

From the San Francisco Freeman.

### SUMMARY OF NEWS.

**Since the sailing of the last steamer.**  
It has seldom been the lot of a steamer to carry away a fortnight's budget of news more interesting in its character than that which leaves to-morrow morning by the steamer Oregon. We are all at sea on the Pacific side of the world—all in a state of uncertainty and confusion—nothing from nothing fixed, and, by all appearance, not likely to be for a long time to come.

In Oregon the seat of Government is a subject for speculation. No one knows where it is. The legislature and the Supreme Court are divided upon it—the former holding it to be at Salem, and the latter at Oregon City. Both of these branches are also divided among themselves upon the point—a majority of the Legislature being now in session at Salem, and a minority in Oregon City. Of the minority, the Spectator amusingly says, that "Columbus Lancaster, Esq., of the Council, remains in this city, and continues to meet at the Library rooms, and adjourns from day to day. Four members of the House, Messrs. Waite, Mallock, Kinney and Brownfield, also meet and adjourn daily." Although the latter have not the Legislature on their side, whom they call "nullifiers," they have the law—Judges Strong and Nelson, of the Superior Court, opposing, while the other Judge sustains the action of the Assembly.

But who can describe the present condition of things in our own State? No one can tell who is Governor of California, who is Mayor of San Francisco, where the seat of Government is—at San Jose or at Vallejo, what set of claimants has the best right to upwards of half a dozen contested seats in the next Legislature, what party has the best title to the municipal Government of San Francisco, and whether "New York," or the "Chivalry" have the controlling power over the Democracy.

With regard to the Governorship, there is little doubt but gross fraud has been committed with the ballot box in several counties,—and, although it may be difficult, if not impossible, to prove it legally, it is not the less a fact, from the investigations recently made, that Major Reading received a majority of all the votes cast for Governor at the late election.

With regard to the Mayoralty, a majority of the Supreme Court, to the astonishment of the legal profession and the citizens generally, have lately decided that Dr. Harris was the Mayor of San Francisco since September last, although Captain Brenham has been acting in that capacity.

The location of the seat of Government is involved in as deep mystery as ever—the partisans of San Jose and Vallejo sparing no exertion on either side, to secure it. On the 30th ult., a meeting, consisting of forty-one members elect to the Legislature, was held in San Francisco, for the purpose of consulting together as to the place where the next Legislature should be held—when the question was decided in favor of Vallejo, by a majority of 28 to 13. But as the whole meeting did not constitute one half of the members of the Legislature, it is impossible, of course, to consider that vote as settling the question at rest.

The claimants to contested seats in the Legislature, must, of course, await the action of that body upon their respective cases.

In the city of San Francisco we have now two sets of civic rulers in full blast. The gentlemen elected in September, were sworn in on Monday last, the 26th inst., by Mayor Harris and they held their first meeting on the same evening. The gentlemen who have hitherto administered the municipal government with such credit to themselves and such advantage to the city, will, of course, adopt every legal and constitutional means in their power to resist these unjust pretensions; and they depend for success on the change which is to take place in the constitution of the Supreme Bench, at the next term, by the substitution of Chief Justice Solomon Heydenfeldt, for Chief Justice Hastings, the gentleman whose decision in the case of Harris vs. Brenham, has lately excited so much astonishment.

The Democratic party are torn asunder by dissensions, and, from the animosity exhibited on both sides, there is little prospect of a union among them. One portion, who come principally from New York, were anxious to have a preponderance for their section by the choice of delegates to a State Convention, to be held shortly, for the appointment of delegates to the Democratic National Convention and for the nomination of candidates for Electors of President and Vice-President—while the other party, who hail from the more Southern States, were influenced by similar motives. Both parties are undecided, and both will send delegates to the State Convention.

The atmosphere itself has sympathized, in some degree, with the stormy spirit who have agitated the political world since the departure of the last steamer. For the last ten days, the rain has fallen almost every day and night, and we have had two or three very severe south-eastern gales, accompanied, on one or two occasions, with hail, thunder, and lightning. Two or three slight shocks of an earthquake, which lasted for a few seconds, have been felt in San Francisco.

The news from the Mines is encouraging, the yield in the placer diggings, being very bountiful since the rain set in. Full particulars, under this head, will be found in another column.

