

From the Temperance Advocate.
The following article was kindly furnished by a distinguished gentleman, who feels a warm interest in the benevolent cause to which it refers. It is certainly a matter of importance, that it should be known throughout the State, that our Legislature has made provision for the education of those children of affliction among us, from whose sightless orbs the light of Heaven has been shut out, and who, without a course of education adapted to their peculiar wants, must pursue a dark and cheerless path through life. We would respectfully, but earnestly request our brother Editors throughout the State, to bring this subject to the notice of their respective readers. It may be the means of bringing forward many of those objects of charity, for whose education our Legislature has kindly provided.—Ed. Adv.

EDUCATION OF THE BLIND IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

It is one of the characteristics of civilized governments, that they benevolently extend their aid, not only to the physical, but also to the intellectual and moral welfare of the destitute orphans the helpless cripple, the deaf and dumb, the halt and the blind. Our Legislature has passed, during its late session, an appropriation for the education of the blind; prompted to do so, by a lecture delivered in the Hall of the Representatives, by Dr. S. Howe, the distinguished founder and director of the Perkins Asylum for the Blind, near Boston. Dr. Howe was accompanied by two girls, born blind, whom he has entirely educated, and who exhibited to the assembled members of both Houses, the Governor, and other citizens, the skill and knowledge which may be acquired by the blind. They read and cyphered with ease and exactness; they wrote; played the piano, and showed themselves perfectly at home on the map—in a manner which seemed to cause universal surprise and emotion. The same pupils of this philanthropic teacher visited the day after the Library room, where many members of the Legislature conversed with them, and further convinced themselves of the substantial acquisitions obtained in Dr. Howe's institution.

The great object of Dr. Howe, is to link, by a thorough elementary knowledge, the unfortunate blind, to human society, to that all feeling of being lonely outcasts, may die in their breasts; of imparting to them such skill or knowledge, which will enable them at a future period to support themselves, be it as mechanics, as agriculturists, or teachers of other blind persons; and lastly, to give them that religious education, which will ensure to them, the lasting comforts of the love of that God, who is the father of the blind, as well as the seeing, of the bereaved as well as the happy.

We have repeatedly visited the Boston Asylum for the blind, and never left it without increased gratitude to Dr. Howe, for his perseverance, inexhaustible kindness, shrewd judgment, and self-sacrificing charity; for it ought to be known, that he derives no profit from the institution. He receives but a very limited salary, all the surplus of which, he spends again for the furtherance of his chosen cause. Thus, for instance, does he defray all the expenses of so costly a journey, with three persons, as his present one, from his private means.

Mr. Memminger, of the House of Representatives, immediately after the exhibition, gave notice, that he would move at the proper time, a division of the funds, granted for the education of the blind.—When, a few days after, he made the motion, it readily passed unanimously, so that now, from 8 to 10 blind children or youths of South Carolina, may annually be educated.

The Legislature has promptly done its duty, but we desire very distinctly, to impress upon every one of our readers, that, if the work rests here, it will, nevertheless be, as though nothing had been done.

The blind generally belong to the poorer classes, partly because they are more exposed to the uncheeked effects of those diseases which cause blindness; partly because the poorer classes are altogether the most numerous in this world of ours; and partly, because blindness very frequently runs by alternate generations in families, and thus, is sure to cause poverty. For, unless a man be actually wealthy, poverty is sure to be entailed upon his family, if he has four or five blind children, which is by no means a rare case. The poor, however, have necessarily but a very deficient acquaintance with the intercourse of men, the connexion of things, and the power of moral and natural checks. Distress is the natural consequence. Poor blind parents cannot be supposed at once to believe in the perfect safety, and kind treatment of their helpless blind child, if removed to the distance of a thousand miles. In addition, we ought to remember, that the destitute, having less opportunity for the cultivation of their intellect, are for more apt to sacrifice even substantial interests of their children, to that fond parental affection, which, if properly guided, is one of the truest sources of all that is good. Thus it is not rare to find parents in the poorer classes, who acknowledge all the advantages which their blind children would derive, from proper instruction, in an asylum for the blind, "yet" they will say "we cannot separate ourselves from those poor creatures." Most striking instances of this kind have come under our own observation.

