

MISS MARTINEAU'S

The second volume of Miss Martineau's 'Society in America' will be published by Scribner's on Monday morning.

Contents of the Second Volume.—Yankee pedlars, wooden clocks. Of the later Miss M. says that:

'In some parts of the South we were at the mercy of whatever clock the last pedlar might have happened to bring, for the appearance of an elastic appeared as if the clock itself were a living being, while they were usually too fast, I rarely knew one too slow.'

'Internal improvements, The Tariffs, Markets and Transports, fill a chapter in the volume. The following jocular dialogue is given as showing, not unfairly, how acceptable means of transport would be to western settlers:—

- 'Whose land was this that you bought?'
'Hogs.'
'What's the soil?'
'Hogs.'
'What's the climate?'
'Hogs.'
'What do you get to eat?'
'Hogs.'
'What did you build your house of?'
'Logs.'
'Have you any neighbours?'
'Hogs.'

Manufacturing Labor affords a subject of controversy. The Trades' Union is spoken of in the following manner:—

'One day going down Broadway, New York, the carriage in which I was, stopped for some time, in consequence of an immense procession on the side walk having attracted the attention of all the drivers within sight. The marching gentlemen proceeded on their way, with an easy air of gentility. Banners were interposed at intervals; and on examining there, I could scarcely believe my eyes. They told me that this was a procession of the journeymen mechanics of New York. Surely never were such dandy mechanics seen with sleek coats, glossy hats, gay watch guards, and doeskin gloves!'

'The "Orals of Slavery" also forms a chapter of the work. Southern cities are looked upon as places not unlike the blackholds of Calcutta; while Southern men and Southern women are thought to resemble in their cruelty all the wickedness of a tribe of cannibals.

The following advice is given to American ladies:—"All American ladies," says Miss M., "should know how to clear starch and iron; how to keep plate and glass; how to cook dainties; and, if they understand the making of bread and soap likewise, so much the better." In a paragraph having reference to literature among American ladies, she remarks as follows:

'All American ladies are more or less literary; and some are so to excellent purpose; to the saving of their minds from vacuity. Readers are plentiful; thinkers are rare. Minds are of a very passive character; and it follows that languages are much cultivated. If ever a woman was pointed out to me as distinguished for information, I might be sure beforehand that she was a linguist. I met with a great number of ladies who read Latin, some Greek, some Hebrew, some German. With the exception of the last, the learning did not seem to be of much use to them, except as a harmless exercise. I met with more intellectual activity, more general power, among many ladies who gave little time to books, than among those who are distinguished as being literary. I did not meet with a good artist among all the ladies of the States.—I never had the pleasure of seeing a good drawing, except in one instance; or, entire in two, of bearing good music. The entire failure of all attempts to draw, is still a mystery to me. The attempts are incessant; but the results are below criticism. Natural philosophy is not pursued to any extent by women.—There is some pretension to mental and moral philosophy; but the less that is said on that head the better.

This is a sad account of things. It may tempt some to ask what then are the American women? They are better educated by Providence than by men. The lot of humanity is theirs: they have labor, probation, joy, and sorrow. They are good wives; and, under the teaching of nature, good mothers. They have, within the range of their activity, good sense, good temper, and good manners. Their beauty is very remarkable; and, I think, their wit no less. Their charity is overflowing, if it were but more enlightened; and it may be supposed that they could not exist without religion. It appears to be superabundant; but it is not usually of a healthy character. It may seem harsh to say this; but is it not the fact that religion emanates from the nature, from the moral state of the individual? Is it not therefore true that unless the nature be completely exercised, the moral state harmonised, the religion cannot be healthy?

A chapter follows upon the morals of commerce, civilization, health, ideas of honor; and in the chapter which treats of this subject, we find the following unexpected vindication of the American character:—"If," says Miss M., "any English person can really see and know the Americans on their own ground, and fail to honor them as a nation, and love them as personal friends, he is no fair sample of the people whose name he bears."

And in the concluding chapter of the work, we find the following paragraph in defence of American morals:—

'By a happy coincidence of outward plenty with liberal institutions, there is in America a smaller amount of crime, poverty, and mutual injury of every kind, than has ever been known in any society. This is not only a present blessing, but the best preparation for continued fidelity to true democratic principles.

