

There will be peace in the Spring, say some of the knowing ones; with peace, Cotton will go up. If cotton goes up, naval stores must be permanently benefited, because people in Georgia, Alabama and Florida, instead of entering the field as rivals to this State, in the production of naval stores, will turn their attention to cotton, and thus the supply be brought clearly within the demand.

Why the knowing ones calculate with so much confidence upon the conclusion of peace, we are unable to say. Some weeks since we stated, upon the authority of a gentleman of high standing, then in Europe, that the probabilities, if not the certainties, were in favor of the conclusion of peace at an early period. Much as we relied upon the judgment of our correspondent, and upon his opportunities for obtaining accurate information, we still could not help thinking that there must be some mistake about the matter, because we could not believe that either of the contending parties had yet been brought to that point at which peace had become an imperative necessity. Nor, even now, do things look as if that point had been reached.

We notice that one of the London papers, said to be high in the confidence of a leading member of the British Cabinet, calls loudly upon Denmark to join in enforcing the terms of the allies upon Russia, so that Europe may be at peace, and free to take action for compelling the United States to recede from her position in reference to the Sound Dues, and force her to accede to the policy, in that respect, to be agreed upon by a European conference. The evident inference, from the tone of the British ministerial journals, is that the allies, were their hands united by the necessities of the contest in which they are engaged, would be quite willing to take upon themselves the regulation and settlement of other matters, in which the United States appears as a party; and yet, with such givings-out, official, semi-official and popular, the British press affords surprise at the cold, if not unfriendly tone manifested by the people of this country towards the Western alliance, in its efforts to humble the pride of Russia and to establish for itself a virtual dictatorship in European affairs, with an ultimate extension of such dictatorial spirit to matters involving the rights and interests of the United States.

CONGRESS.—We notice very little of any importance in either House of Congress, several private Bills were introduced in the Senate, and considerable discussion had over a resolution introduced by Mr. Hunter of Virginia, instructing the Committee on Finance to prepare, and report such of the general appropriation bills as they deem expedient. This resolution seems to have been generally supported by the States' Rights Senators, and opposed by the anti-States' Rights. The latter took the ground that because, constitutionally, revenue bills could not originate in the Senate, in which the smaller States had an equal influence with the larger. This view was warmly combated by the Democrats.

In the House, notice was given of a bill to repeal the act authorizing the navy board; a resolution was passed as usual authorizing the Speaker to appoint the Standing Committees. An ineffectual attempt was made to elect a Printer.

KANSAS.—We are indebted to the courtesy of a friend for a very enticing specimen of the products of the new Territory, in the shape of some fine Buffalo steaks, from the prairies of that far western land. We feel almost like going out where such things grow about on four legs.

The Herald will see, on examination, that the failure of Messrs. Aiken and Banks to vote, does not meet the case of a similar failure on the part of Mr. Fuller, as the former gentlemen were candidates and could not vote for themselves without indecency, and he was expected to vote against themselves in opposition to their friends. No such considerations exist in the case of Mr. Fuller.

Mr. Whitfield, the "law and order" pro-slavery delegate from Kansas, has been sworn in. Mr. Reeder will contest his seat. An election of Commissioners, for the town of Clinton, was held in that place, on the 2nd instant, and resulted in the choice of James A. Moore, Richard C. Holmes, L. C. Hubbard, T. J. Boykin and John C. Carroll. The following analysis of the vote for the Speakership will be found, we believe, correct. We have separated the Abolition K. N.'s from those Black Republicans who were elected as such, and who, in reference to their sentiments on the K. N. question, for convenience of classification and in order to show what Know-Nothingism has done for the country and for the South. Pure Abolitionism has but 27 representatives, while Know-Nothingism has brought eighty Free-Soilers into the House.—South Side Democrat.

Controversialists, and especially political controversialists, seem very much inclined to see things differently at different times, as may suit the particular object they may have in view at any particular period. Thus, it sometimes suits the new order to declaim with great emphasis over the immense influx of foreigners, and to arouse the jealousy and suspicion of the citizens of native birth with reference to the risk they run of being overtaken by those of foreign birth, and in pursuance of this object the foreign population of the country has been swelled to fabulous and impossible dimensions by excited orators, pamphleteers and editors, anything over five millions being put down as quite a close approximation to the numbers of that class of population. Again, at another time it becomes an object to show how disadvantageously persons of foreign birth compare with others in a moral point of view, and, in order to show this, it is, of course, desirable to make it appear that the number of convictions among that class of population are supplied by a very small relative number—one-tenth of the native population, and, therefore, while endeavoring to enforce this view of the subject, we find the foreign population immensely shrunk in dimensions, away down to one half, or less than one-half, of that previously asserted, when the object was to hold it up as a cause for dread and apprehension.

