ISLAND OF CUBA. - It is evident that the political fortunes of this Island have nearly reached their point of culmination. The exertions of Spain to maintain her supremacy there are spasmodic. Her empire over that beautiful Island is virtually at an end. She may maintain an armed police a little longer, to repress the spirit of disaffection, but it will soon break through all artificial impediments. It is impossible to combine into social quiet such discordant ele ments as now exist in the Island of Cuba. The European Spaniard and the Creole present an antagonism, that no human policy can reconcile. The former is the embodiment of selfishness, if not rapacity. He makes his appearance on the scene to extract all the wealth he can by the monoply of office and exclusive privilege. The office. It is impossible to reconcile such hostile constituents in the social body.

Colonial revolution almost always has its source in the advancement of the myrmidons of a court-the members of a needy aristocracy -over the heads of the native population, more gifted and more capable. The burthen of taxation will be more readily borne than distinctions drawn between the two classes as regards official employment. This was the leading cause that severed from the sovereignty of old Spain her and South American colonies. In the case of Cuba it is this circumstance of alienation that is silently operating, aggrivated by even more grinding exactions and corrupt monopolies. Looking therefore at the independence of Cuba as a fair accompli, her future political condition naturally presents to the American statesman subjects of great anxiety.

It is in all its aspects a matter of extraordi nary complexity. It would not be difficult for the Government of the United States to adopt that line of policy which would be conformable to their permanent interests, whilst it would be coincident with what ought to be preserved by the great maritime powers of Europe. The independence of Cuba, under the guarantee of England, France and the United States, leaving her to choose her own form of government and the maintenance of her own internal relations, would be the dictate, perhaps, of well considered public policy. The wishes or efforts of Spain would or ought not to be an element in the question, if she is unable to maintain her sovereignty. For her to transfer her dominion for any consideration, pecuniary or otherwise, accompanied by conditions inimical to the safety of any portion of the United States, could not of course be permitted by them. If there was acquiescence by or concert between her and the other maritime powers of Europe in any such arrangement, of necessity, we would proceed to any hostile length to break up or defeat such a combi-

We have no misgivings on this subject of a concert between those powers and Spain, to effect any such atrocious purpose as has been indicated. We feel assured Cuba if is permitted to work out her own deliverance, by her own unassisted energies, that her independence would be protected by the three powers most interested in its maintenance. But the difficulty is here, and this very much complicates the question, that our Government will not be permitted by our own people to follow the suggestions of a forbearing policy. There is a party in the United States which looks to ascendancy by urging interference in the affairs of Cuba. This party, of which some of our Western statesmen in Congress are the exponents, do not recommend intervention in the affairs of Cuba as a part of our origonal policy, with a view, the Cubans being willing, to annexation. It is this party and their influence over popular opinion and in the public councils, which will give, we are apprehensive, more trouble to our Government, as the case becomes one for national determination than the conduct of the Europeans.

Charleston Evening. News.

THE NEW YORK DEMOCRACY .- Some of the democratic party of the city of New York are again at logger-heads, and on Friday night, or rather Saturday morning, a disgraceful scene occurred at Tammany Hall. It appears the General Committee was in session until a late hour. endeavoring to compromise a difficulty in relation to the appointment of Inspectors of Elections, when they were not only overawed and dispersed by a gang of rowdies, who broke into the room at half-past two o'clock in the morning, but some of the members barely escaped with their lives. One gentleman, Mr. Quinn, of the nineteenth ward, was severely injured, and Mr. Daniel Sickles had to risk his life by throwing himself out of a back window. The rowdies were in the interest of the barnburner faction, and bore down the majority of the com-

Two Sabbaths .-- At Waverly, R. I., is represented the very singular feature of two Sabbaths every week. Almost one-half of the inhabitants are Seventh Day Baptists, who keep Saturday with great sacredness, and on no account will do any work. The remainder observe Sunday as a holy day, and as studiously avoid all labor. The result is that on Saturday a portion may be seen going to church, a part of the stores are closed, and some of the factories are shorthanded or closed entirely. On Sunday the same thing is to be observed. A part are engaged in public worship and acts of devotion, while their neighbors are busily at work and public worship is disturbed by the din of business and the noisy bustle of the crowd. Both parties appear strictly conscientious and live peaceably together.

