

CHARLOTTE MARKET.

THURSDAY EVENING, Feb. 8, 1855. COTTON—A good deal coming in, with an upward tendency; extremes range from 6 to 7 1/2. FLOUR—Brisk; we quote from \$ a 8 1/2. WHEAT—Little in market; prime quality will readily command \$1.50. CORN—80 a 55c. MEAL—80 a 85c. RYE—\$1.00. OATS—40 a 50c; slight decline. PEAS 65c; and dull.

The Legislature.

We learn by private advices that this body will terminate its session about the 15th inst. This has been an unusually long, as it has been an unusually important, session. We will, in our next, endeavor to present a full list of all the bills acted upon, and we hope to have the pleasure at the same time of announcing the enrollment of the bill chartering the Wilmington & Charlotte Railroad.

French Broad Rail Road.

We learn from a telegraph despatch to the Carolina Times, that the French Broad Railroad charter has finally passed both branches of the N. C. Legislature, and is now a law.

Post Office Changed.

Harrisburg Post Office, in Mecklenburg county, has been changed to Harris Station on the line of the N. C. Railroad.

The Hon. William H. Seward was, on the 6th inst., re-elected U. S. Senator from New York for six years, from the 4th of March next, by a majority of twenty-two on joint ballot.

Election of Directors.

We learn from the Carolina Times that the annual election of the Board of Directors of the Charlotte and South Carolina Railroad took place on the 7th inst. The following is the result: E. G. Palmer, W. R. Robertson, W. V. Elms, C. J. Fox, Jno. A. Young, A. B. Davidson, A. B. Springs, Sam. McAllister, Jas. Pagan, J. S. Bouknight, Jno. Caldwell, Alex. R. Taylor. At the meeting of Directors, Mr. Palmer was chosen President.

Wilmington and Charlotte Railroad. A telegraphic despatch from Raleigh, gives the agreeable information that the bill chartering the Wilmington and Charlotte Railroad Company has passed its third reading in the Senate by a vote of 29 to 15, and is now a law. Wilmington Herald, February 6th.

A writer in the Carolina Times says that the proportion of expenses to the receipts on the Charlotte & S. C. Railroad is very large, nearly 60 per cent.; the usual ratio is about one-half. From 1839 to 1851, the highest per centage on the Georgia Railroad, was 47 per cent.; and although a few cases have occurred in the whole United States where the expenses have reached 60 per cent. of the whole receipts they have been exceptional and extraordinary.

Daguerreotypes.

Mr. Wilkinson has opened in the Room formerly occupied by Dr. Wilde, a Daguerreian Gallery, where he is prepared to take these beautiful pictures. We have examined his specimens, and take pleasure in saying they are beautiful and life-like representations of "the human face divine." This is an art which deserves encouragement—and we hope Mr. W.'s patronage will justify him making his residence among us permanent.

Messrs. Scarr & Co., successors to Fisher & Heinrich, have increased largely their stock of Drugs and Medicines, and have now one of the most complete and well supplied Drug Stores in the country.

They have just received a very large and full assortment of Garden Seeds, from the celebrated Seed store of Messrs. Landreth, Philadelphia, and as the time is fast approaching when they should be committed to the "fruitful bosom of the earth," we would recommend those who desire a good variety of vegetables to call before they are all picked over. Mr. Scarr, the active man of the firm, is an experienced and skillful Apothecary, and whatever comes from his house may be relied upon.

It will be seen from a notice by the President, that the Agricultural Society will hold its next quarterly meeting, in this town, on Thursday the 22d inst. Our meetings have, heretofore, been so thinly attended, and so little interest manifested, as to discourage the most sanguine.

With a new year, and the light of the old behind us, we should turn over a new leaf, and, by combining, give an impetus to the diffusion of useful Agricultural knowledge, and endeavor to create a just and laudable emulation, which alone, will do great things towards introducing an improved system of husbandry—and cause this spot to bloom and blossom like the rose. Agriculture is the nursing mother of the arts, and the planter the truest, most patriotic, and independent of the sons of men—we wish we could say the most intelligent and best informed in his avocation. It is a great mistake to think that any body can make a good farmer. It requires more traits of character than most any other vocation. Industry, energy, judgment, and a mind well stored with practical knowledge are essentials—the last can only be attained by experiments, and the reading of such books as treat of the subject. We hope to have an interesting time at our next meeting. J. W. Osborne, Esq., has been invited, and if his health will admit, will address the Association. This announcement, alone, is enough to fill the house.