'However the Americans may fall short, in practice, the professed principles of their association, they have realized many things which the rest of the civilized world is still struggling; and for which some portions are only beginning to contend. They are, to all intents and purposes, self-governed. They have risen above all hereditary aristocracy, a connexion between religion and the State, a vicious or excessive taxation, and the irresponsibility of any class. Whatever evils may remain or may arise, in either the legislative or executive departments, the means of remedy are in the hands of the whole people; and these people are in possession of the glorious certainty that time and exertion will infallibly secure all wisely desired objects.'

NATIONAL CONVENTION.—The following is the closing paragraph of the book:

'No peculiarity in them (the Americans) is more remarkable than their national contentment. If this were the result of apathy, it would be despicable. If it did not coexist with an active principle of progress, it would be absurd. As it is, it can regard the national attribute with no other feeling than veneration. Entertaining, as I do, little doubt of the general safety of the American Union, and none of the moral progress of its people, it is clear to me that this national "contentment" will live down all contempt, and even all wonder; and come at length to be regarded with the same genial and universal emotion with which men recognize in an individual the equanimity of rational self-reverence.'

PASSAGES FROM MISS MARTINEAU.

Negro Imitations.—The Americans possess an advantage in regard to the teaching of manners, which they do not yet appreciate. They have before their eyes, in the manners of the colored race, a perpetual caricature of their own follies—a mirror of conventionalism from which they never can escape. The negroes are the most imitative people living. While they are in a degraded condition, with little principle, little knowledge, little independence, they copy most successfully those things in their superiors which involve the least principle, knowledge, and independence, viz., their conventionalisms. They carry their mimicry far beyond any which is seen among the menials of the rich in Europe. The black footmen of the United States have tiptoe graces, stiff cravats, and eye-catching flourishes, like the footmen in London; but the imitation extends into more important matters. As the slaves of the South assume their master's names and military titles, they assume their methods of conducting the courtesies and gajeties of life.

I have in my possession a note of invitation to a ball, written on pink paper with gilt edges. When the lady invited came to her mistress for the ticket which was necessary to authorize her being out after nine at night, she was dressed in satin with muslin over it, satin shoes, and white kid gloves; but the satin was faded, the muslin torn; the shoes were tied upon the extremities of her splay feet, and the white gloves dropping in tatters from her dark fingers. She was a caricature instead of a fine lady. A friend of mine walked a mile or two in the dusk behind two black men and a woman whom they were courting. He told me that nothing could be more admirable than the coyness of the lady and the compliments of the gallant and his friend. It could not be very amusing to those who reflect that holy and constant love, free preference, and all that makes marriage a blessing instead of a curse, were here out of the question; but the resemblance in the mode of courtship to that adopted by the whites, when meditating marriage of a not dissimilar virtue—a marriage of barter—could not be overlooked.

Even in their ultimate funeral courtesies, the colored race imitate the whites. An epitaph on a negro baby at Savannah begins "sweet blighted lily!"

Manners of Gentlemen and Ladies in public.—So much more has naturally been observed by travellers of American manners in stages and steamboats than in private houses, that all has been said, over and over again, that the subject deserves. I need only testify that I do not think the Americans eat faster than other people, on the whole. The celerity at hotel tables is remarkable; but so it is in stage coach travellers in England, who are allowed ten minutes or a quarter of an hour for dining. In private houses I was never aware of being hurried. The cheering, unintermitting civility of all gentlemen travellers, throughout the country, is very striking to a stranger. The degree of consideration shown to women is, in my opinion, greater than is rational, or good for either party; but the manners of the American stage coach travellers might afford a valuable lesson and example to many classes of Europeans, who have a high opinion of their civilization.