We would, therefore, earnestly, and solemnly, call upon every reader of these lines, if he knows a blind child in his neighborhood, to do every thing in his power, to persuade the parents, that they will avail themselves of the bounty of our Legislature. Let us remember, that we may thus rescue a human being, an immortal being from illness, wretchedness, want and vice, ignorance and religious destitution, and procure for him, knowledge of God, light for the soul of him, that must wander in the darkness of the eye; cheerfulness and happiness for the unfortunate, (for, be it known, we have hardly ever seen a more cheerful community than the blind, at Dr. Howe's institution;) activity for him, who seemed doomed to inactivity; independence, while the degree of wretched dependence seemed irrevocably pronounced over him. We address ourselves, especially to all the members of the Legislature, thus to crown their work, and to the Clergy of the State, who have so detailed a knowledge of the circumstances in which the people live, and

who will at once acknowledge, that this species of charity and doing good, is one, most peculiarly belonging to their sacred sphere.

The Governor of the State, the Rev. Mr. Shand, in Columbia, and Mr. Memminger, in Charleston—the latter two Commissioners appointed by the Governor, under the act, are the proper persons to be addressed on any case that may offer itself. Not only does the State defray all the expenses of the blind pupil, while at the asylum, but the expenses of removal will likewise be defrayed by our government, and we feel sure, the travelling expenses for returning, not less so.

Here we dismiss the subject for the present, imploring assistance of Him, from whom light and darkness come, who makes the eye, the wonderful receptacle of light and in a moment smites it with perpetual night, but who demands of us, that while we bow to his inscrutable ways, we shall not idly allow ourselves to consider those, whom he thus deprives of what others enjoy in abundance, as outcasts, but, on the contrary, as objects of our peculiar solicitude, love and ingenuity.

Alabama.—Extract from the inaugural address of Governor Fitzpatrick:

"The present time is pregnant with admonitions. The distribution of the net proceeds of the public lands; is but an attempt to buy up the States, and make them stipendiaries of the General Government, under a fund wrung from the labor of their own citizens, and under the flagitious assumption that the power to distribute does not involve the necessity of taxation to an equivalent amount. He must be blind to the nature of human action, who does not see in this scheme of distribution, a portion of the public revenue, an artfully devised plan of assuming to that extent the State debts, throwing the whole burden of supporting the Federal Government upon impost duties, and of receiving an unconstitutional protective tariff. In principle, it is liable to all the constitutional objections of appropriating federal money to local objects, while in practice it will lead to the greatest profligacy and corruption in the State Governments, by causing them to look to the Federal Government as the great almoner, who at all times stands ready to replenish their wastefully exhausted coffers.

"If to this picture of Federal aggrandizement and State and popular degradation, be added the reunion of Bank power in the hideous form of another unconstitutional United States Bank, the advocates of implied and constructive powers will have succeeded in giving the finishing touch to our institutions, by engraving on them all the usurpations which they have so long and so laboriously struggled to effect. I have adverted to these topics not to increase the acrimony of party divisions, which already exist in the country, but in this distinct form to renew the pledges of my whole life, in opposition to principles which I honestly believe must end in the destruction of our State Governments, and the subversion of our Republican institutions."

The Currency.—Duty of the Grand Jury.—In the natural progress of reform, the demoralized paper system, with all its crimes and swindlings, falls into the hands of the criminal laws, and leads their perpetrators on the high way to the state prison.

This fact in moral philosophy has been most strikingly exemplified in Philadelphia. In a particular stage of its course, the managers of the United States Bank, after astounding both continents with their bold and reckless rogueries, have at length fallen from their "high and palmy" condition of princely bankers into that of criminals arraigned for their rogueries by a Grand Jury, and placed before the world on a level with the other thieves and robbers of the age.

This country can never recover its ancient tone of commercial morals, unless the Courts of Justice shall now perform their duties without flinching. The eyes of the whole world are upon the criminal courts of Philadelphia. If they swerve from the true line they will be execrated by the popular voice—by the voice of truth and honesty—and will soon share the fate of the atrocious bank that has disgraced the country and them.