As regards foreign paupers and criminals, no people would more gladly hail any legislation that would put a stop to them, than would those opposed to proscription measures. But the professional thieves of Europe who come over here, care nothing for political or legal rights, because they are in a state of antagonism to all law, and the mere denial of political rights could not operate to restrain them while it would bear hardly upon the meritorious and deserving who do attach a value to such.

The New York Herald seems to have found out that the Know-Nothing Order won't do, and in its recent issues pitches into the self-styled "National" members from the North. It plainly intimates that the Democratic party is the only one having any claim to nationality. The Southern members of the order must now see that the order, as an order, has become perfectly sectional. On the final vote for Speaker, the Southern Know-Nothings, or "Americans," voted with the Democrats, with a very slight exception, while not a single member of the order from the North was found standing by their side. And they—the Northern Know-Nothings—had no excuse, for Governor Aiken was not an administration man, nor even a member of the caucus. Indeed, it was even bragged that in taking him up, the Democrats—the "seventy-four"—had been driven from their position of uncomplimentary antagonism to Know-Nothingism, and yet, not a single Know-Nothing from the North voted for him, although the votes thrown away upon Mr. Fuller would have elected Mr. Aiken, and given us a national man instead of an abolitionist for Speaker.

Developments go to show that the election of Banks as Speaker, was the result of sneaking trickery. On Friday, Messrs. Whitney, Volk, Brown, &c., "National Americans" from the North, voted for Mr. Aiken to be Speaker. On Saturday, these same gentlemen, with Davis, of Maryland, voted for Fuller, and thereby really for Banks—showing that the movement of the day before was intended to throw dust in the eyes of the Democrats. The Washington Star says that it is generally believed that if the votes of Whitney, Volk, Brown, &c., had been necessary to the final trial to secure the election of Mr. Banks, he would have received them; their purpose of creating the impression at the South that the Simons Know-Nothings of the North were disposed to stand by the right of the slave-holding States, having, as they thought, been secured by their act of so long preventing an organization, under the pretense of indisposition to drill under the command of Mr. Giddings.—Richmond Enquirer.

The United States and Nicaragua.—Mr. Marcy's instructions to Mr. Wheeler.

A letter of instructions from Mr. Marcy to Mr. Wheeler, the United States Charge d'Affaires to Nicaragua, in regard to the course which he is to pursue towards the government of that State, has been made public. It is dated November 8, 1855, and among other things says:

The miserable condition of Nicaragua is much to be regretted and deplored, and it is the duty of the United States to endeavor to improve it. While adhering to our settled policy of abstention to every nation the management of its own internal affairs, we have important duties to perform in regard to our citizens who may be resident within or passing through its territories. The recent murders and outrages committed upon them in the State of Nicaragua must be atoned for by the authorities of that country. The perpetrators of these crimes must be punished, and the families of the murdered be provided for. Whenever that country has a respectable government, a due measure of satisfaction will be demanded. In the present condition of affairs there it is difficult to decide who has the responsible government which the demand for satisfaction can be made. It appears that a band of foreign adventurers has invaded that unhappy country, which, after gaining recruits from among the natives, has by violence, overturned the existing government, and now pretends to be in possession of sovereign authority. The knowledge we have of their proceedings does not authorize the President to recognize it as the de facto government of Nicaragua, and he cannot hold or permit you to hold in your official character any political intercourse with the persons now claiming to exercise the sovereign authority of that State. It appears to be no more than a violent usurpation of power brought about by an irregular, self-organized military force, as yet un sanctioned by the will or acquiescence of the people of Nicaragua. It has more the appearance of a successful marauding expedition than a change of government rulers.

