

ELECTION DAY.

To-day an election for members of Congress takes place throughout the State, and in the County for Clerks of Superior and County Courts.

New York Correspondence of the Commercial. Another new Hotel in Broadway—Southern and the Crystal Palace—Representation of the different States of the Union here—The men and women of the Country—Increase of Travelling—Crowded state of the Hotels.

Another new and magnificent hotel, the Prescott House, at the corner of Broadway and Spring street, will be thrown open to the public to-morrow. In splendid saloons and hotels, New York is now taking the lead of all the cities in the world.

For several years past, a new race of artists and architects has sprung up in this city, who have introduced a superior method of building, and a more elegant style of decoration and finish. They have consulted the highest models in their respective arts, and borrowed from every age and nation whatever is noble in structure and costly in design.

Restricted by our popular institutions to the essential principles of republicanism, we are making rapid advances in imitating the exterior displays of aristocratic wealth and power. Baronial castles and lordly palaces, which have hitherto had no existence in the land, (where even the wealthiest were content to live like gentlemen, but not like noblemen,) begin now to rise up in our midst, under the influence of the associative power of wealth.

The splendid hotels which are now springing up in New York, are far in advance of the wants of our people, who are as yet unaccustomed to such extravagant styles of living, and such expensive specimens of embellishment. Many a one who will enter these palaces, such as royalty might exult in, will, on returning home, look with indifference and discontent upon homesteads which have heretofore been sufficient for their simple tastes and wants.

The Prescott House is not so large as some of the new hotels recently finished, and one or two others which are still in progress of erection. It will accommodate about 250 guests, while the Metropolitan and St. Nicholas both furnish room for more than twice that number.

The British War Steamer Medea at Boston—Desperate Encounter with River Thieves. Boston, July 30.—The British war steamer Medea, from Halifax July 28th, arrived at this port this morning. It is supposed she brings despatches in regard to the fishery question.

A desperate encounter took place last night between the New Harbor police and two river thieves who had been boarding and robbing vessels at this port disguised in masks, and sometimes using chloroform. The robbers were seen leaving a vessel in a boat, and were pursued and captured. They fired five times upon their pursuers, who returned the compliment. Upon them was found a large amount of property, stolen from the brig Martha Wilder. The captain was put to sleep with chloroform, and his pantaloons robbed of \$375.

The Administration and the Pacific Railroad. We brought to the notice of our readers in our number of Saturday last an editorial article of the Washington Union, defending the constitutional power of the Government to construct a Railroad to the Pacific Ocean. It was a remarkable article, to be found in the columns of that journal, and regarding it as evidently speaking for the Executive, we read it with as much pleasure as surprise. The arguments were not new to us; we had heard them in former times repeated from year to year by the great champion of Internal Improvements, the illustrious Clay, with all the power of his peerless eloquence, and especially in his great speech in the House of Representatives in 1817-'18, and we could not suppress the gratification we felt at seeing them substantially reproduced as Democratic arguments in support of a great national measure.—Nat. Intelligencer.

BAIL ROAD ACCIDENTS. The Sumner Banner says that while a freight train was passing over the trestle work across the Wateree Swamp, the structure gave way, precipitating the two hindmost cars in the mud, totally destroying them and doing much damage to the freight. The same paper also states that the downward train of the Wilmington and Manchester road ran over two negro men, the property of Gen. Chandler, killing them instantly. They are supposed to have been lying asleep on the road.

hotels, that many customers have been compelled to sleep upon benches and blankets, or any thing that could be provided for them.

FLETCHER.

Sudden Deaths on South Wharves—The Bread-stuff Market—Robbery—Serious Fracas—Drowned.

Philadelphia, Aug. 1.—A young man named Clements, whose father keeps the Commercial House, on the wharves above South street, died suddenly this forenoon, from what is reported to be yellow fever. He was attending to his business yesterday. Two or three other sudden deaths have taken place in the same neighborhood since Friday night. They died from malignant fever, supposed to have been brought here by the bark Mandarlan.

