entitled "Love and Money," will be repeated this evening in accordance with the request of numerous patrons of this favorite house. Messrs. Lester, Brougham and Walcot, Mesdames Hoey, Vernon and Brougham in the leading parts. To conclude with Mr. Brougham's wonderful burlesque called "Po-ca-hon-tas."

BROADWAY VARIETIES.—That double distilled extract of comicality, little George Washington Marsh, keeps the house in a constant roar of laughter every night by his admirable delineations of the parts of Schnapps in the "Naiad Queen" and Jem Baggs in the "Wandering Minstrel." The other characters are also filled by talented juveniles.

WOOD'S MINSTRELS present an attractive programme of songs, &c., for to-night, and the comicality of the "Happy Man."

BUCKLEY'S SERENADERS.—Songs, dances and the farce of the "Two Pompeys" will afford ample food for merriment this evening.

JAPAN AND CHINA.—The panoramic illustrations of these countries, the correctness of which is vouched for by Commodore Perry and other distinguished travellers, will be exhibited, this afternoon and evening, at the Athenæum, 654 Broadway. Dr. Noyes, the Oriental traveller, will deliver the explanatory lectures.

WAR UPON THE SPIRITUALISTS.—Professor Spencer's lecture and demonstrations in opposition to spiritualism, mediums, and others making pretensions to supernatural agencies, created an intense sensation among a large portion of his audience on Monday evening. He will give another entertainment this evening, when it is expected the spiritualists will be on hand in strong force, with the view of combatting his developements.

BROOKLYN MUSEUM.—The eleventh annual benefit of the Thespian Dramatic Association will take place next Tuesday. The pieces selected are "Love's Sacrifice" and "The Omnibus."

CENSUS OF NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI.—A census of Natchez, Miss., just completed, shows that place to have 8,098 inhabitants, exclusive of the public and private schools, which contain 300 male pupils and teachers, and 248 females. In the first named total are included 3,707 white persons, 302 free colored, and 2,089 slaves. The national census of the year 1850, gave Natchez about 5,000 inhabitants. The increase since then is a fair one, considering how much the south western cities and towns have been afflicted with yellow fever.

Our Boston Correspondence.

BOSTON, Feb. 22, 1856.

Washington's Birthday—Symptoms of Spring—Nautical School—Dr. Jones' New Play—The Harvard Club—Mr. Bell's Lecture—The Twenty-one Years' Amendment—Progress of Buchananism in New England—Mr. Banks and the Presidency—The Judgeship—Railroad Fares.

We are having a fine overhead day to get off our superfluous patriotism under pretence of a regard for Washington's name and memory. There is, however, any amount of slush under foot, and the prospect of land being in sight soon is very good. There is not likely to be so much damage done by a thaw as people expected, as the ground was not frozen when the first snow fell, so that an indefinite quantity of water will be absorbed by the earth, which happens just now to be in a very thirsty condition. The wells, springs and streams have seldom been lower than at this time. They'll soon be "getting high," however. The impression is that winter is over, and that we shall have an early spring.

A very good movement is going on here, having for its object the establishment of what is to be called a "State Nautical School for Boys." Mr. Forbes, so well known for the interest he takes in all nautical and philanthropic matters, is among those who lead in the undertaking, and so is Mayor Rice. The merchants approve of it, and are signing petitions to the Legislature, asking for the establishment of the proposed school. There are in our State reform school and State almshouses 722 boys of ten years and upwards, most of whom might be placed in such a school, and converted into good sailors.

Dr. Jones's new play, which is to be brought out at the Boston Theatre next Monday evening, is entitled "Zafari, the Bohemian." Mr. Myzeman Marshall will take the principal part in it.

The Harvard Club have held their first meeting since their choice of officers, and the affairs of the institution are said to be in excellent condition. They are to consider the question of amending their constitution at their next meeting, which is rather fast work, considering that the gentlemen are from the conservative classes.

It is reported that the Wardenship of the State prison, made vacant by the sudden death of Gen. Jones, will be given to Captain Haynes, of Waltham, who was at one time expected to be made sheriff of Middlesex. Waltham is a good place to hail from in these days.

Mr. Bell's lecture last evening was on Villeinage. It was a sober historical discourse, but of a decidedly anti-slavery character.

The platform adopted by the Know Nothing Council at Philadelphia is looked upon here as being composed in about equal parts of milk and water. The majority meant well, but they can't get rid of the slavery question. The democrats think that the action of the Council throughout indicates a breaking up of the opposition, which is what they desire, and therefore they may see more than exists, which is a common failing with political eyes. The nigger worshippers believe that they shall gain at the expense of the Know Nothings.

