

with a sure and steady aim fired both barrels, just as a most prominent, rather part of the person of John Short offered a splendid mark, in the act of vaulting over the fence.

Like a log John dropped on the other side of the fence, with a howl which could have been heard for a mile.

How Sandy Mat made tracks across the field, and did not happen to be seen again down East—or how John Short happened to find his way home—are portions of this veritable history which it is not necessary to inflict upon our patient readers.

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Workmen are engaged upon the sloops of war *Jamestown* and *Yorktown*, both of which will be commissioned in the course of the winter.

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The *Falmouth* brought the following passengers: Lieuts. J. M. Gardner, J. H. Sherburne; Midshipmen A. H. Otis, W. Murdough, W. L. Powell, N. T. West, J. T. Barrand, A. F. Monroe; Boatswain, Samuel Drew; Carpenter, Luther Manson; Sailmaker, J. G. Gallagher.

SELLING CRACKERS.—While in West Plattsburgh we were told a circumstance which occurred somewhere in New York, too good to be lost. A quick-witted toper went in to a bar-room and called for something to drink.

"We don't sell liquor," said the law-abiding landlord—"we will give you a glass; and then if you want to buy a cracker, we'll sell it to you for three cents."

NAVAL.—Capt. S. H. STRINGHAM has received orders to take command of the line of battle ship *Ohio*, now being fitted out at the Charleston navy yard, and to proceed to sea with all possible dispatch, under sealed orders.

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"Very well," said the Yankee customer, "hand down your decanter."

The "good creature" was handed down and our hero took a stiff horn, when turning around to depart, the unsuspecting landlord, handed him the dish of crackers, with the remark, "You'll buy a cracker."

DRY GOODS MERCHANTS.—The New York Herald contains an account of a meeting of Merchants of Hartford, Conn., to devise some method of selling Dry Goods, which shall be an improvement upon the old, and which shall tend most to promote the interests of the fraternity, and secure to the public, at the same time, fair and honorable dealing.

The account of this meeting, we suppose to be a hoax; but we must give one of the speeches said to have been delivered on the occasion:

Major Hows, of Main Street, being vociferously called for, rose and said, he came not to make a speech, but to hear those "whose experience cannot fall of being of lasting benefit to the fraternity."

OPERATIONS IN THE PACIFIC.—The United States ship *Cyane* has burned a Mexican vessel in the harbor of Guaymas, and afterwards bombarded the town. A letter dated at Mazatlan, Oct. 13, says she has returned to that port, and with the Warren, is blockading the same.

STEAMSHIP SOUTHERNER.—The New York Herald of the 26th, states that this Steamer has been purchased by the Government, and will be added to the Gulf Squadron. She is only to make one more trip to Charleston. Rumor has it, that Government paid \$150,000 for her.

DEATH OF MAJ. LEAR.—The Union of the 25th inst. contains Gen. Taylor's official announcement of the death of Maj. W. W. Lear. We make the following extract from his order:

"A long and creditable service, commencing in the war of 1812, has thus been sadly but not closed. Kind and generous in his private relations; and, though feeble from the ravages of protracted disease, faithful, zealous, and efficient in the discharge of duty, the relations and friends of the deceased Major, and the service at large, have sustained in his death no ordinary loss."

IRELAND.—The friends of Ireland, in Baltimore, are about making arrangements to raise a fund to assist in supplying bread.

STONES.—The Harrisburg Argus, a democratic paper, says: "If the support of the Tariff of '46 is to be still the rallying cry, it will be worse than idle to engage in the contest; and we should save much trouble and expense, by permitting the Whigs to walk unmolested over the course. Neither rain or sunshine could save us from another defeat."

SANTA ANNA.—The Alexandria Gazette says:—"The Union still 'keeps dark' about Santa Anna, but says, 'our government made no sort of bargain with Santa Anna, and never counted upon his treachery.' That is not the question. What did the government allow Santa Anna to do, and what did they expect he would perform, as a consideration?"

show some of their favorite things. They began to cast about in their minds, but the old man still shouted, "What has he done?" They owned that they could not name anything in particular.

"Yet," answered the cynic, "you say that the man has good feelings—fine feelings—benevolent feelings. Now, gentlemen, let me tell you that there are people in this world who get a good name simply on account of their feelings. You can't tell one generous action they ever performed in their lives, but they can look and talk most benevolently. I know a man in this town that you would all call a surly, rough, and unamiable man, and yet he has done more acts of kindness in this country than all of you put together. You may judge people's actions by their feelings, but I judge people's feelings by their actions."

