STEAM—A MIRACLE.

Sir Ralph woodford told us that when his steamer was first started, (in Trinidad,) he and a large party, as a mode of patronizing the undertaking, took a trip of pleasure in her, through some of the Bocas of the main ocean. Almost every one got sick outside, and as they returned through the Boca Grande, there was no one on deck but the man at the helm and Himself. When they were in the middle of the passage, a small privateer, such as commonly infested the gulf during the troubles in Columbia, was seen making all sail for the shore of Trinidad. Her course seemed unaccountable; but what was their surprise when they observed that, on nearing the coast the privateer never tacked, and finally, that she ran herself directly on shore, the crew at the same time leaping out over the bows and sides of the vessel, and scampering off as if they were mad, some up the mountains, and others into the thickets. This was so strange a sight, that Sir Ralph Woodford ordered the helmsman to steer for the privateer, that he might discover the cause of it. When they came close, the vessel apppeared deserted. Sir Ralph went on board of her, and after searching various parts without finding any one, he at length opened a little cabin, and saw a man lying on a mat evidently with broken limb. The man made an effort to put himself in a posture of supplication; he was pale as ashes, his teeth chattered, and his hair stood on end.

"Misericordia! misericordia! Ave Maria!" faltered forth the Columbian. Sir Ralph asked the man what was the cause of the strange conduct of the crew;

"Misericordia!" was the only reply.

"*Sabez queen ting?*"

Do you know who I am?

"*El—el—O Senor! misericordia. Ave Maria.*" answered the smuggler.

It was a considerable time before the fellow could be brought back to his senses; when he gave his account of the matter—that they saw a vessel, apparently following them, with only two persons on board, and steering without a single sail, directly in the teeth of the wind, current and tide:

Against the breeze, against the tide,
She steadied on with upright keel.

That they knew no ship could move in such a course by human means; and they heard a deep roaring noise, and saw an agitation of the water, which their fear magnified; finally, that they concluded it to be a supernatural appearance, accordingly drove their vessel ashore in an agony of terror and escaped as they could; that he himself was not able to move, and that when he heard Sir Ralph's footsteps, he verily and indeed believed that he was fallen into the hands of the Evil Spirits.—*Georgetown West Indies.*

JAPANESE PRESENTS.—We understand that sundry packages of the presents sent to the President by the Emperor of Japan, in return for those forwarded from hence by the hands of Commodore Perry, have reached Washington, with them being sundry packages of presents for officers of the expedition, which, under the law, must be deposited, at least temporarily, in the State Department. That is, until Congress may give them leave to accept them.

The contents of the packages are said to be silks, swords, writing tablets, delicate and fragile ornaments, vases, bowls of glass and other materials, umbrellas, mats, bells, jars, cabinets, flower boxes, fauces, Japan matting, stone from Japan, stone from Loo Choo, agricultural implements, Japan shine (marked from Sinda) hermetically sealed, samples of sugar cane, seven dogs, two birds, seed wheat from the Cape of Good Hope, &c.

We hear that the dogs are of a breed which none but the aristocracy of the empire keep, as they are very costly. In the time of Charles II, a similar imperial present of dogs was sent to Rome by the Emperor of Japan, from which the celebrated European breed of King Charles spaniels sprang. Those sent to the President by Commodore Perry are much like the King Charles breed of the present day, though considerably larger.—*Washington Star.*

AN AMERICAN HOTEL IN PARIS.—A new hotel, to be conducted on the American plan, is being built in Paris, which surpasses anything in this country or in Europe. It is 450 feet in length, and 150 in depth, covering 29,700 square feet. The St. Nicholas, of this city, covers about 16,200 square feet. The galleries of the Paris hotel are composed of 52 arcades, and are faced with shops, occupying about 1,200 feet of the ground plan, with a second story to the same extent, and an entresol or little story between the shop and second story. The upper stories are occupied by the hotel; and have 130 windows. Three iron balconies extend 1,200 feet around the edifice. The principal entrance of the hotel occupies four arcades, two of them for coaches; these lead to the central court, 90 feet long and 80 broad. The principal interior gallery is 332 feet long by about 20 broad. The eating hall is 152 feet long and 57 feet broad, and will hold 350 persons. There are large private suites of apartments with private entrances. Six hundred persons can be accommodated. The fifth story contains 160 chambers for the servants. The hour of the day will be sounded electrically by all the clocks, and telegraphic communications [illegible] This magnificent establishment is being erected for D D Howard, formerly of the Irving House, New York. Mr Sanderson, recently of the Brevoot, will have the principal management of it.

CAUSE AND EFFECT.—A correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger attributes the immense amount of distress existing in New York to the great increase of banks and paper money. He says:

"Within the last four years the number of banks in the city of New York has doubled. They now have fifty-six! It is surprising, in view of such a state of things, that there should be the most extravagant luxury prevailing amongst the few and the greatest distress among the many! This increase of paper money has furnished the favored few with the means of riotous living, and has so raised the prices of the necessaries of life that the misery of the working classes is extreme.

