CONGRESSIONAL.

BOUNTY LAND TO OLD SOLDIERS.

In the SENATE, on Wednesday, the 26th of July, when the Substitute of Mr. HUNTER to the Homestead Bill was pending, the following proceedings took place—seeming to indicate a disposition on the part of the Senate to provide for the veterans at the next session:

Mr. BRODHEAD said that, as he had not occupied any of the attention of the Senate during the protracted debate and consideration of the Homestead bill, he begged now to trespass upon it for two minutes and a half, to bring to notice a very important amendment. I am sure (said he) it is an amendment which will commend itself to the favorable consideration not only of the friends, but of the opponents of the substitute. The sections are well considered and well matured. They extend the provisions of the bounty land laws so as to give to all who have rendered military service since 1790 one hundred and sixty acres of land; in other words, to give to the soldiers of the war of 1812 one hundred and sixty acres, the same as those who served in the Mexican war. I could say much in favor of this bill; but I know the impatience of the Senate to get to a vote on the substitute of the Senator from Virginia, and therefore I shall forbear. We are now about to adopt an important policy in respect to the public lands; we are about to make an important concession to the new States; and, in doing so, I wish to render justice to the old soldiers, who cannot go out and take advantage of the provisions of this bill. I therefore move to amend the substitute of the honorable Senator from Virginia by adding to it four additional sections, as follows:

SEC. —. *And be it further enacted*, That each of the surviving commissioned and non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates, either of regulars, volunteers, rangers, or militia, who were regularly mustered into the service of the United States, and every officer, commissioned and non-commissioned, seaman, or ordinary seaman, marine, clerk, and landsman in the navy, in any of the wars in which this country has been engaged since 1790, and each of the survivors of the militia or volunteers of the State troops of any State or Territory called into the military service and regularly mustered therein, and whose services have been paid by the United States, subsequent to the 18th of June, 1812, shall be entitled to and receive a certificate or warrant from the Department of the Interior for one hundred and sixty acres of land; or, when any of those who have so served shall have received a certificate or warrant, he shall be entitled to a certificate or warrant for such quantity of land as will make, with what he may have heretofore received, one hundred and sixty acres to each such person having served as aforesaid.

SEC. —. *And be it further enacted*, That in case of the death of any person who, if living, would be entitled to a certificate or warrant as aforesaid, under this act, leaving a widow, or, if no widow, a minor child or children, such widow, or, if no widow, such minor child or children shall be entitled to receive a certificate or warrant for the same quantity of land that such deceased would be entitled to receive under the provisions of this act if now living: *Provided*, That a subsequent marriage shall not impair the right of any such widow to such warrant, if she be a widow during the time of making her application and at the date of such warrant.

SEC. —. *And be it further enacted*, That in no case shall any such certificate or warrant be issued for any service less than thirty days, unless the party claiming such certificate or warrant shall establish his right thereto by record evidence of such service, or by two credible witnesses.

SEC. —. *And be it further enacted*, That said certificates or warrants may be assigned, transferred, or located by the warrantee or the heirs-at-law, according to the provisions of existing laws regulating the assignment or transfer and location of bounty land warrants.

Mr. BRODHEAD. I beg to add one more remark. I believe this will add strength to the substitute of the Senator from Virginia. It will do justice to a meritorious class of citizens in the old States who cannot be benefited by the provisions of the substitute. I am confident it will not obstruct the passage of the bill. I beg leave to modify it, however, by striking out "thirty" and inserting "twenty days." I believe there are twenty thousand persons in the State of Pennsylvania interested in this amendment, and the same proportion in all the old States and in all the States in which there was much Indian fighting. I hope, therefore, the honorable Senator from Virginia will agree to it, and we shall all then be satisfied and take the substitute he has offered.

Mr. HUNTER. I hope that my friend from Pennsylvania will not insist upon putting his amendment in the substitute which I have offered. I do not rise to oppose the policy of that amendment as a separate measure or in connexion with some other bill; but I am afraid the effect of putting it here would be to introduce another class of subjects, and we should not have time enough to legislate upon them. I should be glad if he would withdraw it at this time and offer it again.

Mr. BRODHEAD. I have just this remark to make: I introduced this bill, or a similar one, at the opening of this Congress. I pressed it during the last Congress; but, sir, it seems that we cannot get action upon it as an original proposition because it is to be considered by the proper committee. I referred it, as a matter of course, to the Committee on Public Lands, and they have not reported it back to this day. I consider this the proper place for it. It is a germane amendment. It will not obstruct the passage or interfere with the provisions of the substitute; and I therefore must decline to comply with the request of the honorable and distinguished Senator from Virginia.

Mr. BAYARD. The substitute of the honorable Senator from Virginia, as I understand, is now before the Senate, and a motion is made by the Senator from Pennsylvania to amend it. I have yet heard nothing in explanation of the substitute. I wish to hear something said about it, and I wish to hear it because I have read it with attention, and I confess that in my opinion, although there are portions of it which I cordially agree to, it embodies worse provisions than those of the original bill. I would rather vote for the original bill than for the substitute. When I have heard the explanation of the honorable Senator who has offered it perhaps my views may change. But the hour is now late, and without a due explanation of it I am not prepared to act. I beg to say that the honorable Senator has introduced into it not only the homestead bill, but the pre-emption principle, as regards the States, and grants of lands for the benefit of railroads, and the graduation system. All these distinct principles for the disposition of the public lands are introduced into the substitute offered by the Senator from Virginia. To some of them I agree; to the homestead principle which he has recognised in the bill I am utterly opposed; and I shall endeavor to show, with great respect to the honorable Senator, that, as I think, consistently with his own principles, he ought never to have introduced such a clause into the bill; that it is nothing more than an illusion. I do not mean to go into it now, but I think I can show clearly that it is nothing more than an illusion, and that any man who holds, as I do, that the Government of the United States has no right to give away the public lands, must hold that it is but an attempt to cover up a gift under a nominal sale. That is its effect. Sir, I am opposed to all indirection in these matters. If the principle of giving the land is to be established by the United States, give it; do not palter about the matter by asking twelve and a half cents an acre if it is valuable land. Give it absolutely, if you choose to give. But we have no time now to consider it. The honorable Senator from Virginia is a gentleman of great ability, and I have no doubt he has candidly proposed the substitute with a view to the settlement of this question. I should like to hear his explanation, for I confess I think the substitute is confused and obscure, and, taken altogether, much worse than the original.

