

From the N. O. Picayune, Feb. 8.

LATE FROM VERMONT.

Our files of papers from the city of Mexico are to the 14th ult. The American Star of this date thus mentions the departure of the train:

We have only room to say briefly that the American troops are by degrees occupying the mineral and other important points around us, and that the revenues are being rapidly collected for the benefit of the American army. This is in accordance with the policy which the Home Government has marked out. At our latest advices from Queretaro a quorum of Congress was not in attendance, and there was but little prospect that any business would be transacted at present. Gen. Anaya had been succeeded by Pena y Pena as President—the term of the former having expired and the latter coming in as President of the Court of Justice. A new President is to be chosen as soon as Congress assembles. Who it will be is a matter upon which we can offer no opinion. There have been rumors that Mr. Trist has for some time been in conference with the Mexican commissioners, and that certain terms have been agreed upon, but we have nothing authentic on the subject.

From the N. O. Picayune, Feb. 9.

LATE FROM TEXAS.

There is at present a very large party of the Prairie Indians assembled on the head waters of the Brazos, consisting of all the upper bands of Camanches, Kioways, Yam-pa-rih-kan, Mus-ka-le-ros, &c. They are now organizing for a campaign in the northern provinces of Mexico, Chihuahua, &c. They propose to throw several thousand warriors into that country. Maj. Neighbors could hear nothing of the difficulties of the Camanches and Delawares, recently mentioned by some of the papers in other parts of the State. All the Indian tribes were perfectly quiet—no difficulties existing either amongst themselves or hostile demonstrations against the whites. Our rangers are now very active and efficient, and there is no probability of any disturbance unless it is created by some unauthorized movement of our own citizens.

From the New Orleans Picayune, Feb. 11.]

FROM THE RIO GRANDE.

News from Chihuahua.—Prospect of Another Engagement.—Capture of a Party of Americans.—Military Executions at Buena Vista and Saltillo.

By the last arrival from the Brazos we have received several private letters, from which we glean a number of items of interest that have reached us from no other source, and which we have not seen elsewhere. Information had been received across the country at Saltillo, which indicate some little work ahead for the American troops sent from Santa Fe to take possession of Chihuahua. On the 15th of December they were encamped at El Paso, from whence it was understood they would march about the latter part of January. The Mexicans in that part of the country, are making every effort to oppose their march with a strong force.—At first they did not intend making any resistance whatever; but, emboldened by the long delay of our troops at El Paso, they set to work in good earnest, and have now a considerable numerical force and twelve pieces of cannon. Should our troops continue on their march, they will probably have a second edition of the battle of Sacramento.

Our readers will doubtless recollect that some months since, our correspondent, J. E. D., with Gen. Wool's column, mentioned that Mr. James Collins, commonly known as "Squire Collins," who was interpreter to Col. Doniphan's command, and behaved with the greatest gallantry at Sacramento and Brazita, had started across the country in company with Col. Ward and a small party of less than a dozen, for Santa Fe. The expedition was regarded as extremely hazardous, both on account of the Indians and Mexicans; but the old squire and his veteran companion, who is eighty four years of age, were undaunted and determined. The party were heard from a short time since; and we regret to say they were taken prisoners at Presidio-del Norte by the treacherous conduct of a Mexican padre. When near a place, called San Carlos, on the Rio-del-Norte they encountered four Mexicans, out on an expedition after Camanche horses, and inquired of them the distance to San Carlos, where they wished to purchase provisions. The Mexicans represented the distance as short, and offered to guide them thither. On arriving at San Carlos, they were unable to satisfy their wants, and were advised to proceed to the Presidio del-Norte—the Mexicans telling them that there was no garison there, and that they had nothing to fear. The squire and party determined to follow their advice, and set out; but in the meantime, as afterwards appeared, the Mexicans had sent off a courier to Presidio, with the information that a party of Americans were on their way to that place. Ignorant of this circumstance they due in time arrived at the Presidio—were kindly received by the old padre, and considered themselves perfectly safe. Dinner was prepared for them, and a table spread at one end of a large "sala," their arms being deposited at the other. While quietly appeasing their hunger, a party of Mexicans rushed in, seized their arms, and took the whole party prisoners. The old priest appeared to be quite delighted with the success of his ruse, but received anything but blessings from the party, who regarded him as a second Judas Iscariot. The squire and companions were all conveyed to Chihuahua, and incarcerated in prison, where they still remained at last accounts. Old Col. Ward was very ill, and some of the foreigners in the place offered to become his security; but the Mexican authorities inhumanly refused to release him.