I do not think it rational or fair that five gentlemen should ride on the top of the coach, (where there is no accommodation for holding on, and no resting place for their feet), for some hours of a July day, in Virginia, that a young lady, who was slightly delicate, might have room to lay up her feet, and change her posture as she pleased. It is obvious that if she was not strong enough to travel on common terms in the stage, her family should have travelled in an extra, or staid behind, or done anything rather than allowed five persons to risk their health and sacrifice their comfort for the sake of one.—Whatever may be the good moral effects of such self-renunciation on the tempers of the gentlemen, the custom is very injurious to ladies. Their travelling manners are any thing but amiable. While on a journey, women who appear well enough in their homes present all the characteristics of spoiled children.—Screaming and trembling at the apprehension of danger are not uncommon; but there is something far worse in the cool selfishness with which they accept the best of every thing, at any sacrifice to others, and usually, in the South and West without a word or look of acknowledgement. They are like spoiled children when the gentleman are not present to be sacrificed to them, in the inn parlor, while waiting for meals, or the stage, or in the cabin of a steamboat. I never saw any manner so repulsive as that of many American ladies on board steamboats. They look as if they supposed you mean to injure them, till you show to the contrary. The suspicious side-glance, or the full stare, the cold, immovable observation, the bristling self-defence the moment you come near, the cool pushing to get the best place, every thing said and done without the least trace of trust or cheerfulness—these are the disagreeable consequences of the ladies being petted and humored as they are. The New England ladies, who are compelled, by their superior numbers, to depend less upon the care of others, are far happier and pleasant companions in a journey than those of the rest of the country.

The following letter taken from the Literary Magazine of 1847, is quite a curiosity at this day. We distinctly recollect the boat, and voyage up the river referred to, and the congratulations of Mr. Fulton's friends on his return from Albany; and the often expressed convictions of the learned of that day. That the possible results had been obtained, when the boat had been propelled at the marvellous rate of four miles an hour.

Mr. Robert Fulton, the ingenious inventor of machines called torpedoes, some account of which was given in our last number, has like wise constructed a steam boat, calculated to sail both against wind and tide. The following letter to Mr. Barlow, containing an account of its first voyage, will be gratifying to every friend to the commerce and agriculture of this country.

To Joel Barlow, Philadelphia.

New York, Aug 22, 1847. My Dear Friend—My steam boat voyage to Albany and back has turned out rather more favorable than I had calculated. The distance from New York to Albany is 150 miles; I ran it up in 22 hours, and down in 30. The latter is just five miles an hour. I had a light breeze against me going and coming, so that no use was made of my sails; and the voyage has been performed wholly by the power of the steam engine. I overtook many sloops and schooners beating to windward, and passed them as if they had been at anchor. The power of propelling boats by steam is now fully proved. The morning I left New York, there was not perhaps thirty persons in the city who believed that the boat would ever

move one mile an hour, or be of the least utility. And while we were putting off from the wharf, which was crowded with spectators, I heard a number of sarcastic remarks; this is the way, you know, in which ignorant men compliment what they call philosophers and projectors.

Having employed much time and money and zeal in accomplishing this work, it gives me, as it will you, great pleasure to see it so fully answer my expectations. It will give a quick and cheap conveyance to merchandise on the Mississippi, Missouri, and other great rivers, which are now laying open their treasures to the enterprise of our countrymen.—And although the prospect of personal emolument has been some inducement to me yet I feel infinitely more pleasure in reflecting with you on the immense advantage that my country will derive from the invention.

However, I will not admit that it is half so important as the torpedo system of defence and attack; for out of this will grow the liberty of the seas; an object of infinite importance to the welfare of America, and every civilized country. But thousands of witnesses have now seen the steam boat in rapid movement, and they believe; they have not seen a ship of war destroyed by a torpedo, and they do not believe. We cannot expect people in general will have a knowledge of physics or power of mind sufficient to combine the ideas and reason from causes to effects. But in case we have war, and the enemy's ships come into our waters, if the government will give me reasonable means of action, I will soon convince the world that we have surer and cheaper modes of defence than they are aware of. Yours, &c. ROBERT FULTON.

SERPENT-TONGUED INFANT.

TIVERTON, (R. I.) May 22, 1837.