WHAT IS A PROFESSOR?—The learned Prof. F. went into the country last summer to visit an old friend. The next morning after the arrival of the professor, the two friends went out for a ride in the woods. They had not proceeded far before they came to a set of bars, and the gentleman seeing a stout boy standing near, asked him to take them down, when the following dialogue took place:

"What shall I take them down for?"

"We wish to ride through, and this gentleman is a professor—so you must make haste."

"A professor? what is a professor?"

"A professor is a man that—that—can do anything."

"Well, if he can do anything, he can take down the bars for you."

THE STORM ON LAKE ERIE.—The late storm was very severe on Lake Erie. A great many vessels have been wrecked and the loss of property has been immense. Many lives have also been lost; but it is fortunate that many of the steamers and sail vessels had gone into winter quarters. The Buffalo Courier says that shippers, content with the heavy profit they have already made, had determined to avoid the risks of the closing of the season and withdraw their vessels.—This was partly carried into effect, and disastrous as the gale has proved, it was less so than if it had had its sweep at the fleet which a week ago was on the Lake. The *Wendland Canal* is closed by a breach that, report says, will take ten days to repair.

A correspondent at Lyme Regis, Mr. George Waring, points out an old record which shows that gun-cotton is not altogether a new invention. "None of those chemists who profess to be discoverers of the gun-cotton have acted ingeniously if they have stated that the method of preparing it has originated entirely with them. When I found in the method given in your paper that nitric acid was the agent employed, I remembered having read of a similar process and result; and, referring to a chemical memoranda-book, I found the following entry made six or seven years ago. 'Artificial Nitric (prepared by digesting indigo, silk, &c., in nitric acid.) is crystallizable, burns like gunpowder, and detonates when struck with a hammer. Brande, p. 925.'—English paper.

THE WAREHOUSE SYSTEM.—We understand that the U. S. Government have leased, for the term of fifteen years, the new granite stores, ten in number, on the end of Long Wharf, to be used for warehouses. These stores are the most convenient for the purpose designed, of any in the city, lying near the Custom House, and also convenient of access from the water, as the largest vessels can lie within a few feet of the stores, and discharge their cargoes into them with but little inconvenience.—*Boston Journal, Monday.*

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT ST. LOUIS.—We are compelled from a calamitous occurrence to which all are, more or less exposed, to issue a mere slip to-day; and in so doing, we make no apology to our readers; for we consider one unnecessary. We allude to a disastrous fire that is now, while we are writing this, barely subdued; by which, though we are not burnt out, every thing in our establishment is knocked into *Py*, from the floods of water that were poured into the building we occupy, to save it from the devouring element.

Between 3 and 4 o'clock, this morning, flames were seen to issue from the auction store of T. B. Targett, 72 Main-street. One or two persons, who have been in the habit of sleeping there, had time barely to get out, with only their night clothes on.

The fire burnt fiercely, and in a short time spread to the adjoining buildings, Nos. 74 and 76 Main-street. No. 70 being occupied by Mr. Aspinall, importer and dealer in Queensware, China, &c. and No. 73 by John Hall, engaged in the same business. Our office is next the last-named building. The contents of Mr. Targett's store are entirely consumed; the loss heavy, though we are told he is protected to some extent by a policy. Mr. Gordon, in the same building, lost all—\$1,700. Mr. Hall has suffered to the amount of \$10,000; insured \$8,000. Mr. Aspinall has experienced a heavy loss. Our own loss has been inconsiderable.

GASTROPHE AT PITTSBURG.—The bursting of the steam boiler of *Hager* and *Holland's* Foundry in Pittsburg, Penn. lately took place, which completely destroyed the engine house. One of the boiler heads flew out, and the recoiled the boiler from its bed, and projected it straight across the road, fully one hundred yards into some vacant lots, where it struck, and then bounced some fifty feet further up a hill. In its passage it struck a young man named JAMES McCLOONEY on the back of the head and right shoulder, smashing them into pieces. Mr. WM. HOLLAND, one of the partners, who was directly in front of the boiler, had his head taken clean off. A boy named WILSON, 16 or 17 years of age, was struck by some missile, and supposed to be mortally wounded. Another boy named WM. LITTON, was thrown out into the road, and scalded but not dangerously—he is 12 or 14 years of age. Two others were somewhat injured.

