DEATH OF DR. KANE—SKETCH OF HIS LIFE.

The steamer Cahawba arrived at New Orleans on Monday last, with dates from Havana to the 2 th. Dr. Kane, the arctic navigator, died there on the 16th inst. He expired peacefully and gently as a child. The greatest sympathy was shown by the officials of the island, all of whom attended the funeral obsequies, including the Captain General, and an immense concourse of residents and others. The corpse was brought to New Orleans on the Cahawba, and will be forwarded by the river to Philadelphia.

In connection with the announcement of the untimely death of this young and deeply lamented Arctic Explorer, the following sketch of his brief but interesting and eventful life will doubtless be read with interest:

Dr. Elisha Kent Kane was born in Philadelphia, February 3, 1822. Nearly a third of his life was consumed in travel out of the limits of the United States. No man of his years, however, was more thoroughly acquainted with the geographical features of his own country. He was educated at the Universities of Virginia and Pennsylvania, graduating as a doctor of medicine in 1843. His graduation thesis on "Kyesting" was crowned by the faculty, and is still cited as authority in the books of the profession.—Immediately after receiving his degree, he was appointed upon the diplomatic staff as surgeon to the first American embassy to China. He availed himself of the facilities afforded by his position to explore the Philippines, most of which travel, including Camarines and Mindora, was made on foot.

His charts are still preserved, but we believe have not been published. His associate during a portion of this exploration, the lamented young Baron Loe, of Prussia, sank under the effects of the hardship and exposure which attended upon it, and died in Java. Dr. Kane directed much attention to the volcanic region of Albay, expecting to connect his observations with subsequent travels in Sombara. His sojourn among the Negritos and Araturns was one of romantic interest. He was the first who descended the crater of the Tuel, upon which occasion he effected a topographical sketch of the interior of this great volcano. He was lowered more than a hundred feet by a bamboo rope from an overhanging cliff and clambering down some seven hundred feet through the scoriæ, was dragged up senseless, with the interesting specimens which he had collected. Among these were bottles of sulphurous acid from the very mouth of the crater.

After this Dr. Kane traversed India, spending a considerable time among the monolithic structures of Aurungabad, (which would seem to have particularly attracted his notice,) visited Ceylon, the Upper Nile, the Oases of Jupiter Ammon, &c., and various classic regions which have since become the trodden ground of European tourists. A portion of this travel introduced him to the learned Lepsius, who was then prosecuting his researches in Egypt. Returning, however, Dr. Kane was so unfortunate as to lose his *portmonk* in a quicksand above E'Sloot, and with it his entire papers and journals of years of interesting travel.

Taking a profound interest in the workings of the slave trade, Dr. Kane next sailed from home in the frigate United States for the coast of Africa. He visited the slave factories from Cape Mount to the river Bonny, and had free access to the barracoons of Dahomey through the influence of the infamous Da Souza. An excursion which he planned to Abomey, favored by the Portuguese, failed through a severe attack of the coast fever, from the effects of which Dr Kane's constitution has never entirely recovered.

Dr. Kane's personal adventures in Mexico are part of the history of his country. His wounds on the field of Napoluca, which were of a very serious nature, opened to him the hospitalities of his prisoner, Major General Gaona, the defender of San Juan d' Ulloa against the French, and secured him the gratitude of other Mexican citizens of the highest distinction. We believe, however, that his travels through the Republic of the Cactus carried him little outside the lines of military operations. After his brilliant performance of the duty of carrying President Polk's despatches to Gen. Scott, he was still necessarily trammelled by the movements of the American forces. His barometrical sketches of Popocatepetl however, are of value.

On the return of peace he was assigned to the Coast Survey, under Professor Bache, and was at work in the Gulf of Mexico when the liberality of Mr. Grinnell stimulated the Government of the United States to the first American expedition in search of Sir John Franklin. Dr. Kane immediately volunteered his services, and was accepted as the Senior Surgeon of the Squadron. His "Personal Narrative" of this cruise was published in 1852.

Before it was completed for the press he had effected his arrangements for the last Arctic Expedition, appropriating to this charitable object of his own pecuniary resources, as well as drawing largely on those of Mr. Grinnell and several of the scientific institutions of the country.

The history of that expedition and the remarkable discoveries to which it led are now before the country. They constitute in themselves an imperishable monument to Dr Kane's fame. It will ever be a subject of deep regret that the sufferings through which he exhausted those results should have prevented him from reaping the full benefit of the honors to which they would unquestionably have led.

