

INTERESTING CORRESPONDENCE.

We informed our readers in our last Friday's paper, that a committee had been appointed for the purpose of tendering to President Polk the hospitalities of our town, while on his way to his residence in Tennessee.

The programme of the reception of the President on his arrival at Wilmington, will probably appear in to-day's "Journal."

CORRESPONDENCE.

WILMINGTON, Feb. 20th, 1849.

To his Excellency, JAMES K. POLK, President of the United States.

SIR:—At a recent meeting of the Commissioners of Wilmington, we were appointed a Committee to tender to you the hospitalities of our town and to solicit your sojourn among us as long as you may be able to linger here.

With the highest respect, your Excellency's obt. serv'ts. (Signed.) J. T. MILLER, L. H. MARSELLER, JOSH. G. WRIGHT.

WASHINGTON CITY, Feb. 24th, 1849.

GENTLEMEN:—I have received your letter of the 20th inst., tendering to me on behalf of a "meeting of the Commissioners of Wilmington" the "hospitalities" of that town, and inviting me to spend a short time at that place, on my way to my residence in Tennessee.

Thanking you, for the invitation which you have honored me, I am Gentlemen, with high respect, your obt. serv'ts.

JAS. K. POLK. To Messrs. JAMES T. MILLER, L. H. MARSELLER, J. G. WRIGHT, Wilmington, N. C.

THE FOURTH OF MARCH, 1849!

Before we again enjoy the privilege of addressing our readers, the administration of James K. Polk will be closed—the present Executive will have resumed, in retirement, the duties of a private citizen. His name may indeed, be long a familiar sound,—(for what name, associated with events so startling and important, is not immortal?)—but it will become, henceforward, a thing of the Past—to be lauded, or to be censured, as shall be decreed by Posterity.

In the estimation of the great Grecian lawyer, that man was only happy, whom Providence blessed with success to the last. It is possible, that in the few days which remain of his term, Mr. Polk may commit some error, but it must be deep indeed, and irreparable, that will dim the lustre of his career, or make the American people forget the benefits and the measures of his administration!

They are already speaking in the increased prosperity of the country in every branch of industry. Let others pay their worship to the rising sun—we are content to gaze with ardor and admiration upon his setting beams.

THE SWORD FOR COL. MEARES.

The Committee of Arrangements, Messrs. Cowan, Evans, and Peden, have received the Sword ordered for Col. Meares, by the citizens of Wilmington. It was manufactured by Messrs. Canfield & Co., of Baltimore, and is an exquisite specimen of art.

THE CENTRAL RAIL ROAD.

From an advertisement in the Salisbury Watchman of the 22d inst., we notice that Books for subscription to the Central Rail Road will be opened at Salisbury, on the 15th of the present month. If we are to understand the Watchman, as representing the feeling of our fellow-citizens in that section of the State, we can certainly see no very great obstacle in the way of a speedy commencement of this important work.

Our attention has been called to some remarks of the Fayetteville Carolinian, (which paper reached our office during our absence from home,) upon an article which recently appeared in this paper under the head, "The Internal Improvement Question."

GOLD IN NORTH CAROLINA.—The Charleston Courier of the 24th ult., says that "a letter from Monroe, N. C. to a gentleman in this city, dated 17th inst., gives the statement that four men found, in Union county, twelve and three quarter pounds of gold on the Thursday and Friday preceding. Others were finding gold in more or less quantity every day."

OUR BOOK TABLE.—We are indebted to the American publishers, Leonard Scott & Co., New York, for the Edinburgh Review, and Blackwood's Magazine, for January, 1849.—See advertisement of these works in another column.

POSTAL TREATY.—The Washington Union of last Friday, contains the President's Proclamation of the Postal Treaty between England and the United States. We shall publish the Treaty officially in a short time.

U. S. SENATOR.—The Legislature of Delaware have elected Hon. Mr. Wales to the U. S. Senate from that State, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr. Clayton. Mr. Wales has taken his seat.

STEAMER UNITED STATES.—We see it stated in our exchange papers that the Steamer United States has been sold to one of the German States, for about \$270,000.

PLANK ROADS.