Should the mass of the people of Nicaragua be unwilling or unable to repel this inroad or shake off this usurpation, and ultimately submit to its rule, then it may become de facto a government, and responsible for the outrages which have been committed upon the rights and persons of American citizens.—Then the Government will demand and exact ample indemnity and satisfaction from it. The President instructs you to abstain from any official intercourse with the persons now exercising a temporary control over some parts of Nicaragua. In such a dubious state of affairs you cannot be expected to act in your official character until you receive instructions from your Government, but you will be entitled to all the immunities of a Minister if you do not act to forfeit them. You will remain in the country and keep your government well advised of the actual condition of affairs therein. You will observe great circumspection in your conduct. You cannot retain a right to the privileges of a Minister if you intermeddle in the concerns of any of the parties. The Secretary further says: Orders have been issued for some public ships to visit the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of Nicaragua.—They will have instructions to look to and protect the persons and property of our citizens, but there should be no apprehensions as to the extent to which they have a right to interpose. The commanders of such ships have no right, except in extraordinary cases, to send forces to operate on land, and in no case could they be permitted to take part in the conflicts of the contending parties within the limits of the country. They can, and should, protect our merchant vessels from illegal seizure and pillage, and afford an asylum for our citizens who wish to escape from scenes of violence and bloodshed and secure a depository for their property.

The Washington Sentinel says, that the ceremony of swearing in the Speaker was performed by Mr. Giddings, who "looked as if he soiled all the old negro martyrs and young negro babies were infused into him." The Panama railroad is in a fine working condition and its business is constantly increasing. A train of eight cars came across on the 17th instant, loaded with silver. The amount of \$1,800,000 was received at Panama per H. B. M. ship of war Brian, from Mexico, and was sent for England.

Gov. Ligon and the Secret Organization. House of Delegates, January 22d, 1856. To His Excellency the Governor of Maryland: Sir—The select committee appointed to consider that portion of your Excellency's message which relates to secret political societies, have the honor to enclose to you a copy of the resolutions adopted by the House of Delegates, and respectfully ask from you such a judicious process in reference to the same, as may be deemed proper.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your Excellency's obedient servant, A. KENNEDY, Chairman. The following is the reply of the Governor to the above: EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT. Annapolis, Md., Jan. 23d, 1856. Hon. A. Kennedy, Chairman of the Select Committee to whom was referred so much of the Message of the Executive, as related to Secret Political Societies. Sir:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 22d instant, enclosing a copy of the resolutions of the House of Delegates, of the 10th instant, and requesting, in compliance with one of the said resolutions, that you would designate to the committee such information as I may possess touching the existence of secret political societies in this State, and of the nature and character of the secrets they preserve. That I may occasion you no delay in entering upon the discharge of the duty imposed upon you by the House of Delegates, I hasten to make you a prompt reply.

I beg leave, in the first place, to express to the Committee my sincere gratification that the popular branch of the Legislature has seen fit thus promptly to respond to this portion of my message, and to institute an investigation relative to the matters therein briefly considered. The subject is one of great political, in every point of view, affecting most deeply the honor of the State, as well as the peace and good order of society, and unquestionably demands at your hands the most rigid and thorough examination.

I sincerely hope that no time may be lost, and no proper effort spared in eliciting the truth in relation to the subject matter of the proposed inquiry. I regret to perceive, from the language of the resolutions of the House, as well as from the debate to which they gave rise, that some misapprehension seemed to exist in the minds of some of the members of the House of Delegates as to the particular societies intended to be embraced in that part of the message referred to your committee. The existence of secret political combinations in our own and other States has for some time occupied a large share of public attention, and has become a matter of such public notoriety that, with my clear and decided convictions of their dangerous tendencies, I felt it my imperative duty, as Executive of the State, to bring to the notice of the Legislature, and through that body to the people of the State, the opinions entertained by me of the policy of encouraging associations of such a political character, so pregnant of mischief to the common weal.

I thought the language employed for the purpose free from all ambiguity; it was certainly intended so to be; and I was much surprised at finding myself misunderstood as I was at learning that the fact of the existence of such societies was any longer a matter of doubt or uncertainty. I hope, however, that in this communication I may be more fortunate, and that your committee may be at no loss to discover to what political societies I referred, or the purposes for which it is alleged they were instituted.

I intended in the part of the message referred to your committee respectfully to call the attention of the representatives of the people to the fact of the existence of any and all secret political societies or combinations; and to express the opinion that, in my judgment, such associations of themselves are calculated to produce great evil, and are inconsistent with, and injurious to, the healthful action of Republican institutions; and that the purpose of such societies is to reduce a large portion of the people to the condition of a slavish submission to their secret edicts and decrees, and to exclude from all honorable preferment the Catholic and the naturalized citizen, because Catholic and a naturalized citizen, they become dangerous in the extreme, and should awaken the deep solicitude of every true American in the State.

