

Congress.

The U. S. Senate, on Thursday, 5th inst., took up the President's message, which was received on Tuesday...

Mr. Hamlin of Maine, resumed and continued his speech on the subject. He explained the importance of the interests engaged in the fisheries...

The further consideration of the subject was then postponed for a week.

The Senate next resumed the discussion on the bill making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department...

The House of Representatives took up again the bill from the Committee on the Judiciary to regulate fees and costs to be allowed clerks, marshals, and attorneys...

The Hon. James X. McLanahan, of Pennsylvania, then explained its provisions, and stated that the subject was one of great importance, and demanded the earliest attention of Congress...

An amendment was adopted appropriating \$18000 for the salary and outfit of the Commissioner to China.

In the Senate, on Friday, the 6th instant, Mr. Felch, of Michigan, reported adversely upon the land distribution bill and the homestead bill...

Mr. Seward, of New York, submitted a resolution, which was agreed to, calling for information as to whether the Sovereign of the Sandwich Islands has not proposed to transfer the sovereignty of those Islands to the United States...

Mr. Houston of Texas submitted a resolution to appoint a select committee of five to inquire into any fraud, bribery, or abuses that may have occurred in the prosecutions of claims, &c., before Congress or the Departments, which was agreed to, and Messrs. Houston, Borland, Brooke, Merriweather and Underwood were appointed as the committee.

The Indian Appropriation bill was then taken up, and the Senate adjourned.

The House of Representatives was again engaged during the morning hour in the consideration of the bill to regulate the fees and costs to be allowed clerks, marshals, and attorneys of the Circuit and District Courts of the United States.

The House then went into Committee of the whole on the State of the Union, and resumed the consideration of the general appropriation bill.

The Government of England will shortly be placed in a more anomalous position than any in which it has yet been exhibited. The Derby ministry will have had a short lease of power. So soon as Parliament assembles the Tory rule ceases. Who will be their successors—what shape a new ministry will assume—whether Whig or semi-Radical—is the question. Conservative it cannot be. It is by semi-Radical influences the Derby ministry has been overthrown. The party that is to govern must be recruited measurably from the ranks of the Free Trade leaders, whatever of the element of Whiggism may enter into the combination...

This change which the people of the Continent could not effect violently, the people of England are bringing about gradually. We do not think that for some years yet annual Parliaments and universal suffrage are to be among the victories of radicalism. But an extension of the suffrage much beyond its present limits, if not triennial Parliaments, are in nearer perspective than many imagine. The march of public opinion is in that direction, most unequivocally. A wider constituency and a reformed Parliament, letting in more and more of the Democratic spirit, are steps that must conduct finally to universal suffrage and a shorter duration of the House of Commons.

The effect of a government like that of England resting on a wider democratic basis must be to change its character organically. It must lose its present oligarchical element. The House of Peers must become an assembly with nominal privileges—men who sit in conclave with titles and ribbons, without real power. As hereditary legislators their patents of nobility will enable them to occupy a conspicuous place in a royal ceremonial. Such must be the destiny of an oligarchy whose authority, within their own sphere of legislation, in conflict with the power of the People's House, will be inevitably subverted. The House of Commons will absorb all the powers of legislation and become paramount. This will be followed by popular disrespect for hereditary rank. How far reverence for royalty will then consist with the loss of prestige by the nobility of England, is a question whose solution we may leave to history.

Charleston, Evening News.

The new Planet discovered by Mr. Hind, of Bishop's Observatory, London, on the 24th of June last, was also observed at the Washington National Observatory on the night of the 29th, by Mr. J. Ferguson. The planet is stated to be of the 9-10 magnitude, and Lieut. Maury makes it the 18th in the family of Asteroids known to exist between Mars and Jupiter.

From the Lancaster Ledger.

Rail Road Meeting.

A meeting was held at the Court house on the first Monday in August, pursuant to a resolution passed on sale day in July.

Hon. Wm. Reed being called to the Chair, the Preamble and Resolutions of last meeting were read.

Capt. Gaston submitted the following Report from a meeting of the citizens of Chester District:

RICH HILL, CHESTER DIST., } July 30, 1852.

