

SCRAPS OF NEWS.

Capital Punishment in England.—In the House of Commons, on the 23d of March Lord John Russell obtained leave to bring in several bills to amend the Criminal Laws. He proposes to abolish the punishment of death for all classes of forgery; for certain offences against the person which are now capital; and for robbery and burglary, under certain circumstances; and he proposes other measures relative to piracy and burning ships. The previous amelioration of the criminal code, he maintains, has not increased the number of offences. He also proposes to make the minimum period of transportation ten years, and at the same time to make such changes in the system of imprisonment at home as shall furnish a punishment secondary to transportation.

In the burning of the Manual Labour School at Furman, South Carolina, a young lady named Goddard, from Georgetown, perished in the flames—which was not known until her mangled corpse was found in the ruins.

A duel was fought at Barbadoes on the 5th of April, between Captain O'Conner, of the British navy, and Mr. Hicks, of Boston. Both were severely wounded.

The Cincinnati Whig of late date says: "We are credibly informed by an eye witness, that a large catfish, weighing ninety-eight pounds, was caught in the Ohio river a few weeks since, about a hundred miles below Louisville, which being opened, was found to contain a negro child of considerable size."

The following list comprises all the States in which members of Congress are yet to be chosen. The election in all these will take place either within or prior to the first of August, with the exception of Maryland, and perhaps Michigan, in the former of which the stated time is October.

- | | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Rhode Island, | Tennessee, |
| Maryland, | Indiana, |
| North Carolina, | Kentucky, |
| Alabama, | Michigan, |
| Mississippi, | |

SPECIE.—A late arrival from Valpariso brought \$200,000 to Philadelphia; and it is said that large sums more are expected from other sources.

There are about 325,000 free persons of color in the United States—of these, are 38,000 in the state of Pennsylvania.

The subscription price of a weekly newspaper about half as large as the Columbia Democrat, printed in Vera Cruz, in Mexico, is \$35 per annum.

The majority for the democratic ticket at the recent election in Rhode Island was more than 2000.

One of the most distinguished medical practitioners used to say, that he considered a fee so necessary to give weight to an opinion, that when he looked at his own tongue in the glass, he slipped a guinea from one pocket into the other.

A Sneezer.—A young lady at a ball was seized with convulsions. Her mamma ran to her assistance. It seems that her waist having been reduced to the minimum of magnitude she was obliged to be unhooked behind, before she could sneeze.

DREADFUL DEATH.—A woman named Mary Whitmore, abandoned to intemperance, threw herself out of the three story window of her residence, in Boston, and was killed almost instantly. Her husband had locked her into the room, while he went in pursuit of a police officer, to see if something could not be done to keep her away from liquor. The husband could have pursued a better course than this. No police officer cured a drunkard. Intemperance is a physical infirmity, and is most successfully combated by physical remedies. The drunkard always feels intoxication at certain hours. The first is on rising. He is then languid, and without appetite for breakfast. Let him then swallow a wine glass full of strong decoction of wormwood. Though bitter, it prevents all nausea and creates an appetite. By this, the drunkard will be saved from the miserable necessity of seeking an appetite from alcohol. When he feels the usual sinking between breakfast and dinner, that distressing sensation which inevitably assails the drunkard, let him drink a glass of cold water, and take some cordial, stimulating food, as gingerbread, or well seasoned soup. Any species of food, even a biscuit, is better than nothing, and will remove the sinking. Let his drink be cold water, and nothing else. At no time and on no account, let him touch alcohol in any shape, whether spirits, wine, beer or cider. This regimen will cure the most obstinate cases, if effectually tried, and persevered in. The whole theory consists in treating intemperance as a physical, instead of a moral infirmity, and of using food instead of alcohol, whenever the longing ensues. The patient should be prepared at all times. He should always have a biscuit or some such thing in his pocket, and also at reach in the night, and should not omit the wormwood before each meal. To prepare this decoction, put some wormwood into a bottle, pour warm water upon it, stop it with a cork, and use from it as occasion requires.

