From the New York Commercial Advertiser.

THE STRUGGLE IN CONGRESS.

Senator Cass yesterday, in his seat in the Senate, remarked, upon the present struggle between the two Houses of Congress, that the present is the most solemn crisis is the history of the country, and expressed the hope that the people would awake to a sense of the danger before it is too late. In this estimate of the importance of the crisis, the venerable Senator is undoubtedly correct. The present *is* the most solemn crisis the Republic has yet known. Whether the people generally realize its solemnity and importance—whether, in the present excited state of the public mind, the people are likely to reach a timely recognition of this fact—is matter of painful doubt and apprehension. There is a party in the country that seems determined to prevent calm reflection upon the matter. They resort to the most glaring misrepresentation of the real issue between the two Houses, in order to prevent the popular judgment; and we are constrained to believe that the simultaneous concoction of exciting and alarming reports from Kansas territory, which cannot be disproved before the extra session of Congress adjourns, is but a part of a scheme to keep excitement alive. However, the truth will eventually triumph; the people will, sooner or later, reflect as well as read, and the result will be a crushing condemnation of the present factious opposition to the appropriation bill.

We have previously shown, in the Commercial of Tuesday last, that the proviso which the Republicans in the House have attached to the bill would so embarrass the Executive as to destroy entirely the authority of the Federal Government over the territory, and leave it subject to the fearful devastations of civil war; and that it sets at naught the Supreme Court of the United States, as well as supersedes the action of Congress. On this ground alone the proviso is incompatible with the welfare of the Republic. It cannot be wise, or patriotic, or safe, for one branch of the Legislature to force upon the other a proviso having this effect; or for both branches of the Legislature to say to the Executive, "You shall not have the supplies necessary for carrying on the Government, unless you will consent to act with regard to a certain subject, as though Congress had already legislated upon it, and to disregard the decision of the Court constitutionally authorized to decide the question, if in the recess of the Legislature, that Court should pronounce its decision." And yet this is just the course which the Republican Speaker and members of the House of Representatives are pursuing, as must be apparent on a moment's reflection.

The President asks an appropriation for the army. He forcibly demonstrates its necessity. He shows that without such appropriation the army must be disbanded, for if the Government fail to pay the troops, their contract of enlistment would be broken, transportation, equipments and munitions could not be furnished; the thousands connected with this branch of the public service would be suddenly thrown out of employment. The construction of arms, and of ordnance, the manufacture of military clothing and camp equipage, would necessarily cease; and further—

A great part of the army is situated on the remote frontier, or in the deserts and mountains of the interior. To discharge large bodies of men in such places, without the means of regaining their homes, and where few, if any, could obtain subsistence by honest industry, would be to subject them to suffering and temptation, with disregard of justice and right most derogatory to the Government.

In the territories of Washington and Oregon, numerous bands of Indians are in arms, and are waging a war of extermination against the white inhabitants; and although our troops are actively carrying on the campaign, we have no intelligence as yet of a successful result. On the Western plains, notwithstanding the imposing display of military force recently made there, and the chastisement inflicted on the rebellious tribes, others, far from being dismayed, have manifested hostile intentions, and been guilty of outrages, which, if not designed to provoke a conflict, serve to show that the apprehension of it is insufficient wholly to restrain their vicious propensities. A strong force in the state of Texas has produced the temporary suspension of hostilities there; but in New Mexico, incessant activity on the part of the troops is required to keep in check the marauding tribes which infest that territory. The hostile Indians have not been removed from the state of Florida; and the withdrawal of the troops therefrom, leaving that object unaccomplished, would be most injurious to the inhabitants, and a breach of the positive engagement of the General Government.

To refuse supplies to the army, therefore, is to compel the complete cessation of all its operations, and its practical disbandment, and thus to invite hoards of predatory savages from the Western plains and Rocky mountains to spread devastation along a frontier of more than four thousand miles in extent, and to deliver up the sparse population of a vast tract of country to rapine and murder.