"In Philadelphia the banking capital is less than it was eighteen years ago, and yet Philadelphia is twice as large as it then was, and incalculably more wealthy. The distresses of the poor here are great, no doubt, but they are not to be compared with what the New York poor are suffering. Here we have had no meetings of persons out of employment in this city, demanding work and threatening to plunder the rich if it is not given to them. Such things have occurred lately in our bank-ridden sister city."

North Carolina Whig.

NORTH-CAROLINA.

CHARLOTTE:

Tuesday, February 6, 1855.

☞The indisposition of the Junior Editor is the apology for lack of editorial this week.

☞The Bill to charter the Wilmington and Charlotte Rail Road, passed its second reading in the Senate on the 31st ult., by a vote of 33 to 13. This vote almost insures its final passage.

Post Office Changed.

Harrisburg Post Office in Mecklenburg County, has been changed to Harris's Station, on the line of the N. C. Rail Road.

Naturalization Laws.

We have before us the speech of the Hon. W. R. Smith, of Ala. on the amendment of the Naturalization Laws. Believing this to be one of the best speeches delivered on the subject, we shall take the earliest opportunity of giving it to our readers.

Davidson College.

We omitted to mention last week, that the Trustees of Davidson College, who held a meeting in this place on the 24th ult., had elected the Rev. Drury Lacey, of Raleigh, to the Presidency, and Col. John A. Leland, of Charleston, as one of the Professors of the above Institution. In speaking of this selection the South Carolina remarks:

We understand that at a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees of Davidson College, North Carolina, this gentleman was elected to one of the professorships. Maj. Leland's competency for the position is beyond question, and we feel every confidence that the wisdom of the Trustees in selecting him will be freely vindicated.

Revenue Bill.

This Bill passed its first reading in the House of Commons on the 29th ult. In noticing its passage the Raleigh Register makes the following remarks:

It would be presumptuous, perhaps, in us to criticise the Bill—particularly to find any fault with a measure on which so many able men have passed. In the main, its provisions are right; taxes must be raised to meet the expenses which our prosperity, works of Internal Improvement will entail upon the State, and the benefits which will accrue from those works will amply repay the outlay.

The amendments which have been adopted have greatly improved the original bill, which seemed, in our judgment—from a very cursory examination, however,—it variance, in many particulars, with the true laws of political economy; and that fact is the more remarkable since it is not to be expected that every legislator should make this science his particular and especially his study. There is none more intricate, though none more necessary and none which requires more perseverance, patience and research.

Charlotte and South Carolina Rail Road.

We have before us the Report of the President and General Superintendant of this road. From them we learn that the road has been doing a very profitable business during the last year.

The receipts for the year 1854 were	$249,027,71
The expenses " " "	$167,181,51
leaving a nett income of	$75,846,20

which will give a dividend of six per cent upon the Capital Stock of the Company, and leave a balance of $3,846. The road has yielded $16,475, 11 over 1853 and $102,111, 40 over 1852.

United States Senator.

We learn that the Whig Legislative caucus of New York have nominated the Hon. Wm. H. Seward for re-election to the U. S. Senate.

DEATH OF BISHOP CAPERS.

A good man has fallen! Rev. Wm. Capers, D. D., Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, died on Monday last, at his residence in Anderson, from disease of the heart.

Bishop Capers was one of the most eminent divines in the denomination of the Christian Church to which he belonged; and was most universally esteemed for his piety, urbanity of manners, and Christian virtues. Few men have occupied so enviable a position both in Church and society, in this State, as has Dr. Capers.

The deceased, we understand, was in his sixty-fourth year at the time of his death. He entered the ministry when a boy of 16 years of age, thus exhibiting a long life of devotion to the holy cause in which he was engaged. His loss to the Church and to Southern Methodism will be keenly felt, not only by the membership of his own Church, but by all who knew him.—*South Carolinian.*

TRIBUTE OF RESPECT.

