

# "THE PRESIDENCY."

"It is proper for us to remind our readers that we have adopted the policy of abstaining from all discussion in the UNION of the relative claims of the several Democrats whose names are spoken of in connection with a Presidential nomination. We allude to our policy on this subject that the numerous friends who have addressed to us communications advocating the nomination of different gentlemen as candidates for President and Vice President may understand why we have been unable to insert their favors. When the nominations are made we shall be prepared to sustain them with our best exertions. Until that time, the UNION will adhere to its past course of strict neutrality as to men, looking alone to the maintenance of the great Democratic principles on which the next battle is to be fought."

## REASONS OF THE EXECUTIVE FOR WISHING TO RETAIN THE "UNION" AS ITS ORGAN.

Because of its promised "strict neutrality" in relation to the nomination to be made at Cincinnati;

Because one of its editors selected Reeder for Governor of Kansas;

Because the Union endorsed, to the letter, the entire political course of Governor Reeder, while Governor, which endorsement stands unretreated;

Because the Union declared, officially, that he who opposed the Nebraska bill was as good a Democrat as he who supported it;

Because the Union endorsed the Albany Atlas, which did all that treason could do to break down the party;

Because the Union endorsed other papers which opposed the Kansas bill, and abused most fully all leading National Democrats;

Because the Union, having once deliberately sold the right to commit treason against the Democratic party whenever occasion requires it, it can have no scruples again "officially" to do so;

Because the interpretation by the Union of "strict neutrality" is to neutralize all evidence of popular preference for any candidate save the Executive;

Because the friends of Mr. Buchanan see in its columns covert hostility!

Because the friends of Judge Douglas see the same hostility!

Because the friends of Hunter see that "neutrality" means a preference for only one of all the candidates;

Because the friends of Bright, of Butler, of Rusk, and others, all perceive the same thing.

For these, and for many similar reasons, the Executive has a right to desire it for its organ.

For these same reasons, and a plentiful lack of incapacity, the Democratic party generally seem very careful to withhold any endorsement.

How sharply the Union reproves itself, while advocating now the unquestionable justice and propriety of the principles in the Kansas bill. It is now high time to question them. Yet this same Union gave official permission to all who desired it, to oppose, to denounce and to defeat this bill, now pronounced by the Union to be the very paragon of political excellence.

## FATAL DISASTER.

The telegraph and newspapers bring to us accounts of a serious disaster and frightful loss of life.

It appears that about half-past nine o'clock on Saturday night, the ferry-boat New Jersey, of the Philadelphia and Camden Ferry Company, in crossing the Delaware to Camden, took fire in the middle of the stream, and after great difficulty, in consequence of floating ice, was run upon a bar opposite Arch street. There were about one hundred passengers on board, many of whom jumped into the river and were rescued by boats after clinging to floating ice. It is feared that a great number were drowned and burnt. The boat was burnt to the water's edge. Steamers immediately went to the assistance of the ferry-boat, but the passengers in the water had been previously saved by means of small boats.

Nothing is yet definitely known as to the number who perished. Three bodies only have been recovered, viz: those of John Little, Abraham Jannie, and Francis Fitzpatrick. Among the missing are Sallie Carman, Edward Meschamp, formerly conductor on the Amboy Road, an infant daughter of Samuel Giverson, John Fiddell, Matthew Miller, jr., broker, Mr. Howard, clerk, Mrs. Shade and child, and a large number of colored persons. The origin of the fire is unknown. It burst out suddenly from the fire-room, and instantly spread to the wood-work. The pilot-house fell in as the boat was nearing the wharf, rendering her unmanageable, and from a disarrangement of the tiller-chains her head sheered off from the wharf. The engine could not be stopped because the engineer had been driven from his post by the flames, and the boat carried the few passengers remaining on board away from the land. The number of the dead and missing is about thirty. Many leaped into the water with their clothes on fire. The lost belonged principally to Camden. Some few were of Philadelphia, but none of them strangers.

