The Oxford Democrat.

PARIS, TUESDAY, FEB. 13, 1850.

Friends and Patrons.

After the lapse of a few weeks we again present you THE OXFORD DEMOCRAT in a new dress and with its boundaries enlarged. A misfortune, the 16th of Dec., severe and trying, broke off our weekly visits without warning, and overwhelmed us in a chaos of ruin; but by the kindness of friends and the promptitude of some of those indebted, we are again enabled to start in the world and issue the Democrat.

The paper will be conducted very much as heretofore, Democratic, of course, in its politics, and moral in its tendencies, advocating all needed reforms of a healthy character.

In enlarging the Democrat, much expense has been incurred, new type, press, and material of every description incidental and necessary to a country Printing Office having been purchased,—and to enable us to meet this expense, promptly, we rely upon those indebted heretofore for the Democrat Advertising, Job Work, &c., and must request them to settle all arrearages with us little delay as possible. A change in our business connection also renders this indispensible.

To those who have so nobly assisted us in our time of need, we tender our most sincere and unfeigned thanks. They will ever be remembered with pleasure. They are indeed friends worth having.

We have associated with ourself in business, MR. GEO. L. MILLETT, lately one of the publishers of the Boston Weekly Museum, and who served his time with us. To those who are acquainted with him, it would be superfluous for us to say anything; but to those who are not, we would say, he is a gentleman of probity, unexceptionable morals, and well qualified as a practical printer, by whose aid the paper will be much improved and all interested much benefitted.

G. WASHINGTON MILLETT.

The Democrat.

We have stated in another column that our paper would continue to be democratic in its tone and sentiment, and that we may not be misunderstood, a suggestion or two in this number, shadowing forth our future course, may not be inappropriate; and we would by no means be misunderstood, or give any one of our subscribers just cause for after complaint.

It is true that new ideas are advanced in parties as in everything else, and new schemes are promulgated from day to day, which are tried in the crucible of public opinion, which opinion to a great extent takes note from the public press; and as it is impossible to foresee what the future may develope, so it is impossible for the conductor of a public press to mark out any exact and specific course to be pursued in relation to such new questions, though they may have much to do with the politics of the day, and the ascendancy or downfall of parties.

The great leading principles of equality, however, has become so interwoven with the history of the democratic party in this country—has been so long established as a well known landmark, that it may be said it cannot change—that is is eternal in its duration—that it emanated from that omnipotent source of light and knowledge which causes the sun to shine and the rain to fall alike upon the just and the unjust. It is a principle broad enough to embrace the whole family of man, the essence of which is to confer upon it "the greatest good." To carry out this principle in practice, should be the aim of every democrat in all his private and public acts; but to receive and accomplish any practical good, there must be a yielding of one to the other—of the few to the many—a concentiveness—a union and concert of action by the many, else the best intentioned effort would but produce confusion and anarchy.

Upon this broad foundation was established the government of our own beloved country. A government tending to that approaching nearer a perfect democracy than any the world has known before, as has been fully and clearly demonstrated by its unrivalled growth and prosperity, as well as by the enjoyment of liberty and intellectual happiness of its citizens. Hence we shall at all times lend our full aid to maintain this government, and the glorious Union of the States, and the just power of the General Government, and the State Governments, untrammelled by unjust and unconstitutional legislation, free to act in their individual and proper spheres, each having a just regard for the other, and all for the great whole, as is clearly defined in the compact of confederation, regarding always the Constitution as the soul and life of the Union, and he who would destroy it the worst enemy of the Republic.

A kind of moral treason is evidently finding foothold in the country. It has sprung up in the soil of disappointed ambition, and not having been sufficiently checked and condemned by an indignant expression of patriotic public sentiment, it has found room to live and spread in the illumined minds of fanatics in both sections of the Union. The sentiment has not yet become dangerous, for the reason of the imbecility of the number of its advocates, but their designs cannot be mistaken, nor can their dangerous influence be too strictly guarded against.

One of the patriotic Senators from Texas not long since said—"There are fanatics in the North and fanatics in the South; that Southern fanatics are perhaps a little the most to blame, for if there had been none in the South there would have none in the North; that they are to be pitied, not despised, for to despise a man was to hate him, and to detest as much as to hate such men is a position too humiliating, too belittling." Be this as it may, we are to be reckoned among those who have no sympathy for the mawkish set of men who coolly talk about a dissolution of the Union, and that they are prepared for the event; again we say such men may expect no "aid or comfort" from us; let the evil fall upon their own heads.

This leads us to the cause, or pretended cause, of the alarming evil above alluded to, and while we would never rebuke save in a spirit of kindness, we shall be pardoned the expression, when we say that men in power, as well as those having the power of the press, have not spoken out upon the great moral question of Slavery as it has more recently presented itself in connection with the Territories, as they should have done, for the peace and harmony of the country.

