

ernment. I hope then, the community will not be deceived as to the character of this bill. It does not contain a single mitigating feature. I trust it will be resisted or any thing like it, in all the stages of its progress, until the Executive be compelled to abandon his scheming and return to a system based on sound principles, and sanctioned by experience.

There is no occasion to despond. The spirit here is good. We are in earnest, and our resolution is fixed and firm. Let but the people have an opportunity to see this matter in its true light and an end will be put ere long to those pernicious and dangerous projects.

Very respectfully yours,
N. P. TALLMADGE.

A GREEK MARRIAGE.

But I have, meanwhile, forgotten the pretty bride who was to be married at the house of an intimate friend of ours, and who, on my arrival there, was momentarily expected. The centre of the great saloon was covered by a Turkey carpet, on which stood a reading desk, overlaid by a gold embroidered handkerchief, supporting a Bible and the two marriage rings; the whole bright with the profusion of silver money that had been scattered over them. The lady of the house was to officiate as "godmother" to the bride an office somewhat similar to that of bride's maid; and she was even at that early hour sparkling with jewels.

At length the sound of music announced the arrival of the marriage train, and we hastened to a window to watch for their approach. The procession was an interesting one. The musicians were succeeded by the bridegroom elect, walking between his own father and the father of his bride; one fair girl followed, accompanied by a couple of her young companions; and the two mothers, attended by "troops of friends," closed the train.

They were met at the threshold by the Archbishop of Nournauckity, and a party of priests, who immediately commenced chanting the marriage services, and, as they ascended the stairs, showers of money were flung over them from above.

In five minutes the spacious saloon was filled to suffocation; the young couple were placed upon the edge of the carpet, the nuptial crowns, formed of flowers, ribbons, and gold thread, were deposited on the reading desk and the rector of the parish, in a robe of brocade yellow satin, fringed with silver, began a prayer, which was caught up at intervals by the choral boys, and repeated in a wild chant. At the conclusion of this prayer, which was of considerable length, the attendant priests flung over the Archbishop his gorgeous vestments of violet satin, embroidered with gold, and girded with tissue; and he advanced to the reading desk, and took thence the two brilliant diamond rings, with which he made the cross three times, on the forehead, lips, and breast of the contracting parties; and then placed them in the hand of the "godmother," who, putting one upon the finger of each, continued to hold them there while the prelate read a portion of the gospel; after which, she changed them three times, leaving them ultimately in the possession of their proper owners. This done, the Archbishop put the hand of the bride into that of her husband, and went through the same ceremonies with the nuptial crowns that he had previously enacted with the rings; they were then placed upon the heads of the young couple; and a goblet of wine being presented to the Archbishop he blessed it, put it to his lips, handed it to the bride and bridegroom, and thence delivered it up to the godmother.

The crowns were next changed three several times from one head to the other; and several wax candles being lighted, as I have described them to have been during the Easter ceremonies at the Fanar, the whole party walked in procession round the carpet; and then it was that the silver shower fell thick and fast about them; the floor was literally covered.

When the chanting ceased, the bride raised the hand of her new made husband to her lips; after which, every relative and friend of either party approached and kissed them on the forehead. The Archbishop cast off his robes, the children scrambled for the scattered money—the band in the outer hall burst into an enlivening strain; and such of the company as were of sufficient rank to entitle them to do so, followed the bride and the lady of the house to an inner saloon, where a train of servants was in attendance, bearing trays of preserved fruits and delicate little biscuits, which were given to each person to carry away. Liquors was then offered, and subsequently coffee, after which each married lady made a present to the bride of some article of value, previously to her departure from her home, whither we all accompanied her in procession; and took our leave at the portal to the house of her friends, and join in the cheerful morning ball which was about to commence.

The effect of the golden thread that I had assisted to weave was very beautiful, binding, as it did, the rich dark hair of the bride upon her fair young brow, and then falling to her feet—and her whole costume would have been eminently graceful, had she not been sinking under the heat and weight of the eternal catherine. The nuptial

crowns which I have mentioned are about a foot high, and shaped like a bee hives; when they were removed from the heads of the young couple they were carefully enveloped in a handkerchief of coloured gauze, and bore away to be hung up in the chapel of the bridegroom's house, where they will remain until the death of either party, when the deceased is crowned for the second and last time, in the open coffin in which he is bore to the grave.