POWDER MILL EXPLOSION.—About 11 o'clock on the morning of the 23 inst. an explosion took place at Beatty's Powder Mills, about eight miles from the city of Baltimore. Three large buildings, seventy yards apart, occupied by the works, were scattered in innumerable fragments, and strewn over the ground, for ten acres around.—Among the fragments were also found the legs, arms, and pieces of flesh of five men who were employed in the Mills. So completely were they torn and mangled, that not one could be recognized; a portion of the entrails of one of them was found at the top limbs of a tree, nearly one hundred yards from the site of the mill.

All the houses within two miles around, were more or less injured; breaking the windows, shattering the doors and damaging the crockery ware. Two tons of finished powder was in the mill, besides a considerable quantity only partially manufactured.

No idea can be formed of the cause of the disaster; all in the mill having been instantly killed.

ELECTION FRAUD.—The Grand Jury for the City and County of New York, have investigated the infamous outrage by which prisoners were brought from Blackwell's Island, expressly to influence and control the choice of legislators by the people of that city. The presentment is a very important one; interesting to every one who cares for the purity of the elective franchise. It is proper to remind our readers that this fraud was perpetrated by the "progressive democracy" of the city of New York.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.—A deep and general sympathy pervades the community in relation to the case of the venerable ex-President, who was lately attacked with paralysis. The last accounts inform us that his health is improving and his medical adviser entertains strong hopes of his recovery.

POWER AND PLUNDER.—The *Casuga Twin*, a leading democratic paper in the interior of the State of N. York, nominates SILAS WRIGHT for the Presidency, and presents the following complimentary Card to its democratic brethren of the Union:

"The name of SILAS WRIGHT will be a rallying-point for the democracy of this State, and a rallying-point also for that portion of the Democracy of the Union who desire to redeem their party from combinations at the South for power, and at the North for plunder."

IMPOLITICAL ADVICE.—The Albany Journal says, "The Union is calling upon the Locofocos to organize for the great contest of 1848. Among other things, it beseeches them to 'read and understand the position of affairs.'" This is just what they have been doing. Hence the recent series of unparalleled Whig Victories. The advice to read and understand affairs "is the very worst which the Union could give." That is, the worst, if the Union intends, to keep the party together. No, no, it will never do for the people to "read and understand the position of affairs," while the Union is the leading organ, and Mr. Polk the Young Hickory that whips him on his course.

From the New Orleans Delta Nov. 21.

a force sufficient to bid defiance at once to disunion within, or assaults without its walls.

The steamer *Mississippi* touched at the mouth of the Brazos, for the purpose of informing General Patterson that Tampico had been captured, and of notifying him that a reinforcement would be required from the troops at Point Isabel.

Commodore Perry will leave to-day, and rejoin his Squadron. We hope that the capture of Tampico, bloodless through it, may be the first of a series of exploits that will re-establish our gallant navy in the entire confidence of the people. The officers of the Gulf Squadron are only pining for a chance to distinguish themselves. We predict they will not long remain without an opportunity of gathering fresh laurels.

Tampico contains about 4,000 inhabitants, but there are two towns adjacent, almost connected with it, called Pueblo Viejo and Altamira which considerably increase the population on that part of the Coast of Mexico. Commodore Perry tells us that he was scarcely before Tampico half an hour, when he was despatched away on the mission, which he has so soon consummated. On the summons to surrender the town being made, a deputation composed of the authorities and principal citizens, waited on Commodore Conner and intimated their readiness to comply. Commissioners were then appointed, and the usual stipulations being made and accorded, regarding the due protection to life and property, usual among civilized nations, the Stars and Stripes soon floated over this bloodless conquest.—*Com. Times.*

A further reinforcement, of two hundred men from the fleet had been ordered to garrison Tampico; besides which some men and munitions, as the paragraph below denotes, will leave for the same destination this evening. They will return with the Commodore on the steamship *Mississippi*, which awaits them at the Balize.

As is intimated above, there was no show of opposition offered to the Commodore's descent on Tampico. The garrison having, in compliance with the orders of Santa Anna, evacuated the place some days previous, and marched with all their arms and ammunition, including the ordnance of the fort, for San Luis Potosi, where, it appears, the whole force of the nation is concentrating. The Commodore places a high estimate on Tampico in a military point of view. He deems its possession of far more importance than that of Vera Cruz. But the spirit of our gallant navy is now aroused—the Commodore is evidently a working man. Alvarado and other ports are still in the hands of the enemy, and until they are taken, there is to be, and there will be, no resting on oars. Of this we are satisfied.

