

...times are hard, and an effort is required to do anything in the way of raising money, no matter how small the sum, or how easy the raising of it might appear under ordinary circumstances; still, hard as the times are, and great as is the effort required to do anything, we feel convinced that such an effort ought to be made, will be made, and will be successful in carrying through the western Road, projected from this place.

...the tone of an article in a late Charlotte paper, — the Democrat, we think, that the people of that place are appealed to mainly on behalf of the line running west from Charlotte, taking it for granted that Wilmington and the intervening counties will carry the road as far west as Charlotte. It is contended that time is a great and important matter in determining the future value of the western extension — that if from Charlotte be promptly commenced and carried through, the extension of the Central Road from Salisbury will not be built, the Charlotte extension having the advantage of a richer country, and more favorable route. Thus by prompt action the friends of the Rutherford route may secure for it the position of the main, if not the only extension to the Mountains, and ultimately into Tennessee.

...at any rate, it is plain that our Charlotte friends will be apt to throw a considerable part of their strength upon the Western portion of the route. It therefore behoves those living along the line east of Charlotte to examine carefully their own resources with a due reference to the existing state of the case in all its bearings. It is known that into the calculations made, the questions of the gauge, the terminus, and, measurably, of the route, or a portion of it must enter. For reasons which have already been set forth in our columns, we have expressed a preference for the North Carolina gauge, if other things can be made to suit. Without going into a recapitulation of the argument, we may remark that by adopting this gauge we obtain the chances of a connection with the French Road R. R. which is to be built on the North Carolina gauge — we obtain at Charlotte the advantage over the Charleston route to that place, which has a different gauge — we guard against any future risk of being tapped by any manoeuvre at a point where our road will approach the South Carolina line within a very few miles — we will be enabled to make a connection with Fayetteville with a comparatively small risk of doing anything to forward the "Metropolitan route." The additional expense is the main argument against the adoption of such a gauge running direct to Wilmington, and for the South Carolina gauge, connecting with the Manchester road at or near Whiteville. And it must be confessed that is entitled to very great weight at any time, and is peculiarly so at the present. Unless it can, somehow, be overcome, it seems to be almost insuperable.

...to this view of the case we wish to call the attention of our friends residing in a portion of Bladen and New Hanover counties, among whom a strong feeling has existed for a length of time, as evidenced by the proceedings of meetings held in these sections, and published at different times in our paper, and we believe, the other papers of the town. The question is, how far a road running from Marlsville depot, on the W. & W. R. R., and crossing the Cape Fear River at some point below Elizabeth, say Whitehall, would meet the views and accommodate the wants of the sections to which we have referred; and, upon the supposition of its meeting the views and accommodating the wants of said sections; what subscription could be therein secured for it, and how far such subscription would go towards making up the difference between this route and that to Whiteville.

...We have conversed with gentlemen from the portions of country to which we allude — gentlemen of wealth and public spirit, and at their request, as much as from any other cause, we have deemed it proper to bring this matter to the attention of the public. — They speak encouragingly of a liberal subscription. We trust that they will bestir themselves and present such facts as will, at least, justify an experimental survey. It is a matter, in our opinion, of the first importance, but one upon which no opinion can be definitely formed without further knowledge.

...Things in Europe. The present war seems destined to prove the rottenness of the existing state of things in Europe. In France, revolutions have become chronic, and the news of an outbreak there, would cause no very great surprise. In England, however, the case has been different. Her boasted constitution has weathered the storms before which her neighbors have bent, if they have not been broken; and, come what might abroad, her system at home has been regarded as stable and secure. Her aristocracy, if not beloved, were at least respected, and if looked upon as grasping and ambitious possessed at least, some prestige of ability.