. THE PUBLIC LANDS .- The defeat of Mr. Hale's motion to take up the free farm bill in the U. S. Senate, on Friday, by the decisive vote of 28 nays to 16 yeas, is pretty good evidence that the sound sense of the majority of our Senators will keep them aloof from this illegal and unjust measure during the present session. Mr. Hale is very desirous of gaining strength for the coming presidential campaign by advocating this abominable scheme to defraud the government of the public lands-it being one of the heterogeneous ingredients composing the platform of the free-soil party. A Washington letter writer thinks that it is possible the Senate may take up and push through, before the close of the session, the House bill for the distribution | a cent for each ounce or fraction of an ounce .of a portion of the public lands among all the The postage on all transient matter shall be pre-States.

Chimneys.

In building flue chimneys, in brick walls, the inside should be plastered as carefully and smoothly as the finishing coat of a parlor. Masons do not do this; they put on the common lime used by them for jointing, and the interior surface is covered without a proper regard being paid to the functions of the chimney. The reasons for laying on the lime coat of a chimney smooth, are obvious, if we take into consideration that the rough edges of the lime, when dry, serve as points of attraction and adhesion for soot, because they resist the passage of the smoke. A smooth chimney has a better draught, to use a common term, than one with a rough interior; the reason of this is also obvious, because rough surfaces retard the passage of smoke, as well as latter is the victim of grinding exactions, and water or any other substance in motion is retardexclusion from the honors and emoluments of ed by them. In the building of houses, masons are too careless about these things; indeed, the majority of them do not appear to have any knowledge of natural philosophy, yet there is carrier, but stands high as a workman according as he is well informed.

Were it not for the general form of the walls of buildings, it would be much better to have the chimneys built of a round or oval shape like the funnel of a steamboat. The flues in brick houses should be built circular inside this would be a little more troublesome, but the flues would be all the better for it; yet, if they were his mightiest works are but as vanity, and lighter than only plastered smooth, no one would have to complain of a square or rectangular form.

Some chimneys are built with tremendous gaping fire-places, others are built wide at the base, and taper towards the top: both plans are erroneous. A moderate width of fire place is all that is required (we have wonderfully improved our forefathers in this respect,) and it would be far better, if a chimney is built tapering, to have the widest part at the top, where the smoke is to make its exit. A reason for this is, that when the smoke is confined below, and suddenly allowed to expand at the top, it forms a partial vacuum, which draws up the smoke. It is upon this principle that Prof. Espy's Ventilator is constructed. It may be said the open expanse above the chimney, allows the smoke to expand, therefore it is of no use to widen the top of the chimney inside; this is very true.

The rules which should be followed in the building of a chimney, is to build it of a uniform diameter from bottom to top, not too wide, and

smoothly covered with plaster inside. The object of writing this article was to direct attention to making the interior of chimneys smooth and well covered with lime. In many eases there are chimneys built for small houses, of a diameter which would enable them to carry smoke away from one of Collins' steamships. Masons do not appear to take into consideration, when they build a chimney, what it has to do, namely, to carry off the smoke from one or two fires. The narrower the chimney the better will it draw, consequently a wide chimney for a small fire—a very common error—embraces a scientific principle, as erroneous as it would be to array Tom Thumb in a suit belonging to Giant Hale, for the purpose of refrigeration in the dog-days. We have used the term draw, in respect to the current in the chimney, as it is generally underst od; the principle of draught in a chimney has nothing to do with pulling or drawing the smoke: pressure, expansion, and absorption are the governing causes of aerial currents. Sciontific American.

EARTHQUAKE,-The shock of an earthquake was felt in our city yesterday morning about twenty minutes before three o'clock.

The vibrations were sensibly felt, and several persons in the city were so startled as to run out which it appears that the Democrats have a majority of their houses into the open air. We were of two on joint ballot. This will secure a Democratic awakened from a sound sleep by the rattling of the windows of our dwelling, and by a faint, dull, rumbling noise as of distant thunder. We awoke with the impression that some one was beating at the back door of the story below for admission, but almost instantly became satisfied that it was an earthquake. After the noise and vibrations, which lasted about six seconds, ceased, we arose and looked first at the Southern portion of the heavens. The stars were shining brightly and tranquilly, the air was still, and the sky in that direction, was suffused with a delicate roseate tint. We went to the adjoining room and looked to the Northern sky. It were the ordinary appearance of a cloudless heaven.

