WASHINGTON CITY.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1858.

Business Notice.

As the business of the Union establishment, in view of the proposed change in its terms, will be conducted strictly on a cash basis, all agencies for the collection of subscriptions for the Union are discontinued. No payments should be made to Agents after this date, except to Mr. W. G. Lipscomb, jr., who is authorized to make collections in Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia.

WASHINGTON, March 29, 1858.—tf.

The foregoing notice is not intended to include any agents or collectors that we now employ or have heretofore employed in this city, but those only who have performed such service in other parts of the country. Ap 29—tf

THE INDIANA SENATORIAL QUESTION.

The telegraph informs us that both houses of the Indiana legislature have adopted resolutions declaring the election of Senators Bright and Fitch, two years ago, under which those gentlemen now occupy their seats in the Senate, illegal, unconstitutional, and void;—the Senate by a vote of twenty-six to twenty-two, the House by a vote of fifty-one to forty-five. This action of the legislature has of course no legal effect upon the tenure of Messrs. Bright and Fitch, can have no other force than belongs to a mere expression of opinion, nor carry any other than such moral weight as attaches to the informal judgment, on a party question, of a party majority, in the two branches of the Indiana legislature. Opposed to this judgment, of a party majority in that body, is that of the Senate of the United States rendered last winter, which by a large vote pronounced the election regular and legal, and the tenure of Messrs. Bright and Fitch valid and constitutional. On the ground of mere moral authority, we think the judgment of the Senate of the United States will fully balance that of the Indiana legislature; and thus the question is left to be considered purely on its legal merits.

It will be remembered that at the time of the election of Messrs. Bright and Fitch, the democratic party held a decided majority on joint ballot in the Indiana legislature; but that an election was delayed some time, by the refusal of the body in which the republicans had the ascendant, to agree to a joint sitting for the purpose of making this election. Finally, however, if we recollect aright, the two bodies did meet together, and after it had been resolved to go into the election, and while probably the voting was going on, the republican members of the body in which that party had the majority, withdrew from the hall, the residue remaining and completing the election. Writing from memory, we do not pretend to technical accuracy in this statement, our only object being to convey an idea of the nature of the legal question which was brought before the Senate of the United States for its action in the case of the Indiana senators, and upon which it rendered solemn judgment last winter. It will be seen, therefore, that the question is not one of wrong, insult, and injustice to a sovereign State, but a mere party question between minorities and majorities—a democratic majority in the Indiana legislature having made an election two years ago, which a republican majority in the same body now undertakes to pronounce unconstitutional, illegal and void.

In view of this equal division of sentiment at home, this contrariety of action at two periods, of the Indiana legislature itself, we repeat that the weight of the judgment of the Senate of the United States ought to be conclusive upon the moral side of the question, as it indisputably is on the legal side.

The resolution which was adopted on the subject by the Senate, on the 12th of last June, was as follows:

Resolved, That Graham N. Fitch and Jesse D. Bright, senators returned and admitted from the State of Indiana, are entitled to the seats which they now hold in the Senate as such senators aforesaid, the former until the 4th of March, 1861, and the latter until the 4th of March, 1863, according to the tenor of their respective credentials.

The Senate adopted this resolution without division, the sense of senators in regard to it having been previously expressed on a test vote as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Allen, Benjamin, Bigler, Brown, Clay, Clingman, Davis, Fitzpatrick, Green, Gwin, Hammond, Hayne, Hunter, Iverson, Johnson of Arkansas, Johnson of Tennessee, Jones, Kennedy, Mallory, Polk, Pugh, Reid, Rice, Sebastian, Slidell, Thompson of Kentucky, Thomson of New Jersey, Toombs, Wright, and Yulee—30.

NAYS—Messrs. Broderick, Chandler, Clark, Collamer, Dixon, Doolittle, Douglas, Durkee, Fessenden, Foot, Foster, Hale, Hamlin, Harlan, Houston, King, Mason, Pearce, Seward, Simmons, Trumbull, Wade, and Wilson—23.

We have said that the action which has been just taken by the Indiana legislature can have no legal effect. The principles on which we found this judgment are the following: The federal constitution prescribes the term of senatorial service, empowers the Senate to fix periods according to which senators shall be classified, and constitutes each house of Congress the exclusive judge of the "*elections, returns*, and qualifications" of its own members. At the proper legal period for electing senators from Indiana—one of them to fill a vacancy, the other to fill a term which would expire during the next interval between the regular sessions of the legislature—that body, having the authority and charged with the duty of making the election, did elect the two persons in question, who were returned as elected to the Senate of the United States. The Senate, which was the constitutional and the sole judge of the validity of the election, admitted the persons elected, and, upon a full review of all the proceedings in the premises, pronunced their tenure valid. Thus the legislature which had the authority to elect and whose duty it was under the laws of Indiana to do so, made the election in a manner which the Senate of the United States, which had the sole power of revising its proceedings, declared legal and valid.