AMERICAN INGENUITY IN ENGLAND.—Mr. Luther Young, an American artisan, who has obtained a patent for the invention of a new method of regulating minutely the consumption of gas, having been ordered to forward the apparatus for improvement to Woolwich dock-yard, by order of the Lords of the Admiralty, yesterday waited on the authorities there, and gave the necessary explanations for the application of his patent meters, fifty-two of which he supplied for the use of the dock-yard. He was accompanied by Mr. Van Winkle, also an American, who professes to turn out, by means of a single piece of machinery, of which he is the inventor, a number of bolt nuts, at the rate of from fifty to sixty per hour, ready for use. The invention is about to be submitted to the consideration of the Lords of the Admiralty.—*London Times, Feb. 6.*

"Faust, Franklin and Moore, the three great lights of civilization. The first created type to express *thought*; the second, thought, and illuminated the world; the third, combined the efforts of the two, girdled the earth with *electric* fire, and caused the lightnings to act as messengers of men.

North Carolina Whig.

CHARLOTTE:

Tuesday, March 10, 1857.

Change of Doing Business.

We learn that a number of our business men held a meeting on Wednesday night last, to adopt resolutions in relation to the manner of doing business hereafter in Charlotte. They came to the conclusion, that all accounts must be settled in six months. That is one step towards bringing about the Cash System. We very much doubt whether, in an agricultural country, the Cash System can be strictly adopted. Generally speaking, every farmer makes his calculation to pay, when his crop is sold, and here is the great difficulty this system will have to labor under, and how can this be changed? In no way that we can now devise.—Time may bring about a result we very much desire.

Death of Col. W. J. Alexander.

We regret to announce the death of Col. W. J. Alexander, at Lincolnton, on Sunday the 15th ult. He was enjoying his usual health and had but a short time partaken of breakfast, when he retired to his room and had laid down on his bed, and when a servant was sent to his room to call him he was found dead. It is supposed that he had a paralytic fit, as he had been affected before, by this complaint. For a long series of years Col. Alexander was identified with Mecklenburg county and represented her for many years in the Legislature, and was at one time Speaker of the Commons. He received, we believe, the highest vote that was ever given for any man as a representative in this county. He was a lawyer of great ability and stood at the head of his profession for many years, but disease overtook him and he had to retire in a good degree from the bar. When we first came to this county Col. Alexander was at the zenith of his renown, and we have noticed with regret the waning of his fortune, for he was a kind and liberal gentleman.

The Inauguration.

The inauguration of James Buchanan into the Presidential Chair took place on the 4th instant. The facility and peaceable change of rulers in this country is one of the most beautiful features in the system.—Millions of voters will go to the polls and express by ballot their preference for certain individuals to take the reins of government on their shoulders, and on the day fixed by law they assume their stations by subscribing to a solemn oath, and the change is made almost as easy as a man can change his garments. No wonder the nations of Europe stand and wonder at our system.—Such a change in one of their governments often leads to a disruption of their whole system. Then, in the language of a cotemporary, we hope Mr. Buchanan may make a good President and be the means of uniting the different sections in firmer bonds of brotherhood than ever. And although we did not support him, yet none would be more willing to bestow upon him the meed of praise, "well done good and faithful servant."

We give below the following telegraphic dispatch to the South Carolinian reporting a synopsis of the Inaugural Address:

The Inaugural address pronounced by President Buchanan, refers first to the importance of a thorough restoration of harmony and justice among the several States, as necessary to a continuance of our free institutions. The late political agitation is referred to as ended, and the Kansas Nebraska Act is approved.

It is contended that the surplus revenue should be applied to strictly national objects, and that no more revenue should accrue than is necessary for an economical administration of the government. For this end a modification of the tariff will be necessary.

It is also urged as a cardinal rule of policy and practice that the public lands should be preserved for the use of actual settlers and occupants, whether native or immigrants. The evils of disunion and the necessity of due respect for the rights of States are strongly urged.

The importance of a road to the Pacific is insisted on, with the belief that all difficulties will disappear with the discovery of the best route.

In reference to external relations, the inaugural urges peace and friendly intercourse with all nations, without intervention or interference, unless under the immediate necessity of self-defence.

We have never extended or acquired any territory but by fair purchase, or in treaty succession, and this principle must be acted on. No other nation can or should complain, if in self-defence we are compelled to extend our possessions.

The President announces that he will not contemplate a re election, and avows himself for a strict construction of the Constitution.

The ceremonies of the Inauguration were conducted as usual, and the oath administered by Chief Justice Taney, before a vast concourse.

Since the above was in type, we have received the *National Intelligencer* of the 5th instant, which contains a full account of the ceremony. Although the two preceding days had been boisterous and cold, on the night of the 3d a change took place, and the 4th came in mild and balmy, with an atmosphere very much like Indian Summer. The procession was large and was composed of military companies and various Democratic Associations from a number of places. The *Intelligencer* says:

"When the procession arrived at the North end of the Capitol, the President and President elect, preceded by the Marshal and party, left the carriage and passed through a covered way built for the purpose from the street to the north entrance of the Capitol, by which they reached the Senate chamber.

