no such a thing as rest for me this side of the grave!" said Mrs. Bidge.

Mr. Bidge said nothing. The iron of remorse was in his soul, and his wife's lamentations kept wriggling in there. Mr. Bidge felt that he was a fixed father. He mused a while. Suddenly a thought, luminous as a lightning bug, smiled upon his doldrums.

" Mrs. Bidge, I have it !"

" What.f" " What do you say to a jaunt into the coun-

With all these children to see to! It can't be. It would be worse than staying at home.' "But I mean leave them here and have some body to care for them."

" Easier said than done." "I'll try, at all events. What do you think Mrs. Bidges !"

Mrs. Bidge, struck with the force of the proposition, held up her hands in a delightful state of hope. Bidge put on his hat.

'O. if they only would!' said Mrs. Bidge .-Bidge moved to the door.

Tell them there's only eight,' said Mrs. Bidge 'Four of them are twins, and for only one

Bidge was gone for twesty minutes, and, returned from a successful fission. The Bidges were overjoyed at the proposal and had agreed. On the following day M. and Mrs. Bidge left dull care behind them, and went into the country; while Mr. and Mrs. Badge assumed the charge of the eight young Bidges. Happy ar rangement of affairs. The Badg s were so fond of children-treasures beyond their power to

Since the first years of their marriage, the Bidges had not enjoyed themselves half so well as during the first two days of their absence from home. O, how relieved they felt. How they realized the bliss of liberty. No young ones to see to: no responsibility: no noise: no confusion; no whippings to give; no meals to get; no clothes to mend; no children to dress, or send to school, or put to bed. Of their companions in rural pleasure seeking, none were more enthusiastic or gay and agreeable than they.

On the third day their ardor began to abate. and while Mr. Bidge was considering how his business in town was getting along, Mrs. Bidge also grew thoughtful and wondered how the children were. Not that either of them were at all anxious about returning. O, no. At leas both said so.

On the fourth morning Mrs. Bidge was sorry that she hadn't told the Badges to write to he about the children. Who knows but what some of them were sick? Supposing one of them should die in her absence-the little innocents She would never forgive herself. And then she began to think of a great many things which nobody could do for them like a mother. Th Badges didu't know anything about it. M Bidge shared the anxiety, and his eyes would brighten when his wife recounted a smart thing such a child had said, what another had done and what such and such a person had praised them for. During the day these feelings in creased in strength, and very little sleep did ei ther enjoy on the fourth night.

On the fifth morning somehow the country didn't seem so pleasant as before. There wasn' life and variety enough. They thought if the children were only with them, they would be perfectly contented. It was selfish in them t leave the darlings behind. No doubt they were all crying for them to come back.

On the fifth evening, they felt so very wor ried and lonesome that they determined to re turn to their dear home and sweet children on the following day.

Meanwhile the Badges had their hands full of domestic cares. Delightful responsibilities.-What they had so long wished for was now theirs in good earnest. They had a family to take care of. Eight children between the ages of two and twelve! Did any body ever see such a group of cherubs ?

Mrs. Badge seemed inspired with a new life. She was here, there and everywhere and doing everything. She felt a pride in showing her husband what she could do if she had a family of her own. How amiable and interested she was in everything hat could contribute to the comfort and jo- if the little Bidges. Badge did all he could s please them, in his awkward way, but Mrs. Badge was a perfect miracle of maternal affection. The children, pleased with the novelty, and the presents, and the unusual indulgence, got long agreeably enough. Nobody scolded nor whipped them, denied them anything, or sent them to bed before they wan ted to go. What nice, good folks they thought the Badges were, and hoped father and mother would not come home soon.

But there is an end to all things, as the sail or said, when the cable ran out, and the whale hauled him overboard.

Three days passed and Mrs. Badge was worn out. Everything in the house was topsy-turvy The dear little Bidges, as she so often called them, had taken advantage of the license allowed them, and made free with the economy of the Badge household in a manner perfectly frightful. They proved to be a set of young Alraics and destroyed everything they chose.-Lacking parental restraint, they raced and shouted through the house like young fiends, quarrelled and fought and screamed and cried till Mrs. Badge's patience became utterly exhausted. War, disorder, turmoil and destruc tion reigned under the little Bidge administration, and added to the continual extra labors of Mrs. Badge, no wonder they wore her out.

