DAILY DISPATCH.

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THE DAILY DISPATCH.

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Monday Morning, March 23, 1857.

HISTORY OF THE DRED SCOTT CASE.—As Dred Scott seems to have become quite a distinguished character, and is likely to figure extensively for some time to come in the political contests of the country, we subjoin the following brief history of his case, as furnished by the Washington Union:

Scott instituted a suit in the circuit court of Missouri to obtain a discharge from servitude for himself and family. On the trial it was proved that he had been originally a slave in Missouri; that his master first took him to the military post at Rock Island, in Illinois, and subsequently to Fort Snelling, in Minnesota, at a point north of the Missouri compromise line, and that he and his family subsequently returned with him to Missouri. It was contended in his behalf that inasmuch as his owner had voluntarily taken him to places where slavery did not exist by law, both he and his family became free, and remained so after returning to a slaveholding State. The circuit court decided in his favor.

On appeal to the Supreme Court of the State that tribunal held that he and his family, on returning to the State, continued slaves. Between the announcation of the opinion of the court and the filing of its mandate in the circuit court Scott voluntarily dismissed his suit in the State court, thus evading the decision against him; and thereupon instituted another in the circuit court of the United States. In this court the question of jurisdiction depended upon his being a citizen of Missouri, and the defendant a citizen of another State. If the court should be of opinion that he was a citizen, then he claimed that he was free, because his owner had taken him to Illinois, and also to a part of the Louisiana territory north of the compromise line.

The circuit court rendered final judgment against him; and thereupon he appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States, where the same questions were raised and twice argued by his counsel, and also determined against him.—The cause was last argued by George T. Curtis, brother of Judge Curtis, and Montgomery Blair son of Francis P. Blair, for the plaintiff Scott, and by Senator Geyer and Reverdy Johnson for the defendant. On the first argument neither Mr. Curtis nor Mr. Johnson took part.

The fact that the court ordered a re argument is ample proof of the importance of the questions involved and the difficulty of solving them. On the last argument the court was filled with intelligent and anxious listeners. The court took time to deliberate and prepare their opinions. Each judge formed and expressed his own. The reasons sustaining his conclusions are placed upon record by each, and his countrymen will read and reflect, and test them by the rules of common sense and every day reason. No judicial tribunal can reasonably object to criticisms based upon such principles. Truth will never suffer by being subjected to the standard of reason and right.

From this statement it is evident that Scott's name has been used by a class of slavery agitators for political effect. Having been beaten in Missouri and in the United States Circuit and Supreme Court, they now attempt, for the same purpose, to appeal from the decisions of the judiciary to political club rooms, where other considerations than calm reason and sober judgment are expected to prevail. Time will show whether they have calculated the result with accuracy.

AFFAIRS IN UTAH.—TROOPS TO BE SENT THERE.—A letter was received in Washington, Thursday, from W. W. Drummond, United States Supreme Judge in Utah Territory, by the administration. It gives a sad and deplorable picture of matters in that Territory. The following is taken from the letter:

The leading men of the church are more traitorous than ever. Only a few days since all the papers, records, dockets and nine hundred volumes of the laws, were taken out of the Supreme Court Clerk's office and burned. And this is not the only instance of the kind. I say to you again, and through you to the President, it is impossible for us to enforce the laws in this Territory. Every man here holds his life at the will of Brigham Young; and here we are without protection. I am firmly of opinion that Babbitt was murdered by Mormons under direction of Brigham Young and not by Indians. Murder is a common thing here; and Mormons cannot be punished with a Mormon jury, witnesses, officers and Governor to pardon. It is too cruel, and must not be endured. A man, not member of the church, is murdered, robbed, castrated and imprisoned, solely for questioning the authority of the church. Persons are now in the penitentiary, convicted before the Probate Judge, who are wholly innocent of any crime. Is there any other country where this abuse is or would be endured? Let all, then, take hold and crush out one of the most treasonable organizations in America.

The administration have had the matter under serious consideration, and will soon appoint a Governor, who will take a sufficient military force into that Territory to carry out the laws to the fullest extent.

SINGING.—A New York paper says: A few Sundays ago, at one of our suburban churches, the choir sang a hymn to a tune which comes as follows: 'My poor pol—my poor pol—my poor polluted heart.' Another line received the following rendering: 'And in the pi—and in the pi—and in the pious he delights.' And still another was sung: 'And take thy pil—and take thy pil—and take thy pilgrim home.'

ANOTHER VICTIM OF SPIRITUALISM.—Luke Hastings, a carpenter, 57 years old, committed suicide in Bangor on Sunday. It is thought that spiritualism, to which he was a devotee, induced the act. He leaves a wife and children.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN LA CROSSE, WIS.—On the 7th inst., all of one block on Front street, between Main and State Streets, in La Crosse, Wis., excepting Messrs. Clark's saloon, was destroyed by fire. Most of the goods saved, with damage by water and removal.