There were here assembled the Justices of the Supreme Court, the Diplomatic Corps, the Heads of Departments, members of Congress elect, ex-members, and officers of the army and navy, and other privileged persons.

Before the Senate had closed its business for the session, the oath of office was administered by the Hon. James M. Mason, President of the Senate *pro tempore*, to the Hon. John C. Breckinridge, Vice President elect, who made his acknowledgments in a brief and appropriate speech.

Upon the arrival of the President of the United States and the President elect they were formally conducted to the seats appointed for them by the Committee of Arrangements.

After a short pause the President and President elect, preceded by the Marshal of the District of Columbia, the Justices of the Supreme Court, and other functionaries followed by the Vice President and Secretary of the Senate, the Senators, the Diplomatic Corps, Heads of Departments, and other official persons, proceeded to the platform erected on the eastern portico of the Capitol, and were seated. Here they were welcomed by enthusiastic shouts from the people.

The President elect, then stepped forward to the centre of the platform and commenced his Inaugural Address, which he read in a clear, distinct, and forcible manner, so as to be heard over a considerable area, of the vast assemblage gathered before and around him. The address was frequently cheered as the sentiments which suited the feelings and judgments of his auditors reached their ears. [Address to be found in another column.]

At the conclusion of his address the President elect bowed to the people, who saluted him with hearty cheers. He then turned towards the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, who administered the oath of office, the President reverently kissing the book. He was immediately congratulated by the numerous official and other gentlemen surrounding him.

These impressive ceremonies being ended, the President and other functionaries returned to the Senate Chamber, and, after remaining there about half an hour, passed out by the same covered way to the carriage, which was now assigned to the President, Vice President, and the Ex-President. The procession then moved to the Presidential Mansion in nearly the same order as that observed on its approach to the Capitol.

After the President had reached his official residence, the doors were thrown open to the vast multitudes of people of both sexes who were in attendance, and the President exchanged friendly greetings with all who presented themselves for introduction.

The day itself was not more peculiarly auspicious than the proceedings by which it has become memorable. Everything passed off pleasantly, the thousands in attendance being agreeably impressed with the dignity and gracefulness with which, under free institutions, the reins of Government can be peacefully transferred from one set of administrators to another.

Railroad Arrangements.

We are pleased to learn from the following article, from the Warrenton *News*, that the President of the Charlotte and S. C. Railroad is endeavoring to make arrangements with the Presidents of the North Carolina Rail Road and the Raleigh and Gaston Rail Road, to take the mail and passengers from Petersburg through on this line, making it the great thorough fare for the Northern and Southern travel. We hope the President may be successful.

"We understand the Presidents of the Raleigh and Gaston and Charlotte and South Carolina Railroads are endeavoring to make arrangements with the North Carolina Rail road Company to take the passengers and mail through from Petersburg to Columbia. It is proposed that the latter Company will make the necessary connection and run the trains at the maximum rate of 22 miles per hour. The adoption of this plan will be a great advantage to the traveling public going North or South—giving an uninterrupted communication between the capitals of North and South Carolina—and making our State road the great highway for Southern travel. The proposed route will have a decided advantage over the present one in a saving of time and expense. We are informed that Dr. Hawkins, the energetic and popular President of the Raleigh and Gaston Road, is busily engaged in making the necessary arrangements, and has expressed his intention of running an addition train, which will make the connection between Petersburg and Raleigh in less than six hours. If Dr. Hawkins succeeds in bringing his proposition into action, he will effect a great improvement, and deserves the thanks of the stockholders of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad."

From what we have heard since the above was in type we fear the above arrangement cannot be made.

What a Shaking there will be among the Dry Bones.

The New York *Herald* says it is advised from well-informed and reliable sources, that upon the question of the distribution of the spoils, Mr. Buchanan has resolved upon a complete re-organization of the working machinery of the Government, and that this re-organization will comprehend out and out, a new catalogue of foreign appointments, diplomatic and consular, and a clean sweep of the higher offices at Washington, of the United States District Attornies and Marshals, of the heads of the principal Custom Houses and Post Offices throughout the country. It further says:

"That Mr. Buchanan will expect every American Minister abroad, every Charge d'Affaires, and every Consul or special Commercial Agent, to send in their resignations respectively, without delay, for that they will all be displaced, with probably not a single exception from the operation of the rule. From Mr. Dallas, at London, to Major Cass, at Rome, and from the Consul at Liverpool to the Commercial Agent at the Sandwich Islands, new men will take the places of the present incumbents. The same law will be applied to the domestic offices enumerated; and may reach (Brigham Young included) a few of our Territorial saints, governors and judges. But this sweeping change in the personnel of the new administration will not be made upon Marcy's mercenary doctrine that "to the victor belong the spoils, nor yet in pursuance of the politicians' rule of party rotation in office; for in this case the office holders and the office seekers are of the same party.