...The miserable conduct of the pending war has changed all this. It has exhibited the "governing classes" as not only heartless and venal, but also incompetent. The people, the bold peasantry their country's pride, who formed her right arm of defence, have been driven from their humble homes to make room for sleep-walkers — the rank and file, the bone and sinew of the army, have been left to die like dogs, of cold and hunger in the Crimea, under the lead of a middle-headed ottergenarian of patrician family — millions have been spent in jobs among the understrappers of great "houses," and yet a few soldiers could not get clothes or more than half rations. The public service which was so popular at the commencement of the war, that, on account of the great number of recruits offering, the war department actually raised the "Standard" of enlistment, is now sunk so low that compulsory means are to be resorted to to fill the ranks of the army, no voluntary recruits offering; and it is a marked feature of the English aristocratic order of things that this compulsory enlistment differs from the French conscription in this that it is not proposed to make all alike subject to be drawn for foreign service, but is only intended to operate on "the lower classes." The war has shown England to be not only the worst governed but the least free nation in Europe.

...Under this state of things even England totters on the brink of revolution. Public discontents grow and increase. Taxation, onerous and oppressive at all times, becomes doubly odious when it is felt that the money drawn from the people is squandered by the aristocracy, and the lives of the soldiers, and the honor of the nation sacrificed to stupid routine and patriotic imbecility.

...With France, or rather with Louis Napoleon, war is necessary, and is furiously urged on to occupy public attention, and defeat the conspiracies brewing against the Empire. The truth is, that Napoleon cannot afford to make peace without winning glory enough upon which to base an addition to his strength at home.

...Whether Russia will be more apt to make peace in the event of the death of Nicholas, taking that for fact, is doubtful. The conquest of Turkey may be regarded as necessary to the adjustment of the claims of the two elder sons, in order to prevent a civil war. Taking everything into the account, a peace hatched up now could not be permanent. Europe has yet before her disturbance and bloodshed.

...SOMETHING LIKE A FUSS BREWING.—The Whig Convention of Philadelphia met at the County Court House, on Tuesday afternoon, for the purpose of making general nominations for City Officers. After the transaction of some unimportant business, the following preamble and resolutions were offered by Mr. Nichols of the Seventh Ward:—

Resolved, That this Convention doth hereby certify that the Whig party, in relation to the secret, prescriptive and anti-public opinion organization, appropriately called "Know Nothing," and it is due to that portion of the Whigs of Philadelphia who have neither taken the oath nor professed the faith of that combination, that they should know whether it is the purpose of this Convention to commit them in any manner to the support of Know Nothing candidates; and, whereas, the success of Know Nothing candidates, by the complicity of Whig voters, only served to supply the office with impudent and incompetent persons, whose public action has patronized the true ends of Consolidation, involved the city in wasteful extravagance, and imposed exorbitant taxation upon the citizens, with every prospect of enormous increase in the future; therefore,

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...One Week Letter from California. SARDY HOOK, March, 24. The steamer George Law, from Astoria, has just passed here, going up to New York.

She left Astoria on the morning of the 16th, and brings California dates of the 1st inst, being one week later than previous advices. She brings 234 passengers, brought to Panama by the steamer Golden Gate in eleven days and ten hours running. She had on board passengers by the Golden Gate, who landed at Astoria on the morning of the 15th, and left Panama on the Golden Gate the same day.

The following are the principal consignees on the special list of the "G. L." Messrs. Drexel & Co., \$100,000; Metropolitan Bank, \$100,000; A. Rich & Brothers, \$25,000; Wells, Fargo & Co., \$15,000; Adams & Co., \$10,500; with other smaller amounts, reaching in all \$317,500.

NEW YORK, March 24.—The steamer reached the city shortly before noon. Col. Fremont is amongst the passengers. The house of Wells, Fargo & Co., resumed payment at San Francisco on the 27th ult., and all demands had been promptly met.

Messrs. Adams & Co. had filed a petition of insolvency. The schedule of the assets of the house shows a balance on the right side of about \$100,000. Mr. Woods has given over all his private property, estimated at \$250,000, which went to make up total of assets.

The failure of Messrs. Robinson & Co. is considered a bad one. Arrangements for the resumption of payment by Messrs. Page, Bacon & Co. were in progress, but not completed. It was expected, however, that this house would be in a condition to resume in the course of a few days.

Messrs. Read & Co. of Sacramento, had applied for the benefit of the insolvent act. A. S. Wright, of the Miners' Saving Bank, was in expectation of shortly resuming in the way of general news there is literally nothing of interest.

Copious rains had fallen, much to the gratification of the miners and agriculturists. A bill had been introduced into the legislature for a prohibitory liquor law, submitting the matter to the vote of the people at the general election of 1855.