The proposition to require twenty-one years residence of foreigners before they can become citizens, which is an amendment of the constitution, has passed the Senate by a vote of 29 to 7. It can hardly pass the House, where there must be a majority of two-thirds for such measures. Even if it should pass the House, it must go through the next Legislature, and then be submitted to the people for their ratification; so that it will be some time before it can become a law, if ever it shall. The feeling is that twenty-one years is too long a time to require, even of Irish Catholics.

The most interesting thing in our political world is the steady progress of what may be called Buchananism, particularly among democrats. The manner in which they are becoming convinced of the virtues—that is, of the availability—of the illustrious Pennsylvanian, is delightful to behold, as giving one reason to hope that the days of the present administration are numbered, and that Gen. Pierce will soon be at liberty to retire to Coos, which will be converted into another Yuste, or Solona, for the benefit of a Yankee Charles or Diocletian, whichever you may choose to consider him. Common sense is the great merit of the democrats, and they are enabled to come to the sagacious conclusion that it would be a sort of suicide to attempt to make a light under the Pierce banner, which has known nothing but defeat during two years, and which has been dragged through the dust of every State from New Hampshire to California. Even the defeat of the nigger worshippers in Maine was accomplished only through the democrats pointedly refusing to identify themselves with the administration, that being a load altogether too much for mortal shoulders. Buchananism is all the rage with the Maine democracy, and it will be found quite as strong all over New England before the meeting of the Cincinnati Convention. Those gentlemen who think that the vote of this State will be given as "a unit" in that convention for Gen. Pierce, may find reason for changing their opinion three months from this time. The democrats look for success, and labor for it—the great difference between them and other parties being that they always adapt means to ends, and do not stick to impracticable things. There is no such word as impossible in their dictionary, because they never think of asking men to attempt impossibilities. That perverse pig headedness that was wont to actuate the whigs, and which those worthy creatures used to dignify with an unlimited number of fine names—such as firmness, consistency, honesty, and so forth—never has had a place among the democrats, who, while every bit as honest as their foes, have had sense to guide their action. The belief is becoming every day more prevalent that Mr. Buchanan is the man to get the party out of any difficulties into which it may have been betrayed through the President's want of tact, and it is not improbable that it may become the all but universal democratic sentiment before the middle of June. As to any chivalrous sentiment standing in the way of the President's nomination for a second term, I should really like to know if there is any one so insane as to suppose he is the sort of man to inspire that sort of feeling that leads a party to go all lengths in support of a chief in whom it sees itself impersonated? To ask the question is to answer it. He has not a solitary element of the kind; and as the democrats have not nominated a man for re-election but once in twenty-four years—Mr. Van Buren, in 1840, in which instance it cannot be said they were so particularly successful as to warrant a repetition of the experiment—they can hardly be expected to change their policy in the case of Gen. Pierce, who has no high quality whatever, though he may be a very amiable gentleman; but parties don't relish leaders on the score of their amiability.

I am not prepared to believe that Gen. Cushing wrote the article which recently appeared in the *Traveller*, nominating himself for the Presidency, and giving a ticketed catalogue of his many virtues and qualifications for the office. The General, to be sure, has written himself down puffs of himself, and had them published as editorial articles in the newspapers—but that was thirty years ago, in the very morning of his Consul Plancus days, when he may be supposed to have had the ingenuousness of youth still clinging about him. He has always, I admit, had a sort of fondness for writing for the papers, which originated, I verily believe, in a desire to show that he could even have been an editor, if he had pleased. The best articles in favor of our coalition of free soilers and democrats were written by him, and were published as editorial articles in the Boston *Daily Times* and other democratic journals. Still, I don't believe he wrote the puff that appeared in the *Traveller*. It was the work of some friend, who labors under the delusion that the General would be elected President; whereas the only electoral vote he could carry would be that of Newburyport—and that does not constitute an absolute majority of the electoral colleges, and an amendment to the constitution providing that it should be sufficient to elect a candidate is hardly to be looked for at this time.

It is wonderful to see what progress Mr. Banks is making towards the Presidential chair. John Randolph said that the Speaker of the House of Representatives was inferior only to the President, and Mr. Banks is in a fair way to show that the distance between the two places is not an impassable one. There is no stopping a man when once he gets a run of luck in his favor, and Mr. Banks has been the most fortunate of politicians during the last six years—not only winning every battle that he has fought, but winning them all under circumstances calculated peculiarly to gratify him. He has won them over personal enemies as well as over political opponents. The *Post* faction, which were always his implacable foes, die in the dust before him; and he has only one more step to take to put his foot on their necks, and then send those necks to be operated on by the gentleman who manages the metaphorical guillotine. This world, as cousin Feenix would say, quoting Shakespere, in reference to the queer dodges that occur in it, is the mere shadow of a dream.

