

## DISTRESSING CALAMITY.

The following particulars relative to the late disastrous accident which happened to the Steam Boat *Ætna*, are taken from the New-York Statesman:

It becomes our painful duty to record the particulars of a most afflictive and heart-rending calamity—one which, in its terrible effects in the destruction of human life, is perhaps unparalleled by any similar occurrence. About half past 6 o'clock on Saturday evening, while the steam boat *Ætna*, Capt. Robinson, was on her passage from Washington, N. J. to this city, about a mile this side of the mouth of the Kills, the centre boiler exploded, with a loud and awful crash, the hot water and steam expanding in every direction with the velocity of lightning, instantaneously scalded to death several of the passengers, demolished the cabins, ripped up the deck, broke the machinery in pieces, fired the vessel with the scattered branks from the furnace, rendered the whole midships a complete wreck, and filled the minds of the survivors with indescribable horror and dismay.

The whole number of persons on board, is stated at thirty-four, viz: six passengers from the Philadelphia coach, ("Citizen's Line," to which the *Ætna* belonged,) named on the way bill, Pearce, Arnell, Braden, Heacock, Eckfelt, and Mrs. Strout; five from Amboy, Messrs. Davis, Morrison, and Baker, and two others, names not known; six taken on board at Elizabeth Point, viz: Mrs. Sarah Furman, wife of Mr. Job Furman, of this city, Mrs. Mary Furman, sister of Mr. Furman, Mrs. Messerole, daughter of Mr. Furman, also her husband, merchant in Davison street, Caroline Furman, niece of Mr. Job Furman, and daughter of the late Watrous Furman, and a brother of the latter, a lad of 13 years. One woman and a girl were taken on board at the Blazing Star Ferry. Besides these, were the officers, crew and servants, of the boat, fifteen in number.

The centre cabin, in which were all the ladies, was the chief scene of death. At the moment of the explosion, several of the male passengers were standing against the railing near the boat, slung at the side, into which they sprang, lowered themselves into the water, and escaped without material injury, and from whence they saw the heads and arms of two or three of the females extended from the cabin windows, crying piteously for relief in the last agonies of life. The steward, Victor Grasse, jumped out at the forward cabin window, and was drowned. Mr. Charles G. Hollingshead, a passenger from Princeton, and Captain Myers, mate of the *Ætna*, also jumped overboard, but were both saved by means of a bench, and taken into the small boat. The lad belonging to the family of Mr. Furman, was sleeping, at the moment of explosion, on the covering of the boiler, and was thrown into the air eight or ten feet, and fell into the vacuum, caused by the removal of the machinery, and escaped without injury.

It was supposed to be three or four minutes before the explosion spent its force, and nearly fifteen minutes before the steam had cleared away so as to admit of entering the cabin, where a scene of death and terror was presented which may be imagined, but cannot be described. The bulk-head of the cabin, chairs, tables, and the bodies of the dead and dying, were all driven into one mass at the extremity of the cabin. Capt. Robinson and Mr. Messerole first entered, the latter exclaiming, "my wife! my wife!" as he caught her, and ran upon deck, only in time for her to expire in his arms. He had been married but about six weeks when his wife was thus torn from him, in the bloom of life, and the spring-time of hope. The wife of Mr. Job Furman, his sisters, and his niece, were dead when brought from the cabin, and also Miss Mary Bates, daughter of Capt. Andrew Bates. The others were all severely scalded, and several have since died.

When this dreadful occurrence took place, the steam boat United States was several miles astern, having been aground when the *Ætna* passed her; she, however, came up directly and took the wreck in tow, and brought it up to Whitehall dock.—Capt. Robinson was not materially injured, and did every thing that he could, as well as all who were uninjured, to assist the wounded, and alleviate their sufferings. After the boat was towed up to town, the body of a stout man, apparently a laborer, was found covered with pieces of the wreck, supposed to have been crushed against the wheel-house. He had on a blue coat with gilt buttons, figured Marseilles vest, cotton shirt, marked M. P. black silk cravat, black pantaloons, black worst stockings, and pumps.

The following persons were sent to the Hospital.—John Winter, and John Gibbons, both of Philadelphia; Alexander Cromwell, of Jamaica; Nancy Dougherty, of Auburn; Letty Taylor, of New-York; Joseph Stevens, of Ireland; Michael Eckfelt, of Philadelphia; Thomas Braden, of Wilmington, Del. and Mrs. Ann Thomas, of Philadelphia; all but three of whom belonged to the boat.

