THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

WILMINGTON, N. C., MONDAY, JAN. 7, 1856.

No Speaker yet.

Read Mr. Dobbin's remarks upon the Navy Retiring Board. They will amply repay the time consumed in their perusal.

The President's Message.

This clear, frank and patriotic document appears to have been received with enthusiasm by all States' rights men, with general favor by others, and with the compliment of execration by the Abolitionists.

The statement of our foreign relations—the strong and unimpeachable positions assumed for the United States, extort reluctant praise, even from sectional opponents, while the enemies of the Administration at the South are estopped by the bold national tone of the message. The calmness and courtesy of its language—the total absence of declamation or rhetorical flourishes, are as marked characteristics as are the soundness of its views and the strength of its arguments. We have looked through an exchange list, embracing many of the leading papers of the country, and about the only decidedly ill-natured comment which has met our eye has done so in the columns of the "American Organ," a paper which is denounced even by the Southern presses of its own party or order.

CLEAR WEATHER.—The sun is again visible, after a cloud-eclipse of Lord knows how many days. We had almost arrived at the conclusion that it was never going to make its appearance again. We have seen some rainy spells, but this last one rather went ahead of our experience. During a pretty considerable spell of weather in the mountains a couple of years ago, we happened to get caught the worst sort —soaked through, so to say. Meeting up with one of the strangest and roughest specimens of a mountain man we had ever seen, we remarked that it rained some. "It rains [*reigns*] triumphant," said he, and forthwith disappeared in the mist. If it hasn't rained triumphant since before Christmas, then we are greatly mistaken, that's all.

RAIL ROAD ACCIDENT.—We learn that a painful accident occurred last night, on the Wilmington and Manchester Rail Road, in the neighborhood of Hood's Creek, some eight or ten miles from town. It would appear that on account of some defect in the working of the pumps of the Locomotive engaged in carrying up the night train going west from this place, the Engineer detached the train and ran on ahead some distance, and in returning to take up the train again, came back at so high a rate of speed as to cause a serious collision, resulting in some damage to the train, the mail car being smashed up and some little damage done to the other cars. The most painful circumstance connected with the affair is that Mr. Charles Baldwin, the conductor, got seriously, and, it is feared, mortally injured, by being thrown from the train with so much force as to cause concussion of the brain. Mr. E. L. Sherwood, Mail Agent, was also slightly injured. None of the passengers were in any way hurt. Until the circumstances of the affair can be more fully examined into we forbear any comment.—*Daily Journal, 5th inst.*

For the Journal.

Democratic Meeting.

Pursuant to public notice, a large and respectable meeting of the Democrats of the town of Wilmington, was held at the Court House on Friday evening, the 4th inst. Dr. John D. Bellamy was called to the Chair, and F. N. Waddell and W. H. McKoy were requested to act as Secretaries

Dr. Bellamy explained the objects of the meeting. It was essentially a Democratic meeting, called for the purpose of giving some suitable expression to the feelings of gratitude and admiration awakened by the late bold, able and constitutional message of President Pierce. The concurrence of all friends of the Constitution were invited.

On motion of Hon. Wm. S. Ashe, a committee of six was appointed to draw up resolutions for the consideration of the meeting. The Chairman appointed the following gentlemen on that committee: Bennett Flanner, Wm. S. Ashe, John A. Taylor, Jas. Fulton, S. A. Holmes, and George Houston.

During the absence of the committee the meeting was addressed by Eli W. Hall and Robert Strange, Esqrs.

The committee, through their Chairman, Hon. W. S. Ashe, reported the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, A point has been reached in the history of the Country when it becomes the bounden duty of all citizens, who revere the Constitution, and hold dear the rights guarantied by that sacred instrument, to lend the moral strength of their support and approbation to all true hearted and patriotic public servants, who stand forward nobly and fearlessly to stem the tide of fanaticism and encroachment, and to battle for the equal rights of all sections of the country, and all classes of its citizens. Be it therefore

Resolved, That President Franklin Pierce, by his recent able, patriotic and States Rights Message, no less than by his whole previous course in office, and out of office, has proved himself a true American Statesman, devoted to broad, national, constitutional, democratic principles and measures He has acted in strict accordance with the principles laid down by the Democratic party in its last national convention at Baltimore, and fulfilled every pledge given to him in his inauguaral address.

Resolved, That the Democratic Members of the House of Representatives, although a minority in numbers are still entitled to the respect and gratitude of the country, for their resolute and unflinching adherence to principle. The glorious "seventy-four," with their gallant nominee for speaker, Col. Richardson, form a phalanx of which the Democracy and the country may well be proud. Freed from the last remnant of Free Soilism, they constitute the only body in the House, around which national men from all sections of the country may rally for the safety of the Constitution and the Union.

Resolved, That recent events have still farther strengthened our confidence in the Democratic party and its principles, by proving that it is the only party upon which the South can rely for the maintainance of her Constitutional rights or the country at large, for the perpetuity of a Constitutional Union.

Mr. Ashe being called upon responded in a brief speech, and concluded by offering the following resolution:

Resolved, That our Representative in Congress, Hon. Warren Winslow, is entitled to our warmest regard for his unflinching course in the steps which have been taken for the organization of the House of Representatives, and that we, a large body of his constituents assure him of our approbation and support.

