

Our Market.

The market of yesterday ranged from 93-4 to 121-8, (not strictly fine.) Corn 95 a 100, Oats 62 1-2 to 75.

There will be a meeting of the Southern Rights Association, for Kershaw, at the Court House in Camden, on Wednesday, (to-morrow) the 12th inst. JOHN CANEY, Pres't.

Will South Carolina Act?

This question is one difficult to be answered, after all that has been said, written, and done. We are as far from a conclusion to-day, as to the future course our state will take, as we were many years ago, notwithstanding however, the jealousies that already exist in other States towards ours, and the probability that these jealousies might be augmented, by South Carolina attempting secession single handed and alone. We cannot see how—or by what means, our honor as a State can be maintained—if the trial is not made. If South Carolina is not absolutely pledged by her Legislature, or the voice of her people in solemn force, or in so many words—there is an implied pledge on our part—from what has heretofore been said and done in every part of the State, that final action was held in view, at some day or other, at least after all reasonable efforts had been made to obtain co-operation; else, why talk so much about our grievances; form associations for the protection of Southern Rights. If it was never contemplated to make the issue ourselves; if no other Southern State would take the van—to our minds, there is but one course to be pursued, that course is to exhaust all the reasonable time, and means, contemplated in the "watch and wait" policy, when the fact is fully ascertained, that our hopes are only ideal, which we fear will prove real, of obtaining co-operation, let us cut loose our moorings, pile on the canvass that our ship of State may take her chance upon the tempestuous ocean of adventure. What else can we do! Speech making and Southern Rights movements have brought us to this point. Men have been made secessionists or fire-eaters, through these instrumentalities. We are unwilling to thrust our opinions upon the public as law and gospel—they are nevertheless ours—and have the sanction of our best judgment and sober reflection; let them go for all they are worth. We are secessionists or fire-eaters, per se, and unhesitatingly of opinion, that the State must act alone, if help cannot be obtained. We prefer the appellation of fire-eater to word ester, under any and every circumstance. We think "resistance at all hazards, and to the last extremity" better—than the adoption of the "grand retrograde movement honorable."

We call attention to the correspondence of the Mercury in another column. Again we say the destiny of the South is in the hands of South Carolina. If we tamely and basely yield, the curses of a degenerated posterity will be heaped upon our heads; but if we nobly step into the breach, we win for the South, the liberty she so much deserves. "We would rather you would not secede," remarked a distinguished Kentuckian to us not long since, "but depend upon it, if you will, you may rely upon Kentucky espousing your cause." "Lead the way," said one of Mississippi's most gallant and distinguished sons "and by our common, high, and holy rights, we swear to stand by your side." Let us act then as those, to whom the destinies of earth's choicest people are referred, and not as timid slaves, that the first fear whips back into submission.

We have a certificate of scholarship, for either the Law, or Medical College, of Memphis, Tennessee, which we will sell on very reasonable terms. These Colleges are in a high state of prosperity, and the chairs of different professorships filled by able men. A young gentleman intending to locate westward, would do well to graduate there.

The Grave.

It is a delightful thought, that no sorrow can go beyond the grave. They may pursue us to its very verge, and extort from us then a sigh, but not beyond, can its fading breath affect—and yet mankind seem to dread the grave, and look upon it with horror and fear. This is, because of the beyond. We never look with displeasure upon the gate which enters us into some delightful city, whose opening unfolds to us the dazzling of silver fountains, whose sportive jets, form a thousand rainbows, as they leap in the golden sunlight—and from whence, come the soothing strains of gentle toned music, as if borne upon the fragrance of the world of flowers, which bloom within its walls; oh, no! we call it the portal of joy—and long to see it opened, that we may enter. But on the gate of the gloomy dungeon, through whose grated windows we hear the clanging of chains, and see peering the faces of the miserable, we look with shuddering fear. Thus it is with the grave—it is the gate, to the garden of the best—or the dark entrance, to the darker beyond. We make it that which it is to us—either, then sorrow flies affrighted back, as we are seized by a more horrid phantom—or, retires before the light of those pure spirits which light the tomb with their love.