But there was a great principle upon which the November election turned in favor of Mr. Buchanan—the great principle of the preservation of the Union—against all disorganizing schemes and experiments, all trading demagogues, and all unscrupulous factionists and sectional agitators or disunion fanatics, North and South, within or without the lines of the democratic party; and by that principle will Mr. Buchanan be governed in this terrible work among the office holders. The dignity of the government in the eyes of the world—the restoration of its ancient honest and lofty policy and purposes at home and abroad—is another consideration which will contribute very materially to the execution of the important duty of new men to man the ship from stem to stern."

Foreign News.

The steamer Atlantic arrived at New York on the 5th instant with later advices from Europe.

The advices carried out by the Persia caused an advance of ¼d. The sales of the three days previous to the sailing of the Atlantic 50,000 bales—one half to speculators. Middling Orleans 7 15-16; uplands 7¾.

Breadstuffs steady and quiet. Consols 93⅛ to 93¾.

It is rumored that the Persian matters are nearly settled.

Napoleon's speech to the Legislature was the principle feature of the news.

By later intelligence received by the arrival of the Persia we learn that cotton has declined ¼.

From our Correspondent.

CHARLESTON, March 4, 1857.

Having met with rather a severe accident from a fall, from which I am suffering considerably, I shall be able to give you but a few paragraphs this week, as you know that when the body is in pain the mind sympathises with it and becomes incapacitated for active exercise. The news market is rather active and prices are in favor of holders, with an upward tendency for articles from fair to middling. The gay season still continues, and the city is alive with all the fashionable follies and hollow conventionalities of the upper tendom.

We have been complaining of unseasonably warm weather for the last three weeks, but for a few days past we have been thrown into the midst of winter, and are shaking in our shoes with chills occasioned by the accompanying fever. The fruit which was mostly in full bloom will probably be cut off, and much damage done to vegetation generally. By a telegraphic dispatch received here to-day I learn that an unprecedented wind and snow storm is now prevailing in New York.

We expected some news by telegraph from Washington this afternoon about the formation of the Cabinet and other matters, but was disappointed. The house has passed a bill authorizing the distribution of the surplus revenue among the States, for the purpose of obviating the necessity of a reduction of the tariff, in order to deplete the treasury. It appears that the Government has got more money than she knows what to do with, and has been driven to this alternative to prevent a dangerous accumulation of the public funds. This is rather an anomaly in the financial affairs of the nation and shows the useless and onerous impositions of high tariffs for protection which is not needed for purposes of revenue. We shall perhaps have something full and definite from the inauguration of the new administration by to-morrow. It is said that no ultra State-Rights man or fire-eating Secessionist can expect to receive the patronage of the new Executive. And many of those holding office at present may be displaced by more congenial spirits.

A very melancholy occurrence took place last night at a social party in this city. A young lady belonging to one of our first families, who had been married but a few months, was seated at the piano, when she complained of being ill, she was immediately removed to an upper room and placed in bed, where she remained for a short time, when her bad feelings seemed to pass off, and she arose for the purpose of joining the party again, and as she was approaching the stairway she suddenly fell and expired before medical aid could reach her.

Paul H. Hayne, who visited your town sometime since and delivered a lecture, on the conservatism of literature, will deliver the same lecture this evening at Hibernian Hall, in this city. He is a son of promise which Charleston should be proud to honor, for he has, and will continue to honor her and the State. He received during his recent tour, the highest encomiums from the press of the State, and now he has come to prove himself and assert his claims before an audience of his kinsmen, friends and fellow citizens. The Magazine with which he is editorially connected will make its appearance in a few days, and urge its claims to the patronage and support of the South.—We have been talking about a Southern literature, will now see whether those who preach so loud for the South are in earnest, or whether they will still continue to spend their breath for the South and their money for the North as heretofore.

We boast of our Southern resources and refuse to develope them—we boast of our wealth and independence, or pride and patriotism and yet lean upon the mighty arm of the North for protection and support.—It is a wonder that we are not ashamed to talk of dissolving the Union and establishing a Southern Confederacy, when every act of ours gives the lie to our words; we have as good as told the North that we cannot do without her and she has every reason to believe it. The patronage which Northern periodicals receive in South Carolina would be amply sufficient to place Russell's Magazine on a solid and permanent basis.