At a regular meeting of the ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church South resident in Columbia, South Carolina, held Wednesday afternoon, January 31, 1855, the following preamble and resolutions, offered by Rev. W. A. Gamewell, were adopted:

We were overwhelmed by the intelligence of the departure at the hour of the Great Disposer of events of our venerable and beloved Bishop Capers. Sore though the bereaving stroke was, coming as it did, at a time of life and increasing infirmities which would have entitled to premature infirmities and the removal of his rapidly approaching dissolution, yet we had fondly hoped that even when he should be no longer able to bear his part in the active responsibilities of our episcopacy, he would still be spared for a number of years as an example of modern apostolic simplicity and purity. But in one fully ripe, "he has served his own generation by the will of God;" the machinery of the church has been so long in motion that run down, and desirable as it would have been earth's needy detain him no longer. God has gathered him to his fathers. It becomes us to say with the Psalmist, "I was dumb with silence, I opened not my mouth because thou didst it." We bless God of our departed father, as having been intimately associated with the existence, operations and successes of the Southern Methodist Church; as having been justly a prominent man in our general church even long before the division in 1844; as being placed in the office of bishop by the general voice of an admiring and grateful church; as leaving himself in the relations with meekness, earnestness and authority; we shall remember him as the polished gentleman, the faithful friend, the pious man and the eloquent successful preacher, and in our present capacity as a preacher's meeting in Columbia, we revere the name and labors with the hallowing influence of Zion in this place; therefore,

Resolved, 1. That we humbly acknowledge the hand of the Head of the church, in the dispensation by which Bishop Capers has been removed from our midst.

2. That whilst in the course of nature it is no more than might have been looked for, yet we feel deeply that it is a sad bereavement to the family, his numerous personal friends, the South Carolina conference, the Methodist Episcopal church South and the community in general.

3. That we sympathize most tenderly with our afflicted sister Church and the children of our beloved bishop, and we hereby express our kindliest feelings and readiness to minister in any way to their comfort.

4. That we shall ever cherish the liveliest remembrance of the Christian virtues of our departed father and friend, and shall aim to imitate them by the help of divine grace.

5. That we rejoice in the precious consolation that in a very emphatic sense "we sorrow not as those who have no hope," having a blessed assurance that our loss is his gain.

6. That we constitute ourselves a committee to meet the remains at the depot, and to co-operate in every possible way with the committee of lay brethren to carry out the measures for his interment here, if the family should so decide.

On motion of Rev. C. Murchison, it was

Resolved, That the secretary be instructed to enclose a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolutions to the family of the deceased, and that he also obtain their publication in the daily papers of this place, and the Southern Christian Advocate. N. TALLEY, *Chairman.*

F. A. Moon *Secretary.*

ARRIVAL OF THE STAR OF THE WEST.
LATER FROM CALIFORNIA.
640,000 DOLLARS IN GOLD.

NEW YORK, Jan. 20.

The steamer Star of the West arrived here from California this evening with 200 passengers and $640,000 in gold.

The Sierra Nevada arrived at San Francisco on the 6th

Copious rains prevailed throughout the State, and the minarr and agriculturists were rejoicing under the improved prospects. The storm of the 1st instant did much damage in many places.

The State Legislature assembled on the 2d, when Mr. Stone (whig) was elected speaker of the Assembly.

From the territory acquired under the Gadsden treaty, there are reports, in various shades, of discoveries of rich mines of gold and copper.

Emigration was tending towards the new purchase, and it would soon be filled up with an active population.

The majority of the prisoners who escaped from the Penitentiary had been recaptured.

Measures were on foot to fund the city debt of San Francisco.

Meiggs, the defaulter, had turned up at Tahiti. On the 19th of November he was to sail for Aetutaki.

The message of the Governor of California sets down the State debt at $1,284,142 28. The Governor recommends that the floating debt be speedily liquidated, and urges an amendment of the constitution as a means for reducing the expenses of the State. He advocates the enactment of laws for the more effectual protection of actual settlers, and to secure the blessings of common school education for the children of the citizens. He gives a flattering account of the prospects of the mining and agricultural interests, as well as of commerce and manufactures.

SANDWICH ISLANDS.—From the Sandwich Islands we learn that a disturbance took place at Hialta Islands, adjacent to Tahiti. One of the chiefs revolted against the king, when a battle ensued, which lasted for five hours, resulting in the dispersion of the rebels. The government troops lost four, and the rebels eight killed.

A PATRIOTIC SCENE.

The Senate had under consideration, on Saturday last, the bill to aid in the erection of a Monument, in Independence Square, Philadelphia, commemorative of the Declaration of Independence. This bill (or rather, a bill of a similar nature,) has already been passed by ten of the original thirteen States. For its details we refer our readers to the report of the Senate proceedings.

Mr. Rayner addressed the Senate upon the merits of the bill, in one of the most eloquent and thrilling efforts ever delivered in the Capitol,—an effort that enchained the attention, and elicited the most marked demonstrations of feeling upon the part of the members of the body, and the auditory who were present. The bill not only passed the second and third readings unanimously, without a call for the yeas and nays, but a number of gentlemen asked the privilege of *having their votes recorded!*

We do not suppose that the House of Commons will hesitate, for a moment, to follow the example set by the Senate. We should be ashamed of North Carolina, were she alone, of the glorious old thirteen, to falter, when PATRIOTISM beeks her on!—*Bal. Reg.*

THE OATH.