As every item of information connected with the subject of improvement in North Carolina may be supposed to be of interest to our readers, we take pleasure in spreading before them the following extract of a private letter, from a distinguished gentleman of Georgetown, D. C., to a friend in this place, upon the subject of PLANK ROADS, which has been handed us for perusal.

GEORGETOWN, D. C., Feb. 18, 1849. DEAR SIR:—At the time I parted with you, I knew very little in regard to Plank Roads. It was a subject I had never investigated, and I have only been waiting until I could find time to do so, and procure such information in regard to the subject as may possibly prove interesting to you.

This description of road has obtained a degree of usefulness and consequent importance, and is found so admirably adapted to certain localities, as to cause it to be considered a very important element in the development of the resources of a country.

It is found to be emphatically "Farmers' road"—the producer being more benefited by it than any other class—by means of which, at all seasons, in wet weather as well as in dry, he has it in his power to convey his produce to market—and profit by any rise in price—with one half the labor—in one half the time—and with double the load, that he could transport upon a McAdamsized Road.

The lands in their vicinity have been found to appreciate in value. They can be laid upon any grade that a McAdamsized road can operate upon with advantage—and when laid are less destructive to horse flesh. In any country where timber abounds they will be found to be an immense auxiliary to trade and travel.

Their plan of construction is very simple and cheap. Thorough drainage is absolutely necessary to their stability and usefulness—and attention to this is about all that they require to keep them in repair for several years after their completion.

Their durability depends upon the quality of the timber; with you I suppose it would be about eight years for timber in such a position. After the road-bed is properly prepared by being sufficiently elevated and drained, by the requisite side ditches, it should be allowed to remain so until one or two rains have fallen upon it, that a thorough settlement may take place. The scantling used for sills is 4 by 4 inches and of such lengths as can be conveniently obtained—the longer the better. These sills are embedded their full thickness in the soil, so as to leave their top surface even with the surface of the road-bed, in parallel lines 5 feet apart (the width of the wagon across these sills, three inch planks are laid in eight feet lengths, and true-nailed to the sills. The bottom of the plank for their entire length rest, of course, upon the road bed.

In a double track they do not use planks 16 feet long, but lay two tracks each 8 feet wide, with a turn-out path graded up between them. The ends of the planks must not be laid even, because in that case, the wheels of a loaded wagon in passing from the turn-out path to the plank, would be liable to scrape along the edge, and make a deep rut there, before rising up—which would deepen until it would be difficult for a wagon to mount the plank. To avoid this, one in every three plank (supposing them to be one foot wide) should project on the turn-out path three inches, which presenting an uneven edge to the wheels causes them to mount upon the plank without difficulty. If you build only a single track, a turn-out path 4 feet wide must be graded up to a level with the top surface of the plank on one side of the road for its whole length—due regard being had to the broken edges of the plank resting upon it. I give you the estimate of a plank road from lake Michigan West to Fox river, per mile, where they use Hemlock timber at \$6 per M.

Estimate for 1 mile, Sills 4 by 4 inches— 14,080 Scantling, 14,080 Plank 8 ft. long, 3 inches thick, 126,720 Laying and Grading road per rod, 1 320 Sluicing, Bridging & contingencies, 100 Engineering, Superintendence, &c., 100 Gates and Gate Houses—say 100 Total, \$1,469

After the planks are laid down, one inch thick of clear sand is spread evenly over them, which saves the wear and tear of the road—the sand protects the wood from the corks of the horse's shoes, (which causes the main wear and tear,) and soon penetrates the grain of the plank, with the fibres of which and the deposits upon the road, a tough elastic covering is formed which is found to protect the plank. I have thus, as briefly as I could, and in considerable haste, thrown together, I fear, not a very clear statement, in regard to a subject in which you appear to take great interest, and shall regret if it should not give you all the information you require; any deficiency I will cheerfully supply at any time.

KENTUCKY.—A bill has passed the Legislature of this State, modifying the slave law of 1833. It provides that men may bring into Kentucky as many slaves as they please for their own use, but requires that they should not dispose of them for five years.

PUBLIC EXECUTIONS.—A bill has been reported to the House of Delegates of Virginia, doing away with public executions, and directing them to be inflicted privately, as in some other States of the Union.