The Greeks make almost as much toilet for a funeral as for a marriage. Where the deceased is young and pretty, she is decked out in her gayest apparel, and not infrequently has her eye-brows stained, and a quantity of rouge over her cheeks, to cheat death for a few hours of his avidness; her gloved hands are carefully displayed; she is tricked out in jewels, and this frightful mockery is rendered still more revolting by the fact that she is paraded through the streets, followed by her female relatives, who weep and shriek and bewail themselves, with a transient violence truly national. At the grave side, all the finery is stripped from the stiff-necked corpse—the friends carry it away, a cover is placed over the coffin, and the poor remains that were so lavishly adorned, are consigned to the earth, of which they are soon to form a part.

Miss Perdon's City of the Sun.

From the New York Mirror.

A CARD PARTY.

It is related of Madame du Deffan, that three of her friends brought a card table to her bedside, at her request, in her last illness, shetakingill. As she happened to die in the midst of an interesting game, her partner played dummy for her, and thus the three quietly played it out, and settled the stakes before they called the servants to notify them of the very important demise of their mistress. Shocking as is this incident, it is trivial in comparison with one that is said to have occurred at Albany many years since. There was at that time a low-eaved, peaked roof, stone built inn, situated in the upper part of the city, known as the "Colonies," a place much frequented by Schnechtady teamsters and Mohawk boatmen; before the completion of Clinton's grand canal had caused that dissipate a mongrel race to be superseded in their vocation. At this inn one day a man by the name of Derrick Helfenstin, but better known as "Dirk Hell, of German Flats," had been seized with convulsions amid a drunken frolic, and expired during the fit with his limbs all knotted together by the fierce muscular action incident to his disease. In Albany at that time, the Dutch custom of several friends of the deceased remaining all night in the same room with the body, and keeping their vigils until the moment of interment was strictly observed. Coffee and mulled wine with dote or dead cakes and other refreshments being generally provided by the nearest relatives to cheer the gloomy duty of the watchers. Dirk Hell, (or Helfenstin, as he was as often called,) though a wretched vagabond had still some whom he called friends, among the reckless and gambling crew with whom he chiefly associated; and as the landlord of the inn where he died could not refuse the customary refreshment of liquor upon an occasion like this, these idle hangers on the establishment readily consented to honor the obsequies of "Dirk and the usual vigil." The dead man, in the mean time, was duly laid out, but the distorted shape which his body had assumed in the death agony, made it necessary to use great force in straightening out the corpse; and recourse was had to cordes to bind down his limbs to the decent form; it was desirable they should assume. This disagreeable task being accomplished, the three friends of the gambler, when night came on, took possession of the apartment where he was laid out. With characteristic recklessness they had brought a pack of cards into the chamber of death, and after taking a glass of liquor all round, and drinking the memory of their comrade with some unfeeling allusion to his sudden fate, the three profligates sat down to a game of cards upon the foot of his bed. Four hands were then dealt; that of "Dummy" falling almost upon the feet of the corpse, and the other three upon the opposite sides and extreme end of the bed around which the players were thus arranged. The game proceeded apparently to the satisfaction of all parties; each of them by turns playing the hand of dummy, until drinking and gambling had carried them deep into the middle watches of the night. Some slight dispute, however, now occurred, as to who should play the next dummy. Words waxed high, and the two opposite players both attempted to seize upon the vacant hand at the same time, while the third, impatient at the contention, exclaimed, "I wish to * * * * * Heldirk would spring up and take the cards from both of you!" The wretch had hardly uttered the wish, before the cords which bound the corpse gave way with a sharp cracking noise, the struggle about the feet having probably disarranged them—and the distorted body released from its ligatures bounded forward in resuming the form under which life had left it, and seated itself upon its haunches with knees drawn up to its chin, arms a kimbo, and hideously distended jaws in the midst of the appalled and disconcerted trio. The three wretches

were said never to have played a game of cards afterwards.

From the Richmond Whig.

THE MINK-SKIN CURRENCY.