The survey of the railroad from San Francisco to San Jose, has been completed. Its total cost is estimated at \$1,539,129 17. We fear that considerable time will elapse before the work can be commenced. No further steps, that we have heard of, have been taken with regard to the other railroads proposed in this State.

### THE INDIAN WAR IN THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES OF CALIFORNIA.

The Indian War in the Southern counties of California terminated, as we predicted in our last Summary. It turned out to be merely one of those predatory incursions, and said to have been provoked by an illegal attempt, by the Sheriff of San Diego, to seize Indian cattle in payment of State taxes, as well as by cruel treatment by evil disposed white persons.

A Settlers' and Miners' Convention is proposed to be held shortly, for the purpose of taking into consideration the various questions affecting their interests, and taking such action upon them as may be deemed most advisable.

A difficulty arose last week between two quartz mining companies, at Carson's Hill, which, at one time, threatened serious consequences. It was caused by a decision of the County Judge, of Calaveras county, in favor of one of the parties, by which certain rights and privileges claimed by the other, were not recognized.—The latter held a meeting, and published a series of resolutions condemnatory of what they termed "an unconstitutional interference with their rights;" and thus the matter rests for the present.

We regret to announce the death, at San Jose, on the 14th inst., of Judge Jones, U. S. District Judge of the Southern District of California. He died of consumption, and is deeply regretted by all who knew him.

There has been, of late, a marked diminution of crime throughout the State, and there is little doubt but California would, in this respect, compare favorably, in proportion to its population, with any other State in the Union.

### THE CHRISTIANA TRIALS.

From the Baltimore Clipper.

The Report of Attorney General Brent, of Maryland, does not present in a favorable light the conduct pursued by the Judge and others in the *Christiana Trials*; and, from the statement of Mr. Brent, we should infer that there is little chance of having justice administered in Philadelphia, in the case of the owner of a slave being killed in the effort to recover his property. The whole of the persons concerned in the murder of Mr. Gorsuch, of Baltimore county, have escaped punishment, and there is no prospect that any of them will ever be brought to justice. We wish that every citizen of Maryland could be put in possession of Attorney General Brent's report of the *Christiana Treason Trial*; for its perusal would assist in bringing the public mind to the conclusion that some action should be taken on the course pursued towards owners in pursuit of fugitive slaves in Pennsylvania.

A large portion of the report consists in a legal argument in opposition to the ruling of the Court in relation to what constituted treason. But the following paragraph shows that two principal witnesses were designedly permitted to escape, whilst a third was induced to perjure himself. It also exhibits the disgusting spectacle of white females associating with and encouraging the negro men charged with being concerned in the murder:

"In this connexion I will also state that a few weeks before the trial Peter Washington and John Clark, two important witnesses for the prosecution, escaped from prison without breaking a lock or using any force, as proved on the trial by a witness; and though I cheerfully acquit the marshal of all privity with their escape, yet the fact remains that there was treachery on the part of some officer within the walls of the prison. Another remarkable fact was the corruption of a Government witness, by the name of Harvey Scott, a free negro, who had thrice testified—once at Christiana, and at Lancaster, and once at Philadelphia—to the fact of being an eye-witness to the murder of Mr. Gorsuch; and now, on this trial, influenced by bribes or some other corrupt consideration, when placed on the stand by the United States, openly confessed that he had thrice committed perjury, and then swore on his trial that he was not present and knew nothing about the affair, which perjury was received with open applause in the court room.

Again: the counsel for the defence applied to the Court for an order to bring out some twenty four of the negroes, to see which of them could be identified as participants in the treason, by Henry H. Kline, a material witness for the prosecution. At the opening of the Court on the next day these negroes were seen sitting in a row, supported on each side by white females, who, to the disgust of all respectable citizens, gave them open sympathy and countenance; each of the negroes appeared with new comforts around their necks, their hair carefully parted, and their clothing in every respect alike, so as to present one uniform appearance to the eye, as far as possible—all done, doubtless, for the double purpose of giving aid and comfort to the accused murderers of a white man, and of confusing and perplexing so important a witness as Kline in respect to their identity. And this was manifestly done with the privity, suffrage, and consent of the officers having charge of the prisoners, and passed unrebuked."