The resolution was enthusiastically adopted.

The meeting was then addressed by Jno. A. Taylor and George Houston, Esqrs.

The following was offered for the consideration of the meeting.

WHEREAS, it is necessary and proper, that means should be taken to effect a more perfect organization of the Democratic party, therefore

Resolved, that we now adjourn to meet again, in this place on Tuesday next, the 8th inst., for the purpose of organizing a Democratic Association.

The resolution was passed by acclamation, and after the passage of the usual resolutions for publication, etc., the meeting adjourned to meet again at the Court House, on Tuesday Evening next.

J. D. BELLAMY, Chairman.

F. N. WADDELL, } Secretaries.
WM. H. MCKOY, }

Nett amount in the Treasury, subject to draft on the 24th ult., $22,753,790,85. There would be no great haul made by robbing the depository in Wilmington, the amount there being only 1,615 and 2 cents.

The Meeting Last Night.

The proceedings of the Democratic meeting, held last evening at the Court House, will be found in our columns to-day. They speak for themselves, so far as to show what was done, but no mere recital can do justice to the spirit in which it was done, nor to the promptitude with which the call for a meeting was responded to. With little over a day's notice through the paper, on a cold, unfavorable night, a crowd assembled in the Court House, rivaling in numbers and enthusiasm the gatherings on the eve of the most exciting election. The noble and patriotic message of President Pierce had thrilled to the very centre of the popular heart; it had infused renewed confidence into the ranks of the Constitution and the Democracy, and breathed fresh spirit into the addresses of the eloquent speakers. Business connected with the meeting deprived us of the pleasure of listening to Messrs. Hall and Strange, but from all hands we heard the expression of opinion that they had not only done themselves credit, but gained upon their already well-earned reputation. The manner in which Dr. Bellamy explained the objects of the meeting, was clear and to the point, and up to the spirit of the occasion, as were also the very able and appropriate remarks submitted by Mr. Houston, in response to a call made upon him.—*Daily Jour., 5th.*

The Raleigh Standard says: "It affords us pleasure to learn that Mr. Singletary, the young gentleman who was injured by a pistol-shot at the University, at the beginning of the vacation, is rapidly recovering. His wound, though a severe one, seems not to have been as dangerous as was first apprehended.

For the Journal.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—It is generally rumored about the streets that some mistake or discrepancy has been discovered in the official summing up of the vote for Commissioners at the recent election. The public has the fullest confidence in the poll holders, but still some information as to the precise facts in the case is earnestly desired. Cannot the Town Clerk give it?

For the Journal.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Having been requested in your paper of yesterday, to explain certain matters touching the last election of Commissioners, I beg leave to state, that during the intense confusion and noise that occurred when the votes were being summed up, an error was made in adding Mr. Sutton's vote, but after careful examination and correction it does not change the result of the election as was then declared. I hereby submit a statement of the polls duly certified.

RICHARD MORRIS, Town Clerk.

O. G. Parsley	486	S. D. Wallace	458
Isaac Northrop	471	Dr. J. D. Bellamy	461
T. M. Gardner	467	John Dawson	459
Geo. Davis	485	T. C. Miller	454
Wm. Sutton	462	T. H. Howey	453
Levi A. Hart	467	D. A. Lamont	450
H. P. Russell	471	Jno. A. Taylor	453

Scattering votes, 11.

We, the undersigned, Inspectors of the Polls, held the third Thursday in December, 1855, for the election of seven Commissioners for the town of Wilmington, to serve for one year, ending the first Monday in January, 1857, do hereby certify that O. G. Parsley, Isaac Northrop, Thos. M. Gardner, Geo. Davis, Wm. Sutton, Levi A. Hart, and Henry P. Russell, have received a majority of the votes cast, and are consequently duly elected.

RICHARD MORRIS, Town Clerk,
W. W. PEIRCE,
JAS. T. MILLER.

Supreme Court.

This tribunal met in this city on last Monday.—Present, Chief Justice Nash and Judge Battle—Judge Pearson being absent on account of domestic afflictions. The following yonng gentlemen were licensed to practice law in this State. We are gratified that they are *lawyers* instead of *doctors*, as we prefer litigation to disease:

In the Superior Court.—Geo. N. Thompson, Caswell; Rufus Y. McCadden, do.; Wm T. Faircloth, Greene; J. E. Reeves, Surry; John E. Brown, Davie; Thos. G. Hall, Comberland; Jas. T. McClannahan, Chatham: Rufus K Pepper, Stokes; Jno. A. Baker, New Hanover; Alfred M. Waddell, Orange; James B. Jordan, Bertie: Henry M. Willis, San Francisco, Cal.: Wm. C. Finch, Warren; Wm. L. McKay, Cumberland; Chas. E. Clarke, Craven; and Bedford Brown, Davie.

In the County Court.—Benj. R. Moore, Person; J. H. Bullock, do.; Thos. C. Fuller, Cumberland; J. J. Freeman, Bertie; W. J. Walker Washington; Jas. H. Abell, Beaufort; Wm. L. Scott, Guilford: J. W. Payne, Davidson; G. W. T. Custis, Craven; S. S. Jackson, jr. Chatham; H. E. Davis, Iredell; Alex. McIver, Moore; J. D. Stanford, Duplin; N. H. Fennell, New Hanover; Wm. S. Saunders, Orange; F. S. Moore, New Hanover; Miles M. Cowles, Yadkin; Jacob Davis, jr, do.; J. J. Scales, Rockingham; and W. H. Spencer, Craven.—*Raleigh Standard.*

Our Foreign Relations.

