THE CROPS.

Advices from Various Sections of the Country.

Wheat Generally in Good Condition.

FRUIT PROMISES PLENTY.

Cotton "as Well as Can Be Expected."

No safe calculation can be made of the prospects of the crops in the Eastern and Northern States, on account of their backward condition. The season has been unusually late, and the productions of the soil are as yet not sufficiently advanced to warrant the formation of any reliable estimate. In the South and Southwest everything looks prosperous and cheering, as a glance at the reports given below clearly demonstrates:—

PENNSYLVANIA.

The wheat crop throughout Mercer county, looks well, and entirely sets at rest the alarm about a failure so prevalent a few weeks ago.

VIRGINIA.

The Montgomery *Messenger* of May 24 says:—"The cutworms are proving very destructive to the corn crop in this county. We heard of one twenty-acre field in which they have left not more than twenty hills standing. In the upper portion of the county the farmers have, in some cases, had to replant their entire crop."

The Rockbridge *Citizen* of May 22 says:—"Friday night brought a glorious rain. Our farmers had almost despaired of their spring crops, but this rain comes in time to dispel their fears and gladden their hearts with a prospect of a bountiful harvest."

The grub worm says the Shenandoah *Herald* has been playing havoc with the corn. In some cases entire fields have been cut off. Our farmers generally complain of the destruction of their corn.

Says the Danville *Register*:—"Many fields were planted in tobacco Saturday, and of course hundreds of thousands of the plants were stuck Monday and Tuesday. We saw some very pretty fields of wheat. The oats appear to have suffered for want of rain, but may yet come out."

The Clarke *Courier* says:—"Much of the wheat in this county is but little over six inches high, and already it is commencing to head. From present indications we doubt if a third of a crop is made this year."

The following is from the Lynchburg *Virginian*:—"We had another fine rain yesterday (22d), and all nature rejoices. The crops are now going ahead finely, and a few more such rains will insure full harvests. The eastern counties appear to have been generally visited and benefited by the recent rain."

OHIO.

The prospects for the wheat crop in Southern and Central Ohio are generally slim. The majority of the farmers report a half crop.

The Fulton (Ohio) *Republican* says that reports from different sections of that county indicate a very short crop of wheat. Many seem to think that half a crop will be about the yield that may be expected. Some of the best farms are very decidedly of the opinion that drilling in wheat is by far the best method. Wheat that was drilled in last fall is said to be much better than where it was sown in the old method of broad-cast.

MICHIGAN.

The prospect for a splendid crop of peaches in the South Haven, Mich., region was never better than now.

A correspondent at Woodland, Mich., says wheat is improving, and looks a great deal better than it did a few weeks ago.

The fruit trees in the vicinity of Saginaw, Mich., are in full blossom, notwithstanding the chilly weather.

A letter from Paw Paw, Mich., says:—"Wheat all through this section of the State is looking excellent, and, should the rest of the season prove favorable, we may expect a bountiful crop. Farmers are in the midst of planting."

Wheat is looking badly in the vicinity of Homer, Michigan, though the recent rains have improved the prospect somewhat. At Plymouth the crop prospects are not good, great damage having resulted from the protracted drought.

Wheat in the Grand Traverse (Mich.) region is reported in good condition. In Shiawasse county the wheat prospects are very poor.

The Bunker Hill (Mich.) *Gazette* says the late rains and the warm weather have made a wonderful improvement in the appearance of the winter wheat.

The wheat prospects around Coldwater, Mich., are that not more than half a crop will be realized.

ILLINOIS.

Some of the fields in Jersey county, Illinois, will be headed out by the end of the present week. In Morgan county the growing wheat is a week later than in Jersey.

Chinch bugs have appeared in great numbers in the wheat fields in portions of Bear Creek and other townships in the southern part of Hancock county, Illinois.

The army worm is ravaging the grain fields in Alexander county.

The Carthage (Illinois) *Republican* says:—"Rain has fallen almost continuously in this county from Tuesday morning until Wednesday morning. From reports we judge that about half the corn crop has been put in. The prospect for a corn crop is not cheerful. Fall wheat is looking well in most parts of the county."

A gentleman who has recently returned from a trip over the St. Louis and Southwestern Railroad, as far west as Mount Vernon, Ill., reports the prospects for the crops of wheat, oats, corn and fruit as very good indeed. A great deal of the wheat is heading out, and promises an early harvest.

The Carlinville (Illinois) *Democrat* says:—"We do not remember to have seen in the past fifteen years a better prospect for peaches, cherries, pears, and all kinds of small fruits."

The Chicago *Mail* says:—"Reports from the growing crops of the State are generally very favorable, and abundant harvests may be looked for. The lateness of the season has had the good effect of preventing fruit buds from advancing so rapidly as to be injured by late frosts, and peaches especially promise a large yield."

INDIANA.

Caterpillars are stripping the fruit trees throughout Harrison county, Ind.

More than the usual breadth of corn is being planted in Jasper county, Ind. A majority of the farmers are through planting.

