

The Situation.

Things are beautifully mixed up in Washington at present, and a very important question is being discussed, who is the President of the United States? Mr. Johnson's appointee—Gen. Lorenzo Thomas—has been arrested, at the instigation of the not-to-be-kicked-out never-say-die Secretary, Edwin M. Stanton. Impeachment—which it was thought was buried past resurrection—has been again brought forward, rushed through the House, committees appointed to inform the Senate and to prepare articles of impeachment. That the President made several grave mistakes and has allowed his hands to be partially tied, there is little doubt; but that he will, by the aid of the masses at the North, eventually burst these bonds, we sincerely hope and believe. As an evidence of the feeling of the people in New York, we refer to the despatch in another column, relative to the circulation of a document endorsing the President, and proposing armed resistance to the measures now in progress. We cordially endorse the President's assertion that "God and the American people will make all right, and save our institutions." The despatches for several days will be looked for with interest.

One of the most curious facts disclosed in the discussions of social science associations, was contained in a paper read by Dr. Nathan Allen, before the American Association, convened at Boston. It is that the native population of Massachusetts is dying out, and that but for immigration and its natural increase, a calculation could be made of the number of years in which that State would be entirely depopulated. It is mentioned that whereas in 1765, nearly one-half of the population of Massachusetts was under fifteen years of age, not more than one-fifth of it is under that age at the present time. The average number of children in American families is stated to be only about one-third that of foreign born families. The infant mortality is as great in the rural districts as in the cities, only about three-fifths of those who are born in either arriving at adult life. It is not surprising that these statements of Dr. Allen have startled Massachusetts, but as the Irish and Germans make very valuable accessions to the native people, and their continued immigration and healthful increase will prevent the State from becoming a wilderness, there is no cause for despondency as to its future.

IRELAND.—Train sums up thus: Talk of slavery in Carolina or Virginia, in Cuba or Brazil, but that was freedom compared with what you see in Ireland. Slavery of the body is nothing; it is the slavery of the mind. No hope, no future, no nothing but darkness and despair. The Protestants stole the land; the Catholics rent it. The landlord lives in England; the tenant starves in Ireland.

Pope Pius IX is described as a very good-looking man, with wonderfully graceful manners, stout and corpulent, though of a very agreeable exterior, and clothed as he is in white, from the shoes to his capote, with gilded crosses embroidered on the fore part of his shoes, and his rich white hair falling upon his shoulders, he impresses those who see him first as having an uncommonly venerable appearance. His white, transparent cheeks become slightly colored by the effect of the air; his face is of a beautiful regularity, and in spite of his aquiline nose and his rather piercing eyes, meekness and benevolence are the very characteristics of his features.

NARROW ESCAPE OF BAYARD TAYLOR.—According to a letter from Italy, Bayard Taylor came near being one of the victims of the land slide at Naples, which destroyed so many lives. He occupied, with his family, a house at Santa Lucia, which was one of those overwhelmed by the avalanche, but fortunately on the day it occurred they were absent on a visit to Sorrento. It is said there were two Americans, in an omnibus, buried by the slide.

GREATEST SPEED ON RECORD.—The United States Steamer Wampanoag, (says the Washington Star, of the 18th instant,) which has been on her trial trip from New York, arrived at Hampton Roads yesterday, where she is to remain as temporary flagship to the North Atlantic Squadron. The average speed made by the Wampanoag was 16 3/4 knots per hour, or 19.3 statute miles. Her greatest speed was 17 1/4 knots, or 20.4 statute miles per hour.

The Ohio River is in a bad way. It is now full of pools and sand bars, which obstruct navigation; and if these should be removed, a uniform shallowness of water would result, which would practically destroy navigation. It has been proposed to tap Lake Erie to supply it with water; but there is the trifling objection that Pittsburg is 120 feet higher than the surface of the lake.

EXTRAORDINARY COURTESY TO CRIMINALS.—The Greensboro (Ala.) Beacon mentions the following incident of the late State election: "Three negroes confined in jail in this place for criminal offences, were taken out last Thursday, under an order from the managers of the election, marched to the polls, and allowed to vote. One of them is a boy, whose age, we are assured by one who knows his raising, does not exceed twenty years.

The daughter of a hotel proprietor, in Cleveland, was rescued from a house of ill-fame in Chicago, day before yesterday, to which place she had fled from a seminary in Hillsdale, Michigan, which she was attending, and from whence she was enticed by a son of one of the professors.

A Mr. Collins and his son-in-law, in Randolph County, Ind., were both aroused from sleep, the other night, by the noise made by a burglar. They came out of the house unknown to each other, and the son, meeting his father in the dark, dealt him a blow on the head from which there is no hope of his recovery.

Hood, a colored conventionist and likewise a Presbyterian preacher in North Carolina, distinguished himself in convention by moving that a recess be taken till the circus had passed the Capitol. The circus passed, and Hood cheerfully resumed the manufacture of constitutions.

The La Crosse (Wisconsin) Republican says that a young Winnebago, named Hanuck, last Thursday, walked a distance of seventy-five miles in about sixteen hours. The Indian was about town next day, without any thought of fatigue.