Agricultural.

Having been honored in my absence from the last meeting of the Mecklenburg Agricultural Society, by the election to the Presidency of said Society, I therefore request the members to meet in Charlotte, on Thursday, the 22d inst., at 11 o'clock. It is hoped and requested they will still further honor me by a full and punctual attendance on that day, at the hour appointed. They will meet in the Court House at the ringing of the bell. Shall it be any longer said of the time-honored county of old Mecklenburg, that they have attempted several times to get up an Agricultural Society, and always failed? I throw not. Let each and every member leave their respective homes with the intention of attending the meeting. Let that be the main object that day, and punctually go into the meeting at the signal given. Those living in town, it is hoped, will also give their punctual attendance. If all will do so, and attend to it, the benefit to agricultural interests arising from it will be immense. Should the Society prosper and succeed, as I hope it will, none will be more gratified than him you thought proper to preside over you, and he will do all he can to promote its interests and prosperity. Other citizens are invited to come forward, enrol their names, and become members.

A. SPRINGS, President.

Congress.

On Wednesday, 31st ult., the President of the United States communicated to the Senate all the correspondence, instructions, &c., given by the Government to Commodore Perry in relation to the Japan expedition.

Mr. Bayard, of Delaware, made a statement in relation to certain charges connected with the Presidential election of 1801, and contained in the "Memoirs of Thomas Jefferson," against the late Hon. James A. Bayard, father of the present Senator. As the Memoirs were published by the authority of Congress, Mr. Bayard deemed it proper to have an official contradiction placed among the annals of the country; and perhaps a more eloquent tribute to the memory and public services of a distinguished statesman was never called forth. From a son this was to have been expected. But the vindication was not confined to him alone. Messrs. Pearce, Cass, Hunter, and Mason, whilst approving the filial and just spirit in which the subject had been treated by Mr. Bayard, highly eulogized the public services and moral worth of his deceased parent, at the same time that they expressed their belief that no one would more readily have corrected the misapprehensions, originating in the party excitement of the day, than Mr. Jefferson himself, if the testimony now adduced had been before him.

The Senate then resumed the consideration of the army appropriation bill, the pending proposition being that Mr. Shields to authorize the employment of three thousand mounted volunteers, to which Mr. Hunter had offered a substitute. To this substitute Mr. Shields offered an amendment, the effect which would be to raise four regiments of cavalry instead of the number proposed. Mr. Houston spoke at some length against the policy of making war upon the Indians. He was in favor of peace measures. Mr. Dodge and Mr. Mallory continued the debate in opposition to the position of Mr. Houston. The latter rejoined, and the discussion was continued until a late hour, but no vote was taken.

In the House of Representatives a joint resolution was introduced by Mr. Rice proposing to disapprove and annul certain acts of the Minnesota Legislature incorporating Railroad companies. After some explanations the resolution was referred. This proposition is consistent with the recent action of the House in disapproving and annulling two other acts of the same Legislature.

The House resumed the consideration of Territorial business, in Committee of the Whole, when Mr. Richardson moved to strike out of the bill, authorizing the construction of a subterranean railroad to the Pacific, the clause granting two millions of acres of the public lands, and referring to the company only the right of way. This was done with the approbation of Mr. Farley, the patron of the bill. Mr. Benton denounced the movement as sporting with legislation. Mr. Richardson rejoined, and, in order to prevent further discussion on this bill, moved to strike out the enacting clause. This was agreed to, and the bill was reported with others to the House.