The election of Messrs. Bright and Fitch being thus made and concluded upon in a manner which admits no constitutional revisal, the only remaining question is, whether a State legislature is a judge of the elections of the two houses of Congress—in contravention of the express provision of the federal constitution, as well as the rule of parliamentary law arising from the necessity of the case, which makes these houses the exclusive judges respectively of the elections of their members; and whether, as such judge, this legislature may reverse the action of a former legislature, as well as the revisory judgment rendered, under the constitution, by the Senate of the United States. It would be preposterous to claim such a power for this body. Elections are acts which when once made cannot be made a second time by the same suffragans until the next constitutional period for making them arrives. If the laws and constitution of Virginia, for instance, authorize her people on the fourth Thursday of May, 1855, to elect a governor who shall serve four years from and after the 1st of January, 1856, these same suffragans become *functus officio* as to that office for that term, when they vote on the said fourth Thursday in May, 1855, and cannot invalidate that election by holding another on the fourth Thursday in December or at any time thereafter, or impair the tenure of the governor they have chosen at the time prescribed by the laws and constitution.

So, an election held by a legislature, of senators for the terms which it is its duty to fill under the laws and the constitution, if it be accepted and approved by the Senate of the United States, cannot be invalidated even by the same constituent body, at a subsequent session, or even at the same session. If it is an election at all, when once made and approved by the federal Senate, which is the sole judge of its validity, it cannot be repeated for the same constitutional terms of service. One session of a legislature has no power to revise the action of a previous session. It may repeal one law and pass another, but none but the judiciary can decide whether a law is constitutional and valid. So, if it elects senators of the United States, it is for the federal Senate to pronounce whether their proceedings are legal and valid, and not within the jurisdiction of a subsequent legislature to revise or invalidate it. The legislature may possibly reach the senators by instructions touching their votes on public questions of policy; but unless they succeed in compelling them to resign in that manner, they will fail to reach them at all.

It is vain to urge the doctrines of State rights and the prerogatives of State sovereignty in opposition to these views. The creed of State rights yields authority to the federal constitution wherever it is express; and that instrument in express terms makes the Senate the sole judge of the elections of its own members. It only resists the usurpation by the federal government of constructive powers. As to the application of the idea of State sovereignty to this case, it is to be remembered that one legislature is as sovereign as another; and when it comes to robbing a prior legislature of sovereign functions to bestow them upon a succeeding one, the whole notion of august State sovereignty is degraded into the ridiculous proportions of a scheme for robbing Paul to pay Peter.

CAPTAIN R. B. MARCY.—HIS LAST WINTER'S EXPEDITION.

This able officer is now in this city under orders for special duty.

The expedition of Captain Marcy from Fort Bridger to New Mexico last winter, on which he was despatched by General Johnston, for the procurement of horses, mules, and cattle for the army at Camp Scott, was one of the most remarkable on record. The route he pursued, which lay in a pretty direct line accross the Uhinty and Rocky Mountain chains, had been traversed before in the summer time by hunters and trappers, but had always been set down, even by those hardy men, as impracticable in the winter season. The old mountaineer Bridger pronounced the expedition impracticable. Captain Marcy set out from Fort Bridger, however, on the 27th November last with forty soldiers, twenty two citizens, thirty days' rations, and sixty-five mules, and reached Fort Massachusetts, New Mexico, six hundred and thirty miles from Camp Scott, with the loss of but a single man, on the 17th of January, performing the journey in the depth of the winter.

Immediately after entering the mountains, (we derive our information from official papers,) the snow became so deep that it was impossible for the animals in their jaded state to make any progress through it. Forty men were accordingly placed in advance of the mules to break a track for them. This course, which was pursued from day to day, enabled the party slowly to force its way up the western slope of the mountains; but the snow rapidly increased in depth as they advanced, when, as they approached the summit of the mountains, it lay about five feet deep upon the level, and here the leading men were obliged to crawl on their hands and knees to prevent sinking to their necks.

The progress of the party was necessarily very slow, and although they labored most faithfully every day from daylight till dark, yet they advanced only nineteen miles in five days. The animals, finding no forage, except the pine leaves, became weaker continually. Many of them had died, and those remaining were reduced to a state bordering on starvation. The majority of the men had worn out their shoes before one-half the journey was performed, and, owing to their exposed condition, several had their feet badly frozen, rendering it exceedingly painful for them to march or to sleep.

On the 3d of January the rations were all consumed, and the party was reduced to the necessity of subsisting upon such of the animals as became exhausted and could perform no further service. This meagre and unwholesome diet with men who were undergoing the most intensely severe labor that the human system is capable of sustaining, soon told upon them, and after a few days they became weak and emaciated, while the amount of labor they could perform sensibly diminished. Yet this little band of excellent soldiers, all of whom had volunteered for this severe service, performed the hard task allotted them cheerfully and with alacrity, and no one of them during the entire march ever uttered a murmur or manifested the slightest insubordination. The brave men had undertaken the difficult and dangerous service for the laudable purpose of procuring food and animals for the comrades they had left at Camp Scott, who, there was good reason to believe, from the famished condition of the small number of animals which remained to them after the long march from Fort Leavenworth, and the attacks of the Mormons on the trains would be in a condition of want before the party could return.