ARRIVAL OF GENERAL TAYLOR AT WASHINGTON.

We learn from the Washington Union that Gen. Taylor, President elect, arrived in Washington on the evening of the 23d ult. The Union says that "his suite consisted of several gentlemen. As soon as the whistle announced his arrival, a salute was fired from the hill which overlooks the ravine through which the railroad runs. When he entered the depot, he was received with repeated cheers by an immense crowd. He was escorted in a carriage by marshals, by a joyous multitude, in carriages or on foot, to Willard's Hotel, amid the sound of music, the ringing of bells, and the blaze of sky-rockets. When he arrived at Willard's, he was again received with cheers and music. After a short time, he re-appeared upon the balcony of the drawing-room, and made a brief address to the people, expressive of his thanks for their kindness, and of his best wishes for their happiness. The crowd then disappeared, and Gen. Taylor retired to enjoy the society of his family and friends.

"We are sorry to hear that Gen. Taylor is somewhat indisposed, and that he was cupped on Thursday. But we hope that quiet and repose for a day or two will perfectly restore him to his usual health."

The Union of the 25th, says—"Gen. Taylor intended to receive his friends yesterday from 12 to 2 o'clock, if his health had permitted; but before 12, a placard was posted up at Willard's, that he could not see them."

PATENT OFFICE.

From the Report of the Commissioner of Patents for the past year, we condense the following:—The whole number of applicants for patents in the year ending 31st December, 1848, 1628. Number of caveats filed during same period, 607. Number of patents issued, 660. Receipts of the office \$67,576 69; of which sum \$11,529 33, paid by mistake into office, has been refunded. Expenses of the office \$46,831 61, which, with the above, makes \$58,905 04, leaving a balance to be carried to credit of Patent fund of \$8,670 85. On the 1st of January, 1848, the amount of money in the Treasury to the credit of the Patent Office, was \$207,797 98; to which, add excess of receipts over expenditures for past, and the amount now in the Treasury, (1st January, 1849,) to credit of Patent Office, is \$216,463 83.

This large balance is attributed to increase of applications for patents, "By the act of Congress approved May 27, 1848, two principal and two assistant examiners, and two ordinary clerks, were added to the force of the office, and the salaries of the examiners were raised from \$1,500 a year to \$2,500, and the assistant examiners from \$1,250 to \$1,500. The clerks authorized by the act before mentioned were allowed salaries of \$1,200 each per annum. Thus the increase of the number of examiners and clerks, and of salaries, provided for by the act of May 27, 1848, will occasion an addition to the annual expenditures of the office of \$12,600. This amount will be reduced by fees for recording assignments, authorized to be charged by the same act; but the permanent addition to the expenses of the office will not be less than \$10,000 per annum.

"Notwithstanding this addition to the permanent expenditures of the office, the constant increase of its business and receipts gives ample assurance that its revenues will continue to equal, if not exceed its expenses. But if its revenues should for a year or two, fall below its expenditures, the Patent fund is sufficient to meet such casual deficiencies; and thus the policy of Congress in making the Patent office a self-sustaining institution will successfully be maintained.

"The quantity of wheat raised in the United States during the last year will, according to the estimates of this office, not be less than 126,000,000 bushels. The quantity of corn produced is estimated to be about 588,000,000 bushels; oats, 185,000,000 bushels; potatoes, 114,000,000 bushels; rye, 33,000,000 bushels; buckwheat, 12,500,000 bushels; barley, 6,222,000 bushels; hay, 15,735,000 tons; hemp, 20,330 tons; cotton, 1,066,000,000 pounds; tobacco, 219,000,000 pounds; rice, 116,000,000 pounds; and sugar, (in Louisiana,) 200,000,000 pounds.

"Thus it will be seen that the agricultural productions of the Union during the last year are ample for the consumption of the country, and of many varieties of grain and provisions, large surpluses will be left for exportation to other countries.

"The number of applications for patents received during the last four years exceeds the number received during the next preceding four years, by 2,205; the number of caveats by 670; the number of patents granted, by 289; the amount of receipts from all sources by \$77,284 45; the balances paid into the treasury to the credit of the Patent fund, by \$21,389 95."