Several bills providing for military roads, arsenals, public buildings, &c., in the Territories were favorably considered and finally passed.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2, 1855. The defeat of the volunteers enlistment bill, which it was intended to tack to the regular army bill, by an overwhelming vote in the Senate, (there being but thirteen votes for it,) quieted that matter forever. Instead of the volunteers, a provision was made for additional regulars, which passed, and settled, in its turn, the bill for re-organizing the regular army, and appointing nine additional brigadier generals. Time has so far advanced that there is no other way of legislating than by tacking amendments to the regular appropriation bills.

It is now a well ascertained fact that the administration has given up all idea of territorial aggrandizement, and events seem to favor their determination. The Sandwich Islands are about to be sandwiched by love and matrimony. The young king, who might have laughed down the suggestions of crazy counsellors, is not insensible to the charms of an English woman, and is about to pour his oration into her lap. Love is a more powerful agent than diplomacy, and as Lord Bacon says, goes by 'contrast.'

Great presidential preparations are now making in this city, to be commenced by a general sacrifice of suspected persons, and promotion of the faithful. Soup houses are to be opened for the disappointed.

The great pen with which Sam wrote his autograph yesterday was not plucked from the bird of Jove, but was taken from the tail of the great American condor—a bird strong enough to carry off an Indian boy, and carry him in flight with him to the highest cliff.

The death of our worthy ex-mayor Maury, who had been lingering since Sunday last, has cast a deep gloom over our community. Mr. Maury was entirely a self-made man, kind and charitable in his disposition, and emphatically and without ostentation the friend of the poor. His right hand never knew what his left hand did. Hundreds whom he has benefited deplore his loss.—He leaves a wife and twelve small children. Peace be to his ashes.

It is said that an intimate friend of "Alvarado" Hunter, intimates that the cashiered hero will shortly embark for St. Petersburg, to offer his services to the Czar of Russia as a commander in his navy. He will go out with testimonials for gallantry and efficiency from one of the highest officers of our navy, and it is even said that he will take a letter of recommendation from the President himself.

LATE FOREIGN NEWS.

News by the Africa.

Boston, February 1, 1855.—The steamer Africa, from Liverpool, via Halifax, did not arrive up at her wharf until 8 1/2 o'clock this morning. Her mails, therefore, will not reach Baltimore until to-morrow evening. The foreign files contain a few additional items.

CHINA AND INDIA.—The India and China mail had reached England, bringing Calcutta dates to December 13, and Canton, November 25. The Calcutta money market had advanced—money was more valuable. Trade was dull.

Sir John Bonner had returned from the north of China without reaching Peking. He and other foreign plenipotentiaries were stopped by commissioners from the imperial court, who proposed that they should meet at Shanghai in December, and discuss a revision of existing treaties.

The rebels had captured a large part of the imperial squadron, and there was quite a panic at Canton in consequence.

At Shanghai trade was improving, and a good business was doing in silk at advanced rates. Teas were a little cheaper.

From India we learn that the Nepalese army was to march through the English territories to attack the Grand Lama.

BUENOS AYRES.—Dates from Buenos Ayres to December 2 had been received in England. Business was at a stand still. The invasion of November 5 had paralyzed everything, and the government was hesitating between peace and war policy. No hope was entertained of a long continuance of peace while Urquiza remained President of the Argentine Confederation.

FROM THE CRIMEA.—A letter in the Pays, from Constantinople, dated January 5, says a column of riflemen had taken possession of Cusmara, near Balaklava, after driving out the Russians who occupied it. The enemy experienced severe losses and were completely put to rout. The loss of the Russians at Sebastopol and the neighborhood during the last days of December are estimated at more than 6,000 men.

The London Times, in a leading article, draws a most deplorable picture of the army in the Crimea. At the beginning of January the army could muster only 14,000 bayonets. The artillery and engineers had been reduced in the same proportion, and the cavalry in fact no longer existed. The deaths amounted to 60 per day, and the number disabled by fatigue and sickness amounted to 1,000 per week.

This ratio, the Times thinks, is rapidly on the increase, and it is computed that out of the 14,000 men nominally fit for service, only 2,000 are in good health. The army was an army of invalids at the beginning of the month, and the Crimea winter had not fully set in.

The Times comes to the conclusion that unless some extraordinary stroke of good fortune intervenes, England is about to lose its only army, an agent of so much pride, so much deep affection, so much tender solicitude, and asks if the nation is prepared for this disaster.