Creed and Conduct.—To make speculative belief the rule absolute of conduct is not easy. The "flesh" rebels and overpowers us. Yet even in defeat the intellect vindicates its superiority, and finds the best possible reasons for its defeat. A Spanish priest, once exhorting the soldiers to fight like lions, added, in the ardor of enthusiasm: Reflect, my brethren, that whosoever falls to-day in battle, sleeps to-night in Paradise. Thunders of applause followed the sentiment.

The fight began, the ranks wavered, the priest took to his heels, when a soldier stepped him, reproachfully referred to the promised supper in Paradise. "True, my son, true," said the priest, "but I never eat suppers."

for the Freesoilers. Where can these Southern Unionists take refuge?

A Distinguished general officer from Louisiana, who has seen some service, writes to a member of Congress here, that the only hope of the South is in South Carolina—and that if she secedes, and the General Government shall attempt to coerce her, thirty thousand men from the Southwest will march to her defence and the defence of the rights of the South, at their own charge and expense. You may rely on this, although I am not at liberty to mention names. Every gallant spirit of the South is watching the course of your State with eager hope and interest. I give you this as a set off to Gen. Sam. Houston's derisive judgment of your future course.

Gen. Hamilton is here, still after the Texas Bonds. Another General from your State is also here, after something of the same kind, it is said. He is called Thompson—Waddy Thompson, I believe, a small man, and very brisk about the lobbies of the House and Senate.

THE TEXAS DEBT.

A meeting of the creditors of Texas, holding securities, for which duties on imports were specially pledged, as provided for in the reservation of the five millions in the late boundary settlement, is invited by Gen. Hamilton to be held in Washington City on the first Monday of February. The object is to ascertain from the Secretary and Treasury what class of creditors are entitled to the benefit, and what description of release he will require to be filled under the act.

Some of the creditors of Texas have already made a composition with the State, and received new certificates, at the rate of seventy dollars for a hundred of the old debts. These are particularly requested to be present in person or by proxy.

Gen. Hamilton appears to think that the duty of adjusting the amount of indebtedness of Texas, against which the United States retained five millions of the sum appropriated in the boundary bill, and of obtaining the release of the creditors, is to be done at the Treasury of the United States. This may admit of a reasonable doubt, and Texas is not likely to consent to that construction. It is true that the act directs that the stock for five millions shall not be issued until the creditors of the State holding bonds or other certificates of debt "for which duties on imports were specially pledged," shall first file in proper form at the Treasury of the United States releases of all claims against the United States on account of such bonds or certificates. But this does not in terms authorize the Treasury to settle with the creditors, or to take any action in the adjustment of the debt. All that belongs to the State of Texas to do for herself; and when her properly constituted authorities have determined how much is due to each claimant, he will receive it out of Texas funds which the United States, on that settlement, issues the stock as stipulated, taking a full release to prevent any liability hereafter. This seems to us the rational explanation. Any other would transfer to the United States what has nowhere been conceded by Texas in terms, and is consistent with her right of action as a State, the power of adjusting purely domestic questions of contract and finance.—N. O. Picayune.

THE PEOPLE BETRAYED.—We have to announce the humiliating fact, that a majority of the Senate of North Carolina have vitally declared that there is no such thing as state sovereignty, and that our good old commonwealth instead of being an independent party to a great league of States, nothing more than a poor pliant dependency of a central government of unlimited powers. In a word, the Senate have decided, that North Carolina has surrendered (not delegated) to the Federal Government certain powers, which she has no right, under any infraction of the compact, to resume! The people have always been under the impression that sovereignty, from its very nature, is indivisible, and that if it resides in the States, it cannot possibly belong to the Federal Government, but it seems these Senators are wiser than the people. The right of secession is inseparable from State sovereignty; if we deny the former, the latter is but an empty name. It is "a right inestimable to freemen, and formidable to"—the craven minions of power only.

