Scraps & Facts.

—— The New York Liquor Law has been pronounced unconstitutional by nine of the most eminent lawyers of that city.

—— The very latest curiosity we have seen spoken of in the papers is a wheel that came off a dog's tail when it was a "waggin."

—— The last advices from the Rocky Mountains says, that the Indians are determined to make war on the whites.

—— We are informed that the grasshoppers are so numerous in portions of Medina county that they have already destroyed all the crops that have been planted, gardens, &c. We are informed also that they are very numerous in several parts of the State.—*San Antonio Texan.*

—— The Palatka, Fla., *Southern Sun* of the 12th inst. says: "The weather has been remarkably cool for several days past. On Friday 4th inst., there was a sharp sprinkling of hail, and a great deal of wind. Crops have not suffered yet for want of rain.

——Bulwer, the novelist, in his speech on the stamp duty, remarked, "you have been led to infer that the American press is left in the hands of ignorant adventurers, whereas the remarkable peculiarity of the American press is that it absorbs nearly all the intellect of that country. There is scarcely a statesman of eminence, and author of fame, who does not contribute to the American periodical press."

—— The Camden *Journal* of the 15th instant says: "Hon. William McWillie, formerly of this town, and for several years our district Senator, has been nominated Governor of Mississippi by the Democrats of Madison county. We hope he may be elected, for we know that he would make a good one and adorn the station."

—— An able article in the last number of of the Westminister Review, upon the Constitutions and Governments of the various countries of the earth, says that it "is no longer England, but the North American Republic, that has become the pole-star to which, from all sides, the eye of struggling nations turns." A significant admission to come from an English source.

—— A letter in the St. Louis *Republican*, from Kansas, dated May 9th, states that the citizens, frightened by the ravages of the cholera in the cities of Kansas and West Port, were leaving those places as rapidly as possible, and settling in the country and different towns in the vicinity.

—— There is much complaint in the Western papers of a drought now prevailing in Illinois and Missouri. The St. Louis *Evening Mirror* of May 1, says: "From every portion of the country we receive complaints of the want of rain. The effects of another drought, such as we had last spring and summer, are too disastrous to conceived."

—— Out of more than twelve million passengers who were carried during the last year over sixteen of our main railroads only twelve were killed, and of the twelve, eleven were standing on the platform, when they met their death. So says the report of the State Engineer and Surveyor, and travellers on railroads should remember it and "keep off the platform."

—— Boston, May 17. The personal liberty bill, intended to nullify the fugitive slave law, was taken up in the House to-day and an amendment to it adopted forbidding any State officer holding the office of United States Commissioner. A motion was made to strike out the section which incapacitates any attorney who acts for a slave claimant from practicing in the State Courts; but was rejected by a large majority. The bill was then passed—yeas 229, nays 43. The bill previously passed the Senate.

—— Boston, May 14.—There was considerable confusion and excitement in the House of Representatives this afternoon from the fact that Mr. Hiss, the expelled member, twice resumed his vacant seat, and was each time removed by the Sergeat-at-Arms, at the order of the House, passed nearly unanimously. It is presumed that Hiss acted in this singular manner at the advice of his counsel, B. F. Butler and Benj. Dean, who had published an address denouncing the expulsion of Mr. Hiss as an arbitrary exercise of power; and intimating that the House feared important developments to be made in the case.

—— Intelligence of a late date has been received from Great Salt Lake. Col. Steptoe had failed to bring to punishment the murderers Gunnison and his party, chiefly through the scheming of the Mormons. Several members of the Mormon jury acknowledged that they had received instructions from Brigham Young what verdict to give. It thus appears that the Mormons have acted in a manner that can only be accounted for by their intense hatred of the General Goverment. These Latter Day Saints, with their strange and monstrous customs, are destined at no distant day to become troublesome neighbors.

—— The inhabitants of Carejan, in the Pyrenees, on the Spanish side of the frontier, seeing some weeks ago that an avalanche of snow was about to fall, assembled in houses which they thought the least exposed to danger. Unfortunately the snow came down on those very houses, leaving almost untoched several others which had been abandoned.—By the fall fourteen houses and forty-four barns were completely destroyed. Seventy-two persons were buried in the ruins, and sixty of them were killed on the spot. The remaining twelve, though got out alive, were so dreadfully injured that some of them died soon after, and others were considered in a desperate state. The loss of cattle was very considrable.

—— The rumored discovery of a rich gold mine on the Arkansas has created quite an excitement on the borders of Missouri. A letter from Springfield, in that State, dated the 30th ultimo, says: "Yesterday fifteen or twenty of our citizens started for Neosho, where they are to join a company of near one thousand persons, all bound for the Witchetaw Mountains, about four hundred miles from this place, and up the Arkansas river. Several persons, residents of the country of Newton, have recently returned, some of whom are said to have realized three thousand dollars in fifty days' digging and washing. Quite an excitement prevails her and another company is to go out as soon as the guides and pilots return."