Letters from Odessa to the 6th of January state that hard frosts, equal to 10 degrees below freezing point, had brought the roads into a fit state for the conveyance of troops and munitions of war to Perekop.

RUSSIA AND AUSTRIA.—The Boulogne Gazette published advices from Berlin stating that in diplomatic circles doubt was entertained that Russia and Austria would come to an agreement in the freedom of the Danube and a cessation of the Russian protectorate over the Principalities.—Austria has gained her object, about which she was really interested.

Accounts from Weimar state that the Austrian government had signified to the princes of the Zollverein States that after the pacific declaration of Russia it appears not to be advisable to proceed with the mobilization of the military.

The contingent of the Germanic States was the question before the Diet. MONETARY AFFAIRS.—The London Times' city article of Friday says: The English funds have to-day not recovered from the unfavorable reaction of yesterday, and have been inanimate, at a further slight decline. No particular cause is assigned for the prevailing heaviness, and in the absence of any foreign intelligence. Recent reports of impending changes in the Cabinet continue to be circulated, although generally supposed, for the present at least, to be without foundation.

The last accounts from the Paris Bourse show a decline of 1/2. Private advices from St. Petersburg to the 11th describe a great alteration in the political atmosphere—the tone of public feeling being quite pacific.

A large business had been transacted in tallow.

Effect of a Bold Foreign Policy.

The influence of a bold and vigorous foreign policy, and the effect of such heroic exploits as the rescue of Kosztia by Captain Ingraham, in securing respect to Americans abroad, are made the subject of a brief but pointed article in a late number of the New York Sun. "An incident," says the Sun, "illustrative of this influence, is reported to have occurred recently at Leghorn. A young American travelling in Europe happened to permit himself to talk freely in a cafe to some Austrian soldiers, contrasting the prosperity enjoyed under republican freedom in the United States, with the condition of the people under Austrian rule. The soldiers, or some of the spies who frequent every place of public resort in the Austrian dominions, reported the young man's language to the authorities, and he was arrested and thrown into prison. He was afterwards carried before a court-martial and tried, and convicted of attempting to seduce the soldiers of his Imperial Majesty to desert their duty. He was condemned to be shot. The American Consul at Leghorn, hearing of the affair, promptly interfered to obtain a stay of proceedings, but for a time all his remonstrances were made in vain. He continued urging his plea, till at last the Military Commandant asked, 'What end the Consul in view in demanding a stay of proceedings?' The Consul replied that he anticipated the arrival of Commodore Stringham and Captain Ingraham, with their vessels, in a day or two, and he would be glad to have those officers present at the execution.' The Commandant changed countenance, and dismissed the Consul saying he would think of it.

The Consul was astonished the next morning to see the young man entering his office, at liberty. He had been discharged from prison with a reprimand, and a notice to leave the Austrian dominions, given by the commandant in person, who was at pains to impress on him at the same time that his liberation was not in any respect due to the threats about the visit of the American fleet, but a consideration for this extreme youth and consequent indiscretion.' Thus, if Kosztia was only an "inchoate citizen," the protection extended to him proved the safety of a "full native."—A few examples of energy, like that displayed in the Kosztia case, would save our citizens, visiting foreign countries for business or pleasure, many annoyances, and teach despotic powers that an American citizen could not be made the victim of their suspicions and vengeful spirit with impunity.

Washington Sentinel.

The young man who caught a lady's eye has been requested to return it.

From the Seat of War.

Contrast between the aspect of the English and French camps.—Chersonesus, where most of the merchant ships land, is the nearest point to the French camp. Here everything has an appearance of care and comfort. On every side the French have laid down paved roads, along which, despite the unfavorable mud of the Crimea, they transport with the greatest ease their guns and provisions, and march without difficulty from one point to another. Their huts and tents stand in regular rows, and at the entrance of each street there are signposts to indicate the way. A strict camp police is established, and prevents the accumulation of dirt and rubbish. Between the tents innumerable baking ovens are erected—some of stone, others portable—in which fresh bread is being continually baked, so that the French soldier is not obliged, like the English soldier, to content himself with biscuits which engender scurvy.