ASHLEY.

MOBILE, March 3.

COTTON BURNED.—The Gaines warehouse, together with 3,600 bales of Cotton, has been burned. There was a partial insurance on the property.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

FELLOW-CITIZENS: I appear before you this day to take the solemn oath "that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States," and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the constitution of the U. States.

In entering upon this great office, I must humbly invoke the God of our fathers for wisdom and firmness to execute its high and responsible duties in such a manner as to restore harmony and ancient friendship among the people of the several States, and to preserve our free institutions throughout many generations. Convinced that I owe my election to the inherent love of the Constitution and the Union which still animates the hearts of the American people, let me earnestly ask their powerful support in sustaining all just measures calculated to perpetuate these, the richest political blessings which Heaven has ever bestowed upon any nation. Having determined not to become a candidate for re election, I shall have no motive to influence my conduct in administering the government except the desire honestly and faithfully to serve my country, and to live in the grateful memory of my countrymen.

We have recently passed through a presidential contest in which the passions of our fellow citizens were excited to the highest degree by questions of deep and vital importance; but when they pronounced their will, the tempest at once subsided, and all was calm.

The voice of the majority, speaking in the manner prescribed by the constitution, was heard, and instant submission followed. Our own country could alone have exhibited so grand and stirring a spectacle of the capacity of man for self-government.

What a happy consolation, then, was it for Congress to apply this simple rule—that the will of the majority shall govern—to the settlement of the question of domestic slavery in the Territories! Congress is neither "to legislate slavery into any Territory or State, nor to exclude it therefrom; but to leave the people thereof perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the constitution of the United States." As a natural consequence, Congress has, also, prescribed that when the Territory of Kansas shall be admitted as a State, it "shall be received into the Union, with or without slavery, as their constitution may prescribe at the time of their admission."

A difference of opinion has arisen in regard to the point of time when the people of a Territory shall decide this question for themselves.

This is, happily, a matter of but little practical importance. Besides, it is a judicial question, which legitimately belongs to the Supreme Court of the United States, before whom it is now pending, and will, it is understood, be speedily and finally settled. To their decision, in common with all good citizens, I shall cheerfully submit, whatever this may be, though it has ever been my individual opinion that, under the Nebraska-Kansas act, the appropriate period will be when the number of actual residents in the Territory shall justify the formation of a constitution with a view to its admission as a State into the Union. But be this as it may, it is the imperative and indispensable duty of the government of the United States to secure to every resident inhabitant the free and independent expression of his opinion by his vote. This sacred right of each individual must be preserved. That being accomplished, nothing can be fairer than to leave the people of a Territory, free from all interference, to decide their own destiny for themselves, subject only to the constitution of the United States.

The whole territorial question being thus settled upon the principle of popular sovereignty—a principle as ancient as free government itself—everything of a practical nature has been decided. No other question remains for adjustment; because all agree that, under the constitution, slavery in the States is beyond the reach of any human power, except that of the respective States themselves wherein it exists. May we not, then, hope that the long agitation on this subject is approaching its end, and that the geographical parties to which it has given birth, so much dreaded by the founders of our Country, will speedily become extinct? Most happy will it be for the country when the public mind shall be diverted from this question to others of more pressing and practical importance. Throughout the whole progress of this agitation, which has scarcely known any intermission for more than twenty years, whilst it has been productive of no positive good to any human being, it has been the prolific source of great evils to the master, to the slave, and to the whole country. It has alienated and estranged the people of the sister States from each other, and has even seriously endangered the very existence of the Union. Nor has the danger yet entirely ceased. Under our system, there is a remedy for all mere political evils in the sound sense and sober judgment of the people. Time is a great corrective. Political subjects which but a few years ago excited and exasperated the public mind have passed away and are now nearly forgotten. But this question of domestic slavery is of far graver importance than any mere political question, because, should the agitation continue, it may eventually endanger the personal safety of a large portion of our countrymen where the institution exists. In that event, no form of government, however admirable in itself, and however productive of material benefits, can compensate for the loss of peace and domestic security around the family altar. Let every Union-loving man, therefore, exert his best influence to suppress this agitation, which, since the recent legislation of Congress, is without any legitimate object.

It is an evil omen of the times that men have undertaken to calculate the mere material value of the Union. Reasoned estimates have been presented of the pecuniary profits and local advantages which would result to different States and sections from its dissolution, and of the comparative injuries which such an event would inflict on other States and sections. Even descending to this low and narrow view of the mighty question, all such calculations are at fault. The bare reference to a single consideration will be sufficient in this point. We at present enjoy a free trade throughout our extensive country, such as the world has never witnessed. This trade is conducted on railroads and canals—on noble rivers and arms of the sea—which bind together the North and the South, the East and the West of our confederacy. Annihilate this trade, arrest its free progress by the geographical lines of jealous and hostile States, and you destroy the prosperity and onward march of the whole and every part, and involve all in one common ruin.