Our readers have already been favored with a copy of the law of the "State of Franklin," regulating the pay of its officers at a period when a "better currency," like that brought about by the Jacksonian and Bentonian humbuggers, was the only medium of circulation. A letter writer at Washington has favored the Enquirer with a description of the amusing scene which occurred in the Senate, when Mr. Webster cited this law as worthy of imitation by our sapient government. Speaking of the office-holders being paid in specie and the people in rags, the writer says:—"I agree entirely with Mr. Webster on this point, that they ought to take 'neighbor's fare.'" When the people have and can have nothing but paper as a medium, the Government officers ought to have nothing else. "Let them take neighbor's fare." If the people have nothing but rascalloid and mink skins as a circulating medium, let the government officers be paid in skins.

"I enclose you that part of Mr. Webster's speech, in which he touched upon this subject with such inimitable wit and good humor. But you can form no idea of the effect from reading it.

"The galleries were crowded to overflowing, with a brilliant cluster of beauty—the Senators all in their places and half the House of Representatives were present. His dramatic face—the smile of ridicule and humor with which his countenance was wrapt when he introduced the law of the State of Franklin, produced profound silence and excited the most intense curiosity. No one knew what was coming as the substitute for specie, as there was no such thing as bank notes at that time in that country. He kept up this curiosity most admirably for some time whilst reading and commenting upon the preamble to the law which recited that the collection of the taxes in specie had been very oppressive to the good people of the Commonwealth for the want of a good circulating medium, &c., &c., until he came to the enactment—His Excellency the Governor, per annum, 1000 deer skins! You never heard in a Theatre a louder burst of laughter. He paused until silence was restored, and proceeded to the next officer. His Honor the Chief Justice, 500 ditto ditto, with a comic humor of face, of which no language can give you any idea: A still louder burst. He proceeded then to the Secretary, to His Excellency the Governor "five hundred rascalloid ditto." The laugh here was absolutely outrageous. We all forgot where we were—and no one seemed disposed to interrupt the exquisite mirth which the Senator had produced. The presiding officer forgot himself, I believe, completely, and enjoyed the laugh as heartily as any one of the immense crowd. The Speaker paused again until silence was restored, and proceeded with the pay of the next officer, and then to the next, and so on. And the laugh increased as he proceeded until he got to the pay of the constable. To the constable for serving a warrant, one Mink ditto!! I thought the wall of the capital would have burst. The roar continued for some time, and the orator, (who all this time preserved a sanctity of countenance which no priest ever had,) manifesting a disposition to proceed, silence was again restored. He then gravely gave us a commentary upon the character of the Mink, and its great similarity to that of the constable, and how very appropriate it was that he should be paid in Mink skins."

The United States and Mexico.—We hope that none of our readers will suffer themselves to be alarmed by the bellicose intimations thrown out in the Debate in the Senate on Wednesday last, whereof we publish to-day a report, which we regret that we have not sooner had room for. We are happy to be able to express a very confident opinion that Congress have not yet entirely parted with their senses, and that nothing so Quixotic as a war against the wind-mills of Mexico is likely to be undertaken, at this moment, or under present circumstances. Least of all, will it be undertaken, we apprehend, to establish a new code of law, in which the belligerent right of blockade by actual force shall have no place, and the right of running contraband goods be effectually protected.

Seriously, some Members of Congress, as well as some Editors, and especially those of the city of New Orleans, who are so clamorous for a war with Mexico, have suffered their feelings to run altogether ahead of their judgment, in reference to the case of the steamship Columbia. As a belligerent, the Republic of Mexico has certain unquestionable rights. Among them is the right, by her armed vessels, to examine vessels passing in and out of any port of her enemy which she is actually blockading, in order to ascertain their character. The commander of the Columbia, we dare say for very good reasons, did not chose to have his vessel searched, if he could help it. He took the risk of attempting to avoid it, and was fortunate enough, (and we are glad of it,) by means of his steam, to escape detention, if not capture.

He was lucky, as well as bold. And this is the whole of the case, upon which the Senate is invoked to take revenge as for a national dishonor! A pleasant cause of war, truly!

Nat. Int.