To the Printer of the Fall River Patriot:

Sir—I embrace the earliest opportunity to make you acquainted with such of the facts as have come to my knowledge relative to the "serpent-tongued infant," of which we had casually heard just previous to my departure for Block Island. Quite unexpectedly, day before yesterday, I found myself in the very neighborhood of this strange and wayward production of nature. My curiosity as you may well suppose was greatly excited, and I confess I felt an intense anxiety to examine for myself an object which began to excite so much interest in the neighborhood of its occurrence. Mr. T—, a worthy old gentleman in the vicinity, a former acquaintance of mine, with whom I accidentally met, kindly offered to accompany me to Mr. W.'s the father of the unfortunate child. We reached there about 9 o'clock this morning, and were received very courteously by Mr. W. and his interesting young wife. After an agreeable introduction, my aged friend stated the object of our visit, and the desire I had manifested to see their unfortunate little child, of whom I had just heard. Mr. W. informed us that for several weeks he had, in almost every instance, declined admitting strangers as he thought their presence had an unfavorable effect upon the child, but as I had come a considerable distance out of my way, he was disposed to gratify my wish, the more especially as he thought I might give him some advice in relation to the course he ought in future to pursue. We were then invited into an adjoining room, in one corner of which we beheld, tied in a small chair, a most horribly emaciated little child, apparently about two years old. I am aware that I shall totally fail in giving you any thing like an adequate idea of the miserable object before us. Imagine, if you can, an infant, or mere child, of about the age above supposed, reduced to a very skeleton, hairless, and covered with a parched and shrivelled skin, dark and unelastic as the corresponding structure in the withered octogenarian. Its little red, fiery eyes, rolling restlessly in the deep recesses of its fleshless sockets, sent forth horrid flashes of indignation, when the door of its apartment was thrown open. The little sufferer opened his mouth, and in the place of his tongue and for a tongue, a serpent's head and neck were thrust out, vibrating and hissing with an intensity peculiar to the more venomous varieties of that repulsive species of animated matter. I could not for several minutes muster sufficient courage to approach the object of my curiosity. I was fixed to the spot which I at first occupied, while the serpent-headed tongue continued to dart forth and recede with the quickness of thought; its little forked and fiery tongue at the same time playing about the lips and nostrils of the child, equalling in velocity the lightning's flash!

Mr. W. the father, gradually approached the child, and in a few minutes succeeded in producing quiet—the head receded the lips closed over it, and the infant exhibited the aspect only of extreme emaciation. But the moment I moved towards the child, even but a single step, the mouth would open, the head suddenly dart forth, and the same dreadful spectacle I have already imperfectly described would be again presented. The father, however, beckoned me to approach, which I did, but never shall I forget the tremendous hissing which came from the serpent-headed tongue of the little sufferer. It was several minutes before quietude could be produced, and even then the slightest motion on my part would cause an instantaneous protrusion of the unsightly organ, accompanied by a hissing sound, more or less intense according to the fears of the little child—I had several fair opportunities of seeing the strange member, and its endeavor to give you a description of it. Its color is dark copper shining and in places inclining to streaks of green. Its eyes are jet black, and when the light strikes them favorably, no diamonds ever send forth more brilliant scintillations of a light! A bright yellow ring encircles the neck and has too much the appearance of gold. The mouth of this serpent-headed tongue is quite large, and was always slightly open when the head was protruded beyond the lips. Its little forked tongue, as I have already said, was incessantly in motion. We stayed in the room just 30 minutes, during the latter part of which time the child became very quiet, and took freely of milk, its usual food. The father told me that he had known the tongue to bite several times, and once when it fastened upon one of his fingers, much swelling and soreness followed; indeed he was only relieved by a copious bleeding.—He informed me also that the child eat voraciously of milk, and sometimes other kinds of food, but that it preferred the former. The child is of the female sex. He stated further that several eminent physicians and surgeons had been by one, the eminent Dr. W. that the tongue be extirpated. I coincided in this opinion, and advised that the Doctor be called on to perform the operation. The father, Mr. W. is about 25 years old, and the mother, I should judge about 22. She is very beautiful, has been married about five years, and this is the first and only child. I have omitted names in this hasty sketch, at the request of the parties concerned.

Yours, &c.