Four days had not passed before three or four of the children had been cuffed and spanked for sundry awful misdemeanors; and then sulks and pertness and gloom drove away the beauty of their behavior, and Mr. and Mrs. Badge learnen to dislike children, and sighed for the return of the Bidges and the restoration of peace and quiet.

Joyous as had been the day of parting, more joyous to all was that of return. There was general yell of unaffected delight, when the Bidges made their appearance, sooner than expected, on the morning of the sixth day. Hap pier than ever were the houses of Bidge and Badge. They had learned a lesson of lasting wisdom in less than six days. Memorable week the recollection of which is a constant check to their discontent, - Olive Branch,

Hunger never shw bad bread.

### ORIGINAL POETRY.

For the Southern Weekly Post. THE MOUNTAINEER'S SONG. Removed from the land of my birth, No azure-robed mountains in view, I deem it the fairest of earth. And still the fond image renew, No time the sweet sentiment chills ; I feel it, wherever I roam. That I am a child of the hills.

And cherish the thought of my home. The eagle may stoop from his nest To grapple his prey on the plain: The magnet of love in his breast Draws him back to his eyrie again. I too, in this preference share; Still proving the strength of the tie, I soar to my dear native air, Or think of it lost with a sigh.

My fortune it never may be Again in that Eden to stray : The tide of life's troublesome sea May bear me yet further away : But oh! from fond memory's eye Those mountains can never depart. And their love-printed image shall lie Still fresh on the leaves of my heart.

# COMMUNICATIONS.

METROPOLITAN CORRESPONDENCE. LETTER LXXV.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16, 1854. Christmas shopping anticipated-A picture promised-Ar rival of the Pacific-" Hextras"-A sell-Horrors of the battle of Inkerman-Reinforcement of the Allies-Apprehensions-The other topic of talk-A commercial sis-A shadow before us-California gold-Fire in Philadelphia - A relic burned - Two steamships forfeited for anaggling-The Times on Barnum's book-Ruth Hall alias Fanny Fern-A book on finger-rings-" Nothing venture-Nothing Have"-A pocket Broant-Harper's new story books-Kerwan's pencillings-The late firm of

My DEAR POST: When this letter is spread before your readers in your columns, we of this goodly city of Gotham, shall be in the midst of the Christmas shopping excitements. Broadway will be thronged—if the elements are at all propitious-by thousands of papas and mammas and elder brother, and sisters and uncles and lus of Barnum's story, while those who do not aunts, bent on procuring Christmas gifts. The possess them, will not be apt to follow so daring tionary shops will be the scenes of bountiful expenditure, and weary enough will grow the clerks and salesmen and saleswomen in all these establishments before the midnight hour releases them from toils that happily come like Christmas only "once a year." But as I have proposed to myself the task of giving you, in my next letter, a picture of Christmas shopping in the metropolis, I will not anticipate now, further than to say, that judging from the decorations and prepartions which are being made for the occasion, there is not much apprehension felt that

We have had later intelligence from the seat of war since the date of my last letter, but it did not amount to anything after all. The Pacific arrived on Wedne-day about noon, and early in the afternoon the various newspapers "with a beating heart and flowing tears," not issued extras, which were circulated with astonishing rapidity. Everybody rushed to the offices to get one, but the counters were beseiged by such a host of newsboys trying to secure a batch, that the only resource was to buy them of the boys outside, paying them an advance of a penny. I invested three cents, eager to learn the fate of Sebastopol, but suspicious at the same time, that the news did not comprehend any such result as its overthrow, notwithstanding some of the more daring of the venders were crying - ' Ere's the hextra Erld-'rival of the Percific-Capture of Sebastopol!" I opened my paper and saw in great black type, the heading, "Latest from the War"--" Sebastopol not taken"--"No news of importance from the Crimea!" I crushed the paper into my pocket, and, wondered if the thousands who were buying "Hextra E'rlds" and "Hextra Suns," would feel as cheap as I

