ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE AND VIRGINIA ADVERTISER

SIC SEMPER TYRANNIS

PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY EDGAR SNOWDEN.

ALEXANDRIA:

FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 19, 1858.

The public, outside of the walls of the capitol, will grieve to learn, that in the House of Representatives, in committee of the whole, on the Indian Appropriation bill, the debate on *slavery* has been resumed; on Wednesday last, Mr. Atkins of Tennessee making a flaming speech, declaring that Kansas must be admitted under the Lecompton constitution or the union be dissolved; and Mr. Lovejoy, of Illinois, blurting out an enthusiastic onslaught upon slavery and its defenders, and declaring his belief that the contest was not in reality between North and South, but between freedom and slavery, &c., &c.

We presume that under the explanations of Mr. Caldwell, relative to the accusation against Lieut. Gov. Jackson, that matter will soon be ended. The charge now seems to be that Mr. Jackson *electioneered* for the Baltimore and Ohio consolidation bill. The remarks of Mr. C. out of doors, appear to have been made under excitement, and without deliberation. We trust that proper explanations will be made all around, and the affair dismissed from every body's mind.

The Washington Star speaks of "the end of the Carnival in Washington." Elsewhere the phrase is altered by the fashionables to "the conclusion of the gay season." The Star, however, we think will find that Lent will not observed as universally in Washington, as it is in other parts of the country, in the South especially. The season of gaiety and fashion there, lasts generally, whilst Congress is in session.

The Loudoun Mirror says, that a man, from Ohio, lately made his appearance at Hillsboro,' in Loudoun, and after remaining a few days, commenced an attempt to persuade several slaves to run off, agreeing to see them safely to a free state. The slaves refused—and he becoming alarmed cleared out. He is promised, if he comes back, to be properly dealt with.

The Winchester Virginian continues to urge the Strasburg extension, and gives the experience of some one who has lately been to Alexandria to purchase goods, that he could buy better and cheaper in Winchester. We are sure our merchants are willing to "try conclusions," generally, on that head. But will, in truth, the Strasburg extension benefit Winchester?

The Fredericksburg Recorder says:—"Judging from the sentiment in this section of the State, we can see but one result flowing from Gov. Wise's course, and that is, that he must work out the residue of his political fortunes without aid, sympathy or confidence from the Virginia democracy, or the southern people."

The Washington Star objects to the summary mode, by attachment and imprisonment for "contempt" by which the House of Representatives punishes refractory witnesses.—It thinks the imprisonment of Wolcott is a dangerous stretch of power—and that the law provides for such cases, without resorting to so arbitrary proceedings.

We regret learn that Hon. John Letcher, of Virginia, who has been indisposed for several days, will leave Washington for his home shortly, by the advice of his physician, who is of the opinion that his health will be much improved by the change.

The House of Representatives has decided that the act of 1851 in reference to contested elections, makes sufficient provision for the Baltimore contested election case; and, therefore Mr. Brooks, if he continues to contest, must proceed under that act.

We regret to hear that Com. T. Ap. Catesby Jones is lying quite ill at his residence, a short distance above Georgetown. His health has not been good for some months past.

The river steamer Magnolia, from Wilmington, for Fayetteville, N. C., exploded her boiler on the 10th, at Whitehall; killing fifteen to twenty persons. Some of the bodies have been recovered, but many are missing.

It is estimated that the recent reduction of coal freight on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad will increase the demand for Cumberland coal from five hundred thousand to one million tons per annum.

Ice, from two to four inches in thickness formed in the streams near Leesburg, this week; and the good people there were taking advantage of it to fill their ice houses. So, also, in Fredericksburg.

Hon. Edward Everett has just been elected a foreign corresponding member of the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences in the Institute of France.

The anniversary of Washington's Birth Day will be celebrated at Georgetown College, by the Philodemic Society. C. C. Magruder, Reader, and N. S. Hill, Orator.

The San Francisco Herald applauds the appointment of Austin E. Smith, esq., son of Ex-Gov. Smith, of this State, to the position of Navy Agent for California.

Friends' Quarterly Meeting was held at Waterford, Loudoun County, on the first and second days of this week. A large number of persons were present.

Gen. Calhoun's statement relative to the Kansas election, will be found in another column.

We are indebted to the Hon. Wm. Smith for copies of public documents.