The process of conducting divorce suits has reached great perfection in the West. They regularly time them there. One has been granted in Terre Haute, Ind., in a minute from the time the trial began—the best time yet made.

At Cincinnati, the other day, the man who threw snuff into the eyes of a jeweler's clerk, and ran away with a tray of diamonds, pleaded guilty, and while the officials were momentarily engaged, walked out of court and escaped.

PERSONAL.—Among the arrivals at the Mills House yesterday, are Comptes Guy de Bersleymont, Maurice Albert and Georges Nagelmackers; these gentlemen are visiting these territories for pleasure.

FOUND DEAD.—A colored woman, named Flora Campbell, alias Flora Rose, was found dead in her bed yesterday afternoon, at her residence No. 35 Beaufain street.

OFF FOR LIBERIA.—1,500 freedmen, of Lowndes County, Mississippi, have signed their names to an agreement to emigrate to Liberia. They expect to be sent by the American Colonization Society.

Advices from Crete represent that the prospects of the Turks are gloomy, they having been defeated in several engagements of late, with heavy losses.

Gov. Geary has signed the bill repealing the charter and confiscating the Gettysburg Asylum lottery property.

Local Items.

His Excellency Gov. Orr arrived in Columbia Saturday afternoon, and remained for several days.

The raffle for the papier mache writing desk and silver casket, announced to come off on Saturday evening, was postponed until this evening, at 8 o'clock, when it will positively come off.

ALARM OF FIRE.—On Sunday, about half-past 12 o'clock P. M., an alarm of fire was sounded; the firemen turned out, and after a race of several squares, were informed that "the fire was out." The alarm was caused by the accidental burning of a portion of the roof of Mr. James McIntosh's building, on Main street, below the State House. A few buckets of water settled the business.

THE CONCERT THIS EVENING.—Our city readers are aware that a concert for the benefit of the Ladies' Industrial Association is to be given this evening, in Gregg's (or Calisthenic) Hall. The College Band will lend its aid to the good work, and several ladies and gentlemen of acknowledged talent will assist. The price of tickets is fifty cents. To prevent delay at the door, those desirous of attending are advised to obtain tickets from Messrs. R. L. Bryan and W. B. Stanley. The stage scenery to be used on the occasion was kindly tendered by the 5th United States Artillery Dramatic Association.

THE LAND WE LOVE.—The March number of this Southern publication has just been received. The following is the table of contents:

The Burning of Columbia, S. C.; Beauty for Ashes, Ancient Roman Wit, Equipoise, Sketch of Gen. John H. Kelly, Exit Pompey, Mary Ashburton, Rodes' Brigade at Seven Pines, Florence, Sketch of First Kentucky Brigade, Personal Recollections of Eminent Men, Japan Clover, Perfect Through Suffering, Mr. Dickens' Readings, Haversack, Editorial, Book Notices.

Gen. D. H. Hill, Charlotte, N. C., is the proprietor.

The Riverside for March is full of interesting reading for the young. The first article is a vivid description of Guyuquil, in South America, with excellent illustrations. Wordsworth's ballad of "Goody Blake and Harry Gill" is given, with a full-page illustration, by William L. Champney. "Snow-drifts" is an excellent story of school-boy days. Porte Crayon's story, "The Young Virginians," is continued in the author's most amusing style. The "Flight of the Dolls" is a pleasant fantasy for little girls. There are several other stories, all of which are admirably adapted to interest young readers. Hurd & Houghton, New York, are the publishers.

MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR.—Several weeks ago, a white man, giving his name as Emory Howard, and claiming to be a native of Illinois, was arrested by Chief Radcliffe, under suspicious circumstances. He stated that he had walked from Augusta, Ga., and in attempting to cross the Congaree River, in company with two companions—named C. W. Peck and James Caff—the boat upset, and his two friends and the ferryman (a colored man, named Richard Williams,) were drowned. Search for the bodies was made, but with unsatisfactory results. The wife of the ferryman corroborated the statement of the prisoner, that her husband had attempted to carry three men across the river, but knew nothing further relative to the matter, except that her husband had not returned. A pistol and a package of letters, addressed to George Looker, were found on the person of Howard. Through the instrumentality of a young lawyer, the prisoner was released after several days' confinement; leaving his pistol (in

lieu of greenbacks—of which article he appeared to be short) as payment for the services rendered by the discharge of Blackstone, and immediately departed—neglecting to leave his address. On Sunday morning last, a fisherman, who had several traps in the river, discovered a strange object on one of them, and on a more minute observation, it proved to be the arm and leg of a human being. Coroner Walker was notified, and after considerable difficulty, owing to the high water, and consequent danger of the undertaking, succeeded in hiring two men to bring the remains (which proved to be the missing ferryman, Richard Williams,) ashore. Dr. Geiger carefully examined the body, but could find no marks of violence. An inquest was held in the afternoon, and a verdict of accidental drowning returned by the jury. The wife of the deceased ferryman identified the body.