Wheat in Wayne township, Marion county, Ind., averages fourteen inches high, and promises a fine crop.

IOWA.

A correspondent of the Dubuque *Times*, writing from Volga City, says that the large amount of rain this spring has put the farmers very much behind time with corn planting, but that the wheat and oats look well.

The Keokuk (Iowa) *Gate City* is informed by a gentleman who resides in Green Bay township that the prospects for a good crop were never better in that part of the country at this season of the year than they are at the present time, with the exception of corn, which is rather backward.

Fruits of all kinds in the vicinity of Des Moines, Iowa, promise better than they ever did before.

WISCONSIN.

Farmers give favorable reports of the condition of crops in Clark county, Wisconsin. Winter wheat is doing finely.

The West Bend (Wis.) *Democrat* says:—"The crops in this section of the country never looked better at this time of the season than now, and farmers predict a bountiful year."

Everything is promising in Rock county, Wisconsin, and late rains have put the ground in better condition for an abundant harvest than the farmers in that region have seen for two years.

The Brandon (Wis.) *Times* says:—"The recent rains have brought up the wheat and other spring grains beautifully, and if the season only continues as favorable as it has been so far we shall have a good crop."

The crops about West Bend never looked better than now.

The Waukesha (Wis.) *Democrat* says:—"Hop growers in this county look forward to a very heavy crop this season. Notwithstanding the backward season grass and grain never looked more promising at this time of the year."

The Waushara (Wis.) *Argus* says the rains for the past two weeks have done much to forward the growth of crops, and should the balance of the season prove favorable as large a yield of wheat as that of 1860 may be looked for.

Winter wheat never looked better in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, than it does at the present time.

One-fifth of the wheat in Trempeleau, Wis., is reported killed.

Well informed gentlemen in Rock county, Wisconsin, state the breadth of wheat sown in that section this spring is far less than usual. The drought of last fall rendered ploughing almost impossible, and the spring has been so backward that sowing could not be done with any reasonable prospects of a crop. The yield of cereals will, therefore, of necessity be comparatively small.

MISSOURI.

The Holt County (Mo.) *Sentinel* says that at no time since the settlement of the county has the prospect for an abundant fruit crop been as promising as at present.

A correspondent at Memphis, Scotland county, Mo., says:—"The constant drenching rains have been very unfavorable for business generally, and some of our farmers have no hope of raising a large crop. If the season continues as it opens it will be excellent for Hungarian grass, and there is a lively demand for baled hay at living prices."

The Bolivar (Mo.) *Herald* says:—"We hear many complaints about the wheat in this county. The chinch bug has got into it extensively in some sections, and many farmers have ploughed it up and put in corn. It seems now to be the general opinion that under the most favorable circumstances Polk county will not yield more than half her usual amount of wheat."

The wheat crop in Caldwell county, Mo., according to the present appearance, will be a total failure.

NORTH CAROLINA.

The Tarboro *Enquirer* says:—"The rain has come at last, and the crops are showing their appreciation of it. If no disaster comes Edgecombe will make a large crop of cotton this year. The farmers are in good spirits."

SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Newberry *Herald* of the 22d says:—"The report is general throughout the State that farmers are suffering for rain. Here, in Newberry, we have long suffered. Slight showers fell here and there the latter part of last week. We hope they may be soon revived with greater force."

The Lexington *Dispatch* of the 22d says:—"We have been favored with very light showers of rain, which was much needed, as gardens were beginning to suffer. Rain is much needed in some sections for the corn and cotton crops."

The Anderson *Intelligencer* says:—"The dry weather continued until last Friday, when light rains visited this section, and on Saturday there were additional and heavier showers. High winds on Sunday and Monday, however, completely dried the earth. Yesterday was cloudy, and a light shower of rain fell in the morning. Farmers are still complaining about bad stands of cotton. Wheat is looking fine, with some rust on the blade occasionally. The oat crop is unpromising. Not much said about the corn prospect."

The Yorkville *Enquirer* of the 23d says:—"Refreshing showers fell in this section on Friday night and Saturday last—the first rains we have had since the 11th ultimo. A great deal of complaint prevails about the backwardness of crops. Much cotton that was planted failed to come up, and, in addition to the effects of the dry weather, the cut worm has injured corn to some extent. The recent rains will, however, be quite beneficial to cotton and corn, while they fell in a most opportune time for the oat crop."

A correspondent of the Union *Courier*, writing from Maybinton on the 22d, says:—"The northern part of our county has had good rains. In the Gilkey and Thickety region nearly two inches fell during four days. This wet the ground thoroughly. As one approaches Union Court House he will find the rains lighter and partial. In the neighborhood of the village, and south and west of it, they have had but little. Farmers are more hopeful where rain has fallen. A good stand of cotton will be up by the 25th inst. There will be no lack of grass about the same time. Corn is small but generally clean and in growing condition. Wheat rather low, heads short, but they are filling finely, and the promised yield is fair. The fall sowing of oats low, but well headed. The spring sowing small. About the usual acreage of cotton planted. Laborers, both white and black, generally working well."

SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Abbeville *Press and Banner* of the 22d inst. says:—"We were visited on Saturday last with a refreshing rain, which revived the gardens and fields in our vicinity. We regret to learn, however, that it was only partial in extent, and that many sections of our district are still suffering. A dry, sultry wind during the past few days is very much against the growing vegetation. The grain crops are especially suffering."

The Greenville *Enterprise* of the 23d inst. says:—"The delightful seasons of the past few days have materially benefited the growing crops and added much to the comfort of all in the salutary effect upon the atmosphere. Our climate, comparatively a pleasant one at all times, is especially bracing just now. Any inconvenience we may feel from the heat of the midday sun is compensated by the delightful evenings and mornings so peculiar to this section."

The Marlboro *Times* of the 23d instant says:—"The rain on last Friday and Saturday was general throughout the county. We have met but few persons who have not good stands of cotton, the rain that fell on the night of Sunday, the 12th instant, having brought it up where it had been prevented from coming up previously by the dry weather. Crops are reported as looking well, though cotton was injured to some extent in some places by the wind that prevailed on Monday last. The prospect for a corn crop is said to be good. So far we have heard of no complaint about grass. The weather has been so very dry up to a very recent date that farmers have had no difficulty in keeping grass under control, and since the rains it has not had time to assume very formidable proportions."

The Lancaster *Ledger* of the 21st says:—"A very destructive hail storm visited the southern portion of this county on Thursday evening last, doing considerable damage to the wheat crop. The direction of the storm was from west to east, and passed over the Cedar Creek and Pleasant Hill sections."

GEORGIA.

The Marietta (Cobb county) *Journal* of May 22 says:—"Since our last publication we have had copious showers, and the wheat has been benefited; oats revived and now promising; cotton healthy and growing, and corn buoyant. Some of the finest clover fields this country can exhibit are now being mowed in Cobb."

The Sandersville *Georgian* says:—"We were visited with two refreshing showers—one on Friday night and one on Saturday night last—which have revived the gardens that were suffering a great deal from the drought. These rains were very cheering to the planters, as their cotton seed in many sections had not germinated, and enough has fallen to cause them to come up, if the seed are not so defective that they have rotted in the bed. A few days will determine the future of the crop."

Reports from Bibb, Crawford and Monroe counties are that not one-eighth of the cotton planted is yet up, and some planters lack as much as a hundred acres of having their crop planted, owing to the drought. Corn is small, and with but few exceptions is in good condition.

Talbot county—Poor cotton stand. Planted seed not up has been examined and found defective. If replanting has to be done a small crop will result, as seed is scarce, says the *News*.

Sumter county—Nothing favorable. Crops needing rain, says the *Republican*.

Floyd county—Wheat improves daily. Missing rust it will make a large yield. Cotton and corn looking well, says the *Bulletin*.

Gwinnett county—Cotton prospects flattering, says the *Herald*.

Harris and Troup counties—Refreshing showers have pushed crops. Cotton (where up), corn and wheat fine. Oats a failure. Farmers up with their work, says the *News*.

Lowndes county—Corn encouraging. No rain, but both corn and oats good. Cotton is moderate in area, but small and struggling, says the *Times*.

Greene county—Opportune rain. Crops more promising and farmers hopeful, says the *Herald*. Fruit promising.

Cobb county—Copious showers. Wheat benefited. Oats revived and promising. Cotton healthy. Corn buoyant. Elegant clover being mowed, says the *Journal*.

Jefferson county—Fine rains. Cotton up well and looking fine, says the *News*. Fruit promising.

Terrell county—Corn and cotton not so unpromising as believed. Good where ground was well prepared.

Gordon county—Rain. Farm interests thriving. Colonel Young has corn three feet high. Fruit, grain and cotton unusually fine, says the *Times*.

Spalding county—Only half a stand of cotton, says the *Star and Georgian*. Oats behaving badly. Fine rain. Cotton stand also poor in Upson county.

The wheat crop promises remarkably well in Upper Georgia, a much larger breadth than usual having been sown.

ALABAMA.

A letter from Barbour county dated May 21 says:—"Cotton that is up begins to look fine (no forms though yet). Corn is small and looks pale. There is a good deal of complaint in the country about the late planted cotton. It is too dry for it to get up. The bottoms have dried off and could be planted now if we could get a shower to melt the clods. Crops are generally as clean as I ever saw them at this season of the year. Our freedmen are working finely this year, better I think than any year since the war. It is a universal remark among planters that they are doing well. The crops are not suffering much for rain yet. Gardens and highly manured spots are all that suffer much. Potatoes are being delayed, but the June settings always make the best crop, therefore I don't think there is any time lost with them. Taking all things together, I think we are doing very well at this time. The acreage in cotton in this section is no more, perhaps not quite so much as last year. Oats are a failure. Very few fields will be tall enough to reap any at all but the pasturage will do the farmers immense good in reducing expenses."