Without awaiting the providence of their government, they have erected warm huts, from wood collected and partially taken from demolished Tartar huts, and the smoke of their chimneys curl up pleasantly in the air. Under these circumstances there is much more joviality in the French than in the English or Turkish camp. The men talk, tell tales, sing and work merrily. The clothing of officers and men is as clean as if they were simply doing hard garrison duty. The Zouaves amuse the camp by stealing out individually, climbing the Russian outworks, and planting French flags upon them. The Russians are bamboozled, as at night fires are lighted upon quite solitary spots, upon which they fire away as hard as they can. General Canrobert, despite his wounds, is to be seen daily in the camp, but Gen. Bosquet is the favorite of the men. The Turkish camp, which is next to the French offers a miserable aspect; dirt, torn tents, uniforms which can scarcely be recognised as uniforms, and soldiers that can scarcely be taken for soldiers.—Nevertheless they squat down quietly in the mud, and smoke their pipes complacently. We have already said so much respecting the English camps, that we shall only give the description of our friend in a few words.

On the whole, it is the contrast of the French camp, there are no roads, if we except one made recently to convey the terrible mortar. On all sides, between the torn tents, dead cattle, horses and oxen are rotting, and no one thinks of removing the pest-bringing carcasses. Officers and men are so bad off for clothes that they may be placed on a par with the Turks. The officer does not give himself the slightest trouble in the world about the fate of the private, his food, dress, or shelter; he leaves all that to the care of the commissariat. Lord Raglan lives in his house, and for days together is not visible. The wooden huts sent from England lie *disjecta membra* in the water, and will lie there useless until the nails for putting them together arrive out. My friend, who is a merchant, had the opportunity of making some characteristic observations—among others, that the Englishmen always asked for brandy and champagne, while the Frenchmen asked for needles and thread.

Before every English bureau he observed empty casks and broken champagne and brandy bottles. The inhabitants of the villages which lie scattered between Sebastopol and Balaklava, at first the friends, have become, in consequence of probably necessary severe treatment, the bitter enemies of the allies, so that they are feared as spies, and not one of them is allowed to leave his hut without escort. My informant also had a close view of the besieged fortress. He declares there not the slightest indication of a breach, and that the walls of Sebastopol appear intact and unapproachable. To his question, "When will Sebastopol be taken?" a Zouave replied, "When there are three Thursdays in one week." Despite this reply the whole camp is eager for the assault. General Canrobert never rides through the camp without being followed by cries of—"L'assaut, mon General," from all quarters.

The ladies of the expedition.—Of all the ladies who accompanied or joined the expeditionary army only one remains, namely, Mrs. Duberly, wife of the paymaster of the 11th Hussars, who is quartered at Balaklava, and with whom she may occasionally be seen riding or walking. The aspect of this lady is now grave, though she was in England very fond of the gaieties of life. Many of the wives left at Malta, Therapia, Pera, &c., have been made widows by war and climate.—This reminds me of an affecting anecdote that was related to me by a witness to it concerning a youthful dragoon officer's death. He was fearfully wounded in the cavalry action, and lay unhorsed and deeply groaning, when he requested some one near him not to conceive that he was groaning from any want of pluck, but that the pain was so intense he really could not help it.—That he knew he was dying, and begged that a lock of his hair might at once be cut off and sent, with his love, to his mother. This was done, and was the last that was seen of him alive. There was at that critical moment no time for further parley.

The Session of Congress.

But a little more than three weeks time remains to the present Congress. When that time expires it will be *functus officio*. A new, and we fear that, so far as the House is concerned, a very wayward Congress will succeed. Every element that ever entered into politics, every ism that has ever been sprung upon the country, and every vagary and every fanaticism, will have their representatives in the Congress. They will no doubt run riot at first. Such sentiments, such doctrines and such heresies as now shock the ears of members, will, no doubt, then become as familiar as household words. There will be a great conflict of opinion and a total want of homogeneity of character. The brawling Demagogue, the furious Abolitionist, the insidious Free Soiler, and the loud-mouthed Know-nothing, taking advantage of the opportunities afforded them to exhibit the nation from this central point, will exhibit a constant struggle for the floor.