—— Cabour's bargin with England to furnish the latter with fifteen thousand Sardinian troops to be wasted and destroyed in the Crimea, proves so unpopular in the Sardinian army as already to have broken down his (Cabour's) ministry. Many of the troops to have been sent off refused to go, officers and men shooting themselves to avoid this disgraceful and self-immolating service. Sardinia would have received $332 per head of officers and men, for his majesty's slaves thus sold to disease and death. The bargain has but a single parallel in the history of modern nations; the sale by the Elector of Hesse of his subjects to George III., to fight the battles of England in our Revolutionary War. As in that case the Sardinians have not the slightest interest in the war, as neither their country's honor, rights nor interests are involved in it.

—— We are informed that Mr. John L. Lampkin, who lives some ten or twelve miles below Hawkinsville, has planted no cotton this year, but has planted all his lands in corn.—This is the most sensible thing we have heard of recently. Why farmers should plant the best and largest portion of their soil in cotton these hard times, we never could understand. Grain is the thing. We cannot eat cotton, but we can eat corn; if we could get it to eat, without paying a small fortune for a bushel of it Where the advantage of making cotton and letting it lie in the warehouse from year to year, and paying $1,50 for corn, is, will be seen in this present state of Pulaski and adjacent counties. The people have not enough grain to eat, to say nothing of feeding their stock, while their cotton is a dead weight on their hands for the want of a navigable river. The fact is, farmers should do as Mr. Lampkin is doing this year—making something to eat, and let the "staple alone for the present. —*Hawkinsville Herald.*

The Yorkville Enquirer.

EDITED BY
SAM'L W. MELTON.....JOHN L. MILLER.

YORKVILLE, S. C.

THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 24, 1855.

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

We have the telegraphic synopsis of the intelligence brought by the steamer *Baltic*, which arrived at New York on Friday last with Liverpool dates to the 5th instant. All the markets were active at a considerable advance. Cotton had advanced one-eighth.

Contrary to our expectations the news from Sebastopol indicates nothing of a decisive character. After a terrible firing of several days the allied army had gained considerable ground, and had taken the greater number of the Russian outworks. On the 28th ult., they were compelled to slacken the bombardment, without having produced sufficient effect to justify an assault. A vast force of Russians, said to exceed one hundred thousand men, were concentrating near the city, and the position of the allies had become very critical. The tide has turned fearfully against them, and should the siege be conducted as heretofore, we cannot look for any other than a most disastrous result.

It is very probable, however, that the attempt to take the city will be abandoned for the present.—The bombardment has been conducted with such unparallelled vigor that the guns have been disabled and the large stores of ammunition consumed; yet the effect has been inconsiderable and such as by no means to justify an assault even by a more effective force than that now on duty. Before another attempt can be made, the allied forces must receive large reinforcements of men and additional supplies.—Meantime the communication between Sebastopol and the interior has been uninterrupted, a continuous supply of men and stores has been poured into the city as they were needed, and large reinforcements are in the rear prepared to take part with the besieged or ready at any moment to employ the whole force of the allies in a desperate defence of their position. Under these circumstances the only alternative seems to be a bloody campaign in the Crimea, continued so long as the Russians are able to retain possession of the passage over the peninsular. On this point, a correspondent of a New York paper has the following timely remarks:

"Were the expedition conducted wholly of French, we know what would be done—an assault would have been made immediately after the last grand effort at bombardment. Half the army would have perished by the fire of the besieged, the remainder would have rushed to their ships, and a miserable remnant alone would have survived the enterprise. But the British, with equal courage, have greater patience, fortitude, and resources under disaster. They have beside the help of a powerful Turkish army, which has beaten the Russians wherever, in the course of the present war, it has encountered them in force.

"By this time the combined English, French and Turkish forces amount to nearly two hundred thousand men. What will they do? They would re-embark, if they could; but they cannot. They must retire from before the walls of Sevastopol. A campaign in the open field of the Crimea appears to be inevitable. The aggregate of the Russian forces in the peninsular is known only to its own commanders and the Emperor. The way into it from the heart of Russia has never been interrupted. Perekop and the causeway over the Putrid Sea, by which two roads reinforcements are sent to Sevastopol, are distant from the allied armies about one hundred miles—from Eupatoria over sixty miles. What troops pass those roads are no more known to Lord Raglan and Canrobert, than to the exiles of Siberia. The Russian armies in the Crimea, or which may in a few weeks be sent there, are not likely to be of less force than 400,000 men. These are the men which the allies have to defeat, disperse, and capture before they can take Sevastopol. Will they do it? Not until they shall have sent more troops, under other officers, to the Crimea."

The other items of news by this arrival are not important. We notice rumors of a mediation on the part of Austria and Prussia and another attempt at diplomacy, but they amount to nothing. In England the people are becoming restive under the burden and vexations of the war, and strong feeling against the ministry has been manifested in the way of indignation meetings. The army enquiry by Mr. Roebuck's Committee is still in progress, with but few indications of an early termination. It attracts little attention.

