

Cross Firing.—Tuesday morning's Advocate, is full of this pleasant sport and agreeable pastime. The subject matter, is of standing interest—the Penitentiary. There being something still left of Mr. Rivers from "Lobbies" attacks upon him, "A Director," our friend Hubbs, and his Hon. the Mayor, take a shot of small grape and caustic at him. Mr. Rivers is said to have said that Doct. Hipes (our friend the Doctor) had delivered lectures in this city on Prison Discipline, a thing which his Hon. the Mayor repudiates, and says that the Doct. might lecture in New Orleans, but could not do it here. On the other hand it appears that Rivers said that Hubbs was not present, when Rivers with the joint committee from the Legislature visited the Prison. To prove that this fact is not the fact, Hubbs brings the rebutting testimony of witnesses to prove. Here the matter stands. When it moves, we look to see it more complicated and more interesting. If an opportunity offers for us to come in and take a side hand, we shall do it.

THE BEAR WOMAN MONSTROSITY. Speaking of this beastly and disgusting exhibition the Delta says: "The picture of the Hybrid or Bear Woman, which is hanging out in front of the Masonic Grand Lodge Hall is a most disgusting looking affair, and we think for the honor of our city, it should at once be removed. No female who is in an 'interesting condition' should pass by that horrible spectacle; and there is no telling how many bare children may be born hereafter in New Orleans. Take away the frightful picture; let the original be exhibited in doors, if you will, and let those who are fond of horrible sights, and disgusting monstrosities, go and feast upon the sight, if they choose; but, do not force people with delicate stomachs to look at even the portrait. Masonic Hall is not gaining as much in money by this exhibition as it is losing in reputation."

There should be a State Law, prohibiting the exhibition of fat women, giant men, bear women, wild men of Borneo, and other such disgusting and degrading shows. We understand that the house of Belcher & Brother, of St. Louis, the famous sugar refiners, have had a bill passed through the Legislature of Missouri, chartering the refinery with a capital of \$1,000,000 with the privilege of augmenting it to \$1,500,000. The restrictions imposed upon corporations by the State, have been by this bill suspended in favor of these parties. As to holding real estate, making annual report of liability—and holding the stock holder bound for the amount of their stock only. They have elected the directors committee of 5 persons—and have had \$800,000 subscribed. The business will be immediately resumed.

The impression is abroad, that Col. Steptoe, who has just taken his seat in Utah, as Governor of the territory, and successor of Brigham Young, is so much pleased with the peculiar institutions of that people, that he is about to espouse their religious belief. The confession of faith in J. Smith's form of religion, will make a larger number of male proselytes than any other creed. If the Col. has any friends in this part of the world, they should advise him, to open wide his eyes, and not go blindly into this matter.

A gentleman at a late fashionable assembly being asked which of the ladies of the company he thought the most beautiful, replied, "why, madam, they are all beautiful; but that lady, I think—pointing to Miss Bunch, who was dressed in the extreme of fashion outstrips them all."

THE AMERICAN EXPONENT.—This is the title of a new weekly paper just issued in the Crescent city, with Joseph Etter, Esqr., in the chair editorial. The "Exponent" is to be devoted to resurrecting the materials upon which the American Union was planted, and upon which it can alone exist. The corruption of parties that has followed a long peace; the prostitution of the ballot-box; trickstering with aliens and exotic hot house republicans, has perverted the ships of State from her true bearings, and all must be lost unless true hands and strong hearts come to the rescue. "Success" cry we to the "Exponent." It needs but a concerted action on the part of the reform party, to trample demagoguism in the dust, and clear away the clouds that now lower on our political horizon.

SIR E. LYTTON, BULWER.—Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, says, now that he never said what the newspapers have been attributing to him in this country.—The report had it, that in a private letter to a gentleman in Boston he said: "I have closed my career as a writer of fiction. I am gloomy and unhappy. I have expended the powers of life, chasing pleasure where it is not to be found."

It is no evidence of a man's good sense to give expression to such sentiments and Sir Edward Lytton Bulwer, should stand corrected.

