

## PLANTERS' BANNER.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY,  
BY THOMAS F. JOHNSON,  
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

TERMS.—This paper will be furnished to subscribers at \$3 per annum, in advance; \$4 if paid at the expiration of six months, or \$5 at the expiration of the year.  
Advertisements inserted at the usual price, viz: Per square of twelve lines, first time, \$1; and at half that rate for every subsequent insertion.  
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### For President:

**WINFIELD SCOTT,**  
Of the United States.

### For Vice President:

**WILLIAM A. GRAHAM,**  
Of North Carolina.

### FRANKLIN, SATURDAY, JULY 17.

There will be a mass meeting of the citizens of this parish held at the Court House on Wednesday next, at 10 o'clock, for the purpose of adopting such measures in regard to the patrol regulations of the parish as may be deemed expedient, and to organize Committees of Vigilance for our mutual protection. The attendance of all who can possibly make it convenient to leave home is earnestly requested.

Divine service will be held in the Methodist Church to-morrow morning, at the usual hour, and the same may be expected every Sabbath until further notice.

FOR LAST ISLAND.—Persons desirous of taking a trip to this delightful watering place will find the accommodations of the steamboat Union every way comfortable, and in Capt. Forgy they will find a commander whose greatest desire and pleasure is to promote their happiness, and render the trip as agreeable as possible. Remember, she will leave on Tuesday next.

We are indebted to the Hon. T. W. Palfrey, our senatorial delegate at Baton Rouge, for a complete list of the Convention committees, which will be found under its appropriate head.

Two weeks since we suggested the propriety of calling a whig ratification meeting, that we might not be behind the citizens of other portions of the State, but no one has thought fit to take any action thereon. This supineness in a measure so beneficial to the interests of our party is inexcusable, and did we not believe it more the result of carelessness, superinduced by the heat of the season, rather than of wilful neglect, we should let the matter rest, but we believe that an appeal to our citizens will not be in vain; we therefore propose that Thursday, the 12th of August next, be fixed on as the day for holding said meeting. This we wish to be taken simply as a suggestion, not as an act of dictation, which would be supererogation on our part, inasmuch as we have a Central Vigilance Committee, to whose care such matters properly belong. We thought that our previous suggestion would have called their attention to the subject, but it having failed to do so, we now call upon our citizens, and would recommend the above mentioned day, or one sufficiently distant to apprise the parish generally of our action, that we may have a large and enthusiastic gathering of our whig friends—in fact, such a meeting of the party as St. Mary is able to give!

OPELOUSAS RAILROAD.—The building of this road has now become a fixed fact, and by the end of two years our citizens will be enabled to visit New Orleans, transact an ordinary amount of business, and return by sundown.—The following are the amounts of stock taken by the different parishes on the route:

Parishes.	Shares.	Amount.
St. Landry	3,519	\$87,975
St. Martin	3,195	79,875
Lafayette	1,912	47,800
Lafourche	1,901	47,525
St. Mary	1,929	47,725
Assumption	183	4,740
Terrebonne	183	4,740
New Orleans, by taxation	80,000	1,500,000
Total	71,929	\$1,798,225

It is estimated, says the *Thibodaux Minerva*, that the road will cost, when completed to Opelousas, \$2,000,000, of which amount \$1,798,225 has already been subscribed, leaving a deficit of \$201,775, which amount can be easily obtained either by voluntary subscription or taxation. All classes are now alive to the interest and great benefit that this road will secure to the parishes through which it will pass, and they have consequently determined to rush it ahead.

Persons travelling through our parish should be armed. Our neighborhood is now infested with a gang of midnight marauders, composed of runaway slaves, and all of them desperate characters. Some of them were arrested a few days since and lodged in jail; but they are too great adepts at house-breaking to remain immured any length of time, and they gave satisfactory proof that the task of breaking out was no more difficult than breaking in.

## Gen. Scott and his Supporters.

The whig papers throughout the Union—even those who were most opposed to the selection of Gen. Scott by the Whig National Convention—are gradually falling into the ranks. The *New York Courier and Enquirer*, one of the strongest Webster papers, has at length come out in favor of the nomination, in the following words:

Our motto is "Principles not men," and we will abide by it. We were whigs before Webster was our candidate, and though he ceases to be such, whigs we must remain. If our party is doomed to defeat in consequence of yesterday's doings, let defeat come, but not through us or by us.