The vacant Justiceship on the Common Pleas bench is not yet filled. A very strong recommendation in behalf of Hon. John J. Clark, an eminent member of the Norfolk county bar, has been got up. It is signed by Mr. Choate, Mr. Dana, Mr. C. T. Russell, and other eminent whigs. Mr. Clark is a conservative whig. Mr. Keith, State Attorney for the middle district, (Norfolk and Plymouth), is also spoken of for the office.

The contest about railroad fares is still going on. The advancers will not give way, and their opponents will ultimately abandon the contest. It is hard contending with corporations. It has been proposed that a law should be passed compelling the companies to give six months' notice of an intention to raise fares.

ALGOMA.

Obituary.

Mrs. ELIZABETH DEMUMBRANE, of Nashville, Tenn., died on the 6th instant, aged 116 years.

The Bath *Tribune* announces the death, at Waldoboro', Me., on the 19th inst., of CONRAD HEYER, at the remarkable age of of 100 years, 10 months, and 19 days. Mr. Heyer's parents were from Germany, and he was the first child, of the white race, born in the town of Waldoboro', in which he always continued to reside. He possessed remarkable health, having never till this winter been confined a day by sickness. For three years he served in the war of the Revolution, and was a pensioner. He voted at every Presidential election since the establishment of the national government. His employment was that of a farmer.

ESCAPE OF SLAVES ON THE ICE.—The freezing of the Ohio river offer such fine facilities of escape from slavery, that negroes are constantly crossing from Kentucky into Ohio. The Cincinnati *Gazette* thinks the freezing of the river unconstitutional on that account. It is certainly a breach of the Fugitive Slave law.

MAN BURNED TO DEATH.—On the 17th instant, the dwelling house of Colonel Calvin G. Howe, in Rutland, Mass., was destroyed by fire, and Daniel Saunders, a *non compus*, perished in the flames. He was once rescued, but went back to get his hat. There was insurance on the property for $900.

TWINS AND TRIPLETS.—A few days since, the wife of Rev. Horace James, of this city, gave birth to two children at one time, and since then the wife of Rev. George Bushnell, also of this city, has given birth to three children, all at one time.—*Worcester Spy.*

DIVORCES IN ALABAMA.—During the present session of the Alabama Legislature, says the Selma *Sentinel*, there have been about one hundred cases of divorce granted. During the last session of the same body there was about the same number granted.

Superior Court—General Term.

Before Hon. Judges Duer, Bosworth, and Slosson.

A LONG PENDING SUIT AGAINST THE ASTORS.