Who is the Scissors Editor?—How are the following two items to be reconciled. Our contemporary of the Delta will please answer—they are both in the same issue:

It is thought that Mr. Breckinridge will start for Madrid in a fortnight, and that he will go out in a national vessel.

In the next column, is the "telegraph," and from Washington (which is deemed headquarters) under date of the 9th inst. it is said:

Hon. John C. Breckinridge, of Kentucky, has declined the Ministry to Spain. He says he was not aware of Mr. Soule's resignation, or of his appointment, until his name was sent to the Senate for confirmation.

The Charleston Standard gives the following particulars of the burning of the railroad bridge over the Eowah river, two miles below Cartersville, on the 1st inst.:

The fire was first discovered on the south end by the bridge keeper, who could have extinguished it with a single bucket of water. Finding the water in the tubs frozen he ran to the river, a distance of several hundred yards, and on his return found that the fire had made such progress as to render it impossible to stop it. An effort was made to stop the flames by blowing up a portion of the bridge, but it failed. This was the longest and most costly bridge on the road, its length being 1820 feet, and its original cost about \$100,000.

At an election held this day for Directors of the Br. R. and Clinton Plank Road Co., the following gentlemen were elected:

O. HACKETT, A. M. DUNN, G. A. PILE, A. S. HERRON, S. W. DEAN, J. M. BRUNOT, A. DELARODRIE.

BARNUM IN PARIS.—Barnum's Autobiography is on sale in Paris, and attracts considerable attention. Without doubt it will soon appear in French, and will have a wide circulation. As an illustration of trans-Atlantic shrewdness in trading, and of Yankee financiering in general, it will be highly appreciated by the French, and very generally read. And we may add that in too many instances, it will be taken as a daguerreotype of American character.

It is generally known that the bodies of Goethe and Schiller repose in the vault of the reigning family in Saxe Weimer. A few months ago a stranger was conducted to visit the vault, when to his dismay the guide found that the second door was broken open, as also were the coffins of the grand duke Charles Augustus, his wife, and the last duke Charles Frederick. The gold brocade above the casket and the rings from the corpses thence, the gold of the epaulettes, and indeed, whatever was valuable, had been carried off.

TO GEORGE WASHINGTON, the Hero, the Captain, the Statesman, the Founder of modern Liberty, the Land of Solon, Themistocles and Pericles, the Mother of Ancient Freedom, as a testimonial of honor and admiration, consecrated this ancient stone from the Parthenon. Stones to the Washington Monument are also furnished by the Celestial Empire and the Empire of Japan—the cradles of despotism, in the shape of patriarchal government.—The monument, when completed, will be the most colossal, mosaic, and the most valuable history in stone of mankind.—Bulletin.

WHAT IS NOT A LIBEL.—Judge Oakley recently expressed an opinion that when an editor of a newspaper merely states a rumor that is abroad, such, for example, as that a certain person, naming him, had issued stock illegally and absconded—he should be exonerated, provided that it was a fact that the rumor existed, although not true. In such a case, there is no intent to do injury, and there is no malice. A circumstance that is commonly spoken of in business circles, as a matter of public interest, ought not to be regarded as libellous when an editor states it.

Late English papers state that non-commissioned officers are to be commissioned for their gallantry in the "soldiers' battle" of Inkerman, and that their commissions will bear date the day of the battle No. 5. This is as it should be. According to all accounts, the battle of Inkerman was gained by the downright hard fighting of soldiers, not by any display of superior tactics on the part of the commanding officers. Inkerman was really the "soldiers' battle."

Mme. Grisi and Maro are to make their last appearance in Boston on Saturday next. They will then give three farewell performances in New York, and depart for Europe by the steamer Atlantic on the 21st inst.—During the representation of Norma at the Boston theatre, on the 27th ult., the pupils of the Blind Asylum at South Boston were present. Their countenances are said to have expressed delight, and they manifested their feelings in hearty applause.

Judge Hickman Knickerbocker of Columbia county, N. Y. (who is said to have been the original of Irving's, Deirraeh Knickerbocker," in his amusing history of New York,) died on Tuesday week in Williamsburg. Judge K. was a member of Congress in 1809-10.