The recent triumph of the Whigs in New York may well be regarded as the most glorious and important which they have ever yet gained. It is the first time that they have, without the aid of any other party, polled a large majority of all the votes. The Loco-focos entered into the contest determined, at any hazard, to carry the city. Their great aim was at the Boards of Aldermen, in whom is vested the power of choosing all the officers of the city, except the police. They urged their men on by the promise of place, and held out allurement of office to all who wavered. They felt that if they failed to succeed they were ruined and prostrated beyond the hope of recovering. Where the promise of future reward was ineffectual, bribery with money was resorted to. The abundance of these means justified the belief that the horde of office holders, spread over the whole country, had been laid under contribution. They filled the city with thousands of illegal voters, and erected shanties in the doubtful wards for their residence!—Each man was instructed to swear his vote in, and was paid by them for perjurying his soul! Not content with this, they had a "flying squad" paid and organized for voting in every ward in the city.

With such means and such men, they were confident of victory. They made an arrangement for an express to carry the intelligence to Washington, and even before the result is known in one of their wards, despatched their messenger to Philadelphia. He leaves New York on Friday evening and arrives in Philadelphia in time for the boat the next morning for Baltimore. He hurries on here and takes passage in the cars for Washington. He spreads joy and gladness among the faithful at the capitol. His "gratifying intelligence" is ushered forth in the Globe, and sent off to Mississippi in the hope that it may reach there before the election on the 23d and 24th. The express mail carries it, and is charged to make the speed of a bird "with healing on its wings." It is sent as an olive branch to a party without hope.

Every thing shows the immense interest which the leaders took in the election, and their plans, as developed during the contest, are proofs of the desperate pass to which they feel they have been driven. They have, thanks to the noble and patriotic Whigs of New York, been defeated. They made the contest a vital one to themselves, and losing it, may well abandon the field in despair. Never again, can they make an effort like the past, and never again, can they even hope for success. The Whig flag floats in triumph—and the whole country will rally under its ample folds to do battle for our free institutions.—Balt. Chron.

From Miss Martineau's Retrospect of Western Travel.

The Supreme Court at Washington.

At some moments this court presents a singular spectacle. I have watched the assemblage while the Chief Justice was delivering a judgment;—the three judges on either hand gazing more like learners than associates; Webster standing firm as a rock, his large, deep set eyes wide awake, his lips compressed—and his countenance in that intense stillness which instantly fixes the eye of the stranger;—Clay leaning against the desk in an attitude whose grace contrasts strangely with the slovenly make of his dress, his snuff box for the moment unopened in his hand, his small grey eyes and placid half smile conveying an expression of pleasure which redeems his face from its usual unaccountable commonness;—the Attorney Gen., with his fingers playing among his papers, his quick black eye and thin tremulous lips for once fixed, his small face, pale with thought, contrasting remarkably with the other two;—these men, absorbed in what they are listening to, thinking neither of themselves nor of each other, while they are watched by the groups of idlers and listeners around them, newspaper corps, the stragglers from the far west, the gay ladies—in their waving plumes, and the members of either House that have stepped in to listen—all these have I seen at one moment constitute one silent assemblage, while the mild voice of the aged Chief Justice concealed through the Court.

CONCEALED WEAPONS.

The act to prevent the carrying of concealed weapons, (introduced at the instance of Mr. Botts,) provides that if any person shall habitually or generally keep or carry about his person any concealed pistol, dirk, bowie knife, or other weapon of the like kind, from the use of which death might probably ensue, he shall be fined not less than 50, nor more than \$500, or be imprisoned in the common jail, not less than one, nor more than six months, at the discretion of the jury in each instance; and a moiety of the fine to be given to the person who voluntarily institutes the prosecution; and in all examinations in the county or corporation courts for murder or felony, by shooting, stabbing, maiming, cutting or wounding, if it appear that the act was committed by any such weapon, the court shall state the fact, and if the accused be

acquitted or discharged, it shall be no bar to an indictment for the offence in the superior court, if found in one year thereafter; and if the accused be found not guilty of the murder or felony, but guilty of carrying the concealed weapon, the court may fine him therefor, and pronounce judgment as in cases of misdemeanor. The act takes effect on the first day of June.

Richmond Whig.

