

THE AMERICAN FLAG.

The National-Intelligence has the following respecting this subject from a correspondent. On the 3d of December, 1775, the Continental flag was displayed for the first time. It was on that day hoisted on board the flag-ship of Esack Hopkins, who, on the 5th of the preceding month, had been appointed commander-in-chief of the first American fleet.

On the 24th day of December, then, is the birthday of the American flag. Why not celebrate it annually as a happy festival? Let it be observed as our national holiday at all our naval stations and on board of our vessels of war, at home and abroad. The writer of the above is under a mistake in regard both to the nature of the flag and the date of its appearance. He takes for granted that the national banner first displayed in the revolutionary struggle, was that of the stars and stripes; this is not the fact; nor is it true that any Continental colors were hoisted for the first time on the 3d day of December, 1775. The birth-day of the American flag, if it be fixed at all, must be the 14th of June, 1777. It is impossible, however, to determine the day on which the banner, the stars and stripes first actually waved to the breeze, or the day when any colors of a distinctly American character were devised or unfurled for the first time.

The first attempt at an American flag appears to be that of old Endicott of Salem, who in 1633 cut the cross of St. George out of the flag of Old England, as a savor of popery and slavery. We are unable to say how far the pure red flag thus formed was adopted by the New Englanders. The Old England nations were generally worse than the Continental vessels till the breaking out of the revolution. It is remarkable, however, that the thought of raising a national standard of their own, seems never to have been abandoned by the people of New England. Mention is made of a colonial flag as early as 1693. The first national emblem adopted here was that of the New England pine tree, which was stamped on the silver coins of Massachusetts nearly 200 years ago. Probably it was on the colonial flag above mentioned, as a representation of one drawn in 1701 exhibits the pine tree combined with the English cross. This, so far as we can discover, is the first actual description of the American flag, though it is undoubtedly it was used at a much earlier date. It contained in use, more or less, till superseded by the stars and stripes.

There is no means of knowing whether the New England troops who fought in the old French war, on the lakes of Canada and at Cape Breton, bore any colors distinct from the English, though it is likely they did, as the several states had their colony arms, and these appear to have been inscribed on the standards of the militia. This was the practice when the New England troops marched to Bos, after the battle of Lexington. A letter dated April 23, 1775 says of the Connecticut troops: "We fix on our standards and drums the colony arms, with the motto—'Qui transtulit sit sustinet,' round it in letters of gold, which we construe thus—'God, who transported us hither will support us.' The accounts of the battle of Bunker Hill make no mention of any standard being used by the Americans, though at a public celebration in 1825, a flag was displayed, which, according to tradition, was hoisted in the redoubt on the top of the hill. It is said to have borne an inscription which the British officers in Boston attempted in vain to read with the help of a telescope, and which it was—'Come if you dare.' On the 15th of July, 1775, after the battle, we read in the Essex Gazette of a flag hoisted on Prospect Hill, bearing on one side the motto—'An Appeal to Heaven,' and on the other side—'Qui transtulit sit sustinet.' See Frothingham's History of the Siege of Boston.