Mr. HAMLIN. I ask the Senator from Pennsylvania to modify his amendment so as to add, after the word "days," in section third, the words "or when the person shall actually have been in battle." The section now provides that the warrants shall issue to those who served twenty days. If my modification be accepted, it will include those who were actually engaged in battle as well as those who were not in battle, but were in the service twenty days. One day's fighting is equal to twenty days' of civil service.

Mr. BRODHEAD. I accept of the modification.

Mr. DAWSON. I ask the Senator from Pennsylvania whether his amendment covers the officers and soldiers engaged in the revolution of Texas? [Laughter.]

Mr. BRODHEAD. It does not.

Mr. DAWSON. Would it not be proper to amend it in that way? [Laughter.]

Mr. BRODHEAD. It is as near correct as possible.

Mr. HOUSTON, when his name was called, said: I was in the war of 1812, and I am, therefore, interested in this amendment; but I shall vote against it, because this is not the proper time to make that proposition. I shall therefore vote "no."

The question being taken by yeas and nays, resulted as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Allen, Badger, Bayard, Bell, Benjamin, Brodhead, Brown, Butler, Clayton, Dawson, Dixon, Dodge of Wisconsin, Fessenden, Fish, Foot, Hamlin, Jones of Tennessee, Pearce, Pratt, Rockwell, Thompson of Kentucky, Thomson of New Jersey, Toucey, and Wade—24.

NAYS—Messrs. Atchison, Bright, Cass, Clay, Dodge of Iowa, Douglas, Fitzpatrick, Gillette, Gwin, Houston, Hunter, Johnson, Jones of Iowa, Mallory, Mason, Pettit, Rusk, Sebastian, Shields, Slidell, Stuart, Sumner, Walker, and Weller—24.

So the amendment was rejected.

Mr. CASS. If the amendment which has just been voted down were brought forward as an independent proposition I should vote for it at any time. I speak not of its details, but of its general principles.

Mr. DOUGLAS. I voted against it on the ground that I was not willing to hazard it on this bill.

Mr. PETTIT. I wish to say that I am willing to give each soldier a quarter section of public land if he will go on it, settle it, and improve it.

Mr. JOHNSON. For those gentlemen who have not spoken, I take the liberty of saying that I believe there is no one who voted in the negative on the amendment but would have voted for it cheerfully as a separate and independent proposition not embarrassing this bill.

Mr. PRATT. Mr. President, however willing gentlemen may express themselves to be to vote for the amendment of the Senator from Pennsylvania as an independent proposition, let me say that the adoption of this bill deprives them of the power of so doing. Senators cannot get rid of the responsibility of refusing to the old soldiers land which they are giving freely to foreign immigrants to induce them to come and settle amongst us, on the ground that the old soldiers can get the land by an independent proposition or amendment.

Mr. WALKER. They can get it under this bill.

Mr. PRATT. I say they cannot get it under this bill. There is the difference of opinion between us. I say the bill or substitute of the Senator from Virginia gives to the States the whole power of taking the land as pre-emptors, if I may be permitted to use a word coined by the bill itself. I speak of it as the bill, because I presume, from present indications, that it will be adopted and become the bill. It gives to the States the right to take the whole of the public land within their limits as pre-emptors. It gives the States immediately the power to take them at the price named in the bill, to sell them for whatever they think proper, to fix their own price—one dollar or a quarter dollar an acre, or whatever price they please. They may take the whole of the public lands within their limits, and then they are to sell them for what they please. When you do that, how have you power to give one hundred and sixty acres of land to the old soldiers?

Mr. WALKER. I rise to a question of order. Has not that amendment been decided?

The PRESIDING OFFICER, (Mr. BADGER in the chair.) The question has been decided, and the Senator from Alabama is entitled to the floor; but these remarks have been indulged in by general consent. They cannot proceed if there be objection.

Mr. WALKER. I object.

Mr. DOUGLAS. If I can be satisfied that the Senator from Maryland and other Senators——

Mr. PRATT. If it is not in order for me to discuss the question, is it in order for any one else to do so?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It is certainly not in order if objected to.

Mr. DOUGLAS. I supposed the Senator had got through.

Mr. PRATT. I was called to order for discussing the very question which the Senator is proceeding to discuss.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection being made, this explanation cannot go on. The Senator from Alabama is entitled to the floor.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I have not participated in the discussion of this measure; but I will say that the substitute of the Senator from Virginia commends itself to my favorable consideration, and I shall vote for it with a great deal of pleasure. It falls short, however, in not providing for a class of lands in several of the States which I think should be provided for. My object in rising is to offer an amendment to meet that difficulty. The amendment, as it stands, graduates the land down to twenty years. Now, in many of the States land has been in market for thirty years or perhaps forty years. Such I know to be the condition of a large portion of the lands in my State. The fact that the land has been in market for such a length of time is conclusive evidence that it will not sell at the graduated price now fixed in the amendment for such land, which is twenty-five cents an acre. I wish to offer an amendment graduating the price of land which has been in market over thirty years to twelve and a half cents an acre. I therefore move to amend the first section of the amendment of the Senator from Virginia by inserting at the end of his scheme of graduation the words:

"And all lands which shall have been offered at public sale, and shall remain unsold thirty years thereafter, shall be reduced to a price of twelve and a half cents an acre."

Mr. DOUGLAS. I shall vote for that amendment. I think it perfectly proper and right, and, as it is manifestly so, perhaps it requires no explanation. I would cheerfully and gladly have voted for the amendment which was voted down a short time since if those who were for putting it on would vote for the bill with it on; but when I saw all the enemies of the bill combining to force it on with the view of defeating the bill, and the amendment with it, I did not choose to give a vote which would accomplish that object. If those who voted to put on that amendment will come up and sustain the bill when it is put on, I will cheerfully move to reconsider and put it on, and then help to pass the bill when it is on. I have no doubt it will find its supporters then among those who are advocating the bill and voted against the amendment, with one or two exceptions; but those who voted to put it on (I except the mover of the amendment) did so, as I believe, to kill the whole bill.

