

## Terrible Steamboat Disaster.

New York, Sept. 6.

The year 1852 will be memorable in the annals of this state for the number of dreadful calamities which have occurred in it. Not to speak of the tragedy at the Staten Island Ferry, and other casualties of equal horror, the terrible disasters of the Henry Clay and Atlantic are still vividly before the memory. The shrieks of the dying sufferers by those calamities are scarcely out of our ears, before another wail of agony sweeps down the Hudson, and we are again shocked by the intelligence that twenty-eight persons have been killed, and that seventeen others are suffering tortures from scalds, which may yet, perhaps, result in death.

The steamboat Reindeer, Capt. C. W. Fernham, left this city at 7 o'clock on Saturday morning, for Albany. About quarter past one o'clock she reached the Malken or Bristol landing, where passengers for Saugerties were set ashore, after which the lines were cast off, and the pilot pulled the bell of the engine-room to "go ahead," the boat having at that time 169 passengers on board, and a crew of 33 men.—The paddle wheels had scarcely made one revolution when "the back connection of all the fire box exploded" with tremendous force, carrying away the smoke pipe and pilot house, shattering the upper saloon, and tearing away a temporary bulkhead deck.

Fifty or sixty passengers were seated at dinner in the lower cabin, and the doors being open the steam rushed in with great velocity. Three were killed instantly, three others died as soon as they were taken out into the fresh air, and the remainder were scalded so dreadfully that twenty-two have since died, and others are still in danger. Very few persons above deck were injured. The boiler in which the explosion took place was situated about midships with its flues and furnaces facing toward the stern of the boat, and about fifty feet from the cabin.

Many of the passengers who escaped injury from the explosion, were greatly terrified by the idea that the steamer was on fire, and several jumped overboard, but only one was drowned. It was soon discovered that the alarm as to fire was groundless, and the panic then subsided.

The surviving sufferers were conveyed on shore, and provided with apartments in the Malden House and other hotels, where every possible attention was shown them.

The residents made every exertion to alleviate the pain of the scalded, bringing in quantities of blankets, oil, wool, &c., and Drs. Dowers, A. B. and W. C. Dewitt, Vedder, Rogers, and Charles Dewitt, of Saugerties, with Dr. Geo. Lorillard, of Rhinebeck, and Dr. Irving and son, of South Carolina, were promptly in attendance.—*Com. Adv.*

## Later from Havana.

EARTHQUAKE IN SANTIAGO DE CUBA.—By the steamship Black Warrior, which arrived at Mobile on Thursday, we have received copies of the Diario de la Marina of Havana of the 13th and 14th ult. The only item of news we can find is the account of a terrible earthquake at Santiago de Cuba, by which nearly the whole town was destroyed.

It commenced about half-past 3 o'clock in the afternoon of the 20th ult. Another shock was felt at 20 minutes past 5, another at 9 o'clock at night, another at 1, and the fifth, the strongest shock of all, at half-past 3 o'clock in the morning. At 5 o'clock there was a slight shock felt, and the following day was cloudy and rainy, and one or two slight shocks were felt in the afternoon. Every house in the city was more or less injured, and the inhabitants, who had all ran to the churches in the first moments of terror, were compelled to abandon these and take refuge in the open places, the plantations and fields around the city, and the vessels in the harbor. The latter were crowded with the terrified population, who, says the Redactor, were treated with the utmost kindness by the captains and crews of the foreign as well as the Spanish vessels. There was but one single exception to this conduct, and that was on the part of the captain of the American ship John Straund, who ordered his crew to haul in the plank when he saw the affrighted population rushing towards his vessel. The editor of the Redactor speaks in severe terms of this inhuman conduct, and says: "See this example, you poor fools, who believe that we should look for protectors among our North American brothers!"

The ecclesiastical authority had ordered those churches which had suffered the greatest damage to be closed, to prevent further misfortunes, and had erected altars in the plazas and public places, before which crowds of people were continually prostrating themselves and offering up prayers for their safety.

The loss is roughly estimated at from a million and a half to two millions of dollars, without counting the injuries done to the plantations and villas in the neighborhood.

Letters received from Saltadero say that that village also felt the shocks, but the extent of the damage was not given.

