not now be accomplished in the present condition of the country, we ought to make as near an approach to it as may be practicable.

The Postmaster General is placed in a most embarrassing position by the existing laws. He is obliged to carry them into effect. He has no other alternative. He finds, however, that this cannot be done without heavy demands upon the treasury over and above what is received for postage; and these have been progressively increasing from year to year until they amounted for the fiscal year ending on the 30th June, 1858, to more than four millions and a half of dollars; whilst it is estimated that for the present fiscal year they will amount to [illegible]. These sums are exclusively of the annual appropriation of $800,000 for "compensation for the mail service performed for the two houses of Congress and the other departments and officers of the government in the transportation of free matter."

The cause of these large deficits is mainly attributable to the increased expenses of transporting the mails. In 1851 the sum paid for this service was but a fraction above four millions and a quarter. Since that year it has annually increased until 1858 it has reached more than eight millions and a quarter; and for the service of 1859, it is estimated that it will amount to more than ten millions of dollars.

The receipts of the Post Office Department can be made to approach, or to equal its expenditures, only by means of the legislation of Congress. In applying any remedy, care should be taken that the people shall not be deprived of the advantages which they are fairly entitled to enjoy from the Post Office Department. The principal remedies recommended to the consideration of Congress by the Postmaster General, are to restore the former rate of postage upon single letters to five cents; to substitute for the franking privilege the delivery to those who are entitled to enjoy it, of post office stamps for their correspondence, and to direct the Department, in contracts for the transportation of the mails, to confine itself to the payment of the sum necessary for this service. Without expressing an opinion as to the propriety of any particular description. Under the present system, the expense to the government is greatly increased by requiring that the mail shall be carried to such schools as will accommodate passengers. This will be done without pay from the Department over all roads where the travel will remunerate the contractors.

These recommendations deserve the grave consideration of Congress.

I would again call your attention to the construction of a Pacific Railroad. Time and reflection have but served to confirm me in the truth and justice of the observations which I made, on this subject, in my last annual message, to which I beg leave respectfully to refer.

It is freely admitted that it would be inexpedient for this government to exercise the power of constructing the Pacific Railroad by its own immediate agents. Such a policy would increase the patronage of the executive to a dangerous extent, and introduce a system of jobbing and corruption which no vigilance on the part of federal officials could either prevent or detect—for this can only be done by the keen eye, and active and careful supervision of individual and private interest. The construction of this road might, therefore, be committed to companies incorporated by the States, or other agencies whose pecuniary interests would be directly involved. Congress might then assist them in the work by grants of land or of money, or both, under such conditions and restrictions as would secure the transportation of troops and munitions of war free from any charge, and that of the United States mail at a fair and reasonable price.

The progress of events since the commencement of your last session has shown how soon difficulties disappear before a firm and determined resolution. At that time such a road was deemed by wise and patriotic men to be a visionary project. The great distance to be overcome, and the intervening mountains and deserts in the way, were obstacles which, in the opinion of many, could not be surmounted. Now, after the lapse of but a single year, these obstacles, it has been discovered, are far less formidable than they were supposed to be; and in all stages, with passengers and passed regularly, twice in each week, by a common wagon road between San Francisco, St Louis and Memphis, in less than twenty five days. The journey has been as regularly performed, as it was in former years, between New York and this city.

Without disclaiming all authority to appropriate money for the construction of this road, can it be denied from the war making power of the constitution, there are important collateral considerations urging us to undertake the work as speedily as possible.

The first and most momentous of these is, that such a road would be a powerful bond of union between the States east and west of the Rocky Mountains. This is so self-evident as to require no illustration.

But again, in a commercial point of view, I may venture to call the great attention of Congress to the immense advantages which would result to our commerce with Asia, and our whole country along the Pacific if, at the same time that we shall have a cheap, easy and rapid intercommunication, we must necessarily command a very large proportion of the trade both of Europe and Asia. Our present treaties with China and Japan will open these rich and populous empires to our enterprise, and the history of the world proves that the nation which has gained possession of the trade with Eastern Asia has always become wealthy and powerful. The peculiar geographical position of California and our Pacific possessions invites American capital and enterprise into this plentiful field. To reap the rich harvest, however, it is an indispensable prerequisite that we shall first have a cheap, easy and expeditious mode of transporting our products through and every portion of the Union. Besides, such a railroad through our territories, let this which would not be impeded by frost and snow, if wisely, and by the tropical heats of summer would afford to itself never of the travel of an annual passage between Europe and Asia.