An credibly informed by a large number of citizens, in their opinion and belief, they exist now within this State numerous societies of a secret character, whose object and purpose is to prevent the election or appointment to office of any person belonging to the Roman Catholic Church, or who is not a native-born citizen of the United States; and in that such secret associations, councils or lodges, and the objects and obligations administered to effect this object.

The existence of such unlawful combinations throughout the State has been repeatedly charged in the Congress of the United States, in the Legislatures of one or more of the States, and by a large portion of the press and people in every section of the country. The fact is moreover evidenced by disclosures made in the Legislature of a sister State, and by many members of the "Order," who, having seen thoughtlessly and innocently drawn into it, and being unable to resist, have, in the face of the law, answered the suggestions of conscience by abjuring the oaths and obligations therein illegally administered.

With you, gentlemen, abides, under the sanction of the House of Delegates, the power of ascertaining the truth or falsity of these serious allegations. I am powerless, in the premises, beyond the making known to you what I fear and believe in regard to them. You, however, in the exercise of the power, conferred upon you to send for persons and papers, and to examine witnesses under oath, and to receive the evidence of secret societies, and the ends they propose to accomplish, may bring before you the living witnesses, and the record proof which can effectually set at rest the questions at issue. It will give me great pleasure to facilitate, by all the means in my power, the objects for which your committee was raised; and in compliance with the request in your note of yesterday, I respectfully request that you take means to procure copies of the following papers, entitled as follows, viz: "The Constitution of the National Council of the United States of North America," and the accompanying "Constitution for the government of subordinate Councils," "The Constitution of the North Carolina State Council, adopted January 18th, 1855," an address adopted in the State Council of North Carolina, in relation to the meeting held at Charleston, August 14th, 1855—copies of which papers, I regret, I have not at hand to lay before you. I have no doubt, however, the committee will be able, if they desire it, to procure them.

I would further respectfully suggest that you summon before you the delegates from this State, to the Convention, said to have been held at the City of Cincinnati about the close of the year 1854, and the delegates from this State to the National Council held at the city of Philadelphia in the month of June last. This last body, whose proceedings are said to have been conducted in secret, issued what purports to be a platform of principles, to which I would respectfully refer you. I do so, because in the 8th section of said publication, the policy of the Roman Catholic Church in our country is denounced as aggressive, and an organized political resistance to the existence of the Catholic faith plainly indicated and encouraged, thus introducing "religious issues into the field of political agitation."

The 15th section of this platform declares "that all the principles of the order shall be henceforth everywhere openly avowed and that each member shall be at liberty to make known the existence of the order, and the fact that he himself is a member; and recommends that there be no concealment of the place of meeting of subordinate Councils." Here we have the most conclusive proof that to the date of the publication of this platform everything connected with the "order" was a matter of secrecy; its members bound to conceal its existence, and their connection with it; and from the specific statement above quoted of what its members are now "at liberty" to reveal, the conclusion is inevitable that there is still left, that which they are not allowed to disclose to the uninitiated.

I further suggest that you summon before you such persons of respectability as are now known to have been connected with the order, and also others who are members of the same, and that you seek to have produced before you the secret work or ritual of any secret political order, as may be in the possession of any State or subordinate Council in this State, or of any agent or officer of the same. Should your inquiries result, as I trust they may, in satisfying the public mind that there are no such

secret political combinations, or that no oath, obligations, or pledges are administered in such councils, and to the prejudice of any class of American citizens, and that there does not exist any design or purpose in such societies to "trouble, molest or discountenance," or to exclude from preferment, or office any citizen in consequence of the religion he professes, or the place of his nativity, no one will be more pleased than myself, and no one will be more anxious to see that justice has been done to a large class of our people. If, however, the proofs adduced before your committee shall conclusively establish that secret political councils have been organized among us for the purposes and designs attributed to them, I humbly conceive that there can be little or no diversity of opinion as to their tendency to subvert "our well established and dearly cherished principles of our government. The Constitution degrades no man, either on account of his place of birth, or his religious opinions, but equally covers every citizen of the State, of whatever faith, or wheresoever born, with its protecting shield. And if it shall be made to appear that in such of these political councils, as may be shown to exist, oaths or pledges are administered for the purpose of qualifying or restraining the exercise of the right of suffrage, in any manner unauthorized, or unwarranted by the Constitution, it will be for you and those you represent, to determine how far such obligations shall be allowed to conflict with the constitutional obligations of the citizens to the State, and to apply the remedy which such a condition of things may require.