So much is said concerning the secrecy with which the American party conducts its affairs, and the horrors of its ceremonies, obligations, oaths, &c., are painted in such vivid colors to excite the imagination of outsiders, that it may not be amiss to see what can be said on the other side. As one reason why we should guard against foreign Romish influence, we present the oath of a Romish Priest, to show that they, in effect, are sworn against our country. Here it is:

ROMISH PRIEST'S OATH.—I, A B, do acknowledge the ecclesiastical power of his holiness and the mother church of Rome, as the chief Head and matron above all pretended churches throughout the whole earth; and that my zeal shall be for St. Peter and his successors, as the founder of the true and ancient Catholic faith, against all heretical kings, princes, States or powers repugnant unto the same; and although, I, A B, may follow in case of persecution, or otherwise to be heretically despised, yet in soul and conscience I shall hold, aid and succor the mother Church of Rome, as the true, ancient and apostolic church. I, A B, further declare not to act or control any matter or thing prejudicial unto her, in her sacred orders, doctrines, tenets, or commands, without leave of its supreme power or its authority, under her appointed or to be appointed; and being so permitted, then to act, and further her interests more than my own earthly good and earthly pleasure, as she and her Head, his Holiness and his successors have, or ought *to have, the supremacy over all kings, princes estates, or powers whatsoever, either to deprive them of their crowns, sceptres, powers, privileges, realms, countries, or governments, or to set up others in lieu thereof, they dissenting from the mother church and her commands.*

FORTUNATE EDITOR.

We clip the following from the Baltimore correspondent of the Washington Star.—We wish the fortunate individual joy of his good luck:

"I mentioned in my last letter a rumor that a certain editor of a Southern literary periodical, who at present is publishing his work in this city, having be n burnt out not long ago at Columbia, South Carolina, was fortunate last week in drawing a prize of $20,000 in one of our lotteries. I am now credibly informed that there is no [illegible] of the fact. After receiving the money, he presented the vendor with $80.4, and put the remainder in his pocket. This shows that editors are not without the pale of fortunes' smiles. It is decidedly comfortable to have such a sum showered into one's lap these stringent times. May he live long to enjoy it."

THE CLAIM OF TEMPRAL POWER REASSERTED.

A lecture has lately ben delivered in St. Louis by J. A. Huntington, an advocate for the claims of the church in which the following broad proposition were made. After settling the matter satisfactorily to himself and his Irish hearrs that all good Americans and handsom ladies spring from Irish parentage, and stating while the whole American population has doubled, the Roman Catholic population had trebled, he made use of the following remarks:

Still, notwithstanding the loss of material and moral force of this migration, it maintains its unity and efficency. That unity is composed by the system on which Catholicity is organized, ensuing the strictest discipline and the greatest concert. The Pope is the presiding general of the army; the archbishops, bishops, priests and curates are the subordinate officers ardently attached to, and devoutly desiring the success of their faith. Catholicity differs from non-Catholicity, not only in religion, but in literature, science, art, and social institutions. It views things from a totally different stand-point, looks deeper into affairs, and takes a more comprehensive survey of events. These are Catholic historians, Catholic novelists, Catholic artists and authors. These are Catholic books, organizations, corporations, and institutes; there could not be a Presbyterian institute where Presbyterian lectures were made the vehicles of Presbyterian tenets, for the public would feel no interest in it. The Catholic emigration is not a mere wave of population which spends itself on our shores. It is an army with banner, on whose front is written "Conquest," amid the smoke and gloom of whose darkest conflicts, victory perches at last, on their standards. It is bound to triumph, ultimately by reason of its undivided unity, its thorough discipline, and wonderful organization. Catholicity is destined to triumph, and Irish emigration is to be the instrument of victory.

Have we not repeatedly called the attention of the public to these points. Did we not quote from standard Catholic works, doctrines, dogmas, and tenets of the church to prove that the Pope "is the *presiding general* of the army, (the Irish emigrants,) the arch-bishops, priests, and curates, are the subordinate officers," and these including the whole body of Catholic Irish, could be moved by a nod, and made to act in any manner, by a wink of their *general*, the Pope! Have we shown over and again, that the Pope claims *temporal* as well as *spiritual* authority over every man in all lands, and over all temporal things throughout the Earth? Here then we have among many others, other admissions of the fact, another declaration of the Pope's supremacy and of the Jesuit's intentions; of their different views, and wishes, literature and arts; that the Catholic emigration is not a mere wave that rushes upon a shore and dies away, but that it is what we have always contended for "an *army* with banners on whose front is inscribed *Conquest.*" Yet with all this evidence before them, there are some who cannot believe it, who honestly regard it as a phantom of the brain, some whose eyes are dazzled by the vision of some contemptible office till they cannot see it.

