

The commerce of Lake Champlain in 1851, was over twenty-six millions of dollars.—At the present time its commerce must amount to over thirty millions of dollars.—This trade is large already, and yet the reciprocity treaty will double it in five years.—Should it do this, its effects on Albany would be incalculable. This city is the greatest lumber market in the world, consequently whatever tends to increase the lumber trade on Lake Champlain, tends directly to the advancement of the prosperity of Albany.—[Albany Knickerbocker.

PANAMA RAILROAD.—The distance from Aspinwall to Panama is fifty miles. At the latest dates, thirty-four miles of this distance was traversed by railroad, leaving sixteen for mule travel. The gap is now being closed very fast, as the company have commenced laying down rails at the Panama end, two miles having been laid down, and work commenced on the whole distance with the exception of three miles. At this rate the transit from ocean to ocean will soon be made by steam.

VETO OF THE RIVER AND HARBOR BILL.—President Pierce has seen fit to veto the bill making appropriations for the improvements of rivers and harbors. He says that he recognizes in it certain provisions, national in their character, and which, if they stood alone, it would be compatible with his convictions of public duty to assent to, at the same time it embraces others which are merely local, and not in his judgment warranted by any safe or true construction of the Constitution.

Hon. W. W. Pepper, one of the Circuit Judges of Tennessee, was formerly a blacksmith, and for the fun of it he lately made, with his own hands, an iron fire-shovel, which he presented to the Gov. Hon. Andrew Johnson. In return, Gov. Johnson, who was formerly a tailor, cut and made with his own hands a coat, and presented it to the Judge.

TEMPERANCE LAW.—We understand that the constitutionality, &c., of the Temperance law of last winter came up before Judge Bartley, of the Supreme Court, and Judge Walker, Stuart, and Hard, of the District Court, at a late session, when the entire court agreed in deciding the law constitutional, and binding upon the people of Ohio. This is in opposition to Judge Corwin's decision, and much more in accordance with common sense and precedence.

Some days since Judge Smith of the Wisconsin supreme court decided the Fugitive Slave law unconstitutional. An appeal was taken to the supreme court of the State, and we learn by the Chicago Tribune that Chief Justice Whiton of the court has pronounced the unanimous opinion of that court confirming the opinion of Judge Smith. This is an important movement. It will probably result in taking the case to the U. S. supreme court at Washington.

VERY SILLY.—The Western (Mo.) Reporter offers \$200 reward for Eli Thayer, the President of the Emigration Society. This is about as silly and impotent a display of malignity as we have witnessed since the passage of the Nebraska bill. It will tend only to begot bad feeling, and to stimulate the friends of freedom in the North to still more vigorous efforts.

The general appropriation bill, now before Congress, appropriates for custom houses and post offices at Cleveland, Toledo, and Sandusky, Ohio, \$40,000 each, and for the same at Wheeling, Chicago, and Detroit, \$88,000 each; for a marine hospital at New Orleans (the present one to be sold,) \$248,000; for a similar building at Detroit, \$75,000.

It is now stated that Madame Sontag and Signor Pazzolina came to their deaths by poison. Sontag, previous to her death expressed a fear that she had been poisoned, and the bodies were exhumed after burial.—It was found that both had evidently met an untimely death. Jealousy was the cause.

SENTENCED.—Francis Dick, has been sentenced at Dayton to be hung on the second Friday in September next.

THE TEXAS DEBT.—The Senate has passed a bill to pay the public debt of Texas. The sum of \$8,500,000 is appropriated for that purpose. When Texas came into the Union, it held all its lands, and the United States did not agree to pay its debt. These lands were held for this purpose, by that State.—Now it is proposed to pay the debt out of the National treasury, but we do not see that Texas relinquishes her lands to the general government. It strikes us that there is something radically wrong about this movement. We trust there is no Galphism at the bottom of it, but it has a strong squint that way.

THE HOMESTEAD BILL.—The substitute for the homestead bill which lately passed the houses of Congress, extends pre-emption rights to actual settlers who pay for the lands, at prices from 26 cents to \$1.25 per acre. It provides that States in which land lies may take the same at the graduated prices for the purposes of internal improvement, when sanctioned by an enactment of the legislature. This is far from being the real homestead bill, but still it will enable settlers to locate quarter sections of public land on much easier terms than before.

NEW SLAVE STATE.—The Tribune says, a proposal has been made to the Cherokees, Choctaws and Creeks, to form a new State out of their territory. The U. S. government offered to build them a handsome state house, and to bestow other privileges. The design was evidently to form a new slave State, as these tribes are known to hold large numbers of slaves. The proposal was rejected.