Business circles were rather more confident, but the financial stringency was, nevertheless, so great that very little had been done in trade. Cash sales of Gallego flour were made at about \$14. Choice new butter, 45 cents. Hams, 18 cents. Lard, 13 cents.

Valparaiso dates and Callao dates of the 26th being nothing important. The steamer Mississippi sailed for home on the 9th ult., and the frigate St. Lawrence left for the United States on the 8th. The Independence having arrived to relieve her. The ship was bound for the coast of California.

The loop-of-war John Adams arrived on the 29th January from Rio. Markets were dull in Peru, and there is, in fact, nothing of importance from that quarter either commercially or politically.

The Bogota Congress met on the 12th of February. [From the Epiphany (N. Y.) Standard, March 7.] Casting a Devil out of a Church—A Methodist Minister Arrested for Assaulting a Distiller.

We are indebted to our friend, J. M. Fells, of Marietta, Ohio, for the following graphic sketch. We are assured that the facts transpired substantially as narrated. "A Methodist clergyman who has been laboring in this vicinity, was not long since, preaching to his people on the miraculous power of Apostles over the demonic spirits of their day. As he was pursuing his theme, the audience were suddenly startled by a voice from some one in the congregation, demanding, in a half-querulous, half-athletic tone, 'Why don't you get into such things now a days?'

Why don't you get into such things now a days? and cutting his lips with a sneer of self-complacency, drew himself up pompously in his seat. Our reverend friend, (who, by the way, is a man of great muscular power), calmly left the desk and went into the pew, where a time, again resumed his subject. Not content with a silent rebuke, our redoubtable questioner demanded again, 'Why don't the preachers do such things now a days?' and cutting his lips with a sneer of self-complacency, drew himself up pompously in his seat.

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...The New Bounty Land Law. The Commissioner of Pensions has issued the following instructions for carrying into effect the new Bounty Land Law.

Where the service has been rendered by a substitute, he is the person entitled to the benefit of this act, and not his emphyteote.

In the event of the death of any person who, if living, would be entitled to a certificate or warrant as aforesaid, leaving a widow, or if no widow, a minor child or child, she widow, or if no widow, such minor child or children, is entitled to a certificate or warrant for the same quantity of land such deceased persons would be entitled to receive under the provisions of said act, if now living.

A subsequent marriage will not impair the right of any such widow to such warrant if she be a widow at the time of her application. Persons within the age of 21 years on the 3d day of March, 1855, are deemed minors within the intent and meaning of said act.

To obtain the benefits of this act, the claimant must make a declaration, under oath, substantially according to the forms hereto annexed. The signature of the applicant must be attested, and his or her personal identity established by the affidavit of two witnesses, whose residences must be given, and whose credibility must be sustained by the certificate of the magistrate before whom the application is verified.

No certificates will be deemed sufficient in any case unless the facts are certified to by the personal knowledge of the magistrate, or other officer, who shall sign the certificate, or the names and residence of the witnesses by whom the facts are established, given, or their affidavits, properly authenticated, be appended to the certificate.

The official character and signature of the magistrate who may administer the oath must be certified by the clerk of the proper court of record of his county, under the seal of the court. Whenever the certificate of the officer who authenticates the signature of the magistrate is not written on the same sheet of paper which contains the signature to be authenticated, the certificate must be attached to said paper by a piece of tape or ribbon, the ends of which must pass under the official seal, so as to prevent any paper from being improperly attached to the certificate.

Applications in behalf of minors should be made in their names, or their guardian or friend. Where there are several minors entitled to the same gratuity, one may make the declaration. The warrant will be issued to all jointly. In addition to proof of service, as in other cases, the minor must prove the death of his father, that no widow survives him, and that he and those that he represents are the only minor children of the deceased.

If a party die before the issue of a warrant to which he would be entitled, it is to be deemed that he died with him. In such case the warrant becomes void, and should be canceled, and the party next entitled in right of the service claimed should make an application; and if there be no such party, the grant lapses under the limitation the beneficiaries to the bounty, if the claimant die after the issue of the warrant, the title thereto vests in his heirs at law in the same manner as real estate in the place of the deceased, and can only be assigned or located by his heirs.