Why has not this question been looked at as practically as that of a National bank, the Tariff, or other of the great party questions of the day? Probably for the reason that upon such questions,—questions well settled, men have been well posted up and have no new ground to break; no popularity to put at risk. But when a great question, blending the principles of Constitutional law and morality with a local prejudice is presented, men are too apt to forget the States in themselves, and jump upon the selfish holds of local prejudice, as in this case, the one facing North and the other South, and each attempting to ride the other loose, not only with the weight of their own importance upon its back but with the opposite half of the Union hitched on by the traces of the Federal Constitution. All this may be done. Then why does not Congress approach this question in that spirit of nationality that marks, or should mark, the Statesman? Can Mr. Calhoun, or Foot, or Toombs, or any other sensible man of the South, expect, when the whole civilized world views Slavery as an unnatural and unjust institution, and one that cannot exist save by the force of law, that northern Senators and Representatives will vote to enlarge its limits—to extend its borders—to give it the force of law in free Territory? They should not, they ought not to expect any such thing, for it would be that kind of moral poison to the people of the Free States, that would visit itself upon them with the severest retribution.

It is unnecessary for us to argue the question, for it has been talked about too much already, and nothing remains but to meet it like men,—not in the captious spirit of angry partisans, and narrow minded bigots, but under the broad shield of the Constitution, with that manliness of thought, and that enlarged patriotism and unswerving integrity, which should always characterise the Statesman.

Northern men have the same right to judge of their duty under the Constitution as Southern, and if upon this vexed question there should be a difference of opinion as to its true construction, the minority have the benefit of that Tribunal whose province it is to give legitimate construction to the Constitution, the Supreme Court.

The different checks and balances of the Government can and may be, and perhaps should, be brought to bear upon the question. They were all wisely ordered, and have, thus far, worked together for good, showing the great wisdom and foresight of those who matured and gave them the force of Constitutional law.

While the Free States have the unquestionable right of action upon this subject of Slavery, as conscience and an enlightened age of legislation dictates and impels them to act, they would be both recreant to a true sense of duty, and their oath of office, did they not willingly grant to the South all that a fair construction of the Constitution and its compromises give them.

The evil of slavery is with us. It is upon the present generation of the South without their consent or immediate control—their rights are guaranteed to them—let us watch the evil, that it may not spread—let us treat the whole subject with firmness, but with just moderation, and without taunt or wrong on our part.

We have already said more than we intended on this subject, as we deem it a national rather than a sectional question, and a moral and legal question much more that a political one. Hence we dismiss it.

And now we invite our readers, particularly the democracy of the County of Oxford, to stand firm upon the old Jeffersonian, the old Democratic Platform, upon which we have together and unitedly gained so many victories over the combined forces of federalism and faction.

Let us love, cherish and support the principles that have never proved us false, and that have been conducive to our individual and mutual welfare.—That have under the control of the great champion of the party, been brought to bear against a powerful monied oligarchy to be reared in our midst under the name of a National Bank,—that have been wielded against a splendid system of internal improvement for the benefit of one portion of the Union at the expense of the others—that have controlled the people's money and kept it from the grasp of the speculator and the minion of aristocracy—that have prevented an onerous taxation of the masses by bringing about a low revenue tax upon the necessaries of life, to the disappointment and chagrin of rich monied corporations,—that have long been exerted by the Democracy of the whole nation to raise the condition of the laboring millions, and make mankind better and happier.

Such is our position, and such the shadowing forth of our course. Democrats, can you sympathise with us? Can you join with, and aid us? If so, we are happy to take you by the hand, and lend you all the aid in our power in the promulgation and extension of what we believe just and equitable principles, such as are calculated to make us all better citizens and happier men. If you cannot, we are sorry for ourselves, and sorry for what we think your error, and of which we shall labor sedulously to convince you.

The President's Message.

On our fourth page will be found President Taylor's message in relation to California. After all his dodging and dancing on the Wilmot Proviso, it turns out that "Old Zach" has all the while been a regular Cass man, or that he has "sign-pressed" "Gen. Cass" thunder. He is a regular "non-intervention-ist," and no mistake. The following paragraph will hardly go down with his mother supporters, and if there is any sort of pretence for consistency or common decency they will either spike their guns, and surrender to the democracy, or turn their whole battery upon their anti-Wilmot Proviso, and anti-"non-interference" whig President! It is a doctrine on self government emanating from a source to which we should have never thought to look, and we hope that the Taylor whigs, after having so high an example, will now and hereafter confess that Gov Dorr was correct in the position he took and measures he attempted a few years since in Rhode Island. But, to the paragraph:—

"Should congress, when California shall present herself for an incorporation into the Union, annex a condition to her admission as a state, affecting her domestic institutions, contrary to the wishes of her people, and even compel her temporarily to comply with it, yet the state could change her constitution at any time after her admission, when to her it should seem expedient."

Congress.