The Eufaula *Times* says:—"A gentleman just returned from Henry county, Alabama, and Clay county, Georgia, tells that no rain fell in that section until yesterday morning, when it was favored by a copious and refreshing shower. Much of the cotton planted at the commencement of the late drought failed to germinate and has not yet appeared above the ground. As a general thing crops are small and suffered greatly from the drought."

The West Point *News* says:—"A gentleman just returned from quite an extended tour through these counties informs us that the crops of almost every kind are doing well and in good condition. He reports wheat as splendid and a large acreage of it. Corn was never known to be doing better at the same season of the year, and much more planted this year than last. Oats, owing to the late dry spell, are almost a failure."

MISSISSIPPI.

From the Aberdeen *Examiner* of the 17th:—"We understand that the wheat crop of the county will be an unusually good one. Clover is doing well in all parts of the county, and its acreage is at least 100 per cent greater than ever before. From all parts of the county we receive favorable reports as regards cotton and corn, the general impression being that the prospect for fine crops of these great staples is better than it has been before at this time of the year since the war. We had a splendid shower on Thursday, which, if general, will be worth many thousands of dollars to the farmers, as it will resuscitate oats, and bring up the late corn and cotton."

From the Columbus *Index* of the 16th:—"The crops are suffering terribly for a season of rain, and we hope it will come soon. Thousands of acres of cotton are not yet up, and the ground is as hard as a brick."

From the Meridian *Gazette* of the 14th:—Crops in this section are suffering considerably from the drouth. We learn that the stand of cotton and corn are from fair to good, and an early rain would make them excellent.

From the Brandon *Republican*:—It is now about five weeks since we had a drop of rain in this section, with the exception of a little sprinkle last Saturday. Our gardens in town are almost burned up, and we learn that the late planting of cotton has not even sprouted, and that there is a bare stand where it was planted early. There has been some indication of rain for a day or two.

From the Natchez *Democrat* of the 16th:—The crops continue to suffer materially for want of rain. Probably one-third of all the cotton planted in this region is not out of the ground, and it will probably never come up unless there should be a rain soon. The cotton up is doing passably well, although even that needs rain to give it impetus.

From the Canton *Mail* of the 18th:—The crops and gardens are beginning to be very seriously affected by the long drouth. It has been at least—ever so many—weeks since there was rain. From all parts of the country complaint comes and serious results apprehended unless there is rain soon. A great portion of the cotton planted has not yet come up, and much of that which has, as well as the corn, is dying out from drouth.

From the Woodville *Republican* of the 14th:—The weather has been very dry for the past two weeks in this section and still continues. The planters are suffering for the want of rain just about this time. Gardens are also suffering for the same element.

From the Boonville *Recorder*:—The weather continues very dry, and farmers are beginning to look and talk despondingly. There have been indications of rain for several days, and we hope in a short time to see failing weather, which we think would have the effect of removing all the damage the crops have sustained from the want of rain.

From the Somerset *Times* of the 16th:—The cry comes from all portions of the country that crops are suffering for rain. In many instances where cotton was planted late the seed have almost entirely failed to come up. This is, indeed, a gloomy prospect for everybody.

A letter of the 18th instant, from Tippa county, to the Memphis *Appeal*, says the drought of six weeks had been ended by a fine rain. The corn had not suffered as much as the cotton, and wheat is looking fine.

TENNESSEE.

The cotton crop of Shelby county is said to be a failure.

LOUISIANA.

The New Orleans *Picayune*, 17th, says:—"Advices from the country show a decided improvement in the condition of the growing cane. The plant cane is coming out beyond what was expected and the stubble has taken a good start and promises to do better than the most sanguine expectations. At the best, however, a large crop cannot be made. An extraordinary favorable season henceforth could scarcely bring the yield up to 100,000 hogsheads. The estimate of well-informed parties, with an average season, is about seventy-five thousand hogsheads.

It is now believed that the cane crop of Louisiana will be very fair, and that the farmers are feeling much more hopeful than they did some time since.

TEXAS.

From all sections comes the cheering intelligence that the crops look better than was ever known before.

The Gatesville *Sun* of May 11 says:—"The corn crop of this and Hamilton counties is very fine. Old settlers say the prospects at this season were never finer. It is now waist high of large and vigorous stalks and deep green color. These are excellent indications of a large yield."

The Lampasas *Dispatch* of May 11 says:—"In this county the wheat crop is the largest that has been realized for many years. A large portion of the crop will be cut during the coming week, and the most of it is now safe from the rust. We have heard of no rust yet to damage the crops. We hear of some crops that will average twenty bushels to the acre, though the average of the county will perhaps be no more than fifteen bushels to the acre."

Dallas, the wheat centre of Northern Texas, from every exchange we gather the information that never at this season of the year were the prospects for abundant crops equal to the present.