Morse's Telegraph and the English Telegraph.—Mr. French, the President of the Magnetic Telegraph company, taking a statement of the expense of telegraphing one hundred words to Liverpool from London, a distance of 225 miles, has made a comparison of these charges with those on Morse's line.

"The distance from Washington to New York is two hundred and twenty-five miles, and a message of one hundred words is transmitted ordinarily in five minutes, but sometimes in three and a half minutes, at a charge of five dollars for the first hundred words, but only three dollars and thirty-three cents for the second and for each following hundred words. The comparative efficiency of the American and English systems of electric telegraphs, is, therefore, easily stated and comprehended.—English telegraph, 100 words, 220 miles, 10 min. \$22.20; American telegraph, 100 words, 225 miles, 5 min., \$5. Philadelphia Ledger, Feb. 12.

A Spanish Giant is now exhibiting himself in London whose height is seven feet ten inches.

place was licensed because no applications for licenses were made. The first friends of temperance there were obliged, for personal safety, to assemble armed to conduct their operations. The reform has conferred great blessings on the district. The friends of temperance in this district will be pleased to hear of such success in another portion of our beloved state.

THE SUMTER BANNER.

SUMTERVILLE, S. C.

Wednesday, February 23, 1848.

FRANCIS M. ADAMS, EDITOR.

AGENTS FOR THE BANNER.

Messrs. White & Co. Sumterville, S. C.
T. W. Piques, Esq. Camden, S. C.

MAIL FAILURES.

During the past week there have been two failures of the mails due at this place, from what cause we are uninformed. In consequence of this we are almost entirely deprived of the usual means of ascertaining the latest news; and our budget of papers which did come is very small. We have presented whatever it was in our power to issue.

COMMERCIAL REVIEW.

The February number of J. D. B. Dow's Commercial Review is on our table. This work is always of interest to the merchant and man of general education, and to those able to spare the time re-pays for the perusal. The article on Sugar in the present number is of great interest. The publisher informs us that the work can now be obtained complete from the beginning in four handsome bound volumes.

ERNEST CLEMENCEAU.

Or, British Philanthropy Illustrated, A Tale of Gaudoupe in 1833, translated from the French of Frederick Soulie, by a lady of Charleston.

The translator has been pleased to hand us a copy of this work. We have read it with attention and are highly pleased with it. The plot is sufficient and the language easily flowing. The volume is of convenient size, and the execution neat. It is a southern work and printed in Charleston by Burges & James. But the chief merit of the work is that it unfolds in the attractive form of a tale the true policy and aim of the English in regard to slavery and their total want of principle on this matter, which have been ably exposed by some southern statesman. On this account principally we recommend the book to all who are able to procure a copy. They will find the views therein worthy of their attention as southerners. The book is for sale in Sumterville at the store of Messrs. A. White & Co.

LITERARY MESSENGER.

The February No. of this southern periodical has reached us during the past week. Its readers always find it of interest. For many years it has been sustained and is now in its fourteenth volume. While the Commercial Review at one extremity of the south extends our useful knowledge, the Messenger at the other adorns our literature and adds to our information. Both are ready champions of the south. We wish them a continuance and increase of their former success.

MAIL TO THE CAMDEN BRANCH.

The Camden Branch rail road is now over the Wateree river and passage for business is said to be certain. It is expected that the road will be completed to the Manchester depot by the first of March or very soon after that time. This state of things both actual and expected calls public attention to the consideration that it is time that there should be forthwith established a daily mail communication by means of a passenger stage running between Sumterville and the Camden Branch road. The state of our business relations with Charleston is of sufficient importance to require the use and enjoyment of every available facility for their conduct; and, were this not so, the convenience of the travelling public should be consulted and immediately forwarded on every occasion and by every opportunity. The least that can now be done is to have a daily passenger stage running to the Camden Branch as soon as possible, that we may have a daily mail from Charleston and Columbia. Very shortly wagons will convey freight to and from the Branch road, and no impediment to mail staging will then exist. The same advantages should then be enjoyed by passengers and the mail as will be by goods and wagons. We thus endeavor to draw public attention to the matter, that proper steps for the accomplishment of these objects may be taken; and that they may be taken in time. The public mind occasionally needs spurring. We hardly dare, however, to call ourselves the riders.—We only endeavor to remind the public of what is evidently for their interest.

TEMPERANCE INFORMATION.

Dr. Wiley, of Lancaster district, lately stated at a temperance meeting in Charleston that in that district in 1830 there were thirty places licensed for the sale of ardent spirits but that in 1846 not a single

place was licensed because no applications for licenses were made. The first friends of temperance there were obliged, for personal safety, to assemble armed to conduct their operations. The reform has conferred great blessings on the district. The friends of temperance in this district will be pleased to hear of such success in another portion of our beloved state.