Such are the President's reasons for asking from Congress the passage of the army appropriation bill. The answer of the Republicans is —— "Kansas." They do not deny, they cannot deny, that the country abundantly needs the services of the small army it possesses; they admit that all the consequences the President predicts will follow the failure to make the appropriation; they have only a majority of two or three with them in the House, and the Senate is almost unanimously opposed to their proceedings, and yet they continue to insist by a mere majority—in one instance only by the casting vote of the Speaker—that all these results *shall* follow unless the President will relinquish his constitutional prerogative, abandon his constitutional duty, and leave a territory of the United States exposed to the devastating effects of a civil war. Nay, if the reports from Kansas which the Republican journals are just now so diligently parading are an approximation to the truth, civil war has already commenced, as acknowledged yesterday by the Tribune editorially in the following paragraphs:—

"By a despatch dated at Lawrence, Kansas, at 3 P. M., yesterday, we are apprised that four hundred free state men had the day before marched thence to attack a camp of marauding ruffians on Washington Creek, but the latter, sixty in number, fled on their approach. The free state men took two prisoners and burned the ruffians' fort. The free state force then marched toward Lecompton, whence the booming of cannon was heard when the despatch was written. They intend to drive all the armed bands of pro-slavery robbers and murderers from the territory, and it was reported that the United States troops would not interfere so long as their operations were confined to this end. Indeed, it is hard to see how Gen. Smith *can* interfere on the wrong side, except in pursuance of some legal or sham legal process, since he has repeatedly told the free state men, in answer to their appeals for protection from the plundering outrages of these ruffians—"I cannot protect you—you must protect yourselves."

They have at length been driven by the intolerable frequency and flagrancy of these crimes, to act on his suggestions, and we fear they will soon find themselves entangled in the meshes of the border-ruffian "laws" or overwhelmed by the thousands of Missourians who, at our latest advices from the border, were mustering to invade the territory in support of the pro-slavery bands encamped therein. The odds are too great to justify a hope that the free-state men can defend themselves, with the territorial authorities all against them; the bogus "laws" heading them at every turn, and Gen. Smith and his dragoons under orders to uphold and enforce these pretended "laws." We need no assurance that, with these terrible odds against them, the free state men have borne and forborne until they could bear no longer. We apprehend the worst; but the worst that can now befall them is death, not slavery. We shall await further advices with anxious, painful interest."

Is not this a state of things requiring the interference of the Executive or Federal authority? Can any one contend that this condition of things existing in the territory, the President's request for supplies for the army should be met with the response, "Sir, you can have no army unless you consent to let Kansas remain what it now is, the theatre of civil war; unless you will recognize no Legislature there; no laws of any Legislature, even though the Supreme Court should decide that there *is* a legislature there and that its acts are valid?" In vain the President replies that civil war, once begun, may spread over the States, and that the lack of authority and power on his part to enforce obedience to the laws there would be an incentive to disobedience in the States bordering on the territory; that he cannot, with his oath upon his conscience, connive at civil war or surrender his authority over the territory; in vain he reasons of the ruinous consequence that must result from this attempt to force him to such surrender, if persisted in; the only answer is—"Either thus submit to our demands or you shall have no supplies." If this language and purpose are persisted in, it is to be hoped, and expected, that the President will repeat his call for an executive session, and throw himself upon the intelligence and patriotism of the people for support. He will obtain it.

There is another feature of this matter which demands notice. What is the meaning of this pertinacity in refusing supplies on such a pretext? *How can disunion be more easily effected than by such proceedings?* The question must suggest reflection. We have not room or time to-day to indulge fully in its consideration, but we thus briefly place it before the people that they may think it over. This much must be clear to the meanest apprehension;—there cannot well be a more direct and easy road to the dissolution of this Union than by upon a purely party issue stopping the supplies for the executive and administrative departments of the Government, and so necessitating the breaking up of the machinery by which alone the Union can be held together in working order, and leaving each State to take care of itself, or any portion of the States to combine anew for mutual defence and the protection of their mutual interests. Let the people well ponder the suggestion.