We have hope, therefore, that under the whole, some action of public opinion, the criminal court of Philadelphia will deal out the same measure of justice to the rogues in rags, as to the rogues in rags. And while we express this sentiment in regard to Philadelphia, we would also call the attention of the Grand Jury to the efforts and operations of the shipplaster financiers in this city.

The gross and frequent violations of all law which these rogues perpetrate, come properly within the province of the Grand Jury. Can there be a greater nuisance to the great mass of the working people than the circulation of a vicious currency which is shaved for a few weeks and then palmed upon the people altogether? Who has forgotten the man who set about the notes of the Montreal Union Bank—those of the Bank of Bennington—those of the Susquehanna Bridge Co.—those of the Bank of Millington—those, in short, of the scores of broken banks? Did not the people suffer? And is not this a subject worthy of the Grand Jury?

At this very moment, the President of a broken bank in Florida, against which the legislature there has commenced proceedings, has the audacity, the shocking insolence to come to New York, appoint Moses Y. Beach his agent, and issue his broken bills upon the hard working people. Ought this insolence to be suffered to pass quietly away? We call, therefore, upon the Grand Jury of New York, to do their duty to the public—to aid in protecting the community from a vicious currency—and to present the whole batch of the shipplaster presidents and agents in one *bonne bouche* to the public.

This is the best way to put a stop to the further progress of a shipplaster currency.—N. Y. Herald.

Good.—A prisoner who had unexpectedly been acquitted of the charge for which he was arraigned before Judge Bowen, the other day, upon being informed that he was at liberty to go, turned to the jury, and with much feeling observed:

"Gentlemen of the jury; I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the decision just rendered—you will be ever remembered in my prayers to you, worthy, and I must say, *cruel friend*, (addressing himself to his counsel,) I wish it was in my power to double your fee; the feeling I entertain for you cannot be expressed by words; you are, indeed, the criminal's benefactor; to you, your honor, (addressing the Judge, who could scarcely suppress a smile,) I am everlastingly indebted; but all I can say to you, I promise you, upon my honor, now that I am free, that I will never be guilty of *stealing again* as long as I live."—St. Louis Bulletin.

Texas and France.—It is now ascertained that the difficulties between these two nations have not been removed, notwithstanding the plausible remarks of President Lamar in his message to the Texas Congress. In reply to a note from the Texas Charge d'Affaires at Paris, denouncing the recall of M. De Saligny, the French Government despatched an official letter abounding in very severe language, and refusing positively to accede to the request. The conduct of M. De Saligny was considered not only justifiable, but necessary; and much indignation was expressed at the proceedings of the Texas Cabinet. The French Government contends that reparation is due for the indignities to which its representative was subjected.

The accession of Gen. Houston to the Presidency of Texas, it is thought, will be the means of bringing about an amicable settlement of this difficulty.

NEW-ORLEANS, DEC. 14.

The Mexican News.—The Courier of last evening contains some details copied from Mexican papers, to 16th ult., received by the Virginia Antoinette, which are in confirmation of the news we have previously published. An other official account states that the Texian Santa Fe traders had been captured; that 12 wagons, 5 of which were filled with merchandise worth \$25,000, and the other 7 containing provisions and ammunition, were taken, with 200 stand of fire-arms, a piece of cannon, 70 horses and 70 oxen. This account states that the Mexicans were captured at the Lagoon of Colorado, in the middle of the plain of Estrecho, without a shot having been fired; they having surrendered at discretion, on the first summons from Lt. Col. Archuleta, having under him 230 men, the advance guard of Gen. Armijo's division. Lieut. Quintano had arrived at Chihuahua with a Texian Colonel, 3 Captains, a Doctor, and 2 boys. Capt. Laluzar also started with 182 other prisoners. It is stated in the papers, that an army of 3000 men had already marched from the Capitol for Texas; and that the whole force of the nation is to be set in motion, for the same destination, to be led on by President Santa Anna in person.—The Texian prisoners, if taken, as above represented, have probably ere this been put to the rack, or placed in the mines. If the former, will their fate be avenged? Or if the latter, how long will the friends of humanity permit them to remain there?—Bulletin.

NEW ORLEANS, DEC. 17.