The details of the battle of Inkerman as reported in the London Times, afford a most dreadful picture of the horrors of this great civilized war of the nineteenth century. The process of reinforcing the alifes was going on handsome volume on finger-rings. This is its with all possible celerity. There appears to be title page in full, "The H story and Poetry of no longer any of that shuly-shallying, to use an Finger Rings," by Charles Edwards, Esq. expressive vulgarism, which characterized the war in its early stages. England is now dread. fully in earnest, and it is buil time, for the position of the allied forces in the trenches before the stronghold of the Crimea is anything but again without recalling the expression of consatisfactory to the western powers. I confess to tempt. It is a very curious, elib rate and ensome considerable apprehension for the result to tertaining account of the finger-ring in all ages the attacking army, though I cannot relinquish and in its relation to mythology, superstition, the hope that it will not be driven away inglori- history, poetry, religion and love. I remember ously. It is said that at least 12,000 men have once seeing an elaborate work upon spoins and been landed in the Crimea since the battle of In this book upon rings seems far more likely to kerman was fought with such a costly victory to be interesting than that. And interesting it is the allies. Meanwhile, Russia has poured twice -exceedingly so, conveying the reader back inas many thousands into Sebastopol. Still, if the to the mystic and historic ages, and reviewing allies do nothing to forfeit their reputation for su- customs and events of the far-past with vivid efperior prowess, they will be strong enough not on- feet. Let no antiquarian or curious reader overly to drive back Sorties from the city, but to carry look this volume, for to such it will prove a the place by assault against 150,000 of the ene | treasure. a successful assault upon the city, and the threat- fifth of the Home Books, from the popular pen ened destruction of it by the retreating Russians. of "Cousin Allice." These books are all illus-

without parallel in the annals of war. dition of commercial affairs in our own country. the fair author has inculcated the safe sentiment there is a vast upheaving of the monetary ele- It is a simple and touching narrative, the heroments. Failures, and those of a most imposing line is a little girl, and step by step her eventful figure, are frequent. Scarcely a day passes that way is marked from the beginning in discourone or more new ones are not reported. To di- agement to a point of success and triumph, versify the record, we have reports of broken This and its predecessors are the books which banks, defalcating clerks and tellers, or it may contain true "household words" and "Cousin be of forgeries, that wouldn't stay concealed !- Alice" is a name worth; to be a "household Really, my dear Post, affairs in nearly every bu- name." siness circle are under a cloud, dark enough to cast a shadow before us, even into the new year. the poems of Bryant, has just been published This scarcity of money in our midst looks a lit- by Appleton, who have new three editions of the tle strange when viewed in connection with the poetical works of this famous American poet.continued large arrivals of gold from California. The latest publications of the Harpers are the The Northern Light came in yesterday, bringing first number of their nonthly story-books for

buildings on Chesnut St., and extending northward on Fifth St. The stocks of goods, which were consumed, were of great value, and the total loss is put down in round numbers at \$1,-500,000. For a while the city buildings, and the famous old State House were threatened by the devouring element. The fire destroyed an old relic of revolutionary times, a house known as the Jefferson wigwam, the place where the immortal instrument, which we call the Declaration of Independence, was fabricated.

Two large steamships, the Alps, of the Cunard line, ni the Washingtor, (American) having been libelled by the U.S. revenue officers, for violation of the revenue laws by smuggling goods into this port, were vesterday declared forfeited to the American government by decision of Judge Ingersoll of the United States Dis trict Court. The owners of these ships will doubtless apply to Congress for a remission of this sentence, but whether successfully or not, remains to be seen. Smuggling is quite prevalent, and it appears that parties, little to be suspected from their official position, are not guiltless of the offence. Perhaps a striking example of offenders may be of service.

The Times newspaper is out with great sever ity upon the Life of Barnum, denouncing the spirit and tendency of the book as prejudicial to morality and integrity. If the Times occupied a very high moral position itself, this rebuke would pass for more than it is likely to do, as that Barnum seems to think his course of wholesale imposition upon the great gullible public, not only a very clever, but a very commendable thing, and it intimates that the great showman has no very d finite idea of honor, beyond that of success in his schemes of deception. The Times has the reputation of being a times-serving print, and should not therefore fall out so sayagely with a times-serving man. The chief objection which the Times makes to the book is Ecans & Dickerson, and their successor-The Schoolfel- that it will create a swarm of crafty adventurers, who will try to live by their wits upon the weakness of the public. I must confess that I do not discover any great probability of such a result. It takes a considerable amount of talent and more tact to succeed in the art of humof these to undertake it will not need the stimua leader as he of Joyce Heth and Feeice fish memory. But to wind up about Barnum, he has repeated his usual telling strokes in this famous book, and the profits of it will enable him to g.ld the whole outside and inside of his palace at Iranistan, if he should incline to such a waste