The course pursued by our Executive in relation to our foreign relations, seems to be approved by the whole Press of the country, without regard to political divisions. In the matter of Central America, which is perhaps the most delicate of all the subjects yet to be settled between our Government and Great Britain, the voice of our nation is a unit in response to the decision of the President, as farshadowed in his recent Message. The North American, of yesterday, speaks as follows upon the subject:

"We believe but one opinion exists in this community in regard to our complications with Great Britain on the subject of Central America, and that is, that our Government is clearly in the right in the position it has assumed, and that it must and will be sustained, at all hazards and at any cost. The views expressed by the Senators who joined in the conversation which followed the reading of the President's Message on Monday, are the views of the whole country, and uttered, as they were, by the representatives of all the parties, and fragments of parties, into which, at this time, the American people are divided, are full of significance. It is to be hoped that when they reach the opposite shores of the Atlantic, they may not be without effect in modifying that hostile and aggressive policy upon which the Palmerston Ministry seemed so obstinately bent —a policy which, if persisted in, cannot but lead to deplorable results, even if it should not involve the dreadful calamities of war.

As matters now stand, it is a source of sincere congratulation that our Minister at the Court of St. James is a wise, cautious and moderate statesman; for if it were otherwise, the worst consequences would be sure to follow. We have good reason for believing—apart from our general knowlede of his character—that Mr. BUCHANAN has thus far conducted the negotiation in a temper which has challenged the respect of the British Cabinet, and that if he has not succeeded in bringing them to such terms as justice demands, he has at least shown that the most rigorous assertion of national rights is not incompatible with diplomatic courtesy. It is not difficult to appreciate the value of such an Ambassador at such a juncture."—*Pennsylvanian.*

THE PRESIDENT AS A WRITER.—The New York Sunday Mercury, a neutral paper, pounces savagely upon the foul maligners of Gen. Pierce, who infest Washington. It says:

The jackass of a correspondent if he knew anything, ought to know that the inaugural address of a President has, in all cases, been the inceptive production of the President, concocted by his own pen; and either read or spoken to the world, after having been submitted to the consideration of his immediate Cabinet ministers. We have not thus far had a President, with the exception of Gen. Jackson and Gen. Taylor, who have not been known as reputable belles lettres scholars.

As for Gen. Franklin Pierce, the President of the United States, whom the stupid correspondent of the New York Herald would have the world believe is so deficient in literary acquirements that he has to employ Judge Gilchrist to write his State papers, everybody who personally knows aught of the man, knows that he is one of the first classical scholars of the day. At college he ranked with the best of the belles lettres scholars then induced to Alma Mater; and while at the New Hampshire bar, and when in the United States House of Represenatives, and in the Senate, he stood conspicuous among his peers as an elegant writer.

ABOLITION SPIES.—The Cherokee nation have authorized their chief to open correspondence with different missionary boards for the purpose of remonstrating against sending abolitionists among them under the pretext of being missionaries.

The President's Message Abroad.

We presume that one of the most important considerations inducing the President to pursue the novel course of submitting his message to Congress, whilst one of its Houses was still in an unorganized condition, and unprepared for business, was the desire to have that message spread before the people of England at the earliest possible moment, to inform them of the conditions of the negotiations between the two countries, to present to their view the firm position that our Government has assumed, and to allow them the opportunity of forming an intelligent opinion upon the dangers that threaten the peaceful relations now existing. The design was skillfully conceived, will be successfully achieved, and we think cannot be without an important and favorable influence upon the ultimate decision of the differences at issue. The steamer which leaves Boston to day will carry out not only the President's message firmly enunciating the ultimatum of the American Government and people, but also the carefully expressed views of prominent senators, representatives of the political parties into which the country is divided, all concurring in the arguments of the message, endorsing its interpretation of the Clayton and Bulwer Treaty, and avowing a willingness to sustain the President in obtaining a full recognition of the Monroe doctrine if the emergency of the case should require it.

The debate in the Senate on Monday is indeed a remarkable instance of the unity of sentiment that actuates all parties upon points clearly involving the honor and interests of the country in its dealings with foreign nations, and affords the most conclusive answer to those of the British journals that so frequently express the opinion that a war between this country and Great Britain would be equivalent to a dissolution of the Union. There was no halting or indecision in the remarks that the occasion drew from Senators who have long been recognized as the distinguished exponents of the views of the several parties. Mr. Clayton and Mr. Cass, Mr. Weller, Mr. Seward, and Mr. Toombs, though occupying such diametrical opposites in domestic politics, were in full accord upon this point. Such a determined exposition of the policy of our Government as regards Central American affairs, so cordially and unanimously sustained by eminent Senators, cannot be without its effect in England, and we may therefore expect the Message to create a deep sensation there. The London Times will gain an accession of virulence in its denunciations of this country, and its clamor may be imitated by the lesser lights of British journalism, but on the whole we think the influence of the expose will be toward peace. The questions in relation to Central America that divide the two governments belong in England exclusively to the government. The large majority of the people know but little of and care still less for Central America, and will certainly not be willing to risk a war with us for the maintenance of their rights, real or imaginary, in a section of the world that has so little to interest and can positively promise them nothing to compensate for the real danger and certain loss consequent upon hostilities with us. A war with America for the purpose of securing their hold upon the miserable colony of Honduras and the privilege of standing god-father to a Mosquito king, can never become popular with the British people, and we may therefore expect from a knowledge of the position and views of this country afforded by the President's Message and the debate in the Senate a manifestation of public sentiment that will hold in check Lord Palmerston and induce him not to press at the risk of a rupture his very peculiar interpretation of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty.—*Balt. American.*

