



THE "FREE PRESS,"

By George Howard.

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DOMESTIC.

Small Pox.—Drs. L. K. Mitchell, and John Bell, the physicians of the Small Pox hospital, in Philadelphia, have made a report to the managers of the Alms House, in which they state that the gradual diminution of the number of persons affected by this disease, induces a hope that it will soon disappear.

The whole number of patients that have been confided to their care, is 159, of whom 74 have died.

Of those who died, two had previously been inoculated, and two others had had the Small Pox in the natural way; but not one had been vaccinated.

Of the whole number of patients, 25 had been vaccinated, 5 inoculated, 4 had previously had the Small Pox, the facts in relation to 9 could not be ascertained, and 115 were "unprotected,"—a term by which the physicians intend to signify that they had not previously had the Small Pox in the natural way, nor been either inoculated or vaccinated. Of those "unprotected," 70 died.

In regard to color, the total of whites was 63; of whom 44 were "unprotected," and 24 died. The total of blacks, was 87; of whom 66 were "unprotected," and 42 died.

From this it appears, that, of the whites unprotected, about one-half died, while of the blacks in similar circumstances, about two-thirds died. Of the males, the proportion of deaths in the unprotected was nearly three-fifths—of the females two-fifths.

Drs. Mitchell and Bell add, "that, though the cases are scarcely numerous enough, to enable them to draw an inference beyond the reach of cavil, they are justified by their experience, in placing vaccination before inoculation, and even a previous attack of the Small Pox, as guarding most certainly against the fatal termination, though it may not guarantee as well as either of the two latter, an exemption from the secondary or mitigated form of the disease."

New-Orleans.—It appears by New-Orleans papers to the 13th ult. that the great Louisiana Bank had been incorporated, and commissioners were appointed to organize the institution. A price current of the 10th, states that the market had been more brisk the past week, and some of the best cotton was sold a shade higher.

Rhode-Island.—A Convention to form a Constitution for the State of Rhode-Island, will be held in the month of June next.

Gunpowder plot.—A scheme was fortunately discovered on Friday night, 30th ult. which if brought to maturity would have destroyed a worthy individual; and no clue probably left to ascertain the manner of his death. Mr. Lyon was employed up the Canal, in completing a contract which he had made with the James River Company. He was sleeping in a small cabin, and about three o'clock in the night, he was roused by a negro, who delivered him a small box, saying it was from Mr. E. a friend, who begged him to take care of it till he came. As soon as he had delivered the box, the negro retired from the cabin with great precipitation, a circumstance which appeared extraordinary and suspicious. Mr. L. took the box in and placed it under his bed. A singular glimmering appeared in the room, and it was traced to the box. Upon examining it, it was found with a covering over it; the box itself seemed like a window-glass box, with two small holes bored in the side to let in the air; two bits of candle stuck in augur holes, bored at the bottom, and a small keg of gunpowder, containing 6 or 8 lbs. The candles were burning low, and in a few minutes it is probable the explosion would have blown Mr. Lyons to atoms.

Who could have contrived this nefarious plot? Mr. L.'s suspicions were directed by a variety of circumstances against a bricklayer, by the name of Macon Green, who had been deprived of the contract which Mr. L. had obtained. On the information of the latter, the Mayor issued a warrant for the apprehension of Green, who is now in jail to answer to the charge.—*Richmond Compiler.*

De Witt Clinton.—The removal of this gentleman from the office of Canal Commissioner, by the late Legislature of the State of New-York, an office he is said to have held the last 14 years, without receiving any compensation, has produced a great excitement in that State. In various places public meetings have been held, to express their disapprobation of the proceeding. The Albany Daily Advertiser gives the following account of the transaction:

There were until lately six Canal Commissioners. A bill passed the Senate reducing the number to three. About the time Mr. Holly resigned on account of his defalcation, this bill was taken up in the Assembly, and the reduction agreed to, with some division against frauds and defalcation, on the part of the acting Canal Commissioners.