A DO-NOTHING CONGRESS.—The Courier and Enquirer thus happily hits the character of the present Congress: "Congress makes it its business to do nothing, and this business is already 'thoroughly disposed of.'—What did it do yesterday? Nothing. The day before? Nothing. The day before that? Nothing. Last week? Nothing, except make Nothing of the Know Nothings.—Week before last? Nothing. Last month? Nothing, but buy land of Mexico where nothing grows. Month before last? Nothing, but turn the Missouri Compromise into Nothing. The month before that? Nothing whatever."

CANADA.—The Montreal Herald, one of the oldest, ablest and most influential papers in the British Provinces, scouts the idea that Canada is to be "regalized"—in other words, erected into a vice-royalty, with a prince of the blood royal to fill the vice-regal throne. The Herald says: "If Canada ceases to be a colony, she will be a republic—whether as a member of the United States confederation or not, must depend upon events over which she has no control."

California, with all its wealth, has proved a costly possession to the United States.—The rate at which it consumes the money at the national treasury may be judged by the fact that one bill now pending in Congress contains appropriations to the amount of \$2,063,000; \$950,000 being for suppressing Indian hostilities, \$263,000 for a custom house and storehouse, \$300,000 for surveys of the public lands, \$300,000 for the expenses of the State government in 1849 and 1850, and \$250,000 for a survey of the boundary line.

Nearly one-tenth of the whole revenue of Great Britain is derived from the duty on tobacco. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in introducing his recent report, said "the tobacco duty is a wonderful achievement.—We raise five millions upon an article, with a rate of duty on something like 1200 per cent. and that duty is progressively improving from year to year." This is truly a wonderful state of things. A revenue of five millions of pounds sterling, or twenty-five millions of dollars per annum upon the single article of tobacco!

Among the novelties advertised to take place at Huntsville, Texas, on the 4th, was a foot race between "three boys," the oldest of whom was born in 1775, the second in 1786, and the youngest in 1795. The contest between these "juveniles" was looked forward to with much anxiety by the fun-loving and sporting fraternity.

CHINA.—Hon. Humphrey Marshall, our late Minister to China, was on a diplomatic mission to Koonsoan, a town of some importance ninety miles from Shanghai. He had a very pleasant interview with the Viceroy of the Emperor, and was exceedingly pleased with the trip. He has written an interesting letter to our government, detailing the particulars, which has been published in the papers.

Mr. Marshall relates some facts which are new to us. He thinks from his observation and information that more cotton is raised in China than there is in the United States, but that the population is so immense that it is scarcely sufficient to supply the wants of the people. This will surprise many who suppose that we of the United States raise nearly all the cotton of the world.

PUGET'S SOUND.—Governor Stevens has addressed a letter to Joseph Grinnell, of New York, expatiating upon the advantages of Puget's Sound as a rendezvous of whale and fishing ships in the Pacific. He says there is a vast amount of the finest pine lumber for spars, &c.; that the country is capable of producing any quantity of fresh provisions, and that the harbor is one of the very best in the world. He advises those interested in whale ships to make a location and build up a town on the Sound. It would yield a large return as an investment, and would be a convenient and desirable stopping place for the ships.

GOV. WOOD COMING HOME.—The Valparaiso of May 30th has the following announcement:

UNITED STATES CONSUL.—The Hon. Reuben Wood, has sought and obtained leave of absence from his post, to return home on private business, and will leave about the middle of June. Gov. Wood has won the universal esteem of the American population by his straight-forward integrity and high-minded nationality; and they would be glad to see him come back in the capacity of Minister Plenipotentiary, &c. During his absence, Gen. G. B. Merwin will officiate as Consul, and we have no doubt acceptably to merchants, masters and seamen.

THE SUSQUEHANNA RAILROAD ACCIDENT.—ACTION FOR DAMAGES COMMENCED.—In the Superior Court of this city, some of the parties injured on the Baltimore and Susquehanna railroad by the collision on the 4th of July, as well as those who have lost friends from the same cause, have already commenced entering suits against the company for damages. Mr. Malcolm, counsel for Madison Jeffers, who was dreadfully injured himself, and his son killed at his side, has entered two suits, damages being laid at \$30,000 in each case. Mr. King, counsel for Mrs. Johnson, who lost a member of her family, has entered a suit in the name of the State of Maryland, for the use of Elizabeth, Sarah Elizabeth and Joseph H. Johnson, against the company, damages being laid at \$20,000.—[Balt. Rep.