We are told, that Romanism is "bound to triumph, ultimately, by reason of its undivided unity, its thorough discipline and wonderful organization." Ought, then, this "wonderful organization," to complain if the American people are aroused to protect themselves; and use all constitutional means in their power to secure the rights handed down to them by their fathers? How can we decide in favor of the two or three who deny that temporal power is claimed, when we see it exerted, and the right to exercise it promulgated in the lecture room, from the pulpit, and in the official documents of the propagandists of the Pope himself—the order of the Jesuits, who are most adroit as they are most unscrupulous of men?

Mr. Huntington, speaking by authority, thought our nationality would be "modified, elevated and refined by an infusion of Celtic blood;" that "religion" Catholicism, for there is no religion with him, out of the Holy mother Church,) "would become a part of our institutions," the church part and parcel of the state.

Religion is the foundation of nationality, and religion, inculcating the primary social dogmas and cardinal rights of man, will become a part of our institutions.

Anglo-Saxonism is calculating, selfish, unsympathetic, mammon-serving, with more head than heart. It, (our nationality,) will be refined, softened, and elevated, by the infusion of Celtic blood, with a devouter spirit and more sympathetic nature, characterized by a religious fervor which has never been hardened by Calvanistic theology.

What American—we will not say Protestant, or this is opposed to all we believe in regard to the character of the predominant race in this country as well as that of the Irish emigrants to American—what American, we say, will not be convinced that it is time to act for the defence of himself and his country, when, in a popular assembly, in the face of all the denials of his position, a Jesuit has the hardihood to utter these assertions? Is not this an evidence of [illegible] of a power to accomplish a change in our institutions, and nationality, and should it not arouse our pride as well as awaken our fears?—*N. O. Creole.*

CONVICTION FOR RESISTING THE FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW.

We mentioned a few days ago that S. M. Booth, an editor, had been convicted at Milwaukie of participating in the rescue of a fugitive slave. The verdict subjects the defendant to imprisonment not exceeding six months, and a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars. The News of that city says:

"We rejoice at this verdict, not because this defendant is made to suffer, but because it is calculated to teach men a fact which they have been too prone to forget, that we live under a government of law; that our institutions of freedom rest upon the observance of law; that the rampant spirit of mob law shall not be tolerated with impunity in the free State of Wisconsin: that the doctrine of a higher law, to justify a disregard of the allegiance which every citizen owes to his country, is a false doctrine, and that he who attempts to put it into practical operation is taking a straight road and a short one to the penitentiary."

A BLUE ROSE.—The horticulturists of Paris have succeeded by artificial crossings in obtaining a natural rose of blue color, which is the fourth color obtained by artificial means—that and the yellow or tea rose, the black or purple rose, and the striped rose, being all inventions, and the result of skilful and scientific gardening.

CONGRESSIONAL.

WASHINGTON JANUARY 24.—The new Bounty Land Bill of the Senate has been resigned by its author, as he said to-day, to the tender mercies of those who overloaded it with extravagant provisions.

The French Spoliation Bill was vehemently opposed to-day, by Mr. Benton. To-morrow, Col. Orr is to speak against it. At three o'clock, the debate is to stop in Committee of the Whole. Then there will be a struggle upon motions to amend it by excluding from its benefits underwriters and assignees.

WASHINGTON, JAN. 25.—The House has been already engaged upon the Bill to provide for the payment of the claims on account of French Spoliations prior to 1800. Mr. Orr made a strong argument in opposition to the Bill. Among the strongest speeches ever made in support of the Bill, was that of Mr. Phillips, of Alabama, delivered to day. His statements and argument carried conviction to many hesitating minds, of the justice of the claims.

Mr. Bailey of Virginia, who reported the Bill, closed the debate in its support, when the Committee rose. So to-morrow, all debate being stopped, except under the five minute rule, there will be a spirited five minutes discussion upon amendments that may be offered. The amendment to be offered by Mr. Letcher, of Virginia, to-morrow, excluding from the benefits of the bill, all Insurance Companies, all Underwriters, individual or corporate, and restricting awards in favor of assignees to the amount which they can prove to have been paid by them to the original claimant, will be discussed to-morrow. This is relied upon as the only means of stopping the progress of the bill to enactment. A prejudice may be created against the bill by these suggestions—to wit: that the five millions will go into the hands, not of the original sufferers, who are, with few exceptions gone, but of their assignees.

But the bill will pass Congress, and the President may or may not arrest it with his veto. There is no reason to believe that he will veto it, except that he voted against the claims when a member of Congress, and that one of his democratic predecessors, Mr. Polk, vetoed the bill. The reason is inconclusive as to the President's course, because he is neither to be guided by his views when he was a member, nor by the example of his predecessors. Senators and members as wise and as disinterested as himself have had occasion to change their opinions and votes also upon this subject, and some who had formerly opposed the measure, now go for it. The example of Mr. Polk cannot be followed, except under like circumstances and from like objections. The country is not now in a state of war, nor is its Treasury impoverished. If popular feeling govern the President's mind, it will still be claimed that the generosity of the American people will incline to favor the claim, and to condemn its rejection by one man after its approval by Congress, sometimes by one body alone, and twice by both bodies, and after its approval by so many State Legislatures and so many public bodies.