On the 25th of September last, Lieut. J. S. Slade, of the United States brig Dolphin, captured the slaver "Echo" (formerly the Parmen of New Orleans) near Key Verde, on the coast of Africa, with more than three hundred Africans on board. The prize, under the command of Lieut. Beale, of the United States Navy, arrived at Charleston on the 22nd August, when the captives, three hundred and six in number, were delivered into the custody of the United States Marshal for the district of South Carolina. They were first placed in Castle Pinckney, and afterwards in Fort Sumter, for safe keeping, and were detained there until the 19th September, when the survivors, two hundred and seventy-one in number, were delivered on board the United States steamer Niagara, to be transported to the coast of Africa under the charge of the agent of the United States pursuant to the provisions of the act of the 3d March, 1819, "in addition to the acts prohibiting the slave trade." Under the 2d section of this act, the President is "authorized to make such regulations and arrangements as he may deem expedient, for the safe-keeping, support and removal beyond the limits of the United States, of all such negroes, mulattoes, or persons of color, captured by vessels of the United States, as may be delivered to the Marshal of the districts into which they are brought; "and to appoint a proper person or persons residing upon the coast of Africa, as agent or agents for receiving the negroes, mulattoes, or persons of color, delivered from on board vessels seized in the prosecution of the slave trade by commanders of the United States armed vessels."

A doubt immediately arose as to the true construction of this act. It is quite clear from its terms that the President was authorized to provide "for the safe keeping, support, and removal" of those negroes up till the time of their delivery to the agent on the coast of Africa; but no express provision was made for their protection and support after they had reached the place of their destination. Still, an agent was to be appointed to receive them in Africa; and it could not have been supposed that Congress intended he should desert them at the moment they were received, and turn them loose on that inhospitable coast to perish for want of food, or to become again the victims of the slave trade. Had this been the intention of Congress, the employment of an agent to receive them, who is required to reside on the coast, was unnecessary, and they might have been landed by our vessels anywhere in Africa, and left exposed to the sufferings and the fate which would certainly await them.

Mr Monroe in his special message of 15th December, 1819, at the first session after the act was passed, announced to Congress what, in his opinion, was its true construction. He believes it to be his duty under it, to follow these unfortunates into Africa, and make provision for them there, until they should be able to provide for themselves.

In communicating this interpretation of the act to Congress, he stated that some doubt had been entertained as to its true intent and meaning, and he submitted the question to them, either they might, "should it be deemed advisable, amend the same before further proceedings are had under it." Nothing was done by Congress to explain this act, and Mr Monroe proceeded to carry it into execution according to his own interpretation. This, then, became the practical construction. When the Africans from on board the Echo were delivered to the marshal at Charleston, it became my duty to consider what disposition ought to be made of them under law. For many reasons it was expedient to remove them from that locality as speedily as possible. Although the conduct of the authorities and citizens of Charleston, in giving countenance to the execution of the law, was just what might have been expected from their high character, yet a prolonged continuance of three hundred Africans in the immediate vicinity of that city, could not have failed to become a source of inconvenience and anxiety to its inhabitants. Where to send them, was the question. There was no portion of the coast of Africa to which they could be removed with any regard to humanity, except to Liberia. Under these circumstances, an arrangement was entered into with the Colonization Society on the 7th of September last, a copy of which is herewith transmitted, under which the Society engaged, for the consideration of forty-five thousand dollars, to receive these Africans, in Liberia from the agent of the United States, and furnish them during the period of one year thereafter, with comfortable shelter, clothing, provisions, and medical attendance, causing the children to receive schooling, and all, whether children or adults, to be instructed in the arts of civilized life, suitable to their condition. This aggregate of forty five thousand dollars was based upon an allowance of one hundred and fifty dollars for each individual, and as there has been considerable mortality among them, and may be more before they reach Africa, the Society have agreed, in an equitable spirit, to make such a deduction from the amount, as under the circumstances may appear just and reasonable. This cannot be fixed until we shall ascertain the actual number which may become a charge to the society.

It was also distinctly agreed, that, under no circumstances, shall this government be called upon for any additional expenses.