The vessels composing the expedition to Tampico were the steamships *Mississippi* and *Princeton*, the sloop *St. Mary's*, and the brig *Porpoise*.

The *Mississippi* left Com. Conner off the harbor, and he would remain until military force arrived to relieve him of the charge of holding the town.

To Purser Warrington, who came up to the city with Com. Perry, we are indebted for the following list of the officers of the U. S. steamship *Mississippi*:

Com. M. C. Perry, Comr. Henry A. Adams; Lieut. J. C. Carter, W. A. Parker and W. P. Robertson; Surgeon L. W. Miner; Assistant Surgeon W. Sherburne; Purser L. Warrington; Acting Sailing Master J. H. Brown; Passed Midshipmen A. Barber and F. Gregory; Midshipmen J. S. Pillsbury, D. L. Brain, D. A. Cheener, and W. W. Wilkinson.

ACCIDENT, AND AMPUTATION.—On Thursday afternoon a young Irish girl, about sixteen years of age, took the cars of the Eastern Rail Road at Lynn, for the purpose of proceeding to Ipswich. Upon arriving at the Wenham Depot she left the cars, supposing she had reached her place of destination, and did not discover her mistake until the train was starting, when she attempted to step on board again; but, falling, the cars passed over one of her arms, mangling it so that amputation was necessary. The operation was performed by Dr. Pierson of this city, accompanied by Dr. Fisk, who administered to the sufferer, with perfect success, the new preparation lately made known by Dr. Charles T. Jackson and Dr. Morton, Dentist, of Boston, the inhalation of which produces insensibly to the pain of surgical operations. The unconsciousness of the girl continued undisturbed until near the close of the evening, when she simply inquired what they were doing; but with another inhalation, immediately relapsed into insensibility, and, upon coming to herself, supposed she had been dreaming.—*Salem Reg.*

RAIL ROAD ACCIDENT.—Mr. William A. Osborn, son of Mr. Jonathan Osborn, of this city, was badly injured on Saturday forenoon, on the Essex Rail Road, in Danvers, near his father's yard. He was endeavoring to turn his horse and wagon from the track, as the locomotive was approaching, and unfortunately put his own foot over the rail, so that the wheels passed over it, crushing the lower part of his leg so badly that amputation was necessary. The operation was performed in the afternoon, and Dr. Morton's preparation was administered by Dr. Fisk, with the like success as in the case of the girl on Thursday.—*Ibid.*

From the U. S. Gazette, Nov. 23.

CHINA.—We are indebted to an esteemed friend for copies of "The Friend of China," published at Victoria, in China. The news has been anticipated by the English papers; but we notice that the English live in continual apprehension of outbreaks among the natives, who do not seem to like the outside barbarians. The colony of Hong Kong is far from being in a flourishing state, and the appointment of a Bishop by the Court of St. James for that colony, is regarded as taking care of a decaying colony.

A supplement to "The Friend," contains a plan of the grounds where the factories (hangs) now are, with a sketch of proposed improvements by the English.

The Portuguese at Macao, have given notice of their intention to levy a personal and property tax upon all residents in that settlement. This makes a terrible outcry among the English, who think they pay enough in rent and general tax. The city of Macao, in the proclamation for the tax, is denominated "the city of the holy name of God, Macao." The schedule proposed to residents is very similar to that which the Ward Assessors of this city send to the citizens.

THE COMMERCIAL.

WILMINGTON, N. C.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1846.

From our Extra of yesterday.

FIRE!! FIRE!!

November 27 1846.

At about 1 o'clock this morning, our citizens were aroused from their slumbers by an alarm of fire, which proved to proceed from a small wooden tenement, occupied by Phillip Bazadore, as a Barber's Shop, on Front street, immediately back of the square on South side of Market Street—this is the sixth or seventh attempt within eighteen months, that has been made to fire this square—the adjoining building occupied by D. W. Wood and Brother, as a family Grocery, immediately caught, and was consumed with the entire stock, valued at \$6,000. Insurance on stock, \$1500, Building \$700. The Paint Shop and contents, belonging to Mr. Parker were also consumed, loss not ascertained; a two story brick building on the corner of Market and Front Streets was materially damaged. At this point, through the indefatigable energies of our Fire Companies, the devouring elements was stayed, and an immense amount of property saved. Never, did we see so much judgment and good execution performed by our Fire corps as they exhibited this morning.