It is known that Captain Marcy obtained the desired supplies in New Mexico, except American horses, and that he returned safely to Camp Scott with his welcome purchases.

The return route of the expedition was from Fort Union over the Raton Mountains; thence skirting the western base of the Rocky Mountains, across the head waters of the Arkansas and South Platte rivers to Bridger's pass at the Laramie river; thence along Bryan's trail to Sage creek; thence north across to Bitter creek, and down that to Green river, and to Camp Scott—the whole making a distance of seven hundred and forty miles.

It is a noticeable fact in regard to this road, "*that it affords a passage from the waters of the Atlantic to those of the Pacific without going over a mountain. The ascent to the summit level of the Rocky Mountain chain is here so very gentle as to be almost imperceptible, and for sixty miles upon the platterre forming the dividing ridge the eye cannot distinguish which course the water takes.*"

It will be remembered that great apprehension was felt lest the Mormons who, in strong parties, were sent out to waylay Capt. Marcy, should succeed in stampeding the animals and cattle he was bringing in from New Mexico. This officer, however, had effectually provided against any such disaster. He had enlisted in his party, while in New Mexico, all the experienced hunters, mountain and frontier men that could be found, and thus prepared to act on the offensive by anticipating the enemy and stampeding their own horses and mules. There is no doubt that he would have astounded the Mormons by completely succeeding in this project had they fallen in with him in their skouting excursions.

Capt. Marcy is the author of the valuable report on Salt Lake Valley, which has been published by the government, in a large volume, and to which the country is indebted for nearly all its accurate information in regard to the Mormon country.

SUDDEN DEATH OF HON. HENRY BEDINGER.

Hon. Henry Bedinger, ex-minister to Denmark, died very suddenly at his residence in Shepherdstown, Virginia, on the 26th instant. He returned home from Europe a few weeks ago, in good health, and since then partook of a complimentary dinner tendered him by his fellow-citizens. Mr. Bedinger was formerly a member of Congress, and distinguished for the ability and energy he brought to the discharge of all his public duties. His loss will be mourned by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

A PUBLIC DINNER DECLINED.

For several days past it was rumored throughout the city that a public dinner would be given to Hon. A. G. Brown, of Mississippi, by a number of citizens of Washington, in token of their appreciation of his services as chairman of the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia, and of his personal and private worth. By the following correspondence it will be seen that the dinner was tendered to him, but that he has declined to accept it:

WASHINGTON CITY,
November 26, 1858.

Hon. A. G. BROWN.

DEAR SIR: We have been requested by a number of our fellow-citizens to tender to you, in their name, a public dinner as a slight testimony of the high respect in which they hold your private and public character.

You will please designate some early day which will best suit your convenience.

We have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servants,

JAMES G. BERRET, GEO. W. RIGGS,
W. LENOX, JOHN F. ENNIS,
W. B. TODD.

WASHINGTON CITY,
November 27, 1858.

GENTLEMEN: Your note of yesterday, tendering me a public dinner, on behalf of a number of your fellow-citizens, has been received. For this mark of respect I am deeply grateful. When I accepted the chairmanship of the District Committee in the Senate I prescribed to myself the rule of not accepting public entertainments or other testimonials from the people of Washington. True, this dinner is offered as a testimony of personal respect, but those disposed to be censorious will hardly distinguish between my personal and official relations to the people of this city. I shall never cease to remember with sincere satisfaction this additional evidence of their partiality. But if my friends would not impair my usefulness to themselves, nor expose me to unjust criticism, they will permit me to decline their proffered hospitality.

Very faithfully, your fellow-citizen,
A. G. BROWN.

To Hon. James G. Berret, Walter Lenox, Geo. W. Riggs, John F. Ennis, and W. B. Todd.

A CARD.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 27, 1858.

To the Editors of the Union:

The sentence of the court-martial in my case, and the mitigation of the punishment by the President, seems to give the correspondents of the New York papers a great deal of trouble. The reason is obvious: there are some who want my place in the navy, and others who embrace the opportunity to attack the President. I think the evidence before the court would have sustained the President if he had reduced my suspension on half-pay to five months, instead of five years. And I further believe that the President, in the course he pursued, was actuated by pure motives and a disposition to do justice.

Respectfully, &c., E. B. BOUTWELL,
Commander U. S. N.

COMMODORE CHARLES STEWART.

[From the Philadelphia Evening Argus.]

We learn that this distinguished gentleman has applied to be relieved from the command of the Philadelphia navy-yard, preparatory to resigning his commission in the United States navy.