The agents of the society manifested a laudable desire to conform the wishes of the government throughout the transaction. They assured me that after a careful calculation, they would be required to expend the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars in each individual in complying with the agreement, and they would have nothing left to remunerate them for their care and trouble and responsibility. At all events, I could make no better arrangement, and there was no other alternative. During the period when the government dwelt through its own agents, assuming the task of providing for captured negroes in Africa the cost per head was very much greater.

Have having been an outstanding appropriation applicable to this purpose, I could not advance any money on the agreement. I therefore recommend that an appropriation may be made of the amount necessary to carry it into effect.

Other captures of a similar character may, and probably will, be made by our naval forces, and I earnestly recommend, that Congress may amend the second section of the act of March 3, 1819, so as to free its construction from the ambiguity which has so long existed, and render the duty of the President plain, in executing its provisions.

I commend to your favorable regard the best interests of the District of Columbia. As the residence of Congress and the executive departments of the government, we cannot fail to feel a deep concern in its welfare. This is heightened by the high character and the peaceful and orderly conduct of its resident inhabitants.

I cannot conclude without performing a pleasing duty of expressing my gratification that Congress has kindly responded to the recommendation of my last annual message, by affording me sufficient time, before the close of their late session, for the examination of all the bills presented to me for approval. This [illegible] in the practice of [illegible] has, [illegible] been a beneficial influence on the transaction of legislative business, and elicited the general approbation of the country. It enabled Congress to adjourn with that dignity and deliberation so becoming to the representatives of this great republic, without having crowded into general appropriation bills provisions foreign to their natures, and of doubtful constitutionality and expediency. Let me warmly and strongly commend this precedent established by themselves, as a guide to their proceedings during the present session.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

Washington City, Dec., 6, 1858.

North Carolina Weekly.

NORTH CAROLINA

CHARLOTTE:

Tuesday, December 28, 1858

☞ We are requested to state that the store of Messrs. Brown, Still & Co., will be closed during the week, as they are making preparations for the commencement of a new business year.

Bank of Charlotte.

This institution we learn, by an advertisement into to-day's paper, has declared a dividend of two dollars per share, which is equal to 8 per cent. per annum.

Council of State.

The following gentlemen were elected on the 22nd instant, the Council of State for the next two years, viz: J. T. Granberry, of Pasquotank; John A. Averitt, sen., of Onslow; John L. Bridgers, of Edgecomb; Jesse A. Waugh, of Forsyth; F. M. Powell, of Richmond; Wm. J. Yates, of Mecklenburg, and Dr. Columbus Mills, of Polk.

The Legislature.

This body suspended operations for the Christmas Holidays and no business will be attended to by either House until after the 1st of January. We shall then endeavor to give our readers full reports of the proceedings in which they may feel interested.

Our members are at home, enjoying the Holidays with their friends and will not return before the 3rd of January.

Danville Connection.

On Tuesday the 21st instant, the bill for chartering the Greensboro and Danville Railroad, came up in the House of Commons, as the special order. Ex Governor Morehead took the floor in favor of the bill. He said he felt embarrassed in his present position, as it was generally reported that the scheme was his, and that he had a personal interest in the matter; but he said he did not seek the road for the sake of the Danville, but for that of the North Carolina Road alone. We learn that Ex-Governor Morehead is more than twenty times interested in the North Carolina Railroad. We are pleased to hear that the measure is growing in favor and we hope before it comes up again, that a majority of the Legislature may be induced to vote for the bill.

The debate was postponed until the 10th of January, 1859.

Threatened War in Utah.

Accounts from Utah state that there is a formidable force of hostile Indians threatening to make an attack upon our troops and drive off the several herds of cattle. To prevent this, Gen Johnston has issued orders to the troops to keep a vigilant watch by night and scouting by day, to prevent surprise.

The Farmers' Bank.

We learn from the Wilmington *Herald* that a change is to take place in this institution. The Mother Bank is one in Elizabeth City and the Branch in Greensboro' is to be changed—the Mother Bank is to be hereafter at Greensboro' and the Branch at Elizabeth City. The Norfolk *Herald* learns that the notes are now current, and as safe as any Bank in the State.

The Index Express.

In our hurry last week, we forget to notice the improvement in this paper. It has been considerably enlarged and is printed on new type. It makes a very neat appearance, and is now as efficient as any paper in the State. We wish the Editor success.

Memoir of Prof. Mitchell.

