

AMERICAN GEMS.

To our fair readers whose eyes sparkle with emulous lustre at the sight or description of the "bright jewels of the mine"...

From the fact that lapidaries give the name of oriental to all gems of peculiar beauty, we are led to the impression that no gems of value are found in this country.

If we may believe the legends of the hunters, New Hampshire has among her state-jewels a gem which surpasses those of the palaces of fairy tales...

But our gems do not exist only in fairy tales. The locality of the amethyst, one of the most beautiful of the gems, the ninth stone on the Jewish high priest's breastplate...

Of the other gems upon the pontifical breast-plate, the carbuncle, topaz, emerald, agate, beryl and jasper are found in this country.

The topaz is perhaps the most remarkable of the American precious stones, being found of a size unknown in any other part of the world.

The largest crystal known in Europe, weighs but seven ounces. Although crystals of this size have two many flaws to be valuable to lapidaries, smaller ones are found, which are much estimated for jewellery.

The beryl and emerald are found in several localities, although the precious emerald is very rare. The most remarkable beryls in the world are those found in this country.

We cannot give any other interest to this catalogue of the American precious stones, than that which is associated with the date mention of the names.

It is only to the high claims of Mr. Clay, and to the supposed hold which he has in the affections of all parties, that such a concession is made.

The extensive catalogue of precious stones shows what is not always believed, that nature has bestowed upon this country, the minute and delicate, as well as the coarse and more massive treasures...

From the New York Advocate and Journal. THE NEXT PRESIDENCY.

We have always been among the number who thought the question of the next Presidency should be held in abeyance, and we think so still.

Our preferences, we have always clearly and unhesitatingly expressed, were for Mr. Clay, but, that entertaining the highest esteem for Mr. Webster's abilities, and the utmost confidence in his patriotism and purity of intention...

Under this impression it may not be amiss for us to enquire, in anticipation, into some of the reasons which we suppose will affect the decision of the Convention...

In our own State, if the decision was left to party politics, Mr. Clay is decidedly the most popular; and we sincerely believe a majority of the Whigs prefer him to Mr. Webster...

The Webster men, generally speaking, would hail Mr. Clay's elevation with pleasure, while it would be next to an impossibility to carry any portion of the Democratic party for Mr. Webster.

Another letter from an officer to a gentleman here dated at the place, 1st Feb., says: "The southern express of this evening brings important news from the army.

Nashville is fired upon by a vote of the Legislature as the seat of government for the State of Tennessee, till the year 1840.

From the Commercial Transcript. Tremendous Conflagration. COOKE'S EQUESTRIAN ESTABLISHMENT DESTROYED BY FIRE!

Baltimore, February 3d, 1838. The Front Street Theatre is a heap of smouldering ruins. The whole of Cooke's stud of beautiful horses is destroyed.

FROM FLORIDA. SAVANNAH, February 8.

By the arrival of the steamer Camden, Captain Mills, from St. Augustine, we learn that a battle was fought on the 24th ult. on the Lache Hatchee, (Loche Hatchee) in which the Indians were defeated...

Gen. Jesup is among the wounded, having received a severe flesh wound, said to have been in the face.

Nothing is said of the loss of the enemy, though supposed to have been great. Many cattle, ponies, and hogs, with other property, were taken by our troops.

A friend has furnished the following list of killed and wounded in this action. Of the artillery—killed—one corporal, company A, 3d artillery; one private, company H, do.

Wounded—one sergeant and one private, (severely,) company D, 3d artillery; one private, (severely,) company C, do; two privates, (one severely, and one slightly,) company H, do.

Of the 2d dragoons—wounded—one sergeant, (slightly,) company K.

Of the battalion Tennessee Volunteers five were killed, 8 dangerously wounded, (2 since dead) and 15 slightly wounded.

Total killed—7; (died of wounds, 2.)—9; wounded—30.

Since writing the above we learn from Major M'Lean who is a passenger in the Camden, that on the evening of the 2d inst. an express arrived at Garey's Ferry, via Fort King, and it is reported there and believed that the express brought the information that runners had come in and informed the commanding officer that Alligator and Sam Jones had quarrelled, and had separated, and that Sam Jones with but 30 warriors, had left Alligator.