Happily for the country some of the good old leaven will be left. Though at first it may perhaps, be overrun by the new elements, which, like new wine, lack vent, it will, we doubt not, in a short time contrast so favorably with them as to gain for itself a new and increased esteem from the country. More than this, while we cannot hope to see it leave the whole mass; while we cannot expect to see it reclaiming the reckless, and purifying the corrupt, we do hope to see it exerting a benign, a conservative and a restraining influence.

There is another thing to which we look hopefully—the excesses of the motley and heterogeneous opposition that the next House of Representatives will present. These excesses—and there will be no preventing them—will disgust and sicken the people. They will sensibly feel the difference between the present and the next Congress.

It becomes the present Congress to dispose profitably for the country and the Democratic party of the limited time remaining to it. By talking little, and working diligently it may dispatch a great deal of important business, which if left to the mischievous opposition that will prevail in the next body, would be sadly abused.

Washington Sentinel.

The Senatorship.

The election of Henry Wilson Senator by the House of Representatives may create great astonishment, but it ought to create no surprise.—It is an event which has been predicted from the known predominance of freesoilism in the lodges of this State. It was this predominance which compelled the know-nothing gubernatorial candidate to write his freesoil and fugitive slave law letter, and that required of him so much freesoilism in his inaugural, and it is this element that now commands the election of the foremost freesoiler and anti-Nebraska man in the State to the great post of senator. Freesoilism worked hard to get control of the lodges, and it works adroitly in laying hold of the substantial reward.

Thousands, we have reason to believe, joined the order, and worked with it, in the tacit understanding that the old slavery question was to be put away, and that the order was to be a national institution. How much does this election look like nationality? Can there be picked out in the whole commonwealth a person who has spoken and written and managed more downright freesoilism than Henry Wilson? Can there be found a more decided opponent of the compromise measures of 1850? Can there be found a politician who will go further than he will go in pushing on the anti-slavery cause, and who is more strongly pledged to this course?

What, however, has this well known fact availed to check the purposes of the dominant majority in the lodges? This majority are deadly hostile to the compromise measures, and their object is to repeal them, at whatever cost, and no man who was not with them at heart, no man who they could not explicitly trust, could have been elected by the House. The deceived portion of the order may cry out with astonishment—"This is not the entertainment to which we were invited"—but it will do no good. They have parted with their notes, and this is their satisfaction.

The letters published yesterday between Messrs. Hall and Wilson, are the most adroit specimens of political correspondence we have seen for a long time. In his letter the senatorial candidate takes back nothing of the past, alters not a iota his position, but leaves all his abolition views as strong and as binding as ever, and if he goes to the Senate, he will go there ready to fulfill all his former pledges. Indeed he regards the Know-nothing movement as auspicious to the friends of freedom, namely, the anti-slavery cause. It is said that the Senate will undoubtedly concur in this choice of Gen. Wilson. Then Massachusetts will be before the nation in almost as thoroughly a sectional attitude as it is possible for her to be, unless she should in future array herself in rebellion against the government. Such a position is to be deeply lamented by every friend to the constitution and every supporter of the Union. In the next Congress her delegation in both branches will be nearly unanimously freesoil. Not therefore to her counsels—not to her influence—will it be owing that peace will continue to prevail throughout our country. Should this action be initiated in other States, there is nothing more certain than that our land will be plunged into the deepest and most deplorable agitation.—For such measures as the freesoilers are ready for—so unconstitutional are they—could not be triumphant in Congress without open resistance being made to them by one half the States of this Union.—Boston Post.

Interesting from the Gila.