Mr. BRODHEAD. I beg to say to my honorable friend from Illinois that prior to offering the amendment I declared myself in favor of the substitute of the honorable Senator from Virginia, and I offered the amendment in good faith, and not as a hostile proposition.

Mr. DOUGLAS. For that reason I excepted the Senator in my remarks.

Mr. PRATT. The honorable Senator from Illinois does not take the ground which was taken by other Senators, that they would have voted for the amendment as an independent proposition. He must see that the adoption of the substitute of the Senator from Virginia, and the bill as thus amended, will take from the legislation of the country the power to adopt it as an independent proposition, because it will take away the subject-matter upon which it is to operate. All the land will be disposed of, and you will have no land to give to the old soldiers.

Mr. DOUGLAS. Let me refer the Senator to the fact that it leaves nineteen-twentieths of all the public lands, those which are in the Territories of the United States, untouched, upon which you can locate the lands of the old soldiers. There are the lands in Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, Washington, Oregon, Utah, and New Mexico, upon which you can locate them.

Mr. PRATT. Then, at any rate, it confines the privilege of the old soldier to the Territories, while it gives the privilege to that class of people of whom I have spoken not only to go to the best lands in the Territories, but to take the choice lands in the States, where they are protected by the State laws and surrounded by civilization. That is the distinction between them. It is a discrimination made against the soldier by the passage of this bill, and you cannot remedy it afterwards by bringing forward an independent proposition. That is the view which I desire to express. The Senator from Illinois has not taken that ground, but his position is that if those who favor the amendment of the Senator from Pennsylvania would be in favor of the bill after it should be thus amended, he would go with them; but, inasmuch as he assumes that they would be opposed to the bill even if it be so amended, he goes against it.

Well, sir, what that may have to do with the question, in the opinion of the soldiers who have fought the battles of the country, I do not know. How Senators will reconcile it to themselves I cannot see. How can the friends of the bill reconcile it to themselves, if they are in favor of the proposition of the Senator from Pennsylvania, to vote against it when they have manifestly the power to put it on. The Senator from Pennsylvania who offered it says he will vote for the bill if it be put on. The friends of the bill will therefore gain one vote by putting it on. They have power to give this land to the old soldiers, and they do not endanger the bill by putting it there, because they get at least one friend by doing so; and no one has indicated that the bill would be more objectionable by putting on the proposition. On the contrary, the friends of the bill announce that if this were an independent proposition they would go for it. Now, sir, I want to bring them to the test of sincerity upon this question. The friends of the bill announced that they would go for the amendment of the Senator from Pennsylvania if it were an independent proposition. Here there is at least one of its enemies, who has offered the proposition, who says he will go for the bill if it be adopted.

Mr. DOUGLAS. The honorable Senator from Maryland says he wants to test sincerity. He cannot comprehend how it is that a friend of the bill will vote down an amendment which he approves as a distinct proposition when he apprehends it will hazard the loss of the bill. Why, sir, he himself has furnished to us a good example of that. If I recollect aright, when the Nebraska and Kansas bill was pending he did that himself, and he demonstrated as clear as light that it was proper for persons to vote for that bill without the Clayton amendment, though as a distinct proposition they would have voted for the Clayton amendment. He has demonstrated the propriety of that conduct, and a large portion of the Senators now present ratified and approved that demonstration of his. I thought it was perfectly proper for me to follow his example on a question of this kind.

Now, sir, as to his argument. He first assumed that if we passed this bill without the amendment, there was no power to provide for the old soldiers. I showed him then that, by his own construction, nineteen-twentieths of all the public lands were still left to be appropriated, if we thought proper, to the old soldiers. Then he says there is a distinction between the old soldiers and others, because we shall have to provide for them in the Territories and not in the States. I deny the correctness of that part of his argument. If the amendment of the Senator from Virginia be adopted, and the bill pass in that shape, they may locate their warrants either in the States or Territories. It is true that substitute gives the States the power to take the whole of the lands in any one class of graduation, but nobody presumes they will ever exercise it, or it is at least doubtful whether they ever will on one class. Hence, it makes no distinction against them and in favor of others; for if the State took the whole class it would exclude, not only the soldiers, but all others—those who desire to take advantage of the homestead provision and every body else. Hence, there is no such distinction. If they take the whole class, there is no distinction; if they do not take it, there is no distinction; and hence his whole objection falls to the ground, according to his own argument. Then, the reason why I voted against the amendment was this: I saw the enemies of the bill coming up in solid phalanx to put on the amendment, as I believed, to load the bill down and kill it, and, inasmuch as I was in favor of both propositions, I did not like to allow the enemy to play that trick on me. If they will come forward now and say they will support the bill when it is put on, I will move to reconsider so as to put the amendment on, and we can then put the bill through thus amended. That will be a test of sincerity.

Mr. PRATT. I only desire to answer the *argumentum ad hominem* which the gentleman has used. He supposes that his position is justified by that which he ascribes to me on the Kansas and Nebraska bill. Now, I will submit to his own candor whether there is any analogy between the two case? There he concurred with me that the adoption of the Clayton amendment, as it was termed, which had then been proposed by my honorable colleague, would endanger the bill. Every body who voted against the Clayton amendment, and was friendly to it in reality, announced as his ground that he believed the adoption of it would defeat the bill in the House of Representatives.

Sir, I was unfortunate in the remarks I made, or I think I must have clearly shown that that is not the position of those Senators who are the friends of the bill, because they say that they are all for the amendment of the Senator from Pennsylvania, and they would prefer the bill with it; and yet the Senator supposes the bill would stand a greater chance of being rejected if the amendment were made. Why, sir, it is to be a new bill altogether, and it has to go back to the House of Representatives any how. Who will say that it will stand a worse chance of being passed there if the soldiers be included than if they be not included? Unless the Senator makes that assertion there is no analogy between the position which he occupies now and that which I occupied on the occasion to which he has referred.