We have received from J. M. Henderson, the Publisher, a "Memoir of the late Prof. Mitchell, with a portrait." It is neatly printed, and we hope the publisher will be remunerated for the expense he has been at.

A HONOLULU NEWSPAPER.—A friend has handed us a copy of "The Pacific Commercial Advertiser," of the 14th October, 1858, a large and beautiful paper printed at Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands. It announces the arrival there, ten days previously, of the U. S. steam frigate Merrimac, one of the largest vessels afloat of which Lieut. Francis Winslow of this place is the Flag Lieutenant, next in rank to Commodore Long and Commander Hinbrock. The elegant appearance of the paper, and its editorials and advertisements, would do no discredit to one of our cities.—*Pay. Observer.*

FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA WHIG.

"THE NORTH CAROLINA PLANTER."

While it is but seldom that I assume the business of an author, and now I would much rather some one else had superseded the necessity of my writing, yet as no one else has done it, I would feel wanting in duty, did I not say a word to my fellow-farmers, in regard to the N C Planter. And while the *freedom of the press* is the glory and boast of our country alone, yet it is but recently that a necessity for agricultural information by the masses, has been felt and partially supplied. I confess, with some degree of shame the aptness of the cognomen:—"Rip Van Winkle"—which has been given to us on account of our supineness and fogyism. Every State in the Union (at least all of the "*old thirteen*") has an Agricultural Journal except N. C. and she has never had one established in her midst for any length of time. Why is this? Are our lands so rich that we do not need the help of science and the experience of others to assist us? Or is the contrary true, that they are so far gone that reclaiming them is an impossibility? I trow not. Neither of these propositions is true. [illegible] the question, "why is it?" [illegible] be most dependent on S. C., Ga., or Virginia for our agricultural information? Is this true? If so, I utter my solemn protest. I care not how many papers a man takes from adjacent States, if he supports his own *State Journal*. Every N Carolinian should take the "Planter," for two reasons, in the first place, a feeling of State pride should prompt him to it, and in the second place the knowledge acquired from it, is better adapted to the soil and climate of N. C. Judging the future by the past, I would bespeak for the Planter a brilliant future. The Editors during the past year have, without a doubt proven that they can compete with any southern cotemporary While the Planter has made such an encouraging beginning as to ability, the Publisher has not received that encouragement which he expected and had a right to expect. Whereas he should have had twenty five thousand subscribers, he has not exceeded one thousand, if I have been correctly informed. Farmers! if Mr. Gorman has determined to publish it another year, trusting to us for support, let him not trust in vain. Let every individual who desires to see the interest of Agriculture promoted, and in fact the welfare of N. C. advanced, (since every thing depends on it,) let him support the N. C Planter. Does any one object to the price? Why, it is as cheap as any need for. Only one dollar a year. Does any citizen of N. C. refuse to take the Planter? if so, I would invoke the curse pronounced on such an one in the last number of the Planter, by W. J. W. Kerall,—"May a cloud of shame lower over his brow, may his bread next year be made of chest—may his straw bed be made of nettles and his farm produce crab grass, broomsedge and bonneset." In conclusion, I would repeat again the request that every citizen would take the Planter. While the "Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence will ever reflect credit on our ancestors, we shall most certainly prove our degeneracy, if we are the last to throw off the yoke of agricultural ignorance.

CIVIS.

WASHINGTON, December 22.

THE RETIRED NAVAL OFFICERS REINSTATED.—The following naval officers were confirmed by the Senate to day, all of whom were affected by the late Retiring Board: Captains Paine, Ramsey, Inman, (to active list) Voorhees (to relieved pay list,) Commanders Armstrong, Long, Johnson and Shaw, (to active list.) Lecompte, (relieved list.) Lieutenants promoted to the active list are Porter, Williamson, Carter, Hosell, Gleason, Kitty, Chandler, Mead, Gibson. Lieutenants reinstated to active pay list are, Flag, Wallack, Doll, Boll, Perry, Rolando, Parker, Fitzgerald, Rhind, McArmand, Byron, Hall. Lieutenants on relieved pay list are: Watson, Brownell, Abbott, Barney and Harrison.