The counties of Grayson, Fannin, Lamar and Red River are bounded on the north by the Indian Territory, and their whole northern slope is washed by the Red River for a distance of 200 miles by the windings of the stream, forming a broad extent of the richest bottom land of Texas, inexhaustible in fertility, and comprising a tract of over one hundred thousand acres of land on the river alone. This land is capable of producing a hundred thousand bales of cotton, or four million bushels of corn, or two million bushels of wheat. These counties, with Dallas, Collin, Hopkins and Hunt, form a portion of the great wheat growing district of Texas, whose lands in times past have yielded an average of from eighteen to twenty bushels of wheat to the acre, or one bale of cotton. This land is mostly at the present time sown in wheat.

The present prospect for a good crop, says the Paris *North Texan*, of all kinds is encouraging. The farmers who planted corn early got a good stand, while those who planted just before the cold rains did not; but the replant came up finely, and altogether the prospect is now cheering.

Our exchanges from every part of Northern and Middle Texas represent the wheat crop as magnificent. They are now harvesting on the west side of the Trinity in this county. It is said new wheat has been brought into Dallas.

The Victoria *Advocate* of May 16 says:—"The prospect for a good crop so far is very encouraging, and should we not have a serious drought we are confident that a large crop of corn and cotton will be raised."

MADAME MACKAU'S WILL.

An Interesting Argument in a Very Interesting Case.

[From the Philadelphia Telegraph, May 29.]

The argument of this cause on May 2 was reported in full in our columns, when it was before the Register's Court on an application of James V. Mazurie, son of Madame Mackau, to award an issue to try by a jury the validity of the will and to have it declared void. Our readers may remember that during last summer we published this will. Caroline Mackau, the decedent, was generally known by the name of her first husband, Mazurie, a Frenchman. For many years she resided in a large, old-fashioned house, with elegant grounds laid out around it, and fronting on Christian street. Here she continued to reside until shortly before her death, which occurred at the age of nearly ninety years.

During the interval from February 1 to June 23 she made and executed three wills and two codicils, in all of which, except the last, after disposing of a few legacies, she bequeathed the remainder of her estate to her grandchildren. Under the last will, of June 23, her legal adviser becomes her residuary heir and executor. This is the will in dispute, which is as follows:—

I, Caroline Mackau, make and declare these presents as and for my last will and testament:—

I desire to express, by some suitable token, my appreciation of the untiring attention of my young attendant and companion, Anne S. Riley, and I therefore direct and order the executor hereof, hereinafter named, to pay to her as such token and legacy hereunder (free of all taxes) such sum of money (in addition to my wearing apparel and jewelry now hereby given and bequeathed to her) as, on consideration of all circumstances, up to the time of my dissolution, he may, in his sole judgment and discretion, think fit and proper, provided the same shall not exceed the sum of $1,500. He has reluctantly consented to act in this matter as a great favor to me, and I emphatically order, direct and enjoin that, whatever be his judgment and action in the premises, they are not to be questioned or disputed by any person in any way. His decision shall be conclusive.

I have heretofore donated to my friend Constant Guillou my tall entry clock, my glass-mounted clock, my crystal card receiver, and my cheval or swinging glass, in recognition of his long continued and poorly requited professional aid in many delicate matters, and of his personal kindness through many years. In order to obviate all doubt, I hereby give and bequeath the said articles to him. I further authorize and empower him to dispose of all portraits belonging to me as he may think proper and becoming.

In order to obviate all doubt in regard to my donation of my dogs, horses, harness and carriage to my friend, Mary Matilda Hazard, and my piano and its cover to the said Anne S. Riley, I do hereby bequeath the said several articles to the said persons respectively. These three bequests may be entirely unnecessary, but, on the other hand, they may save some explanation.

All the rest, residue and remainder of my estate and property, whatsoever and wheresoever, I give, devise and bequeath unto my friend, Constant Guillou, whom I hereby name and appoint the executor hereof. This bequest is, I fear, but nominal, as, after the payment of my outstanding bills to him and others, my funeral expenses and the legacy above given, it is but barely possible that there will be any surplus. I wish it were larger, as he has stated what he will do with it.

I authorize and empower my said executor to grant, bargain, and sell and convey any and all real estate to which I may be entitled at the time of my decease, without any liability on the part of any purchaser as to the application of any purchase money.

Witness my hand this 23d day of June, A. D. 1871.

C. MACKAU.

Signed, published and declared by Caroline Mackau as and for her last will and testament, June 23, 1871.

C. P. JOHNSTON,
MATILDA JOHNSTON.

The grounds on which it is sought to set the will aside are undue influence in procuring the will and testamentary incapacity. It is further alleged that the will in question was never read to Madame Mackau; that she signed it without knowing what were its contents, and that its contents did not represent her last wishes, as expressed very shortly before her death by herself.

In support of these allegations the young woman who nursed her, and occupied the position of a confidential attendant, testified that she was present when the will was brought to Madame Mackau for her signature, and that it was not read to her. In this she is sustained by the parties witnesses to the will; that the reason she assigned for making this last paper was that she wished to give some directions about the disposition of her horses and carriage, dogs, portraits, &c.