The Army Bill was still the subject of discussion in the Senate on Wednesday. Mr. Johnson, the new Tennessee Senator, proposed to call out a force of four thousand volunteers for the Utah war—to be disbanded as soon as the war is over. He then went into the subject of the great and growing expenses of the government. He said that instead of increasing our expenditures, we should rather be seeking to restrain and curtail them. The Democratic party was properly held responsible for any extravagance which might be committed in the matter of appropriations. These appropriations had already increased to an alarming amount and in an alarming progression. The Democratic party have always professed to be in favor of an economical administration of the Government, and he thought it was time for it to redeem its pledges to the country. He compared the expenditures of the United States at the several decades into which its civil history is divided, and drew from these data the inference that our expenses had increased greatly beyond the proportion demanded by the increasing expansion and population of the country. If our expenses should increase according to the ratio which had hitherto prevailed, the amount required for the ordinary purposes of the Government in 1860, would be one hundred and twenty-five millions of dollars. Since the organization of the Government the appropriations made for its support had amounted to thirteen hundred and thirteen millions of dollars, of which eight hundred and sixty-seven millions had been applied to the maintenance of the army and navy of the United States, leaving only four hundred and forty-six millions for all other objects. He was opposed to any progress in this direction, and warned the Democracy of the danger to which their political ascendency would be exposed by a persistence in this path of extravagance.

On motion of Mr. Mason, the Senate has laid on the table Mr. Houston's resolution relative to a "protectorate" over the Central American states—he very properly remarking, that to entertain it, or even to refer it to a committee of the Senate, would be to offer an inexcusable indignity to the Spanish-American States, which if feeble were yet sister Republics, whose independence we had recognized, and whose claim to equality in the commonwealth of nations did not furnish to us a legitimate subject of inquiry.—The resolution, moreover, by proposing a protectorate of the countries in question, involved an express departure from that traditional policy of the country which had hitherto preserved us from entering into any entangling alliances with foreign nations.—[We are sorry to see that Mr. Houston's scheme was patronized by Mr. Toombs of Georgia.]

The report of the Board of Public Works for the year 1857 shows that the canals of Ohio did not pay their expenses by $9,224 46. They cost the State millions of dollars for their construction. The money expended on them was borrowed, and bonds were issued, which impose a charge for interest amounting annually to $812,730. The decline in the receipts from these public works has been gradually increasing for the past three years. The Annual Report of the Auditor of the New York Canal Department, gives an exhibit of the trade and tonnage of the Canals for the last season, by which it appears that the decrease in revenue from this source, as compared with the previous season, is $702,571, and the decrease of tonnage is $772,021. This falling off is attributed to various causes, the principal among which are the financial revulsion and the competition of the railroads.

The Senate Committee on Territories will report on Monday. There will be three reports: that of the majority in favor of Lecompton, written by Mr. Green, of Missouri; that of the minority against Lecompton, written by Mr. Collamer, of Vermont, and signed by him and Mr. Wade, of Ohio; and a third report against Lecompton by Judge Douglas. The two last will arrive at the same conclusions by slightly different courses of reasoning. The same committee will also report a bill to organise the Territory of Arizona, which has been delayed by some trouble about the boundaries.

The House Committee on Territories have prepared a bill to organize a new Territory out of that part of Utah lying west of Salt Lake, to be called Carson Territory.

In the Court of Quarter Sessions, in Philadelphia, a man named Andrew Kelley—a rough, rowdy like person—was convicted of arson in the first degree. He will be sentenced to-morrow. The lowest term of imprisonment in this case is five years. Kelley belonged to a gang called Badgers, located in the western part of the city, who have committed numerous acts of arson. In the present instance, Kelley is convicted of having fired a large unoccupied frame house in West Philadelphia, purely from a desire to give the company a "run," to bring a rival company to West Philadelphia, in order to throw the engine down a quarry and shatter it to pieces.

We learn from the Leonardtown, Md. Beacon, that the kitchen attached to the Washington Hotel, at that place, took fire on Saturday night last, and was completely destroyed. An old negro woman named Jule, the property of Mr. Moore, the proprietor of the Hotel, had gone to bed drunk, and left a candle burning near her. It is supposed that the candle caught to the bed clothes, and that the fire originated in this way. The unfortunate creature was heard to scream for help when the fire was first discovered, but, begirt by a wall of flame, she was cut off from all aid, and the attempts made to reach her were unavailing. Thus she perished. Mr. Moore's loss is about $2,000.

The few who thought at the commencement of the present session of Congress that it would terminate in May, have reluctantly given up this hope. The main appropriation bills, the Kansas question, the Utah question, eight investigating committees, the codification of the revenue laws, the Clayton-Bulwer controversy, the Paraguay difficulty, and many other questions equally important and which will give rise to debate, have yet to be disposed of in either House. The six or seven hundred reports from the Court of Claims which will come up are excluded from the consideration, as there seems to be no disposition, on the part of the House at least, to give them any large amount of attention.

The return of Santa Anna, is now freely debated in political circles in Mexico, and his resumption of office, after the fourth or fifth exile, would surprise no one versed in the mutations of Mexican politics. That his downfall would come just as surely might be predicted with tolerable certainty. At present such is the confusion and agitation among the several States of the Confederacy, and such the ambition of a number of prominent men to leap into Comonfort's vacant seat, that a condition of things not very far removed from anarchy may be said to exist.