MAKING GOOD TIME.—On the 9th inst., a gentleman skated into St. Johns, New Brunswick, from a place distant 55 miles, in five hours, with the wind against him.

J. E. Murdoch gains high compliments in England. He has just completed an engagement of one hundred and ten nights. The London Observer says his delineations come nearer the ideal school than that of any other performer within its recollection.

GARROTING IN NEW ORLEANS.—Mr. A. J. Perkins, a citizen living at 22, Sixth street, Fourth District, was assaulted by two men, on Wednesday night last, when within a few doors of his own house, and while one of his assailants held him by the throat, the other tore off his pocket, and *vamosed* with the contents. This is the first instance of the garrote movement in New Orleans.

[N. O. Picayune.

DEATH OF AN OLD SERVANT.—A colored man named John, the property of Mrs. Martha Hester, of Granville county, N. C., died on the 8th instant, at the advanced age of one hundred and fourteen years. He went to that State during the Revolutionary war, as a servant of Col. Woodard.

FOREIGN APPOINTMENT.—W. Schmitt, for 45 years General Consul of the King of Prussia in the United States, and who for some time during 1848 filled the functions of Charge d'Affaires at Washington, has been appointed by the King to the post of Royal Secret Commercial Counselor, the highest dignity in the Prussian Government in the Consular line of service.

SHIPWRECK.—The Panama (New Granada) Star, of the 5th instant, states that a portion of the wreck of a large vessel, with the name, "Indicator," on the stern, had been driven ashore about the 10th ult., at Palenque, near Porto Bello.

LARGE SALE OF WOOL.—Mr. Abraham Melvin, of Weare, N. H., sold, a few days ago, 25,000 lbs. of Spanish Merino wool of his own raising, to parties in Boston, Mass., amounting to $15,000, at 60 cents per lb.

CRIME AND IGNORANCE IN LIVERPOOL.—In the nine months from January 1st to September 30th, 1856, the Liverpool police took into custody 19,336 persons, of whom 581 or 3 per cent. had been educated; 8,000 or 41.4 per cent. could read and write imperfectly; 1,360 or 7 per cent. could read only, and 9,386 or 41.6 per cent. had received no elementary instruction whatever.

BRANDING.—In Nash county (N. C.) Superior Court, B. Edwards, convicted of the manslaughter of R. Boone, has been sentenced to be imprisoned for one year and branded.

Ex-President Mirabeau B. Lamar, of Texas, is mentioned for the position of Governor of Kansas.

Benj. P. Harrison an old citizen of Petersburg, Va., is dead.

MUTINY AND MURDER ON SHIPBOARD.—The brig General Pierce, which sailed from Baltimore for Africa on the 21st of January last, arrived at St. Thomas on the 27th February, the crew having murdered Capt. Lawson and the cook, Charles L. Groves. The American commercial agent at St. Thomas arrested John Ned, John Brown, John Smith, and John De Caste, as the murderers, and sent them on to New York, where they arrived Wednesday. C. H. W. Petraus, the second mate, testified as follows:

"On the 10th of February, while upon the high seas, John Smith, by direction of the captain, was sent to the wheel; John Morris was sent to the foretop to set up some rigging, and I went with him; when I came down I went aft and saw the captain strike John Smith with his fist or open hand, I cannot say which; the captain had complained of Smith's bad steering; at 14 o'clock I told the men to go to dinner, and I went into my stateroom to work up my day's work; about fifteen minutes after, I came out of my room on deck and saw the crew surrounding the captain and talking loud; my intention was at the time to go into the cabin, but when I came to the door I saw John Smith stab the cook, Charles L. Groves, in the side with a cagger, and then I could not go in there on account of my own life; he then came round to where the captain was; the captain had been struck already, although I did not see it; the captain asked me where the second mate was; I told him he was standing behind him; I then spoke to the crew, and asked them what was the matter and begged them to be quiet; by this time the captain, myself and crew went a little way aft; the object of the captain and myself was to get into the cabin, but the doors were blockaded by the crew; I tried to parley with them but John De Caste held a large piece of wood over my head and threatened to strike me, but did not; the captain was talking loud with them, and told them they had taken the ship from him—they might put her ashore on the rocks or do whatever they liked with her; the crew said they would do no such thing, but demanded that I should bring the ship to the nearest port; the captain said 'No,' that neither he nor myself should have anything to do with the ship; that if there was a navigator amongst them he might take charge; the captain bled very fast; he said, 'Oh help me' and turned pale in the face; I ran up to him, and John Brown held a dagger to my breast and said, 'I will kill you;' I was unarmed, and drew a pace back; the captain was lying insensible on the deck; John Brown then ran the dagger in the captain's left side; the captain then lay two or three minutes on deck; they all ran to him and said they would heave him into the water; some one cried out, 'All hands take hold,' but none except John Smith, John Brown, John De Caste and John Ned took hold of the captain, when he was thrown overboard; after the captain was thrown overboard, they said, 'Now the cook,' and the same four men ran into the cabin and threw the cook overboard; they then said to me, 'You are captain and you must navigate the ship for St. Thomas;' they then washed the blood off the cabin floor and off the deck."