It also appears that the marshal not only summoned confirmed abolitionists as jurors, but dined with the accused parties on Thanksgiving Day. How can justice be expected, where judge, marshal, and jury are thus opposed to the impartial administration of the law? It would seem from the result of this trial, that negroes may commit murder with impunity in particular sections of Pennsylvania, provided the murdered individual be a slaveholder, or be in pursuit of a fugitive slave.

**The Syracuse Rescue Cases.**—After an argument of some eight days before Judge Conkling, in the United States District Court at Albany, these cases have been terminated for the present, by a decision of the Judge transferring to the Circuit Court of the United States for the same District all the indictments and pending motions. The next term of this Court is at Canandaigua, in June.

### THE PUBLIC LANDS.

No one who pays any attention to the proceedings of Congress can fail to be struck with the immense grants of the public lands which are continually made to the new States for improvements of roads and rivers, for benevolent objects, and for almost every purpose for which they can be available. Why should Indiana and Illinois be aided by the government from the public domain, to build a railroad, any more than North Carolina? Yet see how the land has gone in past years,—see how it is going now. Here are the proceedings of the Senate for January 21. "A bill to authorize Illinois to select the residue of lands to which she is entitled under the act of 24 of March, 1827, granting land to aid that State in opening a canal to connect Illinois River with Lake Michigan," ordered to a third reading. Same day, a "bill granting right of way and making a grant of land to the State of Iowa, in aid of the construction of certain railroads in that State." Also a bill granting lands to Wisconsin for saline purposes, ordered to a third reading. On the 20th, by Mr. Underwood, "a bill granting lands to the States of Indiana and Illinois to aid in the construction of a Railroad," &c. Hardly a day's proceedings but some of these grants of land are made. How is it, and why is it, that North Carolina has never received any of these grants? We have improvements to make, and we are adding our people heavily with taxes for their construction. Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and other new States receive aid from the government in lands, and pay for their improvements out of the proceeds. Has North Carolina no share—is she never to get anything from the public domain before it's all granted away? Has she no right in any of it?

Ought not our Legislature, before laying additional burdens upon the people of the State, to urge our claim upon Congress for a fair share of the public lands for the same purposes to which other States apply them? We gave land enough to the Union, once upon a time—we could make a very good use of that same if we had it now.—*Raleigh Times.*

### IN TROUBLE AGAIN.

We clip the following from the Charleston correspondence of the *Cheraw Gazette*. If South Carolina gets to loggerheads with Great Britain, it will become the government of that island to look out for itself; for it takes all the time of the United States to keep her in order, when she is in the wrong. In this case, she seems to be right, and will probably give John Bull as much as he can attend to:

"We think that England has discovered a settled intention, to make war upon our institutions, and that the late communication of the British Consul, is but the initiative in carrying it out. We are now distinctly informed that Great Britain, is determined to insist upon sending her free negroes into the limits of our State, and to this end, requires of us to repeal the law which subjects them to confinement. How can we do this? Already we have a law, subjecting free negroes coming into this State, from other States in this Union, to being sold into slavery, if they do not leave upon notice. Our abolitionists even have not complained of this law, and consequently their free negroes keep them out. But England, that good friend of the South, into whose arms we were counseled to throw ourselves for protection, in a state of separate secession, is now stripping the most radical abolitionists, in a direct onslaught upon our institutions! Verily, we have escaped the hug of the bear, by a miracle.

"But we invite the attention of the reader, to the prospect that is looming up, in the future.—If England insists upon the repeal of laws passed for our protection, against the inroads of abolitionists, and to give dignity and consequence to her free negroes, there is no alternative left us but to refuse. An issue then is made, in which we risk our all, and if necessary loose it. Pick your flints, good secession friends, for there may be work for you yet."