Daniel Webster and South Carolina.—The following eloquent and patriotic remarks of Daniel Wedster, in his memorable speech on the tariff question, in reply to Mr. Hayne of South Carolina, are worthy of republication in every journal throughout the country:—

"Let me observe, that the eulogium pronounced on the character of the state of South Carolina by the honorable gentleman, for her revolutionary and other merits, meets my hearty concurrence. I shall not acknowledge that the honorable member goes before me in regard for whatever of distinguished talent, or distinguished character, South Carolina has produced. *I claim part of the honor.* I partake in the pride of her great names. I claim them for *countrymen*, one and all. The Laurens, Rutledges, Pinckneys, the Sumters, the Marions—Americans all—whose fame is no more to be hemmed in by state lines than their talents and patriotism were capable of being circumscribed within the same narrow limits. In their day and generation they served and *honored the country, and the whole country*, and their renown is of the treasures of the country. Him, whose honored name the gentleman himself bears—does he suppose me less capable of gratitude for his patriotism, or sympathy for his sufferings, than if his eyes had first opened upon the light in Massachusetts, instead of South Carolina? Sir, does he suppose it in his power to exhibit a Carolina name so bright as to produce envy in my bosom? No, sir—*increased gratification and delight*, rather. Sir, I thank God that if I am gifted with little of the spirit which is said to be able to raise mortals to the skies, I have yet none, as I trust, of that other spirit which would *drag angels down.* When I shall be found, sir, in my place here in the Senate or elsewhere, to sneer at public merit, because it happened to spring up beyond the little limits of my own state or neighboorhood; when I refuse, for any such cause, or for any cause, the homage due to *American talent*, to elevated *patriotism*, to sincere devotion to *liberty* and the *country*; or if I see an uncommon endowment of heaven—if I see extraordinary capacity and virtue in any son of the South—and if, moved by local prejudice, or gangrened by state jealousy, I get up here to abate the tithe of a hair from his just character and fame, *may my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth!* Sir, let me recur to pleasing recollections—let me indulge in refreshing remembrance of the past—let me remind you that in early times no states cherished greater harmony, both of principle and of feeling, than Massachusetts and South Carolina. Would to God that harmony might again return. Shoulder to shoulder they went through the revolution—hand in hand they stood round the administration of Washington, and his own great arm lean on them for support. Unkind feeling, if it exist, alienation and distrust, are the growth, unnatural to such soils, of false principles since sown. *They are weeds, the seeds of which that same great arm never scattered.*"

Convicted of Kidnapping.—In the Husting's Court yesterday a New York free negro calling himself Lott Munday, formerly employed on the schooner Danville, as cook, was tried for kidnapping a slave, the property of Mr. Wm. McFarland, found guilty and sentenced to the penitentiary for ten years, that being the extent of punishment allowed by law. The evidence of the prisoner's guilt was so conclusive that the court could not entertain a doubt on the subject.

Richmond Dispatch.

A New Way of Advertising.—The wife of a jeweler at Saratoga, who has a $10,000 diamond left for sale, appeared at the hop at Congress Hall a few evenings since, with not only the full diamond upon her person, but other jewels, amounting to $5000. The jeweler's shop was, in consequence, run down with customers the next day. The best of the joke is, many of the guests supposed her to be the wife of a Southern millionaire, so proudly and so dignified did she bear herself with the "borrowed baubles."

Dr. John Higginbotham, of England, cures drunkenness by ipecac. As often as the patient begins to hanker for the critter he doses him with a remedy, until finally, as the doctor says, the appetite for liquor disappears entirely, and the patient is ready to sign the tectotal pledge.

FOUR DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

QUEBEC, August 24.—The Canadian screw-steamship North American, from Liverpool 13th instant, arrived at this port at 7 o'clock this morning.

The Liverpool cotton market was unchanged since the departure of the Africa. Breadstuffs of good quality were firm and advancing. The better grades of wheat had advanced 3d. Flour was firm at an advance of 6d. to 1s. Yellow and mixed corn had advanced 6d.

The political news by this arrival is unimportant. The Emperor of the French has returned to Paris, but would leave again immediately for the baths at Biarritz. The London papers notice certain extraordinary statements circulating in Paris respecting affairs at the Tuilleries, and call on the Emperor to stop the calumny.

Intelligence from Madrid simply mentions that there is nothing new. Quiet is reported throughout Spain.

"What is to become of the Whites?"—Such is the question which the Cincinnati Daily Enquirer urges very appropriately on the attention of the besotted and debauched idolaters of the abolition dagon, who are lashing themselves into fanatical convulsions. From this article we extract a passage, of some interest and value from such a source:

"Nothing is more easily demonstrated than that the North has a greater interest in the continuance of slavery in the South than the South itself. All the burden, blight and evil of slavery fall upon the South. The North quietly divides the products of the labor, washes its hands of all the sinfulness of it, and is protected from all its evils and inconveniences. Every pound of cotton raised in the South adds to the wealth of the North. Boston makes more out of each bale shipped from New Orleans than the latter city; she makes it in the freight of cotton abroad on her ships, in the supply of raw material for her manufactories, and in the articles required by the planter to produce it, which are fabricated by Northern artisans.