From the Los Angeles Star we learn that Capt. R. Sackett arrived at that place on Wednesday, after three months' absence on a prospecting tour on the Gila. He brings with him some beautiful specimens of copper ore, upon which appear, in no small quantities, pure virgin gold, and a great deal of gold fused with copper. The red specimens are composed of the red oxide of copper, which upon assay gives seventy-five per cent. of pure copper, and for every one hundred pounds of ore one ounce and a half of pure gold. There is also a small ingredient of silver, the exact proportion of which has not been ascertained. Capt. Sackett procured these specimens at a point about forty miles distant from the Gila river, and about eighty miles from Fort-Yuma, on the Colorado. He left there a week ago last Tuesday, coming in by the way of Vallecita, Agua Caliente, and Temecula. Previous to his departure they had encountered no hostile Indians, in fact they had never seen an Indian while there. He left about twenty men at the mine, who are employed in building houses, &c., preparatory to commencing work in earnest. In the immediate vicinity of the mines there is but little grass and water—enough, however, for domestic purposes. Their locality is unquestionably upon American soil, being at least thirty miles inside the boundary fixed by our late purchase of the State of Sonora, and in the immediate vicinity of that rich mineral country, concerning which much has been said, but little known. It is estimated by Capt. Sackett, whose knowledge of that country and its resources makes his statements perfectly reliable, that copper can be taken from these mines, smelted and delivered in New York at an expense of ten cents per lb., and this, too, with a moderate investment of capital.

Congressional.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6. The Senate discussed the French Spoliation Bill, but no definite action was had. The bill appropriating \$300,000 for the improvement of the mouth of the Mississippi was passed. The House, after debating the Consular Bill, went into committee on the Texas Creditors' Bill, but adjourned without action. The treaty with Mexico, establishing the doctrine that free ships make free goods, was sent into the Senate to-day.

UNITED STATES MEDIATION REJECTED.—It is well known that the most earnest advocates of mediation by our Government between the European belligerents are most friendly disposed towards England. The reward they obtain for their labors may be seen from the following extract of an article on the subject in the London Daily News:

"Why is the mediation to be offered now? Why not sooner? If offered when Russia first urged its unjust claims upon Turkey, the mediation of America might have averted from the unoffending Danubian Principalities the curse of two successive occupations by foreign armies. Offered now that Sebastopol is tottering to its fall, and the Czar in effect, suing for peace, the mediation can only benefit Russia, whose lawless ambition provoked the war. The offer of mediation is so unhappily timed that it must, of necessity, improve the position of Russia, and deteriorate that of France and England." * * * A regard to truth and to the honor and interests of our own country, compels us, at the same time, frankly to declare that this proposed mediation is urged by a pretty strong party in the United States in pure hostility to England.

NEW ENGLAND RUM FOR SEVASTOPOL.—The Middlesex (Mass.) Journal says: 'We learn from good authority, that Trull Brothers, distillers, are now engaged in filling for this 'native juice' to go to the Crimea. They get 45 cents per gallon, and boast of making twelve hundred dollars a week. Think of that! in these hard times.

EXTRAORDINARY BALLOON ASCENSION BY A LADY, AND MIRACULOUS ESCAPE.

We announced a few days ago that Miss Louisa Bradley ascended in a balloon at Easton, Pa., on the 25th inst., and that she made a miraculous escape from death. It appears she filled the balloon with gas from one of the main streets, that it was made of old silk, and that she knew very little about the business she had undertaken.—The balloon ascended at first about 20 feet, when she made a short address to the crowd of people. It then rose gently, still held by the rope, until she was one hundred feet from the ground, when she cut the cord, and the balloon rose perpendicularly, with great velocity, until she had reached a mile, or a mile and a quarter. A spectator says:

When she reached this height she states that the balloon, which was not entirely filled when it left the earth, expanded, until the gas began to escape at the seams, and became very offensive to her. She had been so absorbed by the enchanting prospect spread out beneath her, which she says was magnificent beyond the power of language to describe, that she had not noticed the balloon.—The escape of gas alarmed her, and she pulled the valve rope, but permitted but little gas to escape, as she was afraid she would fall into the Delaware, which was directly beneath her. In a few moments after this the balloon collapsed, and to our horror and alarm, we saw her fall with frightful rapidity for the distance of six hundred or seven hundred feet, her progress then being checked, from what cause we below could not see, although we then observed that she was descending quite slowly.