The New York and Charleston Steam packet.—Another sea-nymph has been launched upon our waters, and one which for beauty of form and swiftness of motion, will equal the best, and excel most of her kind. The new steamer bears the name of our city, and in all respects is worthy of the name she bears. Her regular trips will commence on Thursday next, when she will take her place on the line, and sail for Charleston. The New York in all respects is an excellent and agreeable boat.—The cabins, unlike most other steamboats, are used only as sleeping and dressing rooms. An elegant saloon ever the after cabin, and immediately under the promenade deck, is used for a dining-room. The sleeping accommodations are increased by a number of neat state-rooms, built upon the decks. The accommodation of passengers seems to have been the aim of the proprietors of the boat, and we feel assured that the passengers, whether quickness of motion, a pleasant passage, or good attendance, be the object of their wishes, will have them all gratified.

The New York made her experimental trip yesterday, in a run of nearly one hundred miles—as far out as the Highlands, back to the city, down the East River, and some 8 or 10 miles up the North River. The experiment unlike most experiments now-a-days, proved agreeable to all, and the little pleasure voyage made on board the boat by a party of 150 or 200, was without exception, the most pleasant we ever remember to have made. The boat throughout the day equalled the warmest anticipations of all who were interested in her success, and the whole party returned to the city highly gratified with the festivities of the day.

The New York is to take the place of the William Gibbons, and is to be commanded by Captain JOSEPH SPINNEY, who has been connected with the New York and Charleston Line for four years. Added to much experience, he has exhibited much skill in the command of a boat, and what is equally necessary to a successful commander of a boat, he is urbane, kind and in all respects a gentleman.

We subjoin the following particulars which appeared in the New-York Gazette of yesterday.

The New-York is 165 feet in length, on deck; 42 feet breadth, including spindings; 11 feet hold, and about 400 tons burthen. Her engine is of 150 horse power, with 10 feet stroke and 38 inch cylinder. The boiler weighs about 15 tons, has been pronounced by competent judges one of the best pieces of work ever made in this city. The New-York is also provided with two masts and a sufficient quantity of canvas with which to navigate her in the event of accident to her machinery.—Her sails consist of a gaff, foresail, square sail, top-sail, and main-sail.

The figure head is that of a female, and is intended to represent a commercial city. The head is surmounted by a crown, representing a wall supported by a wreath of ru-hes. The chest bears the arms of the state of New-York, and the whole is supported by a wreath representing various fruits of the earth.

The sleeping accommodations are all of the first order, and consist of 21 berths in the ladies' cabin, 12 in the centre cabin, 28 in the forward cabin, and 20 in state rooms on deck, making in all 80 berths. In addition to which there is on board a large quantity newly-contrived portable bunks which are made to ship and unship at pleasure.

The dining room is on the main deck immediately over the ladies' cabin, and is 41 by 14 feet; is capable of accommodating one hundred persons at table, and is in every respect a commodious apartment.

This splendid boat was built by the owners of the steam packet line, at a cost of about eighty thousand dollars, and their enterprise deserves a rich reward.

From the National Intelligencer.

THE MANDAMUS.

Saturday June 24.—This being the day to which was extended the time for making the return by the Postmaster General to the writ of mandamus, commanding him to credit Stockton and Stokes certain sums of money, or show cause to the contrary, the DISTRICT ATTORNEY, Mr. F. S. Key, read, as such return, a letter from the Postmaster General, accompanied by an opinion of the Attorney General. These documents consumed considerable time in their perusal, and we understood the motto classify and condense the amount of the Postmaster's response to the Court's claim of jurisdiction, and his resistance of that claim, under the following heads:

1st. That the Court has no power to issue a mandamus to an executive officer of the Government, compelling him to do an official act. That it is the duty of the Executive, and not of the judiciary, to see that the laws be faithfully executed. And that the exercise of the writ of mandamus for such a purpose would be to transfer the Executive power of the country to the courts.

2dly. That congress have conferred upon one of the circuit courts (not distinguishing between this circuit court and any other in this respect) the right to issue writs of mandamus for the purpose of compelling, or directing the official actions of executive officers; in which capacity the Postmaster General has acted in this case; and that, so acting, he is subject to the control of the President, and not of the Court.