Then, again, the veto power has always been held to be confined to questions involving the constitutionality of a measure, or improper and rash haste of legislative action. Upon a question of fact or expediency, Congress has the right to decide absolutely. But we shall see what the President will do. He now returns for the ninth day a private bill for paying a revolutionary commutation claim, with interest, and has scruples about it. If he can veto that, he can veto anything.

JANUARY 26.—The House had a long sitting to-day and a sharp struggle on the French Spoliation Bill. No result was arrived at, but the friends of the bill did not seem to lose any confidence in it. To-morrow the question is to be settled, and I have no doubt that the bill will pass without essential amendment by a majority of 15 to 20. It is a pretty strong agument in favor of the claim that it was favored by Chief Justice Marshall, Mr. Bailey, of Virginia, who reported the bill, stated that when he was a young man he had a conversation with the Chief Justice on this subject, and was impressed by him with a belief in the justice of the claim. It is also a very strong proof of the merit of the claim that the two Senators from South Carolina—Messrs. Butler and Evans—after thorough examination of the subject, gave their support to the bill. The effort to exclude underwriters and assignees from the benefit of the bill will fail. They are the most numerous class of the claimants.

The Senate were all day engaged upon the bill for the relief of the owners of the privateer Eric, General Armstrong, Capt Reid. The gallant and bloody engagement of the Armstrong with a strong British force in the harbor of Fayal, in 1814, will be long remembered. The bill gives the owners, one of whom is Capt Reid, a hundred and thirty thousand dollars, as a compensation for the loss of their vessel. The bill passed a third reading by a vote of 19 to 17. In 1831, Congress granted to the officers and crew of this privateer, the sum of ten thousand dollars.

The Senate Select Committee on the Pacific Rail Road, have had a meeting, and debated the expediency of calling up the bill at this session. The Committee could not agree upon the main features of a bill Mr. Douglas was for the triple road plan.

Mr. Rush advocated his scheme of one road, and an appropriation of money for its construction, as well as land. Others had different schemes. The Committee not being able to unite on a project, did not desire to call up the subject for action. It is evidently useless to go into the subject without unanimity, at least on the part of the Committee. The matter is dead for this session. But at the next session, Congress will probably, the opposition in the House taking the lead, pass a strong bill, making the work a Government road, and appropriating a large sum in its aid. They will pass such a bill, knowing that it will be vetoed, and make the question an issue at the Presidential election.

JANUARY 27.—The French Spoliation Bill has passed the House to-day, after a sharp struggle, by the large majority of thirty-four. This is a most triumphant conclusion of forty years prosecution of this old claim—the staleness of which has been its chief opprobrium, and which was made one of the reasons for vetoing it, by President Polk. Mike Walsh offered an amendment to the title of the bill, stating it was a bill for the benefit of sharpers, &c, and many other remarks reflecting on the motives of those who proposed the measure. The Speaker, to th surprise of some members, and to his own regret, as is said, entertained the motion, and it obtained but one vote—that of Mr. Walsh himself.

Some persons undertake to say that they know that the President will veto the Bill. But I doubt whether they have any right to make this assertion. He cannot have committed himself against the Bill in advance, as President, though he voted against the Bill when in Congress.

The Bill provides that claims that shall be rejected, shall not be again considered by the Government, and that no sum in addition to the five millions shall ever be paid in consideration of their claims. But Congress can undo that restriction whenever they may please. Many persons having just claims will fail to establish them from want of such legal testimony as the Board may require. The three Commissioners are to be appointed with the advice and consent of the Senate, and to meet as early as the first of October next. They are to have a salary of three thousand dollars each. They are to finish their investigation within two years, and to receive no salary beyond that time. A solicitor for the United States is to be appointed, whose duty it will be to guard the United States from spurious claims.

The Judiciary Committee of the House reported a Joint Resolution for the payment of the Florida claims arising under the 9th article of the Florida Treaty of 1819. That article provided for the remuneration of Spanish subjects whose property was destroyed by American troops prior to the Treaty. These claims were ascertained by a Board, and the principal was paid, not the interest. The claimants or their assignees have, for a number of years, endeavored to obtain the interest, but without success. Attorney General Cushing's opinion, published not long ago, rendered it necessary for the claimants to go to Congress. The opinion of Attorney General Crittenden was, that interest ought to be allowed, but that the Secretary of the Treasury was not authorized by him to pay it. The amount involved in this claim is said to be nearly a million of dollars.

From the Sacramento Statesman.

THREE MINERS ATTACKED BY ROBBERS.