This is the true doctrine—"Principles not men" and is the bond by which the whig party is held together. The choice of candidates being ever a secondary consideration to their principles, should influence public men to lay aside all partiality, and if the political views laid down by those seeking office are correct and sound, then the united support of the whig party should be the reward of him who is likely to prove most successful against political opponents. It is hard, we admit, to withdraw our support from those we individually consider best entitled to it—it seems too much like turning one's back on an old friend in his difficulties and troubles to make it in any wise agreeable; nevertheless, it is the true policy, and he who would befriend his party and advance its interests, must be willing at all times to lend his support to those who may be selected by the party as the exponents of such principles.—This view of the matter has no doubt induced many journals to hoist the Scott banner, which, were they influenced by less patriotic motives, would in all probability have adhered to their favorites, to the utter discomfiture and ruin of their party. This principle is the great bond of union, and should always bind the minority to submit to the majority—not only in the choice of candidates, but also in the platform of their faith, for if it is binding in one respect it is equally binding in the other. When a paper hoists the Scott banner, it virtually acknowledges the acts of the National Convention—platform, candidates and all—and is morally bound to abide by them. Horace Greely may denounce the platform as much as he pleases—he may consume his lungs by spitting upon it, if that will give him any satisfaction; but he is nevertheless as firmly bound to it in supporting its candidates, as though it expressed his views in every respect, otherwise his support is anything but complimentary to the nominees; for if he adopts the candidates, and rejects the platform on which they stand, he gives undeniable evidence that his support is based upon impure motives. Those journals which hoisted the Scott flag, yet were opposed to his nomination, previous to the action of the Convention, support him from very different principles—the platform upon which he stands; and this is the true policy—it is the principles, and not the men, they contend for. Whilst the *Tribune* contends for the men, but rejects the principles, the *Courier and Enquirer*, *Express*, and many other journals, support the men, purely for their principles. It needs no peculiar acumen to judge which is the most consistent course. We have no objection to the *Tribune* giving its support in its own way and with its own views; but, in the name of decency, let it stop its foul abuse of the vital principles we are endeavoring to maintain—that great bond of union between the North and South!

We perceive from a Washington despatch to the *New York Herald*, that the course pursued by the *Tribune*, and also by the *Times*, has deeply hurt the feelings of Gen. Scott, who most solemnly declares that when he accepted the nomination he also accepted in the fullest sense and from the purest motives the platform of the principles of his party, and that no effort on his part shall be spared to carry out these principles in letter and spirit. Can there longer exist any doubt of the purity and honesty of Gen. Scott's motives? Most assuredly not. Whatever doubt existed previous to his nomination had its origin solely in his receiving the early support of such men as Horace Greely—a support at the time which was the only drawback to Gen. Scott's popularity in the South. From what we have seen of Gen. Scott's character since his nomination—the manly and uniform spirit with which he has answered all questions propounded as to his political principles—the manner in which his feelings have been wounded by the half-way support we have mentioned, calculated more to injure than to serve him—and that soldierly pride and independence which are ever the safeguards against dishonorable actions—we are satisfied that we did injustice to the true character of the man in suspecting for a moment, that he would lend himself to the views of such men, whose objects seem to be to convulse the country, rather than, as christianity teaches, to pour oil on the troubled waters. Such support is no support at all, and is only adhered to because they adopted him, regardless of principle, and are now too proud to acknowledge that they are mistaken in their man, and lost what they contended for.

## Political Grumblers.

In the House of Representatives, on the 23d ult., there was quite an animated discussion in committee of the whole, on the Deficiency bill. Mr. Townsend said, in the course of his speech, that he had co-operated with and labored for the democratic party, when he could employ it as an agent to obtain great ends, and only then the democratic party did not own him. The compromise measures were concerted by Clay, sustained by Webster, and put through by Fillmore and his administration. He protested against this stealing of whig timbers to make the democratic platform, and he regarded the resolution of the Democratic Convention, in relation to the compromise, nothing but a fraud, and intended to humbug. In the Convention he spiritedly opposed the Fugitive Slave Law.