The commodore has been led to this course by the action of the "Board of Fifteen," which immortalized itself some time ago by endeavoring to "reform" the navy. This board—without notifying the commodore that any action was intended in his case—placed him upon the retired list—an act which roused the indignation of the entire country. Hon. Henry M. Phillips, of this city, desiring to do justice to the venerable hero, proposed in Congress, last winter, to confer upon him a rank in the navy similar to that conferred upon General Scott in the army, and the proposition was received with much favor by representatives from all parts of the country. It failed to become a law only because other important business prevented action upon the motion. Commodore Stewart has grown gray in the cause of his country, having been over sixty years in its commission. He has performed as much active service on the ocean as any man living; and for such a hero, in his old age, to be thrown out of a service that he has honored, would be a shame and a disgrace to our republic.

The people of Philadelphia desire no other man to occupy the position of commander at their navy-yard than Commodore Stewart. He is a citizen whom they delight to honor, and the general government will gratify them, without respect to party, by granting him whatever furlough he may desire, to visit Europe, see the members of his family who reside there, and examine the navy and dock yards. He has done enough to win the love and esteem of all our citizens, and they desire to see every favor shown him, and every honor conferred upon him.

The business of the navy-yard can be conducted for any reasonable time that Commodore Stewart may be absent by Captain Carr, who is now the second in command. He is a gentleman of energy and ability, and would cheerfully assume any additional duty that might be imposed upon him by the favors extended to his superior.

POWERS'S STATUE OF WEBSTER.

A correspondent of the Boston Courier, writing from Florence, visited Powers's statue of Webster before it was prepared for shipment. He states that it was a noble figure of more than life-size, representing Webster as standing erect, his left-hand resting on a bundle of fasces, while his right holds across his breast a roll of manuscript. The costume is modern throughout, and the dress-coat is buttoned over the chest. I was greatly disappointed in the head of the statue; it appeared to me a failure as to form, likeness, and intellectual expression. Instead of the noble dome-like brow, projecting so far over the deep-set eyes that the most faithful portrait often seems otherwise to those who never beheld the man, the forehead in the statue seems actually to recede from its base to the crown. Instead of the characteristic *pose* of the head, thrown far back in a sort of proud, defiant way, the head of the statue, the whole figure, indeed, is quite too much advanced. The statue was cast in one piece; the bronze is quite different in color from that of the Munich foundry, being dull and muddy-looking.

The State prison of New Jersey is full to overflowing, and the accession of twelve or fifteen is expected at the close of the Essex county court, and some thirty or forty from the five courts that will be held during the next month. The present number in confinement is 300.

METROPOLITAN MUSINGS.

Genius and Labor.

GENIUS is credited with more than it deserves. Labor does not receive its due meed of praise. In the popular parlance the word genius is the explanation of everything wonderful accomplished in Art, Literature, or Science. It seems, moreover, to have ascribed to it a quality of spontaneity which resembles the Quaker's power of creation, who said of a new coat let it be made, and it was made. The noblest achievements of this life are mainly indebted for their existence to hard work, for the law is written in the members of the most gitted children of earth that though Genius may "kindle its own fire," Industry must supply it with fuel. For years sometimes grand thoughts will be in a man's soul struggling, like caged birds beating their poor wings against the bars, in vain endeavors for freedom, and he goes on groping through the shadows of his discipline, restless, dissatisfied, unable to understand himself, when a little introspection, and a resolute chaining of himself to his work, would add his obscure name to the list of "Geniuses." When the "Great Magyar" said, "There is nothing impossible to him who wills," it was caught up and echoed like a new utterance of the Delphic oracle, but there is a man sleeping in a quiet English grave who, many years ago, said the same thing more pointedly and quite as euphoniously; for it was South who first wrote, "It is idleness that creates impossibilities. Where men care not to do a thing they shelter themselves under a persuasion that it cannot be done. The shortest and surest way to prove a work possible is to set about it; and no wonder if that proves it possible which for the most part makes it so." Genius is the gift of God, but there is no rock on which so many noble vessels are dashed to pieces every year as upon the prevalent fallacy which substitutes Genius for Industry. It is true, there are persons who are born with an intuitive perception of the most occult problems in mathematics, but natural genius is always dependent upon labor for securing its triumphs. That sort of genius which dispenses with industry is a disease—an abnormal preponderance of some mental faculty—and is as undesirable as a superfluous development of one physical member at the expense of the others. All true genius recognises and obeys the Creator's requirement of toil as the price of excellence. The spirit of beauty is hidden, as precious gems are stored in the earth; and though one may obtain a chance glimpse of it, as he may pick up a nugget of gold on the beach, yet the law is none the less exacting, that only by strong effort shall the riches of the mental or physical world be obtained. He who waits for genius to kindle his lamp may sit in darkness all his days; while some patient plodder shall mount to realms of light and be thrilled with the music of the spheres. There is a great overplus of modesty in the world. Great deeds come of great daring. Courage, not cowardice, is the parent of success. As good old Selden said, "There is *humilitas quædam in vitio*," (such a thing as a faulty excess of humility.) If a man does not take notice of that excellency and perfection which is in himself, how can he be thankful to God, who is the author of all excellency and perfection? Nay, if a man hath too mean an opinion of himself, it will render him unserviceable both to God and man." A man's life is just what he chooses to make it; he may live like Diogenes, in a tub, (the oldest form of tuberculous affection,) and yet THE MAN shall exalt his humble abode into a magnificent palace; or he may dwell in the Alhambra with a soul that shall make his dwelling the filthiest and commonest of tubs. It is the man, and not his surroundings, which is to tell upon the world. We may make life a matter of grovelling toil and vexation, and go down to our graves like the close of a dismal day; or we may walk erect on the earth as in the fair palace of God, and out of all our lowly cares and painful discipline evolve a life impressive here and jubilant hereafter. So thought Sir Thomas Browne when he declared "To be nameless in worthy deeds exceeds an infamous history. The Canaanitish woman lives more happily without a name than Herodias with one. To subsist in lasting monuments, to live in their productions, to exist in their names, and predicament of chimeras, was large satisfaction unto old expectations, and made one part of their Elysium. But all this is nothing in the metaphysics of true belief. To live, indeed, is again to be ourselves, which being not only a hope but an evidence in noble believers, 'tis all one to lie in St. Innocent's Church yard as in the sands of Egypt; ready to be anything in the ecstasy of being ever, and as content with six foot as the moles of Adrianus."