TERRIBLE STEAM BOAT DISASTER. A HUNDRED AND FIFTY LIVES SUPPOSED TO BE LOST!

A shocking steamboat accident occurred on the 9th of May, upon the Mississippi, and it is supposed that about one hundred and fifty lives were lost. The New Orleans Bee of the 11th instant gives the subjoined particulars:

The steamboat Ben Sherrod, Captain Castleman, left New Orleans on Sunday morning for Louisville, and about one o'clock on Tuesday morning, when about 30 miles below Natchez, she was found to be enveloped in flames, and out of near 200 persons on board, only about 50 or 60 were saved. The fire is believed to have originated from the wood used as fuel, being piled up near the boiler. The story of the disaster was related to us by a young man who was a cabin passenger, and it is awfully interesting, and his own escape almost miraculous. When he awoke he put on his clothes, and leaped into the yawl, which was hanging at the stern, and was followed by about forty other men, one of whom cut the rope connecting the stern of the steamer to the bow of the yawl, and the latter canted over and hung in a perpendicular position, the bow towards the water. All on board were precipitated into the water, and are believed to have been drowned, with the exception of the narrator, and he saved himself by clinging to the thwart. In a few minutes about 20 of the crew made their way to the stern of the steamer, and placed themselves in the boat, suspended as she was. One of them imprudently took out his knife and cut the rope which attached the steamer to the stern of the yawl, and she plunged, as might have been expected, full 20 feet under water. All that had been hanging to her were missing, except four and the individual who relates the story; he says when he rose to the surface he found himself under the yawl, and she lying bottom up. Being strong, active and expert at swimming, he worked his way from underneath and mounted on her bottom, where he was soon joined by the four other men who had saved themselves, and in this situation they floated 12 miles down the river, before they were picked up by the Columbus.

Captain Castleman, by vigorous exertions, saved his wife and two children—one of his children and his father were lost. A Mr. Smith also had the luck to save his wife and one child—and we add with pain that one of his children is missing.

There was some powder on board, in what quantity we know not—but the knowledge that it was there seemed to have paralyzed the efforts of the crew and its explosion added to the deep horrors of the scene. We are informed that there were nine ladies on board, only two of whom were rescued.

The survivors of this appalling disaster, unanimously concur in expressions of the warmest gratitude to Captain Jones of the Columbus, for his activity in picking them up, & for his kindness while on board this steamer. The steamboat Alton passed downwards not long after the accident occurred, when many unfortunates were still struggling for life in the water. The survivors are not quite so eloquent in their expressions of gratitude to the commander of the Alton as they are towards Capt. Jones.

BREACH OF PROMISE.

The Springfield Gazette states that an action for a breach of promise of marriage was tried before the Supreme Court in that town a few days since. The plaintiff was Caroline Fuller of Ludlow—and the defendant Orren Sikes, of Maine. It seems that some nine or ten years ago, Mr. Sikes resided in Ludlow, where he became attached to Miss Fuller, and an engagement entered into between them. He soon after went to Bangor to pursue his theological studies, and afterwards became a settled minister in Maine, and married another lady in 1831. The main ground of defence was, that, although a contract was actually made, yet the parties had mutually agreed to dissolve. The jury, after deliberating the whole of Wednesday night, returned a verdict of one hundred dollars, as a compensation for the disappointment of the forlorn damsel.

It seems to have taken the Springfield Jury nearly a proportionate degree of time to agree on the merits of the defendant as it did him to make up his mind on those of the fair plaintiff.