This body met, as our readers are aware, at the usual time, and after spending several weeks in efforts to elect a Speaker, at last made choice of Hon. Howell Cobb, of Georgia. Very little business has yet been done for the benefit of the country, although many invectives and threats have been thrown out about the subject of negro slavery, by the hotheads of both sections of the Union. It is rather hard to pay men so much money for doing nothing, and the country will need the acquisition of two or three more Californias to furnish gold enough for such expenses. We wish mass meetings might be called in every city, town, and county in the Union, of those opposed to this agitation,—which mars the happiness and prosperity, and threatens the peace of the Union, and let such an expression of popular will, as would control those squabbling politicians, be made in emphatic terms.

When anything like regular business operations is commenced by this most august body, we shall endeavor to keep our readers posted up in all matters of interest in relation to it. Until then, it will be of little profit to give even a sketch of their doings and bickerings.

PROFESSOR WEBSTER.—The Grand Jury found a true bill against Prof. Webster for the murder of Dr. Parkman. The Boston Journal says that he will be arraigned at the March Term of the S. J. Court, but that his trial will not take place until June or July, it being impossible so to arrange the business of the Court as to secure a full bench before that time.

SENATORIAL VOTES.—The returns of votes for Senators were examined at the late session of the Executive Council. Thirteen democrats and eleven whigs are elected—seven vacancies, which the legislature will fill with democrats. One less democrat is elected than was supposed. R. A. Chapman, one of the democratic candidates in this Senatorial District, failed of an election, 706 votes having been cast with his middle name omitted.

GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK FOR FEBRUARY is splendidly illustrated and rich in its contents. It contains sixteen embellishments—one of these a portrait of Mr. Godey the publisher, a noble looking picture—and articles from the best pens in the country. It is a rich number. Price $3 per year—25 cents per single copy.

☞ The Legislature of Missouri, it is said, is about to change the name of Benton county, so incensed is it at the conduct of the Senator. Small business.

A GIGANTIC BUSINESS. There is in Boston a tailoring establishment that employs 3000 operatives in making garments, has branches in every section of the country, and whose sales amount to more than half a million annually. Two expresses are constantly employed in carrying goods to the retail customers. OAK HALL, *Boston*, is the name of this large and flourishing clothing house. It has risen to its present position by furnishing goods at a *small profit*.

Railroads in Maine.

Since our last, the A. & St. L. Railroad has been completed and put in operation to South Paris. Our citizens find this road a great convenience in their business intercourse with Portland and Boston, and were the Directors to reduce the fare to $1,25, or to $1,00, we believe they would find it for the interest of the Company in the increased amount of travel that would consequently accrue. An afternoon train is also very much needed, especially while the roads are so badly blocked up with snow as to render it almost impossible for people coming a distance of twenty or thirty miles, to reach the cars in season for the forenoon trains. This road is fortunate in procuring the services of intelligent and gentlemanly conductors, among whom stands preeminent Mr. G. G. WAVERHOUSE, well and favorably known in all this region.—While the services of such men are secured and retained by this Company, the travelling public can hardly fail to appreciate the desire of the Directors to make everything satisfactory and as it should be.

The remainder of this road to Canada line is under contract to Messrs. Wood & Black for about 26,000 per mile, to be completed in three years. The sections between South Paris and Bethel are already let out to subcontractors, and in a considerable state of forwardness. We understand that it is contemplated that it will be in running order early next fall.

The Buckfield Branch has also been completed and opened, and we learn that the amount of freight that weekly passes over it exceeds the most sanguine expectations of its friends.

The Androscoggin & Kennebec road has likewise been completed to Waterville, and is doing a heavy business both in freight and passengers.

The citizens of Bangor and vicinity, are waking up in relation to their interests and conveniences, in regard to a continuation of the last named road to the "Queen City of the East." Spirited meetings have been held, speeches made, and preliminary measures taken for surveys, &c. The continuation of this road to Bangor in the course of the next eighteen months or two years, we can hardly doubt. Those interested are moving, and they seldom make false moves, or moves to no purpose.

The Brunswick and Bath road is also represented as doing a most excellent business. This road is to be continued to Augusta, and is in course of construction.

A meeting was held on the 8th ult., at Hiram Bridge, by delegates from the several towns interested, in the the construction of a road from the State line on the Saco river, to some point on the York and Cumberland road. A report of the reconnaissance of the contemplated route was presented by Wm. H. Noble, Esq. The distance is 36 miles, and the cost of construction, equipped in running order, is estimated at $18,000 per mile, making $650,000 the total cost. The statistics presented argues the prospect of a good paying road when once built.

Removals and Appointments.

Mr. Bradbury of this State, made an able speech in the Senate of the United States on the 15th ult, in the support of a resolution previously submitted by himself, calling upon the President for all charges filed in any of the Departments against individuals who have been removed from office since the 4th day of March last.

The Augusta Age remarks as follows:

In making this movement towards the vindication of the thousands of democrats, in the State and Nation, who have been ruthlessly thrust from official places, by the present administration, under an implied charge of moral or official delinquency, Mr. Bradbury has responded with praiseworthy promptitude and efficiency to the general wish of the democracy of Maine on this subject, as formally expressed through the late State Democratic Convention.