From Yucatan.—The politeness of Mr. M. M. M., of the schooner Sylph, from Sisal, we are put in possession of dates from the city of Merida, to the 6th inst. At that time the Commissioners from Mexico (Quintana Roo) had just arrived with peace offering from his government at the head of which is the illustrious Santa Anna. It was impossible to divine what course the Yucatanians intended to pursue in the matter, there being two parties in the country—one for establishing their absolute independence, and the other for uniting with Mexico. The former comprises a large majority of the people, while the latter is composed of the aristocratic few with their monied influence; yet, it was generally believed that Yucatan, after the many protestations in favor of a separate and independent government, would not back out, but would send the commissioner home to his master.

Private letters from Mexico, received in Merida, mention the imprisonment of all the Texians belonging to the Santa Fe expedition.

The markets throughout Yucatan were glutted with foreign products while the productions of the country were scarce and in demand.

There were in the port of Sisal, two Spanish brigs for Havana—the barque Tennessee sailed on the 5th for New York. The brig Lucinda, Gladding, master, was entirely lost about 80 miles to the windward near Cape Cateche, in a severe norther—all hands saved, and were expected to arrive at Sisal in a few days.

The Sylph brings hemp and logwood.—Bulletin.

Republican Office, SAVANNAH, DEC. 19, 1841.

From Florida.—By the steamer Cincinnati, Capt. Smith, arrived on Saturday from Palatka, we learn that the expedition of Lieut. G. W. Patton to the head waters of the St. Johns, after an absence of ten days, returned to Fort Mellon on the 8th inst. The country South of Lake Harney was inundated and it was next to impossible to ascertain the true channel.—The consequence was that the canoes were frequently entangled amid intricacies from which it was difficult to liberate them. Lt. Patton examined several places, on two of which he discovered fields containing sweet potatoes, lima beans, peppers, &c. which the Indians had planted during the summer. The Indians, however, had left the islands, probably to join the forces of Sam Jones or Halleck Tustenogee.

We further learn that Lt. Col. Riley had arrived at Fort Pierce, and was daily expected by the land route to Fort Mellon.

Melancholy Occurrence.—We regret to record an accident which resulted in the death of a son of one of our citizens.—George Ash, about ten years of age, was playing on Wednesday evening, with another lad by the name of Clark on board one of the vessels near the Exchange dock, when they both accidentally fell overboard. Clark was rescued by the officers and crews of the ship Richmond, and brigs Augusta and Clinton. Young Ash sunk to rise no more. He was the son of

George A. Ash, Esq., whose sudden affliction commands the sincerest sympathy.—His body had not been recovered late last evening.—Savannah Georgian.

The Storm.—We mentioned yesterday that the Steamboat Belle, bound to New Haven, had been driven ashore during the severe storm on Thursday night. When the boat was near Throg's Point, the storm raged with such violence that her commander deemed it prudent to anchor.—The storm, however, increased, and the boat dragged her anchors, and finally went ashore on City Island, and soon filled with water. The passengers were landed in safety, and returned to this city in the American Eagle, which was despatched to their relief. The Belle is owned by Captain Peck and is a citizen of New York, and was purchased last spring for \$50,000, and it is said, she is not insured.

The following is communicated by a passenger.—We left New York at four and came to anchor under the lee of Hart's Island about six, on account of the violence of the storm. About ten it was discovered that the anchor dragged, and it was raised to cast in a new place. The cable soon parted, as did that of the second anchor. The machinery was then set in motion, but owing to the violence of the wind and the roughness of the sea, the tiller ropes gave way, and the boat was driven at the mercy of the winds, & went ashore at half past ten. She continued to withstand the most furious sea I ever witnessed until half past one, when she sprung a leak, and soon filled with water.

During the whole time the Captain acted with great coolness and discretion, and the crew with promptitude and vigor.—N. Y. Com. Adv. 18th inst.

Cotton Growers.—It is a fact, that the planters of the South raise entirely too much Cotton; yet they do not believe it.—The growth has outrun the consumption, the overstocked markets every where prove this assertion; as do the want of ability to consume the various articles of manufactures. Since the crisis of 1837, there has been throughout the world, a general and determined system of economy,—the times have changed, and the planters should change with them. Let them produce less Cotton, or else it will not be worth the trouble and cost of raising it at home or abroad. They still continue to plant as much as possible every year, and think that they will make up the deficiency in price, by an over quantity the next year; that a few more bales will have no effect upon the market, and thus every one goes on, stocking and glutting the markets, and making the staple almost valueless.