In a previous will, dated June 15, 1871, the testatrix, after making some personal bequests, left the residue of her estate to her grandchildren. The evidence showed that after this date the old lady was induced to revoke the will of June 15, and, as alleged, executed the will now in dispute, in which she disinherited her grandchildren.

The evidence also raised a strong doubt as to Madame Mackau's competency to make a will, she being sick in bed at the time, and at times under the influence of morphia given to produce sleep during severe attacks of pain.

The testimony was quite voluminous, but the above gives the main points on which the contestants rely to sustain their case. The contestants are represented by Mr. Fenton, who prepared a very strong case; and, after an exhaustive argument before the Court, he claimed that as the will was written and drawn by her legal adviser, and almost entirely in his own favor, it rested with him to show that all was correct; and that as there was a mass of testimony on the other side which was not answered by him, the natural as well as the legal presumption was in favor of the contestants. And on this he demanded a trial by jury.

Mr. McElroy, who represented the legatees under the will, strenuously opposed sending the case to a jury, quoting numerous decisions to maintain his position, and argued that the contestant must prove undue influence and fraud by positive evidence, and that the burden of proof was on him. It was also stated by him in the argument that the suit was not brought by Mr. Mazurie, but by another party behind him, and that the motives of the latter party proceeded from feelings of hatred towards Mr. Guillou. This was denied by the contestant *in toto*. The Court on Saturday delivered an opinion sustaining the contestant's view of the law as applied to the facts, and awarded the issue requested. The case now goes to a jury for determination.

MEXICO.

The Gradual Decline of the Revolution.

Peace Restored in Several States—The Rising in Tabasco and Yucatan—The Mexican Press on President Grant's Order Regarding the Cattle Thieves.

CITY OF MEXICO, May 17, 1872.

The revolution which has been impoverishing this country for the past six months has no longer any significance south of San Luis Potosi. No considerable army of rebels is now in the field and, with the exception of a few small bands, the revolutionists are driven from the field and their strongholds, dispersed and disarmed. Generals Diaz and Galvan upon their arrival in Jalisco, in March last, succeeded in raising only a small army, which was quickly routed at the first battle, and the former, finding his cause a lost one, is said to have again repaired to the United States for safety. In the State of Vera Cruz, in Mexico, Guerrero, Puebla, Michoacan, Queretaro, &c., there no longer exists any movement worthy of being called a revolution, while the disturbances in the States of Yucatan and Tabasco are of a local character, being directed against the persons of the Governors, and will probably be soon adjusted.

AMPLE POWERS TO JUAREZ.

The great and important question has been the prolongation of "ample faculties" to the Executive by Congress, which was finally secured by a fair majority last night. This will enable President Juarez to continue the state of siege in certain States, the Governors of which, constitutionally elected, pertain to the opposition or revolutionary party. At this capital all eyes are now turned to the frontier, and the campaign of General Ceballos is awaited with great anxiety.

The press of Mexico has also been much occupied of late in discussing the probable issue of the recent order of General Grant, referring to cattle thieves on the Rio Grande. It is supposed here by many that the United States troops in their pursuit of thieves will not stop at the banks of the Rio Grande. For these reasons news from the Northern frontier is awaited anxiously.

General Rosecranz has published a pamphlet setting forth his views relative to the practicability of his plan for the construction of ample railroad communications in Mexico. An extra session of Congress may be called, at which all the railroad matters now pending may be discussed.

JALISCO.

The *Boletin*, the official paper of Jalisco, says that it is believed that Labastida, Galvan and some other leaders of the revolution have embarked at Chamela, but whether for the United States or some other Mexican port it does not state. It also says that Galvan had dissolved the small force which he had left after his recent defeat, and that Porfirio Diaz had also gone to Chamela. The same paper announces that a great part of the revolutionary forces had fled in a demoralized condition toward Ahualulco, Cocula and Tecolotlan. The rebel chief Felix Velez has gone to Barca, probably with the intention of joining Lomeli. Twenty-two soldiers of the First battalion had deserted and fired upon their officers and comrades at Guzman city. Garcia Granados, Minister from Guatemala to Mexico, has reached Guadalajara on his route to Mexico city.

TABASCO.

Frontera, a town of but little importance, has been again occupied by the revolutionists, and a force of the latter had collected at Mascupana, which, however, were dispersed by 130 government troops. The rebel Magallanes had arrived at San Antonio, and was assisting in holding the place against the besieging forces of the government. The rebels have lost many men in the different sallies which they have made out of the place. On the 3d of this month the rebels attacked Huimangillo and were repulsed. Artillery and reinforcements were being waited for.

Pedro Arias, commanding a small rebel force, has been defeated at Macuiltepec. Captains Sol and Lizarraga, although suffering from wounds received in the action of Comalcalco, volunteered to take part in the expedition against San Antonio. Up to the moment of writing San Antonio had not been captured by the government forces.

The construction of a telegraphic line to unite the States of Tabasco, Campeachy and Yucatan has been commenced.