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT.—It will be remembered that after the Coroner's Jury had retired for consultation, in the Bordell investigation, a man, giving his name as D. C. Walter, M. D., 91 Horatio street, presented himself, saying that he could corroborate the statement of Farrell. He was taken before the Jury, and testified that just before 11 o'clock on the night of the murder, he passed Dr. Burdell's house, and saw a man sitting on the stoop, with his shoe in his hand, and he thought it singular; also, that he saw the door open, and a man at the door in his shirt sleeves.

This testimony was regarded of great importance, corroborating the statement of Farrell, which, unsupported, was looked upon by many as highly improbable.

We understand that the counsel for Mrs. Cunningham has now set up and professes to be able to prove, that D. C. Walter, M. D., is a lunatic, and has been for some years; that he was at home on the night of the tragedy in Bond street; that his family, with whom he was at that time, knew nothing of his testimony till they saw it in the papers, when they read it with the utmost amazement, and were deeply pained and mortified that he had conceived such an extraordinary idea.—*N. Y. Post.*

ABOLITIONISTS HOAXED.—The Rochester (N. Y.) Union learns that a letter has been received by Gov. King, at Albany, giving information respecting Chas. Granby, the colored man from that city, who has been supposed to be in slavery somewhere in the Southern States. According to the account received by the Union, the whole story of Granby's kidnapping and subsequent sale into slavery is a hoax. The man is in Peoria, Ill., where he went of his own accord, is married, and at work in a distillery.

A LADY THAT "KNOWS THE ROPES."—One of the young ladies that visited the U. S. ship Portsmouth the other day, who was not supposed to have the slightest knowledge of nautical parlance, asked Captain Doran why the aftermost sail was like a tyrannical mother. The gallant captain scratched his head over it awhile, and then "guv it up." "Because it's a spanker," modestly lisped the important young miss.

GOV. GEARY AND THE FREE STATE MEN.—A Kansas correspondent of the Cincinnati Gazette says that Gov. Geary has become very unpopular among the free State men of that Territory, in consequence of his signing all the obnoxious acts passed by the Legislature. He has then failed to satisfy either party.

BABEL IN LUCK.—The Mr. J. A. Johnson (of R. I.) who has just been appointed to the Beyrout Consulship, it seems, is the same gentleman who got up the discovery of the Tower of Babel story, in one of the Boston papers, not long since.

FATAL AFFRAY.—An affray ocurred in the upper part of Chambers county, Ala., on the evening of the 2d instant, between Mr. Thomas Robinson and Frank Tapler, in which the former was stabbed to the heart, and died immediately.

CASE OF CONSCIENCE.—A horrible murder in Bridgeport, Conn., has lately come to light. It appears that a man named Blood, in a drunken fit, killed one William Burrill, some five or six days since, and that after he had done the deed and become sober, he confessed the crime to his neighbors. His statement was not credited till the body of the missing man was found in the cellar of the house where Blood resided. He was arrested.

THE HOG CHOLERA.—A SIMPLE REMEDY.—The disease known by the above name, and which is almost annihilating the porkers in some parts of the country, it is said can be effectually and speedily cured by a very simple remedy. It is no more than by a teaspoonful of copperas, dissolved in water and mixed with the animals' food.—*Pittsburg Dispatch.*

REBUILDING THE TUILERIES.—A part of the Tuileries, (says the Paris correspondent of the New York Daily Times,) the Pavilion of Flore, next the river, is soon to be rebuilt. During the two or three years required for this important work, the official winter residence will be at the Palais Elysee. The Pavilion de Flore was seriously shattered by the explosion of the powder magazine at Grenelle, seventy-five years ago, and has continued to settle obliquely ever since. The inclination towards the river at the eaves of the building is now about eleven inches! His Majesty does not feel willing to try the experiment any longer.

HIGH FIGURES.—The highest price which tobacco has brought in the Nashville (Tenn.) market, for twenty-one years, was paid for three hhds. on Saturday week. The three brought, respectively, $15 30, $15 80 and $15 85 per hundred.

WORTH A TRIAL.—A farmer, in Southern Alabama, advises persons smoking hams to throw upon the fire occasionally a handful of China berries, which he says will be an effectual preventative against the skippers. It is worth trying, anyhow.

AMALGAMATION.—The New York Mirror states that Jack Slingerland, a pure blooded African, a *protege* of Hon. John T. Slingerland, of Bethlehem, N. Y., who, though black as the ace of spades is a free holder and well to do, has recently eloped with the white daughter of a neighbor and been united to the fair lass in bonds matrimonial. Jack is 23, the young lady 17.