The runners stated that the Indians would be coming in at Fort Taylor, in large numbers, within three days.

The impressions with many is that these accounts are founded in truth, as the Indians are generally scattered without leaders, some in small parties having very recently been in the vicinity of Volusia.

Major M'Lean further states that he learned from the commanding officer at Garey's Ferry, that Gen Jesup on the 26th ult. (subsequent to the action of the 24th) was at the head of the San Lucia river, on a large fresh trail, with well founded hopes of overtaking the enemy.

We have, subsequent to the receipt of the above information, had placed in our hands the following extracts of letters, which confirm the report of the battle above stated.

ST. AUGUSTINE, Feb. 3.

News received from Gen. Jesup's Army, by express this morning.—The substance of a letter received the 29th of January, 1838, says—"Jesup had a fight with the Indians. The Tennesseans generally behaved well."

"The number of the Indians considerably more than has been supposed. The Indians loss very trifling, as far as has been ascertained; their provisions, cattle and ammunition, ascertained to be plenty."

Another letter from an officer to a gentleman here dated at the place, 1st Feb., says:

"The southern express of this evening brings important news from the army. Gen. Jesup has had a hard battle with the Indians, he completely routed them. He was severely wounded in the action in the face, but still commands, and is in full pursuit of the enemy, who have fled south. He had 7 killed on the field and 32 wounded, 2 of whom are since dead. It is reported that Wild Cat is badly wounded. The battle was fought on the La-che-ha-be. This war must soon be ended now."

Nashville is fired upon by a vote of the Legislature as the seat of government for the State of Tennessee, till the year 1840.

Nashville Paper.

WILMINGTON ADVERTISER. Wilmington, N. C. Friday, Feb. 16th, 1838.

It will be seen by an article in to-day's paper, extracted from the Raleigh Register, that Gov. DUDLEY has acquiesced in the wishes of his friends that he would allow himself to be considered a candidate for reelection, in August next.

Professor Rogers, who has recently completed a geological survey of the State of Virginia, is now submitting to the people and Legislature of that State the results of his labors, in the form of lectures, at the city of Richmond.

How the fire originated is unknown. It is conjectured that it may have caught in the scenery. Maseppa was performed last night, and after the performance, we understand that a part of the spectacle of Napoleon, which was to be produced on Monday night, was rehearsed.

The old "mansion-house," south of the Theatre, occupied by Mr. Murphy, as a tavern, caught from the flames, and was entirely destroyed. A stable adjacent to the Theatre occupied as the depository of the carriages, &c. of Mr. Cooke, was also destroyed.

We are informed that Mr. Cooke has lost his all, his whole property being vested in this establishment. Of the amount we have heard no estimate. We doubt not however that he will receive aid from the Managers of Theatres, and others, who have it in their power to render him the assistance he himself has on several occasions generously afforded to them.

Extract of a letter from an officer of the U. S. Army at Fort Brooke, Florida, under date of January 13th, 1838.

"I have just returned from a tour of duty on the Suwanee and the Withlacoochee, and have just heard of the fatal affair of the 25th of December, at Okeechubbee Lake.

"Col. Thompson was wounded in three places before he fell, either of which would have proved fatal. The first ball passed through the abdomen to the left; the second lodged in the right breast; and the last passed through the chin and neck, evidently shot from a tree. He fell in a sitting position, and died instantly.

"Van Swearingen was shot in advance of his company, in the lower part of his neck, retired to the rear, raised both hands above his head, and fell flat on his face, gave one groan, and was no more.

"Brooke was shot through the heart, and died with a smile on his face.

"Center was shot through the head, from a tree, and died instantly.

"Col. Gentry, of Missouri, was shot through the body. The same ball passed through him and through his son's arm, and then into a tree. It was a musket ball.

"All the officers showed the greatest gallantry in the fight. Andrews was severely wounded, and Walker, of the 6th, was literally shot to pieces. Four balls passed through him, and several others grazed him. He is fast recovering, however, and is as manly under his severe wounds, as he was brave in receiving them. He is a promising officer.