The number of the dead is nine, viz: Mrs. Sarah Furman, aged 44. Mary Furman, maiden lady, aged 54. Mrs. Messerole, aged 22. Victor Grasse, steward. Man, unknown, found on deck. Mary Bates, aged 9. Nancy Dougherty, a native of Auburn. Mrs. Letty Taylor, wife of John Taylor, laborer.

The two last died at the Hospital. There are still remaining at the Hospital, Thomas Braden, of Wilmington, Del. and Michael Eckfelt, of Philadelphia, both of whom, we learn, are likely to recover—and, dangerously wounded, Joseph Stevens, a native of Ireland.

Also of the crew dangerously wounded: John Winter, of Philadelphia, fireman. John Gibbons, of Philadelphia, fireman. Ann Thomas, of Philadelphia. Alexander Cromwell, of Jamaica, waiter. Margaret, Cole, cook, wounded, not considered dangerous, was carried to a private house.

Mr. John Pearce, and Mr. Myers, both of Philadelphia, Jonathan Case, of Schenectady; B. Arnold, of Amsterdam, N. Y. and Mr. Heacock and lady, are among those who escaped with serious injury.

A boatman living at Bergen Point, whose was the first row boat along-side the *Ætna*, after the explosion, states, that he picked up 4 hats, one of which contained a bill of lading of goods on board of Thomas H. Smith's ship, at Amboy, from Canton.—He also picked up a paper, which was part of a contract, for making part of a Canal in Ohio. [One of these hats, it is ascertained, belonged to Capt. Myers, the hat with the bills of lading, we hear, belonged to Mr. Heacock.]

The four females of Mr. Furman's family were taken to his house, and buried from thence yesterday afternoon. The funeral ceremonies, which were peculiarly solemn and impressive, drew together many thousand sympathizing friends, and spectators. Rev. Mr. Baldwin made a brief address to the mourners and the audience, and offered a fervent prayer. The bodies were placed upon four hearses, and followed to the Presbyterian burying-ground in Christie-street, by an immense concourse, where they were all deposited in one grave. The circumstance of this melancholy dispensation in the family of Mr. Furman, are of a most striking character: fitted to impress deeply upon the minds of all, the uncertainty of human life. The flood of sorrow which has thus overwhelmed the husband, father and protector brings to mind the rapid and accumulated afflictions of Job; and all his patience, fortitude and resignation are required to bear up under his load of affliction. All the deceased left the city after nine o'clock, on Saturday, to attend the funeral in the afternoon, at Elizabethtown, of Mrs. Price, a niece of Mr. Furman. While they were at the house of mourning, an infant child of Mrs. Price, closed its eyes forever, and was placed by the cold bosom of its mother, in the same coffin, and deposited in the same grave. Mr. Furman was indisposed, and the family were anxious to return the same evening. The hour when they were expected had gone by, and he was anxious about their safety, and revolving in his mind what could have detained them, when the messengers arrived to communicate to him the sad tidings, and were soon followed by the dead bodies of his wife, daughter, sister and niece who went from him in health in the morning, but who were now returned to tarry a few hours on their way to the tomb. Thus were six relations, of one family, consigned to the "narrow cell," to which we are all bound, within the space of twenty-four hours.

This awful calamity has excited a great sensation, and cast a gloom over the whole city. It is almost impossible to ascertain what was the immediate cause of the disaster. It is said that the *Ætna* was, at that time, under an easier pressure of steam than usual, making but eighteen strokes a minute, while twenty-two is her usual gauge. We are however, inclined to the opinion that the steam must have been quite high, from the terrible destruction the explosion occasioned. We also heard a passenger remark that the horses were put to their utmost, the whole distance from Philadelphia—the word was "gallop, gallop," and it was his belief that an effort was making to perform the trip in the quickest possible time. On the other hand, we have the statement above-mentioned, and have understood that Capt. Robinson is a remarkably useful and prudent man.

But one thing is certain. The *Ætna* was propelled by an engine constructed on the high pressure principle and in almost every instance, particularly on the Mississippi, of the bursting of a boiler, it has been found that it was of engines of this description.—We understand that Robert Fulton always considered them as very dangerous, steadily opposed them, and thought they ought not to be used. The loss of human life in this instance may, we think, be fairly assigned to the high pressure engine, and we think as impartial editors, we owe it to the public to caution them to avoid all boats propelled by high pressure engines. With this view, we state upon information received this morning, that there are but three boats with high pressure engines, which come into the New-York waters, and these are the *Ætna*, which has caused such destruction of human life; she is an old boat, built about ten years since, and has been running until lately on the Delaware. She is believed to have been the first boat driven by Oliver Evans' high pressure engine. The boiler was of wrought iron, and however it might have borne traction of high steam in the fresh water of the Delaware, was particularly unfitted to withstand the increased corrosion occasioned by salt water. Another is the new boat Henry Eckford; and the third the Experiment connected with the Hartford and Norwich line.