It might be well to consider, that while this matter is undergoing consideration, whether this existence of such a secret order, may not have led in some instances to pre-determined obstruction of the polls, resulting in violence and disorder, and the exclusion of the legal votes of orderly and disposed citizens; for it is one of the most imperative of the duties of the State to throw around electors of every class, whether native or adopted, every possible means of protection against any and all combinations, secret or open, that will seek to deprive them of the exercise of their right of voting, and thus impede the free course of the only legitimate means of obtaining a fair expression of the public mind. A willful and deliberate obstruction of the polls is a crime against the State, which in view of its consequences, assumes a degree of enormity to which it is difficult to affix a limit, and the Legislature can scarcely be too rigid in the infliction of punishment upon those who may be found guilty of such an offence, and who, in violation of the State and the right of the individual citizen, it should at least be declared a felony, and punished accordingly. I hope, whatever may be the result of your present investigation, that you commend such action to the favorable notice of the Legislature, in order that henceforth any hindrance or obstruction whatsoever with intent to prevent a voter from depositing his ballot shall be punished with due severity.

I have, thus, sir, in the midst of unusual and constant interruptions, (not wishing to detain you from the work before you by any delay on my part,) hastily thrown together these few suggestions in compliance with the request contained in your note to which this is a reply. I might have forbore to do more than to reiterate here the language of my communication to the Legislature at the opening of the session, as containing all I desired to say in the premises; but in conformity with the wish expressed in your note, and the accompanying resolution of the House of Delegates, I thought it well to point out the way in which, in my opinion the truth might be reached. I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant, T. WATKINS LIGON.

LATEST FROM LIBERIA.—The New York Colonization Society has advised from Liberia to the close of November. Every thing was going on favorably in that new Republic.

The papers give an interesting account of President Roberts' last official visit to the several towns. At Buchanan he was received with all honors due to his high station. The Young Men's Literary Association invited the President to a public dinner, on which occasion an address was delivered to him by Mr. Charles Pitman, a native youth, who received his education in New York, and was named after the late Rev. Charles Pitman, for some years corresponding secretary of the Methodist Missionary Society. The president responded in a most interesting speech. The Rev. Mr. James, principal of the preparatory school, writes from Monrovia, November 23d, that the schools are doing well. A school for young girls has been opened by Miss Caroline M. Brown, lately from the United States.

President Benson has resolved to serve but one term of two years. He raised on his farm during the past year about 10,000 lbs. of coffee. LATEST FROM HAITI.—Military Executions by the Emperor.—The Baltimore Sun says:—By the arrival of the General Taylor at New York we have learned from Haiti that on the 1st of January, 1856, in respect to the political and commercial condition of the capital a correspondent of the New York Post writes as follows: PORT AU PRINCE, Jan. 6, 1856.

In respect to political matters, I hardly know what to write you, but the feeling seems to be much stronger that we are to have no revolution at present. The North and the South appear to be perfectly quiet, and as to this place, there is not the least sign of interesting news. The report is said to be not at the Cape, though, in no very long time, we expect him to come to Port au Prince, and then finally to close the campaign—at least we hope so, and in that case business will immediately revive all over the country, and consumption and sales be resumed. There has been quite a number of military executions in the army. Among others, Gen. Toussaint Gen. Canisteo, and Jerome, and another General from the Cape. The two are said to have been traitors to the Government, and to have been on intimate terms with some of the leaders of the Eastern people during several years past. Several officers of inferior grade have also been executed. The arrivals of the Milton, John Boynton, Dagon, Croton and Kereson—all to commence discharging to-morrow—have filled (or rather will fill) the place to overflowing with provisions. It is useless to quote prices as they will be unsettled and falling from day to day, and there are no sales except for immediate consumption.