As we referred to our watch a very few minutes afterwards, we speak with certainty as to the time. The Foreman of our office, however, is very positive that he felt vibrations which he says seemed to be from South to North, and heard the rumbling noise of an earthquake about half after one o'clock. He left the printing rooms at ten minutes after one, and had retired to his room and to bed, on the opposite side of the street, but a few minutes, and before he went to sleep the shock occurred. If so, there were certainly two shocks at least, which is highly probable. We believe it is the uniform custom of earthquakes to notify their existence by repeated shocks.

We await with much interest, details from other and distant portions of the country.

Augusta Constitutionalist.

Modification of the Rates of Postage .-The House bill for the modification of the rates of postage, passed by the Senate on Friday, in its passage through that body, received an important amendment to the section relating to the transportation of newspapers. The following is the section as passed by the Senate:

"Newspapers, periodicals and all printed matter not exceeding three ounces in weight shall be sent to any part of the United States for one cent, and for any additional ounce or fraction of an ounce one cent: and where the postage is paid quarterly or regularly in advance either at the office where the said news-papers or periodical is mailed or delivered, one-half of said rates the price asked being twenty-five thousand dollars. only shall be charged. News-papers not weighing over an ounce and a half when circulated in the State where published shali be charged one-half of the rates before named: Provided. That small newspapers, published monthly or oftener, when sent in packages to one address, prepaid by affixing stamps theto, shall be charged at half paid or charged double the foregoing rates.'

THE SEMI-WEEKLY JOURNAL.

TUESDAY EVENING AUGUST 31, 1852.

THO. J. WARREN, Editor.

Erratum.

An error occurred in the communication of Col. Ker-SHAW, published on Friday, which we are requested to correct. In the first paragraph, fourth line from the bottom, for any accommodation, read monied accommodation.

Heavy Freshet.

We are exceedingly sorry to state that a very heavy freshet has occurred in our river. On Friday last, a tremendous storm passed over, carrying with it limbs of trees, leaves, &c., accompanied with heavy rains. The result of this storm and the rains above, have caused the largest freshet in our river, which has taken place for over twenty years. The Freshet of 1831, when the no man living, be he mason, plasterer, or hod- Bridge was destroyed, was the largest on record, and to property in Hamburg and to the crops on the this is considered equal to, if not higher than that .-The destruction of crops is universal and immense. Many of our largest plantations are total wrecks, and we are afraid that nothing will be saved. Thus in a few hours have the toil and labor of hundreds been cut off, and in place of abundant corn and cotton-crops, ruin and devastation are seen. Truly we cannot tell what a day may bring forth; and the labor of man and 1840. the dust of the ballance, compared to that power which points the course of the storm, and directs the whirlwind on its way.

> We are afraid that the trestle work over the Wateree Swamp will be destroyed, and fears are entertained in regard to the safety of the Rail Road Bridge over the river. We must, however, hope for the best, for as disheartening as every thing is, still things might be a

We understand the freshets in Big and Little Luches Creeks have also been very heavy and destructive.

Camden Bridge Safe.

There was a rumor this morning, that our Bridge had been swept off during the night, which we are glad to say is incorrect, and the Bridge is still standing. As the water is falling, very little apprehension is now felt as to its safety.

Freshet in the Congaree.

A Telegraphic despatch received yesterday evening from Columbia, says, "there is the largest freshet ever known in our river."

Congaree Rail Road Bridge Gone.

We learn from passengers by the Cars last evening, hat the Railroad Bridge across the Congaree river has been swept off. We understand the disaster will cause no interruption in travel, as the Company are provided with boats to convey the mails and passengers across the river, and the well known energy of the President warrants us in saying that the damage will be repaired in the shortest time possible after the waters subside.

Change of Mail Routes.

The people of the North western portion of our Discriet, (says the Darlington Flag) who have for some months past, suffered such inconvenience for want of proper mail facilities, we are happy to learn will hereafter be better accommodated. The route from Bishopville to Swift creek will extend to Darlington C. H., and the one from Mt. Elon to Tillers Ferry will commence at Swift creek. Also a second weekly trip will be performed to Hartsville and back. This change will be made on the 1st of September.