PLACERVILLE, Dec. 23, 1855.

The Mountain Democrat Extra says: We received the following startling intelligence last night, after our paper had been worked off. Rocky Cannon, the place of the tragedy, is a deep and almost inaccessible canon, about forty miles north of this place, near Todd's Valley, and uninhabited.

ROCKY CANON, Wednesday, Dec. 20, 1854.

No officer having been within a convenient distance to attend a case of emergency that has just happened near our isolated camp, the undersigned constituted themselves a coroner's jury, and held an inquest over the deceased bodies of twelve men that were killed within a mile of our camp, on the 19th instant, a full account of which we deem it our duty to publish. Three of the undersigned were eye-witnesses of the whole scene, though too far off to give aid in any way. On yesterday, 19th instant, three men, who afterwards proved to be a Mr. James C. McDonald, of Alabama, now deceased, Dr. Bolivar A. Sparks, of Mississippi, and Captain Jonathan R. Davis, of South Carolina, were travelling on foot on a trail within a mile of our camp, to prospect a vein of gold-bearing quartz, some twenty or thirty miles north of this place. As they were passing the base of a mountain, three of the undersigned, being out on a hunting expedition on its side, saw a party who were concealed in the bushes near the trail spring up and commence firing at them. Mr. McDonald fell dead. He was shot before he was aware of his danger. He and his party had nothing but their revolvers. Thomas Sparks shot twice at the banditti, and then fell severely wounded. In the mean time, Captain Davis, who was the first to commence shooting in defence of himself and party, in an instant after the first volley of the robbers, being still under, kept up an incessant fire upon them with his revolver, every ball forcing its victim to bite the dust, until all the loads of parties seemed to have been discharged. The surviving robbers made a charge upon Captain Davis with bowie knives, and one with a sword or sabre. Captain Davis stood his ground firmly, until they rushed up abreast of him within about four steps. He then made a spring upon them with a large bowie-knife, and gave three of them wounds that proved fatal. Having wounded the other one very slightly and disarmed him by warding off a blow, as this last man expressed in a tone of gratitude before his death, Captain Davis went to work at once, tearing up his own shirt and binding up all the wounds of the living, of both his friends and enemies. On an examination of the persons of the deceased of those that had commenced the attack on Captain Davis and party, we discovered papers carefully concealed in their pockets, purporting to be a copy of laws and by-laws by which they were governed.

The last of this band has just died. His wound he thought himself but slight, and seemed in a fair way of recovery until within the last hour, but corroborated all the evidence proven by the papers in his pocket.

Signed by W. C. THOMPSON, and 15 others.

Another letter dated,

ROCKY CANON, Dec. 20, 1854.

To William Henderson, Esq., Placerville.

Quite an exciting scene happened yesterday within a mile of our tent. While two of my partners and myself were hunting over the hills we heard the report of guns below us, and saw two small parties shooting at each other. Being satisfied that they were all strangers, we hesitated for a moment before we ventured to go down. A feeling of duty, however, prompted us to hasten down to them. On approaching we saw two persons fall in the fight; (these persons were of a little party of three whom we had observed about half an hour previous quietly following the trail,) and the remaining one of the party, (a man somewhat above the medium height, whom we could readily distinguish by his white hat from all the rest,) fighting bravely for his life.

Approaching still nearer, we were surprised at the sight of eleven men lying stretched on the ground, seven of them dead,) belonging, as they afterwards proved, to a party of robbers,) and only one of the party of three so suddenly fired upon from the bushes by robbers. Three of the wounded robbers having died last night, we had ten of them to bury. One survives, who will probably recover; he is now, however, marked for life, having lost his nose in toto, and the fore-finger of his hand. The surviving one, who seems to be but little hurt, says that their band was composed of two Americans, five Sydney men, and four wounded robbers having died last night, Mexicans, and had just commenced operations, having killed Chinamen three days ago, and three Amerians on the day before yesterday. Although we counted twenty-eight bullet holes through Capt. Davis' hat and clothes, seventeen through his coat and shirt, he received but two very sligh flesh wounds. Yours, truly.

To WM. HENDERSON, ESQ. County Surveyor, JOHN WEBSTER.

Placerville.

THE GOLD MINES OF VIRGINIA.

The gold mining interest of Virginia, it appears, is more extensive than many persons are aware. The Petersburg Intelligencer gives the following names, locality and estimated value of some of the most prominent mines; also by whom they are worked and owned:

"Garnett & Moseley, Buckingham county, owned by an English company, $500,000. Buckingham Mines, Buckingham county, owned by an American company, $200,000. Ayers' Mines, Buckingham county, not worked, $20,000. Tellureum Mines, Fluvanna county, owned by Com. Stockton, $200,000. Long Island Mines, Fluvanna county, owned by Virginia Stockton, $75,000. Snead Mines, Fluvanna county, not worked, $25,000. Belzora Mines, Goochland county, owned by English, $25,000. Columbia Mines, Goochland county, not worked, $15,000. Aigle D'Or Mines, Goochland county, owned by English, $100,000. Waller Mines, Goochland county, $100,000. Goode Mines, Goochland county, not worked, $20,000. Willehall Mines, Louisa county, not worked, $20,000. Vaucluse Mines, Orange county, owned by English, $250,000. Gardner Mines, Orange county, owned by Americans, $50,000. Woodville Mines, Orange county, owned by Americans, $100,000.