## CONGRESS.

### SENATE.

THURSDAY, MAY 20.

The Vice-President, in a few remarks, on which he expressed his sense of the kind and courteous treatment which he had experienced from the members, collectively and individually, signed to the Senate that he should not preside over the body, during the present session, after this day. He then called upon Mr. Gaillard, to whom he relinquished the chair.

FRIDAY, MAY 21.

The Vice-President not being present, the Senate was called to order by the Secretary. On motion of Mr. Holmes of Me. the Senate proceeded to ballot for a President *pro tempore*.

The whole number of votes given in was

Necessary to a choice 35  
The Hon. John Gaillard had 23 votes, and was declared to have been elected President *pro tempore*. Mr. Gaillard immediately took the chair, and expressed to the Senate, in a very neat and appropriate speech, his sense of the high honor conferred upon him.

The Senate was engaged chiefly today in the consideration of Executive business.

### House of Representatives.

THURSDAY, MAY 20.

Mr. F. Johnson moved to resume the consideration of the Post Office Bill.

Mr. Campbell of Ohio, suggested the propriety of recommitting it. Mr. F. Johnson objected to this course, and then the House, having given leave to sit again, went into Committee of the Whole, on that bill.

A variety of amendments were proposed, the greater part of which were adopted. (We should suppose that the amendments, in all, considerably exceed one hundred.) The bill was

then reported to the House, as amended, and a number of farther amendments were proposed and carried. One of the amendments (proposed by Mr. Moore, of Alab.) went to extend the privilege of franking letters, during the whole time any member retained his right to a seat on the floor. Another (offered by Mr. Cooke) went to repeal that privilege as now extended to 30 days before and after the sessions of the House, and confine it to the time the House is in session—while another (offered by Mr. Cook,) took a middle course, and extended that privilege to 60 days before and after the session.

Mr. McDuffie moved an amendment appropriating fifty thousand dollars in aid of the Post Office Department, to enable it to meet the additional post routes now agreed to; and he supported his amendment by a speech, in which he advocated the principle of expending the funds of the country for the diffusion of intelligence.

After much discussion, the amendment was adopted—ayes 76, noes 50.

The bill and amendments were then ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

On motion of Mr. Cambreleng, the House went into committee of the whole, on the bill making appropriation for the payment of the claims of Daniel D. Tompkins, late Governor of the state of New-York.

Mr. Wickliffe moved to amend the bill by striking out that part of it which allows interest on the commission allowed Mr. T. on the disbursements for the government.

Mr. A. Stevenson went into a history of the settlement of Mr. T's accounts, and advocated the propriety of the allowance proposed in the bill on principles of public justice. He dwelt with warmth on the services of the individual concerned, and insisted that the appropriation was no more than his due.

Mr. Wickliffe acknowledged the merits of Mr. Tompkins—but contended that his claim was to be put on the same footing with every other. He went into an examination of several provisions of the bill—to many of which he did not object—but could not assent to the allowance of interest on commission. This was not required or warranted by any statute—nor was it allowed in private transactions.

Mr. A. Stevenson moved to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting words, and inserting the following: "That there shall be paid to Daniel D. Tompkins out of any money, &c. the sum of \$136,799 97; deducting therefrom the amount paid him in virtue of the act to amend an act appropriating a certain sum of money for the relief of Daniel D. Tompkins, amounting to \$— as a full compensation and discharge for his claim against the United States, arising out of advances made, losses sustained, and services rendered by him, during the war between the United States and Great Britain that being the amount found due to him from the United States, by the verdict of the jury in the case of the United States of America vs. D. D. Tompkins, decided in the District Court of the United States for the Southern District of New-York. That the act heretofore passed, referring the claims of said Tompkins, shall be, and is hereby, repealed."

On this amendment a discussion arose, in which Mess. Stevenson, Cady, Cambreleng, Ingham, Forsyth, and Williams, of N. C. took part. Mr. Cady, of New-York, wishing to state certain facts more fully, and to express his views on this subject, moved that the committee rise. The motion was not carried—ayes 70, noes 72.

Mr. McDuffie supported the amendment of Mr. Stevenson, as going to enable Congress to do an act of justice to a meritorious individual, without involving any principle which might be drawn into injurious precedent. He testified in the most explicit and cordial manner to the merit and value of the services of Mr. Tompkins during the late war, and remarked on the ruinous consequences which had ensued to his private fortune.