This is a wrong system, and it should be changed. The Cotton growers have the remedy in their hands and let them set about to correct the mistaken notion.—They should raise more provisions; provide for their own consumption, have plenty of all things around them, live as independent as possible, and then raise a small portion of Cotton for exportation. Great Britain will shortly have her East India possessions a Cotton growing country, and then where will be found a market for such a large amount of the staple as is produced in the United States? Under these circumstances, the planters need not anticipate a much higher price for Cotton than—Consider upon it well.—Hamburg Journal.

Matters of Course.—There are certain things in this world which have so uniformly turned out in the same way, that no body dreams of their resulting in any other. In short, they are set down as "matters of course"—that is, events have always happened from the same cause, or attended by the same circumstances, or produced the same effects. For example:

When a bank suspends specie payments, it is always done for the public good, as a matter of course.

If the said bank becomes irretrievably insolvent, and is forced to liquidate its affairs, the directors publish a card stating that the assets are amply sufficient to pay every thing as a matter of course.

When a man commits a murder, or a forgery, or runs away with his neighbor's wife, and is detected and tried, he is proved to be insane, as a matter of course.

When a man is detected in some act of unmitigated rascality, which must destroy his reputation forever, he requests the public to "suspend their opinion," as a matter of course.

When two locomotives come into collision on a railroad, destroying each other, knocking half a dozen cars to pieces, killing a dozen passengers, and wounding twice as many more, the public are promised full information concerning the same, as a matter of course.

When such information comes, if at all, it exculpates everybody from blame, as a matter of course.

When a young lady has had five or six offers of marriage, and having rejected them all, finds herself "turning the first corner," with a small chance for the future, she is generally satisfied that good husbands are not always coming along, as a matter of course.

When a quack medicine is invented, it is tremendously puff'd, as a matter of course.

But every body who believes one half that is stated of its wonderful virtues, gets egregiously humbugged, as a matter of course.

Every man of intelligence and common sense is a subscriber to a newspaper, and, if he is honest, he pays his subscription punctually, as a matter of course.—Boston Transcript.

From the Cultivator.

THE AGRICULTURAL ART.
We have received from the author, ARTHUR ST. JOHS, an essay with the above title, from which we make the following extract, which is all our limits will permit: "The pursuit of improvement is not visionary or trivial, has been sanctioned by the voice of time. It is far from being a speculation or a dream. The art of agriculture, well named the 'parent art,' is coeval with human civilization. So long as men roamed hither and yonder—living

in tents and removing wherever some green spot induced a stay, and had no fixed habitation, they were barbarians; but when they chose a place for a dwelling, and scattered a few grains of wheat for the purpose of harvesting, and procuring means of subsistence, they had made a step in the march of civilization. The eldest and the best Book assures us that the three first men were a gardener, a ploughman, and a grazier; if it be sincerely objected that the second was a murderer, let the reply be, that when he became such, he turned a builder. The art of agriculture will survive all sneering. It has received the commendation of the past, and as a celebrated writer has wittily remarked, 'if heraldry were guided by reason, a plow in a field arable would be the most noble and an ancient arms.' It is an art which can exist with the exclusion of all others. It has been compared to speech, without which society would be a dismal chaotic jumble; the other arts are the mere figures and trophies, in fact, only ornaments."

The Advertiser.

EDGEFIELD C. H.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1841.

We this day publish the remarks of the Hamburg Journal, and Mr. Shultz's own statement of his affairs. From the little knowledge we have of Mr. Shultz, we are inclined to think he has been badly treated, and although his exertion has built for him an everlasting monument in the thriving town of Hamburg, those whose hearts he has off made glad, are his persecutors, instead of his friends.

Theophilus Fisk, Esq., the late editor and publisher of "The Old Dominion," a democratic Journal of the first water, at Portsmouth, Va., is about establishing a weekly paper at Richmond Va.