3dly. That even admitting the power of the Court to issue the writ, this is not a legitimate case for its application. The mandamus can only issue to compel the performance of an act merely and purely ministerial, and not of an act in the performance of which a discretion is confined to the party performing it. That the act which the mandamus commands the Postmaster General to perform is not merely ministerial. That the writ of mandamus is allowed to be issued by the Circuit Court only to enforce their jurisdiction. That in the matter to which this mandamus applies the Court has not, and never had, jurisdiction. That the mandamus cannot give that jurisdiction, but only where the jurisdiction exists enforce it.

4thly. That the mandamus orders, the Postmaster General to do that which is impossible to be done. That he has not now the custody and command of the books in which the credits are commanded to be entered.

When Mr. Key had done reading the paper from the Postmaster General, the opinion of the Attorney General was read upon the former or decision in the case by the Court, and in opposition to the same.

Mr. Key then entered his appearance in the case, and placed the documents on file. The principal topics adverted to, and relied upon, in these papers are pretty much in substance, as follows: The Postmaster and Attorney General contend, that, under our Constitution, in this feature assimilated to that of England, all power is divided into three parts—the legislative, the executive, the judicial,—each independent of the other, and properly jealous of its own rights; that the executive branch is a "unit"—one indivisible; that the duty of the Executive is to execute the laws; that, for this purpose, all the officers of the country, charged with the execution of the laws, are subordinate to, and dependent upon, and removable by him; that the Executive is the President, who alone is responsible for the

manner in which the laws are executed, and punishable by impeachment; that if the Circuit Court is chargeable with seeing that the laws are executed, under the Constitution, then the Circuit Court is the Executive, and the President is not; that no court of the United States can enforce a writ against the Executive, because the officer who executes the process is of executive appointment, and the Executive can disrobe him of authority, on the spot, when he comes to execute an unwelcome process, and before it is executed; that the reasoning by Mr. Justice Marshall, in Marbury vs. Madison, is extra-judicial, and therefore not authority; that the Circuit Court was not applied to, after that decision, for a mandamus; that the doctrine set forth in case were not attempted to be carried out; that Justice Marshall himself has said that the reasoning in a case is not fairly referable except to cases identically the same; that this case is not identical with that of Marbury vs. Madison, which was to do an act merely ministerial. A letter was introduced into the argument from Mr. Jefferson to Mr. May, the prosecuting attorney in Burr's case, arguing against the authority of the case of Marbury vs. Madison, and expressing his refusal to attend court as a witness. The Postmaster General prefaced his statement with an expression of the utmost respect for the tribunal to whose authority he excepted. He required, if this power existed, why had its exercise so long slept? Why had it lain in unbroken slumber from the days of Marbury vs. Madison until now? Why did not the Bank of the United States invoke its aid to have the deposits restored to her by mandamus to the Secretary of the Treasury? Why not take this course, instead of convulsing the nation, and thundering in the Capitol! The Postmaster General concluded with a repetition of the sentiment of respect for the Court.

Mr. Coxe, on the part of the relators, moved to quash the return as insufficient, and that the peremptory writ be ordered. He said that he confided in the opinion of the court and certainly heard nothing in the papers read to shake that confidence. He said that he was ready to go on with the argument, but as it would be proper to reply to the new arguments advanced in the papers presented to the court, he would be prepared to do so on Monday, when he would be assisted by other counsel, (Mr. Reverdy Johnson, of Baltimore.) He hoped that Mr. Key would allow him the use of the original papers, as there was no time to make copies; which Mr. Key promptly agreed to.

Mr. Coxe observed; that it was evident that, after the passage of the law directing the transfer of the books to the Treasury Department, the Postmaster General did make credits to the account of the relators.

Mr. Key said the gentleman will find himself mistaken.

Mr. M. S. Clarke made a few remarks as to the credits.

Judge CRANCH stated, that if it were true that the books and papers, upon which the credits were ordered to be made, were removed from the custody of the Postmaster General, and in the hands of clerks not of his appointment or control, as averred by him in his paper to the Court, that then no peremptory mandamus could issue. For that would be to issue the writ to compel him to do that which it would be impossible for him to perform.

The consideration of the case was then postponed to Monday.