We learn that on Friday the 6th inst., between 6 and 700 barrels of Turpentine were destroyed by fire at Hamilton, in Martin county. Mr. C. R. Hassell lost about 525 barrels, Messrs. L. Johnson & Co. 250, Gabriel Purvis 94; John Best 90, &c. The fire occurred about noon, through the carelessness of a negro dropping a coal on the landing; which being coated to the depth of about six inches with turpentine, the fire made such rapid progress as to defy all attempts to extinguish it. The scene is represented to have been truly terrific, the blaze ascending to double the height of the tallest trees.

Turbo Press.

Important to Snuff Dippers.—It is a fact, that much of the snuff, which our young ladies are so fond of dipping, is manufactured of the Tobacco which has been chewed and spit out by a man whose rigid economy led him to preserve every quid of his own, and not only so, but he picked up all he could find in the public streets and elsewhere, and after collecting a goodly quantity, would sell it to the trader in tobacco, who, drying and pulverizing it, bottled it up, and sold it for Scotch Snuff, and is it possible that our young ladies can brook the idea of bedaubing their mouths with an article ever thus used?—Carolina Gazette.

WOMEN'S OPINIONS.—Women are slower to change their opinions than men, because with the former they are founded on impulse, with the latter on argument or the opinions of others. Men's opinions are only adopted children—women's their own. Your impressions, ladies are so lively, that they yield to no reason, only to time, or to a new and strange sensation. You have, too, a peculiar faculty of forgetting your former impressions when under the influence of a new one, whereby you acquire an agreeableness of your own infallibility and unchangeableness, in the same way as I have known people with weak memories, who never were aware of the fact, simply because they had forgotten they ever forgot anything.

UNKNOWN TALENT.—When we reckon up how many talented children we find in country towns and schools, and twenty years after, see how few of them become heads of colleges, general officers, and the like, we shall be astonished. There is none of God's demesnes so slightly cultivated as that of genius. Heaven sows every year the seeds of a rich harvest, but we care not to water or transplant them. A country boy of talent, left to himself, reminds one of a pound of iron, which, in its rough state, is worth one sou; but when made up into watch springs, fetches sixteen millions of sou. How many springs might be made out of these neglected geniuses?

Gov. Marcy has transmitted a message to the Legislature of New York on the subject of the resumption of specie payments. It is, to a very great extent, decidedly conservative, and is properly considered as having been extorted from his fears. It is for any thing but a "divorce." He recommends that the Canal Commissioners be authorized to issue state stock to the amount of eight millions for the enlargement of the Erie Canal and the completion of the Black River and Genesee Valley Canals, and if any emergency should arise, demanding its use, to loan it to the banks of the State, requiring of them most ample security for the punctual payment of the interest, and reimbursement of the principal from time to time, as the money may be wanted in the progress of this work.

The spirit of the message is Loco Foco, though its recommendations are conservative.

We regard this measure as a shift and device of the party to get clear of the just responsibility which rests on them. Objectionable as is the proposition to divorce entirely the government from its banks, as contemplated by the Loco-focos, we regard the close union which this recommendation of Gov. Marcy involves as much more so. It is an unnatural and unrighteous union. It places the Banks, bound hand and foot, in the power of the party in the ascendancy, and calls them directly into the political arena to fight for their task masters. Such an alliance can work no good to either the banks or the State.

Balt. Chron.

A marble bust of Mr. Van Buren, the President of the United States, has, within the last few days, been placed in the Library at the Capitol. It is a work of extreme beauty.—The more we look at it, the more we are struck with its rare merit both as to conception and execution. The style is new to us, embodying, as it were, according to our idea, the refinement of the chisel of Canova with the impressive simplicity of the days of the Roman Empire. It is the production of Pettich, a favorite pupil of

the celebrated Thorwaldsen, and certainly does honor to that school. The studio of this admirable artist, adjacent to the new Treasury building, contains many charming things; amongst the rest, a model, just executed, of a baptismal font, which is beyond all the praise we can give it.

Nat. Int.

THE STAR

RALEIGH, APRIL 25, 1838.

We are indebted to the Hon. Mr. Ruffalo for a valuable document on subjects connected with the Land Office, for which we will please accept our thanks.

OXFORD EXAMINER.

We have received the first number of the Oxford Examiner, a new paper published by Mr. DANIEL F. GOODALE, the proprietor of which was published in the Star some months ago. It makes a very respectable appearance, both as to its matter and typography. It is of the republican stamp, and will be conducted on sound Whig principles. We welcome it to our ranks as a worthy coadjutor in the cause of freedom and reform, and give it our best wishes for success.