Mr. B maintains that the call for information proposed by his resolution, is not only right and proper in itself, but is imperiously demanded, in the present instance, as an act of simple justice to the late democratic incumbents of office, whose displacement, under the circumstances, carries with it a wanton aspersion of their moral and official character.—These aggravating circumstances, which distinguish the system of political proscription waged by the present administration from that practiced by any preceding one, are set forth in a strong light, and with irresistible force.

In the first place, Mr. B. recapitulates the solemn pledges and declarations made to the country by the person who now fills the Executive chair, both before and after his nomination by the Philadelphia Convention, as well as at his inauguration, to the effect, that he would not permit himself to be the candidate of a party, nor yield himself to party schemes—that he would not consent to be brought before the people exclusively by any of the political parties that now so unfortunately divide the country—that if elected he would not be the mere President of a party: but would endeavor to act independent of party denomination—that he had no party projects to build up, no enemies to punish; nothing to serve but his country—that he would proscribe no man because he was a democrat; that both democrats and whigs stood by him at the battle of Monterey, shedding their blood together for their country, and that he would be the last man to deny the democrats a fair share of the offices—that he would make *honesty, capacity, and fidelity*, indispensable requisites to the bestowal of office, and the absence of either of these qualities, sufficient cause for removal.

In the next place, Mr. B. refers to the sweeping removals of democrats of the highest reputation for "honesty, capacity and fidelity,"—removals exceding in number, during the first four months of this administration, saving and excepting, perhaps, that of Gen. Harrison.

And, he then insists, that unless a violation of all the pledges and promises of the President on this subject, is to be presumed, every removal made by this administration, from first to last, necessarily implies "moral or official delinquency," on the part of the persons removed—or, in the language of the President's inaugral—a want either of "honesty, capacity, or fidelity." To the ascertainment of the truth in the premises, the information sought by the resolution becomes essential.

Mr. B. places this movement on the right ground. He does not complain that the administration has turned out democrats and filled their places with its friends. But it is the false, malicious and slanderous pretence set up by the administration that they are only removed for *cause*, involving moral or official delinquency, of which complaint is made. The federalists choose not to understand the *gist* of the complaint. They affect surprise that democrats who hold (as they assert) to the doctrine of "rewarding friends and punishing enemies," should complain of Gen. Taylor for following the example of democratic administrations. But Mr. B. makes this point so clear that no one can misunderstand it—by declaring, in the concluding portion of his speech, that "if any friend of the administration in the Senate, would on the President's behalf, acknowledge that the pledges and professions made by him, have been violated, and that democrats are removed because they are democrats, and not for moral or official delinquency—and thus relieve honorable and honest men who have suffered proscription for their political opinions, from the unjust imputation of dishonesty, incapacity or infidelity, and he (Mr. B.) would not ask for the adoption of the resolution." Here was a fair offer. If the administration does not choose to accept it, and do justice to the democratic removees, we trust the Senate will deem it to be their duty to take the matter into their own hands, with the view of putting a stop, now and henceforth, to that infamous system of political proscription, which is not content with punishing the freedom of opinion, but seeks also to blunt the reputation and blacken the character of its victims.

The Washington Union says:

It was not our good fortune to be present in the Senate when Mr. Bradbury of Maine, made his speech on the resolution, introduced by him, calling upon Gen. Taylor for the causes of the removals which he has made since he assumed the office of President.—But we learn from those who did hear it, that it was very able, and reflected high credit upon the abilities of the honorable Senator.—And if we wanted other proof of its ability and power, we have enough of it in the gross vituperation and abuse heaped upon the honorable Senator by the "Swiss corps," in the pay of the administration. We find in their letters, the usual amount of misrepresentation and scurrility, applied to Mr. Bradbury, which the unprincipled tribe heap upon every democratic soldier who does justice to himself and his cause. The truth is, Mr. Bradbury made a speech which it will exceedingly trouble the friends of the administration to meet and answer.

FOREIGN NEWS.

The following is the substance of the news from Europe by the Steamship Niagara:

ENGLAND.—Parliament meets for dispatch of business on the 1st of February, when it is expected that some important change in the monetary system will be laid before the Legislature.

President Taylor's message, which reached England by the Hibernia, has been extensively published and largely commented upon by the English press. The general expression of public sentiment is very favorable. The London Times says: "The tenor of the message is pacific, and we learn with pleasure, that there is no disposition on the part of the American Cabinet to magnify the differences which were supposed at one moment to threaten its relations with the most liberal of the European powers. The contention with France had originated in the impatience of M. Poussin, and the irregular whereabouts of Mr. Clayton—that with England has taken its rise from some misconception with reference to the views of this country of the Mosquito coast and the Nicaragua Canal. But there is every reason to anticipate that Sir Henry Bulwer's mission will have the effect of uniting both countries in the prosecution of a common object of so much importance to the commerce of the world. The more recent occurrences, which are said to have taken place on the Pacific coast of the Isthmus, by the alleged seizure of the Island of Tigre, in the Bay of Fonseca, by order of Mr. Chatfield, the British Consul General in Guatemala, are still very imperfectly known in the country; and we are satisfied that if any unseemly altercation has occurred between British and American agents in Central America, it will not disturb the friendly relations between the two governments."