Outside of the Crimea, the most noteworthy item contains the account of an attempt to assassinate the Emperor Napoleon, on the 28th ult., while on his way to join the Empress in her usual ride in the Champs Elysees. "The Emperor," says the extract, "accompanied by two officers of his household, when near the Barrier de l'Etoile, was approached by a well-dressed man, with an action indicating a desire to present a petition. The latter advanced to within five or six paces of the Emperor, who had not observed him, when he was discovered by a policeman. As the policeman was proceeding towards him a cab was rapidly driven between them; and in the interval the individual had drawn a double-barrelled pistol, and, aiming at the Emperor, discharged both barrels, but without effect. He was immediately seized by the police, but not until he had drawn another pistol and made an attempt to shoot again. It is said that one of the balls grazed the Emperor's hat. This would-be assassin is an Italian, name Pianozi, and was formerly in Garibaldi's army. He was in London while the Emperor was there on his late visit, and would then have made the attempt if he had not been prevented by the great concourse of people.

In reference to the movements of Napoleon and other matters of interest, the reader will be entertained by the perusal of the following paragraph, taken from the Washington correspondence of the *Charleston Courier:*

"All eyes are intently fixed upon the great drama of which we have seen the opening scenes, in Europe. There are various opinions as to its catastrophe among the sagacious of the official and diplomatic men here, but they unite in the opinion that the French Emperor is to lead the world a dizzy dance for some time, if Providence spare him, and even if not, that European revolutions, and wars growing out of them or causing them, are likely to occupy the history of the next twenty years. The sentiment of France is evidently in favor of war, and even in England it has become the opinion that war is the only alternate to national degredation.

"It is believed here, in the faith of private advices from London, that the Palmerston ministry will soon break down. It is even said that Lord Palmerston and Lord Panmure, the Secretary of War, cannot command public confidence, and that they will resign before the storm. The Queen is in a helpless condition, and can not easily find any one who can rally her people at such a crisis. The objections to the ministry are well summed up in a few words in the London *Times*, to wit: the nation will not endure the Pitt policy without the Pitt energy; nor the Pitt expenditures without the Pitt victories.

The French Emperor is about to go to the Crimea and take the command of the forces of the allies, while the Empress will go on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem—he to return a hero and she a saint. Next, it may be found convenient for Napoleon the 3d to form alliances for the restriction of the dominion of England. Why should England threaten the Mediterranean with the fortresses of Gibraltar and Malta? Why should she retain the Ionian Islands? Why should Russian preponderance in the Euxine be considered as more objectionable than British preponderance in the Mediterranean? These will be the questions for Napoleon to agitate. He may see fit—it would be consistent with his character—to restore the Order of the Knights of Malta, and restore to them the possession of Malta.

"I learn from Baltimore that M. Bohaparte, Sr., is about to leave this country for France, where he will permanently reside. His son, who was educated at West Point, and was a Lieutenant in the United States army, is now a Lieutenant in the French army in the Crimea. He writes to a friend in Baltimore that the allies can take Sebastopol at any time they choose, by assault, but not without immense loss.

FROM THE WEST.

Our readers are again indebted to our friend in the West, the "Traveller," for a pleasant and sprightly letter of correspondence, to which we give the same conspicuous place. He writes well—and besides there is a genuine vein of good nature running through every paragraph, which gives an additional attraction. He is evidently a Know-Nothing, however, and writes with the spirit of one regularly "dyed-in-the-wool." We wish it distinctly understood that we are not responsible for a single word of it. The letter is dated at

MEMPHIS, May 9.

I have just been looking at the finest steamboat in the world, the "May-Flower." She eclipses the "Eclipse," which was last year the "crack" boat.—They are both magnificent boats. The "May-Flower" may be called a four-decker. On the lower deck and in the hold she puts her frieght; on the first floor about fifteen feet above, she has cabins for second-class passengers; and on the next floor, about 12 feet above, are the first-class cabins, which are as magnificent as an enchantment. Standing at the front entrance and looking down to the ladies, cabin at the stern, you would conclude that you had a view of a fairy land. The palaces in the "Arabian Nights" could not excel the cabins of this splendid boat. Still above is the promenade deck, which is at least 40 feet above the surface of the water. Out of the upper-deck two immense chimneys rise to a height of forty feet, and are about ten feet in diameter. I saw sixteen furnaces, and I think at least two firemen to each furnace, constantly engaged in feeding it. She has about 75 deck hands and half as many cabin-boys. The furniture is, I suppose, the best that could be bought—the china and silver surpass anything to be found in the finest hotels.

The "May-Flower" is ahead of any craft on the river, for beauty and fine finish. The Eclipse is larger, and when she was built was perhaps the finest boat in the world. I only mention these two, but "their name is legion." At New Orleans at least fifteen leave every afternoon, and very often thirty; and as it takes them some time to reach Cincinnati, St. Louis, Lexington and other points—one at least three weeks—you can imagine that there must be a large number.