SALE OF STOCK IN KY.—At a recent sale in Fleming county, according to the Maysville Eagle, the following prices were had: 55 head of fat bullocks, averaging 2 000 lbs. gross, $5 per hundred; 60 head No 1 Spanish mules, yearlings, $90 per head; one Spanish jack "Cordova," sold for a $1,500.

"Sally," said a fellow to a girl who had red hair, "keep away from me, or you will set me afire."—"No danger of that," was the answer; "you are too green to burn."

The Hon Edward Everett occupied a seat on the floor of the Senate, in Albany, New York, on Wednesday, and at the adjournment was presented to the Senators personally.

The Hon L M Keitt will deliver the annual address this year before the Societies of the Georgia University.

The National Agricultural exhibition will be held at Louisville, Ky., on the 5th of September next.

Wm. R. Drinkard, of Virginia, has been appointed chief clerk of the War Department.

Jno. Metcalf, an old citizen of Fredericksburg, Va., died on Thursday last.

FROM NICARAGUA.—*Further Accounts.*—By the steamer Tennessee, we learn that the position of affairs in Nicaragua remains very much the same as before. Walker holds Rivas. The allies are at St. George.

Walker had attacked St. George twice, but without effect.

Col. Cayce, who brought down the Rangers to San Juan del Sur to escort Mrs. Dusenbury, was attacked on his return by a superior force of Costa Ricans and driven into San Juan.

Col. Lockridge has taken Serapiqui, and attempted Castillo. The latter failed from the cowardice of Col. Titus, who had been sent with 150 men to take Castillo. He gave the Cos a Ricans in the fort 24 hours to consider upon a surrender during which time they received reinforcements. The enemy then advanced, and Titus ordered his men to retreat.

The enemy burned Castillo, but still hold the fort.

Lockridge recovered one of the boats—another has been burned.

Lockridge has his chief force now on Carlos Island, a short distance below Castillo—also, a garrison at Serapiqui, commanded by Col. Anderson.

Titus has left him, and gone round to Rivas.

Sergeant Wm. Hart, of Walker's army, gives the following statement of the affairs of the "filibuster:"

Walker, when I left, was in fine spirits, and his army was never doing better. They are comfortably taken care of, and but few are desirous of returning home.

Walker contemplates having the entire possession of the river by the first of April. He is gradually moving his army towards the most favorable points for an attack.

His army numbers about 1300 men, and there is but about 40 confined to the hospital; most of them are able to move around. Provisions are in great abundance and the men are well clothed and fed. But little dissatisfaction is manifested among the men and as soon as a soldier's time is expired, which is one year, they are furnished with a passport and a free passage home.

But little information could be had respecting the last battle, in consequence of the early departure of the steamer; but from what information had been received at San Juan when we left, Walker was in a most favorable position, and had sustained but little loss.

At the battle on the Transit Road, under command of Col. Kessey, there were but two killed and two wounded; and at the fight at Hokoty Branch, four were killed and eleven wounded. These two battles were on the nights of the 3d and 4th inst.

A passenger who came on board the steamer Tennessee, gives the following statement:

We brought down from San Francisco about eighty recruits for Gen. Walker, which we landed at San Juan del Sur. At this place we took on board several of Walker's men, whose term of office had expired, besides several of the officers. From the men I learn that Walker is in Rivas, the only place that he now has in his possession, with only about 500 effective men, besides sick and wounded. A few days before our arrival in San Juan, Walker had been attacked by a large force of Costa Ricans whom he succeeded after a hard but short struggle, repulsing with a large number of killed and wounded; whereas Walker did not lose a man in killed or wounded. It is reported that Walker is completely hemmed in in Rivas, by the Costa Ricans, he being cut off from all communication whatever with the surrounding country, so that any forces which may reach San Juan for him will stand but small chance of reaching Rivas. A company of about 40 or 50 horsemen belonging to Walker's army started from San Juan the day before we arrived there, with a mule train of provisions, &c., for Walker's army.—Before having got more than half their route, the train was attacked by the Costa Ricans, and, after fighting for some minutes, were repulsed with the loss of their mule train and provisions, and five or six killed, besides a number wounded, and obliged again to return to San Juan. On the following day the horsemen set out again for Rivas with the new recruits, which we brought down from San Francisco with us. The prevailing impression in San Juan was, that the reinforcement would be attacked, and either dispersed or taken prisoners by the Costa Ricans on their way to Rivas, as the enemy, in all probability, were lying in wait for the expected reinforcement between the two places, particularly as they were fully aware that the company of horsemen would be compelled to pass that way in rejoining Walker.