It was thought in Santiago de Cuba that Baracoa must have also suffered from this earthquake, as the steamer Gen. Armero, which should have arrived at Santiago from there on the 21st, had not made her appearance, and it was thought that she had been detained by the authorities of Baracoa to assist the people of that town.—*N. O. Picayune.*

SOMETHING CURIOUS.—Mr. J. K. Irby has informed us of a curious freak performed by something, he supposes by a water-spout, on Friday, the 27th ult., the day of the big rain. The "scene of the operation" is about half a mile below the High Shoal, in this county, and near the place at which Mr. Thos. Baxter is erecting a cotton factory. The water-spout, or whatever it was, struck on a hill sloping at an angle of about 45 degrees, about half way up the hill, on a piece of heavy timbered land, and penetrated to the depth of three feet, where it struck a solid rock, from which it tore the earth for a space about 40 feet wide and 100 feet long, leaving the rock bare. Trees, two feet through, were thrown to the distance of 70 yards.

The earth, together with rocks of enormous size, were precipitated down the hill, and have the appearance of being turned bottom upwards.—Mrs. Baxter informed Mr. Irby that it was accompanied with a noise similar to the blasting of rock, and a bright flash, like lightning, which seemed to dart through the house in which she sat.

Mr. Irby contends that it could not have been a land slide, as the trees which stood highest up the hill were thrown to the greatest distance.—The whole appearance indicates that the earth, trees, stones, and everything, were lifted up and turned right over down the hill.

It is a curious affair, and we hope some one will be able to give us an explanation. There was no thunder and lightning during the day.—*[Mountain (N. C.) Banner.]*

## Mexican Affairs.

A man must have a very active mind, an excellent memory, and good leisure to follow all the pronouncements and little revolutions and threatened coups d'etat which come to us by every arrival from Mexico. The whole country appears to be in a state approaching to anarchy, tolerating the feeblest possible of central Governments, only because there is not some bold hand ready to take up the reins of power which the present rulers are ready to drop, not from inclination, but positive weakness. It seems conceded that any man can get up a revolution on his own hook, at short notice, carrying it on as long as he is disposed, and give it up as he would any other speculation that does not pay. How long this can last is a question for political philosophers, which may be solved for them by some sudden event. A long letter was lately addressed to us from Vera Cruz, prophesying that amidst all these turmoils and disorders, Santa Anna would before long emerge again suddenly, *Deus ex machina.*

Some random speculations are going about, to the effect that England and France are about to form an alliance with Mexico, to repel the encroachments of the United States. We do not believe either France or England has that interest in upholding such a rickety affair as the present Mexican Government is. It would be labor thrown away to attempt to bolster up such proved incapacity. The direct intelligence rather favors the idea that these Governments are tired of being trifled with, and the just claims they represent upon Mexico deferred indefinitely, without any reasonable chance of voluntary security! and they intend to take some steps to exact satisfaction. The United States have no designs of conquest or annexation, or encroachment, to be resisted. They have claims which they deem just, not different in principle from those which England and France represent; and these will be prosecuted by the same national right as theirs, and we doubt not with quite as much forbearance and magnanimity towards a weak neighbor. There is no ground of principle for any such alliance against the United States without assuming a position of open national enmity, which there is nothing in the relations of these Governments towards us to excuse, but, on the contrary everything to make the report incredible.

*N. O. Picayune.*

HOW TO GET A WIFE IN INDIA.—The following mode of obtaining a help-mate, appears wonderful convenient and satisfactory. All the delay and ceremony which precede matrimony amongst us, are avoided by this system:

When a man in a decent rank of life wishes to marry, and can prove that he possesses the means of maintaining a wife, it is customary for him to apply to the mistress of the Byella school, state his wishes and qualifications, and inquire into the number and character of the marriageable girls. An investigation immediately follows as to his eligibility, and if all promises satisfactorily, he is forthwith invited to drink tea with the school-mistress, upon an appointed evening, to give him an opportunity of making his selection.