At a meeting of citizens of Chester District, favorable to the construction of a Rail Road from Chester to Lancaster, held this day at Rich Hill, Dr. B. Gaston was called to the Chair, and Col. L. A. Becknam appointed to act as Secretary.

The object of the meeting being stated to be the appointment of delegates to the adjourned meeting to be held at Lancaster on Monday the 3d August next, on motion a committee of three was appointed to nominate suitable persons to attend said meeting. Upon the report of this committee twenty six gentlemen were appointed, of whom the following attended the meeting: Tilman Ingram, Daniel G. Stinson, Jas. A. H. Gaston, W. A. White, J. B. Magill, Henry Moffatt, and Jesse Clifton Jr.

A committee of twenty-one, consisting of the following gentlemen, Dixon Barnes, Col. Huey, Capt. McKenna, Dan'l W. Brown, Joseph Cunningham, Robert McIlwain, W. A. Moore, Jas. P. Crockett, W. E. Johnson, S. B. Emmons, J. Adams, John Williams, were appointed to prepare business for the meeting. The following resolutions were presented by them, which, after some debate, were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we do most earnestly desire, and most heartily approve, of the construction of a Rail Road from Lancaster Court House to connect, either with the Charlotte and South Carolina Rail Road at Chesterville, Ridgeway, or some other suitable point on said Road; and we hereby promise and agree that we will liberally subscribe to each one or all of the routes leading to the several points herein designated; and whichever route may be selected after the charter has been obtained and the stock subscribed, we, the citizens of Lancaster District, will cordially unite in support of it.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed by the Chairman of this meeting to memorialize the next Legislature upon this subject, and to solicit material aid from the State in the building of said Road.

Resolved, That notice be immediately published in the Lancaster Ledger, for three months, that an application will be made to the next Legislature for a Charter said Road.

Resolved, That the members of the next Legislature from Lancaster District are earnestly requested to ask from the next General Assembly, a liberal subscription towards the construction of this Road; and the various candidates who are now competing for a seat in the next Legislature, are likewise requested to bring this important subject before the people for their consideration.

In accordance with the second resolution, the following gentlemen were appointed by the Chairman, viz: John Williams, M. P. Crawford, J. Galluchat, J. H. Witherspoon, and P. T. Hammond.

On motion of John Stewart, Esq., the meeting then adjourned.

WM. REED, Chairman, } M. P. CRAWFORD, } Secretaries. } J. C. SECREST, }

TOBACCO AND PICKLES IN AMSTERDAM.—A letter from Amsterdam, in the Boston Transcript, says:

The consumption of tobacco here is enormous. What King James would have done had he been King of Holland is past imagining. Old and young are alike addicted to the habit. I have seen a knot of children pulling away as gravely as if they had been born with pipes in their mouths, and elderly citizens march along the streets sending forth volumes of smoke like so many peripatetic stove pipes. Some of the Amsterdam dandies, the fast young men of the place, if the term is not an anomaly, seem to effect the cigar—but for the most part the merchant, with its pipe as long as a walking stick, is the favorite vehicle for burning the weed. Many smoke during their meals. Sipping tobacco smoke as other people sip wine, and as it is not considered indecorous to smoke where others are eating, I was regaled while at the breakfast table this morning in the principal hotel in the city with some very choice tobacco smoke from two gentlemen opposite me. They breakfasted upon bread and butter, tobacco, eggs and coffee—and I do not doubt that a pipe often furnishes the lower classes a light and wholesome meal.

Some of the Dutch delicacies are certainly very extraordinary. People eat pickles as the French eat peppermints. All about the streets may be seen little stands, upon which are temptingly displayed pickled cucumbers, beets, onions and other vegetables, soaking in vinegar, and cut up into little tit bits for the refreshment of the passer by, who, for a stiver, can set his teeth on edge most admirably. Diminutive eels, small and steeped in vinegar, form an article of traffic for divers old ladies at the street corners. I do not know that children cry for them, but probably the youthful Myndber yearns for pickled eel as a young Yankee longs for a stick of candy. A stranger might wonder at seeing such gastronomic enormities hawked about the streets like lozenges, till he heard the unspeakable dishonour of the language; when he would perceive that a people who speak such a jargon need some such diet as sourknot and pickled eels to keep their vocal organs in proper tone.