RELIGIOUS PROGRESS IN THE UNITED STATES.—The Rev. Dr. Baird has published a pamphlet entitled "The State and Prospects of Religion in America," by Robert Baird. It contains the substance of a report that was made at the Conference of the Evangelical Alliance in Paris, some months since. Many interesting facts are related, and in relation to religion in the progress of the country generally. In 1850, the entire number of church edifices in the United States was no less than 38,183. The total value was \$87,446,371. The accommodations were ample for 14,270,139 persons. It is believed that the condition of affairs at the present time is equally favorable. But, according to Dr. Baird, the gospel is preached not only in church edifices, but also in many thousands of other places, such as court-houses, schools, and in the halls of village fairs. It is often preached in summer in the forests of the far West. Thus, it may be fairly estimated that the principles of Christianity are disseminated, if not every week, yet from time to time in at least one hundred thousand places every year throughout the United States. The census of 1850 reports the number of regular Ministers of the Gospel to be 27,842. The very low estimate, making the number more than 35,000. According to the census just referred to, the Methodist Church, comprehending all its branches, had church edifices which were worth \$14,826,148, and accommodated 4,354,101 persons. The Baptist Church, or Denomination, had church edifices that were worth \$11,001,127, and accommodated 3,245,850 persons. The Episcopal Church had church edifices of the value of \$11,384,210, and that accommodated 644,598 persons. The Congregational Denomination had church edifices that were worth \$7,970,196, and accommodated 801,835 persons. The Lutheran Church had church edifices to the amount of \$2,854,286, and that accommodated 535,180 persons. The Roman Catholic had church edifices that were worth \$3,256,738, and accommodated 1,075,721 persons. The Unitarians, Universalists, Swedenborgians, and some other sects, had church edifices which were worth \$5,911,294, and accommodated 661,487 persons.

Producing Sent Off. Happening in the office of the Railroad Station at this place on Wednesday last, we concluded to look and see the amount of flour, wheat and corn, that had been carried from the Station here, since the road was completed to this place, Dec. 23, 1855. The result of our investigation is as follows:

Norfolk	.....	barrels,	390
Wilmington	.....	"	129
Goldboro	.....	"	10
Raleigh	.....	"	69
Total	.....	"	638
WHEAT.			
Wilmington	.....	bushels,	522
Petersburg	.....	"	176
Total	.....	"	698
CORN.			
Wilmington	.....	"	522

The weather has been so inclement since the road reached here, that it has been difficult to haul produce to the Station. We suppose a much larger amount of Guilford produce has been sent off from Gibsonville, as the road was completed to that place before the severe weather set in. Nearly all the grocery goods that have been brought to this place on the Railroad since its completion, were either purchased in Wilmington, or received from the North through that port. We are unable to say to what port the merchants in this part of the country will ship their goods. We suppose that, having "a good deal of human nature" in them, they will send their goods by whatever route they can get them here in the shortest time and for the least money. [Greensboro Patriot.] DEATH IN A BALL ROOM.—We learn that a melancholy affair occurred on Thursday, the 3d inst., at Greensboro, in St. Charles county, in this State. Mrs. Mahala Taggart, daughter of Squire Green, while in the midst of an assembly of ladies and gentlemen, engaged in a social promenade, exhibited some signs of indisposition, and requested a sister of hers to take her place in the set in which she was engaged, while she warmed herself. She immediately went to a settee near the stove, and sat down, while the company, observing nothing extraordinary, continued their conversation. A few minutes after one of the company, approaching her, found to her indescribable horror the young lady a corpse! She was thought to be in good health, and we have heard no reason assigned as the cause of her death.—St. Louis News.

Beginnings of the National Debt of Great Britain.—The following is an extract from Macaulay's well known volumes of the History of England: It was about the year 1668 that the world stock-jobber was first heard in London. In the short space of four years a crowd of adventurers, every one of which held out to subscribers the hope of immense gains, sprang into existence: the Insurance Company, the Paper Company, the Lutescent Company, the Pearl Fishery Company, the Glass Bottle Company, the Alum Company, the Blythe Coal Company, the Sword-blade Company. There was a Tapestry Company, which would soon furnish pretty hangings for all the parlors of the middle class; and there was a bell chamber, which proposed to explore the mines of England, and held out a hope that they would prove not less valuable than those of Potosi. There was a Diving Company which undertook to bring up precious effects from shipwrecked vessels, and which announced that it had laid in a stock of wonderful machines, resembling complete suits of armor. In front of the helmet was a huge glass eye like that of an alchemist, and a great crest came out of the top of the helmet, and held out a pipe through which the air was to be admitted.