The Democrats of Maryland are to hold a State Convention in Baltimore on the 30th of April, for the purpose of nominating an electoral ticket for President and Vice President.

Judge J. R. Lancaster has been elected mayor of Tampa, Fla.

## ENGLISH OPPRESSION AND SOUTHERN SLAVERY.

More tongue philanthropy is an easy virtue. It costs nothing, while it claims for itself great rewards. All the philanthropists in the world, of this cheap school have formed an offensive alliance against the slave owners of the Southern States. Traitors at home have united with canting hypocrites abroad, and nothing short of universal abolition will content them. England, forgetting her great army of starving paupers, and oppressed laborers, who if they be males are driven to murders and larcenies, if females to shame and degradation, has for years past zealously assisted American fanatics and slave stealers in organizing a plan for robbing rightful owners of slaves of their property. Every effort that human ingenuity could devise has been made to excite discontents and insurrections among the slaves. Books and pictures portraying the cruelties of the masters, and the sufferings of the slaves have been industriously scattered over the country. The children of the North are taught from their earliest infancy to regard their Southern brethren as brutal masters, who delight in the tortures and groans of the unhappy blacks.

We have often had to speak of this injustice committed against the Southern people, and so often had occasion to contrast the happy condition of the Southern slaves with the degraded condition of the free negroes of the North, and the suffering and oppressed laborers of Europe, that we do not deem it necessary to repeat here the facts and illustrations, which from time to time, we have presented to our readers.

Our object, at present, is simply to call the attention of our readers to a startling manifestation of English colonial policy, and barbarous cruelty which has but recently received the most authentic development. The colonial history of England is marked by the most revolting forms of oppression, rapine, and cruelty. Her officials have been infamous for their barbarities, her tax gatherers for their impositions and frauds. But it remained for the present times, when she is wasting her sympathies on our southern slaves, to bring to light a system of pains, penalties, and tortures pursued by her in her India possessions, which have their parallel nowhere but in the dark dungeons of the old Spanish inquisition.

It was charged in the English Parliament in 1854, that tortures of the most revolting kind were practised by the British officials in the Madras Presidency, in the collection of the revenues, and that the unhappy natives had no means of redress. The charge was disdainfully denied, and an investigation challenged by the President of the Board of Control. A commission was appointed, which in a short time collected proofs the most conclusive and damning of the truth of the charge.

The land revenue is the principal source of income to the East India Company; and out of £26,000,000 of all kinds of taxes, £15,000,000 are derived from this source. To collect this, the government acted as landlords to the whole territory, "placing a money rent upon every field within the vast dominions." This system introduced the agency of the State "to an extent that had no parallel in the history of the world." Districts of 7,000 square miles, and in some instances of 13,000 square miles, were placed under a single collector, with a few English assistants, who "made tours through the districts, ascertaining, or attempting to ascertain, how much land each individual cultivator intended to bring into cultivation, and watching and checking the produce of the soil under every variety of season, and of climate." Such a thing as private property in land was unknown. The rate of assessment was so high as to drive the people from their homes, and to leave them waste. One third of the best land was thus laid waste. In South Arcot only one-fifth was cultivated. If the tenants attempted any improvement, such as sowing seeds, planting orchards, &c., the assessment was increased. The Madras district, on the line of the railroad, was a desert. Not one-tenth of the ancient water-works were kept in repair. "The native population of India," said Mr. Blackett, in the House of Commons, "had been reduced to almost a state of beggary under this state of things," and he called upon the House to consider the immense power which could be exercised by a Collector and his assistants upon a population of 80,000 or 100,000—a vast proportion of whom were trembling upon the verge which separated destitution from absolute starvation. The holder of land had to pay two-thirds of the gross produce to government. If the people would not take land under such circumstances they were compelled to do so. There was no farmer in England that did not care more for his stock than the East India Company did for these human beings intrusted to their charge.