The above comprise a large majority of the mines. Those 'not worked' are either in dispute or are lying idle for want of capital. There are many other mines opened, but not sold; their owners do not understand operating them, neither have they the capital."

The great drawback to gold mining in Virginia, and in other States, has been occasioned by the want of adequate machinery. Thousands of dollars have been expended in endeavors to surmount this obstacle, and it was at last accomplished (in 1852-'53) by John Cochran, Esq., an eminent mechanic of New-York. Of this invention the Intelligencer says:

"With the machine invented by him, one hand can crush to an impalpable powder thirty tons of quartz rock per day of twelve hours; and since, an amalgamator has been attached to it, equally valuable. The product of every day's labor can be had in hard, clean gold, by a method as simple as grinding coffee. The whole affair has been purchased by a company in New York, and is now called the 'Eureka Crushing Machine.' They are erecting one at this time at Gold Hill, in North Carolina. They also have them at the Belzora Mines in this State."

The Intelligencer is of opinion that as soon as the present stress in the money market is passed, gold mining in Virginia will be one of the leading features that will induce capitalists to invest their spare funds in that State. It also mentions that copper and silver are to be found to a great extent, and the next revival of mining interest will, with proper management and the use of the machinery mentioned, give it an impetus that no financial distress can interrupt.

CINCINNATTI, January 30, 1855.—ANTI-LIQUOR DEMONSTRATION BY STRONG MINDED WOMEN.—The river is full of ice and navigation entirely suspended. At Mount Pleasant, in this county, about fifty women attacked a tavern and destroyed a large quantity of liquor belonging to the keeper. After demolishing the liquor, casks, &c, they dragged the owner through the liquor, which stood six inches on the floor. Warrants were issued against about twenty of the parties, but the officers returned this afternoon and reported inability to serve the processes. They go back to night with reinforcements.

THE STEAMSHIP ERICSSON.—The New York Journal of Commerce says:

We are informed that the Ericsson has not changed hands, and that the alterations which she is undergoing by substituting steam engines for caloric are on account of the old proprietors. One hundred and twenty hands are employed on this work, and it is contemplated to be finished by the middle of next month. We are not informed on what route she is intended to be put. The new engines are said to be built on a plan entirely novel, with a view to an important saving in fuel.

CONSIGNEES PER RAIL ROAD.

FROM 30TH JAN. TO 6TH FEB.

J. C. Smyth, T. Walton, C. R. Jones, Lanenarger & Co., J. Hamilton, W. M. Holland, Reid & G., P. Gallahan, O. McDaniel, J. D. Stewart, H. F. Carpenter, H. Reinhardt, Carroll & B., M. S. Holmes, J. & A. Ramsour, G. M. & A. T. Jones.

MARRIED,

Married, in this county, on the 1st instant, by the Rev. J. Hunter, Mr. JOHN GIBSON, of Cabarrus county, to Miss JANE O. McCALEB.

Also, on the same day, by the same, Col. R. M. COCHRAN to Mrs. MARY J. DAVIS, all of Mecklenburg county.

To Hire,

A FIRST RATE COOK, until the 1st of January, 1856. Enquire of

B. H. DAVIDSON.

February 6, 1855. tf

Dissolution.

THE copartnership formerly existing under the name of J. K. HARRISON & CO. has been dissolved by mutual consent. The subscriber will settle up the business of the firm, and those indebted to them are earnestly requested to make immediate payment, as it is of great importance to the parties concerned. He will also continue the business at the old stand. His terms are strictly *CASH* or *BARTER*.

T. M. FARROW.

February 6, 1855. 5tf

A Dissolution & New Firm.

E. LONERGAN, of the late Firm of J. & E. Lonergan, has sold out his interest in their Grocery near Sadler's Hotel to the latter, and their Books have been placed in the hands of their clerk, David Orr, for settlement, on whom our former friends and customers are earnestly requested to call and close their accounts, either by Cash or Note.

☞The said Firm have opened a

New Bakery, Toy Shop, AND CONFECTIONARY,

at the stand recently occupied by J. Mead, where they are prepared to fill all orders and accommodate all friends and customers who may feel disposed to favor them with their patronage in this their new line of business.

J. & E. LONERGAN.

February 6, 1855. 5tf