But what adds to our mortification in announcing this result, is the fact, that it has been brought about by the aid of Democrats (!)—men professing to be disciples of Jefferson, Madison and the other fathers of the republican school, and pretending to derive their political creed from the immortal resolutions of '76 and '79. Yes, by the aid of such men as Weldon Edwards, Thomas Cameron, and George Bowser has this shame been put upon North Carolina. Let the people know it, and let them visit the recreants with the execrations which their treachery, deserves.

As for our Senator, Capt. Hoke, he has fought a good fight; and we believe we but utter the sentiments of his constituents in greeting him with a hearty well done.—Lincoln Courier.

Southey's Advice to Readers.—The poet Southey, in one of his letters, says:

"The advice I would give any one who is disposed really to read for the sake of knowledge, is that he should have two or three books in course of reading at the same time. He will read a great deal more in that time, and with much greater profit. All travels are worth reading, as subsidiary to reading, and in fact essential parts of it; old or new it matters not—something is to be learned from all. And the custom of making brief notes of references to every thing of interest or importance would be exceedingly useful."

In the town of M., Vermont, there lives a man who is well known for his gloomy disposition, and most unucky of mortals. Let what ever may for entertaining a settled notion that he is the happen to him, he considers the event a disaster, and always grumbles, "Just my cussed luck!" In spite of his hopelessness, the man is a universalist in his religious belief; but being a little shaken in his faith, one day, by the arguments of a neighbor, he exclaimed: "Well, I don't much believe there is a hell, but if there is one, it will be just my cussed luck to get into it!"

co, together with an Assayer's office, was again taken up in Committee of the Whole.

In the course of the discussion on various proposed amendments, Mr. Schenck contended that we have already more Branch Mints than are actually needed. Hence he was opposed to the increase. He said Great Britain and France had but one Mint each, and we needed but one.

Mr. King declared that the Philadelphia Mint with all its improvements, has shown itself incapable of coining a sufficient amount of pieces which the wants of the country require. It was in fact not equal to one half the demand.

Mr. Briggs alluded to a statement made some time since; and in a letter from Mr. Patterson, the Director of the Mint at Philadelphia, to the effect that within ten days after bullion leaves New York, it will hereafter be returned from Philadelphia to New York in the shape of coin. Now said Mr. Briggs, I pronounce this statement of the Director a deliberate falsehood, for the purpose of prejudicing the minds of members against the bill.

Mr. Bayly then offered a substitute for the whole bill, which was agreed to by a vote of 101 to 92.

The substitute provides that the bars and ingots of gold from the Assayer's office in California, under the Act of September, 1850, shall be receivable in California and Oregon, for the term of five years, in payment of all Government dues, at the value stamped thereon.

The bill was then reported to the House, when Mr. Cabel moved to lay it on the table. This motion was negatived—yeas 70, nays 106. Pending the demand of the previous question, the House in great uproar adjourned.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6, 1851.

In the Senate, Mr. Dodge, of Wisconsin, presented resolutions of the Legislature of Wisconsin, repealing so much of their resolutions of March, 1849, as censured Mr. Walker, and instructed him to resign his seat.

It will be recollected that the crime of Mr. Walker, at that period, was a motion to amend the Civil List bill, by providing for the extension of the laws and Constitution of the United States into California. For this he was assailed by the Free Soil press of the country, and denounced in the most extravagant terms.

Messrs. Seward, Hamlin, and Chase fired the usual broadside of anti-fugitive slave petitions, but they were disposed of in the usually summary mode.

Mr. Borland presented resolutions of the Arkansas Legislature, asking the establishment of a Military Academy in the South West.

Mr. Rusk presented the memorial of Barnabas Bates, the agent of the New York Postage Reform Association, offering to carry the mails at a much lower rate than at present proposed by the pending bill.