The Legislature of Virginia having just refused to do anything for the relief of the merchants of Virginia from the unjust rate of taxation which they bear, the Richmond Despatch says: "The merchants of the cities are already oppressed beyond endurance by the enormous disproportion of the public burthens which is thrown upon their shoulders. There are merchants in our city who pay fifteen hundred dollars license tax, whilst in the great commercial city of New York such a tax is unknown, and of course not a dollar paid. It is the policy of Virginia to put down commerce; the effect of her legislation is to drive her merchants out of her own borders, to build up Baltimore, and other marts of the North, and having done this, and filled Northern pouches with the gold and silver, the sinews of war that might have sustained Southern trade, she turns to and raises a terrific hullabaloo about Southern commerce and Southern independence."

A letter from Richmond says, that "numbers of beautiful ladies from all parts of the state are now congregating in Richmond, preparatory to the 22d. The head quarters for most of them is the Exchange Hotel.—Amongst them are the wives and daughters of several of the Senators and Delegates.—Their presence lends a charm to the society of the metropolis. The bachelors of the Legislature have their hands full in playing the gallant, and making themselves agreeable, in addition to attending to their duties at the Capital. The 22d will be a great day!"

A reclamation has been made before the Department of State against the British government by Mr. J. A. Machado, of New York, for the illegal seizure of the ship Thomas Watson, on the coast of Africa, in September last, by the British war steamer Bloodhound. This vessel was nearly full with a cargo of palm oil when seized and carried into Sierra Leone, but failing to establish any chage against the vessel, the civil authorities took no notice of the seizure, and she was discharged.

Startling intelligence has been received at Austin, Texas, of Indian depredations in Brown county, of that State. Five persons had been murdered in cold blood, and the settlers generally, alarmed at the unchecked enormities of the savages, dividing into three separate parties, had taken refuge in the adjacent forts. The Legislature of Texas has passed a bill for the raising and equipment of one hundred men, and an appropriation for the purpose of seventy-five thousand dollars.

A bill now before the Maryland Legislature proposes to charter the "Baltimore City Passenger Railroad," with authority to build a railway through the streets from the West end of Baltimore to Canton, passing by or in the immediate neighborhood of the Post Office and Exchange, with power to increase from time to time the length of their road and to connect with any other passenger railroad that may hereafter be constructed.

The sugar-house on the Louisiana plantation of Col. Jacob Hollingsworth, of Hagerstown, Md., was destroyed by fire a few weeks ago. The Herald says there were several hundred hogsheads of molasses and a large quantity of sugar stored in the building, all of which was burnt. The loss is estimated at upwards of $30,000, upon which, however, there was an insurance of $28,000.

On Friday last, Dr. William E. Peach of Nottingham District, Md., was admitted to bail in the sum of one thousand dollars, to appear at the April term of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, by Justices Medley and Benson, upon an investigation had before them for the shooting of an Irishman named Scantlin, in an affray on the 19th of January.

We learn from the York (Pa.) Republican that on Tuesday afternoon five children—three boys and two girls—who were returning home from school in Manchester township, ventured upon the ice on the Codorus, but it not being of sufficient thickness to bear their weight, four of the number broke through, and before assistance could be rendered three of them were drowned.

A stampede of fifteen slaves occurred from Key West, on the night of the 6th. A small sail boat, belonging to the Sand Key Light House, with a month's supply of provisions for the keeper and assistants on board, was taken by the negroes, and in it they were able to elude their pursuers. It is thought they have gone to Nassau.

In the lower House of the Tennessee Legislature a resolution of Mr. Kendrick, tendering the use of the Hall to *General William Walker*, and calling upon him for a public address upon Nicaraguan affairs, was, on motion of Mr. Bale, laid upon the table by a vote of 31 to 23.

The residence of Mrs. S. J. Colston, in Berkeley County, Va., was destroyed by fire on Thursday week. The best portion of the furniture, and all the valuable papers, books, silver, &c., were saved. The building was insured for $4000 in the Berkeley Mutual Insurance Company.

Mr. Everett expects to deliver his Oration on Washington, in Fredericksburg, some time after the 22d. Could we not have him in Alexandria?

Mr. Dallas and family, and the members of the American legation at London, attended all the court ceremonies connected with the marriage of the Princess Royal.

The three slaves implicated in the murder of Mr. James C. Grant, of New Kent county, have been tried, convicted, and sentenced to be hung on the 19th of March.

The Marlboro' Gazette says:—"Our farmers will be delighted to hear of a reduction in the price of Guano."

The New York Freeman's Journal, is very earnest against the Lecompton constitution for Kansas.

Removal of Judge Loring.

The partisan method to get rid of Judge Loring is now fairly before the house, in the shape of a proposed law for the abolition of the State office which he holds. The measure is termed a consolidation of the courts of probate and insolvency; and is the abolition of two State offices and the creation of a new office. To get at Judge Loring it is proposed to remove fifty-four officers!