The elder girls are then informed of this intended visit, and its purport, and those who desire to enter the matrimonial lists come forward, and signify their wish to join the party. Frequently four or five competitors make their appearance on these occasions in the mistress's room. The gentleman while doing his best to make himself universally agreeable, yet contrives in the course of the evening, to mark his preference for one particular lady. Should these symptoms of budding affection be favorably received he tenders his proposals in due form on the following morning, but it often occurs that the selected lady does not participate in the innamorata's sudden flame, in which case she is at perfect liberty to decline the honor of his alliance, and reserves herself for the next tea party exhibition.

We have known an instance where an amorous old gentleman from an out-station presented himself three successive times at these soirées, in the hope of obtaining a wife to cheer the solitude of his up-country residence; but all in vain, the young ladies unanimously rejected him with the highest disdain, wondering how "such an ugly old fellow could have the impudence to think of obtaining a wife!" But a very different reception is given to a dashing young sergeant, or smart looking conductor; their attentions are never repulsed, and the announcement of the "chosen intendeds," as Miss Squeers would say, is anticipated with the utmost impatience by many an anxious young heart. The wedding speedily follows, the bride's modest "trossseau" being provided from the funds of the establishment, and every girl in the school cheerfully contributing her aid in the manufacture of dresses.—*Life in Bombay.*

## Save the Best Seed.

The season has arrived when some of the seeds are ripe, and a little care is necessary in their preservation, not only to secure them from waste, but to preserve only the best for future sowing. Farmers never think of raising a puny, badly formed calf, pig or lamb to be kept as a breeder, but make animals pass the scrutiny of a severe judgement before they decide to propagate from them. The preservation of early, large and perfect seeds for continuing crops is no less important than that of retaining the most thrifty and best-formed animals.

A gentleman in Maryland gathered the earliest and largest heads of wheat from a field, and sowed them, gathering the best and earliest of their produce and sowing again, and continued the process three or four years. In a recent visit to that State, we collected some heads which are now hanging by us, and measure, head and all, 10 inches in length; the grain heads being 5 inches.

This wheat is known by the name of Code Wheat, taking the name of the gentleman who had by his pains increased the quantity and quality so much.

We cut the samples before us from the farm

of Thomas Blagden, Esq., of Washington, one of the best cultivators in that region, who is setting the Marylanders a fine example.

A gentleman in Essex county went through a similar process with onion seed, until seed of his raising sold readily for \$4 a pound while common seed was selling at 50 cents. The great improvement in the crop from these seeds justified the cultivator in paying this great price.

In our farm stock, there are always some who grow up rapidly and strong, taking the lead in health and vigor from the first. It is so with plants. A proper consideration has not been given to this fact.

There will be a succession of seeds coming to maturity until the Indian corn harvest is over; and we are confident that more attention to this point will give us better crops hereafter.

*N. E. Farmer.*

It is remarkable circumstance without parallel in the annals of Congress, that the annual Message of the President lay on the table of the House of Representatives without being referred as is the invariable custom, from the period of being received, until the adjournment. This fact speaks volumes as to the waste of time that characterized the proceedings of a session which was the longest since the establishment of the Government. Political feeling and wordy debate were so overwhelming that system, propriety, patriotism, had no weight in the scale against party interests. The first step in that division of legislative labor that assigns to different Committees specific duties, is to refer the different portions of the President's Message to those Committees. This indispensable preliminary step was unattended to. The Constitution was in its spirit and intention nullified. That instrument makes the duty imperative on the President to suggest such topics for legislation, as his knowledge and experience dictate, being the head of the Government. Yet the House of Representative, instead of regarding any such suggestions at its last session, placed the Message which was to be the guide of legislation, on the table, from which it never was withdrawn. The Message is the document of all others that speaks by authority. Such conduct showed not only omission of duty, in neglect of a relation between the Legislative and Executive, constitutionally indicated, but was evincive of profound disrespect towards the head of the Government.