The pine-tree flag, however, seems to have prevailed over all others and soon became the national ensign. Col. Reed, in a letter written from the besieging army at Boston, October 20th, 1775, says to Col. Glover and O'Brien: "Please to fix upon some particular color for a flag, and a signal by which our vessels may know each other. What do you think of a white ground, a tree in the middle—the motto—'An Appeal to Heaven.' This is the flag of our fighting batteries." This suggestion was adopted, and the pine-tree flag became the ensign of the American ships-of-war, public and private. It was adopted by the legislature of Massachusetts as the naval flag of the colony on the 29th of April, 1776. Paul Jones declared that he was the first man who hoisted the Continental flag on board a national ship-of-war. Jones was appointed Lieutenant of the Alfred—the flag-ship of Commodore Hopkins, on the 23d of December, 1775. The Alfred lay at Philadelphia, where Jones hoisted the flag on that or some subsequent day. It was doubtless the pine-tree flag, but it had been unfurled upon the coast by the New England private armed vessels for some time previous. An English paper of January, 1776, has the following: "The flag taken from a provincial privateer is now deposited in the Admiralty. The field is white, bunting, with a spreading green tree; the motto—'An Appeal to Heaven.' We have in our own possession two very rare pictures, the only ones of the kind, perhaps, in existence. They are full-length portraits of Com. Hopkins and Gen. Gates, with the American flags as they existed in 1776 and 1777. These pictures are engravings finely colored, and mounted by transparent varnish to glass plates, in order to preserve the tinting in all its freshness. They were executed in London by some friend of the American cause.—That of Hopkins was done in 1776. It represents the Commodore, sword in hand, standing on the quarter deck of a ship, in the old Continental blue and buff uniform, and a cocked hat. Another ship in the background bears two flags, the pine tree ensign, with the motto—'An Appeal to Heaven,' and another exhibiting a rattlesnake, with the motto—'Don't tread on me.' The rattlesnake is said to have originated at the south, according to some accounts it was hoisted on board the Alfred and the Alliance, but of this we have no positive knowledge. The portrait of Gen. Gates was done in 1778. It represents him on the tented field after having signed the convention for the surrender of Burgoyne. Under the General's arm is a flag with thirteen red and white stripes, but no stars. This was the earliest which bore the name of the 'American Union Flag.' It is first mentioned as having been hoisted on the western heights of Charleston in January, 1778. Lieutenant Carter, of the British army, under date of January 28 says: 'The King's speech was sent by a flag to them on the 1st inst. In a short time after they received it, they hoisted a union flag above the Continental, with thirteen stripes, at Mount Pleasant. Their citadel fired thirteen guns, and gave the like number of cheers.' This was the speech of George III. to parliament, denouncing the Americans as rebels, which excited so much indignation throughout the colonies. The British Annual Register of 1776, in describing the resentment of the people states that they burnt the speech and changed their colors from a plain red ground, which they had hitherto used, to a flag with thirteen stripes, as a symbol of the number and union of the colonies.' This union flag is mentioned as being worn by the fleet under Hopkins, in February, 1776, but was not the one hoisted by Paul Jones.

The union flag of thirteen plain stripes prevailed for about a year and a half, when the happy taste of some unknown individual suggested a new embellishment, and it received the addition of the stars, by a resolution of congress, in the following words: "In congress, June 14th, 1777, Resolved, That the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternately red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." As new states were added to the Union from time to time, new stripes were added to the flag, till the number had increased to fifteen or twenty. At length, about thirty years ago, the stripes were reduced by the act of congress to the original number—thirteen.

The following story of a noble act of humanity is from the interesting German tales of Krumpholtz: Two travelers once rested on their journey at an inn, when suddenly a cry arose that there was a fire in the village. One of the travelers immediately sprang up and ran to offer his assistance. But the other strove to detain him, saying, "Why should you waste your time? I will follow you to the village, but you will get fifty francs for bringing me back." "No, never!" exclaimed the astonished listener, "my children should starve a dozen times before I would do so base a thing." The generous young man insisted, and declared that he would go and give him help, if the father would not consent to take him. After a long struggle the latter yielded, and taking his preserver by the arm, led him to the city and to the mayor's office. Every body was surprised that a little man like the father had been able to capture such a young fellow, but the proof was before them. But after he was gone, the father asked a private interview with the mayor, to whom he told the whole story. The mayor was so much affected that he not only added fifty francs, more to the father's purse, but wrote immediately to the Minister of Justice, begging the noble young prisoner's release. The Minister examined the young man to the galleys, and that he had already served out half of his time he ordered his release. It is not the whole incident beautiful? [Cort. St. Louis Rep.]

THE MOTHER AND SON.—The Hon. Sargent S. Prentiss, born and educated in Maine, and one of the most brilliant orators of the land, was at Natchez, Mississippi, on the 2d of July, having departed for his native land, a simple anecdote will illustrate the filial affection of the man, as well as his ready perception of the fitting thing to be said. When on a visit to his friend, some years ago, but after his reputation had become wide-spread, a distinguished lady took pains to obtain an introduction, by visiting the steambath in which she had learned he was to take his departure in a few minutes. "I have wished to see you," said she, "for my heart has often congratulated the mother who has such a son." Rather congratulate the son on having such a mother!" was his instant reply; and it was unaffected and heartfelt.