The library of the patent office has also been increased from 3,000 to 6,000 volumes. The report concludes as follows:

"The exhibit which I have made in this and previous portions of my report, of the affairs and business of the Patent Office, show that it will soon be necessary not only to enlarge the Patent Office building, but to increase its clerical force. And as it required three years of persevering effort on my part sustained by the auxiliary aid of loud complaints on the part of applicants for patents, growing out of the delay occasioned by the great accumulation of business which could not be done, to obtain the late addition which has been made to the clerical force of the office, I have deemed it my duty now to apprise Congress that but a very few years will elapse before another addition to its force will be necessary.—As the office sustains itself from its own revenues, it seems reasonable that it should be allowed a force sufficient for the prompt and efficient execution of its duties.

EMIGRATION TO CALIFORNIA.—From a statement in the New York Herald, it appears the total number of vessels that have left the various ports in the United States for California since the breaking out of the Gold fever is 178, and that they carried out 11,160 passengers, and crew. The greatest number on board any one vessel was 305, in the steamer Crescent City, which left New York on the 5th ult. The average number of persons on board the vessels would be a fraction over sixty-two, showing, as many were of small capacity, that they must have been generally pretty well crowded.

The city of Richmond contains only about one-fourth of the population of Virginia, but at the same time it pays one-ninth part of the revenue of the whole State.

30TH CONGRESS—2D SESSION.

TUESDAY, Feb. 20.—Senate.—After the presentation of memorials and petitions, and of a few unimportant resolutions and reports from committees, the Senate took up and passed the bill relating to the 5 per cent. funds of Alabama.

Also, bill from the House to provide for two instalments of the Mexican indemnity.

The consideration of the Civil and Diplomatic Appropriation bill was resumed, and the remainder of the session was occupied in the consideration of the proposition of Mr. Walker, before ordered to be printed, extending the revenue laws, &c., of the United States, over all the territory west of the Rio Grande, acquired from Mexico by the treaty of peace, and authorizing the president to prescribe and establish, temporarily, such divisions, districts, ports, officers, and all arrangements proper to enable said laws to be executed, and appoint and commission such officers as may be necessary to administer such laws, in those territories.

Mr Walker modified his proposition, so as to include some of the provisions of Mr Foote's, also heretofore ordered to be printed, and in many respects essentially the same as Mr Walker's.

A long debate ensued on questions of order raised, as to the introduction of such amendments into an appropriation.

These were finally laid on the table, and then Mr Bell offered a substitute for Mr Walker's proposition, providing for the admission of the "State of California" into the Union, including all the territory acquired by the treaty of peace with Mexico, and proceeded to address the Senate at length in explanation of his views. Without concluding he gave way to a motion to adjourn.

House of Representatives.—Mr McKay reported, from the committee on ways and means, the bill providing for the coinage of gold dollars and double edges, with an amendment.—The bill, as amended, provides for the coinage referred to, without variation as to character or appearance from the present gold coin of the United States, except that on the reverse of the gold dollar the figure of the "eagle" is to be omitted.

Mr J. R. Ingersoll opposed the bill as unnecessary, and uncalled for, by the wants or wishes of the country.

Mr Hudson, as a member of the Committee of Ways and Means, had opposed the plan there, and was opposed to it now.

Mr Nichols supported the bill.

Mr Rockwell moved to lay the bill on the table—lost.

The previous question was then sustained, and the amendment agreed to. The bill as amended, was then read the third time and passed.

Mr McKay, from the committee of ways and means, also reported back the bill to regulate the mileage of members of Congress, &c. It provides, 1st. That the distance shall be computed by the shortest continuous mail route. 2d. That no constructive mileage shall be allowed for extra sessions, &c. 3d. That deduction shall be made for absence without leave, unless from sickness. 4th. Makes restrictions in regard to books; and 5th requires the mileage of officers of the army, &c., also to be calculated by the shortest route.

Mr McKay was proceeding to address the house in favor of the bill, when he was interrupted by a motion of Mr Ashman to proceed with the business on the Speaker's table, which motion prevailed—82 to 53.

The House refused to take up the bill to prohibit the introduction of slaves, for sale or hire, into the District of Columbia.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 21.—Senate.—After morning business, the Senate took up the bill making appropriation for civil and diplomatic expenses of the Government for the year ending June 30, 1850.