But such considerations, important as they are in themselves, sink into insignificance when we reflect on the terrific evils which would result from disunion to every portion of the confederacy—to the North not more than to the South, to the East not more than to the West. These I shall not attempt to portray; because I feel an humble confidence that the kind Providence which inspired our fathers with wisdom to frame the most perfect form of government and Union ever devised by man, will not suffer it to perish until it shall have been peaceably instrumental, by its example, in the extension of civil and religious liberty throughout the world.

Next in importance to the maintenance of the constitution and the Union is the duty of preserving the government free from the taint, or even the suspicion, of corruption. Public virtue is the vital spirit of the republic; and history proves that when this has decayed, and the love of money has usurped its place, although the forms of free government may remain for a season, the substance has departed forever.

Our present financial condition is without a parallel in history. No nation has ever before been embarrassed from having a large surplus in the treasury. This almost necessarily gives birth to extravagant legislation. It produces wild schemes of expenditure, and begets a race of speculators and jobbers, whose ingenuity is exerted in contriving and promoting expedients to obtain public money. The purity of official agents, whether executive or legislative, is suspected, and the character of the government suffers in the estimation of the people. This is in itself a very great evil.

The natural mode of relief from this embarrassment is to appropriate the surplus in the treasury to great national objects, for which a clear warrant can be found in the constitution. Among these I might mention the early improvement of the public debt, a reasonable increase of the navy, which is at present inadequate to the protection of our vast foreign trade, often greater than that of any other nation, as well as for the defence of our extensive sea coast.

It is beyond all question the true principle that no more revenue ought to be collected from the people than the amount necessary to defray the expenses of a wise, economical, and efficient administration of the government. To reach this point it was necessary to resort to a modification of the tariff, and this has, I trust, been accomplished in such a manner as to do as little injury as may have been practicable to our domestic manufactures, especially those necessary for the defence of the country. Any discrimination against a particular branch, for the purpose of benefiting favored corporations, individuals, or interests, would have been unjust to the rest of the community and inconsistent with the fair spirit of fairness and equality which ought to govern in the adjustment of a revenue tariff.

But the squandering of the public money sinks into comparative insignificance as a temptation to corruption when compared with the squandering of the public lands.

No nation in the tide of time has ever been blessed with so rich and noble an inheritance as we enjoy in the public lands. In administering this important trust, whilst it may be wise to grant portions of them for the improvement of the remainder, yet we should never forget that it is our cardinal policy to reserve these lands, as much as may be, for actual settlers, and thus at moderate prices. We shall thus not only best promote the prosperity of the new States and Territories by furnishing them a hardy and independent race of honest and industrious citizens, but shall secure homes for our children and our children's children, as well as for those exiles from foreign shores who may seek in this country to improve their condition, and to enjoy the blessings of civil and religious liberty. Such emigrants have done much to promote the growth and prosperity of the country. They have proved faithful both in peace and in war. After becoming citizens, they are entitled, under the constitution and laws, to be placed on a perfect equality with native born citizens; and in this character they should ever be kindly recognised.

The federal constitution is a grant from the States to Congress of certain specific powers; and the question whether this grant should be liberally or strictly construed, has, more or less, divided political parties from the beginning. Without entering into the argument, I desire to state, at the commencement of my administration, that long experience and observation have convinced me that a strict construction of the powers of the government is the only true, as well as the only safe theory of the constitution. Whenever, in our past history, doubtful powers have been exercised by Congress, these have never failed to produce injurious and unhappy consequences. Many such instances might be adduced, if this were the proper occasion. Neither is it necessary for the public service to strain the language of the constitution; because all the great and useful powers required for successful administration of government, both in peace and in war, have been granted, either in express terms or by the plainest implication.

Whilst deeply convinced of these truths, I yet consider it clear that, under the war-making power, Congress may appropriate money towards the construction of a military road, when this is absolutely necessary for the defence of any State or Territory of the Union against foreign invasion. Under the constitution Congress has power "to declare war," "to raise and support armies," "to provide and maintain a navy," and to call forth the militia to "repel invasions." Thus endowed, in an ample manner, with the war-making power, the corresponding duty is required that "the United States shall protect each of them [the States] against invasion." Now, how is it possible to afford this protection to California and our Pacific possessions, except by means of a military road through the Territories of the United States, over which men and munitions of war may be speedily transported from the Atlantic States to meet and to repel the invader? In the event of a war with a naval power much stronger than our own, we should then have no other available access to the Pacific coast, because such a power would instantly close the route across the isthmus of Central America.