This bill is introduced expressly to relieve the governor from acting on the abolition demand for the removal of Judge Loring; and but for this demand there would be no such bill. Will the paltry reasons urged in the report satisfy the honest members of the legislature? Will they consent to such an evident piece of partisanship as the abolition of long-standing courts to serve only the temporary turn of an aspiring politician?—*Boston Post.*

Statement by Gen. Calhoun.

WASHINGTON CITY, Feb. 17, 1858.

To the editor of the Union:

SIR: I have already communicated to the Committee on Territories in the Senate a full statement of facts connected with the application of Kansas for admission into the Union as a State. I need not repeat those facts in this paper, as they will doubtless reach the public in a few days. It is with reluctance that I refer to matters pertaining solely to the local politics of the Territory in which I live, and with which, to some extent, I have been connected; but the various and contradictory statements which have been made by unscrupulous and irresponsible letter-writers to the public press, touching the discharge of my official duties as president of the constitutional convention, make the duty imperative.

Excitement, conflict, and great confusion must necessarily attend the organization of government for a community brought together from all parts of the world, and actuated by different objects, motives, and prejudices. No Territory ever organized in the United States has suffered more from causes of this character than Kansas. The conflict about the shaping of our institutions, so constantly directed by persons and parties outside of the Territory, has forced within its limits a class of population from every portion of the Union, most dissimilar in character, and with the strongest predisposition to collision. That disorder and confusion, the violation of individual and public rights and duties, should result from such causes, may be deplored, but could not be prevented. Good men have sought the peaceful remedy to these controversies in the ballot-box. Bad men have been governed by no scruples as to public or private action. In the periodical addresses put forth by the law-and-order or democratic party of Kansas, every foreign influence has been repudiated, and every effort made to procure for Kansas the quiet, peaceful settlement of all questions of public policy, by the fair and honest expression of the popular will. To the fullest extent these recommendations have not probably prevailed with their own party friends, who, in opposition to a party knowing and respecting no law, may have been driven to the extremity of wrong and the violation of public right and duty. But it is not my object to go into a full examination of this subject. My object now is to place myself right before the public on the subject of the election returns for members of the Legislature in Leavenworth county, the statements in reference to which have been so conflicting and contradictory.

On the 13th of January, the day before I opened the returns of the Kansas elections for and under the constitution, I was called upon by several gentlemen from Lawrence, headed by Doctor or Governor Robinson, and asked if I would be governed, in determining the result of the election in Leavenworth county, by the sworn statement of one of the judges of election at the precinct known as "Delaware Crossing." I replied, no! That I could not, and would not, go behind the election returns. It was then stated that the question was to be the legality of returns; and fraud was charged, on what information I did not learn, upon the ground that the returns sent to me were not the true returns as approved and signed by the judges of election. To give the full opportunity of submitting testimony as to the legality of the returns, I told the gentlemen that, as the legislature would have no duties to perform until after the decision of the question of admission, there could be no necessity for the immediate issuance of certificates of election in that or any other case, and that the difficulty which they suggested could, in the mean time, be fully investigated.

This statement I made the next day in the presence of the gentlemen who were present at the opening of the returns. I, also, authorized Gov. Denver to state, that if the judges of election would furnish me, under oath, a statement that the return made was false and fraudulent, I would treat such statement as a corrected return, and be governed by it in giving certificates of election. I knew nothing of the Delaware Crossing returns, only that public rumor had given to the democratic party a majority at that precinct of some three or four hundred. I supposed the returns from that precinct were in my office, and was undeceived only when all the returns were opened and they were not found. These returns were of great importance, as they determined not only the political complexion of Leavenworth county, but of both branches of the legislature. As they stood at the opening of the returns, without the Delaware Crossing vote, the republicans had a majority in Leavenworth county, and, consequently, a majority in both branches of the legislature.

In order to ascertain the truth, I sent a messenger to that precinct to see the judges of election, and learn the facts as to the charge of fraud in the return. In the mean time, the sealed returns from that precinct were put into my hands by Mr. Dieterdorf, one of the commissioners for Leavenworth county, and on the same day that the messenger returned from Delaware Crossing precinct. I received the returns and the messenger's report at Weston, Missouri, on the 21st day of January. The messenger brought to me the following *sworn statements* of the judges and clerks of the precinct in question:

TERRITORY OF KANSAS, }
County of Leavenworth. }

The undersigned, judges and clerks of the election held for State officers and members of the State Legislature, held at the precinct known as Delaware Agency, on the 4th day of January, A. D., 1858, do hereby certify that the returns made by us of said election were correct and genuine, and that any statement made by any person as to the vote of said precinct, can only be determined, as to its truth or falsity, by a reference to said returns made by us as managers and clerks of said election at said precinct.