North Carolina.

The last North Carolina Standard contains complete returns of the election held on the 5th instant, from U. S. Senator in place of Mr. Mangum, Whig

Congress.

The intelligence from this body, whose deliberations will close to day, is not very interesting. Reports &c. from the chiefs of the several Departments make up the largest amount of business, and personal debates and Presidential squabbles, characterize the closing scenes of the first Session of the thirty-second Congress. We perceive that a highly offensive and personal debate in the House has recently taken place between Messrs. POLK and CULLOM, of Tenn. These discussions are unworthy of gentlemen occupying the position which members of Congress ought to have. We are not, however, much surprised at any thing now a days, and the not always imply that he is a gentleman. These things ought not so to be, but such is nevertheless the case,

Tobacco.

This plant was found in use among the Indians when this country was discovered. The smoking of tobacco is, among them, a token of peace; and well it may be, for its use in this way has a powerful effect in tranquilizing the mind. Sir Walter Raleigh, on his return from Virginia introduced this weed into that country. It is said of him that, one day while his servant was absent from his room, he indulged in the luxury of his pipe; on the return of the servant, with a vessel of water, and seeing the smoke issuing from the pipe, in his surprise he threw the water upon his master, supposing him to be on fire. This nauseous weed has now become an article of necessity, to the civilized, as well as uncivilized portion of the world. It is raised more extensively in Virginia than in any of the Southern States, and hence has received the appellation of "Virginia Weed." It is also cultivated in North Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee, and was formerly produced in large quantities in South Carolina and Georgia. Cotton in those States has now almost entirely superseded it, so that but little is now grown there.

NEW YORK RENTS .- The New York papers mention a great increase of rents in that city. The New York Express says it has been informed that \$21,000 per year has been offered for the store now about to be erected at the corner of Liberty-street and Broadway, thirty feet front and one hundred feet deep, and refused, The basement and sub-cellar of the store now building at the corner of Nassau and Liberty streets is \$12,000.

WEBSTER IN NORTH CAROLINA.-The last Wilming-

on Commercial says: "We are gratified in being able to state, that the number of those in this region who will vote the Web-ster and Graham ticket is much larger than was at first anticipated. We trust that steps will be immediately taken to hold a meeting for a proper organization of the Webster and Graham Whigs. TELEGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE.

GREAT FRESHET AT AUGUSTA.-The Western mail failed on Saturday beyond Augusta, and vesterday the cars from Augusta did not arrive at all, in consequence, we presume, of a freshet having occurred at Hamburg, as we learn from the subjoined telegraphic despatch published in the Savannah Courier of yesterday, that a most destructive freshet had taken place, at Augusta, as well as at Columbia:-

"Augusta, Aug. 28, 10 P. M .- There has been an immense fall of rain above. The river has risen very rapidly, and we have another great freshet. The water is now nearly as high as in 1840. A part of the upper bridge has already been swept away; and it is generally anticipated that the lower bridge will be carried off before morning, as the water is now rising at the rate of ten inches per hour. Both the telegraph wires at the lower bridge are broken, and all the communication with the North cut off. The damage lowlands along the river will doubtless be very great."

COLUMBIA, Aug. 29. There is a heavy freshet in the Congaree, and the Columbia Bridge is in imminent danger, the water at this moment being three feet above the highest point ever known, which was in

The Broad River Bridge has been swept away, and a section of it came with great force against the Columbia Bridge damaging the latter to a considerable extent. It is, however, considered that the Columbia Bridge will not be floated off, as the water is now eighteen inches below

The crops above this town have been materially injured, but to what extent it is impossible,

at present, to ascertain.

An unprecedented freshet has occurred at Broad River Bridge, two miles above Columbia, Bruxter's trestle work has been destroyed to the extent of six hundred feet. It belonged to the Greenville Rail Road Company.

The Bridge at Frost's mills has been washed away with the exception of one span .- Charleston Courier.

The Jail in this place, says the Marion Star, of the 24th inst., was broken on Saturday night last, the 21st inst., and two white prisoners, Freeman and Daniels, escaped through a hole in the wall, made by removing the bricks that underlay the window sill. Freeman was in prison under a Peace warrant, and Daniels under sentence for manslaughter. They let themselves down from the third story by blankets tied together. One of them must have had a fall, as the blanket rope was found broken on the following morning. They have not yet been captured.