Flat boats are moving down every day. They carry coal and all kinds of heavy freight, such as railroad iron, locomotives, &c. They go down but do not return: on reaching New Orleans, they are sold for fire wood and bring a profit on first cost. The hands that steer them down come up very often as hands on the steamboats, and get good wages for their trip. When business is brisk, it is difficult to obtain sufficient force for all the boats, and then "Paddy" comes in for a chance, and now and then goes so far as to *strike* for higher wages. They perform the operation nicely. Sometimes the boat is loaded and passengers aboard, and when the hour for sailing has arrived and the signal is given, every hand will step ashore and demand higher wages—often as much as $2,50 per day. The captain has no other alternative, and must submit to their demands, but occasionally they are victimized in return. If the captain can see an opportunity of getting hands up the river, he will take them in, and pay off and discharge Paddy for his trick.

Having in this and other letters paid our last respects to the "Father of Waters," we will go on shore and note down the progress of things on *terra firma.*

The political excitement in the West has not yet reached a high pitch. The two candidates for Governor of Tennessee, Gentry and Johnston, have commenced their electioneering tour, and some of the old party papers are abusing the Know-Nothings a little, but that is dying out here. "Sam" has everything in his own hands, and things are really managed very quietly. This ubiquitous individual is going to do good; and perhaps you would do well not to say hard things about him until you get better acquainted with him. He is a grand-son of old Brother-Jonathan, who you know was a straight-forward man. *Young* Sam wishes to bring back the good old times, when we had statesmen instead of politicians (better understood as demagogues,) when Congressmen devoted their talents to the enactment of laws for the good of the country, and not to advance party aims and secure party spoils. This is one of "Sam's" chief aims. You may hear an awful howl among the party papers at the North, proclaiming loudly that it is an anti-slavery movement. They very well understand that, should the reform be effected, their own mercenary designs will be frustrated; and they very shrewdly catch up the cry of "wolf," in order to frighten away the Southern people, and prevent them from taking part in the American movement. It is to be expected that men whose days are about to be numbered will make much noise.

For my own part I cannot see the harm that the new party is to do us. It cannot be worse than the parties now in existence. Who at the South expects the Northern Whigs to cease the anti-slavery agitation? Who can suppose that the Democrats are able to effect such an end, even if they were so disposed? Both parties are controlled by the ballance held by the abolition party. The evil has been growing every year, and, while abolitionists are in power, as they must be under the old party organizations, who can hope for a better state of things? No one. Well, what harm can be effected by the success of a new party? The more the masses of the North are divided, the weaker they will become.—Again—suppose the new party, which has in view the reformation of the abuses which have crept into the old Whig and Democratic parties, should be pledged to preserve the Constitution in its original purity, and in the end carry out their pledge to the letter—would it not deserve the support of Southern men? This, I assure you, is one of the most prominent aims of the American party. This is what they have set out to do—and "Sam" says he can and will do it. Let us give him a fair chance, then. He cannot possibly make things worse, and may bring about a salutary and much-needed reform.

The South is already a unit on the subject of slavery, and nothing that any party at the North can effect will weaken the bond that unites us. On the other hand, they are almost unanimous against us; but they are divided by so many *isms* and into so many cliques that it is next to an impossibility to unite them on any subject. The new party only makes another division, (even should it be no better than others,) which renders them so much the weaker.

There is another powerful influence bearing down against them, which is perhaps more powerful than that of either of the old parties. This power originates with the Pope of Rome. It is said that the Know-Nothings are pledged not to vote for a Papist for office, and in all cases to support Americans, when they are opposed by foreigners. This has alarmed the subjects of the Pope, and a great cry of "Persecution" is heard all over the land. This cry has been caught up by both of the old parties, and each vies with the other in their effort to make the loudest noise and thus to conciliate the foreign vote.

Upon the whole, I can see no injury that can result to us from the new party. We have tried the old parties sufficiently, and the expectation of good to the South from the success of either is at best a very doubtful one. Great allowances should be made for the misrepresentations of the new party. The *spoils* parties are fighting for their existence, and it is no more than natural for them to indulge in all manner of slander and vituperation. Their bolts, however, will fall harmless. Honest men will make up their own judgment. The American party has published to the world their platform.—they have spread before the country their principles and aims; and every good citizen will inform himself on the subject and take his position accordingly, without consulting the leaders of either of the old parties. Men will see that the creed has nothing to do with Whiggery, Democracy or Abolitionism. It is independent of all party issues, and will in the end triumph over all party power. The more I hear of "Sam," the better I like him; and when he gets into power, we may expect something of good for the country.

I have noticed recently that Senators Wilson and Seward, Horace Greeley, Giddings, and men of like ilk, are warning the North against Know-Nothingism. They are now convinced that it is the worst foe to the Abolition agitation, and will be allied with the Democratic party in the election for President. A stop should be put to its progress, they say, as it is perilous to the anti-slavery sentiment and fraught with destruction to all their cherished schemes and plans." So, you see, "Sam" has a hard road to travel."