Mr. Giddings followed, saying that both the whig and democratic parties had cast aside all principles heretofore in controversy. The contest was therefore only for the spoils. He then examined the platforms of those parties, especially those portions relating to the compromise, and wished to know how slavery agitation was to be stopped; holding that it could not be accomplished, although it had been resolved that it should be done. He trampled those resolves under his feet. "The two Conventions," he said, had better have been attending Sabbath school, instead of attempting to imitate every tyrant from Nero to Nicholas. Having passed the Fugitive Slave law under the gag, its friends dare not go before the people with a defence, and hence they silence discussion. He said the position of the free democrats was on the Buffalo platform, and that they hold the balance of power, which they will wield for the benefit of human freedom.

These sentiments clearly show the disposition of the free-soilers to free themselves from all connection with the two great parties of the day, and run their own candidates—not with any hope of success, but for the sole purpose of creating disaffection.

Those ladies and gentlemen in and about Franklin who take an interest in the cause of Temperance—and there are few, if any, of the former, to their praise be it spoken, who do not—are informed that there will be an open meeting of Teche Division, on the evening of Monday the 26th, at their usual hour of business. There will be several addresses on interesting subjects having connection with the principles of the Order, to which the public are cordially and fraternally invited.

A whig ratification meeting was held at Faneuil Hall, Boston, on the 29th ult., at which the Hon. R. C. Winthrop presiding, assisted by sixty vice-presidents. On taking the chair, the president very feelingly alluded to the death of Mr. Clay. He then spoke of Mr. Webster, in connection with the decision of our National Convention, and concluded his remarks by calling on Massachusetts, as in honor bound, to abide by the choice of the Convention. Several gentlemen likewise addressed the meeting, after which resolutions were adopted expressive of a cordial support for Scott and Graham. This is all as we wished and expected.

There are two full moons in this month—one occurred on the 1st, and the other will take place on the 31st. This is a circumstance that has not occurred since the year 1776, when there was a full moon on the 1st and 30th, and on the latter day an extraordinary eclipse of the moon, visible in most parts of the inhabited world.

ANOTHER NEW PRESS.—The *New York Tribune* states that a new printing press has lately been constructed by Messrs. Pratt & Porter, and is now being exhibited in that city. It is a rotary or cylinder press, the form or forms as the case may be, revolving on a large cylinder, while the sheets are fed on one or more smaller cylinders, according to the plan of operation. On this press both sides of a journal may be printed at once—that is, the first side of one sheet and the second of another—so that when a thousand white sheets shall have been fed simultaneously by two different feeders, they will all be printed on both sides. Or a job and a newspaper, or either a book-form, or two jobs entirely unlike in size and shape may be printed at the same time. The press now on exhibition takes a sheet 26 by 41 inches, and is fed by two men on the same cylinder, printing (the builders estimate) 2,500 sheets on both sides every hour. The press, with all necessary fixtures, they offer to furnish to any extent for \$500 each, while the additional feeding cylinder, &c., required to give a chance for two more feeders and double the product, would only cost \$100 additional. It is extremely simple in all its parts, does not weigh one-fifth as much as the Hoe press, and is built at one-twentieth the cost of the latter. It is also more approachable, requires much less power (this one being run by hand), and having far fewer screws, wheels, pinions, &c., would seem much less liable to get out of order. If it be all it seems, it must create a revolution in newspaper printing; but it has yet to bear the ordeals of experience and hostile criticism. Those who have seen it are strongly prepossessed in its favor.

## Spiritual Rappings.

On looking over the May number of Dr. Buchanan's "Journal of Man," we were not a little surprised to see the avidity with which he swallows this humbug. In former numbers we noticed an evident disinclination in the author to reject this doctrine, yet he did not seriously or strenuously advocate it; but in the present number he is unmeasured in his terms of approbation. As to the rapping and moving demonstrations, he says they have already passed the ordeal of the most rigid scrutiny, and must be considered as unquestionable facts, for these sounds and movements cannot be accounted for by any physical agency! To authenticate, as it were, the undeniable truth of this doctrine, he introduces the testimony of four individuals to the following alleged facts, which are said to have taken place at Springfield, Mass., on the 5th of April last:

1. The table was moved in, every possible direction, and with great force, when we could not perceive any cause of motion.