FRANCE.—The Assembly has been occupied during the past week, in debating upon the policy of sending out more troops to the River Plate, and also with the provisions of a new education bill. It has been decided that no more troops shall be sent to the Plate. Various proclamations have been issued against all kinds of clubs, and secret and political associations. The National announces that 25,000 men of the army employed in restoring the Pope to his throne, are to remain at Rome, the government having concluded contracts for the maintenance of that force in the Pontifical dominions during the first quarter of 1850. A new paper called Napoleon, and said to be the organ of the President of the Republic, has been started at Paris. Several articles have appeared in it, written it is confidently expected, by Louis Napoleon, which look to the re-establishment of the Empire.

The correspondent of the London Herald, writing from Paris, on Wednesday evening, says: "There is a rumor whispered about, to which, from its serious character, I would not even make an allusion, did I not know that it has made an impression on persons not disposed to swallow idle stories. It is said, then, that a treaty has actually been concluded between the Emperor of Russia and the President of the Republic, the particulars of which will yet be found to be any thing but desirable, so far as England's interests are concerned.

Affairs between the French and the Pope remain in an unsettled state.

AUSTRIA. The Breslau Gazette of the 6th says: "The public mind in Vienna is much taken up with reports of a *coup etat*—reports which are even current in military circles. The day named for putting it into effect is the 6th or 7th inst. The military measures are really formidable. Within a circle of six miles round Vienna, the houses are at least 50,000 men in Vienna, and 50,000 could be poured in by the railways in the course of three or four days. The reply of the Austrian cabinet to a note from Prussia on the subject of the Erfurt Assembly is as follows: The Austrian cabinet is sorry to find that its former communications, instead of producing the desired effect upon Prussia, have elicited replies, which, though evasive, are full of significance.

In its former remonstrances the Austrian cabinet fully stated its view of the question, and of the consequences of the step which Prussia was taking.—Since these remonstrances were unheeded, Austria will not condescend to wage a war of words with the Prussian cabinet, but reserving all her objections, protests, and rights, till a further opportunity, she wishes it to be understood that her silence is not to be construed into an acquiescence with the Prussian project, nor into a dereliction of her rights."

TURKEY.—The Czar has agreed to the terms proposed by the Porte and Dembinski and the other Poles who served in Hungary, are to be expelled, and their countrymen resident in Turkey, who were not concerned in that insurrection, are to remain undisturbed. If, however, any one, without reference to this country under whose protection he may be, shall, whilst resident in the Ottoman empire, be guilty of any act hostile to the government of the Emperor Nicholas, he shall, at the demand of the Russian envoy, be expelled from the Sultan's dominions.

Kossuth and the Hungarian refugees are to be confined in a fortified town in the interior; they are not to be close prisoners, but their place of residence will be under the constant surveillance of the Turkish authorities.

All the persons who have taken refuge in the empire, in consequence of the Hungarian war, are to be expelled, with the exception of those who have embraced Islamism.

☞ There is a rumor that the Cabinet is about to explode, on the slavery question.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT IN BOSTON.—During the last six months 291 unfortunate debtors have been imprisoned in Boston.

BANKS IN WISCONSIN. The Message of the Governor of Wisconsin, opposes the formation of Banks, whether under special or general laws.

TAKING THE VEIL. It is stated by the Cincinnati Times, that Miss Irving, a favorite grand-daughter of Henry Clay, has expressed her determination to take the veil.

For the Oxford Democrat.

Reduction of Letter Postage.

MR. EDITOR—As the question of reducing Postage on single letters has become one of very general interest, some remarks in relation to it, may not be unwelcome to your readers. During the past ten years, great efforts have been made to bring about this desirable object, both in England and the United States. In the former Country, such a Reform has gone into operation; and comes home to us with the prestige of exprience, to recommend its adoption. About ten years ago, that country adopted what is known now as the penny system; which is two cents for every half ounce letter, to any part of the kingdom; and its results have been such as to astonish even its friends. Such a system, must be even more successful in the United States, because, the number who can read and write, is so much greater in proportion to population.