Applications made by Indians must be authenticated according to the regulations to be prescribed by the commissioner of Indian affairs. Accompanying the above instructions are the necessary forms of declaration, together with an official copy of the law.

Virginia Campaign News. MORE WITHDRAWALS.—The following communication is worthy of special notice. It shows that Know Nothingism is rapidly sinking into decay; and it will convince such democrats as have entered the Order with the idea that they can leave it at their pleasure.

To the Editors of the Richmond Enquirer:—FELTYANA COUNTY, March 15, 1855. MESSRS. EDITORS:—Hurrah! for Henry A. Wise. Like clever fellows, the democrats are bolting from the ranks of Know Nothingism. No less than seven have withdrawn from one lodge in this county, and have fallen back into their old ranks. Like brave gallant soldiers, they have shouldered their muskets and are now pouring into the arms of some of Capt. Wise's favored shot—rappe. Deserter have made them but the better soldiers. They have viewed the enemy's works, and are better prepared to fight them.

Yours, &c. ONE OF THE SEVEN. P. S.—You can use the above as you choose. The lodge I speak of is at the Court House, Palmyra. We were all refused admission from the Order, and we do not know yet whether our names have been put down in the party list, or not. I would like to say, we are off, by or without permission; through the latter, I suppose.

BEFORD COUNTY.—We have received, too late for insertion in to-day's paper, an account of a late discussion in this county, between Dr. Tompkins, anti-Know Nothing Whig, and Mr. Richard Shelton. This account represents what we have before heard, that Dr. Tompkins is pouring the shot, hot and heavy, and the Know Nothing ranks. We also learn that Dr. Tompkins is spoken of as an independent candidate for the Legislature. Dr. Tompkins is but a type of thousands of honest and independent Whigs, who are disgusted with the late surrender by their selfish leaders of the Whig party into the hands of the Know Nothing. God speed him in his patriotic exertions!

Lynchburg Republican. REQUESTED.—The Penny Post of yesterday conveys that Daniel Ubbahn, who stamped the State of New York, denouncing everywhere the Nebraska bill as a "perjury," was invited to attend the Washington Convention, but having a greater sense of propriety than his inviters he declined putting this insult upon Virginia.

A JAPANESE BOOK.—We have received from our attentive correspondent of the Japanese squadron a specimen of the literature of that very exclusive people. To say that its perusal has afforded us the utmost satisfaction would be but faint praise, particularly as we feel ourselves unable to appreciate, as we do not doubt ought to do, its illustrated pages. Indeed, it is profusely embellished, and while we can readily leave a vote pending on the interesting narrative, we do not work the art, we are confident that the author is somewhat to reconcile in his philosophy for our outside comprehension. The book is printed like the Chinese on this paper, and only on one side, each leaf being a folded sheet, with the fold at the edge of course uncut, and designed to remain so. The cuts and reading are evidently engraved on the same plate, and the impression very much resembles lithography. The drawing is everywhere the slightest idea of perspective, while the execution of this slight idea is very imperfect. The style of Japanese literature, to which the book introduces us, would never expose the country to invasion, unless a second Romulus in the vicinity were pressed by circumstances akin to those of early Rome. Hence we may infer that modern "annexation" will not be precipitated by Japanese beauty—a comfortable suggestion for the conservative department of the next Presidential message.—Baltimore Sun.

THE BLACK WARRIOR CASE SETTLED.—The Washington Union says: We have reliable information as to the change in the determination of her Catholic Majesty in regard to the Black Warrior affair, and have reason to know that the following extract of a letter on the subject from Madrid, which appears in Galignani's Messenger of February 25th, 1855, is correct: "It appears (says the letter) that the Spanish government has decided on proclaiming that the authorities of Cuba exceeded their powers in the affair of the Black Warrior as regards the two principal points of it—the description of the cargo and the time allowed for the production of the ship's manifest. In consequence, it is applied to accord the indemnity."

APPLICATIONS FOR BOUNTY LAND WARRANTS.—It is stated that already some fifteen hundred applications have been made for bounty lands under the law passed by Congress only a week ago. On Monday three hundred and fifty such applications were received. The Star says: It is estimated at the Pension Bureau that about 300,000 such applications will be made near the new law, requiring 32,000,000 of acres to satisfy them. The amendments made in the bill by the House, reduced the quantity of lands to be taken up under it from more than 100,000,000 acres to about the quantity we name above.