COL. BENTON

The St. Louis Argus, of the 5th inst. contains a letter from Col. BENTON, in reply to a note addressed to him by several democrats of Louisville for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not he "will accept the nomination of any thing else than a National Convention of the Democratic Party," as a candidate for the Presidency in 1840. The Colonel refers them to his letter and toast, to the managers of the Inauguration dinner in New York, on the 4th of March last, which, he says, fully expresses his sentiments in relation to the next presidential election. He adds:

"I am decidedly in favor of the re-election of Mr. VAN BUREN, supposing his administration to give satisfaction to the republican party (of which I have no doubt,) and that without reference to his own inclinations, of which I know nothing, and without regard to my personal feelings in his favour, which can have no influence in a case of this kind, but wholly and entirely for public reasons, and because I believe his re-election will be for the public good."

EXECUTION OF MORAN.

The execution of James Moran, convicted of the murder, upon the high seas, of Captain Thomas S. Smith, of the schooner William Wirt, took place yesterday morning between 11 and 12 o'clock, under the direction of the United States Marshal for the District. The spot selected for the purpose was in the rear of Bush Hill, where Porter was hung a few years since. Although the case had previously excited very little interest, the multitude assembled to witness the ignominious death of a criminal was immense. The great area in which the gallows was placed, was crowded with a dense mass of human beings extending as far as the scaffold could be seen. Vehicles of every kind were brought into requisition, and throngs of horsemen were interspersed throughout the assemblage, which is said to have been nearly twice as large as that drawn together to witness the fate of Porter, and no doubt the greatest congregation of people ever known in the vicinity of Philadelphia. Even the roofs of distant buildings were covered with spectators. It was observed with regret that a large number of females were on the ground, many of them respectable in appearance, and some had even brought young children with them to gaze upon the dying agonies of the culprit!

At a little before 11 o'clock, the melancholy procession left the Cherry Hill Prison. Moran, accompanied by the Rev. Mr. Hughes and the Rev. Mr. Kenrick, who administered the consolation of religion to him, walked firmly in the rear of the wagon, which contained the executioner and the coffin. The U. S. Marines marched in front, with the carriage containing the Marshal and other gentlemen, and the whole was brought up by the mounted marshals and the posse comitatus summoned for the occasion.

On the scaffold, Moran presented the same composed but becoming demeanor for which he had been remarkable from the commencement of the trial. He seemed engrossed with his religious exercises, giving the responses in a firm, distinct voice, and never cast a glance upon the multitude, or seemed conscious of their presence. He ascended the steps steadily, and not the slightest tremor was manifest. The necessary preparations being completed, he bade adieu to those by whom he was surrounded, and in answer to a whispered inquiry, replied in clear, audible tones, "Yes—all ready," when, while he rapidly and fervently repeated a prayer for mercy upon his soul, the fatal trap fell, and he was launched into eternity! The struggles of the unhappy youth were much more violent and protracted than is usual on such occasions, and for some time after he fell, the convulsive heaving of the chest, and motion of the limbs, showed that vitality slowly left the frame. After hanging the usual time, the body was cut down, and conveyed to the place of interment.

If any thing had been wanting to convince us of the good sense of the Legislature, in providing that the sentence of death for crimes against the commonwealth of Pennsylvania should be privately executed, the scenes of yesterday at Bush Hill were enough, and more than enough, to satisfy us of the wisdom of their conduct. From first to last, the behavior of the multitude was of the most tumultuous and disgraceful kind. Long before the prisoner came upon the ground, the police force stationed to preserve a clear space around the gallows, were almost exhausted with their continued efforts to repress tumult and keep back the crowd; while many of the people, by their shouts of derision, yelling and laughter, appeared to view the whole matter as nothing more than food for mirth. After the cortege had arrived, and the unhappy Moran was just trembling on the verge of eternity, the riot and tumult became still worse. The clamor was deafening; and although the Marshal, aided by the military force, the police and the citizens whose services were in requisition, did all that could be done to preserve order, yet the mob seemed determined to bid defiance to any thing like restraint, and by their immense weight almost bore down every thing before them, fighting, quarrelling and shouting in the most outrageous manner. After the body of the culprit was taken down, and the procession was forming to return, a scramble for pieces of the fatal rope ensued, which drew loud hisses and yells from the bystanders; and before the officers were fifty yards from the spot, the gallows and scaffolding were overthrown, probably to furnish relics like the rope.