Mr. Foote, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, to whom had been referred various memorials asking that some plan may be devised of settling national differences instead of war, reported a resolution setting forth that in the judgment of the Senate it will be proper and desirable for the Government, whenever practicable, to secure in all its treaties with other nations, a proviso, referring to the decision of umpires all future misunderstandings that cannot be satisfactorily adjusted by amicable negotiations in the first instance before a resort to hostilities shall be had.

The resolution lies over, and will not in all probability be called up again during the present session.

After the disposal of some unimportant matters, a vigorous attempt was made by Mr. Turney to take up the bill to amend the patent laws, but without success. There is evidently a disposition to allow the subject to sleep.

The bill for the adjustment of California private land claims was, in its amended form ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

The remainder of the day was devoted to the consideration of the joint resolution making bounty land warrants assignable. Its passage appears to be extremely doubtful.

In the House the Branch Mint bill was again taken by Mr. Bayly, and adopted in Committee, was non-concurred in—Yeas 93, Nays 103.

The question then recurring on ordering the original bill to a third reading. Mr. Strong moved to lay it on the table. The motion prevailed—Yeas 107, Nays 92. So there was an end of the whole matter. The friends of the Philadelphia Mint consider that they have achieved a great victory over the New York brethren, and are extremely elated.

The remainder of the day was occupied by the transaction of unimportant business relating to the territories.

Correspondence of the Charleston Mercury.

Gen. Sam Houston says here that he knows South Carolina will submit. To some the scornful estimate of such a man may seem a matter of moment; but fresh as he is from that bargain in which a part of his own State was traded away to the North for money, and the power of the South in the Senate irreversibly lost by the admission of California, can hardly be a good judge of what a brave man and high minded people will do. He says also that he has the best chance for the Presidency; and in this he may be right; for such a man to preside over it. He aided to despoil the South, and if she is weak enough to submit to the robbery, why not finish by submitting to him also? Houston's chances are, however, sadly darkened by his being a Democrat, at least in name. This party is doomed, North and South. In Massachusetts it has coalesced with the Abolitionists, and in New York it has taken as its candidate for the Senate, Mr. Dix, a man thoroughly identified with the Van Buren party. Between the Sewardite, Mr. Fish, and the Burenite, Mr. Dix, there is indeed no difference so far as the South is concerned. What sort of a Democratic party can be made out of such stuff? On the other hand, at the South the poor Democrats who have been shouting for the Union and the party, are, by these events, reduced to the last extremity. Their Northern allies, for whose sake they deserted the cause of their constituents, have now thrown them aside,

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.

Mr. Peare presented a memorial from the inhabitants of White County, Arkansas, to the effect that Samuel Washington, a relative of George Washington, and who presented to the United States the sword of his illustrious kinsman, and the cane of Franklin, is residing in that country in destitute circumstances, and asking a donation of public land for his relief. It was referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. Peare presented a memorial from the Constitutional Convention of Maryland, urging the establishment of a line of steamers to convey free negroes to Africa. The bill for the appointment of appraisers at large, as amended by the Committee on Finance, was taken up, explained, and finally passed. The remainder of the day was devoted to the consideration of the bill providing for the adjustment of private land claims in California. In the House, the bill providing for a Branch Mint at New York and another at San Francis-

have quitted the field. Were it not for the wolves outside there would be an emute; but an office-seeking animal, with jaws extended, just at the door, is a warning not to be despised.

The lectures at the Smithsonian Institute are now so supremely dull, that the empty benches have the majority, and last evening there was a police officer in attendance to preserve order. Probably not one scientific man in twenty possesses the faculty of communicating his knowledge in an acceptable manner.

The tariff men are now generally among themselves like bees in a strange hive. They blame Mr. Strong for his silly movement the other day in attempting to graft the subject on the Deficiency Bill. They contend that more votes could have been procured had the question come up on its own merits.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2, 1851.

In the Senate, after the presentation of petitions, Mr. Hunter offered a resolution, which was adopted, directing the Finance Committee to report on the expediency of authorizing the coinage of half dollar and quarter dollar pieces, to be composed of gold and silver.