The various modes of torture resorted to are thus described in the Edinburgh Review:

The tortures which the Commissioners find to have been employed are of various kinds and of different degrees of severity. Some of them are so slight as to amount to little more than a menace. Some are so severe as to cause not only extreme present pain, but permanent injury, mutilation, and even, not unfrequently, death. Some of them exhibit an amount of diabolical ingenuity on the part of the torturer, and a degree of moral abasement and degradation in the victim, of which our western minds can hardly form a conception; some, in fine, are so loathsome and indecent, and at the same time so humiliating, that although they are set down nakedly in the Report, we must abstain from any specific allusion to their nature.

The two most common forms of torture appear to be the Kitee (in Telugu called Chetarra), and the Anundali, which in the same language is called Gengeri.

The Kitee corresponds to the wooden screw of the European torture. It is a thick instrument somewhat like a lemon-squeezer, between the plates of which the hands, the thighs, (in women also the breasts), the ears, and other more sensitive parts of the body are squeezed to the last point of endurance, often to fainting, and even to permanent disablement. In many places the torture has been superseded by the more simple plan of violently compressing the hands under a flat board, on which a heavy pressure is laid, sometimes even by the person standing upon it; or of compelling the sufferer to interlace his fingers, and delivering him over to the iron grip of the peons (or police-men), who sometimes rub their hands with sand, in order to give them a firmer grip. In other cases the fingers are bent back till the pain becomes unendurable.

The Anundali is a more purely eastern torture. It consists in tying the victim in a stooping or otherwise painful and unnatural position, generally with the head forcibly bent

down to the feet, by a rope or cloth passed round the neck and under the toes. The torture, however, is varied at the caprice of the executioner. Sometimes the poor wretch is made to stand on one leg, the other being forcibly tied to his neck. Sometimes the arms and legs are curiously interlaced, and the frame, thus violently distorted, is kept bound up for hours, in a condition little short of dislocation. Sometimes a heavy stone is laid upon the back, while thus bent; and it often happens that the peons amuse themselves by sitting astride upon the unhappy sufferer who is undergoing an ordeal. More than one of the witnesses deposed to the infliction of this torture under the forced India sun upon a number of delinquents piled together in rows for two, three, four, and even six hours; and this in the immediate vicinity of the canteen, or revenue office, and in the presence of the tahsildar, or native collector, and of the assembled villagers. Occasionally a man is held aloft from the ground by the ears, by the hair, and even by the mustache; and the latter torture, in some instances, is applied so savagely as to tear away the mustache by the roots. Sometimes a sort of bastinado is inflicted, sometimes violent blows on the shin, the ankles, the elbows, or other highly sensitive points. Prolonged exposure in the water-tanks, or the river; forcible compression of the arms, the thighs, and even the body, by tying a coil of cord round them, and then applying cold water so as to cause it to contract and sink into the flesh; burning it with hot iron; hanging heavy stones round the neck; the stocks; tying two or more individuals together by the hair, so that every movement is attended with pain; placing a necktie of bones or other disgusting or degrading materials round the neck; these are a few of the minor inflictions devised by these masters of the oriental school of torture. If we add to these a few practices like those used at home by amateurs of the turf or the ring, for the purpose of "reducing flesh," such as starvation, prolonged deprivation of sleep, compulsory driving up and down a broiling sun; forcing the unhappy wretches to run long distances, their hands being tied to the axle of a barney, or country carriage—we think the catalogue of torture will be admitted to be tolerably complete.

Will it be credited, for example, that it is not uncommon to apply to the most sensitive parts of the body (tied in a cloth, or a coconut shell, or other similar receptacle) a biting insect or reptile, such as the poolah, or carpenter beetle, and to leave it to gnaw the flesh of the miserable sufferer? That by a further refinement of cruelty, meant to combine both pain and humiliation, the defaulters are sometimes tied by the hair to the tail of a donkey or buffalo? That they are occasionally hung up with the head downwards? And that it is an ordinary practice to put pepper or powdered chillies into the eyes or the nostrils, and to apply these and similar irritating drugs in other ways too revolting to be even hinted at?