The market for breadstuffs this morning is firm at Saturday's prices. A sailor, who recently arrived from a long voyage, hired a horse yesterday afternoon, and took a ride into the country. He stopped at Lemon Hill, displayed a gold watch and nearly two hundred dollars in gold, silver and notes, treated every body and finally became quite jolly himself. About ten o'clock, he started to get his horse, when some one unknown knocked him down, kicked and robbed him of his watch, money, coat and boots, and left him bleeding and insensible.

William O'Neill, who had the bilious dysentery two weeks, died yesterday at a house in Crown street, Kensington for want of medical attendance. His room was in a most filthy condition. At a late hour last night, two colored men, named William Thomas and Levi Cropper, cut each other with knives, in St. Mary street. Considerable excitement prevailed, and cries of murder alarmed the neighborhood. Lieutenant Watkins rushed to the scene and arrested the sanguinary combatants. This morning they were committed by Ald. Sherman to answer at court.

A colored man, named Jonathan Moore, was drowned in the Schuylkill yesterday afternoon, near Mayland's wharf. He was bathing, but unable to swim.

Recovery of the Body of one of the Men Lost at Niagara Falls.

The body of Andrew Hermann, whose sad fate at the Falls excited so much attention, has been recovered. It was found near the landing of the "Maid of the Mist," below the Suspension Bridge. The head and body were much mangled—a sharp stone, or other object, having pierced the body, either in its fearful descent, or afterwards. The facts of the case, as elicited from the evidence of Mr. Brown, a resident at Niagara Falls, are, that three Germans in his employ, were engaged in boating sand to French's Landing, which was used in building at the Falls. On Monday evening they went to the Falls, and there got somewhat intoxicated, although they usually sustained the reputation of being sober and industrious laborers. Returning from the Falls to their boat, they put out into the river, about nine o'clock in the evening, for their own amusement. Concluding they had not sufficient canvass, they returned to shore, and one of the three started for the Falls to obtain more, the other two again putting out into the river. On the return of the third, the boat was nowhere to be seen, and its fate was not known until next morning.

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A telegraphic dispatch, from St. John, N. B., states that the ship John C. Calhoun, before reported ashore at Musquash, had been got off.

EXAMINATION OF COUNTERFEITERS. CINCINNATI, July 30th.—The gang of counterfeiters, recently arrested here, had an examination to-day before Judge Spooner, and were held to bail in the sum of \$10,000 cash for counterfeiting, and \$5,000 for robbery, several sheets of genuine notes being found in their possession. In default of security they were committed to jail.

YELLOW FEVER AT NEW ORLEANS. NEW ORLEANS, July 30.—The deaths within the last 24 hours have been 154, of which 125 were from yellow fever.

RIOT IN NEW YORK. On Saturday night a terrible riot took place in the neighborhood of the 1st avenue and 18th st., N. Y. It appears that the members and runners of Engine Company No. 30, whose house is in 22d street, have been annoyed at different times by a large number of men, who congregate in the 1st avenue, and on Saturday night the parties to the number of about two hundred on both sides met in the 1st avenue, and immediately commenced firing stones and using clubs, which in a few minutes broke out in a general riot. The police came to the rescue, and after a number of broom heads on both sides, 22 of the rioters were secured and locked up.

The Chinese Repository tells of a strange kind of death punishment which was inflicted on a Chinese criminal who had committed a very heinous offence. He was wound round with cotton, saturated with tallow, places being left for him to breathe. He was then dipped like a monster candle until he presented a mass of tallow. In this way he was stuck up on his father's grave, lighted, and kept burning until his body was consumed by slow degrees.

THE BRITISH POST OFFICE. Official returns have been made public of the business of the Post office of the United Kingdom, for the year 1853, as compared with each of the thirteen previous years. From these official data, it appears that the increase in the number of letters since 1846, (when cheap postage was introduced, is fully 125 per cent; and the net revenue has increased from £500,789 to £1,090,419, although the actual receipts are not yet equal to those of the year 1839, (the last year of the old system.)

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Commodore Newton was a native of Virginia, and was warmly esteemed for his excellent personal qualities. He entered the service in 1809, and had served with honor for the long period of forty years.

REDEMPTION OF THE PUBLIC DEBT. With a view of reducing the public debt, the Secretary of the U. S. Treasury has just issued the following notice, which if it bring forward the stocks to the amount indicated, may affect the money market to some extent favorably.

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