It is said that the information supplied by the Executive can be obtained as well from the Departments, this forms no valid excuse for ignoring the Annual Message. The authorized medium of communication between the Government and Congress is the President. The Heads of Departments are supposed to address that body when applied to for information, through him.—If then this form of proceeding, by which the different portions of the Message are referred to appropriate committees, is to be dispensed with, because the purposes of such reference can be achieved by addressing the Heads of Departments directly, why may not every other legislative form be dismissed which renders Executive counsel or advice necessary for the completeness of Legislative action? The proceeding is extra-constitutional, to say nothing of the disrespect implied.—*Charleston Evening News.*

NEW POSTAGE LAW.—The new postage law, adopted by Congress goes into operation the 30th inst. The substantial provision are as follows:

"Each newspaper, periodical, unsealed circular, or other articles of printed matter, not exceeding three ounces in weight, shall be sent to any part of the United States for one cent; and for every additional ounce, or fraction of an ounce one cent shall be charged, and when the postage upon any newspaper or periodical is paid yearly or quarterly in advance, at the office of delivery, or at the office where the same is mailed, and evidence of such payment is furnished to the office of delivery in such manner as the Post Office Department shall, by general regulation prescribe, one-half of said rate only shall be charged."

Newspapers weighing not over one and a half ounces, half the above rate where circulated within the state of publication.

Newspapers, papers and pamphlets of not more than 16 pages, 8vo., in packages of not less than eight ounces to one address to be charged half a cent an ounce, though calculated by separate pieces, the postage may amount to more.

Postage on all transient matter to be prepaid or charged double.

Books, bound or unbound, of not more than four pounds each, one cent per ounce, under three thousand miles, and two cents over that distance. Fifty per cent. to be added where not prepaid.

Weekly newspapers free in the county of publication.

Bills, newspapers, and receipts for payments of moneys therefor, may be enclosed in subscriber's papers.

Exchanges between newspaper publishers free. Newspapers, &c., to be so enclosed that the character can be determined without removing the wrapper—to have nothing written or printed on the paper or wrapper beyond the direction, and to contain no enclosure other than the bills or receipts mentioned.

A CHEAP DISINFECTING AGENT.—A correspondent of the Cleveland Herald gives the following piece of intelligence, well worth remembering:

"Heat a shovel not quite to redness, and then place upon it a teaspoonful of freshly-burned coffee, and let it burn in a room where the air is impure. At first you will not perceive the peculiar odor of the coffee at all; in a few minutes, however, you will find that the room is filled with the smell of the coffee, and that every impurity of the atmosphere has been totally destroyed, not smothered. Let some of your scientific readers try it where the air is peculiarly foul, and note the results, and explain the modus operandi of the disinfecting process.

"Remember, the shovel must be only so hot as to cause the coffee to burn with a copious white smoke. To the sick, the odor of the coffee is peculiarly grateful."

APPROPRIATIONS FOR CALIFORNIA.—Congress appropriated \$3,743,143 68 for public works in California, while the receipts from that State into the treasury were less than two million.

## THE SEMI-WEEKLY JOURNAL.

TUESDAY EVENING SEPTEMBER 14, 1852.

THO. J. WARREN, Editor.

## New Cotton.

Six bales of new cotton, the first of the season, were sold in this market on Friday last. They were from the plantation of Mr. James Kelly, of Darlington District, and were purchased by Messrs. George S. Douglas & Co., at 10 1-2 cents.

## Our Wants.

"Our wants are many, and if told, Would muster many a score, And were each wish a mint of gold We still might want for more."

These are general wants, but to come down from the poetical and fancy, to the real, which trouble us more, we wish our country friends would bring along something to sell in the way of Provision, either for man or beast—or rather than be particular, for both. Our supplies are decidedly below par, and any thing in the eating line, would be most voraciously received.

## A Sensible Idea.

We find in the Family Friend the following reasonable and sensible idea, which we not only think well of but are willing to pledge ourselves, with the rest of our brethren, to observe with scrupulous particularity the cash system, by which arrangement all parties will be benefited.

The Friend says:—"If the Convention, which is to meet in December next—and of which it will afford us pleasure to be a member—will make it a point of honor, not to supply a subscriber with a paper until it is settled for, nor insert an advertisement until the money for it has been paid, they will be doing an act of simple justice to themselves, confer a real benefit upon the community, and be entitled to the warmest thanks of every individual connected with the Press of the Southern States."