It is impossible to conceive that, whilst the constitution has expressly required Congress to defend all the States, it should not deem it to be, by any fair construction, the only possible means by which one of these States can be defended. Besides, the government, ever since its origin, has been in the constant practice of constructing military roads. It might also be wise to consider whether here for the Union which now annexes our fellow citizens on the Pacific coast may not be impaired by our neglect or refusal to provide for them, in their remote and isolated condition, the only means by which the power of the States, on this side of the Rocky mountains, can reach them in sufficient time to "protect" them "against invasion." I forbear for the present from expressing an opinion as to the wisest and most economical mode in which the government can lend its aid in accomplishing this great and necessary work. I believe that many of the difficulties in the way, which now appear formidable, will, in a great degree, vanish as soon as the nearest and best route shall have been satisfactorily ascertained.

It may be proper that, on this occasion, I should make some brief remarks in regard to our rights and duties as a member of the great family of nations. In our intercourse with them there are some plain principles, approved by our own experience, from which we should never depart. We ought to cultivate peace, commerce, and friendship with all nations; and this not merely as the best means of promoting our own material interests, but in a spirit of Christian benevolence towards our fellow men, wherever their lot may be cast. Our diplomacy should be direct and frank, neither seeking to obtain more nor accepting less than is our due. We ought to cherish a sacred regard for the independence of all nations, and never attempt to interfere in the domestic concerns of any, unless this shall be imperatively required by the great law of self-preservation. To avoid entangling alliances has been a maxim of our policy ever since the days of Washington, and its wisdom no one will attempt to dispute. In short, we ought to do justice, in a kindly spirit, to all nations, and require justice from them in return.

It is our glory that, whilst other nations have extended their dominions by the sword, we have never acquired any territory except by fair purchase, or, as in the case of Texas, by the voluntary determination of a brave, kindred and independent people to blend their destinies with our own.—Even our acquisitions from Mexico form no exception. Unwilling to take advantage of the fortune of war against a sister republic, we paid her extensive territorial possessions, under the treaty of peace, for a sum which was considered at the time a fair equivalent. Our past history forbids that we should in the future acquire territory, unless this be sanctioned by the law of justice and honor.—Acting on this principle, no nation will have a right to interfere or to complain of us in the progress of events, we shall still further extend our possessions. Hitherto, in all our acquisitions, the people, under the protection of the American flag, have enjoyed civil and religious liberty, as well as equal and just laws, and have been contented, prosperous, and happy. Their trade with the rest of the world has rapidly increased; and this every commercial nation has shared largely in their successful progress.

I shall now proceed to take the oath prescribed by the constitution, whilst humbly invoking the blessing of Divine Providence on this great people.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

WASHINGTON CITY, 4th March, 1857.

WASHINGTON, March 7.

THE CABINET.—The following gentlemen compose Mr. Buchanan's Cabinet:

Lewis Cass, Secretary of State.
Howell Cobb, Secretary of the Treasury.
John B. Floyd, Secretary of War.
Jacob Thompson, Secretary of the Navy.
A. V. Brown, Postmaster General.
Isaac Toucey, Attorney General.
Judge Black, (of Penn.) Secretary of the Interior.

SNOW STORM.

The severest snow storm this winter was experienced at New York on the 3d instant. The storm has extended eastward, as far as heard from, and snow has fallen heavily at all points north of Boston. The telegraph lines are down.

A WARNING TO PHYSICIANS.—One day last week, Dr. Samuel Champney, of New York, was called to hold a post mortem examination on the body of John Elders, who died from inflammatory rheumatism, and who was supposed to have died of injuries caused by being knocked down and robbed a few days previous. While making the post-mortem Dr. Champney cut the fore finger of his left hand with a scalpel, but so slightly that he did not pay any attention to it. Soon afterwards he experienced a severe pain in the left arm, which extended to the arm pit, and notwithstanding every exertion and medical assistance, the poison extended through the arm to the body, and caused his death Thursday evening.

Virtue is no security in this world. What can be more upright than "pump logs and editors!" Yet both are destined to be sawed.

LATER FROM CALIFORNIA AND NICARAGUA.

ARRIVAL OF THE ILLINOIS.

NEW YORK, February 27.

The steamship Illinois arrived at 7 o'clock, this evening, from Aspinwall, with steamship Sonora, which brought about $1,700,000 in treasure, the bulk of which was transferred to the Illinois, the exact amount is not stated.

The California news is unimportant.

A committee of the Legislature reports that there had been $124,000 taken from the treasury.