Mr. DOUGLAS. I voted against it solely on the apprehension that such might be the case.

Mr. PRATT. Hence, of course, without meaning to be personal to the honorable Senator, I brought forward the question of sincerity. How you can endanger a measure by putting into it a proposition to which both the friends and enemies of the bill are favorable, and which the friends of the bill have a majority to pass after you put it on, I must admit I cannot comprehend. I do not use the term invidiously towards the honorable Senator.

Now, Mr. President, with regard to the other part of the Senator's argument, I think, with due deference to him, he has been equally unfortunate. If this bill passes the Senate, the Senator says that, according to my argument, the States may take all the land; and, consequently, the effect is to be the same upon the old soldier as every body else, and therefore he supposes my argument is destroyed by the force of that suggestion. I submit to the honorable Senator that he has entirely misunderstood the drift of the argument which I proposed for the consideration of the Senate. Why, sir, if you were to put the amendment in the bill, you would give the old soldier a preferable right to that of the States themselves, and you would secure to him that which, without putting it into the bill, he would not have. By giving him his right to go to the Land Office and get out his patent, as proposed by the amendment of the honorable Senator from Pennsylvania, you secure to the soldier that which the State holding the lands cannot deprive him of, because it is a gift antecedent to the exercise of the pre-emption right of the State; and therefore, as soon as we pass it, the right is a conclusive one, and the soldier entitled, as soon as the bill passes with that amendment, to his land warrant. Hence he is not deprived of it, as he would be by the passage of the bill as it stands. The State would have no power over the subject, so far as he was concerned. He would have a preference claim over that of the State itself, and over every body else. I therefore humbly submit to the Senate that the honorable Senator has not been as fortunate as he usually is in answering the arguments of those opposed to him.

Mr. BUTLER. I know, sir, that the honorable Senator from Illinois would be the last to do injustice to any one who had voted for the amendment of the honorable Senator from Pennsylvania. I voted for it in good faith. I shall vote for the proposition of my honorable friend from Virginia, and therefore the Senator from Illinois has a double assurance. But, sir, I never do disguise my reasons when I vote upon a matter of this kind. If these lands are to be distributed in the form of a donation, I have no idea of subjecting the old soldier in the war of 1812 to the residium, or to take what is left in the Territories. I wish to give him a fair option. I do not disguise the fact that I shall vote for the amendment, for perhaps the reason that it will give to my section of the country a larger share of public lands than any form of distribution you can indicate.

The yeas and nays were ordered upon the amendment of Mr. FITZPATRICK, and being taken resulted as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Allen, Bell, Benjamin, Bright, Brown, Cass, Chase, Clay, Douglas, Fessenden, Fitzpatrick, Gwin, Houston, Hunter, Jones of Tennessee, Mallory, Mason, Pettit, Rockwell, Rusk, Sebastian, Shields, Slidell, Sumner, Toucey, Walker, and Weller—27.

NAYS—Messrs. Atchison, Badger, Bayard, Brodhead, Clayton, Dawson, Dodge of Wisconsin, Dodge of Iowa, Foot, Geyer, Hamlin, Johnson, Jones of Iowa, Pearce, Pratt, Thompson of Kentucky, Thomson of New Jersey, Toombs, and Wade—19.

So the amendment to the amendment was adopted.

SOUTHERN ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC RAILROAD.

We find a glowing picture of the prospects of this road in the Seguin (Texas) Mercury of the 2d of September. We had overlooked the fact that ground had been broken upon this work as far back as the 4th of July. We give an extract from the Mercury to let our readers have an idea of the enthusiasm which prevails in that quarter:

"We have perused with much pleasure the speech of the honorable THOMAS J. GREEN, delivered on the 4th of July at Marshall, upon the occasion of breaking ground upon the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad. He states that the road is a Southern enterprise. A majority of the stock is held in the South, and a large portion in Texas. He notices the fact that the cotton zone extends from latitude 30 to 35 degrees. Below thirty the cold is not sufficient to destroy the insects which prey upon the plant, and thirty-five is its unprofitable northern limit. The contemplated road will bisect the central and most profitable portion of this belt, since it is to be located on the parallel of thirty-two degrees. Another inducement for building the road is that thereby a market will be opened for the beeves and wool of Western Texas, the best country for raising stock in the world.

"Upon the line of this road not only the great staple, cotton, but also hemp, tobacco, Indian corn, wheat, sweet and Irish potatoes, can be raised to advantage on the same farm, and Southern flour can be brought into market six weeks sooner than the Northern, thus insuring twelve and a half per cent. better prices. By this enterprise new energy will be infused into all classes of the community, and the orator is so sanguine of its beneficial effects as to predict that it will induce even the slothful Mexican to rise from his luxurious hammock, gather his flock, and exchange their fleece for dollars. Thus, too, the luxurious spices and teas of the far-off East, the gold of California and Australia, the gorgeous crapes and silks of the Celestial Empire will be brought within a few days' travel.

"Every citizen of Texas, every friend of the South, should be especially interested in the success of this the greatest enterprise of this or of any age."

LIVING WITH THE NECK BROKEN.—The Brattleboro' Eagle gives an account of a man who lived some time after having his neck broken by an enraged stallion. The fracture of the neck compressed the spinal marrow so violently as wholly to prevent it from affording any communication between the brain and the body. As a consequence, the whole body below the fracture was paralyzed, deprived alike of sensation and the power of motion; but he retained the full possession of his mental faculties and conversed intelligently.

ACCIDENT AT KINGWOOD TUNNEL.—Reports were in circulation yesterday that a serious accident had occurred at Kingwood Tunnel, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the rumor being that the whole roof of the tunnel had fallen in. We learn that this is a great exaggeration of the real facts. On Wednesday a piece of rock fell and knocked out of line one of the pillars supporting the timber casing. The passage of trains was suspended until the damage was repaired, which was speedily done, and the use of the tunnel resumed the same day.—*Balt. Amer.*

The Bishop of Victoria, describing his late tour in Southern India, says that there is now a Brahmin in the Judge's Court, and educated in the Madras University, who gained the prize for the best essay on the evidences in favor of the Christian religion, and who yet remains a heathen!