We claim that the cruelties imputed to the slave owners in our Southern States are base calumnies, gotten up by fanatics, hypocrites, and enemies. We deny that any system of cruelty, either social or legal, is exercised towards slaves. Of course we do not deny that there are such monsters as bad masters—any more than we deny that there are such monsters as bad husbands, bad fathers, and bad neighbors.

But the English people cannot deny the truth of the above frightful disclosures. They have not been made either by enemies at home or abroad. They have been brought to light by a most respectable English commission, appointed by the English Government.

England has long seen the mote in her eye, but altogether ignorant of the beam in her own eye. She has officiously meddled with fancied oppressions in this country, while she has neglected to reform abuses in her own. She has shed crocodile tears over the imagined miseries of southern slaves, while she has been insensible to the real miseries of the great bulk of her home population, and the untold cruelties practiced by her officials, and under the authority of her laws in her numerous colonial appendages.

It is humiliating to think, that in this enlightened age, that Government, which arrogantly claims to be the best and the freest on earth, should be convicted before the world of crimes that would disgrace a felon, and cruelties that would disgrace a savage.

## HIAWATHA—MISS DARLING.

Miss Clara Darling entertained, on Friday and Saturday evenings, at Odd Fellows' Hall, the lovers of poetry, with recitations from Longfellow's romantic legendary poem of "Hiawatha." She appeared in the costume of an Indian girl, while on the platform were appropriate forest scenery, an Indian wigwam, and other illustrative decorations. She read in a clear, sweet tone, loud enough to be heard by every one, and infused into her subject an energy and pathos not always characteristic of ladies who are engaged in that profession. The bold imagery and descriptive passages were admirably rendered, and thus an interest was imparted to the "epic" which might not be derived from a mere quiet perusal at home.

## THE KENTUCKY GAILLARD.

Mrs. Harriet C. Lindsey, editress of the Kentucky Gaillard, is now in Washington, with a view of extending the circulation of that periodical. She is the widow of an Odd Fellow and Mason, and takes this means to support herself and children. The magazine is ably conducted, and worthy of support.

## Expensive Luxuries.

It is a great comfort to the British people to possess a Royal Family, and they take exceeding satisfaction in maintaining in voluptuous laziness all the members thereof. We should think that John Bull would get tired of the expense. Not to speak of the millions which are paid to the Queen, the following annuities do sound to Yankee ears very burdensome. They were paid in the last fiscal year:

To Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester \$80,000; the Trustees of his Royal Highness Leopold George, King of the Belgians \$250,000; Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge \$30,000; His Royal Highness Prince Albert, 150,000; the Duchess of Kent, 150,000; Her Royal Highness the Princess Augusta of Mecklenburg Strelitz, 15,000; His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, 60,000; Her Royal Highness the Princess of Cambridge, 15,000; His serene Highness the Prince of Mecklenburg Strelitz, \$341,322. The Archbishop and Bishops of England are beloved by Bull next to the blood royal. But that they are awfully expensive, as the following list of annual salaries, returned to Parliament, will show: To the Archbishop of Canterbury, \$185,000; Archbishop of York, 50,000; Bishop of Durham, \$5,000; Bishop of London, \$70,000; Bishop of Winchester, 70,000; Bishop of Ely, 60,000; nine others on an average, 25,000; the rest on an average, 15,000.

RACHEL REACHED HOME.—The Paris correspondent of the New York Express mentions the arrival of the great tragedienne in Paris.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 20, 1856.