VALEDICTORY OF GOV. GEARY.—The St Louis Democrat of the 9th instant contains the "Farewell of Gov Geary to the People of Kansas." Subjoined will be found the principal points of this document. After having referred to the sacrifices which he states he made in accepting the position of Governor, after recapitulating the difficulties he had to encounter in entering upon the office, and giving himself credit for having surmounted them; and after referring to the causes which have induced his resignation, he continues:

But whatever may be thought or said of my motives or desires, I have the proud consciousness of leaving this scene of my severe and anxious toil with clean hands, and the satisfactory conviction that He who can penetrate the utmost recesses of the heart, and read its secret thoughts, will approve my purposes and acts. I have invariably sought to do equal and exact justice to all men, however humble or exalted. I have eschewed all sectional disputations, kept aloof from all party affiliations, and have alike scorned numerous threats of personal injury and violence, and the most flattering promises of advancement and reward. And I ask and claim nothing more for the part I have acted than the simple merit of having endeavored to perform my duty.—This I have done at all times and upon every occasion, regardless of the opinions of men, and utterly fearless of consequences. Occasionally I have been forced to assume great responsibilities, and depend solely upon my own resources to accomplish important ends; but in all such instances, I have carefully examined surrounding circumstances, weighed well the probable results, and acted upon my own deliberate judgment; and in now reviewing them, I am so well satisfied with the policy uniformly pursued, that were it to be done over again, it should not be changed in the slightest particular.

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In parting with you I can do no less than give you a few words of kindly advice, and even of friendly warning. You are well aware that most of the troubles which lately agitated the Territory, were occasioned by men who had no especial interest in its welfare. Many of them were not even residents; while it is quite evident that others were influenced altogether in the part they took in the disturbances by mercenary or other personal considerations. The great body of the actual citizens are conservative, law abiding, peace loving men, disposed rather to make sacrifices for conciliation and consequent peace, than to insist for their entire rights should the general good thereby be caused to suffer. Some of them, under the influence of the prevailing excitement and misguided opinions, were led to the commission of grevious mistakes, but not with the deliberate intention of doing wrong.

A very few men resolved upon mischief, may keep in a state of unhealthy excitement and involve in a fearful strife, an entire community. This was demonstrated during the civil commotions with which the territory was convulsed. While the people generally were anxious to pursue their peaceful callings, small combinations of crafty, scheming and designing men succeeded, from purely selfish motives, in bringing upon them a series of most lamentable and destructive difficulties. Nor are they satisfied with the mischief already done. They never desired that the present peace should be effected; nor do they intend that it shall continue if they have the power to prevent it. In the constant croakings of disaffected individuals in various sections, you hear only the expressions of evil desires and intentions. Watch, then, with a special jealous and suspicious eye those who are continually indulging surmises of renewed hostilities. They are not the friends of Kansas, and there is reason to fear that some of them are not only the enemies of this Territory, but of the Union itself. Its dissolution is their ardent wish, and Kansas has been selected as a fit place to commence the accomplishment of a most nefarious design. The scheme has thus far been frustrated; but it has not been abandoned. You are entrusted not only with the guardianship of this Territory, but the peace the of Union, which depends upon you in a greater degree than you may at present suppose.

INDIAN BATTLE IN FLORIDA.—We learn from Fort Dallas, the following particulars of a late engagement with the Indians:

Capt. Stephenson, with a part of a company of the 5th infantry, while near the Big Cypress Swamp, were fired upon by a party supposed to be between eighty and a hundred Indians, they returned the fire and after some close fighting the Indians retreated, leaving eight bodies on the field; five soldiers were killed, and Lieut. Freeman supposed to be mortally wounded. Gen. Harney in his orders, speaks very highly of the conduct of Capt. Stephenson.

The President has appointed B. J. Jacoway, U. S. Marshal for the district of Kansas, vice Samuel M. Hays, removed.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, the poet, was fined $50 recently, in Middlesex county, Mass., for trespassing on his neighbor's wood land.

Col. "Jim" Lane, once so notorious in Kansas affairs, has been married again—his former wife, from whom he had been separated, becoming his bride.

Habersham & Bro.'s rice mill, at Savannah, was destroyed by fire on the 17th inst. Loss $30,000.

Wm. T. Forsyth's snuff mill, on Dolphin street Baltimore, was burned down on Wednesday evening. Loss $4,000—fully insured.

S. B. Stone, a member of the Maine Legislature, died on Monday last, at his home in the village of Brewer, whither he had gone two days previous, in good health, on a visit to his family.

Rev. Mr. Spurgeon, whose sermons have created so much excitement in England, is failing in consequence of his great exertions. His voice gave way at his last public appearance.

THE MAILS BY THE ALPS

HIGHLY INTERESTING FROM CHINA.

The mails by the Alps, with dates from Liverpool to 5 o'clock, P. M., on the 4th inst., are at hand. The news of importance other than that from China has been published by telegraph.—From the correspondence of the London Times we take a

HIGHLY INTERESTING ACCOUNT OF AFFAIRS IN CHINA.