A PARAGRAPH TO MOTHERS.—A writer in Blackwood's Magazine considers the prevailing idea of toughening infants to enable them to withstand cold a disastrous and destructive treatment. Although it may be true that young animals have a higher temperature than old ones, yet it is believed to be a fact that the younger the animal the feebler its power of resisting cold. The process of "toughening" may be carried so far by cold water baths and exposure to cold air as suddenly and seriously to chill the vital current. "Exposure to the open air and the vicissitudes of the weather in the process of 'toughening' ought not to commence until the child has obtained the free use of its limbs, so that his own activity may counteract the exposure and assist in the toughening process. Parents should not commence this system of 'toughening' when the child is merely passive in their hands. The principle is that the child must assist by its own activity in the process of its hardening. This is the true line.'

LEGAL CIRCUMLOCUTIONS.—OH, LAW!—What a round about way lawyers have of drawing up deeds and documents. It is almost enough to keep a nervous person from "going to the law at all." The following is a fair sample. "Suppose a man wished to give another an orange. Instead of making a simple declaration, and saying 'I give you that orange,' he must set forth his 'act and deed' in this way: "I do hereby give you, all and singular, my estate and interest, right, title, and claim, and advantage of and in that orange, with all its rind, skin, juice, pulp and pipe, and all rights and advantages therein, with full power to eat, suck, bite, or otherwise eat the same orange, or give the same away with or without its skin, rind, juice, pulp and pipe, anything therefore or hereinafter, or in any other deed or deeds, instruments of what kind or nature to the contrary or anywise, notwithstanding.

FROM THE RALEIGH STANDARD.

Editors of the Standard:

GENTLEMEN:—I ask that you will lay before the people of North Carolina the following extract from a letter written to myself, dated 8th December, 1858, from an intelligent and reliable gentleman of the town of Danville, who is one of the largest manufacturers of Tobacco in Danville, and President of its Bank.

Yours respectfully,

J. M. MOREHEAD.

"DANVILLE, Dec. 8th, 1858.

DEAR SIR:—Your esteemed favor of the 18th inst., is received, and would have been answered sooner but for my absence.

Before proceeding to respond to your enquiries, it may not be amiss to state that I am one of the few persons in this section who favor the proposed Railroad connection between Greensboro' and Danville. A large portion of our citizens seem to give the subject but little concern, expressing the opinion that it is to be as much benefit to North Carolina as Virginia, and if North Carolina does not want it, they seem entirely willing to let it pass.

In reply to your enquiries as to the number of pounds of Tobacco manufactured in this place and surrounding country, I have to say, that Danville manufactures about 4,000,000 pounds and the surrounding country about 9,000,000 pounds; making in all some 12,000,000 pounds in the raw state, or 10,000 pounds nett manufactured; worth in market at least $2,500,000. About 7,000,000 pounds of the above tobacco passes over the Danville road and the balance over the Virginia and Tennessee road and the North Carolina road, except the small portion that is carried to market on wagons. Thus you perceive this is a great manufacturing as well as tobacco growing country. Very little tobacco grown in this section is shipped in the raw state, but a considerable quantity is purchased in Richmond annually and brought to Danville and manufactured.

It is a well established fact that the tobacco grown in this section is of superior quality, and better adapted to making fine chewing tobacco than any other, and therefore, finds a better market in the southern country. With the connection between Greensboro' and Danville, a very large portion would go directly south by Railroad, and avoid the difficulties attending the present mode of getting to markets, which not only exists much delay, but often serious loss from exposure to salt water and other casualties attending its transit by sea. At present a consignment of tobacco intended for Columbia, S C and Augusta or Atlanta, Ga., is sent via Richmond, New York and Charleston, requiring some 6 or 8 weeks, and by this air line road it could reach either of the above named places in two or three days. No manufacturer in Virginia or North Carolina would say that the saving in time, and the absolute security from the hazards of a sea voyage, are not more than equal to a double freight on fine tobacco. If any article of manufacture will bear a high freight, it is fine tobacco. I feel confident the Danville road would be injured in the way of tonnage by the connection, but the number of passengers she would get by this air line would probably more than compensate for the loss of freights. I am satisfied that neither North Carolina or Virginia would be injured materially by the connection, and even if they were, I should favor it, in view of the national character. The people of South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana are looking to it with as much anxiety as they are to Virginia or North Carolina; and even though I did not think you would give us passengers enough to compensate for our loss in tonnage, I do not think I could oppose a work pregnant with such benefits to so large a number."