HON. EDWARD EVERETT: Understanding that it is your intention to repeat at Baltimore and Richmond the address to be delivered by you in Boston, on the anniversary of Washington's birth day, the residents of this District hope that it may be agreeable to you to gratify them by a repetition of it here, at such time as may suit your convenience.

The desire has been generally expressed to hear you upon a topic of so much national interest, that the undersigned make the request, in the full belief that they speak the wishes of the entire community:

James Guthrie, W. L. Marcy, L. Cass, Walter Jones, W. S. Foster, John C. Dobbin, J. A. Thomas, W. Hunter, Peter Force, Elisha Whittelsey, Geo. W. Riggs, E. Kingman, Thomas Miller, Joseph Henry, Sydney Webster, W. B. Randolph, J. C. McGuire, W. R. Francis, Francis Markoe, William Aiken, Richard Smith, James Bishop, Thomas Curberly, George Parker, James L. Orr, J. D. Clawson, Geo. R. Robbins, Thos. J. Rusk, A. C. Pennington, R. M. T. Hunter, J. C. Crittenden, James M. Wayne, Lewis D. Campbell, A. P. Butler, S. G. Haven, J. D. Hoover, N. P. Banks, jr., George J. Abbot, R. S. Chew, James G. Berrett, W. W. Corcoran, Frank Taylor, Albert Smith, Jos. G. Totten, W. L. Dodge, J. J. Abern, R. P. Chilton, W. Everett Jellison, J. Gideon, M. D. Conway, Archibald Campbell, M. D. Johnson, Chas. W. Welsh, Alexander Dimitry, W. J. McCluney, M. F. Maury, Jos. Smith, H. L. Abbot, St. Richards, A. C. Humphreys, Chas. St. J. Chubb, Thomas C. Connolly, W. D. Wallace, Samuel P. Williams, A. H. Lawrence.

WASHINGTON, March 14, 1856.

GENTLEMEN: Your favor of the 20th of February, having been forwarded to me from Boston, was not received till some time after its date. I feel greatly honored by the wish expressed by you, that I would repeat in this city the address delivered by me in Boston, on the 22d of February, on the character of Washington. On my return from Richmond, it will give me great pleasure to comply with your request. It is not at present in my power to fix the day, but it will probably be in the last week of March.

The address is to be delivered in Richmond and elsewhere, in aid of the fund for the purchase of Maryland, on the condition that he be deemed proper by you to have tickets of admission sold, it would gratify me to have the proceeds applied in that way.

I remain, gentlemen, with the highest consideration, faithfully, yours, EDWARD EVERETT.

Hon. W. L. MARCY, and others.

We are requested to state that there will be a meeting of gentlemen interested in the object of the foregoing correspondence at the Smithsonian Institution this evening, at 5 o'clock.

## GATHERINGS.

FROM OUR EXCHANGES.

The total number of convicts in the Maryland Penitentiary at the present time is 435, of which number 36 are females.

The best way to treat slanders is to let it alone, and say nothing about it.

Dr. Marshall Baylies, the phenologist, well known throughout Virginia, who recently came to Kansas, has come into possession of \$30,000, by gaining a suit in the court of appeals.

The British ship Morning Light cleared at Mobile, on Thursday last, for Liverpool, with 5,869 bales of cotton. The Tribune says this is the largest cargo ever cleared from the port of Mobile.

The population of Pittsburg, and the seven or eight boroughs which surround it, is set down at the present time at 122,620, being an increase of 55 per cent. in less than six years.

Speaking of vessels, do you know how schooners get their name? 'Twas in this way: Somewhere in Essex Co., Mass., at an early period, at the launch of a craft of 70 tons, a chap cried out, "see her soon." "Then let her be called schooner," said the owner. Thus the name, schooner.

Persons should bear in mind that no letter can hereafter pass through the mail unless prepaid by a stamp. The postmaster is not authorized to receive money in payment of postage.

New tomatoes have been received in New York from Savannah, and are selling at \$1.50 per box. String beans have also been received, and are selling at fifty cents a peck.