"No wonder the North prospers so much more than the South. She has all the benefits of slavery and none of its evils. She taxes the South for her support and enrichment. Let slavery be abolished in the South, and you may reverse the relations of the two sections. The North will then have to support those whose consumption has so long burdened and weakened the South. We believe that the abolition of slavery would be a great evil to the country, but in the division of the evil, the North would come in for the largest share."

THE CALAMITY AT LAST ISLAND.

Our weekly paper this morning contains, in full, all the particulars we have been enabled to gather, of the terrible disaster at Last Island, in the storm of Sunday last. No such calamity, in wide-spread and sudden destruction of life, has ever been known in this region before. An island, twenty-five miles in length, and from a half to three-fourths of a mile in width, peopled by several hundreds of the best class of Louisiana society, has been literally washed away by the raging waters, and more than half the inhabitants engulfed by the pitiless waves or bruised and crushed to death amidst the fragments of ruined habitations, tossing in the furious whirlpool which has destroyed the island.

Our distant readers may not know where Last Island is, which has been the scene of these horrors. It is the most westerly, and therefore termed the "Last," of a chain of islands, extending from the mouth of the Mississippi, westward, a few miles from the mainland. Its direction from New Orleans is a few degrees west of south, and the air-line would not be over seventy-five miles, as we estimate, on the map. It may be reached by the way of the river, but since the building of the Opelousas Railroad access has been very much facilitated by that route. Travellers took the railroad to Bayou Bœuf, thence by steamboat down the Atchafalaya river into the Gulf, by the Bay, or through one of the bayous. From the city to Bayou Bœuf is seventy-three miles, and it is about thirty miles to the mouth of the Bay.

Last Island lies some eighteen or twenty miles, in the Gulf, east of the Capes of Atchafalaya Bay, and five or six miles from the nearest shore. It was a wild place—a sand bank, in fact—covered with very scanty vegetation, but so open to the cooling breezes of the Gulf, and with such a fine beach, and abounding with fish and oysters, that it became at first an occasional resort for fishing and pic-nic parties, and of late years grew to be a pleasant summering place for planters and their families from the Attakapas and Lafourche parishes. Several of them had built cottages, and some buildings had been erected of quite a durable description. The railroad offered such facilities of communication that the island was frequently visited from this city, and grew so much in favor that a plan was suggested, and had met with very liberal countenance, for making a summering place there on an extended scale, by the erection of a very large hotel, under the charge of Hall & Hildreth, of the St. Charles Hotel. The designs and elevations were shown to us some months ago, and it was thought the enterprise might be complete and in operation for the next season. This summer a hotel was kept there by Mr. John Muggah, which has had a very considerable support, and the island has had a large number of visiters.

The list of the lost and the saved will show anybody acquainted with this State, that there was gathered upon this little spot in the Gulf, at the time of the storm, a large representation of the wealth and intelligence of the best classes of the population of Louisiana. They made the barren sand bank the seat of refinement and hospitality, where, in a single day, almost within a single hour, Death came in his most hideous form and swept one-half of them into a nameless grave, and made the whole place desolate forever. The memory of this storm, which has carried mourning into every parish in South Louisiana, for the untimely fate of kindred or dear friends, will, for many a year to come, repel with a shudder all thought of Last Island for a dwelling place. Every murmur of the cooling surf in its quietest mood, and every sigh of the summer breeze in its balmiest breathings, will be a saddening memento of the time when a happy crowd were gathered there for innocent enjoyment, and the storm came suddenly and heaped the waters upon them. The sea and the winds will seem to chant an eternal dirge for the dead.—*N. O. Pic.*

The Old Grist Mill.—If anybody ever saw an old grist mill, he can see it again in the following fragment from Tennyson:

I love the brimming waves that swam
Through quiet meadows round the mill,
The sleepy pool above the dam,
The pool beneath is nearer still.
The meal sacks on the whitened floor,
The dark round of the dripping wheel,
The very air about the door
Made misty by the floating meal.