The book most talked about at this moment is Ruth Hall, by Fanny Fern, recently published by Mason & Brothers of this city. So great were the orders in advance for this work, that the publishers had to delay its delivery to the the hard times will interfere with the customary It is now selling in every direction, and Ruth trade several days longer than they intended .-Hall is quite a common name among the itinerant venders of light literature. You may have her for a companion on railways and steamboats. I have read the book, but not "at a single sitting," not "at the cost of a night's sleep," not with "passionate emotions of sympathy and admiration," as so many of the quill-drivers of the newspapers confess to having done. Not I. I found nothing in the book to challenge my tender sympathies, because I could not he'p feeling that its pathos was affectation, and that the animus of the book was bad and bitter. It was the personal story of the writer, told with large embellishments of fancy, doubtless, and it holds up her relatives to scorn. To this a lady should not, perhaps I may say could not stoop, no matter what the provocation might be. The book s not feminine-it is not delicate-it is not Christian-like in its spirit and tone, and these defects outweigh its sprightliness, its sauciness, depth. its egotism, and its wit. "Fanny Fern" has become "a household name" in some quarters it may be, but believe me, my dear Post, it will soon sink with this new book of her's, into a,

What would you think of a book on buttons mean buttons viewed in an æ-thetical light? Or of a book upon breast-pins? There has just appeared from the press of Redfield, a very

"My ring I hold dear as my finger; 'tis part of it!" And no one who takes up the book with a "pshaw" for the subject of it will lay it down

Messrs. Appletons have recently puplished the The destruction of life would be awful, almost trations of familiar proverbs, and they are designed to convey important moral lessons. The The other topic of discussion among us-the new one is entitled " Nothing Venture, Nothing war being of course the one -- is the gloomy con- Have," and under this somewhat daring adage We have reached a great mercantile crisis, and that "God helps those who help themselves."-

A beautiful little volume, a pocket edition of feet. over \$800,000 in specie, and very flattering in- children, a volume and a sermon from the pen of Kirwan, the great intagonist of Popery in A very destructive fire occurred in Philade!- this quarter, the American Cummings I may phia on Thursday night, destroying several venture to call him. Of the story-book I need

A Mary No. of

sum of two shillings, or the great Magazine | thousand of years. and the Story books together for one year for five dollars in advance. Cheap enough in all Southern Coleckly Host.

Kirwan's new book is entitled " Parish Pencillings," and it contains a large number of just such incidents as only a pastor can narrate.-Their tone is always serious and sometimes deeply solemn. The anti-papal feelings of the author manifest themselves frequently in the book, and especially in the two articles which present contrasts between Bedini the Pope's magazine and Dr. Duff, the great Scotch missionary. The vigor and the sharpness of Kirwan's style are well illustrated in the portraits of Bedini, who if he should see them hereafter, would certainly be glad he had escaped from our shores before sent, the person making up the club will be entitled to they were exhibited to the American public .-"Kirwan" is the non de plume of the Rev. Dr. N. Murray, a distinguished Presbyterian clergyman of New Jersey. His Thauksgiving sermon is a vigorous discourse on the perils and prospects of our national prosperity.

The firm of Evans & Dickinson, publishers of this city, has been dissolved by the retirement of Mr. Evans from impaired health, and duous task of involving us in inconsistency. Mr. James S. Dickinson continues their flour- His last article is more labored and more ingeit is. It declares the truth, however, in saying ishing business in his own name. You will nious than the former one, but we think we can recollect that the late firm published many pop- make it clear that it has not advanced his arguular juvenile books; and also that universally ment a particle nearer the desired conclusion seasonably-"a merry christmas," I remain as culated to do us some injustice. He says: the schoolboy says in his first epistle home, Yours dutifully. COSMOS.