FEB. 26.—*Samuel G. Ogden, Administrator of Nicholas G. Ogden, deceased, vs. William B. Astor and the Executors of John Jacob Astor, deceased.*—This was an application of Wm. B. Astor for the correction and a readment of the decree heretofore made by the Superior Court in this case. It appears, from the printed case, which occupies several bound volumes, that in the year 1816 John Jacob Astor entered into an agreement of copartnership with Nicholas G. Ogden to carry on an extensive Canton business, the capital for which was to be furnished by Mr. Astor, in New York, whilst Mr. Ogden was to reside in Canton. The proportion of interest was four-fifths for account of Mr. Astor and one-fifth for account of Mr. Ogden. In 1818 William B. Astor was associated with his father, under the firm of John Jacob Astor & Son, and Mr. Ogden was notified of the change, his interest continuing the same as before. The business carried on between the parties amounted to many millions of dollars, embracing eighteen India voyages, and including the cost of several vessels, which belonged to the joint concern, and had been purchased expressly for the Canton trade. In 1823, Nicholas G. Ogden died in Canton without having received, as is alleged, any accounts from the Messrs. Astor, by which the profits or losses of the copartnership could up to that date be ascertained. In 1824, letters of administration on his estate were granted by the Surrogate of New York to Mary G. Ogden, a sister of the deceased, and George Ehninger, a nephew of J. J. Astor. In 1826, J. J. Astor & Son rendered to these administrators accounts of the concerns of the copartnership, by which it was made to appear that Nicholas G. Ogden was indebted to his copartners, on the 31st July, 1826, in the sum of $9,620 16. Consequently, as he had no other property, his estate was apparently insolvent. Matters remained in this position until 1840, when the present complainant, Samuel G. Ogden, who is an only brother of Nicholas G. Ogden, and was at the period alluded to a resident of Bordeaux, in France, but had subsequently again become a resident of New York, having reason to believe that the accounts rendered by the defendants to the administrators of his brother's estate were incorrect, determined upon making an investigation into the affairs of the copartnership, so far, at least, as could be done from the accounts rendered by the defendants. Application was made to the Surrogate, and the administration formerly granted to Mary G. Ogden and George Ehninger was revoked. On the 22d of January, 1841, new letters of administration, *de bonis non*, were granted to the complainants, who called shortly afterwards on both the defendants—John Jacob Astor and William B. Astor—produced to each his authority as sole administrator, proposed an amicable investigation of the accounts relating to his brother's estate, and requested that he might be permitted to inspect the books and accounts in their possession, to all of which, as is alleged by the complainants, a peremptory negative was given by both parties. Subsequent investigation having convinced the complainant that the accounts which had been rendered by the Messrs. Astor to the former administrators were incorrect, in the legal acceptance of the term, the present bill of complaints was filed before the Chancellor of this State in the month of January, 1842, demanding redress in the Court of Chancery. A demurrer to this bill was interposed by the defendants, who alleged that if all that was claimed in the bill were true, still, from the time that had elapsed since their accounts had been rendered, all such claims were then effectually barred by the statute of limitations. The demurrer was argued before Vice Chancellor McCoun, and early in 1843 his decision was given, by which the demurrer was dismissed and the defendants ordered to answer. Issue was joined, and in 1844 an examination of witnesses was commenced before an Examiner in Chancery, which was continued to the month of June, 1847, when the cause was placed on the calendar of the Court of Chancery for trial. The court having shortly afterwards ceased to exist, it was transferred to the Supreme Court, whence it was again transferred to the Superior Court of this city. In 1850 the cause finally came on for trial at the December term of that court, when it was argued before the honorable Judges Duer and Mason, by George Wood and Charles O'Conor on the part of the complainant, and by Daniel Lord and Benjamin J. Butler on the part of the defendants, who again interposed their former plea of the statute of limitations as their main defence. A decree was made by the above named Judges, wherein certain of the allegations made by the complainant were confirmed, and the accounts formerly rendered by the defendants were ordered to be opened, reformed and re-stated, under the direction of Benjamin W. Bonney, who was appointed referee, and before whom the books, vouchers and documents of either party, relating to the co-partnership business, were ordered to be produced. After some preliminary discussions at the office of the referee, in Wall street, a meeting of the referees was held on the 20th of November, 1852, at the office of W. B. Aster, in Prince street; the books of both parties were produced and placed under the control of the referee. At this time it was agreed between W. B. Aster and the complainant that the latter should be authorized to make up and re state the accounts of the copartnership, in conformity with the provisions of the decree, with the assistance and under the immediate supervision of Phillip Kissam, the clerk of Mr. Aster. It was at the same time understood that if points of difference should arise between them, the accounts should nevertheless be continued to their completion, when those points should be brought before the referee for his decision. Under this arrangement the entire accounts of the copartnership were made up and delivered to the defendants in March, 1854, exhibiting a balance in favor of the estate of Nicholas G. Ogden of $278,785 67, including interest to 16th of November, 1853. Mr. Kissam subsequently demurred to many of the items contained in the accounts, in consequence of which a meeting of the referees was called on the 29th of May, 1855, for the purpose of submitting the whole matter at issue to the decision of the referee. At this meeting both parties, together with their respective counsel, were present, but instead of proceeding with the reference, the defendants' counsel asked for an adjournment to the 13th June, which was granted by the referee. On the 12th of June, 1855, an application was made by William B. Aster to the Judges of the Superior Court, for the correction and amendment of the decree made in this cause more than three years previously. A stay of proceedings before the referee was ordered by the court, and, after several adjournments, the hearing of this application was set down for to-day, when counsel proceeded to read from printed books the facts of which the above is a brief abstract.

On this (Wednesday) morning, the argument of counsel will be commenced for the settlement of the decree.

Superior Court—Part Second.

Before Hon. Judge Slosson.

GREAT MERCANTILE SUIT.

FEB. 26.—*Wm. Hielmen vs. Marshall O. Roberts.*—This is an action to recover about $30,000, which plaintiff alleges to have lost in the sale of the steamboat Columbus, through misinformation, or withholding of information by the defendant. The plaintiff owned six-twentieths of the Columbus, which was employed in trading and carrying passengers on the Pacific Ocean. The defendant was agent for owners, and, it is alleged, withheld from plaintiff a correct statement of her earnings, which induced the plaintiff to part with his interest in her for $22 000, and his share of her earnings for $13,000, which was considerably below its value, it being alleged that George Law and others, who assumed to be owners of the vessel, had, prior to the plaintiff having parted with his share of her, agreed to sell her for $120,000.