HONG KONG, Jan. 15.—Our troops remain intrenched in the Garden. Her Majesty's steamer Niger, with the flag of Admiral Seymour, is at anchor off the ruins of the factories; and the other men of war are distributed in the river, commanding the most important points. Several exceedingly well-planned attempts have been made to blow up and burn our vessels; and, although they have been, as yet, unsuccessful in doing any material injury, the greatest vigilance is necessary.—The mandarins have collected a large number of war junks in the creeks of the river; and on the 4th, they attacked the Macao Fort at low water.—Her Majesty's steamer Encounter attempted to move down from her anchorage, but grounded and the fight was maintained by the fort, the steamer Coromandel, and men of war's boats, until the rise of the tide enabled the steamer to come to their assistance, when the junks retired into shallow water beyond range. Mr. Pearn, master's assistant of her Majesty's ship Sybille, was killed during the action, and two officers and three seamen were wounded. The loss on the side of the Chinese must have been considerable, as the Minie rifles of our marines told severely.

On the 30th ult the postal steamer Thistle, while on her way from Canton, was cut off by a party of Chinese, who had been received on board as passengers for Hong Kong, but proved to be emissaries of the Chinese government hired to perform the tragedy in which they succeeded. All on board were murdered with the exception of some Chinese passengers, and the vessel was run ashore and burnt. There were two foreign passengers on board at the time, viz: a Spanish gentleman, Senor Dias, formerly Peruvian consul general, and an invalid of the 59th regiment.

Since this dreadful occurrence another river steamer has been attacked and narrowly escaped capture at the hands of a mandarin fleet, and communication with Canton is now almost entirely suspended. There are no foreign residents there now whatever. No trace has been obtained of Mr. Cowper, who was kidnapped at Wampoa. A cold blooded murder has been perpetrated there, the victim being a German servant of Dr. Ryder. The Wampoa anchorage has been abandoned.

It is not expected that any active measures will be taken against the city of Canton until the arrival of troops and gunboats places in the hands of Admiral Seymour the means of striking a decisive blow both by land and water. At present it is by no means an easy task to hold his present position; but this, we doubt not, he will do if possible, as any retrograde movement would be deemed a victory by the Chinese.

Of the Viceroy Yeh we have heard nothing lately, nor has any commissioner arrived from Pekin, although the Chinese assert that a very high official is on the way.

In Hong Kong all remains quiet as yet, and the stringent precautions which have been taken have had a beneficial effect. Some of the worst characters have been apprehended, and will be deported. Three men have been seized who are doubtless emissaries from Canton, sent here with mischievous intent. The result of their examination has not yet transpired. The colonial government has hired and armed a small steamer to cruise in the neighborhood. The mandarins have issued in various districts the most bloodthirsty edicts against the English, and have offered large rewards to those who may succeed in assassination or incendiarism in Hong Kong. All Chinese have been ordered to quit the service of foreigners and return to their homes, and so powerful is the mandarin system that disobedience entails much trouble, if not positive destruction, upon the relatives of the offender. Nearly all the Chinese servants have left or are leaving, and this creats no small inconvenince, and also renders private property more insecure. Her Majesty's ship Calcutta is in the harbor, and Admiral Guerin has in the most handsome manner offered the services of the crews of La Virginia and steamer Catinat whenever they may be required; indeed, there is now a French guard stationed at one of the most unprotected points. The Americans have also limited a guard at their naval stores and at another point.

We have just received intelligence from Canton informing us that the whole of the suburbs west of the city had been burnt by our force on the 12th inst. In this service we regret to say that a party of the 59th Regiment missed their way, and getting under the city wall were assailed with stones and matchlocks, losing two men killed, eleven severely wounded, and ten slightly wounded. A la ge fire had also taken place inside the city—Admiral Seymour has decided on blowing up the Dutch Folly, retiring from the gardens, and making the Bird's Nest Fort his outpost, where we hope he will be able to remain until reinforcements arrive.

HONG KONG, Jan 15, 1 P. M.—An attempt was made this morning to poison a considerable number of the foreign community. The author of this diabolical act is a Chinese baker, named Esing, who (being doubtless induced by the promise of reward held out by the mandarins) mixed with his bread a large quantity of arsenic, and after sending it round to his customers, left for Macao in a steamer at 8, A. M. All who partook of this bread were shortly afterwards seized with violent retchings and other symptoms, but, prompt remedies being applied, we are happy to state that up to the present time no deaths have ensued, although great numbers have been ill, and some are still in a dangerous state. The quantity of arsenic was too large to answer the intended purpose, its presence being immediately betrayed, and antidotes forthwith administered. It is fearful to contemplate what the results might otherwise have been. A steamer has been despatched to Macao in hopes of intercepting Esing, but we fear he will have gained the mainland ere she arrives. Trade remains entirely suspended here. Exchange on London, 4s 8¾d, to 4s 9d.; on Bombay, 216r. Very little doing. Freights to England are nominal; but some vessels are taken up to convey emigrants to Australia.

From Amoy we have nothing important. Last dates are to the 13th inst. A fair business was doing at declining rates.