Francis Graham was tried in New York on Wednesday, in the court of sessions, on a charge of manslaughter in the fourth degree, and convicted. Graham and four of his companions were drinking brandy; a small portion of the liquor remaining, he gave it to a boy about eight years old, who swallowed it and died in a few hours after. There being no evidence of a criminal intent on the part of Graham he was recommended to mercy by the jury.

PACIFIC AND ATLANTIC RAILROAD.

COLUMBUS, (OHIO,) SEPTEMBER 18, 1854.

To the Editors of the National Intelligencer:

GENTLEMEN: The advocate of a great *national railroad line*, to extend from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean, should stand at this point, near the geographical centre of one of the most flourishing States of the Union, and cast his eye east and west over a well-delineated map showing the *American system of railways* in progress and completed, in order to see the rapid strides which are making to encompass or girdle the Union with a bar of iron on this favored meridian of latitude, being due west from the city of Philadelphia, passing through Wheeling, Columbus, &c. toward the Mississippi river at Springfield and Quincy, in the State of Illinois. Already have the States of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois about 6,000 miles of railroad nearly completed, making a complete net-work running to every point of the compass, forming the centre of the above system.

The great Atlantic and Pacific railroad should properly be divided into three grand divisions: the first extending from the tide-waters of the Atlantic ocean to the Mississippi river; the second from the Mississippi to the crest of the Rocky Mountains; and the third from the Rocky Mountains to the tide-waters of the Pacific ocean, on the Columbia river or Puget's Sound, making a total of about 3,000 miles.

The first grand division of 1,000 miles may be said to be already completed, or will be by the first of January, 1855, of which Columbus stands midway, being about 500 miles, or one day's travel, from Philadelphia or Baltimore on the east and the banks of the Mississippi on the west. Other parallel or diverging lines must also be duly considered, passing through Toledo and Detroit on the north and Cincinnati on the south, but all uniting west of the Missouri, in the valley of the Platte, on about the 41st degree of north latitude, thence continuing nearly due west to Fort Laramie and the South Pass, in the Rocky Mountains. This pass defines the second grand division on the west, while the third extends onward toward the Pacific ocean, some 900 or 1,000 miles further westward. This may be considered the route as advocated by Asa Whitney, Esq., and is the line which the wants and enterprise of the American people will no doubt first finish to completion, either with or without legislative aid.

Other routes may be pressed and advocated by sectional interests, but the line above alluded to is the one marked out by Nature to subserve the wants of commerce and civilization. Just consider the position of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore on the east, and the mouth of the Columbia river and Puget's Sound on the west, facing the broad shores of Asia!

Already are five lines of railroad now being constructed or under survey from the Mississippi to the Missouri river, between St. Louis on the south and Dubuque on the north. These roads must all unite on the Platte or Nebraska river in order to cross the Rocky Mountains at the best point as yet discovered, if we except the more northern route recently explored by Gov. Stevens, of Washington Territory. This latter route at some future period may constitute the second great line to the Pacific, while the extreme southern route may be placed as the third route to be completed from ocean to ocean.

On the first line spoken of the isothermal line corresponds with the mean temperature of Paris, New York, and Puget's Sound, or about 52° of Fahrenheit. This fact should be duly considered, as well as the natural productions all along the same line, in connexion with the topography of the country to be traversed.

Yours, respectfully, J. D.

CATTLE DRIVING TO CALIFORNIA.

The papers for a year past have given accounts of the great number of cattle driven from the Western States to California. A writer in Southern California describes an enterprise of that sort in which he was engaged. He says:

"I started from San Antonio, Texas, on the 1st of April, 1854, in company with a party of stock drovers from that section of the State. (I may say here, incidentally, that the report of high prices in the market of California for beef cattle, which reached Texas in the early part of the present year, has given rise to an active speculation in Texas stock, and consequently the road is now full of beef cattle from Texas, destined for this market; from fifteen to twenty thousand is the lowest estimate I have heard of the number. At present prices here there will be great losses sustained by drovers.) From San Antonio to El Paso the road is an excellent one, the main portion of the way leading over a high, dry, and gravelly table land, constituting perhaps the best natural road in the world. For 250 miles grass and water of a fine quality abound; but for the last 400 miles of the route grass becomes scarce, and water is not to be found in sufficient quantities for the stock drover. This territory is at present infested by perhaps the most bold, daring, and dangerous of the Indian tribes, the Muscaleros Apaches."

After stating the difficulties which drovers have to encounter with Indians, he concludes:

"From El Paso the road is for the greater part an excellent wagon way, similar in structure and quality to that already described. Some difficult passes in the mountains contribute the exceptions to this remark. We met with no serious obstruction from Indians, but our stock suffered severely for want of water and grass. The general character of the country is that of an elevated plain, high, dry, and sterile. The Santa Cruz Valley of Sonora is the oasis of this Sahara—a beautiful, fertile, and lovely valley, but narrow, and enclosed by lofty and sterile mountains. Here are several Mexican villages and a few ranches. The villages are Santa Cruz, at the eastern extremity of the valley, Tobac, and Tucson. These Mexicans live in extreme and perpetual dread of the Apaches, their deadly enemies. Depredations and murders are continually perpetrated upon them by the Indians. They are much elated by the news of the purchase of Sonora by the United States."