2. It (the table) was forced against each one of us so powerfully as to move us from our positions, together with the chairs we occupied, in all several feet.

3. Mr. Wells and Mr. Edwards took hold of the table in such a manner as to exert their strength to the best advantage, but found the invisible power, exercised in the opposite direction, to be quite equal to their utmost efforts.

4. In two instances at least, while the hands of all the members of the circle were placed on the top of the table, and while no visible power was employed to raise the table or otherwise move it from its position, it was seen to rise clear of the floor, and to float in the atmosphere for several seconds, as if sustained by some denser medium than air.

5. Mr. Wells seated himself on the table, which was rocked to and fro with great violence, and at length it poised itself on two legs, and remained in this position for some thirty seconds, when no other person was in contact with the table.

6. Three persons, Messrs. Wells, Bliss and Edwards, assumed positions on the table at the same time, and while thus seated the table moved in various directions.

7. Occasionally we were made conscious of the occurrence of a powerful shock, which produced a vibratory motion of the floor of the apartment.—It seemed like the motion occasioned by distant thunder, or the firing of ordnance far away, causing the table, chairs, and other inanimate objects, and all of us, to tremble in such a manner that the effect was both seen and felt.

8. In the whole exhibition, which was far more diversified than the foregoing specifications would indicate, we were constrained to admit that there was an almost constant manifestation of some intelligence which seemed at least to be independent of the circle.

9. In conclusion, we may observe that D. D. Home, the medium, frequently urged us to hold his hands and feet. During these occurrences, the room was well lighted, the lamp was frequently placed on and under the table, and every possible opportunity was afforded us for the closest inspection, and we submit this one emphatic declaration—we know that we are not imposed upon nor deceived.

In view of what he considers such conclusive testimony, he asks—"What apology can there be for editors of newspapers, who republish in their papers coarse denunciations of such unquestionable facts, while suppressing the facts themselves, and keeping their readers profoundly ignorant of the most interesting events of the age?" To this we simply reply:

First, That we do not believe them to be facts, for it was never the intention of the Almighty that mortal man should seek to peep beyond the portals of the tomb.

Secondly, That the spirits of the departed are shut out from all the transactions of this world, else there would be no perfect happiness in the next life. "Absent from the body, present with the Lord."

Thirdly, That all who now profess to hold communion with departed spirits, are either arrant knaves, or exhibit a weakness of intellect unworthy of the present age.

So far as the evidence of four men, or ten times four men, is concerned, when brought forward as proof in such a case, we consider it as nothing. It is an easy matter to get persons who, either from blind credulity or motives of rascality, will corroborate any statement, no matter how absurd it may be, so long as the prime movers of the scheme are peculiarly interested. We are not so uncharitable as to think that all who advocate this inconceivably foolish doctrine are not sincere in their belief; on the contrary, we think many persons, who are otherwise intelligent, are frequently suffered to be led away from the dictates of reason by the designs and collusions of the corrupt and scheming, as a punishment for not properly applying the talent intrusted to their keeping. If there be any other than mortal agency in these "rappings," or if there be any spiritual intercourse, it is most certainly of the evil order, for the whole system had its foundation in the "root of all evil!"—The prophets of old looked on high for inspiration, whence cometh every good and perfect gift; but these disciples of "rappings" look for their communications from below, because their deeds are evil. That the Almighty never designed mortals to know of things beyond the tomb is very evident from the following texts, which we quote from the inspired writings:

10. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, &c.

11. Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.

12. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee. [Deut. ch. xviii.]

13. Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God. [Lev. xix.]

14. A man also or a woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones:—their blood shall be upon them. [Lev. xx.]