The old parties here are bewildered and are at a loss what course of policy to adopt. If they fight each other, the new party will quietly take possession of the field, and without any disturbance or electioneering, come to the polls and elect their men. They work together like a charm. No noise—no speech-making—no grog-shop electioneering. They know their strength—look on with indifference—wait patiently for the time to come to vote—go and put in their ballots—and then go quietly to their business. You never know them to exult, or indulge in a boisterous jollification when the result is announced. It merely answers their confident expectations, and they see no occasion for excitement. Is not this an improvement, already?

When I commenced talking about "Sam," I did not expect to expiate so largely. I have said it, however, and like the individual swearing to the size of his horse, "I stick to it."

We have no rain here yet. I hear much said about the want of it, and especially for cisterns. Within the last three days, the Cholera has broken out here very violently. Nearly every attack proves fatal, and they are said to amount to ten or twelve daily. The violence of the disease is accounted for in part by the bad well and river water which the poorer classes are now compelled to use, and many cases are known to have resulted from the use of damaged potatoes sold to the poor at a low price.—These causes have given the disease a beginning, and it seems to find ample food on all sides. Your humble servant will soon take his departure, and where he will go to next I can not tell, indeed a

TRAVELLER.

EDITORIAL MERE-MENTION.

To Correspondents.

—— The money sent by J. B. B., Mount Enterprise, Texas, did not come to hand.

—— "Rosa" [illegible] "The May Cloud" has been received.

—— We have also received a contribution entitled "Beauty," by Rosa Dearmon, which will be published next week. Some clever verses from the same pen will be found in this issue.

—— We have received a sketch of the history of Unity Church, Indian Land, to which we will give a place in the issue after the next.

King's Mountain.

—— We are pleased to notice that several of the city papers make mention of the call for a public meeting, published in our paper, and speak very encouragingly of the project of a celebration. The prospect is now very promising. A full meeting, a determined purpose, and strong pull together will accomplish the object, and do a work honorable both to the head and heart of our District. Let it go on.

Another Good Season.

—— Since our last issue many portions of our District have been blessed with good seasons. In our immediate vicinity the rains were light, but we are pleased to learn that in most localities they were very abundant, and here and there extravagantly so. Although our forecast this year have not been entirely propitious, we have reason to be thankful to a kind Providence, through whose bounty we are enabled to look hopefully to the future. Should the season continue favorable we have every reason to hope for a bountiful harvest.

The Episcopal Church.

—— We are pleased to learn that the Episcopal Church building in our town is rapidly approaching completion, and will in a short while receive the appropriate dedication It is an elegant edifice, and constructed in a fine style which gives credit to the skill of our master-workmen, Messrs. Hare and Cranford.

On Monday last the congregation was organized by the election of the following officers: Vestry—W. B. Wilson, Esq., Chairman, Mr. M. Jenkins, Secretary and Treasurer. Dr. J. M. Lowry, and Messrs. W. E. Rose and W. K. Hacket. Warden—Dr. J. M. Lowry. The Rev. Mr. Gibson, of Savannah, was elected Pastor.

Fanny Fern Again.

—— We have received a copy of the New York *Ledger*, published by Robert Bonner, at one dollar per annum, in advance. This number is handsomely illustrated, and presents a fine appearance. In the editorial columns the editor announces under the head, Great Attraction! that Fanny Fern is engaged in writing a story to be published in the *Ledger*, for which she will receive the extraordinary price of one hundred dollars per column! Of course, it will be "linked sweetness long drawn out," and done up in Fanny's attractive and fascinating style. As the Tale has been purchased solely for publication in the Ledger, and will not be issued in book form, those who desire to enjoy the luxury should send their orders to Mr. Bonner, and thus get an abundance of good reading thrown in gratis. The publication will commence about the first of June.

Preparatory Military School.

—— In another column we publish the special notice of Messrs. Coward and Jenkins, announcing the semi-annual examination of the cadets of the Preparatory Military School, on Monday next, and an exhibition in the evening of the following day.

At present we shall do no more than urge upon the public at large the duty of awarding to these exercises the compliment of a general attendance. The occasion will be one of interest to every member of the community, and, besides, all should testify by their presence their appreciation of the excellence of this institution, and of the lasting benefit which will accrue to us from its permanent success. The presence of the ladies is especially desirable, inasmuch as the first endeavor and the best hope of gallant young gentlemen deserve and should win from them an approving smile and a kindly encouragement.—Remember the hours.

Book Bindery.

—— We take pleasure in calling attention to the advertisement of Messrs. Gibbes & Johnson's Book Bindery. These enterprising gentlemen, the proprietors of the *Carolinian*, have fitted up a complete establishment, and are prepared to execute all orders in their line. Look in your library, and you will find many an old volume, too valuable to be lost, which well deserves a new and handsome covering.

Erskine Collegiate Recorder.