NEW VOCABULARY.—Matagobolizing. (Studying or uttering a vain thing) and Trovostitibulating. (troubled with an uneasiness of mind) new words, indicative of the condition of mind of persons who live in a state of constant and purposeless excitement.

UNITED STATES MINT OPERATIONS.—During the month of July there were coined at the Philadelphia mint 400,888 pieces of gold, amounting in value to \$5,000,030; 982,400 pieces of silver, amounting to \$37,872; and 466,599 cents—making a total of 1,849,838 pieces, amounting in value to \$5,042,867.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY JOURNAL.

TUESDAY EVENING AUGUST 10, 1852.

THO. J. WARREN, Editor.

The lines of R. B. C. will appear on Friday.

Acknowledgments.

We are under renewed obligations to the Hon. A. P. BUTLER, for his attention in forwarding us Public Documents, &c.

The Hon. J. L. Orr and Hon. D. Merriweather will also accept our thanks for their favors.

Roads, Bridges, &c.

We have been handed for publication the following extract from a letter received in this place from White's Store, N. C., dated July 31, 1852:

"I would just state there would be a great deal more trade from this portion of N. C. to your place if there was a good Bridge at Mrs. Blakeney's, on Lynches Creek, that Bridge being considered unsafe. I believe it is a Bridge that is built by Kerlaw and Chesterfield together; it has ever been considered unsafe."

Attention to our highways, bridges, ferries, &c., is absolutely indispensable to the public good. Money is paid in the form of taxes for these purposes, labor is required for the same, and why is there such grounds of complaint? We hope those charged with the management and control of these important matters, will look well to the interest of the community, which involves so seriously life and property.

Popular Elections.

We are no factionist, yet, there are some things in our State Government which we should like to see changed. For instance the present mode of electing Electors for President and Vice President, subjects the State to unnecessary expense, and inconvenience. Every four years an extra session of the Legislature must be held for this special purpose, or the vote of the State is lost. This of course subjects us to a heavy expense, and there is no necessity for it.

The Legislature must either alter the time of its sitting, call an extra session, lose the vote of the State, or give the election to the people, where of right it belongs. It may be urged in behalf of the present mode, that all these difficulties may be removed by altering the time of the meeting of the Legislature. This would subject us to inconveniences also, and reasons may be shown why this change should not be made. We do not however, upon the plea of inconvenience to the State, or from pecuniary considerations, urge a change; these are only collateral reasons, and do not involve in themselves any importance, or touch the principle. We are in favor of committing to the hands of the people the management of this business, from motives of a higher character than that of mere expediency, believing as we do that free suffrage is consonant with the true and genuine principles of liberty, and the groundwork and very basis upon which all republican institutions must rest.

Let the people be educated! Call it by whatever you may; it is one of our texts, and one too, which we shall ever take pleasure in urging upon the minds of our readers. Call it a hobby—be it so, it is a good one. The people should read, think, and act for themselves. How deplorable, and humiliating is the ignorance of the masses upon the most common and simple matters of our government. The people seem contented to leave the decision of all these matters in the hands of others, who think and act without direct reference, in too many cases, to the good of those whom they represent. "A liberal and enlightened public opinion, whose approbation is the result of mature wisdom, and whose just condemnation is tempered with generosity." This is the idea—a just sentiment, which can only result from the people being educated. We attribute much of the want of general intelligence among the people, to the fact that nearly all the important elections are taken from them, and given to the Legislature. It may be urged that, by giving these elections to the people, we open the door for demagoguism much wider—that influences will be admitted more injurious in their effects upon society. We think not; a word in reply will suffice for this objection—Those who are disposed, may now act the part of demagogues to a much greater extent—they can deceive the people much more effectually than they could under the plan we propose.