A SUCCESSFUL TRAP.—The Cincinnati Commercial set a trap a few days ago to catch the Enquirer, and the latter walked in without any coaxing whatever. Thus the thing was done: The Commercial published a seditious article proving extravagance, corruption, &c., against the Board of Public Works. Thereupon the Enquirer charged the Commercial with being a Whig paper in disguise, and a supporter of the fusion ticket. Next day the Commercial explained that the article which so provoked the wrath of the Enquirer, was copied from the latter paper, being its leader in the issue of Sunday morning, Jan. 22d, 1854. The Commercial had simply borrowed it, for the fun of seeing a puppy quarrel with his own tail.

The Lancaster Gazette says: Gov. Medill, in a speech at that place a short time since, said the Judges of the United States supreme court were a set of old fogies; that they did not understand the wants of the people, and that our people need not look beyond their own State for justice in this matter of bank taxation. He counselled his fellow democrats not to recognize as binding any decision of that tribunal in reference to the banks, &c.

AWFUL FATALITY AMONG RAILROAD LABORERS.—The Galena Jeffersonian says that three or four weeks ago, the cholera broke out among a party of three or four hundred laborers on the Illinois Central railroad, east of the city, and near Scale's Mound. For a time, it was thought, that the disease could be subdued by medical treatment; but the mortality became so fearful that the laborers were advised by the employers to fly. The whole party left some going one way, and some another. We are now informed by Mr. McCoy, the contractor, that of three hundred in his employ at the time the disease made its attack, more than half are dead, the major part of them falling victims after they had fled. Scale's Mound is 450 feet above the level of the Mississippi, the ground is dry and the air is pure. No local cause can be assigned for the mortality. Who can give an explanation of the causes that produced such terrible results?

Such results perplex medical science, and put at fault all theories in regard to the phenomena of cholera.—[Chicago Dem.

Judge Johnson, it will be remembered, defended Fisher W. Ames on his trial for shooting James C. Hall, all of Cincinnati. The jury acquitted Ames, very much to the surprise of every body.

The Cincinnati Commercial says, a few weeks since, Judge Johnson presented his bill to Dan. Ames, father of the Dr., and put the figures at \$2,000. The old gentleman refused to come down, though he had the reputation of being worth at least \$200,000. He said he might pay \$500, &c. But Johnson was inexorable and brought suit for the amount, with interest, &c. The case was lately decided and a judgment was rendered against Ames for \$2250. Execution was issued, and lo! Ames has no property. He has beaten his opponent at last.

An officer in Admiral Napier's fleet writes as follows:

The is not an inch of the Gulf of Bothnia but we have crossed over; it is a strange place; the effect of the irregular refraction is very singular; the other morning we saw a light house up in the air, and on looking on the chart it was proved to be fully fifty or sixty miles off. Ships appear when you are nearly a day's sail from them, now with three hulls, now without sails, in a moment with a cloud of canvas, now turned upside down, and half a dozen ships are over the other, all as large as the biggest three decker; when you come up with her she is some insignificant little coaster. We are within a couple of degrees of the Arctic Circle; the sun does not set until 10 P. M., and he rises about two; we have broad daylight all the time he is below the horizon.—We are going on up to the head of the Gulf, and when we do we shall see the sun at midnight.

THE MINERAL WEALTH OF MEXICO.—A well-posted correspondent of the New York Times says:

"Santa Anna availed himself of his recent march to Acapulco to test the accuracy of the reports that the mountains of Guerrero contain extensive coal mines. The result of his investigation satisfies him that there are almost inexhaustible supplies of this valuable article, which can be supplied in any quantity at Acapulco, at a cost considerably less than the freight on that now carried there from England and the Atlantic States for the use of our steamers. Santa Anna has also satisfied himself that the undeveloped precious mineral wealth of Mexico is immeasurably greater than has ever heretofore been supposed, and it is his desire and purpose to adopt measures to make these treasures available. What these measures are remains to be seen."

FRAUD AND FAILURE.—R. Schuyler, President of the New York and New Haven railroad company, and an extensive railroad stock dealer, has lately failed for a large amount. Since his failure, it is ascertained that he has forged and issued over \$2,500,000 of fraudulent stock of the company of which he was the President. Several other railroad companies suffer by him—among them the Beloit, Ill., company had deposited money to buy iron, and have been defrauded out of all.