—— The May number of this little monthly, edited by a Committee of the Senior Class of Erskine College is in every respect a creditable work. We notice a gradual improvement in the letter-press, a portion of which reads remarkably well. The imitation of Poe is cleverly done—scattering, of course, but almost faultless in versification. We seldom see any thing of the kind in this latitude. Who is the author, friend *Telescope?* The *Recorder* is published at Due West, S. C.,—price, $1 per annum in advance.

Southern Quarterly Review.

—— The April number of this able quarterly is on our table, with the following list of contents: Benton's Thirty Years in the Senate; Louis XIV; The Chief Justices of the United States; Ruskin's Architectual Works; The Russa-Turkish Campaigns; Principles of Art; Ruth Hall; American Education; Observations on the History of Virginia; Applications of Chemistry; Critical Notices.

The number before us contains several articles which are worthy of mention, but it is not quite up to the average merit of the work. "Ruth Hall," for instance, a subject which is properly outside of the scope of an enlightened and high-toned criticism and especially unbecoming when treated with levity, ought never to have found its way into the dignified pages of a Quarterly. Mr. Mortimer has, we fear, committed an error in taking charge of the editorial department. At the outset he has made several unpardonable mistakes. As the publisher he is fully equal to his task and, barring his *peripatetic* movements, he has hitherto conducted the Review admirably. When he employs the services of an editor of literary reputation and fine scholarly attainments, he will meet the expectation of the many friends of the work, and deserve the patronage of the Southern public.

United States Court.

—— The United States District Court convened at Charleston, on Monday the 14th instant, and took up the case of the United States against Thomas J. Eccles, charged with mail robbery. Several of the citizens of our town, as well as of Charlotte and Columbia, attended as witnesses. The Court was occupied with the examination of witnesses until Thursday, when, as the case was about to be given to the jury, the Defendant's Attorneys, Messrs. Perkins and Seymour, urged objections on the ground of the insufficiency and the palpable informality of the indictment, which were sustained and the case consequently thrown out of Court. New indictments were taken out and passed upon by the Grand Jury, and a session of the Court was ordered to convene for the trial of the case on the first Monday in July, next. In relation to the decision of Judge Grier, the Charleston *Standard* remarks: "The indictment charged that the acts were done feloniously, without stating, also, that they were done unlawfully. They were declared to be insufficient by the Court, and were quashed. His Honor held that felonies are cognizable only in the State Courts, and to make this offence cognizable in the courts of the United States, it is necessary to charge that it was done unlawfully, those Courts having power only to try such cases as are defined by law, under which the jurisdiction has been specially conferred."

The United States Court is really a beautiful institution. Made up of an odd admixture of youth and inexperience on the one hand and superannuated old age on the other, its sessions are about as near the representation of a farce as can anywhere be found off the stage. This prosecution is at best from the outset a farce, a mockery, when it must be known, and indeed, exposing many of our citizens to the infection of the city in the heat of summer, it amounts to an insufferable public nuisance. We scarcely know which to esteem the greater evil, the disease or the remedy.

Bynum and Perry.

—— The literary correspondent of the Charleston *Mercury*, in an admirable critique on Simms' book, "Notes on Books and Dwellings," makes the following extract in regard to the duel between Turner Bynum and Maj. Perry, fought during the Nullification excitement in 1832:—

"Turner Bynum I knew personally. He was a man of fine promise, but nervous and irritable. He published a volume of poems called "*Aldine, or the Force of Feeling, &c.*" which were clever. He subsequently became the editor of the Alabama Journal; returned to South Carolina during the Nullification controversy, and became involved in the affair with Perry—Col. Benjamin F. Perry, now, as then, of Greenville, South Carolina—Editor then of the Mountaineer, now of the Patriot, and a member of the Legislature. The second of Bynum was General James H. Hammond, afterwards Governor of S. Carolina. The duel took place on an islet in the Tugaloo river, the eminent domain of which was doubtful, between South Carolina and Georgia.—The parties fought at ten paces, exchanged but one shot, Bynum mortally, and Perry slightly wounded. Alfred Bynum, a brother of Turner, was a man of very fine talents, of whom great expectations were formed. But ——!"

Heavy Storm in Fairfield.

—— We had a very heavy storm on Friday evening last, says the Winnsboro' *Register*, of the 22nd instant, accompanied by an unusual quantity of electricity: "There were several deafening claps, one of which struck a house in the lot of Mr. J. F. Gamble, of this place. There were several negroes in the house at the time, one of whom was very much stunned. A crib containing a little infant was capsized, without inflicting the least damage. Mr. James Hendrix was in the dwelling house at the time, and was prostrated by the shock. With the exception of the negro house, there was no damage done. It is rarely that we hear of a more miraculous escape. The ways of electricity are past all finding out.

We have heard a number of complaints of the damage done by washing—and of the bottom lands having been in many places completely inundated.

We regret also a most melancholy occurrence that happened about eight miles south of this place. The house of Mr. James Brazzle was, during the storm, struck by lightning, killing Mr. Brazzle and a step-daughter instantaneously, it is supposed. There were four little children in the house at the time, none of whom were injured. Nothing was known of it in the neighborhood until next moring.