ANOTHER CONVENTION. - The Southern Rights Committee have called another State Convention to meet in Montgomery (Ala.) on the 2d Monday in September, for the purpose of discussing the Presidential question, Gen. Pierce having failed to answer the interrogatories propounded to him, and Gen. Scott, as heretofore mentioned, having declined to reply thereto.

EARLY CORN.-Col. H. R. Price, of Lancaster C. H., states in the last Ledger, that he has been using this year's Corn Meal, since the 15th inst., corn well matured, and makes good meal. Col. Price adds, "Necossity being the mother of invention, when corn was scarce and hard to procure, I planted several acres of early corn, such as will make two crops in one year."

Rev. Robert Ryland, President of Richmond College, Va., has declined the honorary D. D. which was conferred on him by Shurtleff College, Ill., for which he king to himself, was saying, "Oh! I can't hold on gives two reasons: first that such titles do not seem much louger. If papa was here, he would hold to accord with the simplicity of the Gospel; and secondly, that if they do, he is not sufficiently learned to

The Supreme Court of Mississippi have decided that when the trustees of a corporation which has forfeited his relief, as he was nearly exhausted by the its charter have collected enough of its assets to pay the debts of the incorporation, their power ceases, and no suits can be maintained to collect the remainder.

The Crops.

The following intelligence, which we select from our neighboring exchanges in relation to the state of the crops, may not prove uninteresting to many of our readers. We regret, however, to hear of the continued ravages of the caterpillar, which, in some parts of the country. bid fair to depreciate materially the value of the simple fact of a man being a member of Congress, does crops. It does not appear limited to the sections from which we have previously heard, as may reasonably have been anticipated, but, as and we have little or no hope of things getting better. | we learn from a correspondence of the Savannah Georgian, dated Liberty county, 23d instant, has made its appearance simultaneously over all that portion of the country. The following conveys rather sad anticipations with regard to the result inst. of their presence:

"Already the fell work of destruction is but too obvious. On the 20th instant, the subscriber with several gentlemen visited the field of a neighbor whose cotton was by no means very luxuriant, and discovered as many as fice of the worms on a single leaf. The riddled and threadbare aspect of the field too, gave evidence that the insect had been at work for many days previous. We hear in other portions of the country of whole fields already denuded of their foliage. Serious injury to the crop, however, will not ensue until the next generation is hatched out, which will remain about ten days longer in the chrysalis state. We may then expect a rapid and complete destruction of the top crop together with all the half grown and partially matured bolls elsewhere to be found. The curtailment to the crop in such an event cannot be less than a third, while many from past experience estimate it at one half. "Nous verous."

The crops in the neighborhood are good, and we learn the Rice harvest will commence on some plantations on Black River and Santee on Saturday next. The Corn crops are very good; but jail .- Cheraw Gazette 24th inst. the difficulty of curing folder, in consequence of the continued rains is a matter of general complaint. The health of our town continues good. Georgetown Republican.

THE COTTON WORM.—We understand that the cotton worms continue their ravages upon the sea oast of South-Carolina. In the vicinity of Beaufort, St. Helena, and in the forks of the Congaree, several crops have been almost entirely destroyed. We also hear that they have made their appearance upon Wilmington and St. Simon's is- of the funds so created, with pianes ranging lands, though not in sufficient numbers to create from \$250 to \$500.

apprehensions of heavy losses. In Liberty, Mcintosh, Glynn, and Cainden, we hear of them in different and distant localities. We still hope that our friends of the 'long staple' may be so for tunate as to escape a general visitation. Their fate the past few years has been a hard one. May their future be more prosperous.

Savannah Courier.

THE RICE Crop.—We are informed by the principal Rice merchants in this city that the planters generally have commenced harvesting their Rice. The crop is universally a good one.

The exceptions to this general rule are owing almost entirely to some defect or mistake in the culture. The weather thus far has not been propitious for saving the crop; nor does it promise much better for the future. If, however the searson should be even ordinarily good, and the pre-ent prices be maintained, the planters will recare a handsome reward for their toil.-Ibid.

