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BY GEORGE HOWARD,

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DOMESTIC.

Post Office Department.—We observed an article in Saturday's Intelligencer in which notice is taken of a rumored deficiency in the funds of the Post Office Department.

The administration of the affairs of that Department, by its present Chief, has been distinguished by a rapid extension of mail routes to every quarter of the Union; and by such improvements upon the great arteries of communication as have secured to the principal cities opportunities of more frequent and rapid correspondence with each other.

By the last Congress an act establishing an unusually large number of post roads was passed. This threw upon the Department a load, which, with the unexpected increase in the price of the contracts for the eastern section of the Union, was shewn in the last annual report of the Postmaster General to amount to a heavy sum, the most of which was exclusively for the new routes, which are always unproductive at the beginning.

This heavy and unavoidable expenditure, with the cost of the great improvements before made, the productiveness of some of which has not answered the expectations of the Postmaster General, were found during the present year to have carried the expenses of the Department beyond its receipts, though it is believed not much beyond its actual credits, if the sums due it could be promptly collected. Yet, as this cannot be done, the Postmaster General has applied himself with energy to the business of curtailing his expenses in a way, which together with the great saving effected in the contracts just let in the South, will soon bring them within the current revenues of the Department.

In the meantime the credit of the Department is unshaken; and the annual report which the Postmaster General is shortly to submit to the President, will fully exhibit its condition, and, we believe, will fully satisfy the public of the faithful and correct administration of its concerns.—*Globe.*

Raleigh, Nov. 8.—Francis S. Key, U. S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, passed through this city on Tuesday night last, on his way to Alabama. It is understood that the object of his visit to that State is, to have the soldiers who were concerned in the killing of Col. Owens, tried before the United States' Circuit Court.—*Star.*

☞We understand that Mr. Treadwell, of Boston, (inventor of a printing machine) has lately shown by experiments that *atmospheric air* may be so compressed and exhausted, as to propel boats equal to steam. He wants neither boilers nor heat. We should like to hear more of these experiments. The discovery may subserve the cause of humanity as well as science. It is said Professor Bigelow, of Cambridge, has confidence in the scheme.—*Spring, Rep.*

[A late London paper says: There is a prospect that in a few years, perhaps months, the whole system of steam engineering will undergo a revolution. Mr. Erickson is about to take out a patent for the employment of a new power—that of

heated air, in which he offers a saving of the fuel of eight-tenths. He has amply proved the practicability of his projection, for an engine of one horse power, upon the new principle, has been working on his own premises with complete success for the last three months. It has been inspected by the most eminent practical engineers in the country.]

Lost Mail, Horse and Gig.—The Northern mail, via Winton, due at this place on Wednesday evening last, has not yet arrived. This will account for the absence of late intelligence in our paper of to-day. A gentleman just from Winton informs us that he saw the driver yesterday morning, who stated that the morning previous he had stopped at a house near the road to warm himself, and whilst he was in the house the horse got loose from where he was tied and went off, or else some person stole him, together with the gig, mail-bag and contents. Diligent search had been made for them in every direction, but no intelligence of either had been obtained up to the time our informant saw the driver.

The Herald of the 8th, says: The mail, horse and gig, mentioned in our last as having been lost or stolen, have all been recovered, 'safe and sound.'

Gold Miners Bills.—Bills of exchange drawn on the house of James Hamilton & Son, by the Gold Mining Company of Burke, consisting of Robards, Turner, Robert Hamilton and P. Hamilton, and payable at the Chemical Bank at New York, have been put into circulation in the Western part of the State, and from the known wealth and integrity of the Company in the great dearth of State money, are answering a great public convenience.—*Salisbury Watchman.*

Sporting Intelligence.—The owner of Bertram, Jun. has offered, through the Columbia Telescope, to run that celebrated horse against Woodpecker, of Kentucky, over the Charleston Course, four mile heats, on the Monday previous to the next regular races—\$5000 a side, half forfeit. The challenge to be accepted by the first Monday in December next. An offer to raise the stake to \$10,000 would, it is said, be accepted.

☞The Boston Daily Advertiser says: In the Court of Common Pleas, yesterday, a case of some interest was tried. It was an action brought by Emilino F. B. Mundruca, formerly a Major in the Brazilian service, who now resides in this city, and is a dealer in clothing, against Captain Barker, of the steamboat plying between New Bedford and Nantucket. The nature of the action, was for a breach of contract in not carrying the plaintiff, his wife, and child, together with his horse and carryall, from New Bedford to Nantucket, in November last. The facts were that the plaintiff had agreed to pay the full fare in the steamboat, and that after his baggage was received on board, the Captain refused to admit his wife into the ladies' cabin, the plaintiff being a mulatto, or person of color, and required them to go forward, which the plaintiff refused to do. Himself and his baggage were then sent on shore, and the plaintiff was obliged to take passage in a packet, after some delay. The jury were out four hours, and after receiving further instructions from the Court, returned a verdict for the plaintiff of \$125 damages. The defendant, we understand, has appealed. The Court room was crowded during the trial.

Narrow Escape.—The Susquehanna (Pa.) Democrat says: During a storm that occurred on Thursday week, Dr. Barstow, of Susquehanna, with his wife and one or two children, were travelling a few miles above Tunkhannock, in a carriage drawn by two horses. When

the storm was at the top of its fury, and while the carriage was passing a part of the road skirted by trees, a hemlock tree, two feet or more in diameter, fell suddenly and with a tremendous crash, between the horses and the carriage, without doing further injury to either than to break off the tongue. Had it fallen but one instant sooner, the horses must have been killed, or had it been delayed one instant longer, it would doubtless have crushed to atoms every individual in the carriage.