"I have been thus particular in naming all these facts, as I know they will be interesting to you. It seems hard that so many brave spirits should fall in such an inglorious warfare.

Stage Accident.—On Wednesday night much anxiety was created here by the arrival of the northern stage without driver or passengers. The well-trained horses made a pause at the Washington Hotel, where passengers generally alight from the stage, but not being served by any one attached to the Hotel, they pursued their way deliberately and carefully, to the driver's residence, in the vicinity of which they are stabled.

The Railroad Journal for 1838, will be published in a form similar to the English periodicals, more convenient for preservation and reference, and will be more exclusively devoted to Internal Improvements, Science, and Mechanics, than heretofore.

Very respectfully yours, D. K. MINOR, G. C. SCHAEFFER.

HENRY CLAY has been nominated for the Presidency by the General Assembly of Rhode Island.

From the Report of the President of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad Company, made to the Stockholders, at their late annual meeting in Raleigh, we extract the following items, showing the progress of that work:

"The grading of 48 miles of the Road is now completed, with the exception of a few hundred yards, and the work executed in a manner highly creditable to the contractors and the Engineers entrusted with its supervision.

"The bridge at Gaston, which had just been commenced at the last meeting, is now completed within a span and a half, and would have been ready for the cars on the first of January, but from our disappointment in receiving timber which had been contracted for and procured on the lower Roanoke; but owing to the low water in the river, and the difficulty in obtaining transportation, it could not be brought up in time, notwithstanding every effort to do so.

"On the road between Roanoke and Tar River, there are five depots, viz. at Littleton, at Brown's, five miles north of Warrenton, at Lambkin's, opposite Warrenton; at Twitty's, and at Henderson's, about three miles south of the Chalk Level; all of which, with the water stations and wood houses, are nearly finished."

"The line from Tar River to Raleigh has been located. After crossing the River below Chavis's Ford, it runs by Persley Person's, near Winston & Kearney's store, crosses Cedar Creek and the two Brandies, runs through Wake Forest along the Baptist Institute and Alston's Store, crosses Neuse River, near Wm. B. Dunn's, thence by Robert Jeffrey's, crosses Crabtree, about 250 yards below Jones's Bridge, thence crossing the Stage road at the Pigeon House, it enters Raleigh in the rear of Thos. P. Devereux's, and terminates at Halifax Street, in the ravine between Mr. Devereux's and the Eagle Hotel."

James M. Giles, of this town, has been admitted to Superior Court practice.

Henry A. Muhlenburg has been nominated to the Senate as Envoy Extraordinary, and Minister Plenipotentiary to the court of Austria. This is, we believe, the first instance of diplomatic intercourse with the Austrian Government, since the adoption of the Federal Constitution.

James Trotter has been elected U. S. Senator from the State of Mississippi, to fill the vacancy made by the resignation of Mr. Black.

The divers north of Baltimore, were at the last accounts, closed by ice.

From the Raleigh Register. OUR NEXT GOVERNOR.

Public anxiety being much excited with regard to the question—"Who shall be our next Governor?"—the earliest occasion has been embraced since the return of Gov. DUDLEY from Wilmington, to ascertain his determination on the subject. We were confident we did not err in our estimate of the man, when, in reference to the proposed meeting at Greensborough, to nominate a successor, we stated our conviction that Governor DUDLEY would not refuse the use of his name to his political friends, if insisted on.

By the following Circular, it will be perceived, that a most excellent and durably valuable work—suspended for a time for reasons below stated—is revived. We commend it to the regard of all, as well those whose interests it is especially devoted to, as to the general reader.

The following is the arrangements of the Judges for the Spring and Fall Circuit.

Table with 3 columns: Spring, Fall, and names of judges (Edenton, Salisbury, Newbern, Hillsborough, Raleigh, Wilmington, Mountains, Settle, Baily, Saunders, Toomer, Pearson, Dick, Baily, Settle, Toomer, Pearson, Saunders, Nash, Dick).