We also learn that Mr. Osborn Yongue lost two little negroes on the same evening. They had gone out hunting for cows, and in attempting to cross a ravine or hollow, that contains water, but had become flooded by the extraordinary rain, were drowned.

The vicinity of Monticello we have heard from several reliable sources, was at the same time visited by a rain accompanied with hail of an unusual size. One of our informants says that the stones measured nine inches in circumference; another that they were fully the size of goose eggs. The former gentleman remarked that he was sixty years of age had never seen hail half the size before. We have heard of no serious damage being done. Fortunately the hail stones, although large were "few and far between."

From Cuba.

—— The news from Cuba is utterly devoid of interest. After his jollification with the Captain General, our Commodore is recruiting himself, it appears, at Key West. The chances of a war with Spain in consequence of the Commodore's anticipated rashness are growing small very rapidly. He may scare up a noise, but we doubt it. The following contains all the news:—"The steamer Cahawba arrived at New York on the 17th, with two day's later intelligence from Havana. The Gulf squadron would soon return to port. The steamer Princeton and the ship of war Jamestown were cruising off the coast, and Com. McCauley was at Key West. It is rumored that the Gen. Concha has pardoned Felix, the revolutionist. The army and drilling of the colored population continues on the Island. The Yucatan Indians continue to be introduced into Cuba by the consent of the Mexican authorities. The port of Havana was healthy, and business active."

Charlotte Court.

—— The Spring session of the Superior Court was held in Charlotte last week—Judge Manly presiding. The only case of public interest was that of the State *versus* James Sharpe and Dr. C. Sharpe, for the murder of their brother, John, in November last, which occupied the Court during Thursday, Friday and Saturday. They were found guilty of manslaughter, and sentenced to twelve months imprisonment and to be branded.

On Tuesday the political Mass-meeting was held, and speeches were made by Mr. Craige, the Democratic candidate for Congress, and Mr. Caldwell, a nondescript. Rumor says that a Know-Nothing convention was also held, and that our clever friend and neighbor, Col. S. N. Stowe, received the nomination of the party for Congress. We suspect there is somewhat of truth in the rumor: Know-Nothings have a rather queer way of walking into one's family and seducing the best member in it. Col. Stowe is a most inveterate Democrat, wedded to the creed, a capital stump-speaker, too, and a jolly good sort of a man; and if he accept the nomination the game's up. Two thousand votes would not win our money.

Capture of Baker.

—— Our readers will remember the intense excitement in New York which spread after the manner of a pestilence, through every class of citizens, when the pugilist-bully, Poole, was killed and buried. The supposed murderer immediately decamped, and on board the ship *Isabella Jewett* set sail for the Canary Islands. He was pursued by a portion of the New York police, in the George Law clipper, *Grapeshot*, and overhauled when near the destined port. He was placed in irons, brought back to New York on Tuesday before last, and committed to prison to await his trial. The *Journal of Commerce* says:—

"The Grapeshot sailed from this port on the 25th of March last for the Canary Islands, with the intention of overhauling the brig Isabella Jewett, which sailed hence for those Islands about seventeen days previously, with Baker on board. The bark arrived out in the extraordinary passage of seventeen days, and ascertaining that the brig had not arrived, cruised off Cape Palmas until the 17th of April, when the brig hove in sight, and was soon after boarded.

Baker made no resistance when he was arrested, but begged hard to be let off. He stated that he had not the slightest idea that a vessel would be despatched in pursuit of him. He is in good health, and his wounds have almost entirely healed. He was not placed in irons during the voyage, although a strict watch was kept over his movements.

"The Grapeshot arrived off the Highlands on Monday evening, and lay there all night. Yesterday she was taken in tow, and brought up to the foot of Ninth street, East River, where she now lies. While on her way up the East River a small steamer came along side, into which Baker was transferred in custody of the officers, and landed above Wall street, and from whence he was taken to the city prison.

Discovery of a New People.

—— A correspondent of the New Orleans Picayune states that during the late trip of the United States sloop-of-war Decatur through the Straits of Magellan, Dr. Bainbridge and another officer obtained leave of absence for a few days, during a cabb, and were landed at Terre del Fuego. They then ascended a mountain to the height of 2,500 feet, when they came upon a plain of surpassing richness and beauty—fertile fields, the greatest variety of fruit trees in full bearing, and signs of cultivation and refinement. Their appearance astonished the inhabitants, who, however, did not treat them unfriendly. The men all range from 6 to 6½ feet in height, well proportioned, very athletic, and straight as an arrow. The women were among the most perfect models of beauty ever formed, averaging 5 feet high, very plump, with small feet and hands, and with a jet black eye. The writer adds:

"Their teachers of religion speak the Latin language, and have traditions from successive priests through half a hundred centuries. They tell us that this island was once attached to the main land; that about 1,000 years ago, by their records, their country was visited by a violent earthquake, which occasioned the rent now known as the Straits of Magellan; that on the top of the mountain which lifted its head to the sun, whose base rested where the waters now flow, stood their great temple—which, according to their description, as compared to the one now existing, which we saw, must have been 17,200 feet square, and over 1,100 feet high, built of the purest pantile marble."