THE EARTH IN A STATE OF IGNEOUS

In the progress of Geological investigations, by those which oppose Prohibition." hypothesis have been multiplied in endless vathat are met with upon the face of the earth.

present day are united in the opinion that the whole of the interior of this earth is in a state of igneous fusion. Indeed there are many phe-

As we descend into the earth, there is a greadual diminution of temperature, until we reach a depth of about 100 feet. This is owing to the influence of the sun upon the surface demands our attention at present. It will be of the earth. But after we pass that distance, the temperature begins to increase, and con tinues, as we descend, to increase as far as man has ever yet penetrated. The various exeperiments that have been made in different portions of the globe, do not furnish exactly the same the liquor traffic is concerned.' We hold to rate of increase, but the average of all the statements made by men in different corners of the earth would, we believe, be about one degree for every 45 feet. If the temperature continues to increase at this rate, before we descend to the depth of one mile, we shall find heat sufficient to boil water, and before we descend

The artesian wells that have been formed in different countries, afford an argument in favor of there being a great source of heat in the interior of the earth. These wells uniformly

The existence of numerous thermal springs in various localities, affords another argument in favor of our hypothisis.

The waters of these springs are of different degrées of temperature, from blood heat up to that of boiling water.

Vast numbers of these springs occur in regions remote from any modern volcanic action The lofty summits of the Alps, and of the Pyernees or of the Ozark mountains, are the lecalities of many of these wonderful exhibitions of

Another argument of no little weight is derived from the existence of numerous deep seated volcanos met with in various parts of the Globe. Volcanos are of two different kinds, the active and the extinct.

Now if these were confined to some particular locality, the cause might be regarded as local, and the effect of chemical changes at

as we would be led to expect, by supposing the whole interior of the earth a melted mass, and

matter enough to form one of the most enorous eruptions ever recorded

When we consider the number of active volcanos by land, and beneath the sea, together with the enormous quantity of matter that is, from time to time, ejected from them, the conviction that the interior of our globe is in malted state. Is almost irresistably forced upon our minds. There are, in number, about 00 active volcanoes. The amount of matter thrown from some of these, seems incredible. to have occurred in 1783. There issued from that he is clothed with legislative powers So The other was 7 miles broad, and 40 miles in exercise a legislative power. length. There average depth being about 100 But the county courts have to act under the

mass. (See Hitchcock's Geology.)

fate of Herculaneum, of Pompeii and

only say that it is a new enterprize, with the en- of the earth is in a state of igneous fusion, and ergy of the Harpers to give it success, and the from these, together with many other facts, name of Jacob Abbott to recommend it to confi- they infer that the whole of this earth was once dence. A handsome little volume with nume- in a fluid state, aroof a very high temperature ; rous engravings every month, for the triffing that it has been gradually cooling for many

WILLIAM D. COOKE, | BDITORS.

RALEIGH, DEC. 23, 1854.

JAMES A. WADDELL. Terms-TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM, in Advance. CLUB PRICES (Payment in all cases in advance.) Where a club of eight, ten or twenty subscribers is

Postmasters are authorized to act as Agents tor Southern Weekly Post.

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THE DISTRICT QUESTION Our cotemporary of the "Guardian," in a polite rejoinder, continues to prosecute the ar-

favorite magazine for young people—the School- First let us say in all respect to him and all fellow. This work has just completed its sixth others who advocate a mere temporary measure year, and Mr. Dickerson intends to issue almost for the present, that in our humble judgment a immediately, the first number of the seventh law designed to operate for a few years only, volume. No other juvenile in the country has would not be worth a button, for want of that the fame of the Schoolfellow. The last item moral influence which all measures of moral reof information which I shall give you this week form should carry with them. But this is a concerns the weather, which I may report as had matter about which it were needless to multiply ving been compelled to "let up" its extreme words. We leave that point, and proceed to frigidness, but as being in consequence some- notice a misapprehension of our views into what gloomy and ill tempered. Wishing you which the "Guardian" has fallen, unintention and all your readers-in advance but not un- ally we are willing to b lieve, but which is cal-

> "The diff rence between us s ems to be this The Post advocates a general law to be obeyed by the people of the whole State, whether they are for it or not ; while we advecate one, for the time being, to be obeyed by those Districts that desire it, which ought not to be objected to even

Our cotemporary is mistaken in supposing riety, to account for the various phenomena we desire to see any law forced on the p-ople against their will. No such inference can be Many of the most eminent Geologists of the drawn from anything we have written. What we desire is a moderate and judicious measure which, if enacted by the Legislature, we believe would be sustained by a majority of our citizens. nomena that cannot be satisfactorily explained | We regard the people of North Carolina as a virtuous and order-loving community, not quite so much behind the people of Maine as the editors of the Guardian may imagine.