ISAAC MONDAY, }
THEODORE F. GARRETT, } Judges.
JAMES C. GRINTER, }
W. C. WILSON, } Clerks.
JAMES FINDLAY, }

Sworn to and subscribed this 18th day of January, A. D., 1858.

TERRITORY OF KANSAS, }
County of Johnson. }

Before me, Samuel Saters, personal appeared Theodore F. Garrett, who, being sworn, says that on the 11th day of January he was arrested in Leavenworth county, under, as it was said, a warrant, and taken to Lawrence, by an armed party of ten or eleven, and, while he was under arrest, a proposition was made to him to make him a new poll-book, (by some one of the Free-State party in Lawrence, and he thinks by a man named Ewing,) which poll book should be made out, so that General Calhoun would receive it, which deponent, being in durance, told him; or them, he supposed would be all right.

THEODORE F. GARRETT.

Sworn to and subscribed this, the 18th day of January, 1858.

These depositions impressed my mind fully that the returns placed that day in my hands were true. I entertained no particle of doubt about the result, when, in the presence of Colonel Starks and others, I opened the returns and found a majority of 579 votes for the democratic party. I concluded, as a matter of course, that the depositions of the judges and clerks were made with a full knowledge of the contents of the returns, then for the first time in my possession. The returns, together with the depositions of the judges and clerks, I sent to my office, at Lecompton, by Mr. Brooks, one of the clerks in the surveyor general's office. I am informed, in a letter from Mr. Brooks, that he placed them in the hands of Gen. Maclean, the chief clerk in the surveyor general's office, on the 27th day of January. I at once said to my friends, and others who approached me on the subject, that the democratic party had a majority in the legislature, and authorized the publication of such a statement. I came to Washington with no particle of doubt on my mind as to the result.—On the Saturday night after my arrival in Washington, I called to pay my respects to an old friend, Judge Douglas, and before leaving he placed in my hands a paper he had just received from Kansas. This paper contained what purported to be the depositions of the judges of election for the precinct of Delaware Crossing; and in which the judges deposed that there were but forty-three votes polled at that precinct. I could not act, or form my opinion upon a newspaper publication; but I immediately informed my friends that if the statements so made should prove true, they must inevitably control my action. I have received and opened a return from the Delaware Crossing precinct which gives to the democratic party a majority of 379 votes, and would thus secure a majority to the democratic legislative ticket of Leavenworth county, and a majority on joint ballot in the legislature, under the constitution.—If the judges of election at that precinct furnish to me, as I informed Gov. Denver before leaving Kansas, a reliable and sworn statement that but forty-three votes were polled there, I should make myself a party to the fraud if I declined to be governed by the oaths of the judges. It is a question going to the legality of the returns. Of that I may judge and determine. I shall do so; and, in my determination, I shall be governed by justice and truth and the right. If it shall, as it probably will, place the government of the State of Kansas in the hands of my enemies, no one will regret it more; but yet no one, not even a black-republican, could perform the duty with more of the consciousness of right than I shall feel in the honest discharge of my official duties.—I have written to Gov. Denver to procure the sworn statements of the judges of this controverted precinct, and to have them taken under such circumstances as will secure a free and unbiassed exhibition of facts. By the sworn statements, so procured, I shall be governed in giving the certificates of election to the members of the legislature from Leavenworth county. J. CALHOUN.

Telegraphic Despatches.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 16.—The Niagara's advices have caused a disappointment in the cotton trade here, as a further advance of ⅛d. was anticipated. The market to-day, therefore, has been weak, and prices inclined to droop. The exports during the past week were large, reaching 60,000 bales, of which 45,000 were to Liverpool and the balance to France. The total decrease in the receipts at all the ports, as compared with the same period last year, now reach 500,000 bales.—Freights are firm at ¼d. to Liverpool.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—Captain Gardner has been appointed to the command of the steamship Colorado, now fitting out at Norfolk as the flag-ship of the home squadron.

Commodore Jones is now lying dangerously ill.

An official statement shows the effective force of our navy now embraces 62 vessels of all kinds.

HARTFORD, Conn., Feb. 16.—A fire broke out in the North Middle school-house in this city during the session of the school this forenoon. The fire was discovered coming up through the floor in the first department. No great damage was done. In the various departments about 400 scholars were dismissed, and no one was hurt, though the panic was great.

TAMAQUA, Feb. 16.—J. Edw. Barnes, superintendent of the Little Schuylkill Navigation and Railroad Company, and Duncan Wier, mine agent, were suffocated in a mine a short distance from this place yesterday afternoon by the gas. Their bodies were taken out about 11 o'clock last night.

NORRISTOWN, Pa., Feb. 16.—A man named Smith who for some time past has been confined in the prison, at this place, charged with having murdered his wife at Port Kennedy, committed suicide last night in his cell, by hanging himself with his handkerchief.