We now come to the mysterious part of the affair. About fifteen months ago, a letter was received by an officer of one of the Masonic Lodges in this city, from an individual in Kansas, who stated that a man—of whom a particular description was given—had informed a son of the writer, that he had buried a quantity of gold near Columbia, which he had secured during the destruction of that city—offering the young man \$1,000 if he would accompany him and assist in its recovery. The father's advice to have nothing to do with the matter was complied with, (so the letter declared,) and the object of the writer was to effect the arrest of the robber, and to force him to disgorge his ill-gotten treasure. The letter was replied to, and the police notified of the matter. Nothing further was heard of the affair, until about two months ago, when another letter was received from the Kansas correspondent, asserting that the ex-soldier had, in company with a companion—who was also described—the day before departed on their journey to Columbia, and that as they expected to stop in Washington and one or two other cities on their way, several weeks would elapse before their arrival at the scene of their depredations. A strict watch was kept by Chief Radcliffe and his assistants, and the result was the arrest on suspicion of Howard, alias Looker. The description given by this man of his two companions tallies with that furnished in the letter mentioned above. The interesting query arises, therefore, were the parties put out of the way by Looker, so as to secure the gold to himself individually; or was it a dispensation of Providence—preventing the wicked robbers of the widow and orphan obtaining possession of the coveted gold—for

"God works in a mysterious way His wonders to perform;" Or were the voyagers innocent travelers, who met with an unlooked for accident. We are informed that diligent efforts will be made for the recovery of the missing bodies. As the affair is still hidden by a thick veil of uncertainty, it is unfortunate that Looker was allowed to depart until the mystery was cleared up, as he was, perhaps, the only witness of the unfortunate accident. Letters of inquiry have been forwarded to the Kansas correspondent, and further information relative to the buried treasure may yet be obtained.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.—The post office open during the week from 8 1/2 a. m. to 6 p. m. On Sundays, from 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 p. m. The Charleston and Western mails are open for delivery at 2 p. m., and close at 9 a. m. Northern—Open for delivery at 10 1/2 a. m., closes at 1 p. m. Greenville—Open for delivery at 3 p. m., closes at 8 p. m.

KEROSENE.—The New York Times, of the 20th, mentions the case of a woman who was burned to death by the explosion of a kerosene lamp. A day or two before they had an account of a house which was destroyed by the same cause. And also an account of a fire originating in a similar way, which destroyed a large amount of property. It would seem that accidents from this terrible and destructive material are now matter of daily occurrence all over the country. Of course, one-tenth, or perhaps one-hundredth, of the accidents caused by it are never heard of through the newspapers. It is only when they have a fatal ending, or when a large fire is the result, that they are chronicled. A large proportion of our citizens are in the habit of constantly using this dangerous and explosive substance in their houses. We know that it is said these accidents result from carelessness, and doubtless they generally do; but in supplying an article for common household use, allowance must be made for a certain amount of carelessness on the part of servants or children. It is said, again, that this dangerous sort of kerosene is always impure. That also may be the case; but what proportion, then, of all that is sold is pure?

IMPORTANT.—The Atlanta Intelligencer reminds its readers of a fact which many have probably forgotten. Under the internal revenue laws, letters acknowledging the receipt of either drafts, checks or money, exceeding \$20, are subject to a stamp duty of twenty cents, the same as if a formal receipt had been given for so much money. As the validity of some transaction may be affected by the omission of this regulation, and unprofitable litigation ensue, it is as well that all concerned should bear the fact in mind.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.—Attention is called to the following advertisements, published this morning for the first time: Concert at Gregg's Hall. F. Carvis—Room To Rent. James L. Orr—Proclamation.

PROSPECT OF WAR BETWEEN ENGLAND AND MEXICO.—Private advices from London state that the receipt of intelligence from Mexico that the Government has determined to repudiate the debts of foreign countries except the United States, has given rise to an intense feeling of indignation in the English Government. The reason assigned by Mexico for the adoption of such a course is a revenge upon the nations of Europe for the recognition of Maximilian. England, however, not having followed the rest of Europe in this hasty proceeding, is consequently doubly affected by the new Mexican policy. The Government, it is said, is now seriously contemplating the fitting out of a fleet to take possession of the ports of Mexico and hold them until satisfaction is given. This, it is thought, can be done without an infringement of the Monroe doctrine, as the expedition will not be permanent in its nature, and does not contemplate the acquisition of territory, but will be merely a species of reprisal against the Government as an indemnification for debts due to British subjects. It is also understood that France, though consulted, has declined for the present to participate.

[Wash. Cor. New York Herald.] On the 31st ult., at Great Salt Lake City, Brigham Young was married for the thirty-first time; the happy bride being Miss Merivine Van Cott, and formerly, while a Gentile, the wife of a Mr. Cobb, from whom she was duly divorced, so that she resumed her maiden name. She is now the thirty-first of the Mormon prophet's wives, not counting those who have been only sealed, or formally married by him, for the sake merely of securing their salvation, since none but married women are admitted into the Mormon heaven.

T. F. Lavelle, conductor of a city passenger car in New York, was killed on Monday, by a stranger whom he had put off the car for not paying his fare.