But one other point in our friend's article found ingeniously presented in the following

" In our last article we contended that the people of a Captain's District knew their own wants better than the Legislature, 'so far as the same opinion yet, and we intend to make it good by argument. In replying to this, the Post asked : " If the people of a district know their own wishes better than the Legislature, are they not more competent to legislete accord ing to those wishes?" Certainly not, under our Constitution We deny that the people has any legislation to perform in connexion with forty miles, we shall find heat sufficient to melt but to grant or withhold license. According to our present law the Court has this power. Is the Court a legislative body? Certainly not. If the power that has heretofore been exercised by the Court be transferred to the poople, will that make them any more of a legislative body than the Court? We think not. The 'funchave a temperature in proportion to their tions 'of the Legislature are not transferred to. the people by the adoption of our proposed measure, nor does it assume that the Legislature is less competent to perform its duty than the people of a Captain's District. Why? Because the duty of the Legislature ceases when it enacts the law and gives it to the proper officers for execution. The law that we are advocating will constitute every voter in the State a proper officer for the execution of the most important provision that it will contain."

If the writer of the foregoing has forgtten the next sentence in our reply to his first criticism, following the one he has quoted in this paragraph, we would remind him that we therein distinctly admittd, that if competency, (by which we meant very obviously, fitness, or qualification, i depended upon an acquaintance with their own wishes, the people of a district would be more competent to decide the question of a prohibitory law than the Legislature But we denied that such an acquaintance with their own wishes was the principal element of the competency required. Our argument was and con-But the phenomena of volcanos are just such tinues to be, that the Constitution has properly confided the business and responsibility of legis lation to the representatives of the whole people, and that therefore it conflicts with the Assuming the thickness of the Earth's crust spirit of our government to leave it to the disto be 50 miles, the contraction of this envelope cretion of the people of each district whether a one 13,000th part of an inch, would force out law should operate within their bounds or not. But the Guardian now denies that any of the functions of the Legislature would be transferred from that body to the people, of the several districts, and appeals to the discretionary powers of the county courts. We reply that if a prohibitory law were passed, conditionally, and left to the decision of the county courts whether it should operate within their jurisdiction or not, the courts would to all intents and purpposes participate in the act of legislation, just as the President of the United States participates The greatest eruption recorded in modern by signing or vetoing a bill. He is not a "legtimes, is that of Skaptar Jokul in Iceland, said islative body," but it is the general opinion the crater two streams of lava, which flowed with the courts, and the people of the several opposite directions. One of them is said to districts. In so far as the operation of a law have been 12 miles broad, and 50 miles long. is left to their discretion, they are expected to

present liquor laws, and the Legislature has Many villages, together with 9000 thousand confided this limited discretion to them, because inhabitants were buried beneath the mighty their acquaintance with individual applicants for license must be more accurate and extensive. Every schoolboy has read about the erup- This is at least the opinion of the jurists. Their tions of Etna and of Vesuvius, and about the local knowledge makes them more competent of than the Legislature to decide upon the fitness of individuals. But neither they nor the peo-From the arguments which we have now ple of single districts are better qualified than mentioned, Gologists infer that all the interior the Legislature to settle the principle of entire prohibition within their respective jurisdictions That is a great question which ought to be decided by the Legislature itself.

We hope we are understood, and that our friend of the " Guardian" will acquit us of any disposition to avoid the point of his argument. If he only wishes to transfer the present powers of the courts to the people of the districts, he certainly advocates no new law at all, for the present, but only seeks to appoint a new class, was agreed to, and the jury thereupon brought of the old one; and his proposition amounts to leaving it entirely to the discretion of these "proper officers." whether the law shall be executed or not. We submit whether it would not be strange, awkward, and radical legislation, thus to invest a purely executive class of functionaries with such large discretionary pow-

### THE LEGISLATURE.

of the proceedings of this body in our columns, 'as much interesting miscellaneous matter would thereby be excluded. We refer however very briefly to one or two of the more novel features of its transactions, for the gratification of our readers. A very interesting and able debate oc cup ed the Senate a good part of last week, on the proposition of Gov. Graham to provide for an open Convention to remodel the Constitution. as a substitute for legislative amendment. Sever ral of the speciers have acquitted themselves with great credit, and delivered statesman like arguments which would have been worthy of any deliberative b dv. The amendment of Mr Graham was finally voted down on Wednesday. and the Free Suffrage bill passed by the constitutional majority.