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 15.—A private despatch says that a man named Vanzayle, who is charged with kidnapping two free negroes of Geneva, N. Y., and selling one as a slave in this State, has been arrested in New Orleans, and is held to await a requisition from the Governor of Kentucky.

DANVILLE, Pa., Feb. 16.—The trial of Umbelark and Mrs. Briggs, who are charged with poisoning the wife of the former and husband of the latter, was commenced here to-day. The trial has been postponed two terms of the court. The parties will be tried separately.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—The schooner Chas. Colgate, from Baltimore for New York, with a cargo of corn, went ashore last night on Squam beach. She has five feet of water in her hold and is filling fast. All hands were saved.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—B. F. Butler, a director in the Middlesex Mills, has gone to Washington on business connected with the tariff corruption investigation.

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 16.—The Northern Bank of Kentucky, Bank of Kentucky, and Bank of Louisville, have all been recharitered for twenty years by the State Legislature.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—The U. S. frigate Wabash has arrived below, and is now at anchor off the bar.

Condensation and Brevity.

The Wheeling Times—a very decided American paper—pays the following compliment to Hon. John Letcher:

"Letcher is regarded as the most prominent aspirant for Wise's slippers, and if he should be elected, we are sure his good sense will spare us *three* messages instead of *one!* His forte seems to be condensation, and in dealing in solid facts and figures. In his speeches as a general thing, one does not have to sift two bushels of chaff to find the grain of wheat."

Very true. If there is anything that commends a public man to the favor and approval of the people more than another, it is condensation and brevity in his speeches and writings. Our "Sundog" Governor would inevitably have broken down under the ponderous weight of his verbosity—even if he had not already effectually cut his political throat by his letters to the Douglas Black Republicans of the North.—*Lynchburg Virginian.*

The Central Railroad.

With regard to the proposed changes in the rates of freight and fare upon this road, we learn that the Directors, at a meeting held last month, determined to change the tariff on freights by raising it on some articles and lowering it on others. They also determined that the passenger fares should be raised upon white persons to 4½ cents per mile, and on negroes to 3½ cents per mile.—A discrimination will be made in favor of some points on the road, where it is considered the interest of the company to make such a discrimination. Two of these points are Staunton and Charlottesville.

As the revisal of these rates is attended with considerable labor and deliberation, it will be some time before the new tariff will go into effect. It is to be hoped when they are announced they will be as little objectionable as it is possible for the interests of the company and the public to make them. *Rich. Disp.*

Why Not Go South.

We have long been at a loss to understand why it is that our enterprising young men choose rather to go into the western wilderness, submit to all the privations and hardships of a frontier and pioneer life, and deprive themselves of all the social comforts of society, when, by emigrating to Virginia, they would find all the comforts and blessings of social intercourse, and very greatly superior facilities for acquiring an honest independence.

In Eastern Virginia, in the vicinity of Norfolk especially, lands are cheap, exceedingly easy of cultivation, and the facilities for forwarding produce of all kinds to market are unsurpassed in any section of the country. The season being nearly a fortnight earlier than that of Philadelphia, vegetables of all kinds sent here bring high prices. More money could be realized with less labor, by purchasing a small farm in Eastern Virginia, and raising early vegetables for the Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York markets, than in any other way the ingenuity of man could devise.

Several years ago, while the writer of this was publishing the Old Dominion, a Democratic paper, at Portsmouth, Virginia, he urged upon the small farmers in the vicinity of that town and Norfolk, to engage in this business. Neither their fathers nor grandfathers had ever turned their attention to it, and they listened with respectful incredulity to any suggestions in the way of innovation upon ancient usages and customs. At last an enterprising farmer, from Camden, New Jersey, purchased a farm in the neighborhood for $3000, payments to be made in one, two, and three years. The Rip Van Winkles who had been dozing in dignified torpor for half a century, partially rubbed open their eyes, yawned slightly, and relapsed into their former sluggishness and apathy with the sapient reflection that the man was a natural born fool to think of making money by gardening in that vicinity—he would never pay for his land, that was a well established fixed fact. The result proved that even wise people can make erroneous calculations sometimes. The third year this "natural born fool" raised surplus enough on his little farm to pay the whole amount of the $3000, over and above what he sold in the markets of Norfolk and Portsmouth. He shipped enough of four articles alone, pears, cucumbers, tomatoes, and potatoes, to Baltimore and Philadelphia, to pay the entire amount of purchase money for his farm, without taking into the account the product of his fruit trees, which he used in his own family, and as we have already said what he sold in the two markets at home.—Where, in all the wild prairies of the boundless West, can you find a spot that will afford a parallel to this?

Then, this New Jersey farmer enjoyed the pleasure of society; he had neighbors, acquaintances, and friends, all around him.—He was not isolated, living solitary and alone, hermit-like, far from human sympathy and companionship, with few or no associates to break the odious monotomy of pioneer life. Again, we ask—"Why not go South?"