If it is urged, that already too many elections are in the hands of the people, we ask where is this power more properly rest? To deny it, is to strike at once, a blow at the very foundation of all democratic principle, to say that the people are not capable of deciding for themselves. Who then can decide? If such be the case, why let the people say who shall be their Clerks, Sheriffs, Tax Collectors &c? Let others more competent, be delegated with all authority to do all their thinking and acting for them. Let the people become as pliant clay in the hands of skillful potters, who are to mould and fashion them after their own notions—mere figures, by which the sagacious political arithmetician may make his calculations. The people, if left to the bent of their own inclinations, will be disposed to do right.

The masses of the people of our State, are woefully deficient in knowledge pertaining to our State affairs. They have never relied upon themselves, but have taken too much for orthodox, because leading men have taught them so. We know of no reason why South Carolina should adhere with such remarkable pertinacity to certain aristocratic notions peculiar to herself, which makes it almost a distinct and isolated State from others, which have the same community of interests, and are identified by common ties of consanguinity and destiny. We ask, what peculiar benefit have we derived from our singular course? Are we in advance of our compeers in intelligence, happiness or wealth?

Until within a few years, we have been far behind others in every class of enterprise. It is possible that we may yet feel a conscious pride in being Carolinians, yet there is much of which we may not boast. Many of our systems need remodeling, and a general modification might take place, which would result, we doubt not, in good. To make ourselves distinctly intelligible, we are in favor of giving the election of Governor and the electors of President and Vice President to the people.

SALE OF SLAVES.—The following prices were given for slaves sold at Lynchburg, Va., on Saturday: Richard, wife and child, sold for \$1,210; Saily, a small girl, \$453; Tom, small boy, \$280; Matilda, a mulatto girl about 20 years old, \$806. Total \$2,749. One other small boy sold for \$375.

ALABAMA AGAINST A STATE CONVENTION.—Sufficient returns have now been received to indicate that the people of Alabama have voted largely against a Convention being held to revise the Constitution of that State.

NOMINATIONS FOR CONGRESS.—Hon. Joshua R. Giddings has been re-nominated for Congress by county free soil meetings in Lake and Ashtabula, Ohio. Col. Wm. A. Richardson has been re-nominated for Congress in the fifth district of Illinois.

A great mortality among cattle prevails in the neighborhood of Memphis, Tenn. Some of the farmers have lost nearly all their stocks.

For the Camden Journal. A CHARADE.

A poet who, our passions sways, By his moving, melting lays, A warrior renowned and bold, Whose deeds have been sung by poets of old. A king whose young days were spent, In the wild woods, 'neath a rude shepherd's tent. A tyrant whose hands were stained, With the blood of the innocent whom he had slain. A philosopher who for his doctrines mild, Was cruelly treated, and rudely reviled. My whole a poet whose soul-stirring strain, The prince and the peasant alike entertain.

K. M.

Answer to be given in the next paper.

From the Lancaster Ledger. Prolific Grain.

MR. EDITOR: In my crop of Wheat in 1850, my Overseer, of my plantation in York District, discovered, as he thought, a new kind of Wheat. On being shown a head of it, I told him it was Barley; how it came there we are at a loss to say. He takes this bunch, yielding about 400 grains, and drills in my wheat ground which he manured with Cotton seed. About one third of it did not yield in proportion to the balance, being planted in rather wet ground—this crop was a little short of three pecks, last fall the same was sowed in thin fresh land, some in the drill, the balance broad cast, which has yielded thirty bushels and a half well cleaned Barley.—This crop exceeds your fine beets, turnips, or corn.

T. K. CURETON.

P. S. I have no desire that the Committee who are inspecting the Crops of the neighborhood should look at mine. I will make my own Bread and Meat. I have no objection to giving them and yourself, dinners of fine Ham, Mutton of the fine Bakewell stock, and of fowl of the large Shanghai breed.

T. K. C.

Waxhaw Creek, August 2, 1852.

COTTON STATEMENT.—There have been received in Charleston during the past week 3,269 bales, (corresponding week last year 1,552.) Exported in the same time to foreign ports 4,877 bales; coastwise 1,607 bales; making the total exports of the week 6,484 bales; and leaving on hand a stock of 11,382 bales, inclusive of 11,265 bales on shipboard not cleared, against a stock of 20,670 bales same time last year.