Sound Dues.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2, 1856.

The correspondence upon the question of the Danish Sound Dues has been published.

Denmark holds that it is her right to exact the Sound Dues independent of all treaties, and declares she will never consent to abandon this right. On the 14th April, 1855, Mr. Bedinger, our Minister at Copenhagen, by instructions from the United States Government, gave notice of the termination of the Convention. The Danish Foreign Minister hoped propositions would be made which should open the way for a new treaty to prevent placing the vessels of the United States on the same footing with those of other nations, to whom no favor was shown.

In October last, Denmark recommended that a Congress be holden at Copenhagen, and an early date was fixed. In consequence of strenuous urging, England, Prussia, and other powers proposed a capitalization of the Dues—the bases of which should be the quantity of merchandize passed through the Sound and Belts. Secretary Marcy, on the 3d November, wrote to Minister Bedinger that the President continued to decline the invitation for the representation of the United States in the proposed Congress, yet without questioning the fair intentions of Denmark; that he claims to be vindicating a great natural principle, which, if yielded in one case, it is difficult to maintain in others; that he advanced as another objection, the fact that the United States will never consent that the pretensions of the New World shall be appropriated to adjust the political balance of the Old; that while considering the free navigation of the Sound their indubitable right, the United States were yet willing to pay an equivalent for any advantages derived from outlays, and for keeping up light houses, buoys, &c.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.—We throw out much matter prepared for to-day's paper, in order to give the President's Message entire.

The reader will imagine, of course, that a Speaker was at last elected, and be anxious to know on whom the honor fell. No such thing. The President was weary of waiting, and sent the message to both Houses on Monday last. This was well. We think he did wisely. The act does not indicate any special respect for the House, we confess, but as little does the conduct of the House merit respect.

In the Senate the message was received and read; and it is thus we have a copy. But the House fell to talking about the impropriety of receiving it. The most conspicuous defender of the President's course was Mr. Clingman. The chief objectors were Giddings and Campbell of Ohio.

Finally, the House refused to have the message read, by a vote of 126 to 87; and then the whole subject was laid on the table, 108 to 104.

And then the House adjourned from Monday to Wednesday, having taken no vote for Speaker.

As to the message itself, the first part of it, two-thirds in extent, is exceedingly common-place; but the remainder fully makes up for all deficiencies. It is one of the most remarkable statements that we ever read of the slavery question, of the rights and duties of the States on that subject, of the madness of fanaticism at the North, and of the inevitable result of disunion to which it tends. It is a glorious vindication of the South and its rights, as gratifying to us as it was unexpected. The promulgation of such just, conservative, patriotic sentiments, clothed in language of glowing eloquence, and carrying with them the power and influence of his high office, is worthy of all praise, overrides all party considerations, and extorts praise from those who have had little reason to confide in him.—*Fay. Obs.*

THE TERRITORY OF KANSAS.—The Hon. Sterling G. Cato, the Territorial Judge, in a recent letter to his brother, of Eufaula, Ala., says:

"The people here are quiet and orderly, sharp and intelligent; a little rough in manners, but warm-hearted and cordial. * * * * * This is as fine a country as any on the face of the earth, and the profits of its productions would far exceed those of the cotton fields of the South. All kinds of grain, grass, clover and hemp, yield a rich product. * * * * * * * * * I have no doubt but that slave labor would yield in hemp, corn and grain, at least from thirty to forty dollars per acre annually. I have seen no poor land, it all seems to me richer than the best Chattahoocha bottom, and most of it is just such land as in the adjoining Missouri counties, is now selling at from $20 to $50 per acre. Corn is now selling at twenty-cents per bushel, and the product estimated at one hundred bushels an acre; and the hemp crop (six tons per hand) at $140 per ton, and you see at once how labor is more productive here than at the South. It is impossible to give an adequate idea of the beauty and fertility of the soil and country; generally rolling, without a great deal of timber, but, as I understand, abounding in coal for fires, and stone for building and fencing; good wells of water can be obtained anywhere, besides frequent streams running through the prairies."

PAPER MANUFACTURE IN THE UNITED STATES.—There are in the United States 750 paper mills in actual operation, having 3,000 engines, and producing in the year 250,000,000 pounds of paper, which is worth, at ten cents per pound, $25,000,000. To produce this quantity of paper 405,000,000 pounds of rags are required, 1½ pound of rags being necessary to make one pound of paper. The value of these rags at 4 cents per pound is $16,200,000.