I am led into this sober sort of musing by a procession of young men, some of them bearing familiar faces, and some looking like persons who live remote from the metropolis, who pass before me in the curling smoke from my Heidelberg pipe. I seem to read their anxieties; I can look through the divers coverings of flesh and garments which ordinarily hide their heart-workings from mortal vision, and as I mark their feverish pulses and can see great stifling aspirations rising from their souls to be spent only in sighs, I fancy myself conversing with them, and saying, Oh! my brethren, do not wait for genius, but seek its presence in working for its expression. Above all, do not expect too much. When you cast the seed into the ground over night, you do not look for the ripe corn the next morning, but after weeks of patient waiting you are content to see the green fingers of the plant come slowly and cautiously feeling their way from the cold earth, lifting themselves by degrees towards the upper warmth and light; it is long after, indeed when the stalk seems dead, that the husbandman raises his song of thanksgiving for the harvest. Do not expect too much. The amount of attainment possible under the best opportunities and with the best gifts is, after all, very insignificant. The great mathematician, La Place, when he was closing his earthly career, said "that which I know is limited; that which I do not know is infinite;" and Newton, as every schoolboy has learned, when the vastness of his mental power and the brilliancy of his demonstrations caused him to tower like a giant above his fellow-men, could only compare himself to a boy gathering pebbles on the beach, with the unknown and boundless ocean ever stretching away beyond his vision. But, also, continuing the imaginary conversation, I should say, Strive for something. You have some gift within you, the development of which is of more consequence than the decaying interests over which the mercenary struggle, for which fools live and die, but which wise men only use to make them more useful to themselves and to others. Educated mind is stronger than ignorant muscle. Ignorance is a shameful waste of power. No rational being ought to be content to remain in the world without knowing something of its hidden beauties; more of its marvellous wonders than commonly pass into the conceptions of men. Pick up a pebble—examine a wild flower—look upon the hills, "rock-ribbed, and ancient as the sun"—go out under the canopy of heaven, when the stars in their myriad diversities of sparkling lustre are making the night a thing of beauty and joy—look within you—listen to the mysterious past with its accumulation of goodness, thought, science, and art—these are all your school-masters! Let us be industrious students under them. These are loose thoughts and hasty words, dedicated to his young friends, by the MIDDLE-AGED MAN.

Professor Morse has just received in Paris the first instalment (100,000 francs) of the testimonial of the ten European powers.

The mayor and aldermen of Memphis recently passed resolutions in favor of direct trade with Europe from the different southern States, and approving of the project of a line from Norfolk to St. Nagaire, at the mouth of the Loire.

Two New York detectives, on Wednesday last, found in the office of a well-known broker in that city nearly $200,000 worth of bills on the bogus Warbeck Bank. The broker, it appears, had made a small advance on the bills to the president of the concern. The bills will be destroyed.

The parade of the New York military in honor of the departure of General Paez has been postponed until further orders, in consequence of the severe injury which he sustained on evacuation day.

THE AUTOMATON CHESS-PLAYER.