Kalman & Co., dry goods dealers, failed. Liabilities $200,000.

Mexican bandits were devastating the southern counties, and murdering the inhabitants. The sheriff of Los Angeles and three constables, who went to protect the people, were murdered. The Legislature had appropriated $5,000 to assist in exterminating the robbers.

The recent earthquake caused the ground to open ten feet wide for many miles in the southern part of the State.

Business at San Francisco was dull, and there was no improvement in prices.

The mines were yielding largely, except those in the northern part of the State, which were blockaded with snow.

The receipts of gold at San Francisco were twenty-five per cent. greater than the previous fortnight.

A meeting of the citizens of Mariposa had resolved to resist Col. Fremont's claim to the Mariposa tract. A bill before the Senate, providing for the working of the mines on the grants made before the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, will, if passed, enable the Mariposa settlers to defeat Fremont's claim.

Dates from Oregon are to the 24th January. The Columbia river was again open. There had been great suffering from cold and many cattle had died from starvation. The soldiers at Fort Walla Walla were reduced to half rations.

The Isthmus news is unimportant, and there is nothing later from Nicaragua.

The steamer Columbus arrived at Panama on the 16th inst., with Costa Rica news to the 5th of February. She brought over 300 deserters from Walker's army.

The captain of the Columbus reports that a vessel of the allied squadron had captured a schooner belonging to Chris. Kilgore, whilst conveying supplies for Walker. The schooner was taken to La Union, where Lilly and his partner, Yates, were detained as prisoners of war. The former was to be sent to Guatemala for trial.

Point Trinidad, on the San Juan river, was occupied by 400 Costa Ricans, well armed and provisioned, and a rumor was current that 180 filibusters, with a small steamer and eighteen boats, were about to attack it. The latest accounts state that on January 29 the steamer came up to Point Trinidad, and after a few shots were exchanged, she retired. Forces were gathering ready to go down the river in search of them.

In the actions of the 27th and the 29th of January, the Costa Ricans lost sixty killed and wounded.

THE REV. DR. HAWKS.—We learn from the Raleigh Register that this eminent North Carolinian has consented to deliver an address at Oxford, on the 24th June next, on the occasion of the completion of St. John's College. The fact gives us an opportunity to copy from a Boston paper an account of some Lectures recently delivered in New York by Dr. Hawks. This account seems to have been written by a gentleman who stands in the first rank of American literati—one well known to fame as an author.

The amount of mental labor which a man can undergo, and the extent of knowledge which one mind can compass, is strongly illustrated by Dr. Hawks. And his ministerial labors which are generally regarded as enough for any one man, he has seemed to devote all of man's years to historical research; and then again he is distinguished among the most eminent working members of several Literary Societies; the author of books on various subjects; and here we find that he has been devoting years of study to American Ethnology—to the races of men who peopled this continent centuries before the Christian era.

It is pleasant to connect the name and fame of such a man with North Carolina and to know, as we have for years had opportunity to know, that his thoughts never turned to her, his desires ever for her honor and prosperity; and that, whether he writes and prints at his own cost a great scheme of internal improvement for her, or the plan of a Polytechnic School for her, each in advance of the age of her Legislators—or whether he devotes years of labor and a large amount of means not over affluent, to the collection of materials for her History, that personal emolument has been the least of all the consideration weighing on his mind, and affection for her the mainspring of all his labors.—*Fayetteville Observer.*

CONDITION OF GEN WALKER.—A gentleman, who came in the Illinois on Friday night last, makes the following statement:

From the time of leaving San Francisco I could get no intelligence about Walker's movements until I reached Aspinwall. He only stopped at Acapulco and Panama, but I heard nothing in either place; but on reaching Aspinwall I met with a young man with whom I had been previously acquainted in California, where we had worked together in the mines; he told me that he had been with Walker about nine months, and had just effected his escape with about thirty others, most of whom, like himself, were destitute of money, and that he did not know how to get back to the Atlantic States, which he desired to do; that he would have to remain there on charity until he could get a chance of returning home; he said that Walker's men were in the most deplorable condition, without money and clothes, and almost without the common necessaries of life; that most of them had begun to turn against their leader and would desert him if they could only succeed in effecting their escape. I never saw a harder looking set of customers than some of the deserters I met with my acquaintance at Aspinwall.

EXTORTION.—Mrs. Fanny Kemble Sartorius has been charged an exorbitant hotel bill at Milwaukie, Wis., publishes a copy of it in the Sentinel, with the following remarks:

"I think the person who has made the accompanying charge for one week's board and lodging for myself and maid, is probably insensible to shame, and therefore the publication of this extortion will not affect him, while it may afford at least some amusement or astonishment to your citizens."

The amount was $91.50.