Smuggling.—We see it stated in the Boston Atlas, that Mr. Dec, Inspector of the Customs of that port made a seizure of a large and valuable lot of Goods on board a ship bound to Charleston. The Goods had been imported into that port in violation of the revenue laws of the U. S.

A large package brought by the Arcadia as freight, purporting to contain samples and pattern cards, was opened at the Boston Custom House, and found to contain about sixty letters. The letters were detained by the Collector, and Mr. Lewis, the agent of the steamships has announced his determination of sending them to England to have the parties who transmitted them proceeded against according to law.

Texas and Mexico.—It does appear from the tone of the New Orleans and Texas papers, that Santa Anna, as Chief Director, means to make war upon Texas. This confirms us in the opinions we have ever entertained, and so often expressed, as regards this treacherous savage monster. The citizens of Texas should never again place the least confidence in his pretensions of peace and friendship; and should they again succeed in getting him into their hands, let them meet out to him the just punishment which his conduct deserves.

The Army.—The report of the Secretary of War states that the whole number of troops now in the service of the United States is ten thousand six hundred and ninety four; to complete the organization of the Army on its present basis eighteen hundred and thirty eight recruits are wanted. During the past year the whole number recruited was 4,922. The increase of two regiments to the Army is recommended.

The Navy.—The Secretary of the Navy, in his late Report to Congress, states that our Navy is composed of 11 ships of the line—one rated for 120 and 10 for 74 guns; 15 frigates of the first class—one rated for 54 and 14 for 41 guns; 2 frigates of the second class, 36 guns each; 18 sloops of war, 11 rated for 20, 2 for 18, and 5 for 16 guns; 4 steamers; 3 store ships; 3 receiving vessels and 5 small schooners.

The Mediterranean squadron consists of the frigate Brandywine, the sloop of war Fairfield, and Preble, under the command of Commodore Chas. W. Morgan.

The Pacific squadron consists of the sloop of war St. Louis, Yorktown, Cyane, Dale, and schooner Shark, Commodore Thomas Ap. C. Jones has been appointed to the squadron and is about joining it in the frigate United States.

The squadron on the coast of Brazil consists of the Delaware 74, the frigate Potomac, the sloop of war Concord, Mission, Decatur, and sloop Enterprise, under the command of Commodore Charles Morris.

The West India squadron is at home, where it was ordered to avoid the hurricane season, but will be ordered back as soon as the vessels can be supplied with crews. It will consist of the frigate Macedonian, the sloop of war Vandalia, and Warren, Commodore Jesse Wilkinson, commander.

The East India squadron consists of the frigate Constellation, and sloop of war Boston, Commodore L. Kearney, commander.

The exploring squadron consists of the sloop of war Vincennes, Lieut. Commandant Wilkes, Peacock, Lieut. Hudson; the brig Porpoise, Lieut. Ringold; and the schooner Flying Fish as a tender to the squadron.

A squadron of small schooners, under the command of Lieut. J. T. M'Laughlin, has been for some time co-operating, most bravely and efficiently with the army in Florida.

The brig Consort, Lieut. Powell, has been diligently engaged in the survey of the coast from Apalachicola bay to the mouth of the Mississippi.

The brig Dolphin, under command of Lieut. M'Kean, was despatched to the coast of New Grenada, in September last, in consequence of a supposed outrage on an American vessel.

The steam ships, Missouri and Mississippi, are newly ready for service and will form a part of the home squadron. Orders have been given to construct three steam ships of medium size, one at New York, one at Philadelphia, and one at Norfolk. Capt. Stockton is superintending the construction, at Philadelphia, of a steamer of 600 tons, to be propelled by Ericson's pro-

pellor; and Lieut. W. W. Hunter is engaged in like manner, at Norfolk, with one of 300 tons, to be propelled by submerged water wheels invented by himself. Orders have been given to build a first rate class sloop and three small vessels of war and to finish the frigates Cumberland, Savannah, Raritan and St. Lawrence.

The apprentice system is working well—number of apprentices now enlisted, about 1,000.

For the Advertiser.

Away gentle youth with your longing desire,
To roam in the land of the cypress and vine,
The climes of the East, the home of the lyre,
For this portion can never be thine;
Unblest then by fortune, oh think not to roam
Beyond the scenes of thy dear native home.