...The Emperor going to the Crimea—Why?—Preparations for his departure.—The New Hampshire [From the Paris Correspondence of the London Economist.] Paris, February 22, 1855.

The Emperor's project of going to the Crimea is now openly avowed, though it has not been announced officially by the *Moniteur*. All his ordinary councillors have represented to him the dangers and impropriety of such an undertaking, and he does not appear overjoyed there by his given orders. Waiting for the next report from the Crimea before taking a decisive resolution.

It is reported that Lord Palmerston has sent a note to the English ambassador, who has made representations in the name of England, declaring that in the absence of the French monarch it was impossible to open the conference at Vienna, and that Lord John Russell's mission would have to be postponed. Gen. Niel, the same who commanded at the taking of Bomarsund, and was sent to Sebastopol in order to survey the state of things and make a report to the Emperor, has arrived in Paris, and was received on Monday last at the Tuileries. His account is far from favorable, and it may urge the Emperor to depart. The general health of the army was indeed improving, but there were symptoms of insubordination and discontent amongst them.

When the Imperial Guard arrived at the camp they were to take several of the positions which were occupied by the Zouaves. But this corps mutinied, and declared that they would not abandon them; that they were a choice troop, and would not suffer themselves to be superseded by a regiment who had just come, and had taken no part in the past trials and dangers of the siege. It was the cause of the secession which was reported by telegraphic despatches, and in spite of the *Moniteur* contradicting these reports, it is quite true that about ten Zouaves were condemned to be shot, and a certain number sent to Algiers.

Besides, there are general complaints that there is jealousy between the commanding generals Canrobert and Bosquet, and a want of unity in the plans of Lord Raglan and General Canrobert. The Emperor thinks that he has given orders to the operations of the war, and to inspire the army with enthusiasm at the decisive moment of the general assault on the fortress.

An expedition departed on Saturday last for Marseilles, to prepare the steamer which is to take the Emperor and the troops who accompany him. 6,000 soldiers of the Imperial Guards have received two days ago their rifles, and they depart on the 29th inst. The Emperor's departure, which was at first fixed for the 22d instant, and afterwards for the 25th or 26th, is now put off to the 5th of March. Perhaps the advice which is given every day will at last prevail upon him to relinquish his project.

The Emperor intends to take with him Prince Napoleon Bonaparte, the son of Jerome, whose conduct since his return from the Crimea has given him great displeasure. He was recalled on account of his assumed ill health, and since his arrival, he has every night at the balls and soirees, and it is said that his health was not the true motive for his return. The Council of Regency has been appointed; it consists of Count de Morny, M. Troplong, and M. Baroche; but it will not be announced in the *Moniteur*. They have only full powers to act in case of extraordinary events.

The Emperor's departure is almost the only topic of conversation in all circles, and has superseded every other question. It seems however that Prussia is at last inclined to sign the separate treaty which has been proposed by England and France.

FATE OF SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.—An additional gleam of light has been cast over the probable fate of the Franklin Expedition by an Esquimaux named Mastitukin, who accompanied Dr. Rae's party, and who has been for many years a member of the Wesleyan Congregation at Rosville, in Hudson's Bay.—Dr. Rae has always considered this native highly efficient and trustworthy. On his return to Rosville, the Esquimaux stated that "he wintered with a party in a snow house, where they had six weeks' constant night. In March last, (1854,) they started on the ice to the north, and were 77 days on their northern journey. They were 100 miles beyond the region inhabited by the Esquimaux, but they still found the tracks of the musk ox. Sir John Franklin and his party are dead; but, perhaps, one or two of the men may still be alive, and amongst the Esquimaux.

"Sir John's watch, all in pieces, with his silver spoons, knives and forks were found. The ship was a great good-see to these people; and they now all have good sledges, spears, canoes, of oak wood.—Dr. Rae and his party did not see any of the remains of Sir John and his party; but the Esquimaux informed him that Sir John was found dead with his blanket over him, and his gun by his side. The probability is, that it is not more than two or three years since the party perished by hunger."

