

## VARIOUS MATTERS.

From the Saturday Chronicle.

### Daring and Atrocious Piracy.

The Packet Ship "Susquehanna" captured by Freebooters off the Delaware.

We do not believe that any event since the late war, has excited so much alarm and indignation in our city, as the capture of the noblest of our Liverpool packets,—the *Susquehanna*, by pirates, at the very mouth of the Delaware and within sight of land.

The painful, and we may add, the incredible intelligence of this most daring deed, reached the city on Monday about noon. It flew from mouth to mouth, from street to street, with the rapidity of lightning; and a large concourse of our citizens assembled as if by common consent, at the Merchants' Exchange.

The *Susquehanna* put to sea from the Capes, on Saturday last; and while yet in sight of land, the weather being fine and the wind N. W. was observed to be pursued by a schr. clipperbuilt, and full of men. They boarded the *Susquehanna*, when on Five Fathom Bank, and in a very short space of time she was seen to steer away in a southerly direction, in full possession of the freebooters, and with their schooner in company. The parties who brought the sad and fearful intelligence, do not appear to have ascertained whether the *Susquehanna* made any resistance.

Expresses were sent from Wilmington and New Castle, direct to Norfolk, requesting that an armed vessel might be instantly despatched in pursuit of the buccaneer; but the danger is, that the wretches will have made their escape, before the arm of justice and an outraged community has overtaken them. The deepest anxiety is felt for the fate of the passengers and crew of the *Susquehanna*.

The following is the official announcement of the piracy.

Lewis, Oct. 22, 1837, }  
Sunday Evening, 8 o'clock. }

Mr. J. Coffey.—We have just received information by the pilot boat Mary, per Mr. James M. West and Mr. Edward Maul, two good Pilots, that the packet ship *Susquehanna*, which went to sea at two o'clock yesterday, was captured by a piratical schooner, off the Five Fathom Bank.

The wind being at the north, she bore off to the southward, and at dark was off Indian River. The ship was by the wind at the time of capture. The wind has been from the southward to-day, and I have employed an express to go to Milford and New Castle, to send the news to Norfolk, so as to enable an armed vessel to cut her off.

It ought to be sent to New York at once, as with the shift of the wind the pirates may shift their course.

The wind is light, at S. W., or I would send up a pilot boat as it is. I have become responsible for an express by land, and sent a communication to the P. M. at Norfolk.

In great haste, yours, &c,  
H. F. RODNEY.

P. S. The pirate vessel was a long clipper foretop-sail schooner, painted black—full of men."

Mr. Levi Lingo, the pilot who took the *Susquehanna* to sea, has returned to the city. Up to 2 P. M. on Saturday, the last time he desired her, he saw nothing to warrant a suspicion of meditated piracy; but as the capture took place after that hour, and Captain Drinker, of the ship *Girard*, from Liverpool, saw nothing of her in coming in on the following day, we are inclined to believe that the dreadful tidings are but too true. A report also reached Norfolk to the same effect on Sunday.

An active pursuit has been commenced. On Monday night, the steamboat "Pioneer" left the Navy Yard with 50 armed men, to go on board the Revenue Cutter, at Wilmington; and such was the feeling of our citizens, that any number of volunteers might have been obtained to follow in pursuit.

The Revenue Cutter Gallatin, passed Newcastle at 10 A. M. on Tuesday. There are at least four armed vessels in pursuit of the buccaneer:—One from Norfolk; the Porpoise from New York; the Gallatin, from Wilmington; and the Pilot boat from this city.

Numerous rumours are in circulation, as to the pirate Captain having been recently in this city. His name, M——, is familiarly mentioned, and his person accurately described. He is said to be a man about forty-five years of age, tall, stout, and of ferocious aspect. He was confined two years in our Penitentiary for bigamy; and was some time since tried in New Orleans for piracy—but acquitted, owing to informality in the evidence. A respectable citizen, the keeper of one of our most frequented hotels, called upon us and stated that sometime ago, M——, visited his house, and while there, he boasted of having been a pirate, and of having received wounds in piratical engagements. It is also said that a short time since, he purchased a small sloop, which he subsequently exchanged for a fast sailing schooner at Baltimore; which schooner, it is believed, was fitted out at Norfolk,—and many suppose it is the identical schooner that effected the capture of the *Susquehanna*. It is stated, that while in this city, he obtained all possible information as to the vessels which would be likely to have specie on board.