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.—The discipline of the democratic party grows strict and stringent. And if Senator Clingman does take good care of himself, he will not be rebuked only, but read out.

We are tired of this democratic party: it stifles and cushions everything, lest some "distracting issue" should spring up, and its organization is so close that no member of Congress can hope to effect anything, or originate action upon any subject, except strictly within the party lines, and on the rail track surveyed and laid down by the party engineers. For example, there is Mr Boyce, of South Carolina—a very excellent democrat, but he has his own views, very decided and highly rational views, of how the country is to be saved. He sees our government rapidly "organizing" itself to perdition through extravagance and corruption, and has heretofore indicated the way and the only true way of turning the tide—namely, free trade and direct taxation; so that we may all know what we pay, and therefore hold a tighter hand upon those who undertake to spend it for us. But this, though it would suit the country very well, would never answer the democratic party. In fact, it would totally destroy any "national" party, by institution. Therefore Mr Boyce must sit silent, and look out for the approaching smash with as much equanimity as he can. Free trade and direct taxation are "distracting issues"—the delicate constitution of our rather valetudinarian democratic party could not bear them.—*Southern Citizen.*

DOUGLAS AND FOOTE.—The latter of these conspicuous politicians has written a letter in response to one addressed him by a number of political friends in this city, defining upon his position. He commences characteristically upon Senator Doyle's declaration in favor of a separation of the Southern from the Northern States, in the event of the election of a Black Republican to the Presidency in 1860, and suggests as an excellent mode of "saving the Union" the election of his compatriot, S. A. Douglas. The remedy is worse than the disease which it is proposed to guard against.—*Mobile Register.*

HOOPS, FALSE HAIR, HIGH HEELS AND MATRIMONY.—An act was introduced into the English Parliament, in 1770, "that all women, of whatever age, rank, profession or degree, whether virgins, maids or widows, that shall, from and after such act, impose upon, seduce and betray into matrimony, any of his majesty's male subjects, by the scents, paints, cosmetic washes, artificial teeth, false hair, Spanish wool, iron stays, hoops, high heeled shoes, bolstered hips, shall incur the penalty of the law now in force against witchcraft and like misdemeanors, and that the marriage, upon conviction, shall stand null and void."

STOCKS.—$10,000 of North Carolina 6's sold in New York on the 18th instant, at 98, and $7,000 Va. 6's at 97½.

The Suit of Passmore Williamson against Judge Lewis.

We see by the Philadelphia papers that the suit of Williamson against the late Chief Justice Lewis, arising out of judicial proceedings in the case of Col. Wheeler's slaves, has, at length, been decided for the defendant. The public, it will be remembered, was very much agitated by the sharp work of the Pennsylvania lawyers against the late Judge Kane and Justice Lewis. The Tribune, and indeed all the Black Republican journals took part for Williamson. He was nominated for a high elective office, and it was confidently counted that the abolitionists had made a capital hit in the martyrdom of Passmore. The *habeas corpus* was widely treated as a general passport which anybody might invoke, and by which rogues and felons could demand a hearing before the judge of their own selection. Respectable newspaper insisted that to confine the process to cases of illegal imprisonment was to destroy its efficacy as a writ of right. They proposed to arm every judge with it; and declared in all cases, that a failure to issue it on application, was not only an offence against the law, but a greater offence against popular rights. Their reasoning led them to the absurd and ridiculous position that the judiciary was established to screen offenders and not to protect honest people. They assailed the Democratic party, it will be remembered, on the same grounds, for urging and endorsing the enactment of the fugitive slave law, declaring that the act repealed the *habeas corpus*. The Press says, in Williamson's case:

"The court, after hearing all the plaintiff's evidence, directed a non suit, on the ground that the *habeas corpus* act did not apply to cases of commitments on execution of final judgments after trial, but only to warrants of arrest issued before trial. It seems to be settled that a judge has no right to allow writ of *habeas corpus* where it appears, on the applicant's own showing, that the prisoner is legally imprisoned under the sentence or judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction, as was the case with Mr. Williamson.

"Thus, although it is highly probable that Mr Williamson will carry the case still further, this vexatious case may be said to be settled on enduring principles. Ex-Chief Justice Lewis (now private citizen Lewis) declined taking advantage of any of the technicalities of the case, but threw himself for vindication upon the principle which regulated his original action, and on this it would appear he has been triumphantly sustained."