We see a bill has passed its first reading in the Commons, exempting females from being compelled to give evidence in open court. We do next. The meeting will be held at the lecture not low what may be the action of the Legislature, but the movement will commend itself obviously to the good sense and good taste of the public. Another important proposition is to provide for the employment of a competent were burnt to death last week on that gentleagent to procure all available documents bear- man's plantation, having been contrary to Mr. ing upon the early history of our State. We C's. orders left alone in . 1 ... rejo ce to see this indication of interest in our early annal, and hope an effort will be made to rescue the scattered and mutilated records from Dr. Dunglison on the Blind Institutions of

A spirited debate occurred in the House on the Pennsylvania Institution. We are very Wednesday, on the engrossed resolution for the much obliged to the sender for so valuable a relief of the N. C. Rulroad. This resolution, af- document. ter amendment, was finally passed. The following gentlemen were elected to the office of being made for the repeal of usury laws. Mr. Counselor of State: O. R. Kenan, M. T. Haw- Boyce of South Carolina has brought up the kins, Benj. Trollinger, Samuel L. Love, Owen subject in Congress, and it is also engaging the Holmes, Larkin Stowe, and Wm. Badham.

SALUTES AT SAN FRANCISCO .- When the report of the capture of Sebastopol reached San Franc sco, a salute was fired from the English and French vessels in the harbor. The report them as comfortable a time as possible during turning out to be premature, the Russian Con- the coming week, which to us is always the sul fired a salute in return, from the Zenobia, most disagreeable in the whole year. an American vessel, sailing under American colors, and commanded by an American captain. What can this mean? Is it possible that the prejudices of our people against the allied cause is so great as to tempt them to prostitute the American flag to such a purpose? This is an- ate. other act of disgraceful treachery to our national principles.

Gov. Swain's Lecture.—The distinguished President of the University of North Carolina, may be checked by inoculation. delivered a lecture in the hall of the House o-Common, on Monday evening last, on the hisf We are indebted to the Hon. John Kerr lory of that institution. We regret that we did for a copy of the "Compendium of the United for hear of it in time to attend. From the known States Census," for which he will please accept bility of the lecturer, however, we are satisfied our thanks. hat the encomoums of those who were more forunate were uot misapplied. We hope the earnest dvocacy of the interests of the University by next week, in order that our hands may enjoy a is distinguished President will have its due ef- little respite during the holidays. ect upon the Legis'ature and the public.

INVITATION TO SALISBURY .- We very much egret that multiplied engagements will prevent to cover the ground. us from complying with the courteous invitation from the committee on behalf of the citizens of Rowan, to be present at their Railroad cele- make another baloon ascension from this cay bration on the eusuing 4th of January. The in a short time. completion of the North Carolina Railroad to that place furnishes an occasion of rejoicing in which we would gladly participate with our fel- vor of the Native American doctrine. ow citizens in that region.

VOLUNTEERS FOR RUSSIA .- Mr. Roosevelt, of New York, has gone to St. Petersburg to enter ervice in the Russian army. It is said that everal other Americans contemplate the same Sampson & Co. hing. These are beautiful specimens of the American character, who hire themselves out to ble character, designed to illustrate the evils of the model de-potism of the world, to shed their slavery and increase the anti-slavery feeling pr blood in furtherance of its ambition. These symothizers with Russia are a disgrace to the re- as smuggled into slavery, and pretends to give

ou." "He that giveth to the poor, lendeth to ous in its tendency; but the object of the writer he Lord." These are hard times, and the pinch is to employ fiction to effect an object which by f Boreas should remind the benevolent that simple details of fact could not be accomplished old. Much of the money destined to be ex- books in which Northern industry is now so proended next week in the cu-tomary frivolities, lifte. We are indebted to the publishers for a ould be better invested in a little extra liberal - copy. to the destitute around us. A PRIEST FINED .-- A Catholic priest has

een fined \$500, at Chicago, for personal injury a crippled boy, for d clining to do penance or whispering at mass. The priest did not innd, it would seem, to injure the boy so severev, but the jury very properly made him an exmple, to show that physical coercion to Catho-

whip from her hand, and laughed at her abuse. ple of notoriety and wealth acquired at a heavy