SWIMMING STOCKINGS.—In noticing, lately, a great feat of swimming, as it was thought to be performed a short time since at Edinburgh, the swimming stockings were mentioned as having been used. What that was we did not exactly know; for whether it was new to others or not, it was new to us. We have since seen an engraving of it, and a description in an English paper. It is no more than a sort of stocking without a foot, made of any cloth that will offer a little resistance to water, the lower part of which resembles a small umbrella, and is so arranged by means of cords and wooden ribs, that it contracts when the leg is drawn in, and expands when it is pushed out, thus enabling the swimmer to make pretty good headway; and as he gets along best on his back, using his legs alternately. It could be easily made and easily tried. [Globe.]

SHARP SHOOTING.—The clerk of a steambath once amused himself greatly at the expense of a Catholic priest whose profession he pretended not to know.—Among a number of impudent questions he asked the following: "Can you tell me the difference between a Catholic priest and a jack?" "No sir," replied the priest. "Well," said the clerk, "I'll tell you. The one wears the cross on the breast, and the other on his back." "Very well," replied the priest, coolly, "can you tell me the difference between a steambath clerk and the long eared animal of which you have just spoken?" "No sir, what is it?" "I can discover none," said the priest. The clerk stepped out.

OLD FISH.—A gentleman sent his black servant to purchase him a fresh fish. He went to a stall and taking a fish, began to smell it. The fishmonger observing him, and fearing the bystanders would catch the scent, exclaimed: "Hello! you black rascal, what do you smell my fish for?" "Me no smell your fish, Massa." "What are you doing then, sir?" "Me talk to 'em, massa." "And what do you say to the fish, my friend?" "Me ask him what news at sea, dat's all, massa." "And what does he say to you?" "He says he don't know; he no been dare dese tree week."

LEIGH HUNT states that he never got through the multiplication table when a boy, and does not know it yet, though he is now sixty-three years of age, and one of the most delightful authors of Christendom. Combe, the preceptor, has stated a similar fact concerning his own incapacity for the comprehension of figures. Hunt also states another remarkable fact, which is, that the early education of the celebrated West, President of the Royal Academy, had been so sadly neglected that, at the zenith of his fame as a painter, he scarcely knew how to read.

THE NEGROES at the south are not without their share of keen humor, which sometimes cuts their masters with a lash as adroitly applied as that which visits their own backs. The following is a negro's toast, on harvest day: Do heifer find de hide; De tanner too de leather; Massa wear de boot, And nigger stand de wedder.

THE DIRECTION of a LETTER.—The following superscription is copied from a letter now in the post office, this city: "Mr. James frank H. White hall street to be forwarded to paul riddle and by him to Bridget Heansgan New York. Toledo Blade.

LIBEL.—The editor of a down east paper, a bachelor, says "The reason why the women do not cut themselves in two by tight lacing, is because they lace around the heart, and that is so hard they cannot effect it!"

THE FREEMAN: FREMONT, OHIO. J. S. FOUKE, Editor. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1860.

THE ELECTION. The long agony is over, and the question is settled, as to which party will take the reins of state government. We have not received many returns; still we have enough to satisfy us that the star of hard money, bank destruction, and direct taxation is in the ascendant. The people have willed it, and we have concluded that we can stand it as long as any of them.—We expect to see them carry out their principles now, which we set forth as follows: "1st. The locofoco party of this state avow, as one of their cardinal principles of action, hard money, to the exclusion of all paper money. "2d. Direct taxation, which has a tendency to make the rich richer, and the poor poorer. "3. Opposition to all the internal improvements of our state, and opposition to all corporations; and "4th. Victory for spoils, no matter by what means it is obtained."