THE ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS.—The Financial Tables of the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury have been before the country for weeks. Perhaps the most important and interesting documents are those from the files of the State Department, in relation to our affairs with Great Britain.

Mr. Marcy, in June of 1854, declares, in a dispatch to Mr. Buchanan, that this Government can never yield to the British pretension that the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty was only prospective in its operation.—After some spicy diplomatic censure of his conduct in this negotiation, he closes by declaring that if Great Britain persists in holding Ruatan in defiance of all right, we shall know her purpose in holding it simply as a naval and military station is to affect injuriously our interests. A predetermination to interfere with our affairs, thus manifested, will render the continuance of our amicable relations with her precarious. Mr. Buchanan's discussion of this entire question is very able and thorough

On the 6th of August last Mr. Marcy again urges the immediate settlement of this question, before Mr. Buchanan should retire from London, and the latter is instructed to ask Great Britain, distinctly, whether she intends to insist on holding Ruatan, and to insist on her abandoning her pretensions there.

Mr. Buchanan addressed a note accordingly, and on the 28th of October Lord Clarendon replied, declining to re-open the general discussion, and stating that the British Government adheres to its previous positions

Report of the Secretary of the Navy.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy (Hon. James C. Dobbin) recommends the construction of additional sloops-of-war; expresses entire satisfaction with the result of the apprenticeship system, and the legislation of the last Congress for the Navy; maintains the abolition of corporal punishment; and recommends an increase of the Marine corps, and the increase of seamen to ten thousand men. He sustains the general action of the Naval Retiring Board, but intimates his readiness to aid in restoring any officers in special cases who have been unjustly treated.

The remarks of the Secretary on the action of the Board will be looked for with so great anxiety by a large class of readers, that we give them in full.

"The report of the Naval Board of fifteen officers of the higher grades, assembled under the 'act to promote the efficiency of the Navy,' having been approved by you, I have in pursuance of your direction carried the same into execution, according to the provisions of the law. After a careful examination, 201 officers were, in their judgement, found incapable of performing, promptly and efficiently, all their duty both ashore and afloat; and of those 71 were reserved on 'leave of absence pay,' 81 on furlough pay, and 49 recommended to be stricken from the rolls.

"The vacancies have been filled according to the Act by regular promotion in the order of rank or senority. Although there are now on this reserved list one hundred and forty-seven officers, the expenses of the Navy, as appears from calculations accurately made, are not increased, for the reason that they are not only on reduced pay, but the officers promoted to their vacancies do not receive the full pay of the grade to which they are thus promoted. They obtain the higher rank and secure more responsible and important commands, but are not to enjoy full pay until the vacancies they fill are made complete either by resignation, death or removal. And the law judiciously administered by no means involves an increase of the aggregate number of officers, for it is the crowding of the service with the lower grade of Passed Midshipman, to linger there until the prime of life, without rank, and comparatively without useful service, which has really done sad mischief.

"Perhaps no event, either legislative or executive, touching the history of the Navy, has attracted more earnest attention or created a more profound sensation, than the action of the late Navy Board. With a view to a just and wise consideration of this grave and delicate subject, the unexcited mind will not merely pass in calm and scrutinising review the proceedings of the Board and the Executive, but naturally recur to the history of the law itself, and with especial care to the condition of the Navy, which occasioned its passage with such remarkable unanimity.

"The peculiar nature of the law did not escape the scrutiny of those who passed it. The allegation that it partook somewhat of the odious character of a star-chamber proceeding was even then presented with ardent and warning eloquence. The feature providing for dropping entirely from the service, which was not in the original bill, was inserted in the House by an overwhelming majority, and after elaborate and thorough debate in the Senate was passed almost unanimously. There was still on the statute book and in daily enforcement, the law of courts martial, surrounding their proceedings with the solemnity of a sworn court, a sworn Judge-Advocate and sworn witnesses, subject to penalties for non-appearance; and yet such was the condition of the Navy as urged by Secretaries and conceded by statesmen, officers and citizens; such the loud cry for prompt reform echoed and re-echoed through the country, that Congress in its wisdom failing to pass the general and more comprehensive bills originally reported by the committees, instituted this summary tribunal with signal majorities.

"The officers selected to compose this Board were in terms highly laudatory pronounced fit men for the delicate task. Indeed, when their names were announced there was a warm and general expression of favor and gratification rarely exhibited. Before prescribing regulations as authorized, the opinion of the Attorney-General was asked on the true interpretation of the following provision of the act: 'Provided that no officers upon said Board shall examine into or report upon the efficiency of officers of a grade above them.' His opinion was that the entire body will sit together, deliberate and determine, and by proper means authenticate their conclusion as to lieutenants, masters and passed midshipmen. After that the lieutenants will have to retire, and the captains and commanders will act in regard to all officers of the rank of commander, when the commanders must retire and the captains will act as to officers of that rank. All the examinations having thus been made, and the proper judgments reached in the manner contemplated by the law, the sum total of the opinions will be certified to the Secretary in such form of authentication as he in his regulations shall see fit to prescribe.