It is obvious by this arrangement the advantage will be mutual to the publisher and patron—the former would in every case get paid for his labor, whereas, by the present abominable credit system, which has been so completely interwoven in every branch of business, publishers of newspapers in a general way lose about one third of what they honestly earn, and of which they should receive their just dues. Even by the most rigid system of pay as you go, there would be necessarily some money lost by the Printer, for there is no plan or way to avoid it that we know of. But the loss in this case is not comparable to the other, for we assure our paying friends, that we have scores of names upon our subscription Books of which we know nothing in regard to their indebtedness. Worse than all this, there are some so far behind the age of politeness, and business regulations, as to actually order discontinuances, after having received our paper for years, without intimating one word about paying—and moreover some few are so mean that they make us pay nearly double postage, rather than pay the pitiful tariff of three cents. This is worse than picayune meanness—real petty misery, parsimonious littleness—unparalleled in the history of all that is niggardly and contemptible. It is enough for us to lose the amount due the office, without being double-taxed with postage.

## Col. Campbell's Address.

We have been favored with a copy of Col. CAMPBELL'S Address delivered before Recovery Lodge No. 31, A. F. M., at Greenville, S. C., on the 24th June last. It is an able exposition of the principles of the Mystic Order. Although we are not a Mason, yet, we are not among those who oppose it; for we believe it to be a good institution, and even were we disposed to raise objections to it, we think it would be proper to ascertain something more than we know at present, before attempting to enlighten others on the subject; for, as Col. C. very properly remarks, "no one is competent to pronounce an opinion on any institution, unless he is well acquainted with its principles, operation and influence. And no one can know what Masonry is unless he has been initiated into its mysteries. If then he perceive any evil in it, let him withdraw from it and use his influence against it; but let him not be so unreasonable as to denounce that of which he is utterly ignorant." This is good advice apart from Masonry. It is unfortunately a common error of human nature, to condemn things, persons, and the motives and actions of others, when we may ourselves be utterly ignorant of the circumstances connected with the matter, which we are so ready to condemn, or to pass our superior judgment upon. "Know thyself," is a wise injunction.

## Charity.

The Bible teaches charity as man's duty to his fellow, and inculcates this virtue as an important rule of life; for without it, we are nothing. Let us be ever so learned and wise, "speak with the tongues of angels and of men," possess "the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge," and even "have faith"—yet, without charity in our hearts, we are nothing!

When we see a man who believes that all dissenters from his religious faith are heretics, and that he only is right, we say he is wanting in the essential quality of charity—that which "suffereth long and is kind"—and regard his faith, as he regards ours, as a "sounding brass and a tinkling symbol."

HEALTH OF CHARLESTON.—The Mercury of Friday says:

"We hear little said about yellow fever this week, and whatever of excitement there was, has almost wholly disappeared. It is not yet time, however, to pronounce definitely upon its course. It remains to be seen what effect a hot sun will have, after the late deluging rains. In one respect they cannot but be beneficial. They have given the streets and drains such a washing as they have not had for many a month. But they have also left much water standing on low lots, and perhaps in cellars. It will be well to look to these."

The City Register, Dr. Dawson, reports two deaths for the past 24 hours.

GREENVILLE AND COLUMBIA RAILROAD.—We have the best authority, (says the Palmetto State Banner of the 9th inst.) for stating that the loss to this Road, incurred by the late disastrous froshet, cannot exceed \$50,000, and the most confident hope is entertained that it can be repaired at an expense of \$30,000.

We learn, also, that Judge O'Neal left home to attend a meeting of the Directors, which was to have been held at Cokesbury, on the 8th inst.

## Arrest of Samuel J. Love.

The Little Rock (Ark.) Banner says that a man calling himself Dean, but whose real name is Love was arrested in that city on the 26th ult., charged with the murder of a Mr. Lester in South Carolina, some time since, and for whom a reward of \$300 had been offered by the Sheriff of the county from whence he escaped. The Banner gives following account of the murderer: "This young man, not more than twenty-three or twenty-five years of age, has run a speedy career in crimes of the blackest dye. For the murder he was condemned to be hung; his counsel procured a new trial, previous to which he broke jail and escaped to Mississippi. He there met with an acquaintance who gave him a home and whose hospitality he repaid by seducing his daughter, between twelve and thirteen years of age, with whom he eloped after stealing a horse from her father. They made their way to Rock Roe, in this State, where Love got into a brawl and was compelled to leave. He came to this place, leaving the girl behind him, whom he says he married at Coffeyville, Miss. The father and uncle of the girl, pursued him, and captured him here as above stated. He confessed that he was the man named in the proclamation, and that he was willing to go back to South Carolina. We understand that the father of the girl refused to see her, and has left her to her own resources for a living."