SANDWICH ISLANDS.

The King's Speech to Parliament—His Majesty's Treaty Relations with the United States, Japan and France—Failure of the Reciprocity Instrument in the American Senate—Parliamentary Economy.

HONOLULU, May 8, 1872.

The Legislative Assembly of 1872 is now at work, or, perhaps, fairer to say, preparing for work; for as yet nothing important has been accomplished.

On the 30th of April, at noon, the nobles and representatives having already assembled in the hall of the Supreme Court, His Majesty the King entered, and delivered the following speech, first in the vernacular and then in English:—

NOBLES AND REPRESENTATIVES:—At the opening of the Legislative Assembly of 1870 I commended to its attention foreign and inter-island steam communication, and the Assembly of that year responded by making liberal appropriation. The means placed at the disposal of my government for these purposes have been used as it was intended. The report of my Minister of the Interior will show you the gratifying fact that steam communication between the islands is likely to be self-supporting, and will encourage the hope that the public necessity will call for an increase of that service at an early day. Steam communication with the coast of America and with the New Zealand and Australian colonies seems now to be firmly established, and I have not a doubt that the money devoted by us to this object will be found to be wisely expended. During the last two years agriculture has repaid handsomely those who have pursued it with courage, diligence and enterprise. It is the life of the nation, not only from its profitable returns, but as tending directly to the increase of the population, and the prolongation of vigorous life. I therefore hope that you will not neglect to further its interests by every means in your power. But whilst giving your earnest consideration to it I trust that every other interest will receive likewise its share of your attention.

Our relations with foreign governments continue to be of the most friendly nature. Since the adjournment of the last Legislative Assembly I have concluded a Treaty of Amity and Commerce with His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, the text of which will be laid before you. The Treaty of Reciprocity, which was at the last session of this body before the Senate of the United States, failed to receive the number of votes necessary for its ratification. I have directed notice to be given of my desire for the termination of those articles of the treaty with France, signed at Honolulu, October 29, 1857, which it is agreed by the twenty-sixth article of that treaty may cease to have effect after one year's notice. This will leave you free to make such changes in the tariff as you, in your wisdom, may think proper.

The report of my Minister of Finance will present to you most gratifying evidence of the good condition of our finances. The interests of the cause of education have never been more thoroughly attended to, and the results of that attention have been most encouraging. Justice has been administered equally and impartially to all. Peace, contentment and prosperity have reigned within our borders. All the works which have been undertaken and completed, as well as those which are now projected for the public benefit, have had and do have my most hearty concurrence, and I therefore commend to you most earnestly the recommendations of my Ministers in this respect.

It is my painful duty to inform you that the widow of my predecessor, His late Majesty Kamehameha III., deceased at her residence in Honolulu, 20th September, 1870.

REPRESENTATIVES:—It is with great pleasure that I see among you so many, who, in former years, have had experience in legislative business, and who by their return to this Assembly give evidence that the people have the same confidence in their experience which I myself entertain.

NOBLES AND REPRESENTATIVES:—I pray most humbly and heartily the King of kings so to rule your councils that everything may be ordered for the public good. And with this prayer I commend the interest of our country to your wisdom, patriotism and fidelity, in which I have unfailing reliance. We do now declare the Legislature of the kingdom opened.

PARLIAMENTARY ECONOMY AND PROJECTS FOR REFORM.

On the 1st inst. the Assembly met and organized, and since that time has been mostly engaged in hearing petitions from the people upon all conceivable subjects, among which are several asking that the King's pay and that of his Ministers and all government officials may be cut down; that the infamous Masters and Servants law may be amended or repealed; that no more foreign laborers may be imported into the kingdom; that foreign doctors may be appointed to reside in the different districts; that the number of hours to constitute a day's work may be fixed by law; that the manufacture of paper money be forbidden; that the taxes be reduced; that persons who drink intoxicating liquors be refused office under government, and others too numerous to mention.

AN OVER-VIGILANT PATRIOT.

A very zealous native member offered a resolution requiring the Attorney General and police to "inquire into the alleged teaching of the children of families in Honolulu the constitution of the United States to the prejudice of the consitution of Hawaii." This resolution was indefinitely postponed.

NAVIGATOR'S ISLANDS.

Treaty Making Between the United States and the Chief at Paga-Paga—What America Obtains—Respect for the Flag of Freedom and a Mission to Washington.

HONOLULU, S. I., May 8, 1872.

Turning away from a consideration of the progress of court and Parliamentary affairs here in Honolulu let me give the HERALD an item of news relating to the Navigator's Islands.

Captain Meade, of the United States ship Narragansett, visited the group a few weeks since and made a treaty with the chief at Paga-Paga, by which a fine harbor and coaling station was secured for the United States. Since the visit of Captain Meade an American commercial agent has had a pow-wow with the Kings and chiefs, by which he has secured a fine tract of land for agricultural purposes, five hundred and fourteen square miles in area.