The origin of this figure, which for many years made such a noise in the world, is somewhat curious. Wolfgang de Kempelin, a gentleman of Hungary, Aulic Councillor to the Royal Chamber of the domains of the Emperor of Fermany, being called to Vienna in the year 1769 by the duties of his station, was present at some experiments in magnetism by one Pelletier, a Frenchman, who had been commanded to exhibit before the Empress Maria Theresa. During the conversation with her Majesty, De Kempelin, who had honorably distinguished himself in the paths of science, hinted that he could construct a piece of mechanism, the effects of which would be more striking, and the deception more complete, than anything which his royal mistress had hitherto witnessed. His manner in making this remark excited the attention of the Empress, who encouraged him to make the effort; and accordingly within a few months he reappeared at the court of Vienna with the Automaton Chess-player. The following is a description of the appearance of this figure, and of the manner in which the games were conducted:

On entering the apartment where it was exhibited, the Automaton, attired in gorgeous Oriental costume, was seen seated behind a chess-board which stood upon a chest about three feet high, two feet wide, and four feet long. The Automaton, the chair upon which it sat, and the chest, were fixed together; and, being upon castors, could be moved with facility to any part of the chamber. The exhibition began by opening certain doors contrived in the chest, two in front and two in the back, pulling out at the same time a long shallow drawer at the bottom of the chest, containing a set of chess-men, a cushion and some counters. Two lesser doors under a green cloth screen, in the body of the figure and its lower parts, were also opened, and the Turkish drapery which covered them was raised, so that the construction both of the Automaton and the chest appeared to be fully displayed. In this state the whole apparatus was moved around for the examination of the spectators; and to banish all suspicion from the most skeptical mind that any living object was concealed within, a lighted taper was introduced into the body of the chest and figure, by which the interior of each was rendered in a great measure transparent, and the most secret corner apparently made visible. The same precaution to remove suspicion was used at the termination as at the commencement of a game of chess with the Automaton.

The chest upon which the figure appeared to lean while playing was divided into two unequal compartments, which were filled with wheels, springs, cylinders, and other machinery used in clockwork. The interior of the body and lower parts of the body were also occupied by levers, tubes, &c. After a sufficient time, during which the spectator might satisfy his curiosity, the exhibitor reclosed the doors, wound up the machine, placed a cushion under the arm of the figure, and invited any individual present to a game of chess. As soon as a champion entered the lists, the eyes of the Automaton appeared to be directed to the board, and after some moments of seeming meditation it slowly raised its arm, moved it towards the piece to be played, suspended its hand over it for an instant, then grasped it firmly between the fingers and placed it on the destined square. If a piece was captured, the same process was gone through; and at every move a noise as of wheels and clockwork was heard. The Automaton always claimed the privilege of playing first at the beginning of a game. Any attempt to disconcert it by a false move was futile. Upon the least infringement of the customary rules of chess, he would tap upon the chest, replace the offending piece, and then proceed to take the due advantage of moving a piece of his own. An anecdote is recorded of Napoleon, who attempted to make false moves in a game with the Automaton, for the purpose of gratifying his curiosity; but upon a third repetition of the offence, the figure swept the pieces all off the board and refused to continue the game. Whenever the Automation gave check, a sound resembling the word "check" was heard; and it courteously announced an attack upon its adversary's queen by bowing twice.

Such was the appearance and manner of the chess Automaton as exhibited in Vienna immediately after its invention, and in London on the occasion of its second visit in 1819. For years the mystery of this remarkable machine remained impenetrable. During this period it visited the capitals of England, Germany, and France; it was everywhere received with curiosity, drew crowds of visitors, and excited the liveliest feelings of surprise and admiration. On returning to Berlin it was permitted the honor of playing a game with the great Frederick himself. De Kempelin died in 1804, and the Automaton came into the possession of M. Maelzel, who exhibited it for many years with equal success. As it vanquished nearly every adversary, M. Maelzel resolved in future to give all opponents the odds of the pawn and move; and a large number of the games played by the Automaton were recorded and have been published. So far as we are able to ascertain, the first one who succeeded in penetrating this mystery was a Mr. Willis, a gentleman connected with the University at Cambridge, England, who published a small work on the subject, entitled "An Attempt to Analyze the Automaton Chess-Player." He shows in what manner a human being might be concealed within the machine, although it was apparently thrown completely open to public inspection; and his work is accompanied with drawings to demonstrate the presence of a hidden player. Mons. Mouret, one of the most eminent chess-players of Europe, was for many years the secret colleague of M. Maelzel in the direction of the automaton; and he subsequently revealed the *modus operandi*, corroborating the correctness of Mr. Willis's conjectures. The chess-player was hidden, as Mr. Willis supposed, within the chest. Seated upon a low stool which moved on castors, he was enabled with facility to change his position as circumstances might require. During the exhibition of one portion of the machinery he took refuge in another—sometimes in the body of the Automaton, and at others in a portion of the chest. These changes were of course in obedience to a preconcerted arrangement, and compelled that undeviating regularity in the opening and shutting of the different doors which Mr. Willis had remarked.