OFFICE OF THE DAILY FOCUS,  
Philadelphia, Oct. 27.—1 o'clock, A. M. }

### THE PIRACY!—FURTHER NEWS.

QUITE AN EXCITEMENT.

Our community have been on the tip-toe of expectation this few days past. Yesterday afternoon, at 4 o'clock, the minds and expectations of the citizens were greatly excited by the report that an examination of two persons, reported to be concerned, was to take place at the Mayor's office. The room was accordingly crowded with anxious citizens at an early hour, and from what followed, it appeared the report was not without foundation.

The District Attorney, John M. Read, Esq. opened the matter by stating that information was received of a sufficiently strong and positive kind, to warrant the arrest of two individuals then in the office, viz: Capt. Blankman and son, who had accordingly been arrested. He proceeded to state that sufficient evidence had been elicited to know that Capt. Blankman had fitted out, or been connected with the fitting out, of the port of Philadelphia, about three weeks since, a vessel of suspicious character, named *Mitchel*, a sailor and but lately an inmate of the Eastern Penitentiary, who was supposed to be in the vessel called *Commodore Perry*, while Blankman remained here behind. He remarked that, with reference to the *Susquehanna*, her owners were men whose scables did not allow them to keep arms on board their ship, and that, upon the whole, the circumstances were sufficiently strong to warrant the arrest of these individuals. Capt. Blankman is a man of strong muscular build and Herculean frame, and had for his counsel D. P. Brown and several other of our most distinguished lawyers.

After the District Attorney sat down, Mr. Brown arose, and stated that it was not his intention to make a speech; that his time had not yet come; but he demanded, he said, "upon what charge was Mr. Blankman and son there; and upon whose? with what crime were they indicated? He said that, under the influence of the present state of excited feeling in the community, he would say nothing of the fact that Mr. Blankman was there without having been arrested upon a warrant—a privilege guaranteed by the constitution to the meanest citizen—he did not question the motives of the Mayor, nor stop now to notice the fact of the matter, but he wanted him to tell him, and to tell him explicitly, upon what ground was a citizen arrested, and what was the specific charges against him.

The Mayor in reply, said that he had knowledge of the sailing of this ship, and that Captain Blankman was concerned therein previous to its sailing; and as it was certainly a suspicious affair, when taken in connection with the recent capture of the *Susquehanna*, he, more as a citizen than an officer, ordered the arrest of the captain under these circumstances.

The first witness examined, was Mr. Augustus Davis, who stated in effect that Blankman, *Mitchel*, & a man named Hoffmaster were speaking to him frequently about procuring a ship for the purpose of proceeding to Galveston bay, but he knew nothing about the sailing of the *Perry*.

The conversation between him and the persons referred to took place in July last. In regard to a question put to Mr. Read, whether any proposition had been made to him about going, Mr. Brown arose and objected to the course pursued by the Commonwealth. According to the testimony of Davis, Captain *Mitchel*, the individual supposed to be in command of the piratical vessel, was in this city a few weeks since, and was very bad off, Mr. Hoffmaster was induced to lend him some money to support himself decently, which he did—understanding that *Mitchel* was possessed of property in the West Indies.

Another witness was called, whose testimony did not vary the above any.

Mrs. Roberts sworn. She stated that *Mitchel* came to her husband and said that he had about one million of dollars buried near Key West; acquired during last war. Her husband was invited to join in fitting out a vessel to go after it. Each man was to pay down two hundred dollars as an outfit. *Mitchel* stated that five or six others had agreed to go. Her husband put down one hundred and twenty-five dollars. A day or two after, *Mitchel* came to his house and wanted more; said that the one hundred and twenty-five dollars had been stolen from him after some dispute her husband gave one hundred more; and then she subsequently, on the night of sailing, gave thirty-five more on Captain Blankman's promising to let his son return it. The son however, returned and said that he had purchased large quantities of diamonds, for a vessel which he expected to own, to the amount of about one thousand dollars. Capt. Blankman and some of his sons sailed in this schooner, called the *Com. Perry*. After sometime the schooner repaired to Lewistown to refit, and Mrs. B. went down there. After this, she knew no more of them, excepting letters received from her husband. Here the learned counsel hoped the letters would be produced. She stated also, that in the cruise performed to, the *Com. Perry* had touched at Norfolk, where, upon some undefined charge made by Blankman and *Mitchel*, the whole crew had been sworn into prison.