Mr. Bragg, of Mobile, says the Washington correspondent of the Charleston Mercury, has addressed a very able letter to his Southern Rights friends, urging them to support Pierce and King and insisting on the duty of the Whigs South to do the same. It is very argumentative, and prepared with much care and research into the antecedents of the candidates, and the present position of parties. Judge Bragg did good service in defeating Langdon in his district (Mobile) who next to Foote, was the most thorough paced submissionist in the Southwest. The letter is brief but to the point.

DEMAND FOR MACHINERY.—Never, we believe, says the Boston Transcript, was such a demand for machinery known among us. All the machine and workshops are full of orders, and industrious and skilful workmen, who readily command good wages, and who, as well as the proprietors, are doing a steady and prosperous business. So numerous and pressing, indeed, are the wants of the people of New England, in respect to articles of machinery and almost every description of work, and so numerous and largely increasing do the orders upon our artisans and engineers promise to be, from all sections of the country, that we should not be in the slightest degree surprised if the various workshops and machine establishments in Boston and the several towns bordering upon it should be more than doubled in number and in the amount of hands employed, materials used and work done, within less than three years from this time.

JUST THE THING FOR SUMMER NIGHTS.—An inventor in Macon, Ga., has taken measures to secure a patent for an improved fan bedstead.—A fan is hung on a vibrating rod, passing through arms attached to the bed-posts, which, by appropriate gearing of cords and pulley, is attached to the slats on which the bed is placed, and on which a person's weight sets the machinery in motion to keep the fan vibrating all night.

LOWER CALIFORNIA AN INDEPENDENT STATE.—The San Diego Herald, of the 22d, has it from reliable authority, that active preparations are on foot to proclaim the independence of the peninsula territory, and hoist the "Bear flag." Don Manuel Castro, a native of Monterey, and late an officer in the Mexican army, it is said, has been silently engaged of late, in enlisting men in this and the country of Los Angeles, to proceed to Lower California and proclaim the independence of that territory. Rumor has it, that he has been quite successful, and that his followers are now daily making their way over the line in small parties, intending to unite at some given point, and march upon St. Thomas and La Paz. Negrete, the head of the Mexican authorities in that country, is represented as a timid man, incapable of resisting a well organized effort. His family have taken refuge in San Diego from the impending storm. Castro is of the opinion that the few Mexican troops in garrison at Santa Thomas and La Paz, will join his standard so soon as he unfurls it.

THE PROMPT CLERK.—I once knew a young man (said an eminent preacher the other day, in a sermon to young men) that was commencing life as a clerk. One day his employer said to him, "Now to-morrow that cargo of cotton must be got out and weighed, and we must have a regular account of it."

He was a young man of energy. This was the first time he had been entrusted to superintend the execution of this work; he made his arrangements over night, spoke to the men about their carts and horses, and, resolving to begin very early in the morning he instructed the laborers to be there at half-past 4 o'clock. So they set to work, and the thing was done, and at about ten or eleven o'clock his master comes in, and seeing him sitting in the counting-house looks very black, supposing that his commands had not been executed.

"I thought," said the master, "you were requested to get out that cargo this morning."

"It is all done," said the young man, "and here is an account of it."

He never looked behind him from that moment—never! His character was fixed, confidence was established. He was found to be the man to do the thing with promptness. He very soon came to be one that could not be spared—he was as necessary to the firm as any of the partners, he was a religious man and went through a life of great benevolence, and at his death was able to leave his children and ample fortune. He was not smoke to the eyes, nor vinegar to the teeth but just the contrary.

NEURALGIA, OF TIC DOULOUREUX.—This singular complaint is quite common just now. It is nothing more or less than a contraction of the nerves, proceeding from cold. Besides being excessively painful, it resists ordinary remedies; all warm applications, and the use of leeches and lancets, pills and poultices, seem of light avail.—The following remedy (an ordinary liniment in Parish's Pharmacopoeia) is found to give relief. Tr. (incture) Aconiti; Tr. Arnica; Tr. Opii Saponis Comp.