THE WEATHER, &c .- We have had some of the hardest, and most incessant showers it has been our lot to experience for many years, con mencing on Friday last, and hardly over to-day, though well mixed with sunshine. Great day mage has been done to mills, dams, and bottom, hundreds of acres of corn having been under water in our district, besides several bridges and mills being washed away. We had hoped the hardest of the rain was immediately in our vicinity, but we find such is not the case, as com-plaints keep coming in from all quarters. When everything was so promising it comes quite hard for us to think it "all for the best."

We regret to learn that an interesting little daughter of Mr. Hamilton Stinson, about 8 years old, was drowned in attempting to cross on a log. over Turkey Creek, in company with a younger brother. The little fellow escaped, but he is too young to give particulars. It is presumed his sister's clothes prevented her struggling out.

Yorkville Remedy 25th inst.

The New Crop .- Two bales of Cotton of the new crop, were received on Saturday by Messrs. Scaife, Hill and Co. This is the first in our market, and was received from Oglethorpe, Ga. via Savannah. It classed as Good Middling, and was sold a few minutes after its arrival at 12 cents. Charleston Mercury of Monday.

INCIDENTS CONNECTED WITH THE COLLISION ON LAKE ERIE.—Capt. Pelty, of the Atlantic, while lowering a lifeboat, fell into it, a distance of 11 feet striking his head and cutting it badly. He was precipitated into the water and supposed to be lost, but was picked up by a boat from the propeller, after clinging for fifteen minutes to floating pieces of timber. He is much injured, and now lies in Erie, in a precarious state.

Dr. Dana, who was lost, was very efficient in saving the lives of passengers, and exhorted them to cling to the life-preservers when in the water. When the boat went down, he took a settee and plunged overboard, but at the same moment some twenty or thirty emigrants leaped over on

to him, and he went under. The last persons taken from the boat were Mr. Givan, clerk of the boat, and Mr. Buell first engineer. The steamer had then sunk all but her stern, and they, with some Illinois passengers, were clinging to a rope, attached to a floating mast and the wreck, being up to their shoulders

As soon as the shricks of the drowning pas-sengers were hushed, the voice of a little boy was heard, and it was then first discovered that a child about 8 years old, was also clinging to a rope a short distance off. The little fellow, tal-

The man from Illnois, a fine, powerful fellow, immediately moved a long rope, and seized the boy as he was about to sink. He held him for some time, and called out to Givan to come to weight. Givan made an attempt to reach him, but in vain. At that moment the boat of the propeller, loaded to the water's edge with rescued passengers passed, and Givan hailed them, and entreated them to save the boy. Mr. Blodgett first mate of the Atlantic, who was on board, jumped out, and swam to the rope, took the boys off and returned to the boat with him. He was

NEW COTTON.-Mr. James Robinson, has sent us a boll of new Cotton. This is the first opened Cotton we have heard of in the District. There has been so much rain of late, we fear it has retarded the growth and development of the Cotton crop very much. Corn is now made, and a harvest will be realized, that will bring cheer to old men's hearts, and stir young farmers to greater and renewed energy .- Lancaster Ledger, 24th

REMARKABLE CASE OF LONGEVITY .- Died in this District, on the 17th inst., Mrs., Rebecca Gent, aged one hundred and ten years, a native of Lancaster District. She enjoyed good health until about two years past, and supported herself by her industry up to that time.' Four months after her marriage, her husband enlisted and joined the Indian war, and served five years; he then returned to his wife and lived with her the remainder of his days, and reared a large family, of whom three of their children are alive at this time, the oldest persons known in this District perhaps.—Ib.

PAINFUL RUMOR .- Rumor has it, that a rencontre occurred at Wadesboro, on Sunday morning, between M. J. Picket, Esq., and a Mr. Boyd, in which the former received two pistol shots in the abdomen, which, it is thought, will prove fatal. We have not the particulars, which we suppose can only be elicited by a judicial investigation. Mr. Boyd surrendered himself up to the officers of the law, and is, we understand, in

Piano Association .- A project for providing everybody with a piano on easy terms, has been started in New York. The plan is on the principle of the building associations. Each member pays three dollars per month, or five if a piano is desired immediately, till the wholeamount is paid-less monthly than the tenth of a piano would be-and at the end of four years it is expected all the members will be supplied, out