A case of family shame from gaming came out in Chicago last week. A $500 diamond breastpin was found by the police in the hands of some low gamblers, and upon investigation it had been gambled away by the brother of the young lady who owned it.

THE DANISH SOUND DUES.

The London Morning Post gives full faith to the statement embodied in the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, that the United States had agreed to the proposal of Denmark to settle the Sound Dues question, by paying to that power the sum demanded for the privilege of exemption from the tolls. It regards this arrangement as a matter of congratulation to the United States, considering that if compensation had been refused, the sympathies of Europe, and especially of England, would have been with the weaker power in the event of collison. However desirable it may be to settle this controversy on almost any terms, rather than subject the commerce of the country to embarrassments growing out of the apprehension of war, it is impossible, in the absence of other testimony, to credit the representation that the matter has been already arranged on the basis indicated; for the reason that the President declared in his last Annual Message to Congress, that this government had refused to be represented in a convention of maritime States united to assemble to consider the scheme of capitalization proposed by Denmark, on the ground that the question of the right to levy the Dues was not to be submitted to that convention, and still less would it have the power "to deal with the great international principle involved, which affects the right in other cases of navigation and commercial freedom, as well as that of access to the Baltic." So far as the right to exact the tolls is concerned, the President compared the pretensions of Denmark with those of the Barbary powers, from ignominious tribute to whom the resolute resistance of this government, preferring war to submission, had relieved the commerce of the world. The amount of the Sound Dues the President considered as a secondary matter; but he was of opinion that the country should refuse to pay them, in order to preclude "the recognition of the right of Denmark to treat one of the great maritime highways of nations as a close sea." It will be seen, therefore, that the present assent of the United States Government to purchase exemption from the obnoxious tax on the terms prescribed by Denmark, would involve an entire change in the policy inaugurated by this Administration, and a complete abandonment of the principle which it had declared its purpose to maintain and establish. Under these circumstances we want some other evidence than that of the British Minister at Copenhagen, on which the committee of the House of Commons found their statement to satisfy us that the United States have indeed joined the Baltic powers in accepting the terms offered.

Nor do we regard it certain that British sympathy would be all with Denmark in the event of our resisting with arms the forcible exaction of the Sound tolls. No doubt there is a large interest in Great Britain concerned in the security derived from this source of revenue for payment of the Danish public debt. But the mercantile interest, through the columns of the London *Shipping Gazettee* and others of its organs in the public press, warmly favors the stand taken by the United States against the right of Denmark to levy the tolls, and invokes a corresponding action on the part of its own government. The London *Spectator*, one of the ablest of the metropolitan journals, independent of party, and elevated in its views of public policy, doubts the assertion that the United States is prepared to join in the redemption of the dues, observing—"The difficulty is, to show that there is any such validity in the demand as would justify this country in interfering to prevent the United States from breaking through the custom." If Great Britain interferes in the quarrels of other States, it must be to prevent the infliction, or to secure the redress, of great wrongs. It is no argument to enlist her sympathies in favor of Denmark, that that power is weak to protect her abuses.

We have looked with some interest to Washington for either confirmation or denial of the statement so authoritatively made to the British House of Commons, respecting the action of our own government; but nothing has as yet appeared on the subject in the papers on which we are accustomed to rely for authentic intelligence respecting matters of official action.

Journal of Commerce, Jr.

Vine Growing in Georgia.—We are under obligations to Mr. Charles Axt for a fine lot of Catawba Grapes, from his vineyard, near Dalton, Whitfield county. Certainly we have seen nothing of the grape kind that equalled these either for richness of flavor or luxuriance of growth. A bunch of Mr. Axt's grapes is indeed a perfect curiosity. At the distance of a few paces it appears one solid grape.

Mr. Axt is already well known as a German vine grower, who has devoted himself for the past five years, to the cultivation of the grape in Georgia. We are happy to learn that his efforts have been rewarded with complete success. The experiments made by himself, not only on his own vineyard in Whitfield county, but elsewhere throughout the State, have fully satisfied all who have interested themselves in the matter, that the cultivation of the Vine in our State is no longer a matter of experiment, but an enterprise which promises to add materially to the wealth and happiness of the country. Mr. Axt thinks that no part of the Union is so well adapted to grape culture as Georgia, and the success which has attended this business in the North-west, satisfies us that wine must, in time, become an important article of the commerce of the State.