This system of delusion is but an old one revived, with slight alterations. In the latter part of the sixteenth century, John Dee, the great mathematician, whose brain became disordered from intense study and an overanxiety to learn things beyond the reach of man, practised this same humbug, with but little difference. He suffered himself to be deluded into the opinion, that by certain forms and invocations he could hold communion with the spirits of the dead, by means of a table! Nor has this superstition been confined to any particular age or people—we read of it in the earliest ages, for man is prone to it. Homer in his *Odyssey* exhibits it in a very peculiar form. He makes it appear that Ulysses performed a sacrifice with great solemnities, pouring the sacrificial blood into a ditch. The spectres of the dead then rush wildly from the infernal regions, to taste the blood, and discovering that of Tiresias, of which he was in search, he compels it to answer his questions. Again,—in Thessaly, the most celebrated of classical regions for its proficiency in the delusive arts, peculiar horrors seem to have attended their performances.—Erichtho, Lucan's Thessalian witch, is said to have reanimated the corpse of a soldier slain in battle, and compelled him to answer her questions respecting futurity! These, and many other supernatural wonders that might be quoted, show the predilection of man for the marvellous, in the belief of which he exhibits a faith that, were it properly directed, would yield abundant fruit in due season. In all ages and all conditions men have been found who were ready to believe the most preposterous stories; yet, though they have sought and still seek to obtain from the dead a knowledge of things forbidden, like the five brothers of Dives, they would not believe, though one should rise from the dead. As an illustration of this credulity we give the following from the *Spiritual Telegraph*, which is held forth as truth by that journal:

Late in the autumn of last year, a young man, a neighbor who had witnessed the "rappings," but had never heard the "rappings," happening to drop in at my house at a time when a favorite and rightly conditioned medium was present, an opportunity was afforded him for a sitting. He first inquired for the spirit of his mother, and had a response. After some general inquiries, he asked if the spirit of his mother could inform him relative to the health of his wife, who was then absent from home. Was she well?—"No." Could he be informed what ailed her?—"Yes," and then through the alphabet "toothache" was promptly spelled out! The young man then inquired if the spirit of his father was present. Obtaining no satisfaction, he called the alphabet, and his brother's name was spelled. He was taken by surprise, not having thought of him that evening. But the spirit proceeded in answer to inquiries to inform him of various particulars relative to his death, which proved to be correct. He also rapped correctly the name of the young man's wife, the place where she was born, etc., and also reiterated the assertion made by the preceding spirit, that the wife at that time had the toothache. Said the young man: "Can you not go and psychologize her, and cure the pain?" The answer indicated that the spirit would make an effort to do it.—Two or three days subsequently the young man was at the place where his wife had been visiting. He made casual inquiries as to how her health had been during their separation, and was informed that she had been generally well, except upon a certain day, when she had the toothache, but on retiring to rest at about ten in the evening it had suddenly ceased, and she had not suffered from it since. That day was the very day on which the rapping invisibles had announced her as suffering with the toothache, and that hour was the precise hour when the spirit declared it would make an effort to relieve her—the husband having taken note of the time by his watch.

This is not the first time the toothache has been cured by spirits! we therefore believe that part of the story. But here is another, from the same paper:

A very remarkable case occurred in Medina, Ohio, which I heard related by Gen. Bierce, of Akron. A woman residing in that place, originally from Liverpool, instituted proceedings for a divorce against her husband, who had been absent in California rather too long for the patience of his spouse. After the suit had been commenced, she received a spiritual visit from her long-absent husband, who informed her that he had just been murdered on his way home. Upon receiving this spiritual intelligence, the legal proceedings were suspended, until she could learn by the usual channels of intelligence the truth of the report. In due time the news came on, and she learned by the *New York Tribune* the authentic story of his murder.

Why men are suffered to be so deluded is a question often asked. God often permits evil, as a punishment for the transgression of his laws, as the following texts show:

3. \* \* \* Yes, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations.

4. I will also choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them: because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not. [Isaiah, ch. lxi.]

11. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie! [2 Thes. ii.]

And here we leave the matter, which we have spun out to a far greater length than we at first designed, but we may resume it at some future day.