The total receipts since our last report amount to 10,175 bales, (against 5,385 bales same week last year;) making a grand total since the 1st September to date of 3,001,086 bales, against 2,316,788 bales the same time last year, and 2,047,319 bales the year previous.

The total exports to foreign ports amount to 2,415,071 bales, showing an increase of 479,758 bales from those of last year to the same time. The shipments to Northern ports show an increase of 285,337 bales. The stock on hand at all the ports is 45,101 bales less than those of last year at the same period.

A NEW THRESHING MACHINE.—Mr. Palmer of North Carolina, has invented a new threshing machine, which is now on exhibition in New York. The editor of the Express, who witnessed a trial of it recently, says:

"It threshed out with perfect cleanness every kernel, so far as we could see, of every grain put into it, from the tiny timothy seed to the Long Island wheat, and we are perfectly convinced that it is the best machine of the kind we have ever seen. We are assured that with four men to feed a No. 1. double machine, it can take one hundred cut leads of wheat in the morning, lying in the sheaf pass it through the thrasher, separate every kernel from the straw winnow, clean, and put into bags 1,500 bushels before sun set."

SPONTANEOUS PRODUCE OF WHEAT.—We have been furnished with the following statement by Mr. Wyatt Lipscomb, a highly respectable citizen of this District, under whose personal observation the subjunct facts occurred: In 1849, a parcel of ground, about six Acres, was sowed in wheat which was destroyed by rust and was not reaped. In 1850, the ground was not cultivated. In 1851, the ground was cultivated in corn, and a harvest of that grain was reaped. In 1852, volunteer wheat was discovered, which was supposed to be cheat, but was suffered to grow up and mature. It turned out, however, to be excellent wheat, and the crop was reaped, producing 34 3/4 bushels from six Acres of ground. This was indeed an extraordinary circumstance in agricultural experience.—Carolina Spartan.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN SWEDEN.—A struggle against the iron intolerance of Swedish Lutheranism would appear to have begun among the clergy themselves. Two petitions, originating with a Priests' Society in Stockholm, have been addressed to the King, which expressed the truth on the great subject of religious liberty and the violation of it by the Swedish laws. The petitions declare that liberty of conscience is no less a civil than a religious right; that the present legislation is monstrous, so late as 1846 a person being fined nearly £6 and additional 5s for Sabbath-breaking, for reading some Bible extracts and the Lord's Prayer to a few people on a Sunday; that the holy sacraments are degraded into civil tests, people taking the Lord's Supper only to be able to marry, or buy or sell, while the sacrament of baptism is often administered by force to the infants of dissenting parents that the banishment of Swedish subjects believing contrary to the State Church merely makes the multitude hypocrites while it covers the Swedish name with infamy abroad, that Sweden is the only Protestant country where such occasion for reform, it must be a rigid type of conservatism that will not wish success to this movement.

"NEVER WEARY IN WELL-DOING."—The Centreville (Md.) Times says, that Matthew Graves, of that county, on Tuesday last walked twenty-eight miles for the purpose of procuring a marriage license to marry his fifth wife. He is seventy years of age.

TELEGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE.

BALTIMORE, AUGUST 8.—In eighteen counties of North Carolina the Hon. David S. Reid, the Democratic candidate for Governor, gains 650 votes. The Whigs have a net gain of three in the House of Commons. The Senate, however, will probably be Democratic.

BALTIMORE, Aug. 8.—Hon Robert Rantoul, a Representative from Massachusetts, died at Washington this morning, after three days illness. His body passed through this city this afternoon on its way to Boston.

We learn from St. Louis that Benton, Phelps and Lamb, (Democrats,) and Oliver, and Miller, (Whigs,) are elected to Congress.

Mr. Webster arrived in New York to-day, on his way to Washington.

NEW YORK, August 8. The steamship Pacific has arrived with Liverpool dates to the 28th ult. The sales of Cotton for the three days preceding amounted to 44,000 bales, of which 12,000 were to speculators, and 5000 for Export. The quotations have advanced an eighth.

Changes in the British Ministry were talked of. The elections for Members of Parliament were nearly over, and the Ministerial majority was about 24. [We presume to obtain so favorable a showing for Ministers, the moderate Conservatives are classed as their friends.]