Though oft you may sigh for the East,
The land of the Muse, and poetic Greece,
Yet for thee gentle youth, by far 'tis the best,
Such vain aspirations forever should cease:
And unblest by fortune think not to roam,
Beyond the scenes of thy dear native home.

There's beauties in our own bright land,
For the poet enraptured to dwell on,
Then why seek for others in a far distant strand
When your country calls aloud for your song,
Unblest then by fortune, oh think not to roam
Beyond the scenes of thy dear native home.

Abbeville, C. H.

Correspondence of the Charleston Courier.

WASHINGTON, DEC. 20.

We have a rumor that the Patent Office was robbed to day of some curiosities, recently sent to the National Institution, for safe keeping from the State Department. The articles were, it is said, taken at mid-day, and while the officers who had charge of them were present in the building.—The things stolen were the diamond snuff box presented by the Emperor Alexander to Consul Morris; the pearl necklace presented by the Imam of Muscat to President Van Buren; and a sword with gold hilt and scabbard, studded with large diamonds, presented by some South American Government to Commodore Biddle.

Gen. Gaines has just arrived in this city and, we learn, was immediately put under arrest for coming here without orders.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury was communicated to Congress, to-day, and, in the House, ten thousand copies were ordered to be printed. The report is voluminous, and very minute and interesting. I do not think, from all I can learn, that the Cabinet have settled, as yet, upon all the details of the fiscal agent suggested by the President in his message. The Cabinet had a consultation upon it, on Friday, and again on Saturday. In the course of a few days we shall certainly have Mr. Foward's "plan" in detail. It is strongly rumored that inasmuch as the whigs will not adopt the plan, it is to be so altered as to suit the democrats.

The Senate did nothing but to pass the Congress pay bill, without amendment. The Senate spent some time in Executive business, and confirmed the nominations of Mr. Spencer, Mr. Upshur, &c., the new Secretaries.

The House again took up the subject of the reference of that part of the President's message which relates to the Tariff. Mr. Slade, of Vermont, who had the floor from Friday last, delivered an elaborate speech, in support of the protective system, and gave a full history of the origin and operation of that system. Mr. S. spoke three hours, and Mr. Sollers, of Maryland, took the floor.

From the Charleston Mercury.

In the Legislature of South Carolina.—The following resolution to reduce the public debt was offered by Mr. Memminger, and after much discussion was finally ordered to be laid on the table by a vote of 46 to 42.

Resolved, That it is expedient that this Legislature should diminish as far as possible, the public debt of the State; that no occasion exists for a further sale of State Stock, under the act for rebuilding the City of Charleston, and that the President & Directors of the Bank of the State are hereby required to deliver up to the Comptroller General to be cancelled, all certificates of stock or other obligations in their possession, issued under the said Act, which remain unsold.

The following Protest was then presented in behalf of the minority.

The undersigned Representatives of the people of South Carolina do hereby in behalf of themselves and of the people whom they represent, solemnly protest against the order of the House of Representatives, laying upon the table a resolution to reduce the public debt, and considering the said order as equivalent to a rejection of the Resolution, they beg leave respectfully to enter their solemn protest against such rejection for the following among other reasons.

1. Because a public debt is a great public evil, and ought to be incurred only in cases of great urgent necessity.

2. Because the public debt incurred to rebuild the City of Charleston was created to repair one of the greatest calamities which the State had ever suffered; & even under so pressing a necessity, was only permitted upon the express guarantee of the City of Charleston against all loss to the State.

3. Because the President and Directors of the Bank of the State, having been appointed the Agents of the State to sell the public bonds which might be required to raise money to rebuild the City of Charleston, have already sold \$626,636, more than is required for the rebuilding of the City; & now propose to sell \$332,795 more; thereby increasing the public debt one million of dollars beyond what was required to rebuild the City of Charleston.

4. Because the public debt of about one million of dollars which has been applied to rebuild the City of Charleston, charges the State only with an interest of 5 per cent, as is secured 1st by the individual bonds of the borrowers; 2nd by a mortgage of each Town lot with the houses built thereon, covered by a policy of Insurance; and 3dly by the guarantee of the City of Charleston; whereas the debt