The following item, which we copy from the Norfolk Argus, affords an apt commentary upon our own reflections:

IRISH POTATOES.—We stated yesterday that a farmer near Norfolk cleared $2,600 on a potato patch of only 28 acres. This is, however, not equal to the crop of another Norfolk county farmer, on 6 acres. Forty bushels were planted, and the yield was 242 bols., equal to 726 bushels, which he sold in this market for $3 50 per barrel, making $847, or $141 per acre. Had they been sold at the prices obtained in the season, the proceeds would have amounted to $2,000.—*Philadelphia Argus.*

Explosion of Naptha at Sea.

Dreadful Sufferings and Loss of Life amongst the Crew.—On last Christmas day, the ship New England sailed from New York, bound for Glasgow. The crew, inclusive of officers, comprised eighteen men. A short time after the pilot left, a terrible storm came on, and caused the sea to sweep over and partially fill the vessel. The men were ordered to the pumps, and in the midst of hail and rain, they, day after day, stood up to their waists in water, almost perished with cold. Notwithstanding the continuous efforts of the men, the water gained ground, and the vessel began to sink. The captain, A. Pemper, seeing the state of affairs to be increasingly perilous, directed certain portions of the cargo to be thrown overboard, with a view of keeping the vessel afloat a little longer. During the lightening of the ship, by some circumstance or other, a large quantity of naptha ignited, causing a fearful explosion, and ran in liquid flames all over the deck, making dreadful havoc among the seamen. One person was standing on a part of the vessel under which the naptha was stowed, and when the explosion occurred, he was completely enveloped in flames; five others, including the first officer, were dreadfully burnt, and in addition to the burning, one boy had his thigh broken. The men who escaped more serious injuries, had their faces scorched and blackened. The barque Cora Linn, Capt. J. Goodey, came sufficiently near to rescue the whole of the men from the burning vessel. The men who were the most seriously burnt, however, died in a short time after being placed on board the Cora Linn; the other men all arrived at Liverpool on Sunday, and were immediately taken to the hospital.

To the Masons throughout the U. S.

It has already been seen, by the correspondence lately published, in what a noble and patriotic manner the Masons of Virginia have passed resolutions to lend their aid to the Ladies of the Mount Vernon Association to secure the home and grave of their great Masonic brother. The President of the Association has replied and gratefully accepted the proffered services of this time honored body. The ladies now appeal to the Masonic order throughout the United States, who pass similar resolutions at their meetings on the 22nd of February, that they will telegraph at once to Richmond. Not that the slightest doubt is entertained that the Masonic order, who have always acted unanimously and harmoniously together in every good and inspiring cause, will not do so in one as sacred as this, but that it is of the utmost importance that the ladies should at once be able to state the exact sum which they can furnish without delay, to the Treasury of Virginia. All that they now desire is to be able to give tangible proofs to the Legislature that the State will not be called upon to furnish one single order. We do not doubt that the Masons, as soon as they receive this intimation, will at once respond to the wishes of the President of the Association—herself the daughter of a Mason.—*Richmond Enquirer.*

On Drunkenness.

Bishop Bayley, the Catholic bishop of New Jersey, has issued a manifesto against the vice of drunkenness. His letter on the subject has been read in all the churches, in which he calls attention to two classes—the drunkards themselves and the dealers in liquor. Leaving to the pastors the choice of the particular means to be used, he suggests that each should keep a list of the drunkards and liquor dealers in his church. He says:

"I am determined to make use of the most severe measures against all who are addicted to this scandalous and destructive vice; and if they continue in the practice of it they must do it as outcasts from the Catholic church, who have no right to the name of Catholic while they live, nor to Christian burial when they die."

Interesting from Kansas.

The Legislature of Kansas has passed a bill, over the veto of Gov. Denver, removing the Territorial capital to Minneola, a little village formerly known as Centropolis. It is about twenty miles south of Lawrence.—The Governor, in his veto message, speaking of the proposed new capital, says:

"No buildings have been prepared for the use of the officers, nor can there be within a month or six weeks intervening, nor have I been able to ascertain that the town of Minneola has anything more than a descriptive existence."

A bill, said to have been drawn up by Mr. Martin F. Conway, late of Baltimore, has passed one branch of the Legislature, the substance of which is given by a correspondent of the Cincinnati Gazette, as follows:

The preamble sets forth that neither the Lecompton convention nor constitution have any just authority, or shadow of authority, from the people of Kansas.

It then goes on to provide, that for the "dictator" to declare, by official proclamation, the Lecompton constitution to be the constitution of the State of Kansas, or call upon or commission any persons to act as officers under it; or for any Senator, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary, Auditor or Treasurer of State, or member of the Legislature to attempt in any way to give effect to that constitutional government, or to exercise authority under it, shall be a felony, punishable with *death.*

The Kansas Question.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The House Kansas committee met to-night, when Mr. Merrill offered a resolution summoning Messrs. Walker, Calhoun, Stanton and Henderson for examination, and requiring them to bring all the documents in their possession bearing upon the subject-matter of investigation.—To this it was objected that as official documents were being obtained from the executive department, oral testimony might not be necessary.