J. B. Kertland and others, have been convicted of illegal banking at Memphis Tenn. The fine is \$1,000, and one month's imprisonment.

The Allgemeine Zeitung of February 17th, states that William Makepeace Thackeray has realized by his writings and lectures five hundred thousand dollars.

The citizens of St. Louis are adopting energetic measures to secure the establishment of an overland mail-route from that city to California.

The Eastern Argus tells about one of its subscribers calling for the office, wearing a hat which he had worn for the last forty years. Of course he did not wear it every day, but kept it for Sunday use, and wore it occasionally on holidays. It was still a good hat, and looked as though it would last forty years more. The owner said that the changes of style made it a fashionable hat every five or six years.

The building of the custom house at Petersburg, Va., has been contracted for by Mr. McCullom, of Washington, D. C., at \$40,000. The Hillsboro' (N. C.) Recorder understands that Archbishop Hughes, of New York, has been selected by the senior class in the North Carolina University to preach the valedictory sermon at the approaching commencement.

In the reign of Henry I, about the year 113, a sheep could be bought for four-pence, and wheat enough for feeding one hundred men a whole day cost but a single shilling.

On Thursday morning, as Mr. John Lewis, a milkman, residing in Hoboken, New York, was loading his milk cans into his wagon, he heard the cry of an infant issue from one of them, and upon examination, found a boy about six weeks old in the can.

The Company which insured the Telegraph Cable which was to have been laid between Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, and which was cut off and abandoned by those on board the vessel which was laying it out, in order to save the vessel, refuse to pay therefor, saying "there was no loss, the cable being at the bottom of the sea, just where you wish to put it!"

The Panama Railroad Depot was, at last accounts, almost filled with goods brought out by the last American and European steamers, waiting shipment for the South and California. The last trip of the Royal mail steamer brought the largest freight train ever sent from England over the Isthmus for South America, amounting to nearly 800 packages.

Long continued snows are considered bad conservators of morality, as during the month of May the police of New York disposed of 1,152 criminal cases.

A woman, while drawing water from a well at Burlington, Illinois, fell head foremost to the bottom, a distance of 30 feet. She managed to get herself "right side up," and was extricated with very little injury.

Some oystermen were recently massacred in Charlott harbor, Florida, by Indians. The military are out, but have yet effected nothing.

The following advertisement appears in a Paris journal: "The parents of a young lady, aged 21, handsome and well educated, and possessing 4,300 francs per annum, but affected by St. Vitus's dance, offer to unite her to a doctor from 40 to 45 years old, who will pay her incessant attention."

The St. Louis Republican says that the re were ninety steamers at the landing in that city on Thursday of last week thirty of which arrived the day before, bringing 20,000 tons of merchandise.

The Kentucky legislature, which adjourned sine die on Monday week, passed a law making all the cities and towns of the State responsible to the owners of property destroyed by mobs.

The U. S. Ships Cyane, Saratoga, and the store-ship Fulton were at Pensacola last week. The Saratoga had been ashore on the Bahamas. She will have to be docked.

New tomatoes have been received in New York from Savannah, and are selling at \$1.50 per box. String beans have also been received, and are selling at fifty cents a peck.

It is a violation of law to enclose to different addresses two or more letters in one envelope, though more than one letter may be sent in one envelope to the same address.

The Senate has passed the bill authorizing the city of Wheeling to sell the stock of said city in the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

The last invention is a plan for cooking without fire, described in the Scientific American. The invention is a combination of tin cooking dishes placed one above another, the bottom of one vessel fitting on the top part of the dish below. In the lower dish of all a small quantity of quicklime is placed, and then, by means of a tube, cold water is introduced upon the lime. Chemical action generates intense heat whereby the articles on the dishes are quickly cooked, ready for the table.