Here the matter closed for yesterday; to-day, at four o'clock, the examination of witness and testimony will be resumed.

In the meantime, whatever the general impression may be, (for there is an opinion among the citizens upon the subject,) every one will see the propriety and justice of not expressing their sentiments, or of forestalling or prejudicing the public mind, pro or con, Justice, and its administrators, will do all that is required, will protect the innocent and reward the guilty; if innocent, it is not for this or any other community to entertain unjust suspicion towards an innocent man; if guilty, it is not for the citizens to administer law.

With respect to the course (the illegal course as termed in effect by Mr. Brown) of his honor the Mayor, we believe, illegal as it may be, he will, under the circumstances, be sustained in it. Those circumstances are peculiar; they are of a kind, as was well remarked by the district attorney, such as has not caused such an excitement in this community for twenty years. They exist under peculiar aggravation, rendered doubly painful by the uncertainty which attends the fate of many of our most respectable citizens, including females. We conceive this (whether it should eventually prove a mistake or not) to be one of those extraordinary emergencies which sometimes occur in the affairs of men, calling for immediate and decisive action; and under these circumstances, the Mayor may be assured that he has but responded to the voice of the citizens in doing as he has, and that they will appreciate his motives.

### INTERESTING STATISTICS.

A statistical account has recently been published by the Scientific Association at Liverpool, which contains many interesting statements. It appears from this document, that in 1821, the proportion of British to American vessels entering the ports of the United States, was 7.21 per cent., in 1826, 43.62 per cent.; the mean for the sixteen years 10.07 per cent. Returns are also given of the proportion of the whole trade of each country to that with each other from 1821 to 1835. In the former year, the proportion of the trade with England to the whole foreign trade of the United States, was 35.95 per cent.; in 1835, 41.76 per cent.; whilst the proportion of the trade with America to the whole foreign trade, was 16.95 in 1821, and 22.31 per cent.; in 1835. The proportion of the trade with the United States to the whole export trade, was, in 1805, 28.91 per cent.; in 1806, 30.21 per cent.; in 1807, 31.80 per cent.; and in 1836, 22.28 per cent. The shipments of British produce in 1836 amounted, according to the declared value, to £53,308,571, of which America took £12,425,605, or 23.28 per cent.

The total shipments of 1835 amounted to £47,372,270, of which America took £10,568,455, or 23.30 per cent. Without admitting or denying that this statement gave evidence of over-trading, the writer called attention to the circumstances of the two people; their mutual wishes and wants; to the circumstances of this country being the cheapest market for goods, whilst it was the best to the raw produce of America, and in conclusion asked whether, if the trade between the two countries were put upon a proper footing, that amount of traffic ought to be considered excessive, which gave annually to every citizen of the United States articles of British growth and manufacture to the value of only 16s. 9d.

The committee appointed to report on the condition of the working classes, reported that they had visited, in Manchester and the other manufacturing towns, 322,800 persons. No houses were visited which rented for more than £25 (\$120 a year), and the number of houses and dwellings examined were, in Manchester 28,186, Salford 9,538, Bury 2,755, Duckingfield 1,690, Staly-bridge, 3,212, Ashton 3,835.

The houses were also classified as well furnished, chairs, tables, a clock, chest of drawers, &c.—not well-furnished, comfortable. Tables of the average rents, of the number of persons in each family, their occupations, creeds, country, &c., were given, but these were so exceedingly voluminous and extended to such minute particulars that we cannot pretend to give even an abstract.

In Manchester, the number of persons inhabiting houses visited was 94,250—do. rooms 9351—do. boarding 9671—do. cellars 14,724—in all 127,996 persons, living in tenements renting for less than £25, out of a population estimated at 200,000.

Among these 127,996 persons, 60,185 only are reported capable of reading and writing.

The average number to each family was rather more than 4½, and in many instances, six persons to each bed.

The religious persuasions of the families visited in Manchester were as follows:—Church of England—heads of families 14,517, lodgers, &c., 4,730. Roman Catholics—heads of families 5,569, lodgers 1,712. No religious profession—heads of families 1,834, lodgers 967.

It appears that the number of persons living in cellars in Manchester, was 11½ per cent. of the whole population; in Salford, the next largest town, 8 per cent.