THE FOLLOWING are the returns as far as we have received them: Sandusky county gives Wood from 450 to 500 majority, returns not all in. The Railroad subscription is defeated by about 30 to 40 votes. Wood county gives Wood 79 majority. Cleveland gave Wood 433 maj. Cuyahoga co., about 700. Summit co., 300 whig majority. Lorain 400 dem. maj. Franklin co., gives 200 whig maj. Gallows whig congressman elected. Sandusky city gave Johnston 44 maj. Tuscarawas co., whig. Zanesville, Johnston 108 maj. Hamilton co., Wood 3000 maj. In the Huron and Erie district, we have re-elected whigs to the Legislature. Cuyahoga elected a freesoil whig. We have gained a whig in Summit. Erie co., even on Governor and Senator—dem. on county ticket 30 to 40. Townshend 30 maj. for congress. We have a decided gain in Huron county. Worcester has about 500 maj. "Old Molly Stark," which has always been good for 900 to 1000 dem. maj. has refused to send Leitch's "Hat" to the Legislature. Myers re-elected by an increased majority, but lost the vote of his own county. LATER AND BETTER. Although Johnston is defeated for Governor, we have probably secured the Legislature by a good working majority. Our gain as far as heard from is as follows: Franklin, 1 Representative, Summit, 1 do Cuyahoga, 1 do Coshocton, 1 do Jefferson, 1 do Guernsey, 1 do Portage and Summit 1 Senator. Stark, 1 do This will secure to us a United States Senator in the place of T. Ewing. This is indeed glorious news. If Destruction is to hold the reins of State government, Discretion and Wisdom will be aboard of the car to direct and point to a safe and secure path.

PENNSYLVANIA ELECTION. Pittsburgh, Oct. 8. Eleven wards and districts in this city give Howe, whig, for Congress, 631 maj. This is a large majority for the vote polled. Philadelphia, Oct. 9. Galphin whig, is elected Mayor of the city, by 2000 maj. Wilkinson, Independent dem., is elected Mayor of Northern Liberties, by 1200 maj. FIRE! About four and a-half o'clock, on Thursday morning last, our citizens were startled by the cry of "Fire," which was found to proceed from the building occupied by Mr. George Greiner, as a Blacksmith shop, from which it communicated to another occupied by Mr. Ambrose Ochs, as a Wagon shop. The fire made quick work, and in a few minutes the buildings were entirely consumed. The loss will be pretty severely felt by both these gentlemen, as their tools and a quantity of work was also burned. The loss was about \$700 or \$800. We have heard of fire-engines, which will throw more water than half a dozen men can, and beat the "hay-seals" all hollow; now, if there are such things made, and can be procured, wouldn't it be a good idea to make the attempt? It might come "in play" sometime.

THE BAKER FAMILY. It will be seen by reference to our advertising columns that this popular family of singers will give a Concert, at Social Hall, in Buckland's Brick Block, on Thursday evening next. The reputation of the Bakers is too well established for us to say any thing further.—They have probably a better bass singer than any company that has sung in the western or southern country. They will give but one Concert.

WE ARE happy to say that the report of the death of Mr. M. H. Pettibone, which we published last week, was incorrect. He arrived at Sacramento city about the latter part of August. The riot in Sacramento city, was a small affair, and the report of the burning of the city, entirely groundless. There was no fire. OYSTERS! OYSTERS! Lots of them at Shrenk's. Done up to order, and in the most palatable manner. Cincinnati Com.

FUGITIVE SLAVE EXCITEMENTS.