The Kings and chiefs have hoisted the American flag over the different islands and sent an agent on to Washington to ask the President and Senate to accept the group upon terms which are most liberal. The American flag will fly at the capital of the group during the interval which must elapse before they can obtain a reply from Washington.

The Kings have sent notice to the colonial authorities of New Zealand and Australia of the change in affairs.

An American company purpose growing sugar cane and cotton, and with the advantage of the two or three cents a pound on the sugar they manufacture, duties demanded on Hawaiian sugar, they will soon out-strip this group in wealth and importance.

AUSTRALASIAN REPORT OF THE NARRAGANSETT NEGOTIATIONS.

The HERALD speciall correspondent in Sydney, Australia, writing on the 12th of April, reports as follows:—An important item of news has reached us from the Navigator's Group, where, by latest advices, the United States steamer Narragansett, three guns, was lying after taking possession of the island of Tutuila as a naval station for the United States.

While at Samoa the United States commander arrested the notorious Captain Hayes on board the American brig Leonora, lately known in the East Indies and China as the English brig Sea Gull. After a sort of formal trial on board the Narragansett Hayes was released to renew his game of plunder, there being no evidence to convict him of anything more than sharp practices. Had he been taken to San Francisco or brought here plenty of his victims would have been ready to prosecute him.

AQUATIC NOTES.

The *Aquatic Monthly*—a magazine devoted to sustaining the interests of the fraternity in the United States, and making a specialty of yachting and rowing—will be issued from the press of Messrs. Cushing, Bardua & Co., of this city, for the first time, in a few days. The sole supervision of its columns will be entrusted to Mr. Charles A. Peverelly.

Charles Weeks and Robert Schmidt, both of Cincinnati, have been matched to row a single scull race, in open boats, over a five-mile course on the Ohio river, about the middle of June, for $500 a side.

An exciting single scull race took place on the Genessee, below the lower falls, Rochester, N. Y., on the evening of the 24th inst., between William Smith, Jr., the owner of the yacht River Belle, and Franklin Pierce, over a two-mile course, Smith rowing a paper boat and Pierce an ordinary scull. Pierce came out ahead by three boat lengths, to the surprise of most of the spectators, who expected Smith to have an easy victory.

Next upon the rowing calendar is the single scull match between Tom Butler, of Boston, and Billy Scharff, the Pennsylvania glass blower, which will be settled upon the Schuylkill River, at Philadelphia, on Friday, the 7th of June. The match is for $1,000 a side, the men to row five miles, at 143 pounds weight, and the race bids fair to attract another vast throng to the banks of that stream. Outside of Philadelphia, however, the cities most largely represented will be Boston and Pittsburg, as the townsmen of the principals consider them respectively able to "get away" with any oarsman near their weight, and will be anxious to see them pull in the first really important race in which either has thus far engaged outside of local waters. For years past Tom has possessed an excellent reputation among the devotees of boating at Boston, appearing principally in regattas, and will, it is thought, be backed heavily to win, while Scharff is looked upon as a genuine wonder by his fellow citizens along the Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers, not a few confidently expressing the belief that he is the "coming man," and that a few years at most will see him at the "top of the heap," with none to successfully dispute his claim to the proud title of champion. Whatever the result may be, however, one thing may be looked forward to with confidence—that the race will be a hard one for both men, and that he who secures the victory will be worthy of all praise.

A match for $700, in seventeen feet working boats, distance three miles, has been made between F. Sindrs and William Long, the race to come off on the 24th prox. The course will be from a stakeboat off Eighty-fourth street, East River, one and a half mile out and return.

A rowing regatta took place on Cayuga Lake, at Ithaca, N. Y., a short time since under the auspices of the Cornell University Boat Club. The first event was a four-oared shell race between the picked crews of Cornell's Navy and the Union Springs Rowing Club, of Union Springs, N. Y. The following are the names of the crews:—Union Springs—C. E. Courtney, stroke; J. F. Courtney, No. 2; J. McGraw, No. 3; N. S. Collins, bow. Cornell—W. C. Dole, Jr., stroke; C. F. Dutton, No. 2; Goldsmith, No. 3; Bean, bow. W. C. Done, Jr., stroke of the Cornell crew, is trainer for the club. The race was easily won by the Union Springs crew, who got the lead from the start, pulling a long, steady stroke of about thirty-six to the minute, winning the race by forty seconds, while, on the other hand, Cornell pulled a miserable, short, quick stroke of about forty to the minute. The distance rowed was two miles, with a turn. Time of the winners, 14:45. The second race was for single shells, between C. E. Courtney, of the Union Springs crew, and Jack Eiseffer, of Cornell's Navy. The race was easily won by Courtney, who stopped a number of times to let his opponent catch up. Time, 19:51. The water was quite rough.

STEEL PIGEONS FOR SHOOTING MATCHES.

[From the London Standard.]

The ostensible object of pigeon shooting, as carried on by the various clubs, is to keep the hand of the sportsman in form during the close season, so that his skill as a shot