Perhaps the most interesting and ingenious part of the contrivance was the method by which the hidden operator was made acquainted with the moves of his opponents and enabled to repeat them on a smaller chess-board of his own. He was seated in his narrow cell, immediately under the chess-board upon which the Automaton and his antagonist made their moves; and the reverse of this board, which formed the ceiling over his head, was an exact representation of the upper side, except that on the side presented to the concealed player every square was numbered according to the usual notation adopted by chess-players, and was furnished with a small metallic ball. These sixty-four little knobs or balls were suspended a short distance from the squares by silken threads; and, as each of the chess-men on the table above contained a magnet, the moment any one of them was placed upon the chess-board it attracted the little ball suspended from the corresponding square below, and fixed it to the board, so that by the time the men were arranged in due order for battle, thirty-two of these metallic indices (being the number of pieces) would be closely attached to as many squares on the inside of the board; while the remaining thirty-two, denoting the vacant squares above, remained suspended to the extent of the thread supporting them. We may now suppose the game to commence and the Automaton to open it. Duly turning the handle which directs the arm of the figure, and setting in motion the springs by which its fingers act, the operator sits watching the board upon the ceiling of his cell, and, upon the piece intended to be played being taken up, he observes the little corresponding index fall as before described; and when this piece is played to its destined square, he also sees the ball below it attracted to the board. Having completed his own move, and carefully repeated it on the private board before him, he anxiously awaits the play of his adversary. This is communicated to him by the same means. He sees one ball descend and another rise, marks down on the board the move thus indicated, and the game in this manner is carried on to its conclusion. But little more remains to be explained. During the progress of the game, the hidden player was furnished with a lighted taper to assist him in his labors, and supplied with fresh air by means of apertures not visible to the spectators. The mass of clockwork, levers, wheels, and cylinders, which seemed almost to fill his narrow abode, were all sham, being made of pasteboard and so contrived as to collapse and expand as his changes of position might demand. Such are the leading facts connected with this ingenious machine, which was exhibited not only throughout Europe, but in the United States and Canada, and is reported to have also gone to South America. It has been stated that the machine was not many years since lying neglected in an old lumber-room in the city of New York; and it is believed to be now in the possession of a gentleman living in Philadelphia. Its day has gone by, and it is now only interesting as a relic of the past.

There was fine sleighing in Page county, Va., last week. The snow was nearly a foot deep. In Somerset county, Pa., twenty inches of snow had fallen on the mountains.

THE PACIFIC RAILWAY.

The Houston (Texas) Telegraph, after stating that it is too much for any one company to build two thousand miles of railroad, and that so stupendous an enterprise, even if to be built by a single company, could be soonest made through regions already settled, and where local capital could be brought to their aid, thus speaks of the progress which is being made to connect the Atlantic with the Pacific:

The time will be very short, comparatively, when New Orleans will be connected by railroad with all parts of the United States, when there will be no considerable break from New York to the Crescent City. Now, from New Orleans to Houston, we have a road already in operation for the distance of eighty miles, and the balance as certain to be constructed as that the years will roll round. It is only a question of time, and that not a long one. It is a darling project of many enterprising men. It is also chartered on a basis by which the construction can be accomplished. This link in the chain completed on the plan of a coast road to a convenient point for crossing the continent, and we have to look out for the balance. From Houston we have two roads leading westward, one striking the Colorado at Columbus, and which will be completed to that point, we doubt not, within the coming year, and the other striking that river at Wharton, forty miles lower down. The former of these roads will, when the plan of a western line is carried out, be extended to San Antonio, on the direct line to El Paso, the highest point at which a successful Pacific road can be made for many years to come. The latter will become a link to connect with the Arkansas road, which is chartered to run to the Rio Grande, on a line to intersect there with the great Central Transit route, chartered by the Mexican government, to run from the Rio Grande to Mazatlan, at the mouth of the Gulf of California. This road is laid off on a route eminently favorable to its construction, and has a charter well calculated to facilitate the enterprise. The Mexican government will, of course, throw out all inducements in its power to have this road made across its territory. The only link wanting in this great chain of roads from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific is the short distance, of, perhaps, 100 miles, from Wharton to the Arkansas road. The distance from New Orleans is as follows:

New Orleans to the Sabine	240	miles.
Sabine to Houston	96	"
Houston to Wharton	75	"
Wharton to Arkansas	100	"
Arkansas to the Rio Grande	160	"
Rio Grande to Mazatlan	540	"
Total distance	1,221	"

of which 951 miles are now under charter, 87 in operation, 50 more graded, 112 more under contracts; and for the 50 miles graded, 43 miles of iron is purchased and now being received, which will make 130 in operation by the 1st of May, 1859. The several links of this great chain are now under five different and distinct companies, and there are two more to be organized. They all lead through a fertile country, and each, as a separate road, without any connection with the other links, will be a profitable investment. Taken together, the amount of travel that will pass over them, when completed, will be enormous.