Prior to the act of 1845, when the Postage on single letters in this country, varied from six to twenty-five cents, according to distance; the amount of Revenue had actually began to diminish; so great was the number of letters carried out of the Mail and so exobitant the Postage. During that year, the present rates of Postage were established; being five cents within three hundred miles and ten cents over three hundred miles, to any part of the country. At that time, this was thought to be a great reduction, and many feared it would be ruinous to the Department. There followed a loss to the revenue, the first year, of about a half million of dollars, which amount was supplied by drafts on the Treasury. The next year the revenue nearly equalled the expenditures. At the close of the last political year (June 30) a half million of surplus had accumulated in the Department; and an equal amount is estimated to accrue during the present year, affording the sum of over a million of dollars surplus from postage on the 30th of June next. Such have been the results of the reduction of '45, though the letter postage has borne the unjust burden of the Franking privilege; and the correspondence of the President and Heads of Departments, amounting in round numbers, according to Mr. Colamer's Report to $1,200,000.

The Post Office System in this country, should be so regulated that it can transport and deliver letters as cheap as it could be done by private enterprise. The system will never be popular and receive the approbation of intelligent citizens till such is the case. It is no longer a question with those who have investigated the subject, that the postage on single letters, prepaid, can be safely reduced to two cents, to any part of the country. Let the citizens conduct the business of the Post Office, on ordinary commercial principles, subject to competition, and this result would be immediately attained. This cannot be done, it is true, but we have a right to demand that the Government shall bind no unnecessary burden upon the people. The present law is unjust and arbitrary, and is violated in some way, a thousand times every week. Letters are enclosed to third persons. Signs, marks and dots are used upon transient papers, &c., &c. Then, again, a person sending a letter one or two miles, must pay five cents, and another sending a letter three hundred miles, pays no more. Then, again, why should a man sending a letter three hundred and one mile, pay five cents more than if he sent it three hundred miles? Can a man be found who will say, that such a law is just? Let the Postage be reduced to two cents, uniformly throughout the country and these violations would cease, and such injustice would be done away.

Congress has the full control of this question, and it is most ardently hoped that something will be done during the present session. Petitions are pouring into the House and Senate every day, for a reduction of Postage to two cents on single letters.—Every town in the County of Oxford, should send in a petition for this noble and necessary Reform. An appeal should go up to that body, too strong to be resisted. It is a question of happiness and civilization as well as justice, and expediency and deserves the highest consideration of the National Legislature.

PETITION FOR CHEAP POSTAGE.

To the Congress of the United States the Petition of the undersigned citizens of ——— in the State of ——— respectfully represenateth,

That the subject of Cheap Postage has been so widely considered among the people, and its results in Great Britian for ten years has been so successful, that we earnestly ask our National Legislature, to grant us the same benefit, by establishing the rate of Postage on prepaid letters, at *two cents per half ounce*, and a corresponding reduction on Newspapers and periodicals.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES. The first Roman Catholic establishment in the United States, was in Maryland, under Calvert, son of Lord Baltimore, in 1634.

The first Episcopalians that came to the United States, were among the settlers of Jamestown, Va., having their pastor, Mr. Hunt with them.

The first Presbyterian Church in the United States, was at Philadelphia, in 1703, and the first Presbytery was organized in the following year.

The first Baptist church in the United States, was founded under Roger Williams, at Providence, R. I., in 1634.

The first Methodist class in the United States, was formed by Philip Embury, a local preacher, in 1776.

The first Society of Quakers in the United States was formed by William Penn, and is coeval with the settlement of Philadelphia.

The first Universalist church in the United States, was organized at Gloucester, Mass., under Murray, in 1776.

☞ Albert J. Tirrell, (says the Hingham Journal,) was one of our fellow passengers in the cars, on Tuesday afternoon the 29th. He was on his return home, that being the day on which he was liberated from prison. He appeared to be in good condition physically, and though the object of more gazing than would be agreeable to most folks, he stood the staring like a man. Let us hope for the future he will conduct himself in every respect like a man.

☞ New York city has a larger population than either of the States of New Hampshire, Connecticut, Vermont or Michigan.—It has fully the population of New Jersey.—It has more than the three States of Arkansas, Florida, and Texas together. It has more population than the States of Rhode Island, Iowa and Delaware, added with that of Oregon Territory.

EXPLOSION—LOSS OF LIVES. A large, six story building on Hague St., in New York city, was blown up on Monday morning 4th inst., by the bursting of a steam boiler used in the building to drive machinery.—One hundred or more persons were supposed to be in the building at the time. Forty dead bodies had been recovered at the last accounts. The building was valued at $15,000, and owned by Harper & Brothers. The machinery was very valuable and was all destroyed.

☞ We are indebted to Hon. J. W. Bradbury and Hon. H. Hamlin of the Senate, and Hon. E. Gerry and R. K. Goodenow of the House, for various favors. They will please accept our thanks.

IMPOSTS IN DESERET. The Mormons at the Salt Lake impose a tax of one per cent, on dry goods taken there to sell, of half per cent on groceries, and fifty per cent on spirituous liquors.

☞ We send copies of this number of The Democrat to many individuals who are not subscribers, and respectfully request that they examine it faithfully. All such who do not wish the paper continued, will please write their name and the name of the Post Office on the margin, and return the same to us by mail.