There was great rioting at the Limerick election in Ireland. The mob assailed the military, who fired on them, killing eight, and wounding many others.

From Paris we have rumors of a coup d'etat on the 15th of August. The approaching marriage of the President to the Princess of Baden, and grand-daughter of Eugene Beauharnais, is talked of.

SOME OF THE RICH ANCIENTS.—We suppose there are people in all parts of the United States that think they are pretty well off—even rich. We know a few unfortunate individuals that labor under this hallucination, and that with a mixture of pity and contempt upon their fellow worms of the dust, whom they think have less of the "dust" than themselves. But heaven help these poor wretches, they have not the slightest conception of what wealth is. They rich, forsooth! They are beggars comparatively. Many a rich man's upper servants live in better style. Mr. Croesus, who flourished before our time, and whom the reader has doubtless heard of, used to say that a citizen who had not a fortune sufficient to support an army, or a legion did not deserve the title of rich man, and he is good authority. His property alone was worth the snug little sum of \$8,500,000. Then he possessed slaves, furniture, horses, cattle and cash to an equal amount, making the comfortable sum of \$17,000,000.

Mr. Croesus was a rich man, but many of the old gentlemen that kicked the bucket centuries ago were richer than he. There was Seneca, the philosopher, that uttered and wrote some tolerable good things considering the age in which he lived, was worth \$17,500,000! Many modern authors would doubtless have been glad to have been remembered in the old fellow's will. And so they were all of them. He has left them an invaluable legacy if they would but accept it; and this it is: whenever you have written a book lay it aside for nine years at the expiration of that time, peruse it carefully; and then if your judgement approve publish it but not before.

Julius Caesar, like Watkins Macawber, Esq., was so continually incurring pecuniary liabilities that he found it difficult to discharge. He set a high value upon friendship, having purchased that of Lucius Palus for \$1,500,000, and that of Curio for \$2,500,000. He was a terrible spendthrift. Before he succeeded in obtaining any office he had amassed debts to the amount of \$14,975,000. But office-holders had good pickings in those days, as well as in our own; and as soon as Julius got his hand into the Public Treasury, his debts began to diminish. He soon became rich. He gave Servilla, the mother of Brutus, a pearl of the value of \$200,000. He would doubtless have been guilty of a great many other extravagancies, had not "the well beloved Brutus" given him that cruel stab under the fifth rib.—On the day of the assassination, Caesar's friend, Marc Anthony, owed \$1,500,000, which was paid thirty days afterward. This same Anthony subsequently swallowed a pearl dissolved in vinegar (which Cleopatra administered to him,) worth \$400,000. He also squandered \$735,000,000 of the public treasure. He would have been a splendid fellow to have held a fiscal agency under our Federal Government.

Tiberi at his death left \$118,125,000, which Caligula spent in less than twelve months. He lived at the rate of \$350,000 a day; one supper cost him \$400,000.

Esopus, the comedian even transcended Caligula in extravagance, having given \$400,000 for one single dish. He had one son, Clodius, who was a chip of the old block. Among other costly feats, Clodius swallowed a pearl (a la Anthony) valued at \$5,000.

Appian another Roman millionaire, squandered in debauchery some \$2,500,000; after which finding himself accidentally sober one day he investigated his pecuniary affairs, and finding that he had only half a million dollars left, he poisoned himself because he considered that sum insufficient for his maintenance.

Another gentleman, Lucullus, seldom sat down to a repast that cost less than \$100,000. His pritable eclipsed the "ladies' ordinaries" of twenty of the best hotels in the world. The fish from his ponds were sold for \$165,000.—N. Y. Musical World.

MELANCHOLY CASUALTY.—The Literary Vade Mecum, published at Buena Vista Georgia, says an interesting child about three years old, of Mr. Benajah Peacock, residing some four or five miles from that town was so severely stung by bees one day week before last that it died the next morning. It appears that the parents of the child were not at the house at the time, and the child had gone near where a swarm of bees had settled, and perhaps irritated them when they flew it upon and before it could be rescued, it had been so severely stung, as to cause its death.

"O, dear," said a fashionable girl, when she first beheld a cucumber. "I always thought such things grew in slices."