Masonry.—The Grand Lodge of Vermont has dissolved all the charters of the Lodges in that State, and recommended the sale of all the furniture, jewels, &c. the amount of which, it is suggested, should go to the common school fund.

☞The Legislature of Tennessee have a resolution before them, for instructing their Senators and requesting their Representatives in Congress to obtain a cession to the State of Tennessee, of the public lands, within the chartered limits of the State, subject only to the extinguishment of military land claims to North Carolina, and proposing after these claims are satisfied, that the land be sold, and the proceeds of the sales and taxes be applied to the benefit of common schools within the State.

A Compliment.—Messrs. Beaumont and Tocqueville, in their report on the Penitentiary system in the United States state a fact in the highest degree creditable to the female portion of our population. "Out of one hundred prisoners in the United States, we find but four women; whilst with us, in France, there are twenty in a hundred."

Great Improvement.—Mr. Jennings, of New York, has received patents for a mixture of alcohol and turpentine (the former in a large proportion) adapted to answer the purpose of lamp oil, and for an apparatus applicable to lamps of all sorts and sizes, whereby gas is generated from this mixture in the simplest manner. The liquid which fills a small lamp, to burn nine hours, costs but 19 mills, and a large lamp, with four brilliant flames, quite enough for a very large room, costs but a cent an hour. The liquor costs 80 cents a gallon. It produces no smoke, requires scarcely any tending, does no damage when spilt over upon clothes, carpets, &c.

☞It appears, by the Paisley (Scotland) Advertiser, that Mr. Blair, manager of the Johnston Gas Works, has made a discovery, which, if it become of general application, will in a great measure ruin the Sheffield cutlers. Some time ago a portion of the moist lime, by which the gas is purified, fell by accident on the back of a dog, and a small bit of wood having been used to scrape it off, the hair was at once brought completely away with it. Mr. Blair extended the discovery by practising on his own beard, which now requires no razor. The lime, of the consistence of cream, is laid on the beard, and after three or four minutes, scraped off with the back part of a knife or a thin piece of wood.

Roasting Potatoes, &c.—A good and easy mode of roasting potatoes, apples or eggs, by steam: Take your potatoes, or whatever you wish to roast, and after washing them clean, wrap them up in a paper two or three times over; when this is done put them in a can of water, and squeeze them until the paper is wet to the potato; squeeze them well, and after making a place in the embers, lay them in and cover them with hot ashes with no coals; after they have lain a proper time, take them out, and the paper will be found to be perfectly dry and not burnt, and on opening the paper it will be found to be very hot and damp the nearer

you go to the potato: the potato will be found to be soft and clean, and peel much easier than when boiled. An Irish potato when boiled loses half its sweetness, but when prepared in this manner it does not lose its sweetness but is better tasted every way. Apples roasted in this way are not like what they are when baked, black and burnt, but have a beautiful brown cast. Eggs prepared in this way are very toothsome, and will cook in a less time than when boiling, with good embers.—*Southern Planter.*

☞The last number of Skinner's Turf Register states that Wm. R. Johnson, Esq. has become the purchaser of Monsieur Tonson and O'Kelly, the former at \$10,000, and the latter at \$5,000.

Suspension Railway.—The Boston Transcript in noticing the proposed improvements in East Boston, has the subjoined account of a suspension railway:

"We were particularly interested with the novelty of a suspension railway located across the marshes, for the purpose of testing, as we are informed, this truly American invention, and to correct by actual demonstration, the many misconceptions relative to this very economical and highly important mode of transporting passengers and merchandize. Great curiosity was evinced to see how a car, intended to convey twenty or thirty passengers on two wheels only, one before the other, could run upon a single rail, which it did with perfect steadiness, and without the possibility of accident of any kind. There seemed to be but one opinion on the subject, and all were strongly impressed with the usefulness and importance of the invention. A Locomotive Engine was running upon the railway all the afternoon, but being in an unfinished state, it was not attached to the car. We sincerely wish success to the several projects contemplated on this island, and that the growth and prosperity of this new city may equal the hopes and industry of its enterprising owners."

U. S. Gazette.

☞Amongst the works of art exhibited at the late Fair of the American Institute, was a correct representation of the Capitol at Washington, in straw mosaic. A New York editor, speaking of the ingenuity shown in its construction says: "the light and shade are accurately preserved and the architectural proportions neatly exhibited. It was valued at \$150. Where were also exhibited some beautiful specimens of stained glass; of one of which the design was a copy of one of Raphael's cartoons; this the editor praises very highly for the admirable distribution of its lights and shades and for the beauty and delicacy of its coloring generally. The art of stained glass, in this way, was, for many centuries, considered lost, but is now successfully practised by an artist of New York."

☞It is said, in the Philadelphia Gazette, that some religious papers are discussing the propriety of holding General Camp-meetings for divine worship simultaneously throughout the United States in which all denominations of Christians shall participate alike.

Massachusetts.—The ancient commonwealth of Massachusetts presents a singular state of parties. There are no less than four candidates for the office of Governor. Mr. Adams is supported by the Anti-Masons, Mr. Morton by the Jackson party, Mr. Davis by the National Republicans, and Samuel C. Allen by the Working Men. The claims of each have been very freely discussed in the various papers, and the issue of the contest seems to be regarded as extremely doubtful. The election takes place to-day, (11th inst.)—*Pct. Times.*