This great route will become the channel for the world's business. All Europe and the United States, east of, and including the Mississippi valley, will take this route to the Pacific coast and the Pacific Islands. The time from New York may be estimated as follows at the rate of 500 miles per day, when the roads are completed, which is 21 miles per hour:

New York to New Orleans	3½	days.
New Orleans to Mazatlan	2½	"
Total time to the Pacific	6	"

This scheme, when carried out, will have immediate and direct railroad connection with every port of the Gulf and Atlantic coast, from Portland to the Rio Grande. It will thus have already to its hands hundreds of feeders as to a central trunk, branching to every point from which travel can come. It finds on the Pacific coast a splendid harbor, within a short sail of San Francisco, Oregon, Central America, the Sandwich Islands, in fact the whole Pacific ocean, it being the most central point upon the western coast of America.

Or, again, suppose even the road to New Orleans were not considered. We have lines already under charter and construction to connect Houston with Cairo and Memphis, and through them with the whole system of roads in the United States, and these lines are also being built to subserve local interests, and to meet a local demand which absolutely requires them, and is able to construct them.

Thus while we hear of the Northen Pacific route, the Central Pacific route, and the Southern Pacific route, all in the hands of great speculators, all aiming at far too much for individual companies to accomplish, the various links of this, the best line, are quietly being constructed by companies, who have undertaken no more than they can accomplish, and long before these great roads butt against the Rocky Mountains with their perpetual snows, the locomotive will be actually running on a continuous line of rail from the Atlantic to the Pacific, on the most feasible route possible, connecting the two halves of the world in a perpetual bend, and giving the whole world the thoroughfare it demands.

Who dares to say that ten or fifteen years shall not see the accomplishment of this great plan?

NORTH CAROLINA SENATORS.

[From the Wilmington (N. C.) Daily Journal, Nov. 24.]

As will be seen from the letter of our attentive Raleigh correspondent, the election of senators took place yesterday, and resulted in the choice of Hon. T. L. Clingman to fill the unexpired term of Hon. Asa Biggs, and of Gov. Bragg to succeed Gov. Reid, whose term will expire on the 4th day of March next. In the caucus held on Monday night, Mr. Clingman was nominated by acclamation, Gov. Bragg was nominated on the second ballot.

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In regard to the senators elect, it may be remembered that months ago common consent appeared to assign to Messrs. Clingman and Bragg the positions to which the legislature has called them; or, at least, it was generally conceded that these gentlemen's chances were decidedly superior to those of any other aspirants. It appeared all along to be regarded as certain that Mr. Clingman would be chosen for the balance of Judge Bigg's term; and, as but one senator could be expected to come from the West, that, therefore, Mr. Reid might be regarded as virtually out of the field. Gov. Bragg was regarded as the eastern counterpoise to the extreme western location of Senator Clingman.

This was the position of things during the most of the year, or until a state of tanglement occurred about the centre, and opposition feelings and thoughts and hopes arose. We most sincerely hope and trust that all unpleasant feelings in the party, or between members of it at Raleigh or elsewhere, will pass away with the occasions which excited them. To nourish such feelings, or to act upon them, can only result in evil.

We said that we would cheerfully acquiesce in the choice of the party for senators, and we *do*. No party or person will deny the ability and standing of the gentlemen chosen. Mr. Clingman is the possessor of a national reputation. Governor Bragg is not unknown beyond the limits of his own State, and will not fail to obtain a prompt recognition in the Senate. The governor certainly is a life-long democrat; and Mr. Clingman has served a longer probation than Jacob did for either of his wives. The elections will give very general satisfaction, a satisfaction in which we share, while at the same time, we must add, that we are not satisfied that the democracy of the southern portion of the late have met with proper recognition of their claims and services, nor shall we cease to press this matter while the present obvious disparity exists between the Cape Fear and Yadkin sections and those watered by the Dan and the Roanoke.

A detachment of 150 recruits for the mounted regiments left Carlisle (Pa.) Barracks on the 17th inst., under the command of Lieuts. Gerard and Royal, destined to Fort Arbuckle. Dr. J. Armstrong, of Carlisle, accompanied the command as surgeon.

The Newark (New Jersey) Daily Advertiser states that a young man under the influence of "hasheech" attempted to hang himself. He had a few days before been reading the "Hasheech Eater," and determined to try the experiments therein mentioned. He states that while under the influence of the drug he imagined that he had been condemned to death, and attempted to execute the sentence. He would have succeeded but for the interposition of friends.

The democratic constituents of Hon. George Taylor, of New York, have tendered him a complimentary dinner, to take place on the 29th instant, (next Monday.) They do this to assure Mr. Taylor of their approbation of his course in Congress, where he has, with ability and fidelity, sustained President Buchanan's administration.

Hon. Jonathan Knight, an ex-member of Congress from Pennsylvania, died at his residence in Washington county on Monday last. He was in the 70th year of his age.