Will not those receiving the paper as above, as well as our regular subscribers, use a little exertion in endeavoring to extend our list in their immediate vicinity? A few hours devoted to this matter will hardly be felt by them, and will greatly assist us at this time.

☞ The citizens of Augusta having accepted the Charter incorporating them as a *city*, recently held a meeting to nominate a candidate for Mayor. Rev. William A. Drew, Editor of the Gospel Banner, was almost unanimously selected, but three voting in the negative.

The whigs have nominated George W. Morton Esq.

DARING FEAT. A teamster by the name of Joseph Johns, seated upon his box, was driving a couple of spirited horses up Summer street, when he let the reins drop, which falling on the horses' heels frightened them, and they started off at full speed. The situation of the driver was now of rather a perilous nature—but he proved himself equal to the emergency. Raising himself up to his full height, he surveyed the scene for a moment, with great composure, and then with one bound placed himself upon the back of one of the animals, and by means of the bridles soon brought them under control.—*East Boston Ledger.*

CHOLERA AT ST. LOUIS. The Dispatch states that there were 21 deaths of cholera at St. Louis during the week ending the 13th ult.

☞ The Secretary of the Navy has issued orders for the "Jamestown" and "Dolphin" to return home, and appointed Mr. H. Paulding, Naval Storekeeper, at Spezzia for the Mediterranean Squadron. Mr. Paulding had been previously acting temporarily in that capacity.

A WHITE NEGRO. A negro man in North Carolina, has been growing white gradually for some years, and it is believed that if he lives eight or nine years longer, he will bear no trace of the negro except the woolly hair.

CONNECTING THE TWO OCEANS.—The president of the Mexican republic has strongly recommended congress to appropriate one million annually for four years for the cutting of a canal at Tehauntepec that will connect the two oceans, and float a ship of 1000. The legislature at Vera Cruz has voted $750,000 as being its quota towards the grand design. The financial embarrassments of the government will probably prevent the recommendation being successful.

☞ The Memphis (Tenn.) Eagle of the 23d ult. says that the steamer Alleck Scott had passed that place, having on board several hundred German emigrants, among who n the cholera broke out two days previous, of which some eight or ten had died; many more were down with it.

☞ A purchaser gave 2s. 6d. for the bed on which one Sarah Thompson murdered her mistress, at Bristol, and on examining his bargain, found £700 stowed away therein.

☞ Isiah Rynders has been fined $10 for an assault on Editor Fuller at the Astor opera house riot. Robert Long, for attempt at arson in said riot, has been sent to the state prison for two years, the shortest legal term.

☞ It has been decided in New Orleans that a colored man is competent to testify in a court of justice. In some of the Southern States he is not, but Louisiana seems to act upon a more liberal and just view of legal rights.

KENTUCKY AND THE UNION.—In the legislature, on the 15th inst., the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"Resolved, That the governor is hereby requested to cause a suitable block of native marble to be conveyed to Washington city, to take its proper place in the monument to the memory of the father of his country, and the following words be engraved thereon:—"Under the auspices of heaven and the precepts of Washington, Kentucky will be the last to give up the Union."

☞ The business of being Hungarian exiles is likely to be entered upon by ingenious speculators, to the great imposition of the public. To prevent this it has been suggested that all applicants for relief from the Hungarian fund be provided with credentials from some of those who have brought authentic letters of introduction. This suggestion is made by Gov. Ujhazy, and will doubtless, be adopted.

FLOGGING IN THE NAVY.—The Legislature of Rhode Island has instructed and requested the delegation from that State in Congress, to use their influence to procure the passage of a law prohibiting the use of spirit rations and of the lash in the Navy of the United States.

☞ The Manchester (Eng.) Guardian says of the report of Mr Meredith, Secretary of the Treasury: "Its readers will find in it some of the wildest and most thoroughly exploded notions of our own protectionists, reproduced with a coolness and naivete which would be truly amusing if the subject were a little less serious."

☞ Pena y Pena, the eminent Mexican lawyer, who was president of that republic at the close of the late war, and made peace with the United States, has just deceased. He was a wise and good man, and of course a true patriot.

☞ An order has been received in Texas from Washington, by Col. Johnson, chief of the engineer corps, to make surveys and examination of the rivers Colorado and Rio Grande, throughout their extent, with a view to their improvement for the purposes of navigation.

NESTORIANS.—A letter from the mission among the Nestorians, speaks in terms of encouragement respecting the interesting mission among that remarkable people. The native converts were doing much to forward the work of mission among their own people.

☞ The Hudson Bay Company have made a proposition to sell to the government all their possessory rights in Oregon. The proposition has been communicated to the Senate in executive session. It is understood that the company ask one million of dollars.

A Proposition to Texas.