**EDWARD STANLEY.**—The subjoined paragraph we copy from a recent letter of the correspondent of the *Philadelphia North American*: "It is stated in some newsmongering letter from this city that Mr. Stanley's name has been suggested and considered in connexion with a vacancy in the Board of Commissioners to settle land titles in California. I am authorized to say that this story is made out of whole cloth, and is nothing but a silly and malicious fabrication. Mr. Stanley could not be induced to accept such a position if it were tendered to him; for it is well known here that he has, on more than one occasion, within two years, positively declined to accept a high diplomatic station of much importance and emolument, even when urged upon him under circumstances of more than ordinary compliment. This impudent use of the names of public men, without authority or justification, is highly reprehensible, and should be deprecated by all who pretend to respect the dignity and decency of the press.—There is no man in public life who has more uniformly exhibited disinterestedness in his career than Edward Stanley, nor one, circumstanced as he is, who has made more sacrifices for the harmony and success of the Whig party. Actuated by this spirit alone, he allowed his name to be used for the last and present Congress, after having distinctly refused to be again a candidate, because it was necessary for the good of the cause, although seriously detrimental to his personal interests."

### TO MEND IRON POTS AND PANS.

**Mr. Editor.**—In No. 9, this volume of the *Scientific American*, I find a statement made, as communicated all the way from China to our Patent Office, about a mode of mending broken iron pots and pans by the Chinese. Your remarks about the same are just, and I shall describe a mode much more cheap and simple, and which will be of great benefit. I have no doubt, to many of your readers.

Take two parts of sulphur and one part, by weight, of fine black lead, and put the sulphur in an old iron pan, holding it over the fire until the sulphur begins to melt, when the black lead is added, stirred well until all is mixed and melted, and then in its molten state the compound is poured out on an iron plate or a smooth stone. When it has cooled down it is very hard, and is then broken in small pieces. A quantity of this compound is placed upon the crack of the iron pot to be mended, and by a hot iron it can be soldered in the same way a tinsmith solder his sheets. If there is a small hole in the pot it is a good plan to drive a copper rivet in it, and then solder it over with this cement. I know a person who mended an iron pot by the above plan upwards of twenty years ago, and he has used it ever since. N. R. Pottville, Pa.

### PHILOSOPHICAL INQUIRY.

LOGANSPORT, (La.) JAN. 20, 1852.

**Messrs. Gales & Seaton:** I observe that you sometimes give portions of your space to philosophical questions. The following facts are not explained in the books, as far as I have been able to examine.

Water at forty-two degrees Fahrenheit occupies its smallest space. From this point, when the heat is increased, it expands; when the heat is decreased it also expands. We have here the same effect from two opposite causes.

It is found that water is slightly compressible, and that its elementary particles are globular in shape. Its compressibility proves that its particles are in some degree elastic. My hypothesis is, that the greatest elasticity of these particles takes place at the degree of heat at which water occupies the smallest space. Each particle would then somewhat encroach on the surrounding particles that touched it, whereby the whole would fill less space than it would if each particle was entirely round. Heat expands water doubtless by the same law that it expands other bodies. On the contrary, I suppose that by decreasing the heat the particles become less elastic, and at the freezing point each one demands its entire roundness, which would of course increase the general bulk.

Again: Water at rest when freezing shoots out little spires of ice, which meet or cross each other at angles of sixty or one hundred and twenty degrees. A snow flake, when viewed through a microscope, shows crystals marked by the same angles.

If the elementary particles of water are globes, these angles are the only directions in which their sides can touch each other. In freezing then, these spires of ice would necessarily follow the one or the other of these angles. The fact is easily proved. Take a saucer with enough bird-shot in it to cover the bottom, and it will be seen at once, by applying a small quadrant, that the only direction in which the shot can touch each other is at one or the other of these angles. The same is true of larger or smaller globes, if they are regular in size. Respectfully,  
HORACE P. BIDDLE.

### HORRID MURDER.

Mr. John W. Watkins, of De Soto county, Mississippi, formerly of this county, and son of Dr. Christopher Watkins, was murdered by two of his negroes on the 16th of January. A letter received from Byhalia, Mississippi, give the following particulars of this distressing affair:—After killing him, they carried the body some sixty or seventy yards and cut down a large hickory tree across it, designing, as they afterwards confessed, to fell it on his head, so as to mash it on the frozen ground; but failing to throw it on his head, they told that the tree fell contrary to the way their master expected, and in attempting to get out of the way, his feet became entangled in a brush and he fell, and before he could recover, the tree fell on his head bounded back on his body;—but the wounds on the head bore the marks of an axe.—*N. C. Argus.*