The "Tenth Legion," a sound Democratic paper published at Woodstock, Va., is strongly in favor of Mr. Buchanan for the Presidency, and is of the opinion that, in the event of his nomination, he will "assuredly receive the electoral votes of New York, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Maine, Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, Missouri, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, and probably North Carolina, Tennessee and New Jersey." The editor says further, that he "cannot count the same number of States for any other candidate" named in connection with the nomination.

It is stated that the finance committee of the United States Senate have matured a project designed to lead to the gradual abandonment and ultimate rejection of the small Spanish silver coins as part of the circulating medium, and that it will forthwith be submitted to legislative action. The result of the experiments to ascertain the value of the Spanish sixteenth, eighth and quarter of a dollar, is reported to the committee as indicating the first to be worth a fraction over five cents, the second about eleven, and the quarter about twenty-three and twenty-four cents. The bill they have framed is believed to provide that the existing laws authorizing the circulation and establishing a value of all foreign coins, except the Spanish fractional divisions of the dollar, be at once repealed. As to these fractions, they allow them to be circulated for two years at the value of 5, 10 and 20 cents respectively, and thereafter they are to be excluded altogether from circulation. But at the mint they will at all times be received as bullion, and paid for by weight.

100,000 COPIES SOLD!—Lloyd's GREAT STEAM-BOAT WORK will be ready on or about the 24th of October.

First Application of Steam. Life of John Fitch—Engraving of his first Boat. Life of Robert Fulton—Engraving of his first American Boat on the Hudson River. Robert Fulton and Livingston's first Ohio River Boat—Correct Illustrations—Full Particulars. Lettre de Fitch to Livingston. First Steamboat on the Western Waters; from an Eye-Witness. Maps of the Western Waters; Towns, Cities and Distances laid down correctly. List of Steamboat Explosions since 1812; Names of Killed and Wounded; List of Steamboats—Steamboat Accidents. Correct Views of Pittsburg, Wheeling, Cincinnati, Louisville, St. Louis, and New Orleans, in 1855; Sketch of each place; Population, Bustle, &c., &c. Fast Time of Boats on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. List of Steamboat Officers on the Western Waters. The New Steamboat Law—With Comments. Life Boats. Disasters on the Lakes; Names of Lost, Killed, and Wounded. The High Water in 1810, 1852, 1847. List of Plantations on the Mississippi River. Important United States Supreme Court Steamboat Decisions. Three hundred pages, with one hundred engravings, handsomely bound. By remitting One Dollar (post paid) you will receive a copy of the above work.

Orders from the trade solicited, and agents wanted in every town and city to canvass for the work. Address: JAS. T. LLOYD & Co., New York. Post Office Building, Cincinnati, O.

CAUTION.—Just received a large assortment of Patent Fire Arms, from Steinhilber, in small and large lots.

Jan 22-57

C. GAUTHIER

## New Method of Lowering and Disengaging Boats from Ships.

On Monday a new method of lowering ships' boats was successfully tried on board of Messrs. James Baines & Co's ship, the Commodore Perry, at present lying in the Mersey, bound for Sidney. This method, the invention of Mr. Clifford, may be thus described:

The unlashing, lowering, and disengaging are done by one man only in the boat, whose single weight irrespective of any additional assistance whatever, is made to hold in equilibrium the weight or descending momentum of the boat with its entire crew, which he has thus the power to check or control at will. Each separate operation is the natural consequence of one act, slackening of a rope, and they are also necessary sequents, one of the other. The means of reducing the weight of the boat to that of the man lowering, is made the means for preventing the boat canting in its descent, and the passage of the ropes by which the boat descends, through a block of an anti-friction character and action, accomplishes this end. The entire process is as follows: One man in the boat unlatches a rope from a cleat (on the boat's seat), over which he slackens it off. The boat descends levelly, both laterally and longitudinally, frees itself from the grips, by which it was firmly lashed to the ship's side (if there is not time to unlatch the ropes), and letting go the ropes disengages the boat from the ship. The lowering may be effected as well from one or two davits, or from a yard or spar, and with any degree of velocity, which can be checked at any part of its descent, and with the vessels going at any speed. A hollow rotary plug fixed at the bottom of the boat allows the free ingress or egress of water, which acts as a water stop; the plug is consequently never out of its place.