Nor was disorderly disposition manifested only on the execution ground. The body of Moran, being placed in a coffin, accompanied by officers. On the road, the horse fell, and was disabled; but, as the distance was short, the car was then drawn by men. A part of the mob followed, pelting them with missiles of every kind, and in this way, at the risk of the men's lives, the corpse was conveyed to the grave yard.

The Marines marched back to Cherry Hill guarding the executioner, whose face was craped, and who was otherwise disguised, but who performed his revolting office with perfect propriety and demeanor. A mob, however, pursued, and assailed the Marines with brickbats and stones. One of the soldiers was so much hurt as to be incapable of proceeding, when the commanding officer brought the company to a halt, and ordered his men to load their muskets, which being done, the rioters were significantly given to understand that further outrage would be punished on the spot, and the assault ceased.—Philadelphia paper.

THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.



BLOOMSBURG.

Saturday, June 3, 1837.

We hold the communication of "A REPUBLICAN" under advisement. He will know the cause by having a personal interview with the editor.

THE CONVENTION.

In our notices of the proceedings of this body we have heretofore endeavored to bias our prejudices, and give the most favorable detail of their operations. We done this as an incentive to the promotion of public good; and we can only now regret that all our hopes have melted into disappointment and mortification. The opposition have the ascendancy; and they have bound themselves hand and foot to the car of the great Moneyed Moloch, determined to resist any compromise, and to oppose any amendments, which may add to the liberty and happiness of the people. The hydra-headed Mammoth, who has so frequently usurped other powers than those granted by congress, when a National concern, seems determined on preserving the profitable dignity of those haughty aristocrats and contemptible shavers, who glory in the distress and thralldom of the people—and a majority of the convention are the "conservative" instruments to promote its heartless designs. We can only rejoice in the known fact, that although they have a majority in the convention, they are vastly in the minority amongst the free voters of Pennsylvania. Time will yet effect the requisite alterations; and we feel satisfied that THE PEOPLE will call conventions, (without legislative aid,) until they can get their wishes granted and their ends accomplished. We can hope no longer for any good from that quarter; and with a majority large enough to take all power in our own hands, we are prepared to think, SPEAK, and ACT, in conformity with our sentiments.

Our fields of grain and fruit trees have been much improved by the late refreshing rains; and although we cannot expect very heavy crops, yet they will be reasonably good, judging from present appearances. The weather is extremely favorable at present to all kinds of vegetation.

WAR.—It is currently reported that Mexico has declared War against the United States; and that England has expressed a determination to take a part with them.

PREMIUMS.—Gold commands from 9 to 12 per cent. premium in Philadelphia, and Silver from 5 to 8.—Five franc pieces sell readily for \$1. These are "Benton's Mint Drops;" and so long as they are worth from 10 to 15 cents in the dollar more than "Biddle's Rags," we are happy to know that we advocated a metallic currency. They are always par; and they will remain so, after all Bank notes become obnoxious to the whole community. In real value, a silver dollar is worth more than \$4 in Bank notes.

Bicknell announces in his last Reporter "he will not for the future buy or sell any description of Gold, Silver, or Stocks, because his engagements in the bank note business are sufficient to occupy the whole time at his disposal." He sets down the Pennsylvania Banks at the following rates of discount.—

Chambersburg and Gettysburg	3 pr. ct.
Pittsburg,	3
Towanda,	10 a 15
Erie, & other western Banks	3 1/2 a 4
Honesdale,	3
York Bank,	3
Columbia Bridge,	1 a 1 1/2
Harrisburg,	1 a 1 1/2
Farmers' Bank of Lancaster,	1 a 1 1/2
Other Country Banks,	1 a 1

A breach occurred in the Canal between this place and Berwick on Saturday last, which has since been repaired, and the navigation is again in good order.