Wednesday, June 28.—Mr. Key, in resuming his addresses to the Court this morning, adverted to the importance of the case, and expressed his desire to present his views fully upon the subject, apologizing for the time which he felt necessary to occupy, in order to do justice to the argument against the issuing of the Mandamus.

Mr. Key said, in what he should consider it his duty further to urge upon the subject, he should conscientiously oppose the doctrines held by the learned gentleman on the other side. He had no doubt that the learned counsel opposite were equally conscientious in the opinions they entertained.

Mr. Key commented upon the opinions expressed by the Court, and those of the learned counsel, at considerable length. He cited numerous passages from the Federalist, and cited a great many cases in illustration of his positions. He concluded his speech at half past 3 o'clock, when the Court adjourned until to-morrow.

Thursday, June 29.—Public expectation seems to have been strongly excited this morning to hear Mr. Reverdy Johnson's address to the Court, in reply to the argument of Mr. Key in this very important case. The court room was very much crowded, and, among the spectators present, we noticed several distinguished legal gentlemen, and others from the adjoining counties and States.

Mr. Key rose, before Mr. Johnson commenced his address, and observed that, as he had yesterday entirely omitted to notice that point of the Postmaster General's answer, in which he stated that the Circuit Court had required him to perform a duty which was not in his power, he (Mr. K.) would, with the leave of the Court, occupy a brief space of time in noticing what had been said by the learned counsel on the other side, in relation to that particular point. Mr. Key contended that, inasmuch as the books were no longer in the Postmaster General's possession, but in the hands of the Auditor of the Treasury Department, he had no longer the ability to enter the credit as required by the Mandamus, and that it was absurd to say, as had been contended on the other side, that a credit on paper, or otherwise than in the books, was all that was required. The learned gentleman occupied about half an hour in making this explanation.

Mr. Reverdy Johnson then commenced a speech of unusual strength and effect, which was listened to with close attention by the Court, the Bar, and every one present, until he sat down, apparently much exhausted, a little before two o'clock. We believe we risk nothing when we say that Mr. Johnson's address to the Court was considered by all who heard it as a masterly display of forensic eloquence, legal research, and sound argument. Mr. Johnson's introductory remarks, in which he gave a succinct and lucid history of the case, on the part of the relators, evidently made a deep impression; and his subsequent observations were keen, forcible and convincing. The style of the learned gentleman as a speaker is vehement as well as nervous. He argues, however, with great self-possession, and seems to be exceedingly well-poised though occasionally pungent and sarcastic. To those who delight to hear a manly, straightforward, and eloquent speaker, we would recommend an attendance to-morrow, (Friday,) in the Court room, when, as Mr. Johnson has given notice, he will conclude his argument.

Letters from Stuttgart state that an extensive publishing house, known as the Magazin des Classiques, have purchased at a large price, a manuscript from Bulwer, the celebrated novelist. He is under engagements not to publish the work in English for a certain number of years. It is said to be a keen satire on the follies of the present era.

Our readers will probably be interested by making them acquainted, so far as accounts have been received, of the action of the different States in relation to the monetary difficulties of the country.

The Legislature of Mississippi, our readers are aware, was convened by the Governor of that State, to devise measures of relief for present times. We can only say that the Legislature has convened and adjourned, without doing any thing for the relief of the people.

The Legislature of Alabama met on the 12th. The relief Committee, we understand, will make the following recommendations, which accord with the views expressed in the Executive message, and which it is supposed will meet the approbation of the legislature; and be passed into laws.

1st. They recommend to extend the Bank debt one, two and three years.

2d. Create a capital of \$5,000,000, upon which the banks shall issue the same amount, on one, two, three and four years, to be distributed in the State in proportion to population and the wants of the community, upon a pledge of real estate of double the value, or improved town property of four times the cash value, or two good personal securities renewable annually.

3d. That the Banks shall gradually increase and steadily maintain their specie basis.

4th. Remit the damage on protested Bills of Exchange.

5th. Authorise the Banks of Montgomery and Mobile to sell their stock, so that the discount shall not make the interest exceed six per cent.

The Governor of Georgia refuses to call an extra session of the legislature.