It seems that when the balloon burst it was torn into ribands, except the lower part or neck of the balloon. So completely was the upper part torn to pieces, that large pieces of silk blew away, and the remainder hung down even below the car.—When she had fallen this distance the neck of the balloon suddenly blew up, turning inside out, and catching against the network, formed a parachute, which bore her safely to the ground. She came down in an open field, and so lightly did the car strike the earth that she says there was not the slightest jar.

Too Proud to Beg.—It is said there are those, and of worthy citizens, men and women, in New York—as there are, no doubt, hundreds in other places—who are too proud to beg or let their circumstances be known, and are, therefore, silently pining in secret destitution. The Mirror says the pawn-shops only tell their sad story, and adds:

"First go the luxuries—the superfluous furniture—the silver spoons—the spare clothing—the jewelry, even to the bridal ring; and then the bedding, the tables, the chairs, and so on through the whole inventory of articles that can be dispensed with, while life is retained. To accommodate this inborn and insatiable American pride, the pawn-shops are provided with stalls, so that the melancholy victim may be done with, out exposing the poor wretch of that peculiar institution to public shame. The amount of business at these establishments within the last three months exceeds all precedent. Watches, gold pencils, and silver spoons have been pledged by the bushel, and every nameable and unnameable article of furniture and clothing. A friend of ours saw a poor woman at Simpson's one day last week pawning her under-clothing to raise a shilling to go to market with. Another had cut up her bed and made it into pillows which she had pawned for a similar purpose."

RAMSHACKLE.—Mr. A. H. Stephens, of Georgia, furnishes this appellation to the disciples of Know Nothingism. The term, says the Augusta Constitutionalist, originated in North Carolina. The Councils give directions to rank and file, through their officers, who to vote for, and they follow the lead blind. This is like the habit of sheep, who implicitly follow the old ram of the flock over a fence or down a well without stopping to think for themselves. This system effectually shackles the minds and free will of the voters.—Hence the term Ramshackles.

PERPETUAL HONEYMOON.—The Albany (New York) Knickerbocker states the following: "The husbands in St. Louis, Missouri, are models. The St. Louis papers complain that married men sit in church with their arms most tenderly around their wives, and suggest that 'it distracts the attention of the lookers on from the preacher.' Fare to St. Louis \$18. State line railroad in excellent order. Put on your bonnets, girls."

AMERICAN OSTRICHES IN IOWA.—The Minnesota Pioneer says that two specimens of the American ostrich, male and female, were recently killed near Fort des Moines, Iowa. They are described as four and a half feet long, and five feet in height, with bill six inches long, straight and very sharp. They resemble in most points the ostrich of Africa. One thousand dollars had been offered for them.

TRAIN FROZEN.—The train on the Chicago and Mississippi railroad with a large number of passengers and several members of the Legislature, was frozen up some time since on the prairie, in snow some eight feet deep. The passengers burned the cars, and by robbing the cars of a consignment of oysters preserved themselves from starvation. By last accounts they are still there. Relief, however, have been sent to them on Saturday night.

The people of California seem to be agitating the question of a division of the State in earnest. The Californian says: "Our citizens have at last taken hold of the question of a division of the State in earnest. Petitions to the Legislature for this object are being circulated throughout the lower counties, and are comprising the names of nearly every respectable person in our section, furnishing a sure index of the strong unequivocal feeling in favor of this measure indulged by our people."

It is said that General Gadsden, our Minister to Mexico, has been negotiating for still greater territorial acquisitions to accommodate the Southern Pacific railroad, including the whole of Chihuahua, Sonora and Lower California.

Gov. Wright, of Indiana, expects on a visit to him, at Indianapolis, on the 22d of February, Governors Johnson, of Tennessee, Powell, of Kentucky; Medill, of Ohio; and Matteson, of Illinois.

Mr. Cobden, in a recent debate in Parliament upon the war, remarked, "There is no country, except the United States, where you cannot permanently maintain a footing better than in Russia."

WORTH KNOWING.—The application of towels wrung out in hot water, to the forehead and temples, is a speedy and efficacious remedy for headache arising from neuralgic affections.

Gen. Sam Houston, of Texas, and Gov. Law, of New York city, are talked of as candidates for President, and Vice President, on the New Nothing ticket.