The use of coal in England in the thirteenth century met with great opposition. A lecture upon the subject, in Boston, says its use was prohibited by parliamentary law, under the impression that it produced disease. All wider publications failing to stop its use, a law was passed making it a capital offence to burn coal. In the reign of Edward the First, a man was actually put to death for using it.

Senator Fish, of New York, is said to be in very poor health, and will be compelled to vacate his seat in the Senate for probably the remainder of the session. He is expected to sail for Havana in a few days, in the hopes of obtaining relief. What kind?

The New York Mirror states that Dr. R. Shelton Mackenzie is about to take his own life—in connection with the lives of all the notable men and women with whom he has come in contact during the last fifty years.

"Now, gentlemen," said a nobleman to his guests, as the ladies left the room, "let us understand each other; are we to drink like men, or like brutes?"

The guests, somewhat indignant, exclaimed, "Like men, of course."

"Then," replied he, "we are going to get jolly drunk, for brutes never drink more than they want."

A story having been circulated in regard to the novelist Bulwer, having no foundation in truth, it is thus contradicted in propria persona. In the Critic, of Dec. 15th, I read that a New York paper states that Bulwer, the novelist, in a letter to a gentleman at Boston.

There are thirteen newspapers in foreign languages published in New York: seven German, three Spanish, two French, and one Italian. In London, with two and a half million of inhabitants, there is published but one newspaper in a foreign language. (Courrier de l'Europe.

EARTHQUAKE IN VIRGINIA.—A shock of an earthquake, of some severity, was felt on Friday morning week, a few minutes before 3 o'clock, in several portions of Virginia, as the Richmond Penny Post has been informed by persons who were present and experienced it. At Clarksville, there was a rumbling, rattling sound, which resembled somewhat the noise made by a four-horse coach in rapid motion, or a wagon with an empty body, running rapidly down a rough hill. Crockery, standing on a table, was visibly shaken. At Wyllesburg, the houses were shaken, and one gentleman was waked up by the severer jar and noise. Alarmed by the cracking sound of his house, he jumped out of bed considerably frightened, and ran out to see if the house was not on fire at the top. In Prince Edward, we learn, the shock was still greater. In Halifax, it was sufficient to wake persons from sound sleep. We are surprised to learn that no person in Richmond was aware of an earthquake in this region at all.

The new Swedish tariff which came into operation on the 1st instant, has been published. This is one of the most liberal measures ever voted by the Diet. The King has sanctioned the proposals made by the Chambers for recinding all the hitherto existed prohibitory duties on imports and exports (with the single exception of brandy,) but with the slight modification that they are to cease at the end, instead of the beginning of the year 1854. The measure has been favorably received by the mercantile world, as one tending to give a great impetus to the development of foreign commerce.

Governor Gorman has got into singular difficulties in Minnesota. When the annual session commenced the Governor refused to deliver his message because the organic law made the choice of public printer obligatory as the first business after the organization, and the choice of the Legislature was understood to be in favor of a paper opposed to him. However, he subsequently reconsidered his position and sent in his message, whereupon the legislature refused to receive it, as they are expecting a new Governor to supersede Gorman. The message has been printed in all the newspapers, though it had not been officially received by the legislature.

The Arkansas Whig gives the particulars of a shooting affair in the House of Representatives of that State. While the two houses of the General Assembly were in convention for the purpose of electing swamp land officers, Mr. Hineman of Helena and Dr. Moon of Darselle, between whom a difficulty occurred the evening before, met in the lobby of the House of Representatives, and the former shot the latter with a pistol, breaking his left arm and inflicting a slight wound in the breast. Mr. Hineman surrendered himself immediately, was taken before Esquire Hunt, and bound over as appear at the next term of the Pulaski Circuit Court. Dr. Moon, we are informed, is doing well.

THE FUNERAL OF THE NICARAGUAN MINISTER.—The funeral of his excellency Senor Don Felipe Molina, minister of Costa Rica, Guatemala and Salvador, took place yesterday morning, says the Washington Union of Sunday, from his residence, corner of Fifteenth and G streets. In the funeral cortege we recognized the President of the United States, cabinet ministers, foreign ministers, heads of departments, officers of the army and navy, distinguished strangers and citizens. The remains were temporarily deposited in one of the vaults attached to St. Matthews Church.