The officers remained two weeks with these strange people, and obtained from them a specimen of painting on porcelain over 3,000 years old. The men, women, and children number about 3,000, and when the children multiply too fast they are sacrificed by the priests. They live in huts or cottages, each one by himself, avoiding company and discourse, employing all their time in contemplation and their religious duties.

Southern Baptist Convention.

—— This body met in Montgomery, Alabama, on Friday the 11th instant, and was organized by the election of Rev. Dr. Howell, of Virginia, President, B. C. Pressley, Esq., of this State, was chosen Treasurer. The time was taken up mainly in the reading and discussion of the reports of the several Societies, attached to this denomination. The report of the Bible society, which was a short but very satisfactory document, concluded with an earnest appeal to Baptists to form in each State a Central Baptist Society, in aid of the Bible cause. The reports of other Committees are also represented to have been very satisfactory, and give a flattering account of the progress of the church. Rev. A. D. Sears, of Kentucky, preached the Convention sermon on the subject—"The Entire Conquest of the Earth by the Christian Religion." The Convention adjourned on Tuesday, after having appointed the next meeting to be held at Louisville, Kentucky, on the second Friday in May, 1856. Speaking of the members composing this body, the Montgomery *Mail* says:—

"In conclusion, let us bear our cheerful testimony to the very high character of this body. Never have we seen in any collection of men, more dignity, courtesy or disposition to do right. We are free to confess that the high standard of talent and conduct prevailing in the Convention took us somewhat by surprise. But few men spoke at all, whose remarks did not display very respectable abilities and acquirements, and many of them evinced talents and accomplishments of high order. Their lofty bearing and general intelligence have left a most cordial impression of respect and admiration upon the minds of the citizens of Montgomery."

The National Division.

—— As stated last week, the twelfth session of the National Division of the Sons of Temperance will be held in the city of Charleston, on Wednesday, 6th of June. An extra meeting of the Grand Division of this State is ordered to convene on the 5th, in order to welcome the National Division. It will remain in session during the week. The friends seem to be alive and active, and are using every endeavor to make it truly a gala-week. We give a paragraph or two from the editorial columns of the *Temperance Standard*, by way of adding another mite to the cause:—

"It behooves every Temperance man in the State who claims to be such—and more particularly every Son of Temperance, whether a member of the Grand Division or not—to attend the gathering of our hosts, and listen to the soul-stirring speeches, there to be delivered, on the great question at issue. Let there be no wavering on the part of friends—for if friends falter what can be expected of those who make no profession of friendship?—but, let every man old and young, together with wives and daughters, there form such a mighty phalanx in defence of our heaven born cause, that the knights of the toddy stick and their compeers shall quail and tremble to behold

"The expenses will be light. The rail road fare will be very considerably reduced as we are advised by one who knows—probably not over one or two dollars each way—the price depending upon the numbers going—and where is the sober man, who has not, in time past, saved over and above that amount for each member of his entire family; and that could not easily expend the trifle for so noble an object? Come, brethren, one and all, rally to the rescue: and when you shall have heard the mighty torrents of eloquence, which will there electrify your entire being, go back to your homes and communicate the vital spark to your neighbors and friends, until, as with the voice of one man, the people of South Carolina shall cry out, "away—forever—away with the grogshop system—the *spirit* of the wine cup, and the demon of the Still!"

Who [illegible]?

The tremendous cannonade that at our last accounts was in progress in and around Sebastopol will attract and hold everywhere in the civilized world a large share of public attention, and involuntarily excite the intenest feeling to know what is to be its result. When the terrible force of metal which the Allies were enabled to hurl against the Russian batteries is alone looked at, the impression is received that their triumph is certain, needing only to be determined by the continuance of a bombardment which by its severity is sure in the end to conquer. This impression, however, is weakened by the consideration that does not occur to the generality of readers, that it is a physical impossibility to continue longer than for a certain number of days such an incessant cannonade as had been directed from the English and French lines; and that if such injuries were not within time inflicted upon the opposing defences as would justify an assault, the operations would return to the slow process of a mere desultory siege cannonade, during which the Russians could again put in repair and strengthen their works and thus present the same front as before the unsuccessful attempt at bombardment.

The general bombardment commenced on the 9th and had been continued thirteen days according to the latest advices. It is not alleged that this cannonade, sustained with such unparalleled vigor for so many days, had gained for the Allies any advantage beyond establishing the superiority of their fire.—The question as to how much longer so tremendous a fire could be maintained, becomes an important one if in thirteen days its advantages had added so slightly to the position of the Allies. The first difficulty to be overcome would be the keeping up and distribution of the enormous supply of ammunition and projectiles required. It is not probable that the French or English commanders could have contemplated a bombardment extending over two weeks, and their supply of ammunition must have nearly exhausted