Such are the words of Mastitukin's narrative, as detailed to the Rev. T. Harbut, of Rosville Mission, Hudson's Bay. They are entitled to credence because the narrator is a native of the country, acquainted with the language, and could have no object in making a false statement. The various implements made of oak which were seen in the Esquimaux encampment prove that they must have had access to at least one of the ships of the missing expedition.—London Athlete.

THE GRAVES OF CALDWELL'S FAMILY.—Some hundred yards east of the house in which John C. Caldwell first saw the light, in South Carolina, is the old family cemetery. It contains but a single monument of any architectural interest, and that stands upon the graves of Mr. Caldwell's father, mother, and sister-in-law, Mrs. Dr. Waddell. He had it carved in Washington, and in the present site a few years before his death. Each of its four sides has an inscription—they read as follows: "Patrick Caldwell, the father of John Caldwell Caldwell. Born in the county of Donegal, Ireland, June 11, 1727, and died January 15, 1796, in his 69th year."

Martha Caldwell, the wife of Patrick Caldwell, and the mother of Arthur, William James, John Caldwell, and Patrick Caldwell. Born on Cook Creek, Charlotte county, Va., 1750—died May, 1826, aged 52 years."

Catherine, the daughter of Patrick and Martha Caldwell, and the first wife of the Rev. Dr. Waddell, died in March, 1796, in the 21st year of her age, without issue.

Erected by John C. Caldwell, the surviving member of the family, 1844."

REV. THEODORE MATHIEW.—The services of this distinguished gentleman in the cause of temperance have been as much appreciated in America as in Europe. It will please the readers, says the Ledger, to learn of his welfare by the following extract from a letter to a gentleman residing in Philadelphia: "I have the pleasure to inform you that I have just returned from the Atlantic, Madeira, Jan. 3, 1855. It has pleased Almighty God to afflict me with partial paralysis. My physicians have ordered me to reside, during winter, in Madeira, for the restoration of my health. I rejoice at my coming here, as it has afforded me the great happiness of becoming acquainted with Commodore Mayo, and the other officers of the U. S. Frigate Constitution, who are the most amiable gentlemen I have had the good fortune to meet. I had the pleasure to go on board this beautiful frigate, where I was warmly greeted by the ship's crew and officers, amongst whom it was introduced to many of my countrymen, in particular to young Mr. Riordan, of Cork, who expressed much delight at seeing me. In the anxious hope, that this letter may find you in good health, I am as ever, with high respect, your grateful and affectionate friend, THEODORE MATHIEW."

The richest religious denominations, we see by the census tables, is the Methodist, which is set down at \$14,636,671. The next are the Episcopal, which is rated at \$1,326,589. The Episcopal, which is in number of churches stands fifth, ranks third for its church property, being estimated at \$1,261,770.—The fourth is the Baptist, \$1,091,331; the fifth the Roman Catholics, \$8,973,838; and the 6th, the Congregational, \$793,962.

DIED. On Topssol Sound, in this County, on the 24th inst., Mrs. NANCY FOY, wife of Henry R. Foy, aged 80 years. On the 6th of January last, on board Brig Cardiff, on her passage to South America, Mr. FREDRICK E. METTS, of the County of Lincoln, aged 25 years, and recently a resident of Wilmington, aged about 25 years.

...Marine Intelligence. PORT OF WILMINGTON, NORTH-CAROLINA. ARRIVED.

March 22.—Steamer James R. Grist, Williams, from Fayetteville, to A. D. Casan. Schrs. Edward S. Taylor, from New York, to J. H. Flanner, with mado. 23.—Steamer Sun, Orrell, from Fayetteville, to J. J. Lipitt. Schrs. Alha, Timmons, from New York, to Geo. Harris; with mado.

Schr. Henry Nutt, Garwood, from Philadelphia, to Geo. Harris; with mado. Schrs. J. H. Flanner, from New York, to J. H. Flanner, with mado. Schrs. J. H. Flanner, from New York, to J. H. Flanner, with mado. Schrs. J. H. Flanner, from New York, to J. H. Flanner, with mado.

Schr. J. H. Flanner, from New York, to J.