The academy of Design, which sold its building in Broadway, has purchased a site for a new structure, just opposite Madison Square. The land alone costs \$52,000, and it is intended to erect upon it a building at an expense of some \$19,000 more.—The property in Broadway realized from \$69,000 to \$70,000. The new Academy of Design will satisfy the demands of the future as well as of the present, and in art will find a home, worthy her high aspiration.—The painters are in great glee.

FATAL MISTAKE.—Mr. John S. Weathers, from Missouri, settled in Falls county recently, and was shot by his companion who was out hunting with him. His companion seeing him in a stooping position mistook him for a bear, and shot him. He lived but half an hour.

ARAB PROVERBS.—Listen if you would, I beg—listen if you would be safe. Inquire about your neighbors before you build and your companion before you travel. The first of wisdom is the fear of God. The world is carrion and its followers dogs. Poverty without debt is independence—Long experience makes large wit. The sluggard becomes a stranger to God, and an acquaintance with indignance.

By six qualities may a fool be known:—Anger without cause, speech without profit, change without motive inquiry without a object, putting trust in a stranger, and wanting capacity to discriminate between a friend and a foe.

IMITATION OF FOREIGNERS.—The passion which some Americans display for imitating the manners and customs of foreigners that visit our country, is carried to a ridiculous extreme, especially in this true in New York. It seems that Mario, the operatic singer, parts his hair in the middle—therefore the young shallow path snobs of New York are doing the same and it is fast becoming the prevailing fashion among them. It is to be hoped that the balance and equipage thus secured outside will be realized in the interior arrangement of the head.

Ex-Judge Edmonds and his literary partner, Mr. Dexter, have issued the second volume of their "Spiritual Revelations." One thousand copies of the book were ordered in advance of its publication.

For the first time in five years, says the Journal of Commerce there is surplus of seamen in the city of New York, although this is not a large one. Vessels are only enabled to select better crews than formerly.

THE GREEK CONTRIBUTION TO THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.—The Greek Government has sent a stone from the Parthenon of Athens, with an inscription in classic Greek, of which the following is translated:

It is stated that Mr. William Thompson, who has been confined to his bed by rheumatism for about fourteen years during which time he has not been able to walk one step, nor even to sit up in his bed, was married on the 17th inst. by Rev. P. Wood, to Miss Margaret Morris, Smyth county, Ala.

MEN OF TASTE.—When General Whitfield, Indian Agent visited the Cheyennes and a few other wild tribes of Indians, to pay their annuities, this fall, they informed him that the next year he must bring them one thousand white squaws, and the balance they would take in money. They prefer a white squaw to a blanket, Sensible fellows.

TAE-PING WANG'S PRECEPTOR.—The Rev. I. J. Roberts, for eighteen years a missionary in China, arrived at New York last week, on board the Philadelphia clipper ship Messenger from Shanghai. He was the religious preceptor of Tae-ping Wang, and taught him the Christian creed before he became the leader of the Chinese insurgents.—T Delta.

Prentice of the Louisville Journal is the author of the following: "The editor of the New Hampshire Patriot says that he expects to grow fat as long as he lives. Ah, yes; but if he dies, will not the fat be in the fire?"

The Boston Journal says that notwithstanding the hard times, the prospects now are, that during the present year the number of new dwellings and warehouses to be erected in that city will fully equal, if not exceed the number erected last year.

DR. TROUSDALE.—We notice the return of this gentleman, who has been absent for a few days in the lower parishes. The Doctor may now be found again, at his post on Lafayette street, ready to attend to business.—His work as a scientific and practical dentist, will compare with the best, and he refers to those only, whom he has served, for recommendation to others.

Attention is directed to the card of Mr. Moses, daguerrean artist, in to-days paper. Mr. Moses has been here several days taking heads, for Chon's directory. He proposes to remain a few days longer in order to afford an opportunity for all ambitious parties to "leave a good impression on the world" to do so. His rooms are at the Capitol.