"The few regulations prescribed were chiefly based on this opinion, with the purpose of protecting the officers whose efficiency was thus to be examined into from the slightest danger of being prejudiced by the influence or the presence of judges below them in grade. Lieutenants were not allowed even to be present at the proceedings and deliberations in regard to commanders, and therefore could not aid to effect their own promotion; and in accordance with the same regulation, a commander could not have the opportunity, by his presence, to exert influence to secure his promotion to a Captaincy; and thus it was designed, that if by the execution of the law, officers of the board should happen to be promoted, their proceedings should not be tainted with the blighting suspicion that they labored for their own advancement and not the public good.

"The Department, therefore, by filling the board with men of high reputation, and acceptable to the country and the Navy, by surrounding them with safeguards and restrictions, to secure impartiality and justice, and to remove the opportunity and the temptation for indulgence in action for personal gain, by spreading before them the entire files and records of the Department, hoped that a successful effort had been made to insure the faithful and satisfactory execution of a law passed with every indication of earnest solicitude to promote the efficiency of the Navy.

"The order notifying the officers of their appointment issued on the 5th of June; they commenced their joint labors on the 20th of June, and reported the result on the 26th of July.

"And now, sir, while the operation of this law is by some hailed with enthusiasm, as a salutary and indispensable corrective of admitted ill, which depressed the service, by others it is received with undisguised discontent and dissatisfaction. This can hardly be regarded as unnatural. The provisions of the law are generous—indeed, strikingly liberal; but they are at the same time exacting and sternly just. It provides for the careful support of some and the prompt removal of others; and however faithfully, honestly and carefully executed, it is a measure of reform, and no measure of that character is ever executed without more or less inconveniences, disappointments and discontent.

"Actuated, no doubt, by a desire to seek truth and justice as nearly as possible, Congress thought it safest to entrust the reform not merely to the President and the Secretary, whose acquaintance with the officers, both personally and officially, must necessarily, be very limited, but chiefly to the officers of the three higher grades, whose knowledge of their brother officers naturally enables them to perform the duty more thoroughly, and with less liability to err. The task was delicate, and involved struggles between duty and feelings. They were men not infallible.—It would be strange, indeed, if their work were perfect and entirely free from error. Those errors, if they exist, will soon and surely be discovered by the developments of time; by continued inquiry, and by calm, dispassionate observations.

The officers of the Navy as a class are proud, brave, sensitive, patriotic and self-sacrificing, and if the sword of any one of these gallant men has been incautiously taken from him, all right-minded men will say, let his country restore it to him with all the honors and reparation due to injured merit, and while I can by no means recommend the adoption of any measure of repeal or any course of proceeding in conflict with the general action of the board, I have no doubt that there should be and will be found a remedy for any mistake or error of judgment, if the service has thus been deprived of a meritorious and capable officer, either by reservation or dropping. Facts which have come to my knowledge, assure me that it would be but reasonable to provide a year's pay for the officers who have been suddenly dropped from a service upon which they had heretofore so exclusively depended without any consideration for future self-reliance.

"But, sir, I cannot conclude this branch of my report without doing justice to the officers of the Board. From the spirit and temper with which they entered upon a painful and unsought duty, and from the earnestness and diligence with which they searched the records of the department, I deem it but an act of simple justice to express my conviction that they were actuated by elevated considerations, and that their aim was truth, impartially, and the good of the service; and although from the liability of man to err, there may be discovered here and there a mistake of judgment, I have an abiding conviction that history will prove that this work reinvigorated the Navy, imparted to it a robust and active health, inspired the hearts of the young and gallant officers hitherto drooping with hopeless despondency, with fresh energy and contentment with the service; warned the thoughtless and the indolent to quit the haunts of idleness and seek the path of duty leading to honor, and caused the country to repose with the more pride and confidence in the belief of the invincibility of this right arm of defence I have no hesitation, and I take much pleasure in saying that I have already witnessed its happy effects in the new impulse and readiness for duty seen and felt at the department.

"And, sir, though the number reported incompetent seems large, and may well attract attention, is that a circumstance of itself sufficient to justify reflection upon a Board who were bound under the law to make a 'careful examination,' and report the names of all whom they adjudge incompetent, of every grade, to do their whole duty promptly and efficiently, ashore and afloat? If but a small number of officers had become inefficient, would the Secretaries of the Navy for the last fifteen years have again and again urged, with almost pertinacious zeal, that some stringent measure of reform was indispensable to save the navy from impending ruin? Would committees, session after session have reported and pressed such measures? Would grave members have arisen as they did in Congress and have seriously moved to abolish the navy and begin again, if but a small defect existed? Would the Senate, every session for some years, have almost with unanimity passed the measure for relieving the service of the inefficient, and for imparting vigor and health by promoting able and brave officers before age had crippled their energies and impaired their usefulness? Would the press in almost every town and village have fulminated its thunders for reform, and have teemed with articles of laudation and approval when the measure prevailed, if but a small number of the incapable blocked up the path of promotion? Or had it become manifest to all, to statesman and citizen, that something radical, thorough and searching must be administered to secure the navy from the dangers which imperiled it, and emancipate it, if possible, from the weight which seemed so surely to be burdening and pressing it down?"