Mr. P. P. Barbour took the same side, and observed that, if there was on this side the grave an object of interesting contemplation, it was a great and good man struggling amidst surrounding difficulties, and in danger of being overwhelmed by them. All his impressions concerning the conduct of the individual concerned in this bill were of the most favorable kind, and he did not know whether he might not, unconsciously, be too much influenced by his feelings to be a perfectly unbiased judge. Mr. B. then went into a review of some of the calamitous scenes in the early part of the late war. He adverted particularly to the time when this Capitol was nothing but a heap of smouldering ruins; when the metropolis was ransacked; when the inhabitants of his own state were in uncertain dread of an attack of the enemy on Baltimore or Richmond; when an attempt was made to renew Burgoyne, to divide the United States into two moieties by gaining possession of the state of New-York; when it was almost a literal fact that the vessel of

state was aground: when we had neither men in the field, nor money in the Treasury, nor credit with those who had it to lend.—At this period, the services of Governor Tompkins were tendered. He went into the service of his country with a fortune ample and unembarrassed. During his continuance in it, no palaces had risen like exhalations; no equipages dashed like meteors; yet he came out of the war ruined in fortune, ruined in credit, having not only lost his own property, but sacrificed that which he possessed by his connections in life, and was reduced to absolute poverty. Mr. B. said, it might do very well to read in history of a Cincinnati, who returned from the highest station in the state to hold a plough, and who still retained a lofty standing among his countrymen. If such things ever had existed, they certainly did not exist at the present day. He made forcible remarks on the effects of poverty, and, having again deprecated any undue influence of feeling over his judgment, he proceeded to the naked question of right, adverted to the verdict which had been rendered in favor of the claims of Mr. T. by a jury at New-York, on the circumstances under which it was rendered, and the weight to which it was entitled; and though he did not admit it as authority which ought to bind this House, and admitted that verdicts might be influenced by prejudice, by a strong current of party feeling, and other causes, yet, all evidence should be produced to shake the decision which the New-York jury had given, after a full and laborious investigation, he should presume it to be a correct finding in the case, and rejoiced that the dictates of his own judgment united with and corroborated the feelings of his heart toward the claimant.

Mr. Bartlett proposed that the amendment be so modified as to omit that part of it which relates to the decision of a jury in the case.

Mr. Stevenson accepted this modification, and altered his amendment so as to read: "The sum of \$101,629 97, as a full compensation and discharge for his claim against the United States, arising out of advances made, losses sustained, and services rendered by him during the war between the United States and Great-Britain."

Mr. Wickliffe moved to amend the amendment, by striking out no more than a part of the first section of the bill.

Mr. Kremer moved that the committee rise, and accompanied the motion with a few remarks—it was negatived—ayes 60, noes 79.

Mr. Williams of N. C. inquired of Mr. Stevenson for the items which made up the sum he had moved. Mr. Stevenson explained—that he had founded the calculation on the verdict of the Jury of New-York, and deducting from it such sums as had been paid Mr. T. at the Treasury.

Mr. Williams replied, and still wished for particulars.

Mr. McCoy spoke in opposition to the amendment.

The question being taken on the amendment of Mr. Stevenson (founded on the N. Y. verdict) was decided in the negative—ayes 61, noes 74.

Mr. Cambreleng moved to fill the blank in the second section, with the sum of \$115,000—and, the question being taken, it was decided in the affirmative—ayes 86, noes 65.

The bill was then reported as amended.

Mr. McCoy moved to adjourn. Negatived, ayes 63, noes 70.

Mr. Wright then gave notice, that, if the House refused to concur in the report of the committee, he would move to fill the blank with \$60,000, and the ayes and noes on concurring were called for and ordered by the House. The question of concurring in the committee's report, filling the blank with 115,000, was then decided by yeas and nays, as follows—Yeas 76, nays 61.

Mr. Wickliffe renewed his motion to strike out all the first section of the bill excepting the enacting clause.

When the House adjourned.

FRIDAY, MAY 21.

The House took up the bill "making provision for the settlement of the accounts of Daniel D. Tompkins, late Governor of New-York."