The amendment pending was that of Mr. Walker, to extend over California and New Mexico, the revenue law and Indian laws, and appropriating a hundred thousand dollars to carry the provision into effect; which Mr Bell proposed to amend by further providing "that all that portion of the territories of the United States acquired by the treaty with Mexico, which lies west of the Rio del Norte, and a line running due north from the head waters of said river, until it strikes the forty-second parallel of north latitude, shall form a State to be known as California, and the same is hereby admitted into the Union on an equal footing in all respects with the original States."

Mr Bell resumed his remarks from yesterday, in favor of the amendment, and spoke for nearly three hours.

Mr Berrien replied, and opposed the amendments; when the question was taken on Mr Bell's amendment, and rejected—yeas 4—(Messrs. Bell, Douglass, Downs, and Dodge,) nays 39.

The Senate then adjourned.

House of Representatives.—The House took up the bill to regulate the mileage, by paying according to the nearest continuous mail route. Under the operation of the previous question it was passed—yeas 157, nays 16.

It next took up the bill, heretofore submitted by Mr Dixon, to abolish the franking privilege.

Various amendments were offered, proposing a reduction of postage, but without success to any conclusion the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, Feb. 22.—Senate.—Mr Webster rose to present a proposition, providing for the temporary government of California and New Mexico, as a substitute for Mr Walker's amendment to the Civil and Diplomatic Appropriation Bill, if the Senate shall deem that bill a proper place for it; and, if not, as a substitute for the bill for the admission of California and New Mexico as States into the Union, reported from the select committee of the Senate on that subject.

Mr W. addressed the Senate in support of his proposition—ordered to be printed.

Mr Dayton also presented a proposition which he intended to offer as an amendment, and which was ordered to be printed, authorizing the President to govern the territories in the same manner as Florida and Louisiana were governed under similar circumstances, being a copy of the old law authorizing temporary civil and military government in the latter.

Mr Atherton, from the finance committee, reported, without amendment, House bill authorizing the coinage of gold dollars and double eagles.

On motion, the bill of Mr Preston to authorize the Secretary of War to furnish arms and ammunition to persons going to California and New Mexico, was taken up and passed.

House of Representatives.—Mr Sibley, of Wisconsin, moved a suspension of the rules, to discharge the committee of the whole on the state of the Union from the further consideration of Senate bill to establish the territorial government of Minnesota.

The bill was amended, so as to take effect on the 10th of March, 1849, and ordered to be Engrossed and read a third time, but objection being made, the reading goes over under the rules.

A resolution heretofore offered, to discharge the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union from the further consideration of the bill to extend the revenue laws over Upper California, and establish a collection district therein, was then taken up and adopted; 107 to 35.

The bill was then ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, and was read the third time and passed: 91 to 37.

FRIDAY, Feb. 23.—Senate.—The bill making appropriations for the civil and diplomatic expenses of the Government for the year ending June 30, 1850, was taken up.—Mr Dayton, in pursuance of notice given yesterday, offered an amendment to the bill.

Mr Dayton spoke for more than an hour in support of his amendment.

Mr Webster withheld his amendment on the same subject until the bill from the House, to extend the revenue laws over the territories should come before the Senate, he would move to strike out all after the enacting clause, and offer his amendment as a substitute.

House of Representatives.—On motion of Mr Vinton, the House went into committee of the whole and took up the bill making appropriations for the support of the Post Office Department. A debate followed, in which, as with most all other questions the present Session, the slavery question was the principal topic talked about.

Mr McDowell, of Va., delivered an eloquent speech with regard to the compromises of the Constitution, and in favor of the measure to admit the territories into the Union as a State. This he thought would quiet the agitation of the slavery question. He made a fervent appeal to Massachusetts, referred to the trials and the triumph in the Revolution, exhorted those who interfered with slavery to leave the question alone, and invoked a spirit of patriotism, that the land of Washington may still undividedly be ours.

At the conclusion of his hour he called on from all parts of the House to continue his speech, and accordingly proceeded to the conclusion of his remarks, which occupied an hour and three quarters in their delivery.