A LITTLE MATTER OF HISTORY.—Soon after the commencement of the last war with England, more than forty years ago, between eighty and ninety of the citizens of Baltimore enrolled their names in a volunteer artillery company, called the *Fencibles*, and elected JOS. H. NICHOLSON Captain, JOHN BARNEY and NATHANIEL F. WILLIAMS Lieutenants. Being thus organized, a tender of their services was made to the General Government to be placed in Fort McHenry in case of need as a part of its defence. The offer being accepted, the company was ordered to the fort for drill in the year 1813, and in 1814 occupied a part of the Star Fort, and during the bombardment lost two officers killed and several of the privates wounded. Of the men composing the entire company it is believed only sixteen now are living, viz. Samuel Harris, John Barney, Walter Farnandis, Nathaniel F. Williams, Wm. Child, John F. Poor, Chas. F. Mayer, Jacob I. Cohen, Jr., Isaac Munroe, Thomas Spicer, Samuel Etting, George Douglass, Mendis I. Cohen, Philip Reigart, Wm. O. Eichelberger, and Wm. S. Cooper.—*Baltimore Patriot.*

MEASURES OF DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.—The Newburyport Herald, in the course of an article on Weights and Measures, remarks that no two nations have the same, though the same name to designate them may be used in many countries. Take the mile measure for instance. In England and the United States a mile means 1,760 yards; in the Netherlands it is 1,093 yards; while in Germany it is 10,120 yards, or nearly six English miles; in France 2,025 yards. The Scotch mile is 1,984 yards, and the Irish 3,038 yards. The Spanish mile is 2,472 yards, and the Swedish mile 11,700 yards. These are computed in English yards; but the yard itself, of three feet in length, has divers significations in different places. The English yard is 36 inches; the French 39.13 inches; the Geneva yard 57.60; the Austrian 37.35; the Spanish yard 33.09; the Prussian 36.57; the Russian 39.51. For measures of capacity the dissimilarity is yet wider and more perplexing. The British have two sorts of bushels, the Imperial and the Winchester, of different capacity. The Winchester bushel is the United States standard; but the State of New York has another of different capacity, and other States have varying standards of their own. These are incommensurable with the measures of any other nation.—*Boston Chronicle.*

SERIOUS FIRE IN CANTON.—At about half-past one o'clock Wednesday morning a fire broke out in the machine shop belonging to the extensive iron works of LYMAN KINSLEY, Esq., at South Canton, (Mass.) and the building, which was of wood, was entirely destroyed, with its contents. The large stock of wooden patterns for castings was wholly consumed, and all the machines and tools were ruined. Mr. Kinsley's loss will be forty or fifty thousand dollars, but he is well insured. Nearly one hundred people are deprived of employment until the works can be started anew.

GUNNING ACCIDENT.—We learn from a Newburyport correspondent of the Traveller that a serious accident occurred, from the careless use of a fowling-piece, on Plum Island on Monday. Two Englishmen were down on a gunning excursion. One of them, unable to draw the ramrod from his gun, was advised by the other to turn in powder and try to fire it off. He turned the powder in, dropped a lighted match after it, then, probably miscalculating the time that a match would require to fall two and a half feet, or supposing his powder to be like that we read of, which must be ignited over night to explode in the morning, looked in to see if it had caught. The powder, not being disposed to wait his convenience, exploded and injured his eye so seriously that the physician who attended him is of opinion that the sight is entirely lost

SQUATTER MEETING IN KANSAS.

The Squatters of Kansas held a meeting on the 1st instant, about three miles from Fort Leavenworth. The committee appointed to give expression to the views of the meeting reported two sets of resolutions. The report of the majority was rejected, after a long debate, and that of the minority adopted. The account from which we copy goes on to say:

"There being a desire on the part of some persons present to ascertain how many Abolitionists or Freesoilers were present, the sense of the meeting was taken as to whether Kansas should be slave or free territory. All those present who were favorable to Kansas being made a slave State were requested to raise their hands. A countless number of hands were raised in response to this call. All those present who were favorable to Kansas being made a free State were requested to make it manifest by a similar sign. But *four* persons in that vast assembly were favorable to that motion."

The meeting adopted a preamble and resolutions approving and pledging themselves to support the present organization of the "Kansas Squatter Society," and their laws and regulations, until altered or annulled by the citizens of the Territory. The prominent regulations and principles thus endorsed are the following:

That Kansas Territory (and, as a consequence, the State of Kansas) *of right should be* and therefore SHALL BE slave territory.

That every free white citizen of the United States, over the age of twenty-one years or the head of a family, is entitled to a pre-emption upon any unoccupied Government land within the Territory.

That we do not recognise the right of any settler to select more than one claim of a quarter section, either in his own name or in the name of other persons.

That the individual who shall blaze the lines of his claim and put up a tent, or commence the erection of a cabin by laying a foundation, and shall show by his actions his intention of prosecuting his claim, shall be deemed the first actual settler.

That, to entitle any person to the protection of the society, he shall register his claim with the nearest register of this society, sign the constitution of the association, and conform to the regulations of the Kansas Squatter Society.

That, as this society embraces nine-tenths of the present settlers of this Territory, we are entitled to and will exercise the right of expelling from the Territory, or otherwise punishing, any individual or individuals who may come among us and by act, conspiracy, or other illegal means entice away our slaves, or clandestinely attempt in any way or form to affect our rights of property in the same.

The Editor of the "Industrial Luminary," a newspaper published at Parkville, on the border of Kansas, was present at the above meeting, and gives some of the particulars of its proceedings. We make the following extracts from the "Luminary" of the 5th instant:

"We spent a few days in Kansas Territory last week, visiting several of the points where settlers are locating, and found good health prevailing. The country is rapidly filling up with an enterprising and industrious class of citizens, preparing to develop the agricultural and other resources of the country.

"We were agreeably surprised to find excellent crops of corn in the Missouri bottoms, in fields too upon which rain enough has not fallen in the last twelve weeks to lay the dust. The yield of corn will be from eight to twelve barrels to the acre. These bottoms were down in 1844; but in 1854 they will redeem their character, and be the modern Egypts for that cereal. On the ridges of sandy marl near the river we noticed that many of the larger oak trees were already in 'the sere and yellow leaf;' but the prairie grass was quite green, and in general showed the immense power of the soil to sustain vegetation under the present protracted and intense heat.

"Great numbers of the claimants have put up substantial log houses and cabins, and are fast clearing ground for crops. Part of our business across the river was to attend to our claim, and, like many others, we found our cabin thrown down and another one erecting. All hands turned too and soon put the edifice up again, when, having adjusted matters, we wended our way towards Salt Creek.

"A General Meeting of all the Squatters had been called to assemble there on Friday. From all we could ascertain before setting out we supposed there would be a great concourse; but when we reached the place we found the meeting was organized, a committee on resolutions already in consultation, and not more than two hundred persons on the ground, of whom perhaps one hundred were all that were congregated at any one time, the rest scattering.