The case has occupied the Court over two weeks. The testimony, oral and documentary, was voluminous. Counsel for defendant moved for a non-suit, and this morning Judge Slosson granted the motion.

After reviewing the case at very great length, he said:—The evidence, as it now stands, does not in my judgment constitute a sufficient *prima facie* case to go to the jury on the essential points of misrepresentation or concealment on the part of the defendant; giving to the plaintiff the full benefit of that standard of obligation in respect to disclosure arising from the fiduciary relation, which would be recognized in a court of equity; nor even if this were not so, does it show the plaintiff to have been in that condition of ignorance and want of opportunity and means of investigation on his own part which would make the imposition practised upon him, if one had been practised, wholly the fault of the other, nor does it show that in fact the plaintiff was deceived, or that he closed his bargain in actual ignorance of all that defendant himself knew of the state of the accounts and of the actual existence of the contract with the Steamship Company for the transfer of the ship. I say the evidence does not *prima facie* establish the affirmative of these propositions, and it is only by the aid of presumptions, which cannot be entertained in an action at law, that such an affirmative case can be said to have been made out. On the contrary, the evidence does affirmatively establish that the defendant was possessed of a great deal of information in respect to the accounts, and that he was in actual controversy and dispute with the defendant in respect to their condition; and in respect to the sale of the vessel to the Steamship Company, it does establish affirmatively that he had some information, that he was put directly upon inquiry, that he was invited to a full and searching investigation and that he had an opportunity of at least ten days' personal inquiry, before he closed his sale to defendant, during which there is not a particle of evidence to show that he did not fully possess himself of all that was to be known in regard to both subjects. The complaint must be dismissed.

A NEGRO STEALER CAUGHT IN KENTUCKY.—Early yesterday morning a negro woman belonging to Mr. Jas. Newland, a merchant, well and favorably known in this city, decamped from the premises of her master, and, by a previous understanding, met a miscreant abolitionist named Elisha Hyller, from New York, on Main street, at the Portland Railroad depot; and the twain took passage and repaired to Portland, and thence across to New Albany. The woman was most gorgeously attired, being dressed in a rich black silk robe, hung with innumerable floating flounces. A magnificent set of furs graced her shoulders and neck; while over her interesting physiognomy hung a thick green veil. Thus equipped, no one ever suspected her of being of Ethiopian extraction; but the pair were foiled in their endeavors to escape by a slight indiscretion on the part of the man. After the boat had reached the Indiana side, and when the passengers had gone ashore, the party in question was about to leave also, when the New York gent concluded that he would steal a delectable kiss from her ruby lips; and in order to do this, the thick veil was raised, which displayed to the view of the Collector on the boat the color of the woman's face—whereupon he called upon her for free papers, and they not being forthcoming, he instantly brought her back to Kentucky and put her in possession of an officer, who brought her up to the city to the office of Squire Matlack, who after a full hearing of the case, had her committed to jail to await an order from her master. Mr. Newland up to that period was not aware that she had left his family residence. At the critical juncture when the woman was sleeping on the ferry, her valiant and enamored modern New York Don Quixotte suddenly disappeared; but vigilant and efficient officers were dispatched in quest of him, who after a short but diligent search, found him in New Albany, and brought him to this city and lodged him in jail, where he will remain until a speedy course of law shall send him up to Frankfort to serve the State for a few years.—*Louisville Democrat, Feb. 20.*

CUTTING OFF DEAD HEADS.—A bill has been introduced into the Senate of New Jersey, which renders it unlawful to pass the members of the Legislature free.

Grand Banquet at Melbourne to Mr. G. F. Train, an American Merchant.

[From the Melbourne Age, Nov. 6.]

THE DEPARTURE OF MR. TRAIN.

One of the most pleasing phases of society in this city, is that of the mercantile community setting apart a day from the hurry of business, to do honor to the public services and private worth of a man who, perhaps, more than anybody else, has exerted himself to advance the mercantile interests and the commercial importance of the colony in which his lot has for the last few years been cast. Yesterday, a number of the principal merchants of the city, understanding that Mr. G. F. Train, of the firm of Train & Co., the agents for the celebrated White Star Line of ships, contemplated his departure from the colony for awhile, determined on giving that gentleman a *dejeuner* in the Criterion Hotel, as a mark of that high respect and honor in which they held his public services in the establishment of the port, &c., and his private virtues as a man and a citizen. About forty