Worcester Mass., Oct. 1. There is considerable excitement here, owing to a report that there are two slave-catchers in town in quest of fugitives, it being well known that there are a great number of runaway slaves among the colored population. Buffalo, Oct. 4. Thirty fugitive slaves came down the lake on the steamer Western yesterday on their way to Canada. They were armed for resistance. There is a society of colored persons here, organized for the assistance and relief of slaves seeking to escape. New York, Oct. 5. Meetings have been held in Boston, Lowell and Springfield, against the fugitive slave law, at which various resolutions were adopted against it. Philadelphia, Oct. 6. A riot between the whites and the blacks took place during the night on Seventh and Lombard streets, and terminated in a white man named Stipple being stabbed and horribly mutilated by the blacks. He died whilst being conveyed to the station house. The watchmen accompanying him were fired on by the blacks. Boston, Oct. 7. Meetings are being called all over the state in opposition to the fugitive slave law. Slave Catching—Military called out in Detroit. Detroit, October 8. Great excitement in this city. On Monday the U. S. Marshal arrested a negro, who has been in the city some time as a fugitive from Tennessee. The colored population evinced much excitement and armed themselves, threatening to rescue the fugitive. The military company, known as the Grayson light guards, proceeded to the jail and prevented any attempt at rescue. To-day the MAN claimed as a slave, was conveyed to the U. S. court house, guarded by the Grayson light guards, the 4th infantry, the Scott guards and the City guards. The trial has been continued until Wednesday. A REGULAR STAMPEDE.—The passage of the Fugitive Slave bill by Congress, caused great commotion among our colored population. On Saturday a large number of them left the city for Canada, we believe. Some of our first hotels are left very bare of servants by this sudden movement. We had no idea that Pittsburgh was the home of so many fugitives, and feel sorry that a law has been passed by Congress that either drives them out of the Union entirely, or back to perpetual slavery. [Pittsburg Chronicle 23d.] There is a great and manifest feeling of opposition to this law, now exhibiting itself throughout the whole of the Northern States. In many of the principle cities, towns and villages, meetings have been called condemning in the most unqualified manner its unjustness. No man of color is safe. He is liable at any moment to be seized by the heartless slave-catcher and sent to the south, there to serve out his life in bondage. We learn that on Wednesday last two men, one dressed in woman's clothing came to our place and visited several of the colored families, and made inquiries as to their former residences, freedom, age, number of colored persons in the place, &c., &c., preparatory probably to an attempt to "run off" such as they can. Our colored population had better be on the alert. But we can inform all persons who have any idea of making the attempt, that our citizens will have a little to say on this subject. "A word to the wise," &c.

THE FUGITIVE SLAVE BILL.

There are three features in the act recently passed for the reclamation of fugitives from labor, that we believe have not been heretofore noticed in this paper: They depart widely from the usual and ordinary course of proceeding, and we do not see on what principle of justice they are supposed to rest. The first is the provision of the fifth section of the act, which makes the Marshal or his Deputy, in case a fugitive in custody shall escape, with or without his assent, liable on his official bond, to the full value of the labor or service due. So it is, although the escape is occasioned by no fault of the officer, and notwithstanding he may have exerted, in good faith, all his physical power and legal authority to prevent the escape. Even in such a case, he and his securities are held responsible for the whole value of the service due from the fugitive to the plaintiff in the process. We recollect of no instance of legal liability like this in the common law, or in any statute.—Why was this clause introduced into the act? The second provision is in the eighth section, which allows the commissioner (the Judge) a fee of \$10 in each case, if he decides in favor of the claimant, and only \$5 where he decides against the claimant. What does this mean? It cannot be designed to induce a decision for one party against the other, because that would be contrary to the first principles of justice; yet the provision holds, that a direct pecuniary reward for a decision in favor of the claimant, and against personal liberty. The third provision is in the ninth section, which enables the claimant, by his own affidavit that he fears a rescue, to compel the Marshal to employ a sufficient force to remove the fugitive to the State from whence he fled, and this though the Judge shall be of the opinion that there is no danger of rescue, and he believes the affidavit to be false, as the act leaves him no discretion, but imperatively requires the contrary to the first principles of justice; yet the provision holds, that a direct pecuniary reward for a decision in favor of the claimant, and against personal liberty.

Some twenty years ago, I was coming from California in a good ship I then commanded; I had been away from home eleven months, during which time I had heard no news thence, either private or public. Off Barnegat, we fell in with a fishing smack, having on board a man and a boy, father and son. We wanted some fresh fish, and the father coming on board, we soon made a bargain with him, receiving in exchange for a real Indian hand-danna handkerchief, a plentiful supply. "Well, skipper," said I, after the barter was over, "what's the news?" He nodded his head thoughtfully for a moment, and said, "potatoes is twenty-five cents a bushel!" "Is it possible?" I asked; "but the news friend, what is the news?" "Well," said he, "there was a great crop on 'em last fall!" "Never mind the potatoes," I replied, "tell us the news—what is going on the political world?" "Political!" said the fisherman, standing silently for a few moments. "Political! D'y'e see that fellow in my boat yonder?" pointing to his son, a mox-headed fellow of eighteen; "wal, captain, that 'ere chap made two hundred dollars last winter." "There was no use in trying to get anything out of him, so we parted. Three or four years after, on my return from another voyage, coming on the same coast, I again met this fisherman. He remembered me, took the identical handanna I had given him, waved it with a cheer above his head, and swore I should have the best and biggest of all the fish he had. I made another purchase of him, and was again anxious for the news. "What's the news?" I inquired; "who's the President?" It was just after a general election. "Said the fisherman, D'y'e recollect my boy, that I had in the smack with me—the one that made two hundred dollars?" "Yes," said I. "Well," he replied, his hard eyes becoming watery—"the little cuss is dead!" "And that," said the captain in conclusion, "is all I ever got out of the fisherman of Barnegat." (Spirit of the Times.)