The resolution, together with four or five others, looking to the examination of all matters covered by the resolution under which the committee was appointed, was tabled by a vote of 8 against 7; and the committee then passed Mr. Adrain's resolution, instructing the chairman to procure from the State Department the registry and census of the votes in Kansas, with an amendment offered by Mr. Stephens, in accordance with law." The committee adjourned to Wednesday next, in order meantime to procure the documents called for.

The majority of the Senate committee on territories, have completed their elaborate report. The bill which accompanies it is similar to those heretofore presented on such occasions, and admits Kansas into the Union under the Lecompton constitution.

Brutal Conduct of a Mob.

Yesterday afternoon our city was the theatre of a most disgraceful proceeding, but one in which, to the credit of our people, be it said, none but the very dregs of the population were engaged. The bodies of the McKeesport murderers, after being cut down, were placed in coffins provided for the purpose, and placed in a furniture wagon with a view to their removal to the grave yard for interment. The sister of Charlotte, with an affection, however wicked or abandoned its object may have been, should have secured for her the sympathy of the crowd, took a seat on one of the coffins, and the wagon moved on to its destination.

The crowd at this time was immense and the conduct of many of the loafers who formed it, disgusting. As the vehicle neared the graveyard, however, it became much worse, and the scenes which followed were disgraceful to humanity. The unfortunate woman seated on the coffin of her sister, and filled with grief for her untimely end, was hooted and abused, and called all kinds of names, and finally pelted with stones until her very life was almost put in jeopardy.—Foremost in the brutal affair were a number of abandoned negroes who did everything that their brutal instincts could suggest to annoy the woman, and but that they were prevented, we believe they would have laid violent hands upon her. A respectable man, who saw the transaction, however, interfered and succeeded in getting the mob to desist, and the wagon proceeded on its way.—*Pittsburg Chronicle.*

Printers' Rollers.

Every practical printer knows how indispensable to neat work is a good roller, combining both strength and elasticity. A discovery has just been made in this line which promises to be of immense benefit to the craft. Mr. A. E. Senter, the accomplished pressman in the establishment of Follett, Foster & Co., of Columbus, being under the necessity of using Sorghum Syrup, in place of common cane molasses, in making a set of rollers for his power presses, found that he had hit upon a material far superior to anything ever before used for that purpose. The Sorghum Syrup will bear long boiling without danger of granulation, and when cast into a roller is much tougher, more elastic, and has a better suction than those made by the material in common use. The proportions of syrup and glue used in the composition of this roller, are the same as those in use among printers. Mr. Senter gives publicity to this discovery for the benefit of the craft, without fee or reward.—*Ohio State Journal.*

Exploration of the Colorado.

The War Department has received despatches from Lieut. Ives, in command of the expedition for the exploration of the Colorado river of the West. The party arrived at the mouth of the Colorado after an unusually long voyage from San Francisco. The small steamer brought from Philadelphia was, after great labor, put together and launched on the 30th of December, admirably answering the purpose for which it was intended.—Lieut. Ives found the charts of the river defective; but he gathered the material for their correction. From the mouth of the Colorado to Fort Yuma the river is very crooked and full of shoals, snags, and sand bars. The channel changes so constantly that the best pilots cannot avoid repeatedly running the boats aground. It was supposed that there is fewer obstacles to navigation above Fort Yuma.

The Collins Steamers.

The steamers of the Collins line are in the hands of the Sheriff. Messrs. Brown Brothers have sued out a writ of execution for $636,890 against the New York and Liverpool Mail Steamship Company, and the steamers of the line have been attached to satisfy the claim.

The Sheriff has sixty days to return the execution, and has therefore not done so as yet.—*Jour. Com.*

DRUGS, SPICES, &c.—Paint Brushes (assorted per bound, all sizes) Linseed Oil, Marseilles Chamomile Flowers, (new crop) White Mustard Seed, Refined Salt Petre, Husband's Calcined Magnesia, Henry's English do; Lamp Black (in Oil.) Vanilla, Brown's Essence of Ginger, Musk, Chloroform, pure Otter Rose, pure Ground Black Pepper, fresh Tamarinds just received by R. H. STABLER,
feb 19 No. 105, King street.

TYLER'S GUM ARABIC COUGH DROPS—another supply of this favorite medicine received, and for sale by PEEL, STEVENS & CO.
feb 19 corner of King and Alfred st.

LINSEED OIL—A full supply, received and for sale by H. COOK & CO., Sarepta Hall.
feb 19

ONION, CLOVES, AND SETTS—White and yellow, received, and for sale by H. COOK & CO., Sarepta Hall.
feb 19