"By and by the committee returned and reported, through their chairman, F. GWYNNER, Esq., of Liberty, that there were two sets of resolutions; and, lest the people should get tired waiting, it was proposed to discuss them in open committee.

"Mr. G., in substance, then said he had a series of resolutions to propose; so had Mr. Grover. He had no objection to adopt some of Mr. Grover's resolutions; that the question of slavery was paramount to all others; that it existed in Kansas of right by the Douglas bill, and he wanted this meeting to declare that slavery SHALL be established there. Freesoilers and Abolitionists should forthwith be expelled. He was ready for the issue.

"Mr. GROVER was for conservative measures. He wanted the country settled; he wished the meeting to carry out the republican doctrine of the Nebraska-Kansas bill, and he would invite settlers from all the States. He was willing to support a resolution to the effect that, as slavery was permitted in the Territory by law until the inhabitants shall decide the question in the constitutional way, any person enticing away or stealing slaves shall be driven out of the Territory.

"Mr. CODY deprecated the agitation of the slavery question at present. He referred to Weston, where the citizens were brought to daggers' points by ultraists. He wanted no bullying resolutions, only such as would carry the impression of fairness to every candid mind.

"It was quite evident that the contest was between moderate and ultra pro-slavery men, and in committee the former prevailed, all except Mr. Gwynner voting for Mr. Grover's resolutions. The report was then made to the meeting; and the resolutions would probably have passed with some slight amendments, but Mr. Gwynner brought out his propositions as a minority report, and claimed to have them put to a vote first as an amendment to the committee's report. The chairman ruled otherwise, but he (Gwynner) continued to read and explain his resolutions.

"One substantial-looking squatter rose and said he thought the object of the meeting was to make regulations about claims. If they were going to quarrel about slavery all the time they had better all go home.

"Mr. GWYNNER kept on speaking, and he (not the chairman) put the question, 'All in favor of making Kansas a slave State raise their right hands.' About seventy hands were raised. He then said, 'All in favor of giving Kansas to the Freesoilers and Abolitionists make the same sign.' Very few hands went up. One man here asked Gwynner if he aimed to misrepresent the committee by making a false issue?

"The meeting now became greatly excited. Mr. Grover attempted to read the resolutions of the committee; but the 'noise and confusion' was so great that he desisted, and some one mounted a stump and moved that the meeting adjourn. This was carried almost unanimously, and the meeting broke up.

"Although the bulk of the people immediately left the ground, about thirty-two were induced to remain. Mr. R. S. Kelly stated that he was Secretary of the meeting; he wanted to publish the proceedings, but could not until they were completed. As Secretary he had a right to appoint another chairman, and that he would now do. A motion was then made (as we understood) that the resolutions of Mr. Gwynner be adopted. The chairman put this to the vote and announced that twenty-two hands were held up. 'The contra' was put; no one voted and the resolutions were declared carried unanimously. And so the disorderly affair ended.

"We were merely 'lookers-on in Vienna,' and in referring to what we saw and heard have withheld much that would place some of the actors in a very foolish position before the public. One of the objects of the meeting was, we are informed, to repeal all previous squatter laws, resolutions, &c. and enact new ones. We would like to know how all this resolving and re-resolving is to end. Settlers on a main road but a few miles from Salt Creek had not heard of the meeting at all, and yet here were most important matters proposed to be acted on in which they had an interest. Where is Gov. REEDER? His presence over there is greatly needed; for it seems as if one or two furious agitators would keep the country in a ferment."

DEATH OF AN EDITOR.—The Cumberland Miners' Journal of yesterday has the following obituary:

"We are pained to announce the death of ARCHIBALD CARY, Esq., the Editor of this paper, who died last Wednesday night, after a severe illness of two weeks and a half. All who were acquainted with him editorially and socially will feel his loss and deeply sympathise with his bereaved family."

A fraud in railway management in England, recently detected, has been visited with prompt and merited punishment. John W. Stale, formerly attorney for the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway Company, having, by the utterance of forged documents of certificates of payments of bonds, obtained the sum of about $35,000, he has lately been tried in London, convicted, and sentenced to fifteen years' transportation.

AN AMUSING CORRESPONDENCE.

Mr. Kendall, of the New Orleans Picayune, furnishes that paper with the following in a late letter from Paris:

A late number of the *Journal pour Rire* amuses its readers with a really laughable correspondence, which may perhaps be worth translating. It shows up, or is an attempt to show up, the multifarious callings to which people in the United States often resort to gain a living, and the readiness with which, one thing failing, they take up with some other branch of business as opposite as painting is from pile-driving. The article in the Journal pour Rire is in the shape of a communication, and I will give it entire, heading and all:

A Musical Journal in New York, or Salt Pork.

MY DEAR PHILIPON: Allow me to give you a little story, which is no less lamentable than true. It may, perhaps, serve as an advertisement to our French Barbanchus who may think of opening literary connexions or relations with the Americans.

In April last a proposition was received by your humble servant to take charge of the Parisian correspondence for a New York musical paper, the Philharmonic Journal, the overture coming through one of our countrymen established in that city, M. Oscar Commettent. I availed myself of the offer. I need not now speak of the emoluments I was to receive, but they were most flattering and remunerative. The office of the paper was at No. 333, Broadway, Messrs. Watson & Simmonds.

I immediately began my labor of corresponding, and every week I sent to New York, by way of Liverpool, a musico-literary letter, well got up, and in which was sown or scattered all the theatrical facts and philharmonic anecdotes of the French metropolis.

On the 30th of June I received from across the ocean the following letter. I give it to you as it was written, without changing a syllable:

NEW YORK, JUNE 10, 1854.

The paper to which you have sent several articles of Parisian correspondence since April has lived the life which roses live and that of many enterprises in the United States. The Philharmonic Journal only issued two numbers, the first to announce that it would come out, the second to announce that it would not come out any more.

I endeavored to collect your claim, and I have searched for the unhappy editor without success. After his failure in the musical line he left New York, and his services were at once engaged in experimenting upon a new system to pickle pork.