TRIAL IN INDIANA UNDER THE FEGITIVE SLAVE LAW.—A man was recently tried in | dianapolis, under the seventh section of Fugitive Slave Law, for aiding in the escape slaves from their masters, in which case M Cyrus Fillmore, brother of the ex-President was the principal witness. The man was proed guilty of the charge, but it is said if would not render in their verdict, unless the judge would promise to remit the fine which it act imposes as a penalty for the offence, which in their verdict that the prisoner pay a fine of fifty dollars, and be imprisoned one hour in the

This is a beautiful state of things, is nt it; The sworn jury come into the court and say they will not comply with their ouths, unless the sworn judge shall promise to remit his own sentence, and then the farce of a verdict is silemply performed. Is this what northern men call "adhering to the compromises of the constitution "? In our humble judgment it is of We deem it unnecessary to make full reports the essence of judicial corruption and the spirit of treason. The oaths of such men are as worthless as their patriotism.

Miss Bunkley.-This young lady, lately escaped from the Catholic institution at Emmits. burg, has published a card promising to refute the statements of the Lady Superioress, She asks a suspension of public indoment for the

My We assure our that we attach no blame tion with our failure to think, however, that the it seldom reaches its destination. result of very diligent inquiry.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE AD-VANCEMENT OF EDUCATION will hold its fourth annual meeting in Washington city on Tues ay room of the Smithsonian Institute.

CHILDREN BURNT.-Five little negro children belonging to Mr. Cameron of the N. C. Argus,

. We have received a pamphlet copy of a letter Europe, addressed to the Board of Managers of

Usury Laws .- Quite a general movement is attention of the Legislatures of South Carolina, New York, and several other States.

CHRISTMAS.-We tender to all our readers the congratulations of the season, and wish

GOVERNOR OF UTAH .- Col. Steptoe, U. S. A. has been appointed by President Pierce to succeed Brigham Young. It is doubtful whether the nomination will be confirmed by the Sen-YELLOW FEVER .- Dr. William Humboldt, a

son of the celebrated Prussian sabant, is at Havana, inculcating the theory that vellow fever

No paper will be issued from this office

Snow.-We had a sprinkling of slow in Wednesday morning last-not enough however

We hear that Mr. Elliott expects to

Com. Spockton has published a letter in fa-

## LITERARY NOTICES.

IDA MAY, a story of things actual and possible. By MARY LANGDON; Boston, Philips,

This is another work of fiction of an improbe. vailing at the North. It represents a white shild her history and experiences in that condition.-It is by no means equal to Uncle Tom's Cabin THE POOR .- "The poor ye have always with in dramatic interest, and therefore less pernicinany in our midst are badly protected from the and we therefore regard it as one of the bad

THE LIFE OF P. T. BARNEM, by himself. New York. Redfield.

This autobiography, which has been so long announced, with so many clap-trap devices to secure a large circulation, has at last reached our table, and proves on perusal about as in eresting as the history of such a man could well be. Barnum is a very great man in the estimation of many people at the North, and of course c ceremonies will not be tolerated in the United his narrative, which is probably the most truthful thing he has ever published, bids fair to be as successful as any of his enterprises. Mr. Har-Ether and the Ladies.—The New York num is very caudid, but his candor consists in a entists have made certain revelations concern- complacent and chuckling avowal of a misspent ng the effect of ether, which ought to put ladies life; and his autobiography is an appropriate n their guard against the too frequent use of it, close to such a career. The tendency of his , well as chloroform, in their private interviews | book is to depreciate virtue and honor, and to ith dentists and doctors. It is said that it of- elevate low cunning to the same nignity with on makes them behave in a very unlady-like intellectual and moral worth. Our hope is however that the poison is too apparent to effect much mischief. Every intelligent reader of his LOLA MONTES AGAIN.-This little fury at- book must perceive that, although he lives in a empted to horsewhip an editor in California, a palace and has surrounded himself with the w weeks since, but the gentleman snatched the splendor of a nabob, P. T. Barnum is an exam-