FINANCIAL POSITION OF RUSSIA.—The London *Economist* has the following observations in regard to the financial prospects of Russia:

Our readers are already aware that the Imperial Commercial Bank of Odessa has suspended cash payments. Its notes are now inconvertible, and those who hesitate to accept them are denounced as enemies of the State. This is exactly what happened during the former wars in Russia, and what we predicted would happen as soon as the Emperor began to decree large additional issues of paper at the beginning of the present war. In former wars the rouble note, which had been originally issued at a value of thirty-eight pence, gradually fell in value till it was worth little more than ten pence; and in the course of time a decree was issued, by which three and a half of those notes, originally issued as roubles, should be received by the State in exchange for one rouble note of full value. The latter are the notes that are now about to follow the example of former issues; and if the war lasts, we shall no doubt find all the paper currency inconvertible, and very much depreciated An impression prevails in some quarters that Russia requires little of the precious metals to carry on a war, and that her resources of men, provisions, &c., are to be in abundance within herself. Nothing can be a greater an error. No country in the world has such extensive and expensive foreign agencies to sustain; unsupported anywhere by public opinion, she can only purchase influence by extravagant payments. Again, her foreign purchases must be made upon the most expensive plans. In point of fact, the precious metals which Russia must require at the present time to make her foreign payments, must be of very large amount, to say nothing of what she must have to secure the convertibility of her large paper circulation, and for other necessary objects. From information which has reached us, we are disposed to believe that the suspension of the Bank of Odessa is only a preclude to the other banks taking the same course. For some time past, convertibility has been but a name; as no one has ventured, without great danger, to demand specie in exchange for notes.

DEATH OF A MISER.—The Sandusky Vindicator announces the death of a German named John Herryman at that place, leaving a fortune estimated at between twenty-five and fifty thousand dollars. He was one of the lowest class of misers, equal to the most loathsome ever painted by Dickens. For the last sixteen years he has constantly worn the same blue, linsey-woolsey wamus and pantaloons, carefully run or darned all over with strong thread, so as to prevent the possibility of wearing out, except on important occasions, such as land sales or something of that nature, when they gave place to a suit of black velvet that he often boasted had served him faithfully for forty years. He contracted the disease of which he died by walking over the bad roads during the most inclement weather of the season, all the way to Putnam and Henry counties, to pay his taxes on the land he owned there, without sufficient clothing to protect him from the cold. In fact, we are informed that he scarcely ever wore a shirt or under garment, and that the one he had on when he died had not been changed for over three months. Although rich, he has been known to chaffer with smiths over the price of a horse-shoe which he had picked up in the street. So far as is known he leaves no heir. He always resented any questions as to the place of his birth, relatives, or early history.

THE way a man refers problem, great or small, to himself and his own convenience, for a solution, is often amusing. One of his sort of people had ensconced himself in a seat in a railway car, next the stove, where, for hours, he sat toasting his feet, and basking in the genial heat of a fire scarcely large enough for the comfort of the passengers who occupied seats remote from the anthracite. By and by up comes a gentleman with a lady, and says, in the blandest manner:

"Wouldn't you like to exchange seats with this lady?"

"No, thank'e," said the old fellow, with an awkward bow; "no, thank'e—I'm bleeged to you—but I liko this seat amazin' well."

Lieutenant Maury.

It is, perhaps, not generally known that several years ago Lieut. Maury met with an accident in a stage-coach, which crippled him for life. He brought an action against the stage proprietors and recovered damages, upon the ground that he was incapacitated for the active duties of his profession. By the Navy Register it appears that he has not been to sea for fifteen years, but he has been usefully and honorably employed as Superintendent of the National Observatory, where, under special legislation, he has received a salary of $3,000 per annum.

Congress.

MONDAY, Dec. 31.—In the Senate the President's Message was read and ordered to be printed. After the reading Mr. Clayton expressed his approbation of the ground taken by the President in regard to our relations with Great Britain on the subject of affairs in Central America. He entered into a review of the question and of the understanding of the Executive at the time of the negotiation of what is commonly called the "Clayton Bulwer Treaty." He was not only for maintaining and insisting upon the American construction of that Treaty, but, if need be, enforcing the Monroe declaration, which never yet had received the formal sanction of Congress.—He argued that the right of way from our Atlantic to our Pacific possessions must be maintained at all hazards, unless we are willing that California and the Territories adjoining that State were to be cast off to form an independent Republic. Mr. Cass congratulated the Senate upon the accession of the gentleman from Delaware to the Mnroe doctrine, and recapitulated his own views of the alleged aggressive purposes of Great Britain in regard to Central America, delivered two years ago. Much as he loved peace, he had no hesitation in saying that the honor of the country demanded that we should insist upon the interpretation of the Treaty as understood by our own government and by every honest man in the civilized world who regarded the just meaning of the words Mr. Weller followed in commendation of the views taken by the President, not only in regard to this subject, but in reference to the agitating topic of the day Mr. Seward concluded the remarks on this topic by declaring his understanding of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty to be that insisted upon by Mr. Clayton, and that he, too, was ready to support the Monroe doctrine if the emergency required a resort beyond the fulfilment of that Treaty in good faith by both parties to it. He thought the reason Congress had never formally expressed its concurrence in the Monroe doctrine was because it had never been presented in any other form than as an abstraction.—The Senate then adjourned to Thursday.

How Much Guano is there on the Chincha Islands?