Foochow letters are to the 10th inst. All remained tranquil, and no disturbance was apprehended there. Much competition existed in the tea market, and prices were two to three taels dearer than last month. Stocks are small, and the previous reports of short supply are confirmed.—Two vessels had sailed for London.

From Shanghai we have advices to the 7th inst. Intelligence of fair authenticity had been received from Nankin, from which we gather that the rebels had fallen out among themselves, and committed many savage deeds. The leader, Hung siu tsiuen, or Tai pang-wang, still, however, remained at the head of affairs, and had again defeated the imperial troops. The authorities at Shanghai remained as cordial as ever towards foreigners.

Extract from a letter received at Liverpool, dated Hong Kong, Jan 15, 1857:

"How things will end, it is impossible to say; but, notwithstanding the injury to our interests, I cannot regret that the Canton people are at last about to meet their deserts. Trifling as was the original matter in dispute, the time must have come, sooner or later, when the humiliating position of foreigners could be no longer endured.

"At the other ports it is altogether different, and it will be a serious matter if they become closed against our trade, but I don't think they will. The Canton people are as much hated by the Northerns as foreigners are in the South, and Shanghai men openly express their satisfaction at the proceedings of our Navy.

"The exports of tea for the season will be 25,000,000 to 30,000,000 lbs deficient."

Extract from another letter, dated Hong Kong, 15th January:

The baker from whom the poisoned bread was purchased, is in custody, but it is feared legal difficulties will prevent a conviction. My bread, fortunately, was baked the day before, and toasted, so that we escaped the effects of the poison. Natives as well as Europeans hastened to the doctors, apparently in great pain. I mean to make my cook, a Chinaman, taste every thing in my presence before I partake of it.

LATEST.

LONDON, March 3.—The Tea market has again advanced to-day, and 1s@1½d per pound has been paid for about 5000 chests of common Congou.

A letter from Paris says that the Neufchatel affair is not improving, and from what we can learn all the parties concerned are in a very bad humor with each other.

The Emperor Napoleon cannot but feel mortified at being duped by the King of Prussia.

A Hamburg letter of Saturday, February 28th, says:

"Merchants here have received private news from Hong Kong and Singapore, by the overland mail, of a most alarming description. The bombardment and conflagration of Canton had excited the Chinese to a general movement against all Europeans, and the Chinese populace were beginning to show a courage quite unwonted, and from which danger is to be apprehended.

The movement was not confined to China alone, but had become visible at Singapore. The English and German residents of Singapore have been obliged to arm themselves against attacks in the streets from the infuriated Chinese who were joined by the Malays.

The Hamburger Börsenhalle states positively that it has received advices from Hong Kong, to 2 o'clock P. M., of the 15th of January per steamer Maria.

The fire produced in the outskirts of Canton by the British Bombardment, had extended itself to the City, and the latter had become one sheet of flame.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

LIVERPOOL, March 4.—The sales of Cotton yesterday amounted to 6,000 bales, of which 1,500 were taken on speculation and for export. To-day's sales add up 5,000 bales, 1,500 being taken on speculation and for export. The market is steady in prices, but business is very limited.

BREADSTUFFS.—James McHenry & Co's circular, dated Liverpool, March 3d, says: At this day's market there was a fair attendance, but without any important transactions. Flour has a strong downward tendency; 31s 6d has been accepted for favorite brands of Ohio round hoops and 2s less for Western Canal. Indian Corn is easier. Wheat.—White Canadian at 9s @9s. 3d; White Southern, 9s @9s 6d; Red Western, 8s @8s. 3d; Red Southern, 8s. 6d @8s. 9d. Flour—Western Canal, 29s. @30s; Philadelphia and Baltimore, 29s @31s; Ohio 33s @35s. Indian Corn—Yellow, 31s 6d @31s; Mixed, 33s. 3d @33s. 6d; White, 35s @38s.

MONEY MARKET—LONDON, March 3d.—Consols, 93¾@93⅞ for money, and 94¼@94½ for account. On Tuesday, in the Stock Exchange, there was a diminution in the demand for money. The India House having lent at 5½ per cent., a portion of the amount lately paid to them by the Great India Peninsular Railway Company, about £23,000 in gold were withdrawn from the Bank of England for exportation.

In Paris, on Tuesday, the funds closed at 70f. 90c. for money, and 71f 45c for account.

LOCAL MATTERS.

City Council.—A called meeting of the Council was held in the Council Chamber last Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock—Messrs. Dove, Saunders, Gretter, Roddy, Talbott, Stokes, Richardson, Epps, Morriss, Robinson, Whitfield and Scott being present. Absent—Messrs. Richards, Quarles and Crutchfield.

Water Works Improvement.—The President stated that the Council had been called together to receive a communication from the Board of Directors of the James River and Kanawha Company relative to the contemplated improvement of the city at the Pump House.