About ten days since, a boat containing merchandise for Mr. Hollenback, of Wilkesbarre, was carried over the Nanticoke dam, and sunk. Damage estimated at \$1500. This heavy loss, we understand, falls upon the captain of the boat.

THE NEXT GOVERNOR.

The following communication comes from one whom we could not deny the favour of publication; and while we acknowledge the correct principles of the author, which we'll conport with his signature, we feel induced to express our entire satisfaction in the sterling worth, qualifications and claims of Doct. Reily. He is the industrious, temperate and open-hearted kind of a gentleman whose enemies are "few and far between," and against whom calumny could have no influence. His recent election to Congress from the district composed of the counties of Dauphin and Lebanon, is positive proof of his personal popularity; and from an acquaintance of many years, we apprehend that for estimable private character and unwavering political principles, he would east many in the shade whose names have already been introduced to the public for this dignified station. We are confident that Dr. Reily is not aware of the determination manifested in the subjoined communication; and we cannot say how the introduction of his name may operate upon his feelings; but we are equally certain, that amongst the corps editorial who know him, his claims and qualifications will receive merited and prominent notice. We have no particular predilection; and we only give his name as "one among many" whom we would wish honored by a nomination, at the coming, or some subsequent, Democratic Fourth of March convention.

For the Columbia Democrat.

Mr. Ingram.—I perceive that the public mind is beginning to waken up to the question of who shall be the candidate of the Democratic party for Governor at the next election? I am glad to see attention directed to this subject so early; for in these times of misrule in the State administration, and of necessity, if ever such necessity existed, for union and energy in the ranks of the democratic party, the work ought to be begun in time that it may be made effective when the victory is to be won.—I am glad to see the distinguished men of our party brought before the public and their merits canvassed, so that when we come to nominate one of them for the executive office of this great commonwealth, we may follow the preference of the people, and in this manner unite their whole strength upon him at the polls. With this view I would add Dr. LUTHER REILEY, of Harrisburg, to the list already made up of candidates for nomination to that exalted office. Dr. Reiley is one of the old and well tried democrats of Pennsylvania; a gentleman of engaging and popular manners. He rose from poverty to a high rank in his profession at the seat of Government, by his native energy of character, superior talents and uniform regard for the feelings and interests of the general mass of the people. He pays no respect to grades or classes in society.—He was elected last fall to a seat in the congress which is next to assemble, from a strong Antimasonic district; and being well known and highly respected in the whole interior of the state would command a support there almost general. For intelligence, integrity and popularity he is unexceptionable, and well worthy the consideration of the democratic party in making a selection of its candidate for Governor.

A DEMOCRAT.

SMALL NOTES.—The injustice of prohibiting by law all Banks from issuing notes of denominations less than five dollars, when other corporations are permitted to inflict these rags upon us, only bears analogy with the granting of licenses to keep public houses of entertainment, and at the same time depriving the landlord of a legal remedy in the collection of his accounts. For instance, the new Bank about being put in operation at Williamsport pays a bonus to the state of \$10,000 for its charter; and while the fine prescribed by the act of assembly would be exacted were it to issue small bills, yet an unauthorized corporation can infringe upon the law unheeded and without evident censure from any source. And so it is with landlords. They pay \$10 per annum for the privilege of selling liquor; and yet should they trust a customer, and sue him for the account, they would be mulcted in double costs for their liberality. There is no reason in such injustice.

T. W. Dyon advertises that all bills of his "Manual Labor Bank" UNDER the denomination of ONE DOLLAR, are redeemable in SILVER, when presented in sums not exceeding one dollar. How monstrous clever! What will people do with his notes of a higher denomination? Will they be entitled to a fragment of the \$500,000 mortgage?

Messrs. Hayhurst, Smith, Harris, and Woodward will accept our thanks for their regular transmission of Convention proceedings.