Mr. Langton read a statement respecting Liverpool, from which it appeared that in the parish, or old borough, there were 6,506 cellars, 1,954 courts, and 25,733 dwelling houses, for a population of 196,000; in the outskirts, 5,364 houses, 988 cellars, and 307 courts; population, 40,000. Few

of the courts possess any outlets, and of the cellars the greater portion are dark and damp, and without ventilation. The average was four persons to each cellar, giving a total of 30,900 occupants of cellars out of a population of 230,000.

### Statistics.—Flour.

"It is estimated," says the Essex Register, "that the people of the United States require for their sustenance 18,000,000 barrels of flour annually. On the ratio used by the United States Army, it would be 21,000,000, but this is too large for the whole population, and probably 18,000,000 is a near approximation to the actual consumption. As there was planted in the United States about eight millions of acres of land in wheat, intelligent men estimate the crop for 1837, at 25 bushels to the acre, which at 80 cents the bushel will be worth \$100,000,000. Estimating 5 bushels wheat to a barrel of flour, this will give 40,000,000 barrels, or a surplus for export or to remain in barns of 22,000,000 barrels. At the least calculation there is no doubt wheat enough raised the present season to supply the country two years, and if it is not monopolized by speculators, or the grain kept back by the growers, the price of flour ought the ensuing winter not to exceed \$5 per barrel, the price of 1823. In the spring of that year, good superfine flour was sold in Philadelphia for \$3.25 per barrel."

None are more liable to make great mistakes than those who treat upon statistics and political economy:—Nor have we, in our humble judgment, noticed any calculation of the present day which has wandered further from the truth than the above attempt at estimating the wheat crop and the consumption of wheat flour in the United States.

We believe the United States ration of flour is one pound, and this we know from experience, is so large an allowance, that it is not unusual for the soldier to barter a portion of his bread with the sutler for tea, chocolate, &c. and when it is considered that the soldier subsists entirely upon wheat bread and beef—that he uses no turnips, potatoes, rye, buckwheat or corn meal, the consumption of the camp can form no data to compute the quantity of wheat flour consumed by the whole population of the United States; as potatoes, rye flour, rice, corn and buckwheat meal, and many other vegetables used in families as articles of food, greatly reduce the consumption of wheat bread. Taking the whole population of the United States at fourteen millions, if we allow one-fourth of a pound per day for each human being, it would amount to nearly a barrel per year, or 14,000,000 barrels flour (or 70,000,000 bushels wheat,) which we consider, not only sufficient, but an abundant supply.—We are not prepared to say there was, or there was not eight millions of acres of land in wheat the last season; but if there were, the estimated production is vastly too high at 25 bushels to the acre. Our own county of Lancaster, which is admitted to be one of the best wheat growing countries in the Union, does not average 20 bushels, in the most favorable years;—and we think we go to the extent, if we admit the average crop of 1837, was 15 bushels to the acre, being 120,000,000 bushels, or 24,000,000 barrels flour; leaving only a surplus over consumption, for future supply or exportation, of TEN Millions of barrels, instead of twenty-two millions; falling very far short of a supply for the year 1838.

As the scarcity and high price of wheat, has induced economism, and taught the poor, through necessity, to substitute largely, corn and buckwheat meal, & rye flour, for wheat, the estimate of consumption, which I have ventured, may still be too high: Yet I think it not only economical but a dictate of sound policy to continue the wholesome food, which no family, however rich, should be too proud to introduce at their tables, in all the forms of cakes, puddings, mush or bread.

The valuation of 80 cents per bushel for wheat, the ensuing season, is fallacious.

The price of all grains may, and probably may fall; but we know agreements have been entered into in this county by millers, who know their business, for the produce of whole farms, deliverable between the present time and the first of March, 1837, at \$1.70 per bushel for wheat of 60 pounds, 70 cents for corn and 30 cents for oats.

Wheat may fall in the ensuing spring considerably, admitting there should be a surplus and no extraordinary foreign demand, which the great crops throughout Europe, particularly in England, France and Germany indicate. But this will depend entirely on the appearance of the grain in March and April. Should the season open favorably, and our fields present an encouraging appearance of a bountiful harvest, the stock on hand will fall in value; but even in that case we do not think it will sink below one dollar per bushel.

Lancaster Journal.