The Committee on Water addressed a preamble and series of resolutions to the Board of Directors of the James River and Kanawha Company, relative to tunneling the canal near the Pump House, which reads as follows:

"Whereas it has become necessary for the city of Richmond to change the mode of conveying water from the Pump House to the Reservoir, and in doing so to tunnel the James River and Kanawha Canal at that point:

"Resolved, That the city is willing to make good, and at their cost to repair, any damage to the walls or bed of said Canal at that point, which may result from said tunnel.

"Resolved, That the city will, in good faith use all reasonable care to avoid any damage, which may result from any delay in furnishing the usual supply of water needed for the purposes of navigation or manufacturing, but will not be liable for any such damages as may unavoidably result.

"Resolved, That the city will defray any incidental expenses growing out of the said improvement."

In reply to the above, the Board of Directors took the following action:

"At a meeting of the President and Directors of the James River and Kanawha Company, held on Thursday, 18th March 1857:

"Resolved, That this Board will assent to the proposal of the city of Richmond to construct a tunnel under the James River Canal, for the purpose of supplying the city with water, upon the following terms, to wit:

"That the city shall pay all the expenses of the work.

"That the work shall be commenced by the 7th day of June 1857, and the navigation of the Canal by the boats fully loaded, shall not be suspended beyond the 22d day of the same month.

"That the Canal shall be left, when the work is completed, in a perfectly sound and safe state for permanent use at that point.

"That the work shall be done under the immediate superintendence of the City Engineer, but he shall be at all times controlled in his plan and manner of executing the work by the Engineer of this Company, with whom he shall at all times consult.

"That the city shall enter into a proper obligation to indemnify this Company against any loss which may result from delay in completing the work, or the manner of executing it, or the violation of any other of the above stipulations.

"Resolved, That these resolutions be communicated to the City Council, and that the city may commence her work as soon as the Council shall assent to them and enter into the required obligation for the indemnity of this company."

Mr. Scott offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the communication of the President of the James River and Kanawha Company be referred to the Attorney of the city, with instructions to enquire into the rights of the city in the premises, and that he be requested to report to the Council at an early day in the ensuing week.

On motion, the Council then adjourned.

Public Lodging.—The watchmen discovered Robert D. Cason, on Friday, drunk and fast asleep in the market house. He was but in the cage for the night. Saturday he was discharged. It being the second time, a third will be harder with him.

Infanticide.—On Friday evening last, the dead body of a new born infant was found in Mr. Benjamin Walton's well, on Marshall street, a short distance West of the corporate limits. The water had become so offensive that Mr. W. procured a man to clean it out, and in doing so the corpse was found. Justice Hanes of Henrico county, attended by Constable Wade held an inquest over the corpse, and the jury returned a verdict that the infant came to its death by means unknown to them.

Incendiarism.—On Friday night last, the stable of Mr. Jesse Barnes, on Franklin street, between 17th and 18th, was set on fire, but the flames were discovered and extinguished by two market men before doing any damage.

On Saturday night last, about a quarter before 12 o'clock, a vacant tenement belonging to Mr. Mansfield Butler, adjoining his store at the corner of 18th and Dock streets, was set on fire in several places, and the building being a frame one, the flames soon burst through the roof. The firemen with their apparatus were soon on the spot, and by extraordinary exertions succeeded in extinguishing the flames, but not until they had burst through the gable end of Mr. Butler's place of business, damaging it slightly. Mr Butler's loss is about $600, upon which he had an insurance in the Virginia Fire and Marine office of $400.

Fire.—The alarm of fire yesterday morning was caused by the partial burning of Mr. E Goldsmit's kitchen, on Broad street, between 3d and 4th. The fire was accidental, and was easily extinguished by a few buckets of water.

Church Burnt.—About half past 9 o'clock last night, the old Bethel Church in Rocketts, was set on fire and burned. The building had just been altered for private residences, but we believe they were not occupied.

Cold Plunge.—At the fire last Saturday night a man walked into the dock, and would have drowned but for the timely aid rendered him by two or three firemen.

Protection Fire Company have offered a reward of $250 for the detection of the wretch who cut their hose at the fire Saturday night.

The Board of Managers of the Virginia Mechanics' Institute, will hold a regular monthly meeting at their hall, this evening at three quarters past 7 o'clock, when every member should be in attendance, as the meeting is an important one.

Deranged.—A man, named James Jones, was committed to prison, last Saturday morning for safe keeping, because of the fact that his mind was seriously impaired.

A meeting of Whigs and Americans is called at the African church to-night, to make nominations of candidates for municipal officers. Members of the Whig and American parties are invited to attend.

To Be Heard.—John Donnor is to have a hearing before the Mayor this morning, on the charge of threatening to burn Johanna Sullivan's house, and with breaking several glasses in one of her windows. John had no doubt been tampering with the monkey, and by that means got beside himself for the time; but now that he has had an opportunity of cooling down, there is very little danger of his applying a torch to a pile merely to light his own path to the gloomy cells of the State's prison.

The Mayor did not hold his Court at the City Hall last Saturday morning