A meeting was held in Dalton on the 19th instant, for the purpose of forming a vine grower's association, and we will if possible lay the proceedings before our readers in a few days.

Atlanta Intelligencer.

MY FIRST WHISTLE.

Of all the toys I e'er have known,
I loved that whistle best;
It was my first, it was my own
And I was doubly blest.

'Twas Saturday, and afternoon,
That schoolboy's jubilee,
When the young heart is all in tune,
From book and ferule free.

I then was in my seventh year;
The birds were all a singing;
Above a brook that rippled clear
A willow tree a swinging.

My brother Charles was very cute,
He climbed that willow tree;
He cut a branch, and I was mute
The while, with ecstacy.

With penknife he did cut it round,
And gave the bark a wring;
He shaped the mouth and tried the sound,
It was a glorious thing!

I blew that whistle, full of joy;
I echoed o'er the ground;
And never since that simple toy
Such music have I found.

I've seen blue eyes, I've tasted wines,
With many toys been blest;
But backward memory still inclines
To love the whistle best.

A termagant having threatened her husband with a blow up,—"My dearest blossom," said he, "commit your remarks to paper and read them to me."

HOW JIM WILLS GOT TO NEW ORLEANS.

It has not been many years since the late James Wills, of Baltimore, one of the greatest comedians of his time, flourished in the western cities. In fact, we believe towards the close of his career he made St. Louis his home. The New York Sunday Courier tells the following good story in which Wills acts the hero:

About the time the Texas excitement ran so high in the United States, Jim Wills was in Pittsburg, in that situation so common to play actors, "flat broke," standing on the wharf, with his solemn visage expanded, planning how he could get down the river, when he heard the drum and fife. He saw a half uniform soldier about embarking for New Orleans, bearing a Texan banner. A thought struck him. Next day he sent his trunk on board the first boat to start, and just as the Captain tapped the bell for the last time Wills stepped on board, dragged his trunk into an unoccupied state-room, and took from his theatrical wardrobe a soldier's coat, with buff breast and three rows of buttons, a chapeau with an immense plume, a red sash, and a pair of false whiskers. By the time that the boat got fairly under way Jim was fully equipped with his stage sword hanging gracefully by his side. Drawing on his gloves, he hesitated a moment, but relying on his peculiar power, he opened the door into the cabin which was filled with passengers. In a moment all eyes were turned towards him, but he walked up to the bar and took a glass of brandy and water. In the meantime all was confusion and bustle to find out who the officer was. A general rush was made for the register, but he had not yet put his name down; the captain was consulted, but he knew nothing. At length, however, feeling a little curiosity, he walked up to Jim, bowed politely to him, and said "Sir."

"Sir, to you," said Jim, touching his chapeau.

"Will you do me the favor to register your name, so that I can provide a state-room for you."

"Oh, with pleasure," said Jim, and walking up to the register he flourished in round text, "C. P. Edwards, Major, Texas Army." The crowd pressed around the table—they read the name—universal enthusiasm prevailed, and three tremendous cheers were given for "Texas and Liberty!" Jim took off his chapeau, acknowledged the compliment with a graceful bow and a few patriotic remarks. It is almost needless to say that from that moment the *soi disant* Major was a lion. Every one sought his acquaintance; the ladies opened the cabin door to get a peep at him; he was placed at the head of the table, and at night was made drunk as Bacchus on champagne. Next day he was promenading the hurricane deck, linked arm-in-arm with the captain and a warm-hearted Southerner.

"Major," said the Southerner, "I know you have been on a mission to collect arms, ammunition and recruits, but on this subject you may of course be mum, in consequence of the treaty between the United States and Mexico. For my part I could see all the rascals hung like dogs on the trees."

"Whatever my business may have been, I find that I have exhausted my means in the cause; in fact, I fear I shall not be able to pay my passage until I get to New Orleans."

"Don't mention it," said the Captain, "I could not think for a moment of taking anything from you."

"I have it," exclaimed the Southerner, "follow me."

The trio adjourned to the clerk's office, where a stirring appeal for aid to Texas was written. The Southern gentleman carried it among the passengers and collected $150, which was handed over to Wills. At night a supper was given, at which speeches were made and toasts were drunk.