## Whig Ratification Meeting.

According to previous notice a number of whigs assembled in the Masonic Hall at Pattersonville on Thursday, the 8th inst., at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and organized by calling Dr. Walter Brashear to the chair, and appointing Dr. H. J. Sanders secretary. The object of the meeting was briefly explained by the president, and on motion of Col. Fisher, a committee of three was appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of this meeting. The chairman appointed on that committee Dr. Richard H. Day, Z. Dulany and C. M. Charpentier, who retired, and after a short time returned and reported the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas the Whig National Convention having met, and after a long and mature deliberation did nominate Gen. Winfield Scott for the Presidency, and the Hon. Wm. A. Graham for Vice President, and did, before proceeding to ballot, embody their principles in a set of resolutions known as the *Whig Platform*, we deem it our duty, as well as privilege, as a branch of the great whig family of the United States, publicly to express our views and sense of the result of the labors of that Convention: therefore—

Resolved, That the principles set forth in the set of resolutions adopted by that Convention are eminently national in their character, and are the true and legitimate doctrines of the whig party, calculated in their nature to preserve the integrity of these United States, and to secure permanently their tranquillity, prosperity and independence; and for the triumph of those principles we pledge our vigilant and constant exertions.

Resolved, That although Millard Fillmore or Daniel Webster was our first choice, yet in the nomination of Gen. Scott we recognize an old and long-tried whig, an accomplished civilian, an unequalled general, and one who, by his Castle Garden speech, his prompt and frank acceptance of the nomination, and his unqualified endorsement and adoption of the resolutions of our National Convention, is proved to be sound and national in his creed, and every way worthy of the confidence and support of his fellow-citizens in every section of our Union, and as whigs we do hereby pledge ourselves to yield him our cordial and warm support, and will use every honorable exertion to secure his election in November next.

Resolved, That we will with us cheerfully the nomination of the Hon. Wm. A. Graham, of North Carolina, for Vice President, and do hereby ratify his nomination.

The meeting then adjourned.

CHOLERA.—Several deaths from this disease have recently occurred in the parish of Pointe Coupee. The last arrival from Texas announces that at Port Lavaca there were twenty-four deaths from cholera in as many hours.

The True Mark of Genius.—Ralph Waldo Emerson, in one of his recent lectures, describes with the clear sweep of a painter the necessity of energy and labor to even the most gifted. In the present day of steam and punctuality, the lazy man, no matter how extraordinary his acquirements, always falls behind in the race of human life. He says:

Genius unexercised is no more genius than a bushel of acorns is a forest of oaks. There may be epics in men's brains, just as there are oaks in acorns, but the tree and the book must come out before we can measure them. We very naturally recall here that large class of grumblers and wishers who spend the time in longing to be higher than they are, while they should have been employed in advancing themselves. These bitterly moralize on the injustice of society. Do they want a change? Let them change—who prevents them? If you are as high as your faculties permit you to rise in the scale of society, why should you complain of men? It is God that arranged the law of precedence—implead him or be silent! If you have capacity for a higher station, take it—what hinders you? How many men would love to go to sleep beggars and wake up Rothschilds or Astors!

## Clippings from our Exchanges.

The Senate of Connecticut has rejected the proposed amendment to the Constitution providing that there shall be but one capital to the State.

A new line of three steamships, of 300 horse power each, has been established to run between Liverpool and Rio de Janeiro, calling at Lisbon, Pernambuco and Bahia.

It is stated that a line of steamships is to commence running on the 1st of August between Liverpool and Australia.

A letter from Prague, Bohemia, dated June 3d, says that the head of the house of Rothschilds was then lying at Frankfurt-on-the-Main at the point of death.

Passengers arrived at Cleveland on the 25th ult. in 25 and a half hours from New York. This is the quickest time ever made between New York and Cleveland. The travel was by railroad to Buffalo, and thence by steamboat to Cleveland.

A letter from Lancaster county, (Pa.) from an old subscriber to the *Baltimore Patriot*, says, "Look out for 6000 majority for Gen. Scott from the 'Old Guard!'"

The latest Washington rumor is that Gen. Scott will not resign unless elected President, and in that event will follow the example of Gen. Taylor, by resigning, to take effect in March.

Large quantities of vegetables are now carried by the Savannah and Charleston lines of steamships to the New York market.