A correspondent of the Philadelphia U. S. Gazette, writing from Harrisburg, says—

"I learned from a friend yesterday, that Mr. Campbell, the engineer, of Philadelphia, has invented a plough and a harrow, which may be effectively and most profitably worked by steam. A gentleman of the West has expressed his belief that the former will plough 250 acres a day. If this is the case, the wilderness of our great prairies will be made to blossom like the rose."

### CONGENITAL CATARACT.

The case of Miss Margaret, daughter of Mr. James Leman, of this county, now sixteen years of age, prevents one of the most extraordinary instances of the triumph of science & skill over the diseases to which nature is subject, which we have on record.

This young lady was born blind, being afflicted with congenital cataract from the birth, the centre of the pupil of both eyes being filled with an opaque spot, entirely excluding the rays of light.

The late Doctor Handford attended the child, when about eight years old, entertaining a belief of being able to afford hope to her anxious parents; but after having stated the case to Doctor Physis, he deemed it unnecessary to subject her to suffering without a prospect of giving relief.

The parents still anxious for the happiness of their child, whose calamity gave her additional claims on their affection, consulted our townsman, Doctor John S. Rohrer, on her situation. After carefully preparing the patient, the Doctor ventured upon the operation, which we believe is termed couching, and, to the joy of the parents as well as to the happiness of the interesting sufferer, was completely successful.

We are glad to understand that the health of the young lady has not suffered in the least. That she is now capable of distinguishing colours, and enjoys that degree of unspeakable delight, which the gift of a new sense, pouring upon the mind all the beauties of a hitherto hidden world, is capable of bestowing.

After having penned the above, we had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Leman, the father of the young lady who has been so happily relieved by the surgical skill of our young friend, who assured us that his daughter has so far recovered that she visits her friends in the neighborhood, without requiring a guide.—*Lanc. Journal.*

The following beautiful eulogy on "the law" is extracted from an article in the Southern Literary Messenger:

"The spirit of the law is all equity and justice. In a government based on true principles, the law is the sole sovereign of a nation. It watches over its subjects in their business, in their recreation, and their sleep. It guards their fortunes, their lives, and their honors. In the broad day, and the dark midnight it ministers to their security. It accompanies them to the altar and their festal board. It watches over the ship of the merchant, though a thousand leagues intervene; over the seed of the husbandman abandoned for a season to the earth; over the studies of the student, the labors of the mechanic, the opinions of every man. None are high enough to offend it with impunity, none so low that it seems to protect them. It is throned with the king, and sits in the seat of the republican magistrate; but it also hovers over the couch of the lovely, and stands sentinel at the prison; scrupulously preserving to the felon whatever rights he not has forfeited. The light of the law illumines the palace and the hovel, and surrounds the cradle and the bier. The strength of the law laughs for feignness to scorn, and spurns the intrinsems of iniquity. The power of the law crushes the power of man, and strips wealth of unrighteous immunity. It is the bread of Dædalos to guide us through the labyrinths of cunning. It is the spear of Ithuriel to detect falsehood and deceit. It is the faith of the martyr to shield us from the fires of persecution—it is the good man's reliance—the wicked one's dread—the bulwark of piety—the upholder of morality—the guardian of right—the distributor of justice—its power is irresistible—its dominion indisputable. It is above us and around us, and within us—we cannot fly from its protection—we cannot avert its vengeance.

"Such is the law in its essence; such it should be in its enactments; such, too, it would be, if none aspired to its administration but those with pure hearts, enlarged views, and cultivated minds."

Quarreling.—The reason people quarrel about religion is, because they really have so little of it, and the more they quarrel the more abundantly do they prove it. A man has a right to stand by his religious faith—a right to insist upon it—a right to present it respectfully, on all proper occasions, to the consideration of others, but he has no right to quarrel, and any man that will quarrel about these things, in my opinion, has not much to quarrel about.

Politicians need not quarrel. Whoever quarrels with a man for his political opinions, denies the first principle of freedom—freedom of thought—moral liberty—without which there is nothing in politics worth a groat; it is therefore wrong upon principle. You have on this subject a right to your own opinions, so have others; you have a right to convince them if you can, they have the same right.—Exercise your rights; but again I say—DON'T QUARREL.—*Trenton Emporium.*

A few days ago, a man was arrested in Boonville, Indiana, and three men were appointed to keep him safe through the night. In the course of the night, however, the watchers got drunk, and the thief stripped them of their clothes, stole a valuable horse, saddle, and bridle, and then made his escape, leaving his guard in all the glory of stark-nakedness.