From all we can learn on the subject of the fire, our belief is confirmed that it was the work of an incendiary—we do not suppose any one here entertains a doubt of this. There must be a gang of depredators in this community, leagued together for purposes of plunder and mischief. Several stores were entered and robbed, during the fire. These circumstances call for the vigilance of the Police, and the aid of our citizens in detecting the criminals and bringing them to justice.

We trust the Commissioners will exercise all the authority they possess, in causing none but fire-proof buildings to be erected in the heart of the town.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Legislature of South Carolina met at Columbia, on the 23d inst. In the Senate, Hon. ALEXANDER PATTERSON was elected President; WM. E. MARTIN, Clerk; JOHN T. GOODWYN, Reading Clerk; J. D. GALLARD, Messenger; T. D. FULTON, Door-keeper. In the House, the Hon. WM. F. COLCOCK was elected Speaker; T. W. GLOVER, Clerk; W. B. LOOS, Reading Clerk; JAMES McCLINTOCK, Door-keeper.

ARKANSAS.

The Arkansas Legislature met on the 2nd inst. at Little Rock. WM. K. SEABRIAN, of Phillips, was chosen President of the Senate. In the House, ALFRED RUST was elected Speaker.

HON. GEO. McDUFFIE.

Mr. McDuffie resigned his seat in the Senate of the United States, on the 18th inst. in a letter to His Excellency, WILLIAM ALEXR. GOVERNOR of South Carolina.

GEN. SCOTT.

A correspondent of the New York Herald says Gen. Scott has received permission to proceed to Mexico, to take command of the army that is to attack Tampico, and that he left Washington on the 24th.

The Madison, (Ind.) Banner, mentions a rumor that JESSE D. BROWN, United States Senator from Indiana, has tendered his services as Colonel of a regiment of volunteers to be raised by him to proceed forthwith to Mexico.

From the N. O. Picayune.

LATER FROM HAVANA.

The brig *Titi*, Capt. Brown, arrived yesterday from Havana, having sailed on the 15th inst., and bringing us papers to the 13th.

The reports that nothing has been done as yet under the terms of the treaty and naturalization which Mexico has sent there for sale. From a very interesting commercial circular of the 12th inst. we extract a paragraph touching these letters:

We understand letters of marque have been received here from Mexico, and letters of naturalization also, for sale. In the printed instructions attached to the letters of marque, it is stated that captives are to be taken to Mexican ports, but that if that is not practicable, they are to be carried to neutral ports, and will there be condemned by the Mexican Consul. We believe, however, that by the treaties between the United States and Spain, the latter power can neither allow privateers to be fitted out in any of her ports, nor permit American vessels captured and brought in to be condemned; and we have good grounds for the conviction that our Government will faithfully adhere to those treaties. We suppose other governments at peace with the United States will act on the same principles; and if so, privateering enterprises will be rendered difficult; besides which the fear of being treated as pirates by American vessels of war is likely to deter persons from entering into them.

In the newspapers of Havana we do not see a word in regard to this subject, and they are altogether barren of intelligence. We give place to an interesting commercial circular:

HAVANA, 12th November, 1846.

Since our report of 13th ult., our island has been again ravished by a disastrous hurricane, far more destructive to the shipping in our harbor than that of 1844. It commenced on the night of the 10th October, and lasted until the middle of next day. About 100 sailing vessels, steamers, and vessels of war in our port were sunk, wrecked, dismantled, or otherwise seriously injured—besides a great many coasting vessels. Much damage was also occasioned to buildings in this city, and many lives were lost. The tempest extended for a considerable distance to the east and west of Havana. It seems to have raged with equal fury in Matanzas, but not quite so violently in Cardenas. On the south side there was a great deal of damage at Cienfuegos, but less at Trinidad, while at San Jago de Cuba the gale was not felt.

The Sugar and Coffee crops have suffered considerably, although not so much probably as was at first supposed. Wherever the hurricane raged it beat down the cane and partially broke it. Such part as is broken is of course lost, but it is difficult to ascertain how far that is the case. Where the cane is not broken, and although bent to the ground, it may be restored with a continuance of favorable weather for some time to come. Since the hurricane, the weather has been auspicious, and we understand the cane looks promising in many districts. But one cannot rely merely on its external appearance, which was shown in 1844, when a good deal of the cane bore a fair aspect, and yet proved a hollow, yielding little or nothing. We may however hope for better things this year, as we have had a sufficiency of rain, while in 1844 there was a severe drought during the spring and summer.

Under these circumstances, there is a great difference of opinion as to the extent of injury the cane will suffer. Some persons think it will be trifling, while