NEW YORK.

The Whigs Triumphant!—We are now enabled to give our readers a full and accurate statement of the New York election. The number of votes polled is 39,500, which is 4500 more than were ever before taken in the city, and 3900 more than were polled at the State election last fall. The result is the election of Aaron Clark (Whig) Mayor of the city, by a majority of 532 over Isaac L. Varian; (Loco Foco) and by a small majority over both of the opposing candidates. The vote stands thus:

Aaron Clark,	19,000
J. L. Varian, (Loco Foco)	15,500
Richard Baker, (Conservative)	2,500

For the Common Council the Whigs have elected 9 Aldermen and 9 Assistants, and the Loco Focos 8 Aldermen and 8 Assistants, in the wards which have carried every department of the City Government.

PUBLIC LANDS.

A bill to graduate the price of the Public Lands, or rather to give them to the new States, has passed the Senate. All of these lands will ultimately be brought down to the low price of 50 cents per acre. Mr. Clay showed that it would operate on 71 millions of acres, and that its immediate effect would be to take off 34 millions of dollars from the value of that property! An enormous sum—more than two millions for each of the old States—sufficient to buy the wheels of this most extravagant government in motion for one year! But its grand effect will be most destructive to the old States, and to the whole country. Under its provisions the old States will be drained of their population; build up flourishing settlements on these lands for which will question the strong influence here held out to emigrants! The proceeds of these lands will accrue to the national treasury, and the old States, through this tide of immigration, will be compelled not only to lose a portion of their citizens, but to furnish capital for the purchase of their own property from the General Government. The graduating system will encourage paragon soil, as it is most unquestionably a strong bid for a second time under the most desperate circumstances! It passed the Senate by a vote strictly administrative.

We believe, with the Lynch, Virginia, that the old States are too tame on this subject. The public land's right belong them. They have an irrevocable right to demand a division of their proceeds according to federal numbers, as advocated by Mr. Clingman in the Legislature of this State, and by Mr. Clay. In lieu of this right what have they done? Through their right and their interests in these lands into the lap of the National Treasury; whether because they were too tame to withhold them, or whether they preferred thus to minister to party spirit—to the mad designs of electioneers, it is difficult to determine.

It is both fair and proper that the people of North Carolina should know the fact, and here state it, that Senator STRANGE voted for this bill—Mr. Senator BEDFORD BROWN opposing the question.

UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.

Every one is a while there is a flare up in Congress on the subject of our relation with Mexico. The war spirit is razing in the bosom of some of the members, and we shall not be surprised if they succeed in bringing on some measure of hostility against that government during the present session. An interesting debate on the subject, took place in the Senate on the 11th inst. It originated from certain remarks and enquiries made by Mr. Walker in relation to what the Committee on Foreign Relations had done, or might be about to do, with regard to our claims against Mexico. Mr. Buchanan, chairman of that committee, replied, that "the committee had held a number of informal consultations on the subject, and had come to the conclusion that it was proper to await the session of the House of Representatives. The next step we take [said Mr. B.] in regard to Mexico, must be some measure that may directly lead to war, or may lead to it!" He then went on to state why he thought such a measure ought to originate in the other House, and added that he had been assured that a report might shortly be expected from the committee of that House. The debate was continued for some time by Messrs. Buchanan, Clay, Walker, Preston, Benton, and King. The Washington correspondent of the New York American says: "It is evident that a storm cannot be avoided between us and Mexico. It is expected that Mr. Howard, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, will make a belligerent report in a day or two. The majority of the Senate Committee are also of opinion that coercive measures ought now to be adopted, to avenge the repeated insults to our national flag."

Important Slave Case.—We learn that the District Court of the United States, in session at Trenton, N. J. Judge Hillman presiding, has been engaged during a week past with a case brought by Calverth, of Md., against Green and others, inhabitants of Salem, N. J. for receiving a fugitive slave, which the plaintiff had claimed, in the vicinity of that town. After a laborious trial, Mr. Southard for the plaintiff, and Mr. Frelinghuysen, and others, for the defendant, the jury returned a verdict on the 19th