The death of Mr. Kauffman being then announced by Mr. Rusk, who paid an eloquent tribute to the deceased, the Senate, after the adoption of the customary resolutions, adjourned.

In the House, the sad tribute was paid by Messrs. Howard and Morse.

It appears that the deceased did not die so suddenly as was represented, but that he lingered for nearly two hours from the time he was first attacked. After the vital spark had fled his countenance looked so unlike death, that, under the directions of his wife and sister attempts to resuscitate him were continued the whole night, the body remaining warm until a late hour this morning. His remains are placed in a metallic coffin, and after the funeral ceremonies on Monday, will, it is said, be conveyed to his native village in Pennsylvania.

Wise, the balloon man, has not succeeded in obtaining a report on his memorial from the Senate Committee. He says he could throw from his balloon a sufficient number of destructive missiles as would destroy a large army in an hour. This would seem to be the perfection of the engines of death. The weapons which armed Achilles and Hector's fierce wrath, were as school boys' wooden sabres in comparison with the inventions of these latter days. With these aerial engines of Wise, we shall realize something of what the mythological poets were forced to describe only among the gods: giants heaving mountains at the head of Jupiter, and the thunderer throwing down fierce bolts and flames in return. But the result of these fearful inventions is, that men are now staggered at the thought of war. In the same proportion that the apparatus of slaughter and death has become, the more fearfully complete, is the reluctance for conflict increased. War's terrors indirectly promote peace.

The small coins are now so scarce, that our city postmaster has issued an order requiring all persons applying for letters to bring money which does not require changing.

On Monday Theophilus Fisk commences a course of lectures on Electro-Biology. He was formerly a Unitarian minister.

A large number of free negroes, who have failed to give the required surety for good conduct, are now in jail. Our Mayor is determined to carry out the law.

Judge McLean, of New York, is here endeavoring to get the appointment of U. S. Judge in California.

It is understood that Benton is ready to promise, that if elected to the Presidency, he will not be a candidate for a second term.

Several of the large iron manufacturers of Pennsylvania, who have been here for some time urging an amendment of the tariff law, have at last gone home in despair.

It is now generally conceded that the steamer Atlantic will not be heard from.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5, 1851.

Among the petitions presented to the Senate was one by Mr. Atchison, from Margaret Drew, of Platte county, Missouri, asking indemnity for a fugitive slave. It appears that her slave was in the employ of the U. S. Quarter Master at Fort Leavenworth, and that through his negligence and that of the officers of the Fort, the slave escaped.

After some explanatory remarks Mr. Atchison moved that the petition be referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Hale jumped up, ready for battle, and declared that according to the usual practice the petition ought to lie on the table. He accordingly made a motion to that effect.

After further discussion, the petition was referred to the Committee on Claims.

Messrs. Hale and Winthrop then presented numerous petitions, asking the repeal of the Fugitive Slave Law, all of which were forthwith laid on the table.

Mr. Borland presented the joint resolution of the Legislature of Arkansas, asking Congress to take immediate steps for the acquisition of Cuba. It was, without debate, referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. It is now considered certain that the acquisition of Cuba and Canada will be important elements in the contest for the next Presidency.

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Correspondence of the Niles.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1, 1851.

In the Senate, a bill was reported by Mr. Rusk, granting the right of way for a telegraph from the Mississippi to the Pacific ocean. It appears that a company is ready to establish the line provided they can be secured from all competition for a certain number of years.

Mr. Mason introduced a bill providing for the further satisfaction of Virginia military land warrants, which was referred.

Mr. Burney introduced a resolution, by way of amendment to the one heretofore offered, so as to authorize the presenting of swords to the several Major Generals and Brigadier Generals of the army who served in Mexico.

The Senate then took up the resolution of Mr. Mason, instructing the Committee on Foreign relations to inquire into the expediency of providing by law, pursuant to the recommendation of President Polk, for the payment of the claim of certain Spaniards arising out of the "Amistad" case.

Mr. Chase went into the particulars of the Amistad affair, and denied that the owners have any just claim for compensation arising out of the condemnation of the vessel.