Here in the United States every thing is made by machinery. They even slaughter and salt hogs by machinery! A most ingenious machine takes the whole and living swine, and in two hours and a half afterwards he is brought to you salted and packed in a barrel. Our editor of the Philharmonic thought he had discovered an improvement in the machine by which he could effect the same end in two hours! Half an hour gained on each hog would have been a most magnificent and profitable saving, if it could have succeeded. But unhappily the hogs pronounced strongly against this new invention. It killed them faster it is true, but they contended that it only half killed them, and they struck. The just complaint of animals was heard, and the original machinery has been given back to them: they were put out of their misery more easily by the old plan.

But the Americans are not easily discouraged. Our ex-editor, failing in his pork pickling operation, turned player, and procured an engagement as first low comedian at one of the California theatres.

Stop, then, your correspondence for the Philharmonic and put on mourning for what is due you from its editor. If the new improvements in the pork-making machinery had succeeded you might have received a few hams from him in the way of gratification; as an actor in California he will only pay your claim in *monnaie de singe*; but in plain English it is meant that the ex-editor would answer a dun by applying his thumb to his nose, and performing certain well-known gyrations with his fingers.

After giving you this information and shaking hands with you, I subscribe, truly your friend,

OSCAR COMMETTENT.

P. S. Do not believe that there is a single word of pleasantry in all this. The Americans never joke. The pork-pickling machinery exists, and a single house at Cincinnati kills and salts 1,500 hogs a day.

You will say, my dear Philipon, that a singular country is that of the Yankees, where the same individuals criticise music, kill and pack hogs, and play comedy!

J. LOVY.

Whether there was ever any musical paper in the city of New York named the Philharmonic Journal is more than I can assert; but I can safely say that nine out of ten in Paris who read the above correspondence will believe every word of it. The Parisians look upon the Americans as a queer set.

FROM SALT LAKE AND SANTA FE.

The Salt Lake train arrived at Independence (Mo.) on the 27th ultimo. Although there had been but little rain on the route, there was plenty of grass and water. The Indians continued to molest the whites crossing the plains, and were often troublesome to settlers. The Cheyennes and Pawnees seem to be the principal tribes concerned. In a late skirmish between a party of emigrants and a band of Snakes, on Bear river, two whites and four or five Indians were killed. The Indians fought with great bravery, but the odds being against them they soon fled. These outbreaks are constantly occurring.

Every thing was quiet at Great Salt Lake city. Large numbers of Mormons were arriving daily.

The Santa Fe mail brings no news. Gov. MERIWETHER was enjoying excellent health. Gen. GARLAND had moved his headquarters to Santa Fe. Every thing was quiet.

Things in Kansas and Nebraska remain quiet since the late Delaware Council. The Indians have concluded it will be useless to molest the squatters, and hence emigrants still continue to pour in. Leavenworth city has several new buildings going up.—*St. Louis Democrat.*

FITTING OUT VESSELS FOR THE SLAVE TRADE.—On Wednesday the United States District Attorney at New York caused JAMES SMITH, captain of the brig Julia Moulton, to be arrested on a charge of having conveyed 660 slaves from Africa to Cuba in that vessel, on her last voyage. He was committed for examination. WILLIAM C. VALENTINE, a merchant of New York, was also arrested, charged with being concerned in fitting out the vessel for that voyage. He was required to find bail in $20,000, in default of which he was committed to prison. The Journal of Commerce says that, if the information it has received be correct, the fitting out of vessels for the slave trade has since January last been a regular business in that city.

TIMELY RESUSCITATION.—A few days since on Bowman Creek, two miles from Benton Station, on the Covington and Lexington Railroad, a number of men were engaged in digging a well. After making a blast in the bottom of the well (about thirty feet deep) a man descended, and immediately fell, apparently lifeless. A second man went down to his assistance, and also fell. A third descended, and he too was struck with the noxious gas. To all appearance the three men were dead. It happened that a man was going by with a cask of water on a sled, and, recollecting that he had heard it said that a stream of water poured into a well would dispel the noxious gas, he drove up and poured the water from the cask into the well. The effect was instantaneous. The men were immediately revived and taken out with every prospect of complete recovery. The fact is important, and ought to be generally known.—*Cincinnati Gazette.*

THE TOBACCO CROP OF PRINCE GEORGE'S.—The Planter's Journal, published at Upper Marlboro', says in its number of Wednesday last:

"We hear of a decided improvement in the tobacco crop since the heavy rains which we had pleasure to notice last week. The growth has been very sudden, and in some respects surprising. In some places patches which were scorched almost yellow have resumed a healthy green color and present a fresh and normal appearance. Such a phenomenon in September has not been witnessed before for several years. Of course there will be but a portion of a crop, but we apprehend the little that will be secured, in the event of favorable weather, will be of a better quality than there was reason to hope for two weeks ago. At any rate, we hope so."

HENRY HILL, of Boston, who has been treasurer of the American Board of Foreign Missions for thirty-two years, has declined a re-election, and offered a farewell donation of two thousand dollars. In his letter which communicates this offer to the Board he mentions that a female connected with the Gaboon mission, on her death-bed, gave to the Board what she had in the Savings' Bank, about fifty dollars, "as a dying thank-offering for having had the privilege of laboring thirteen years on the shores of Western Africa." When Mr. Hill's connexion with the Board commenced, in the year 1822, the annual receipts were not far from $60,000, and the whole amount which had been received during the previous twelve years was something over $300,000. Its present annual receipts exceed $300,000, and the whole amount of receipts from the beginning has been considerably more than six millions of dollars. The meeting of the Board lately in session at Hartford was largely attended.

Take two ounces of fine white gum arabic powder, put it in a pitcher, and pour on a pint or more of boiling water, according to the degree of strength you desire, and then, having covered it, let it set all night; in the morning pour it carefully from the dregs into a clean bottle, cork it, and keep it for use. A tablespoonful of gum water stirred into a pint of starch, made in the usual manner, will give to lawns, either white or printed, a look of newness, when nothing else can restore them after washing.