The amendments to the bill were not agreed to by the Senate, and owing to the want of time the bill was laid over, but both houses had as to the number of the Commissioners, reduced them to three, and thereby legislated Mr. Clinton and Mr. Van Rensselaer out of office.

Finding that the bill could not pass, but apprehensive of postponing both removals at the same time, Mr. Clinton was selected as the object of peculiar malignity, and he was accordingly removed.

New-York Canals.—We have prepared the following abstract from the Annual Report of the New-York Canal Commissioners, recently published. Both canals produced a toll of \$140,000, the last year, and it is calculated they will produce \$250,000 the present year.—The Erie Canal was navigated the last season from Albany to Brockport, 20 miles west of Genesee river; a distance of 280 miles. From Brockport to Buffalo, 76 miles, the canal is not yet finished, but arrangements have been made for its final completion in May, 1825. The excavation through the mountain ridge at Lockport, 65 miles west of Genesee river, is an immense work. 197,000 cubic yards of rock have been already excavated, at an expense of \$1:25 to \$1:75 per cubic yard, and 162,000 yards remain to be cut. Two harbors are to be constructed at the western termination of the canal—one in the Niagara river at Black Rock, and the other at the mouth of Buffalo creek, near the village of Buffalo.

The Erie Canal is carried thro' several valleys by means of embankments of earth, and across many streams by stone aqueducts. The great embankment across the Irondequoit valley, a few miles east of Genesee river, is 72 feet in height, and that across the Sandy Creek valley, west of that river, is elevated 76 feet. The great aqueduct across the Genesee at Rochester is 802 feet in length, and 9 of the arches have a span of 50 feet each. The stones which compose this immense structure were procured by blasting and splitting from a quarry the top of which was from 6 to 14 feet below the surface of the ground. The quantity of lime used was about 50,000 bushels. Below Schenectady are two stupendous aqueducts across the Mohawk, whose aggregate length is 1892 feet. Between Schenectady and Albany, the canal in some places occupies the bed of the river, and is overhung with lofty precipices; at others, it is forced through hills and spurs of rock more than 30 feet in height, and in its course ravines are filled up to the depth of 40 feet.

The Champlain Canal, which unites the Hudson to Lake Champlain, was in operation the latter part of 1823, through the whole line, and more than a hundred boats were in use.

The whole amount of monies received by the Commissioners since 1817, is \$7,516,667. It is probable the whole expense of both canals will not be less than NINE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.—*Hamp. Gaz.*

Affecting.—Mrs. Hannah Stone, of Alexandria, D. C. committed suicide, on the evening of the 30th ult. by drowning herself. It is supposed, in consequence of the excessive ill treatment from one, of whom, by the ties of both God and man, she should have received any thing else, this interesting female has been driven to this awful crime, leaving behind her a family of small children, one of whom is but three months old.

Murder.—On the 11th ult. Abel French, of Fitchburg, Mass. was committed to prison in Worcester, charged with the murder of Abel French, 2d. The circumstances are as follows: It seems that Abel French (the person committed) and his wife had not, for several years past, lived happily together; that they had sometime since separated, when his wife went to keep house for Abel French, 2d, (who was cousin to her husband,) his wife, also, having left him in consequence of disagreement. For some time past French's jealousy of his wife had become strongly excited, in consequence of which he went to the house of his cousin on the evening preceding the murder, where he made some discoveries which confirmed his suspicions. The next night he again went to the house, armed with a knife, and by some means got in and found his wife and cousin asleep together. He immediately attempted to cut his wife's throat, but struck so high that her jaw bone took the blow and probably saved her life. He then stabbed her two or three times, but his cousin having in the mean time been roused, seized him, and prevented him from completing his murderous purpose on his wife. A struggle now ensued, in which the elder French succeeded in stabbing the younger so fatally, that he fell and immediately expired. His wife, though badly wounded, is expected to recover.