### ARE YOU ANSWERED?

Will the Register come forward and give some reasons why the Whigs ought to be restored to power in North Carolina?—*Standard, 4th.*

- Yes, to accommodate you.—
1. Because they have been zealous friends of State improvement.
  2. Because they stood by those improvements, when the *Loco Focos* opposed them.
  3. Because they are friends of the Union and opposed to Secession.
  4. Because they are friends of the Compromise measures.
  5. Because they are opposed to intervention in foreign affairs.
  6. Because they are against Fillibusters and Fillibusterism.
  7. Because they love their own Country and Washington, better than they do Hungary and Kossuth.
  8. Because they have a good example to follow in the wisdom, firmness and patriotism of the present National Administration.
  9. Because the People don't want those in power any longer who sustained, and are ready again to sustain, for the Presidency, a man "who dodges votes and writes letters that require a second Daniel to interpret!"—*Raleigh Register.*

**Heavy Damages for Carelessness in Rail Road Agents.**—Some time ago, as we learn from the *New Orleans Bulletin*, an accident occurred on the Carrollton Railroad, near Greenville, (La.) in consequence of the carelessness of the track. Several of the passengers were seriously injured, and among the sufferers was a fine promising boy of Mr. Charles Black both of whose legs were broken, and who was otherwise so badly wounded that he has been rendered a cripple for life. His father brought suit in the First District Court, before Judge Larnie, against the Railroad Company, and said his damages at \$25,000. The case occupied the attention of the Court for several days, and the jury brought in a verdict of \$10,000, which appears to have given very general satisfaction.

This time the politicians, who are bringing out candidates for the Presidency, are running far ahead of the people; and, if they do not look sharp, will run their favorites and themselves in the ground before the nominations are actually made. There is as much whipping and spurring as if the nags were already saddled and mounted, and on their course. We observe that the Whigs are generally, judiciously quiet during their time, and looking on merely. Next summer they hope to name a man.  
[*Alexandria Gazette.*]

**Cost of Telegraphic Operations.**—It is stated in the February number of Appleton's *Mechanics Magazine*, a valuable journal, that the extent of telegraphic lines, in the United States and Canada, exceeds 12,000 miles; in involving a capital of more than three millions of dollars. To work these lines costs annually \$20,000,000, worth \$57,000; more than a million pounds of nitric acid, worth \$117,000; and \$27,000 worth of mercury, besides a considerable value in sulphuric acid, &c. On the line from Pittsburgh to Cincinnati alone, there were despatched in the year 1850, 364,559 paid despatches, and the revenue received was \$73,278.

### THE CAROLINA WATCHMAN.

Salisbury, N. C.

THURSDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 12, 1852.

**The Christiana Trials.**—The reader will see by an article in another column, that the murderers of the Rev. Mr. Gorsuch, of Maryland, escaped the penalty of their crime. This fact, together with the whole management of the trial, corrupt from beginning to end, goes further to produce the conviction that it is vain to expect a reasonable regard of the rights of the South by the North, than any thing we have seen for many days. Such conduct, it may be expected, will provoke retaliation. When a community is thus injured and insulted, it is hardly reasonable to suppose that they will bear it with patience and resignation. It breaks asunder the ties of friendship and good feeling, and leaves, ranking in the heart, a burning hate, which nothing but justice or revenge can appease. This is the natural result. How far the love of Country and the love of peace may restrain this impulse, the future alone can reveal; and it is a fearful experiment to test it, but one which the North, apparently, is determined to make.

**Ladies' Keepsake.**—This beautiful and cheap little monthly is again on our table. It contains a very lively picture of General Washington, with an interesting sketch of his history.

**Inter-National Magazine.**—This valuable monthly for February, has also been received. We are obliged to the publisher for many hours of most agreeable reading.

**"The Giraffe."**—The third number of this rare production, by Mr. Whitaker of Raleigh, is to hand. Its columns comprise an agreeable variety of matter.

### GOOD ADVICE.

The Washington Republic says:—The policy of the friends of the Administration is obvious. Stand firm—co operate—arrange differences—harmonize conflicting sentiments—organize—understand each other—sacrifice personal interests and animosities to the cause—and unite on the Whig candidates most acceptable to the people. If the Administration party will act together in this spirit, the Opposition will discover that the people are well content with peace, good neighborhood, observance of their own laws, and non interference with the affairs of other nations."