The cabin was decorated with the star-spangled banner, entwined with the flag of the lone star, made by the ladies out of white and red "oh-no-we-never-mention-'ems" for the occasion. At 12 o'clock they commenced singing songs and at length the Major was called upon to favor the company with one. He complied by singing his favorite song, Billy Barlow.

"Bravo!" said one. "Excellent!" said another.

"I could do it better," said Jim, who was fast verging into the fourth stage of intoxication, "if I had my proper togs on." After giving three faint huzzas for Texas, the party broke up.

Next morning the clerk went into Will's state-room to call him to breakfast, when he found that the Major had turned in all standing, with boots, chapeau and sword on; his feet snugly laid on the pillow. He was a Texas "Major," and of course no fault was found.

Miraculous Escape.—Thrilling Scene.—On Saturday morning last, as the passenger train from Wheeling was approaching Baltimore, the engineer, when a short distance east of Ellicott's Mills, discovered a cow upon the track, but was so close upon her that it was found impossible to check the train. The consequence was that the engine, tender, baggage and one passenger car passed over her without being thrown from the track, while two passenger cars in the rear of the train were displaced, and ran some distance alongside the track and immediately upon the edge of a frightful embankment, below which ran the Patapsco Falls. For a brief period the wildest excitement prevailed among the occupants of these cars, as they every instant expected to be hurled over the precipice, and at a moment when all seemed paralysed with fear, by a slight curve in the road, and the strength of the coupling of the cars, they were replaced upon the track before the train had been stopped. This was certainly a most Providential escape from a terrible casualty, and one which must long be remembered by those upon the train.

Just the Book for Bashful Lovers.—"A Treatise on Popping the Question," illustrated with familiar examples, would, doubtless, prove a popular book. Our drawer is open for contributions of the necessary materials for such a work. We trust that our friends will be particular in mentioning whether the applications were successful. The following is furnished by the person most interested, with the assurance that it "operated to a charm:"

"I was sitting by the side of Imogene, meditating upon the best manner of coming to the point, when she took up an orange that lay upon the table.

"Will you have part of this?" she asked.

I assented, thinking all the while more of orange flowers than of the fruit. What she was thinking of I cannot say. She divided the orange into two parts and gave me one. A sudden inspiration came upon me.

"Oh, Imogene!" said I, "I wish you would serve me as you have just done this orange."

"What do you mean?" she asked, innocently.

"Why, you have *halved* the orange; now won't you *have* me?"

I am a little oblivious as to what followed for the next few moments; only I remember that somehow I found my moustache in contact with her lips. We are to be married next September. You will receive cards."

It was among the loveliest customs of the ancients to bury the young at morning twilight; for as they strove to give the softest interpretation to death, so they imagined that Aurora, who loved the young, had stolen them to her embrace.

Scenes During the Night Session of the House—Absence of Drunkenness—The Gallery and the Lobby—Struggles for the Floor.

Correspondence of the N. Y. Times.

WASHINGTON, Sunday, Aug. 17, 1856.

THE NIGHT SESSION.

The night sitting, previous to the adjournment of Congress, is an exciting, interesting and instructing occasion. There was quite as much of intensity as usual in that of last night, although much less of confusion and more of dignity. Vain would be the attempt to convey an adequate picture of the scene, especially in the House, where unsteady gaslight was spasmodically blinking and winking, until the gray dawn of morn, over some hundreds of intensely interested and excited men. During these last hours the galleries and lobbies are always crowded with anxious expectants and their friends, who have claims against Congress or are interested personally in some other way in the pending legislation.

THE SCENE AT MIDNIGHT.

Look in upon the scene at midnight. All ordinary rules of deportment have been suspended by a sort of unanimous consent. Scarcely any body is in his seat except here and there a member who, with head upon his arms folded over the desk in front of him, saves time in an unquiet nap, until aroused by some one who wants his vote. These gentlemen have nothing which they desire especially to get up. Their numbers are, however, very few. There upon the sofas all around the lobby lay stretched out at length quite a number of members who ought to be in bed at home under the advice of a physician, but who nevertheless are on hand to record themselves on the contested questions.

ONLY ONE DRUNK.