FROM COUNCIL BLUFFS AND THE INDIAN TERRITORY.—The steamer Robert Fulton arrived yesterday from the upper Missouri with a fair freight and crowd of passengers. At St. Joseph the Robert Fulton took on board Mr. Barrow, sub-Indian agent at Belle-veue, and Major Hutton, Indian agent at the Blackfeet and other tribes beyond Fort Pierre. Major Hutton informs us that a short time previous to his departure from Fort Pierre, a band of two hundred Sioux warriors had started out against their foes, the Pawnees and Otoes, and a smaller party against the Bannocks. The Indians on the north-western frontier are in a very unsettled and dissatisfied condition, and much bloodshed is anticipated. This expedition of the Sioux, it is thought will be the signal for a general rupture; and it may be that our north-western frontier will be the theatre of many bloody battles between the different tribes. Maj. Hutton reports the health of the tribes much improved, and the cholera which had got among them, nearly extinct. [St. Louis Republican.]

TOUCHING STORY. The London Sailors' Magazine contains a statement, copied from a Moravian paper at Labrador, of the wreck of an English vessel (the Graham) in Hudson's Bay, and the hardships and privations of a portion of the crew during a lonely voyage in their boats of nearly eight hundred miles, to one of the outermost islands in the Bay of Okak. Here they were approached by two Esquimaux savages, in their kayaks. At first the sight of them inspired alarm, but upon an examination of their countenances, the captain was induced to believe they were not ill-disposed. On reaching the shore, they found that four Esquimaux families had their temporary dwellings there. The Esquimaux, on seeing the destitute condition of the shipwrecked voyagers, gave them a large codfish, and invited them on shore.—But not altogether relieved of apprehension, they did not venture at once to accept the invitation. At length, they that were able to walk went on shore, where they heard the women chanting, in their afterwards learned, a hymn of praise to God for their deliverance; saw them afterwards engaged in washing their clothes, and presently preparing a meal of fish and seal's flesh for their refreshment; the hardy mariners were overcome, says the writer and burst into tears. The secret of this conduct was in the fact that a Christian mission had been established, long before, on that dreary coast, and thence icy Labradors responded to the benign influence of christianity. Cleveland, Oct. 1. A very sensible shock of an earthquake was felt at this place this morning, at 25 minutes past 5 o'clock, which lasted about two seconds, when it gradually died away trembling. A sensible tremor could be felt by one who stood upon the ground. In Euclid, about 3 miles from this city, the shock was sufficiently violent to throw crockery from the shelves.—We also learn by a gentleman from Ezra, about 12 miles south-west, that the convulsions were sufficient to awaken persons from a sound sleep. NOVEL SPECULATION.—A mercantile house at Berlin proposed to supply all their carriages with silk blinds for nothing. They simply propose to reserve to themselves the right of changing the blinds as often as they please, and they require the companies to engage themselves not to accept, during fifty years, either for money or gratuitously, any blinds but theirs. Their object is to cover the blinds with advertisements. [Railroad Journal.] The comparison of the journey of life to a transit across a desert, is very felicitously expressed in the following lines by Charles Wesley: "Here in the body pent, Absent from heaven's Troam; Yet nightly march my moving tent A day's pitch nearer home!" A CHANGE.—A few miles from this village is a fine and well appointed place, near the entrance to which a sign in large letters informs the world that "This place is for Sale." We would recommend the young lady, thus unceremoniously alluded to, to call and take possession. Whether "SAL" is a daughter of the owner of the place, and this sign is held out as an inducement for stray young gentlemen in search of wives, we cannot say, but it looks suspicious. [Rohyn, L. I. planter.] The Albany Knickerbocker recommends as the best mode of preserving apples, to lock them up in a dry cellar and hide the key.