The question is propounded by a correspondent of the New York *Express*, and he proceeds to answer it as follows:

"All hands concur in stating that each of the Chincha Islands are from five to six miles in circumference, or in all seven square miles of territory, and that the deposit of guano on them is from three feet to two hundred feet deep, and on an average at least fifty feet deep. The specific gravity of this article is stated by as high authority as Dr. Ure to be 100 lbs. per cubic foot. Taking, however, 60 lbs. as a true basis, there is 261,360,000 tons of guano on these islands alone, exclusive of the Lobos Islands, Islands, which probably contain enough more to swell the gross amount to more than 300,000,000 of tons of guano, belonging to Peru, instead of 12,000,000, as her agents would have the American people believe. The present annual consumption of this article is rather less than half a million of tons. If, therefore, the above statement approximates to the truth, there is no reason to apprehend any scarcity of it for at least three hundred years to come from Peru alone.

"Other deposites are also constantly being discovered in different localities, one on the Pacific coast of Mexico, called Maria Islands, from which some three American ships have recently been driven partially loaded. Another, the Bird Islands, in the Carribbean Sea, from which Venezueleans drove off Shelton & Co., of Boston, and lastly, the one situated somewhere here in the Pacific, to which the owners have sent one or two vessels, and the Government a ship-of-war to protect them.

"Doubtless many more will, 'ere long, be found either by citizens of the United States or some other country, since it is understood that particular instructions have been given to the commanders of the English, French and American squadrons to make diligent search for these invaluable deposites

"It will be accounted quite a happy era in naval service when the navies of the world, instead of destroying life, shall be employed in finding food for mankind."

Education Needed.

The following actual dialogue occurred in a Court, in a State not two thousand miles from New England A quack doctor of the Thompsonian order was called to the stand as a witness, and after he had testified to having made "a night visit," the prosecuting attorney began the cross-examination thus:

"Mr. Doctor, to what school of practice do you belong?"

"I don't belong to any school. I never went to any school in my life, I thank you."

"But that is not quite what I want to know. I mean to what school of medicine do you belong?"

"I tell you, sir, I never went to any school of medicine, or practice, or anything else. I believe nature makes a doctor. I am a seventh son, sir, and did'nt need to go to school."

"Well, well, what system of medicine do you practice? That is, what kind of medicine do you give?"

"Oh, that's what you want, is it? Why, I give the Brutanic medicine always, and everywhere."

"The Brutanic? You mean the Botanic system, don't you?"

"No, sir, the Brutanic, I say."

"Now will you tell me how much you charge for a nocturnal visit?"

"Sir," (very indignantly,) "I don't give any such medicine. I practice as I told you, to the Brutanic system, and I'll have you and this Court to understand, I don't give any such medecine as the horrid stuff."

No more questions were asked.—*R. I. Schoolmaster.*

THE "JAPAN PEA."—The editors of the Philadelphia Ledger less than a year ago received from the Patent Office a number of seeds of different varieties of plants, which were distributed from the Ledger office around about the country, to various individuals, for the purpose of testing their production, as well as their adaptation to the different soils and climates of the country. Many of these were seeds which had been gathered in Europe and Asia, under the directions of the intelligent head of the agricultural department of the Patent Office. The Ledger says:

Among the rest was a new species of pea, called the "Japan Pea," which has created considerable interest among cultivators on account of its prolific qualities, and the ease with which it may be cultivated. As an instance of its great productive power, we may mention that we have recently seen a plant from one of the peas, raised by W. L. Schaeffer, Esq., the Cashier of the Girard Bank, which had upon its branches about four hundred and fifty pods, the larger portion of which contained from two to three peas each, or yielding about one thousand per cent. This from a single pea, in a single year's growth, is something worthy of notice. If each pea possessed the qualities of reproduction in the same degree, we should have in the second year's growth nearly half a million of pods and a million of peas. Our farmers, who are better skilled in such calculations, can estimate the number of bushels this would make, and what number of pounds it produces, at sixty pounds to a bushel, the weight of peas and wheat to the bushel being nearly identical.

This new and rare plant is found well adapted to our soil and climate, and yields bountifully, whether planted in rich or poor soil. It grows up about two and a half feet high from a single stalk, putting forth branches stiff and woody, like a shrub. It requires no poles or sticks to support it. The branches, at the end of the season, become covered with downy pods, about two inches long, each containing from two to three peas of a cream color, and very hard When boiled, the pea becomes exactly like a buff bean. It is very nutritious in its qualities, and makes an excellent winter food for man It is planted about the usual time of planting corn, in rows three feet apart. The blossoms are said to be beautiful in appearance, some yellow and some violet. The leaves grow just beneath the bunches of pods.

The plant was obtained in 1851, from some Japanese sailors, who were wrecked on a coral island in the Pacific, and saved by some American seamen. The crew of the wrecked vessel had supported themselves for a number of days solely on these peas. One of the American sailors got some of them, took them to Oregon, whence they were carried to Ohio, from which State they have since been disseminated through the Patent Office, over the Union.

CROSS CREEK LOCK.—We have had a great quantity of rain in this section for the last twelve days swelling the River very much. We learn that the Lock and Dam at Cross Creek has been somewhat injured—the River making a breach on the west side and washing out a new channel 50 or 60 feet wide *Fay. Carolinian.*