There is a lesson in this case which we trust will not be without effect, and which is applicable to both sections of the Union. The Abolitionists contended that the fugitive slave law was void, because it violated natural rights; some of the Southern people maintain that the penalties imposed upon the foreign slave trade are void for the same or a less tenable reason.—*Washington Union.*

LORD'S MACHINE FOR ADDRESSING NEWSPAPERS.—We saw, last September, a notice of this machine in the Scientific American, and, from the commendatory notice of the editor, we conceived a very favorable opinion of it. In the same paper of last week we saw a large wood cut of the machine, with explanations and further eulogistic remarks. We were favored with a visit, yesterday, from the inventor, Mr James Lord, of Pawtucket, Massachusetts, who clearly explained every movement of his invention, meeting all our objections, and showing conclusively that it will do what he designed it to do. It prints, in fair type, as fast as a person can feed them in, requiring only one to tend it, being eminently a self acting machine. It prints, also, the post office address on the wrappers, and will print equally well papers with or without wrappers, wrappers alone, or magazines, etc. The names are arranged, in post office lists, and a signal is given at the end of each list, and the commencement of a new one. It has been operated by an experienced boy at the rate of ninety eight papers per minute. For more exact and detailed information, we refer our readers to last week's Scientific American, or to the patentee, James Lord, Pawtucket, Massachusetts.—*Hartford Times.*

PLEASANT INCIDENT.—The pastor of the Congregational church of New Sharon, Maine, communicates the following incident of a child's funeral in that place: "The little one, all beautifully robed for the grave, was laid in the coffin on the morning of its burial. The weeping friends placed in its little hand a small bouquet of flowers, among which was an unopened rosebud, of the 'Rose of Sharon.' The lid was then placed upon the coffin and the funeral services was performed. When, after the lapse of not more than two or three hours, the coffin was opened again, and the friends gathered around to look upon it for the last time, *that bud had become a full blown rose*, while in the cold hand of death. It seemed as though a voice came up from those beautifully sealed lips, saying 'weep not for me; though broken from the parent stem I am blooming in the Paradise of God.' Millions of infant souls compose the family above."

FEARFUL FATE OF A SOMNAMBULIST.—The Saint Paul Pioneer, published in Minnesota, records the sudden death, under circumstances very distressing of John H. Brownson, Esq., of the firm of J. H. & W. P. Brownson, the celebrated editor of Brownson's Review. The Pioneer says:

Mr Brownson passed the evening of Friday in the society of his friends, in the full vigor of manhood.

On the following morning, between the hours of seven and eight, his mutilated corpse was found stretched at the bottom of the bluff, near the head of Hill street, under the rear window of his office from which he had evidently leaped or fallen in the course of the night.

From the evidence given before the jury by the intimate acquaintances of the deceased, in relation to his habits, there is no doubt that the deceased was a victim of an unfortunate habit of somnambulism. He was known by his friends to be in the habit of walking in his sleep, and some six weeks since had fallen down the stairs leading to his rooms while in a fit of this sort. As he was found with his clothes on his person, his bed remaining undisturbed, it is probable that he fell asleep in his chair, and perhaps realized a terrible nightmare by precipitating himself asleep down the dizzy height on which his window opened.

A circumstance which lends a peculiar melancholy to his catastrophe, is, that Mr. Brownson was in daily expectation of his wife, which may, even now crown the tragic horror of the story with a sad consciousness of a greeting at the grave.

A COMICAL SCENE WITH AN AFRICAN LADY AT CHARLESTON.—Various amusing anecdotes are related of the poor Africans who were rescued from the slaver Echo by the United States brig Dolphin, during their brief sojourn in the port of Charleston. The following is said to have been a most comical scene:

Among the Echo's living cargo, every one of whom, be it remembered, were in the condition in which they entered the world, and under no obligation to the tailors' or mantuamakers' art, was a woman who was distinguished from the rest by her evident natural brightness and superior looks. Moreover, she was dressed—or, probably, after the fashion of our Broadway belles—but dressed different from her companions, nevertheless; and like all true women in such a condition, she felt and evinced her superiority. She actually had on a pair of gloves, which she wore at all hours, with evident pride in her costume, and felt that she was in "full tage." She was called par excellence, "the Queen," and her story getting abroad at Charleston, some ladies requested and obtained permission for her to visit them. A loose dress was accordingly furnished her to cover her other deficiencies of the article of clothing, and she was landed from one of the boats and conveyed to the house of a prominent resident of Charleston. There, the servant was ordered to dress the Queen in hoops, broad enough for a dame of upper station, and a flaunting gay dress. She was much astonished and pleased with the dress, but more with the hoops, which she would endeavor to catch as she turned round and round, uttering outlandish cries. She also exhibited some inclination constantly to examine more closely into the material beneath her outer dress, but as gentlemen were present, she was prudently prevented from gratifying this natural curiosity. After spending some hours ashore, she was conveyed to the beach by a number of her entertainers.

The boat could not reach high water mark, and lay some little distance out in the water. The Queen shook hands all round with her friends, and then going to the water's edge, surveyed the boat for an instant, and after waving a last adieu, suddenly hoisted dress, hoops, underclothes and all, like a huge sun bonnet over her head, and quietly waded out to the boat. This reversal of the purposes of clothing startled the spectators, and there was a most sudden and laughable rush from the beach.

THE UNIVERSITY.—In a recent address of Gov. Swain, contradicting the grossly exaggerated statement of riot and disorder among the students of the University, it is stated that "the friends of the college may felicitate themselves upon the fact that amongst its members no death has ever occurred here by violence; and that in a period of sixty four years, only two serious wounds, (and one of these by accident) have been received. In no matter connected with College discipline, do we consider ourselves justified in asking co operation of the patrons of the University, more than that connected with the wearing of some arms by their children and wards. The regulations here upon that head are strict, and they are faithfully enforced; but any effective measure must proceed from home."

D. R. McRae, Esq., has been elected to deliver the annual oration before the two Literary Societies of the University at the next commencement. The Dialectic Society, upon which the duty of electing devolved, could not have chosen a more talented or more graceful speaker.

We understand that the President and at least two members of his cabinet, Messrs. Brown and Thompson, Alumni of the University, have promised to attend, and their presence added to the rich literary feast that may be expected in the oration of Mr McRae, will doubtless draw the largest crowd ever collected at Chapel Hill.—*N. C. Presbyterian.*

A COMPLIMENT TO EDWARD EVERETT.—An English Greek Lexicon, dedicated to Edward Everett, has lately been published in Greece. The object of the work is to bring English and American literature into circulation among the Greek race, in order to counteract the flashy and corrupting publications with which the French press is inundating the Levant, in the words of the author, "to bring the English mind to the door of the Greek nation." The author says in his dedication:

"It is meet for me to confess before the whole world, that the principles and ideas by which I am guided, in fact every advantage I possess, I owe to your beneficent country. Duty commands me to dedicate this work of mine to a citizen of the United States of America; and of the sons of enlightened worth in that favored region I prefer your Excellency for my purpose.—Your warm patriotism, and the generous sentiments attributed to you on all hands from the extremities of the earth, sanction this dedication. The sympathy you exhibited, in your political station, in favor of my struggling country, is ever before me, and I embrace with delight this opportunity of making some sign of grateful remembrance."—*Charleston Courier.*

WASHINGTON TROPHIES AT WEST POINT.—An interesting incident recently transpired at the Military Academy at West Point. This was the formal reception by Col. Delfield of two flags captured at Yorktown. After the close of the war, they were presented to Washington by Congress, and remained in the possession of his family until the recent death of George Washington Parke Custis, when they were again transmitted to the Government; the War Department has entrusted them to the keeping of the authorities at West Point. A parade was ordered there and the cadets celebrated the arrival with due solemnities, depositing them in the library. Arrangements are, however, being made by Col. Delfield for their permanent location in the chapel. They are torn and stained; nearly almost to crumble at a touch; one is a Hessian flag and the other the English cross.

[*New York Day Book.*

PHILOPOLAS.—Barry Cornwall, who had a deal of sly humor, once said, "I greatly object to this one sided game called Philopoenas—this finding a double almond, sharing it with a lady, and then having to pay a forfeit when next she encounters you. If you pay it first, the little devils have such funny ways of getting off paying. Sometimes they will give you a kiss—that's something; sometimes they will let you buy them to a ball or party; sometimes they will pay up like men—very unwillingly. I philopoened a girl; she acknowledged the debt, and promised me an annual. The next day she sent me an almanac."