Mr. Benton has introduced into the Senate a Bill for reducing the limits of Texas. The bill proposes to reduce Texas, at once, to a State of about 150,000 square miles, and eventually, into two States of about 75,000 square miles each. Her western boundary line to be changed from the Rio Grande to the parallel of 102 degrees of west longitude, and the northern boundary to be brought down from 42 to 34 degrees of north latitude. The territory to be ceded by Texas to the United States is estimated to contain 200,000 square miles. This tract the bill proposes that the U. States shall purchase of Texas, paying therefor $15,000,000 in five per cent. stock redeemable at the end of fourteen years.

A WHIG LIBELLER OF JEFFERSON.—The New York Tribune says, Jefferson "hated the Christian Faith with an intense and undying ferocity," and that he was "unscrupulous and licentious in his personal morals." In a letter to Wm. Canby, Mr. Jefferson said: "Of all systems of morality, ancient or modern, which have come under my observation, none appears to me so pure as that of Jesus." Does this look as though "he hated the christian faith," etc. And is there the least evidence to show that he was not a man of pure morals? The words base and hypocritical should be branded an the forehead of this libeller of one of the best men and purest Patriots of the Revolution.

SAMUEL COLT, the inventor of the revolving pistols, is in Constantinople, and has been graciously received by the Sultan.

☞ Mr. Clay does not agree with Gen. Taylor in his recommendation to leave the territories without a government until they are admitted as States. In the remarks on his resolutions presented to the Senate on the 29th ult. Mr. Clay said:

Much as I am disposed to defer to higher authorities, and anxious as I equally am to find myself in a position which would enable me to cooperate heartily with other departments of the government, in conducting the affairs of this great people, I cannot concur in the propriety of a dereliction of those Territories—of abandonment of them—leaving them without government, to all those scenes of disorder, confusion and anarchy which I regret to say with respect to some of them, there is too much reason to anticipate will arise.—It is the duty, the solemn (I was going to add) almost a sacred duty of Congress, to legislate for them, or give them the benefit of law, order and security.

REMAINS OF THE ST. LOUIS FIRE.—On the 12th inst., while the workmen were engaged in removing the rubbish from the cellar of the building, in St Louis, occupied by Messrs. Meech & Loring, previous to the fire in May last, they discovered a mass of paper, some five feet under the surface, which was on fire. As soon as the air penetrated the mass, it blazed up freely, having retained fire since the 17th of May last, a period of nearly eight months.

☞ A mechanic in Russia is said to have succeeded in making a steam man. It is probably one of the best inventions ever offered to the public. It is a colossal statue, the feet are placed upon a railroad, and as he goes thundering over the course, the steam comes puffing out of his nostrils in a manner to give the appearance of Satan as pictured in Revelations.

☞ It is estimated that Cincinnati will show a population of 125,000, and St. Louis one of 70,000 by the census of 1850. But for the ravages of the cholera last summer, each would have been considerably higher. The suburbs of either city, which practically form a part of it, are not included in the foregoing estimates.

☞ An association has been formed at the City of London Mechanes' Institution, to promote the practice of decomposing the dead by the agency of fire. The members propose to burn, with becoming solemnity, such of their dead as shall have left the remains at the disposal of the association.

☞ The Constitution of the Mormon State of Deseret, has been presented to Congress and ordered to be printed.

☞ The new bridge of Norridgewock, just completed, was blown over by the wind on Sunday evening week, leaving the superstructure a perfect wreck upon the ice. There seems to be a fatality about the bridges erected there.

☞ It is not true that Daniel Webster said respecting the presidential bulls, that they were "not fit to be made." That remark was applied to the bull of the whig party in the President's "nomination."

Boston Post.

THE CLAIM OF TEXAS TO NEW MEXICO. Both Mr. Clay and Col. Benton in separate resolutions offered for the consideration of the Senate, recognize the justice of the claim of Texas to a portion of New Mexico by proposing to extinguish it by the payment of money.

MINISTER TO AUSTRIA.—The rumors from Washington are, that Col. Webb's nomination, as Minister Plenipotentiary from this Government to the Court of Austria, will certainly be rejected by the Senate.

DEATH OF A MILLERITE. Died at the Boston Lunatic Hospital, of exhaustion, on the 23d ult., Reuben H. Brown, aged 34, a cabinet maker by trade, and a native of Carlisle, Mass. Mr. Brown was a victim to the Miller delusion, prevalent some time since, which resulted in his insanity, and finally his death.

ANNIHILATION OF SPACE. The news by the Canada, received on the 14th ultimo, was transmitted to and received in New Orleans the same day. The despatch was only about thirty six hours in the transmission from Halifax to New Orleans, a distance of twenty-eight hundred miles.

☞ One who claims that a new half century has commenced, it is said, has so perplexed himself with the question, that he cannot tell six from half a dozen, and the difference between fifty and half a hundred has nearly set him crazy.

☞ The Massachusetts Legislature have passed a bill, legalizing marriages and wills that have taken place or been made on Sunday.

The New York Tribune says that Neil S. Brown, late Governor of Tennessee, has been selected by the President for Minister Plenipotentiary to Russia.

☞ Resolutions in favor of the annexation of Canada, have been introduced into the N. Y. Legislature.