Only one member is intoxicated, and he sleeps and snores like the *habitue* of a *lager bier* shop. He is from Kentucky, and can drink his "share" of bad whiskey; but unfortunately can't stop with that amount. A vote is called on one of the Kansas amendments to the Appropriation bills. He is wanted. Every vote is important. His friends attempt to arouse him, and find they have undertaken a severe task. They lift him up, finally, and stand him upon his feet, holding him up that he may not sink to the floor. This rouses him partially, but he swears that he has "paired off" with somebody. His friends know better, or he would not be sleeping in the hall—so they tell him when his name is called, and instruct him whether to say "aye" or "no." He obeys the direction as sensibly as the parrot repeats its "Pretty Poll," and is then thrown like a log again upon the sofa, where he snores away until some new question makes his vote important. How sad is such a scene; how disgraceful to Congress and to humanity.

SPEAKER BANKS' DECISION.

Thanks to the decision of Speaker Banks this scene has no counterpart. A private bottle must have laid so low this *Honorable* Representative, for the Speaker has banished anything that can intoxicate from all the Committee and refreshment rooms. The result is a state of sobriety which the House has not exhibited at an all-night session before in many years.

THE GALLERY AND THE LOBBY.

Look up towards the gallery, and all about the lobby. What a collection of anxious, nervous looking men and women. They are claimants on public justice, or expected sharers in the spoils. Each has some claim or some darling project the passage of which seems to them just now almost the gate of Paradise. In to-night is their last present hope. With ardent intensity they gaze upon the scene. See how each facial lineament is impressed with intense anxiety as it peers through the windows into the hall or over the galleries. Each has some friend among the members who is seeking to catch the Speaker's eye and obtain the floor to move the

STRUGGLE FOR THE FLOOR.

bill which he has in charge. One measure is just disposed of, and fifty gentlemen spring to the floor, yelling "Mr. Speaker! Mr. Speaker!" at the top of their lungs. One only can have it,—one succeeds in being recognized, and the rest drop back into their seats, discouraged and exhausted, one insisting that the Speaker's failure to recognize *him* is a personal indignity, another protesting that he never *will* try again, but the greater number laughing at their own earnestness and want of success, and "gathering up" for another tiger leap at the first opportunity. The gentleman up moves the consideration of the bill he has in charge. His motion is carried, and his measure soon passed. What a load is evidently removed from the heart of the successful claimant, who springs from his anxious seat in the gallery, darts down the stairway, and "breaks" for home or his lodgings to tell his friends of his success, and too often to celebrate it in a carousal. But in many cases no such good fortune attends the claimant. His bill fails; despair crushes him beneath its heavy heel, and the unfortunate man wends his way sorrowfully from the hall, cursing his fate as he threads along the passages leading out of the building, and turns his back upon the Capitol, regretting the very citizenship which subjects his rights to the uncertain adjudication of an American Congress. These are some of the characteristics of a night session.

Chase of a Schooner.—Col. J. Wesley Watkins, the United States Marshal at Baltimore, was on Sunday last notified that a Boston schooner, which has been lying in the port of Baltimore for some days past, had put to sea during Saturday night last in such a manner as to create suspicion that she was freighted with slaves belonging to that section, when he immediately made arrangements to give her chase, and Sunday afternoon the steamer *Wilson Small* started in pursuit, having on board a large posse of officers sworn in as deputies by the marshal. Owing the start the schooner had, and the fact of her having a fair wind during Saturday night, the commander of the steamer expresses doubts of their ability to overtake her.

The *Sun* says:

This is certainly one of the boldest instances of fanatical outrage upon our rights that has yet come to notice, and it is to be hoped that the chase may not prove unsuccessful.

Astronomers expect the appearance this year of the comet of 1856, called Charles V. and so named from having, according to some historians, caused that monarch to abdicate and retire to the Convent of St. Just. It is thought to be the identical wandering star which appeared in 1264, in 995, and in 682. Its return was fixed 1848, but it failed to appear.

Hours for Marrying in England.—The limitation of the time of the day for marrying in England is fixed by statute. The period between eight in the morning and noon is assigned as the legal time for all marriages. The custom here and the law in England are widely different in this particular.

One vote in the United States Senate annexed Texas to the United States. Mr. Hannegan of Indiana, cast that vote. One vote in the Indiana Legislature elected Mr. Hannegan to his place in the Senate. The vote was cast by Madison Marsh, of Staunton county. Mr. Marsh was chosen to the Legislature of Indiana by one vote.