Mr. Hale followed, on the same side, and argued that the claims of the owners of the vessel were wholly groundless. He did not think the idea of making the Government an insurer, so all engaged in the slave trade, could be entertained. Besides, this question revived the discussion on the subject of slavery, notwithstanding the powerful narcotic administered by the compromise bills of last session. Senators new declared, that agitators had been put down, and that the country was in peace, but such propositions as these would show there was a great mistake. Although a calm might appear on the surface, yet the high moral feeling of a large portion of the people against the existence of slavery still dwelt at the bottom with all its strength, if such resolutions as these were to be called up for consideration.

Mr. Clay said the resolution was one of inquiry only. He was not at present favorable to the payment of these claims. On the contrary, his opinions inclined the other way, although his mind was not fully made up. He was not, however, surprised at the opposition to the resolution. The fact was, the Senator who had just spoken and his friends, knew that all agitation on the subject of domestic slavery was at an end. They therefore seized upon every topic connected with foreign slavery which they could in order to renew the agitation; and it was obvious that they did not care about questions affecting the foreign slave trade unless they could connect domestic slavery with them. He concluded by expressing his belief, that by the compromise bills of the last session, the Senator and all his coadjutors had been destined to remain at the "bottom" forever.

Mr. Hale rejoined, and said Mr. Clay could speak feelingly about people being at the "bottom," having had experience in the matter himself. He then declared it as his firm opinion that any man who should present himself as a candidate for office, relying upon the authorship of the compromise bills of last session, such a man would find himself in the position of the man mentioned in the Greek fable, who being shipwrecked, instead of catching hold of a plank to keep him from going to the bottom, seized and leaped overboard with the anchor! Such a fate, he prophesied, was in reserve for the Senator from Kentucky.

The Chair here interferred, and said the debate could not proceed, as the compromise bills were not before the Senate. He must therefore arrest the discussion of all matters connected with them. After an ineffectual motion to lay the resolution on the table, it was adopted—yeas 43, nays 6. The bill providing for the settlement of California land titles, was discussed during the remainder of the day.

In the House the bill to establish a Branch Mint at New York, and an Assayer's office at San Francisco, was again taken up in Committee of the Whole. The debate on the respective merits of New York and Philadelphia was resumed and continued until three o'clock, when, in accordance with a previous resolution, the discussion ceased.

The question on the motion of Mr. Van Dyke, to locate the Mint in Jersey City, instead of at New York, was put and negatived. On motion of Mr. Cable, an amendment was adopted requiring the gold coinage to consist of a greater proportion of small coins than large ones, as had hitherto been the case. He said the report of the last year would show that the coinage of the year was \$28,900,000 were in double eagles, \$2,600,000 in eagles, and only \$1,500,000 in the smaller coin. The object of this, he contended, was to draw from the people the circulation of gold coin, in order that it might not come into competition with the shipplasters of the speculators and brokers.

Mr. Holmes moved to amend by providing for a Branch Mint at Charleston, S. C. He said he would be candid enough to admit, that if it were not necessary to have a Mint at California it was not necessary to have one at Charleston; but if it was necessary to have a Mint at New York it was necessary to have one at Charleston.

The Chair ruled the amendment out of order. Mr. Holmes appealed, but the decision of the Chair was sustained.

The consideration of the bill will be resumed to-morrow.

A short time after the adjournment of the House, Mr. Kauffman, one of the members from Texas, was taken suddenly ill while standing at the door of his hotel. He retired to his room and in five minutes was a corpse.

Yesterday evening the wind suddenly changed to the North, and we had a spell of weather which would have done honor to Greenland. The frost has done irreparable mischief to the fruit trees, some kinds of which the previous unusually warm days had caused to bud.

The order requiring the Clerks of the Treasury Department to work eight hours per day, has now been extended to other branches. It would be all well enough, say the clerks, if the Heads of Departments would set the example, but they think it hard that the privates should be required to remain after the Generals