The whole process was exhibited on the Thames. Fine gentlemen and fine ladies were invited to the show, were hospitably regaled, and were delighted by seeing the divers in their panoply descend into the river and return laden with old iron and ships' tackle. There was a Greenland Fishing Company, which could not fail to drive the Dutch Whalers and herring bussers out of the North Sea. There was a Tobacco Company which promised to furnish herring superior to the best that was brought from Turkey or Russia. There was a society which undertook the office of giving gentlemen a liberal education on low terms, and which assumed the sounding name of the Royal Academies Company. In a pompous advertisement it was announced that the directors of the Royal Academies Company had met, and had resolved to issue twenty thousand tickets at twenty shillings each.

There was to be a lottery; two thousand prizes were to be drawn; and the fortunate holders of the prize were to be taught, at the charge of the Company, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, French, Spanish, conic sections, trigonometry, heraldry, jappanning, fortification, book-keeping, and the art of playing on the theorbo. Nonconformists, clergymen took large numbers of shares, and printed their advertisements in gilded letters. Others, less ostentatious, were content with ink, and met at coffee houses in the neighborhood of the Royal Exchange. Jonathan's and Garraway's were in a constant ferment with brokers, buyers, sellers, meetings of directors, meetings of proprietors. Time bargains soon came into fashion. Extensive combinations were formed, and monstrous fables were circulated, for the purpose of raising or depressing the price of shares.

Our countrymen witnessed for the first time those phenomena with which a long experience has made us familiar. A mania, of which the symptoms were essentially the same with those of the mania of 1720, of the mania of 1825, of the mania of 1845, seized the public mind. An impatience to be rich, a contempt for those slow but sure gains which are the proper reward of industry, patience and thrifts spread throughout society. The spirit of the clogging districts of Whitechapel possessed the minds of the great numbers of the City, Wardens of Trades, Deputies, Aldermen. It was much easier and more lucrative to put forth a lying prospectus announcing a new stock, to persuade ignorant people that the dividends could not fall short of twenty per cent, and to part with five thousand pounds of this imaginary wealth for a ten thousand solid guineas, than to load a ship with a well chosen cargo for Virginia or the Levant. Every day some new bubble was puffed into existence, rose buoyant, bright, burst, and was forgotten.

The new form which covetousness had taken furnished the comic poets and satirists with an excellent subject; nor was that subject less welcome to them because some of the most unscrupulous and most successful of the new race of gamblers were men in sad colored clothes and Janes who were called cards the Devil's boys, and men who threw a sin and a second chance to win or to lose twopence over a backgammon board. It was in the last drama of the Spectator, that the hypocrisy and knavery of these speculators was, for the first time, exposed to public ridicule. He died in November, 1692, just before the Stockjobbers came on the stage; and the epilogue was spoken by an actor dressed in deep mourning. The best scene is that of four or five stockjobbers, clad in the full purple of the moment, after discussing the prospects of the Mousetramp Company and the Fiskilling Company, examine the question whether the godly may lawfully hold stock in a company for bringing over Chinese rope-dancers. "Considerable men have shares," says one austere person in cropped hair and bands; "but verily I question whether it be lawful or not."

These doubts are removed by a stout old Roundhead, who can do the whole, and who reminds his weaker brother that the saints need not themselves see the rope-dancing, and that, in all probability, there will be no rope-dancing to see. "The thing," he says, "is like to take; the shares will sell well; and then we shall not care whether the dancers come over or no." It is important to observe that this scene was exhibited and applauded before one farthing of the national debt had been contracted. So ill informed were the numbers of writers who, at a later period, ascribed to the national debt the existence of stockjobbing, and of all the immoralities connected with stockjobbing. The truth is, that society had, in the natural course of its growth, reached a point at which it was inevitable that there should be stockjobbing whether there were a national debt or not, and inevitable also, that if there were a long and costly war, there should be a national debt.