The bill was still farther debated, but without coming to any definite understanding the committee rose, and soon after the House adjourned.

SATURDAY, Feb. 24.—Senate.—Mr Pearce reported House joint resolution for the distribution of a copy of the "Blue Book," or "official register," to each of the States and Territories of the Union. Passed.

Mr Fitzgerald submitted a joint resolution to confer upon Major General Scott the title of Lieutenant General, as a sense of the estimation in which Congress holds his gallant and meritorious services in Mexico.

On motion of Mr Atherton, the Senate then resumed the consideration of the civil and diplomatic appropriation bill, the question being on the substitute of Mr Dayton for Mr Walker's amendment, providing for the temporary government of California and New Mexico, the extension of our revenue laws thereto, &c. &c.

Upon a proposition to withdraw his amendment from the diplomatic appropriation bill, with a view to propose it as a substitute for the revenue bill from the House, when that should be taken up, Mr Walker addressed the Senate at length in support of his proposition. He was followed by Mr Hale in opposition.

Mr Hale was succeeded by Mr Butler, who replied briefly to two points in Mr Dayton's argument of yesterday, as to the power of Congress "to extend the constitution," in the manner proposed by Mr Walker's amendment, over California and New Mexico. The South, he said, asked not and had not asked, for anything beyond the protection of the constitution! He contended that it was entirely competent for Congress to extend certain provisions of the constitution, being, as it is, the supreme law of the land, to these territories—indeed, that those provisions, as the fundamental law of the land, were so extended, on the conclusion of the treaty with Mexico, by which these territories were acquired. He denied the power now to create these territories into States, but had been, he said, in favor of giving them the ordinary territorial governments—meeting at once the question of the proviso, and opposing also all patched up compromises, which would not be regarded by the North.

He was ready to accede to almost any measure which would give security to the territories and to every other portion of the Union.

Mr Webster replied briefly to a charge by Mr Butler, that the North had broken faith with the South.

The debate was further continued by Messrs Walker, Webster, and Calhoun, until nearly 5 o'clock, when the Senate adjourned.

House of Representatives.—The most important business before the House to-day, was the bill entitled "An act to establish a uniform rate of postage on letters, and to permit newspapers to circulate free of postage within the county in which they are printed."

The bill was debated in committee of the whole for two hours, when further debate was cut short by a resolution previously adopted, and after voting down a proposition to amend, the House ordered the bill to be engrossed and read a third time, and subsequently it was passed, and sent to the Senate for their concurrence.

On motion, the House again resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union. (Mr Vinton in the chair,) and proceeded to the consideration of the bill reported from the Committee on the Territories, to establish a territorial government for California.

The Clerk read the bill at length; and, after some time spent in conversational debate between the Chair, Messrs Chapman, Root, Toombs, and others,

Mr Chapman proceeded to address the committee at length; and at the conclusion of his speech the committee rose.

On motion, the bill of Mr Preston to admit California into the Union as a State, which was offered by that gentleman as a substitute for the bill under consideration, was ordered to be printed; and then

The House adjourned.

MONDAY, Feb. 25.—Senate.—On motion of Mr Downs, the House bill granting to the State of Louisiana the swamp lands of the State, to aid in the draining of the same, the construction of levees to prevent overflow, &c., was taken up, and a debate ensued, in which Messrs Downs, Johnson, of Louisiana, Dickinson, Borland, and Bell, participated when the bill was read the third time and passed.

Mr Borland, from the military committee, reported a bill allowing additional compensation to Registers and Receivers, for locating military bounty land warrants, Choctaw tract scrip, and for other purposes, which was passed.

The Vice President laid before the Senate a communication from the Navy Department, with the report of Lieut. Lynch of his examination of the Dead Sea; ordered to be printed.

On motion of Mr Atherton, the consideration of the civil and diplomatic appropriation bill was resumed, the question being on Mr Dayton's substitute to Mr Walker's proposition, upon which the yeas and nays had been ordered when the Senate adjourned on Saturday.

Mr Dayton modified his substitute, by striking out the limitation as to time, leaving it to continue in force until other provision should be made by Congress, and in one or two other unimportant particulars.