The experiments were repeated three times in succession, to the entire satisfaction of numerous critical spectators, including Admiral Fremantle, Captain Schomburgk, R. N., Captain Newlands, Mr. T. M. Mackay, Mr. James Baines, and other nautical and commercial gentlemen.—European Times, Feb. 16.

From the Southern Christian Advocate.

## Life in the Island of Cuba.

Mr. Editor: I extended my visit from Florida, Cuba, further South, to Ponce, and several other large sugar estates, receiving the continued kind hospitality of the planters. My visit to the interior of the Island has been altogether very interesting and agreeable. Their houses, tables, carriages, and servants, are at your command, and if you don't have a good time, it is your own fault. Here, a lover of the beautiful in nature, can be gratified to his heart's content. I found it delightful to take early morning strolls through the large gardens, plucking the ripe fruit from the trees. The sweet orange is my favorite. The lemon does not flourish so well. At Alva, I counted forty varieties of fruit.

I went to several dinner parties—the hour for dining is from 5 to 8 o'clock. Their cooking is too rich for me, and they mix garlic and onions, and onions and garlic, in nearly every dish. It looked out of season in mid winter, to see spread before you, green peas, corn, potatoes, &c., at the dinner table. I could not find out how the summer vegetables of our climate. After you have had a good dinner of beef, turkey, sweetmeats, jellies, and fruits, (in the meantime having your plate changed a dozen times,) the cloth is removed, and you wind up on coffee, cigars, &c. The ladies do not leave the table, but occasionally enjoy a cigarito. They regard me as a sort of outside boarder, and I could not join in drinking and smoking. Wine is never used here, but they seldom drink to intoxication.

In this hot climate, the negroes live mainly on fruit and vegetables. They are allowed salted fish and beef, but no bacon. Rice is cultivated on the uplands, and grows in the wet season. It seldom rains here in the winter, but in summer it comes down in torrents, making the roads in this limited country almost impassable. Miss Bremer says: "No one need fear the night here; it is not cold; it has no dew." If she had taken some early rides with me, she would certainly have seen the morning dew drops on the beautiful flowers. In the dry season, vegetation is kept alive and green by the refreshing dew. I did not like to see the amelioration that is going on here. It is lawful for a Cuban to have a wife and mongrel children. But if a white man will go to Africa for a wife, I see no reason why his children should not be his heirs. This is the Spanish view of the question, and the law was made to correspond, and I commend me to it. There is a marked difference among the Creoles for the Southerners; they know we are sound on the Nebraska question. I find quite a number of planters from the United States residing here, and they nearly all hail from the free States. It is said they make the hardest masters, but that I have no evidence. I know Mr. F.'s servants were very much distressed when he sold out, for the purpose of returning to Boston. The Queen's mother owned the largest sugar estate on the Island, but became involved, and sold it to a very enterprising Spaniard. This gentleman was ambitious to make large crops, and promised his overseer fifty thousand dollars when he made five thousand bushels of sugar, and last year he made five thousand five hundred bushels. It is said the negroes were worked so hard that three hundred died; but this calamity was charged to cholera, and I doubt not that fatal disease was the main cause of the mortality.

But apart from the religious views of the question, the political importance of Cuba to the United States cannot be easily overestimated. It commands the Gulf of Mexico, and is almost within cannon shot of the Florida coast. England and France are watching, with a jealous eye, every movement. Their war ships are to be seen in all the ports. They profess to be on the look out for African slaves; at the same time they are aiding in the introduction of slavery of the worst kind. When the Spanish officials first