RELIGIOUS PROGRESS IN THE UNITED STATES.—The Rev. Dr. Baird has published a pamphlet entitled "The State and Prospects of Religion in America," by Robert Baird. It contains the substance of a report that was made at the Conference of the Evangelical Alliance in Paris, some months since. Many interesting facts are related, and in relation to religion in the progress of the country generally. In 1850, the entire number of church edifices in the United States was no less than 38,183. The total value was \$87,446,371. The accommodations were ample for 14,270,139 persons. It is believed that the condition of affairs at the present time is equally favorable. But, according to Dr. Baird, the gospel is preached not only in church edifices, but also in many thousands of other places, such as court-houses, schools, and in the halls of village fairs. It is often preached in summer in the forests of the far West. Thus, it may be fairly estimated that the principles of Christianity are disseminated, if not every week, yet from time to time in at least one hundred thousand places every year throughout the United States. The census of 1850 reports the number of regular Ministers of the Gospel to be 27,842. The very low estimate, making the number more than 35,000. According to the census just referred to, the Methodist Church, comprehending all its branches, had church edifices which were worth \$14,826,148, and accommodated 4,354,101 persons. The Baptist Church, or Denomination, had church edifices that were worth \$11,001,127, and accommodated 3,245,850 persons. The Episcopal Church had church edifices of the value of \$11,384,210, and that accommodated 644,598 persons. The Congregational Denomination had church edifices that were worth \$7,970,196, and accommodated 801,835 persons. The Lutheran Church had church edifices to the amount of \$2,854,286, and that accommodated 535,180 persons. The Roman Catholic had church edifices that were worth \$3,256,738, and accommodated 1,075,721 persons. The Unitarians, Universalists, Swedenborgians, and some other sects, had church edifices which were worth \$5,911,294, and accommodated 661,487 persons.

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The following horizontal musings of a loafing tippler deserve to be recorded. Hear him wall: "Leaves her hair parting to fall, And so likewise have I, And the reason 's the same—It comes of our getting dry. But her hair 's parted and me: I fall 's more harder; and more frequent."

Arrival of the Steamer Persia.—One Week Later. New York, Feb. 9.—The new Cunard steamer Persia arrived here at about half past 9 this morning, with seven days later European dates. The Collins steamer Pacific sailed on the 23d January. The screw steamer Belgique sailed on her appointed day, but was compelled to put back in consequence of a leak. The Arago arrived at Southampton on the 25th inst. Peace negotiations are apparently progressing. It will be some days yet ere the preliminaries are signed, but the Czar has ordered Gortschakoff to suspend hostilities. Messrs. Kelly and Gilmour, of Manchester, have failed.

The chances in favor of a speedy pacific settlement of the war are on the increase. Russia's sincerity is as much questioned as formerly, but appearances are fair and straightforward. The Czar has ordered the Crimean army to cease hostile operations, without waiting for a formal armistice, although it is rumored that an armistice has been agreed upon for three months. France, England and Austria continue to accord, although it is foreseen that grave questions must arise during the negotiation. No place of meeting is yet decided upon. The day of the Persia's departure, says it will certainly be in Paris or London. The despatch, however, is of doubtful authenticity. It also states that Baron Brunrod will be the Russian plenipotentiary. It will be February 2d, at least, before all the preliminary signatures are appended to the agreement to meet.

In the meantime consols keep up. They had reached 91, but closed at 90 1/2 a 100. Money was lightly easier, but the rates were unchanged. The American ships Horizon, Independence and Mary Green have been lost. FURTHER PARTICULARS.—The subjoined special despatch appears in the Baltimore Patriot of last Saturday evening: NEW YORK, 9—A. M.—The steamer Persia has arrived with seven days later advices from all parts of Europe. She is claimed by unusually rough and heavy weather, but not the steady, clearly indicating that she is capable of crossing the Atlantic in eight days, probably less time.

No tidings had been heard of the Collins steamer Pacific, now over due and out eighteen days. It is presumed that she has experienced unusually rough weather. The political news presents no specially new feature, except that prospects of eventual peace are much more encouraging. The Czar has ordered hostilities to cease upon the part of his troops, and an armistice was about being proclaimed, in order to await the result of pending negotiations. The general impression prevails, as well throughout Russia as in France and England, that peace may be the result of this movement, though probably not before spring. Austria and Prussia remain in the same relationship to other powers that they did heretofore.

Predictions of Emperor Nicholas in 1849. The Indianapolis Journal gives the following extract from a lecture given by Hon. H. W. Elsewhere, formerly of this city, into Minister to Sweden, being the language of the Emperor of Russia used in an interview with the lecturer: "Sir," said the Emperor Nicholas, in a memorable diplomatic interview between him and your speaker, during those recent revolutions that struck down Hungary, remodelled France, and broke the bond of union between Denmark and her revolted Dons, causing nearly every monarch to tremble for his throne. I will not calmly all this agitation, Russia is untouched,