A debate followed, in which Messrs Downs, glass, Downs, Berrien, Dayton, Foote, and Underwood, participated, but without any action the Senate took a recess.

House of Representatives.—The only business of importance before the House to-day was the bill for establishing a territorial government in Upper California. The House having gone into committee of the whole, the body was addressed on the above bill, at length, by Messrs Stewart, of Michigan, Gayle, of Alabama; Root, of Ohio; Evans, of Maryland; Lynde, of Wisconsin, and Beck, of Virginia.

A TRIBUTE THAT WILL BE NOBLY WORN. IT WAS NOBLY WORN!—We find in the Baltimore Sun, the following item in regard to the sword presented to Col. GASTON MEARES, by the citizens of our town:

Another pretty sword—Messrs. Canfield, Brother & Co., have just had manufactured a very handsome sword, gold mounted, to the order of "citizens of Wilmington, N. C.," which bears the following inscription, showing its destination:—"Presented to Lieut. Col. Gaston Meares, of the Arkansas Regiment of Volunteers, by the citizens of Wilmington, North Carolina, as a token of their admiration for his gallant services in the war with Mexico, particularly at Buena Vista."

GOV. SMITH.

From the Circular addressed by Gen. Smith, the Governor of California, to the American Consuls on the Pacific, we have no doubt it is just the stuff the hero of Conter's ought to be made of, and that he will justify the compliment recently paid him in the Senate, when it was said that "the times in California were pregnant with mischief, but dark and troubled as they may appear, the country may be said, that in Gen. Smith, the present Governor of that territory, the Executive has furnished a man, fully competent to meet any emergency." The Governor writes the Consuls, that the Gold Mines are public property and their violation by foreigners, not citizens of the United States, will be severely punished and prohibited upon his arrival. A meeting of some 300 Americans was held at Panama upon its reception, which passed resolutions warmly applauding the conduct of the Governor, and expressing their determination to support him at all hazards. We shall have some hotter work than mere gold digging there shortly; but "nous verrons."

KISSING.

The Baltimore Sun says, that the statement of its correspondent, a short time since, she is taking chloroform, and remains insensible as long as the operation lasts," elicited the following from our journals:

When a Buckeye girl is kissed, she throws up her hands and ejaculates, "blessed mercies, how they fly!"—Cincinnati Times.

When a Tennessee girl is kissed, she says, "Now put that right back where you got it from."—Tennessee paper.

When a Louisiana girl is kissed, she says, "I'd like to see you do that again!"—N. O. Delta.

Our North Carolina girls are particularly fond of carrying out the Scriptural doctrine, and when kissed on one cheek, they unhesitatingly turn the other.

HIGH TARIFFS OBSOLETE.

We find in the Hartford Courant, a letter from a "distinguished gentleman" in Massachusetts, to a "distinguished gentleman" in Hartford, in reference to the appointment of Mr. Abbot Lawrence, as Secretary of the Treasury.

The answer was most far-sighted. Our attention has been attracted to the matter, by the statement of the writer that Mr. Lawrence has abandoned his high protective notions! We make the following extract:

"The fact unquestionably is, that Mr. Lawrence, however he may have favored the tariff, and the protective system of commerce, is not a high tariff man. They have done high tariffs has gone by. They have done their work; they have given us the required skill, and concentrated the capital in such a manner upon manufactures, that the country can now bear competition with a range of duties not higher than is needed for revenue purposes. There is no high tariff party in the country. The Whig party—the great body of New England manufacturers—the great body of the present tariff."

The above was undoubtedly written with full knowledge of Mr. Lawrence's views on the subject; and it is an admission which will little expected from that quarter. The day of high tariffs has indeed gone by, when the priest of New England federalism abused his faith! No man so far behind the age as to cling to the high protective policy of the Treasury again satisfactorily administered by Mr. Lawrence, and his tariff converts, are wise men; but the democratic policy will survive the event.—Columbian Register.

Iron Warehouses for California.—An English paper mentions that Messrs. James Skey & Co., of Liverpool, for the want of steam power for roasting iron, gave an order to Messrs. T. Vernon & Co., for an iron warehouse with roof similar to those used at the iron works, in the short space of 23 working days they had it entirely erected and ready to be taken down.