### THE NATURAL WALL.

We find in the "Weekly Post," of the 7th instant, the following paragraph in relation to the "natural wall" in this County.

"Will somebody tell us what has become of the wonderful subterranean wall in Rowan?"  
Many years ago this supposed wall was discovered, and attracted a great deal of attention—it was even thought worthy of a place in Geographical descriptions of the United States, and an interesting account of it may be seen in the old Gazetteers. What has become of it? What did it prove to be? Who can enlighten us on this subject?"

We hope some one qualified for the task will undertake to give the "Post," and the public, an account of this "natural wall," as it is called by the people who live in the neighborhood of it. But whilst we express this wish, we doubt, very much whether there is any one sufficiently informed on the subject to prepare any thing that would prove very interesting. We have often enquired about it, talked of it, and once visited it; but have never been able to obtain any very satisfactory account. The truth is, no thorough examination, we believe, has ever been made of it. When at the place, in 1844, we enquired of some old people near, whether any extensive examination had been made. They said that many years ago, a company of gentlemen removed the earth to the depth of some twenty or thirty feet, on one side of the wall; that they did not reach the foundation, if it has any; that the face of the wall was smooth and had the appearance of having been plastered. This company, we were told also traced the wall for some considerable distance; but how far we could not learn.

The place where this examination was made, is about nine miles North-west of this Town. A very similar formation, we have often heard, exists at another place some five or six miles from here, and more to the North. And we have heard some express the belief that it was all one and the same. If this be so, the wall must be several miles in extent.

Not being skilled in "Geologic lore," our own examination only resulted in digging out a few of the stones of which the wall is composed. These we found mostly uniform in shape, rhombic, but varying in respect to size—about twice as long as broad, and rather larger at one end than the other. They were all heavily coated with a light colored substance, which might easily pass for cement or mortar, supposing the wall the work of human

hands. The stone is very very much the appearance of country people term "stone." In April, 1830, a gentleman and ladies, led by JAMES AVANT, and Mrs. S. SON, went out from the Natural Wall, Col. A. Mrs. HURCHISON, considered as a Geologist; and made their trip—a profitable as circumstances have had the curiosity newspaper files, to anything. We find a columnian of the 2d of the description, in the ride—a picnic concerning the wall. Supposing that it to those who formerly py company to the and pleasure of the inappropriate at the article in question.

The sullen thunder of a day of storm and Of cheerful sunlight At last it came, and Sped with our own The grave, the Our party joined, and Held the ring, and While merry laughter She too, was young Fall may claim a The gallant heroism Now riding here, and Diffusing mirth and On the green grass And Carriage, To one well versed Who loved to see And who, with us With his direction We tread far from The "Nations" He piled them on And curious eyes But as a faithful The truth (we said) The wayward And "dinner" Some statesly treat Of the clear streets Florida a grand Around, with Had we of water Far less of wine A milk white From the neat Of Nature's w Our own wish And not I On of baled, and Tho' all agreed The spiky Furnished by one Should nothing And the store of "I would tempt The merry laugh Sent it to a But each to But soon, from Full soon the "For we have "The Square" A bustle then Handed his change "The Square," A cordial welcome And we again The garden, Its chosen flower The hour had And so we bid And soon our Tossing their heads Conveyed us to That life is but Of cloud, and With but the With us, may Even thus calmly To dim the hope of Salisbury, N. C.

FRIEND WASHINGTON was attracted to near the Court our ear was a regular behaviour of the us to suppose the thing unusual the spot. For make it out men with beautiful also others of were flying posts, railings, peeping between and in all manner "grinder" really curious agitation; and "siders" who were righly. We did so in very selves were on their more per "Look a ha! ha!" and the rush, and wavered. One fellow came departed, said, they say he "Another gentleman it's the stoniest what would "That fellow dollars for it would?" "No!" said pose not," and sunk down into ness that looked This scene other, however, an amateur stepping off from ly, remarked, stroked his mustache the Carrouss evidently betraying for an attempt But while the