The Navy.—Lieut. W. A. Weaver has been suspended, by order of the Navy Department, in consequence of the questions which have arisen as to the correctness of his conduct, in the case between himself and the owners of the ship America; a formal investigation will be instituted on the return of the Franklin to the United States.

The proceedings of the Court Martial, lately held at Norfolk, for the trial of Lieut. Beverly Kennon, are to undergo an investigation in Congress.

Great Fires.—A dreadful fire broke out at New-Castle, Delaware, on the 26th ult. by which 25 houses were destroyed. Loss estimated at \$100,000. Twenty-three families are said to have been deprived, by this distressing calamity, of every thing that was essential to domestic comfort. A committee have been appointed to solicit assistance and receive donations for the relief of the sufferers.

St. Johns, New-Brunswick, was visited with a destructive fire early in April; 40 buildings were destroyed—loss \$200,000.

From Mexico.—Mr. James Crawford, who was shot by a party of robbers, while traveling from Mexico to Vera Cruz, in March last, was a respectable and much esteemed citizen of Philadelphia. About 5 months since, Mr. Crawford and Mr. Andrews, (assistant Cashier of the United States' Bank,) were despatched by the Bank to Mexico, for the purpose of effecting some important negotiations.—On their return from the city of Mexico to Alvarado, as considerable danger was apprehended

from an attack by robbers, on the supposition of their having a large amount in specie, they were furnished with a strong escort of 25 men, well armed, under the direction of Capt. Murray, of the British navy. On arriving at Puebla, they were deprived of this escort by the public authority, and an inferior guard of 12 worthless men, badly armed, was substituted. A short distance from Puebla, most of this guard deserted them, and they were soon after attacked by 25 banditti. Mr. Crawford was shot through the lungs, four of the party wounded, and a courier who had joined them at the moment with despatches for Capt. Murray was killed. Capt. Murray and Mr. Andrews appear to have escaped unhurt. The banditti made prisoners of the party, robbed them of every thing, and being joined by those of the guard who had deserted, deliberated whether to put them to death; but, through the intercession of two or three who had some remains of humanity, they were, after some hours detention and cruel treatment, set free. Mr. Crawford expired in the arms of Mr. Andrews, three hours after receiving the fatal wound.

Accident.—The steamboat Eagle, Capt. Weems, on her first trip this season from Annapolis to Baltimore, on the 17th ult. when entering the mouth of the river burst her boiler, by which one of the passengers, name unknown, a soldier recently discharged from Fort Severn, was killed, and four others much scalded! among the latter was Henry M. Murray, Esq. of Baltimore, (since dead.) The whole crew of the Eagle, including Capt. Weems, are more or less injured. Three of the passengers fortunately escaped unhurt. The explosion set the Eagle on fire, but by the exertions and presence of mind of those on board it was happily extinguished. The son of Capt. Weems, a youth of 12 or 13 years, was literally blown through the skylight from the cabin, and yet without any very serious injury.

Insanity and Murder.—A white man, who had been employed for some time in the cooperage of Messrs. Kenny & Bell, at New-Orleans, was on the 6th ult. at mid-day, seized with a sudden fit of madness, and furiously attacked several persons in the Fauxbourg, St. Mary, and in Canal street, with a large Spanish knife, and with other weapons, several of whom he wounded. Turning into Chartres street, he entered the barber shop of Mr. Moss, seized a razor, and grasping a fine sprightly boy, who was alone in the shop at the moment, mangled him in so horrid a manner, that his life was entirely despaired of. The madman himself was severely bruised and wounded by the citizens who rushed in, before he would release his victim, or cease inflicting fresh wounds. He was taken and committed for trial.

On the 3d ult. Col. David Lowe was tried at Florence, Alabama, for killing Maj. Davies Kilcrease at that place the 19th March, & acquitted.