The question recurring from yesterday, on the motion of Mr. Wickliffe, to strike out the first section of the bill, he modified that motion, by proposing as a substitute for the part stricken out, a section which went to allow only the amount settled at the Treasury, and contained in the President's message on this subject, [viz. \$60,239 24.] He supported this amendment by going into a summary view of the pecuniary transactions between Mr. Tompkins and the Government, and contended that the sum already allowed to that individual, was equivalent to a salary of \$76,000 per annum for his personal services, a reward much greater than had been given to any other person for public services. Mr. W. referred to similar exertions made by others to support the national credit, &c.

Mr. Livermore spoke in reply, and contended, that having referred the settlement of these accounts to the Presi-

dent, and having received his decision, it was unworthy of the dignity of the House to go into a further contest of the claim. He remarked on the justice of the principles on which the claim rested, but said it was too late to investigate those principles, since the President had given his award. It was better to give him his demand than to occupy the time of the House in passing eulogies on his patriotism and services.

Mr. Williams of N. C. said, there was no dispute, on either side, whether the amount awarded by the President was to be paid, but only concerning an item on which the President had not made up a determination, viz. the allowance of interest on his commissions. He denied that the amount of those commissions was due as soon as the money was disbursed by Mr. Tompkins, since there was no law which sanctioned any such demand. Those commissions were not due till the law was passed which allowed them; and, if any interest on the commissions was due at all, it could not be due farther back than the date of that law. He contended for a principle of equal dealing with all claimants—which he insisted was a fundamental principle of this Government. He condemned the idea of settling a debt of moral gratitude in dollars and cents. Interest was never allowed by law on a running account, and this account was not settled till last year. He deprecated the precedent which the proposed act would establish. If it passed, its principle must be applied to the multitude of various claims which are presented to this Government.

Mr. Mangum replied, and took the opposite side of the question, contending against the presumption that Government is always both ready and willing to pay a just demand against it, a presumption, which, in many cases, could not be denied to be a flat contradiction of fact. He shewed how the claim arose, and contended that Gov. Tompkins had been a lender to the government to a great amount, at a time of its utmost need—when the President and all his Secretaries could not raise \$3,600, to pay the most pressing demand. He maintained the equity of allowing, that if commissions were due at all, they were due as soon as the disbursements were made.

Mr. Ross argued, that as the President had awarded a sum different from that found by the New-York Jury, the House ought not to consider itself under any obligation to be governed by it. He went into a review of the settlement of Mr. Tompkin's accounts, as made by the Treasury and allowed by the President, and contended that it ought not to go any farther.

The debate was then farther continued by Messrs. Cooke, Wright, Warfield, Williams, Tod, Mallary, and Reynolds, who advocated the amendment of Mr. Wickliffe; and Messrs. Hamilton, McLane, and Brent, who opposed it, and contended for \$115,000.

The question was then taken by yeas and nays, as follows:

Yeas 82, Nays 80.

So the amendment of Mr. Wickliffe, which appropriates \$60,239 24 was adopted.

The bill was then reported and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

## Taken Up.

AND committed to the Jail of Stokes A county, N. C. on the 27th ultimo, a Negro Man named DAVID, 5 feet 10 inches high, very black, about 27 years of age. He says that he ran away from a Mr. Roberts, at the Poplar Camp Mountain, Virginia; that Roberts was removing him with other negroes from Wayne county in this State, to his master, whose name he says is Samuel Wilson and lives somewhere in Tennessee, but that he does not know in what county.

The owner is requested to come forward, prove property, pay charges and take him away, or he will be dealt with according to law. JESSE BANNER, Jailor. Germantown, April 29. 51 6m

## Land for Sale.

THE subscribers offer for sale the Land belonging to the estate of Thomas Bonner, dec'd, lying in Bertie county, on the waters of Cashie river, adjoining the lands of Jonathan Cooper, William Johnson and others, containing 1000 acres by estimation, most of it wood land, well timbered and watered. The land is equal if not superior to any in the neighborhood. It may not be improper to observe that the contiguity of this Land to the river, may make it desirable on account of the transportation of lumber, &c. A farther description is deemed unnecessary, as it is probable any person wishing to purchase, would first view the premises. Terms made accommodating to the purchaser. For farther particulars apply to the subscribers living in Franklin. TOLLIVER TERRELL, WILLIAM T. BONNER. Franklin, April 6, 1824. 42-3m.

## Cape-Fear Navigation Company.

PURSUANT to a Resolution of the Stockholders at their last annual meeting, notice is hereby given, that the next annual meeting of the Stockholders of the Cape-Fear Navigation Company will be held at the Town-House in Fayetteville, on Friday the 30th day of May next, at which time the presence of the Proprietors, or their Representatives, is required. ROBERT STRANGE, Secy. Fayetteville, April 21. 47

BLANKS for sale at this office.