South Carolina we believe, so far as we know, has not moved at all, in reference to a call of her legislature.

The Executive Council of North Carolina met on the 15th, and unanimously advised the Governor against the expediency of convening the legislature at an earlier day than that prescribed by law.

The legislature of Virginia convened on the 12th. The Governor recommends to the people "patience, industry and economy—a reliance on themselves, and the exertion of their steady virtues," as the best remedy for the times. He disapproves any attempt to change the present banking system; pronounces the project of an exclusive metallic currency impracticable, and its agitation at present only calculated further to derange the business of the country. He urges the importance of maintaining the credit of the State Banks—recommends laws to be passed relieving them from the disabilities and penalties to be incurred by their suspension of specie payments, and authorising such suspension for a limited period.

The Governor of Pennsylvania refused to convene the legislature of that State.

The New Jersey extra legislature got into a political squabble, and adjourned without doing any thing. In one branch of the legislature it seems there was a large majority of Van Burenites, and in the other a small majority of whigs, making the Van Burens the majority on joint ballot. These, apprehensive of never being in so fair a position again, determined to profit by the extra occasion, regardless of the object of the call, and urged, as the first business to be transacted, the making of various appointments, which should properly devolve on the next regular legislature; whilst the whigs insisted that they should first despatch the business for which they were convened. Here arose the squabble, which ended in an adjournment, sine die.

New York, our readers are aware, has granted authority for the suspension of specie payments, under certain conditions, for twelve months.

The Connecticut legislature has legalised the suspension of specie payments till the first of July, 1838, and has likewise suspended for the same time the law prohibiting the issue and circulation of bills under three dollars, providing that the banks shall at all times redeem their small bills with specie, under the penalty of the forfeiture of their charters.

THE VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

The Adjournment.—Both Houses of the Assembly adjourned on Saturday evening, after a session of two weeks. They passed six acts, three of them of a general, and three of a local character, and expended about twenty thousand dollars of the money of the Commonwealth. We have not the exact titles of the acts, but can state the purport of them, to wit: An act to stay proceedings on executions, trust deeds, and other evidences of debt, in case of refusal to receive bank notes.

An act for the temporary relief of the banks of this Commonwealth.

An act concerning the State's proportion of the surplus revenue of the United States, and for other purposes.

An act to amend the act of last session, authorizing a subscription of two-fifths of the increased capital of the Portsmouth and Roanoke Railroad Company.

An act to provide payment for the services of the clerk to the joint committee on banks, and for the extra services of the public printer and the printer to the Senate; and

An act to release the taxes for the present year upon the town lots in the town of Suffolk, the buildings on which were destroyed by fire.

This is an average of something more than \$3,000 for each act, and the question may well be asked, was the service rendered worth the cost? The infallible "Democrats" who pretend so much veneration for the public will, gave the people a STAY LAW, which was not asked for, and denied relief in the way of small change, which was clamorously sought for by the large bodies of the people. They also "stayed up the hands of the banks," and have required them to curtail at a season of the year when the spring business generally opens. (February and March), and when common sense and all mercantile experience would have dictated an expansion.

Pensacola, June 17.—The Urrea.—In our last we omitted to mention, that the Mexican brig of War, Gen. Urrea, sailed from this port with the Vandalia, on the 16th. Orders had been received here, by the commander of the squadron, to pay all her expenses, & to place her in the same situation as that in which she was when the capture was made. Lieut. Moore, U. S. N. went out in the Gen. Urrea, but no other person from the squadron is on board of her. We understand that the commander of the Gen. Urrea declined hoisting the flag of Mexico, until he could communicate with his government. The brig, therefore, presents the singular anomaly of a vessel of war, sailing upon the high seas, without any distinctive mark or characteristic, to show that she belongs to any nation.

From what we can gather from the course of our government in relation to the capture of the Gen. Urrea, it would seem that the act itself is to be disavowed by the Government, but no positive censure is to fall on Capt. Mervine.—Gazette.

An abolition lecturer named Marcus R. Robinson, while lately delivering lectures at Berlin, Ohio, was seized by the populace, tarred and feathered, and carted out of town.