A SUGGESTION.

The increasing facilities of transportation and intercourse in this section of the state will have the effect of concentrating at certain places the trade of the districts through which such facilities pass. The Camden Branch Rail Road is now constructed to the main land on this side of the Wateree river, and the expected completion of the road during this year will necessarily draw a certain portion of the trade of Sumter District to it and its depots within our reach. It is then our interest to concentrate at the capital of the district as much of its trade as we can and in particular that of the country lying more immediately south and east of us. Some of our planters and farmers would be as willing to sell their cotton and produce in Sumterville as to send it to Charleston, if proportionable prices could here be obtained after allowing for the circumstance that by selling here the seller does not bear the cost of transportation. How then can Sumterville be made a depot of trade for this district before the building of the Wilmington and Manchester road? We suggest the following means, after the recollection of one or two preliminary remarks. The amount of seven hundred thousand dollars being subscribed to the Manchester road and the evident and strong disposition of the roads to the north and south of us in Virginia and Georgia to assist the enterprise to the amount of four hundred thousand more being considered, besides the determination of the people of Wilmington to build the road to the South Carolina line and the desire of our people to carry through the connecting link, render it a moral certainty that the road will be built, and that before the lapse of much time. Resting then on this reasonable certainty, the benefits of the proposed road might be secured to this district at once by the construction from Sumterville to the Manchester depot, along the line of the proposed road, of a track of unrailed timbers, properly graded and leveled, on which cars carrying a varying number of bales of cotton or quantity of produce might run without much difficulty and be drawn by horse power. All freight, too, destined for the greater part of the district below and east of us might be brought on such a road to this place as a depot. The mails also could be thus carried, and even passengers. During the last fall we traveled at the north on a few miles of road of this kind in cars drawn by horse power. Could use be made of flat rails the expense would be very greatly increased, but the facilities of passage by such use would be much more increased. These remarks are made on the supposition that the present subscribed funds of the road could be made use of, by permission of the company, or, if this is inexpedient or impossible, that funds might be subscribed for the purpose and that the work done might be sold to the rail road company when they were able to commence operations. Thus, or by similar means suited to the end, might Sumterville be made a place of much greater trade than at present. We are unable at present to give a statement of the probable cost of such an enterprise; but it is evident that the non-use of iron rails would much lessen it, and that the work thus done would be a certain quantity executed and ready for the proposed Wilmington road. These suggestions are made with the intention of calling the attention of our reflecting men to the consideration of the subject and of settling in motion whatever may be deemed advisable, should it be thought expedient to take any action thereon. Should the Wilmington road be built, of which we have no doubt, this measure would only hasten an expected result; and should it from the occurrence of any unforeseen and unfavorable circumstances not be built, the benefits of this cheap horse-car road would remain, while the cost and conduct of such a means of conveyance and transportation could be well borne and would not be much felt. From the execution of such a measure, it appears to us that the prosperity of Sumterville will be increased and that the district through her cannot fail to be benefited. A prospect is thus opened of forthwith drawing here cotton trade and such trade of other kinds as usually attends the sale and purchase of cotton.

THE PAUL JONES BILL.

Among the bills lately before Congress was one for the relief of the heirs of Com-

modore Paul Jones to the amount of \$24,000, as prize money due them for their share of three British vessels captured by the commodore during the revolutionary war. The bill is the same with that passed during the last session, which from being dropped in the lobby on its way to the President, was lost from want of his signature. It is probable that the bill will pass and justice and relief be given to the heirs of the brave commodore, who hovered and captured on the proud coasts of the mistress of the seas—aye, of old England herself.

RUMORS OF PEACE.

We are informed that there is good reason to believe that a treaty of peace has been agreed on with the Mexican Government, such as it is, and that the same has been very recently sent on to Washington for ratification. The terms of the supposed treaty have not yet become known. Though this rumor has more the appearance of truth and authenticity than the numerous tales which have preceded it, it is hard to believe that the present shadow of a Mexican government have withdrawn their obstinacy and consented to make peace while a place of flight for them remains; or, if preliminaries of peace have been agreed on, that the Mexican people in Congress assembled will ratify them. Should they now make peace, it will be a mark of their vacillation and despair, remarkable after the deep hatred resulting from their frequent fruitless efforts to oppose the American arms. Our whole people now seem desirous of peace, and exhibit the novel spectacle of a conquering nation seeking peace with the conquered. This shows that the lust and pride of dominion so apt to attend conquerors has not yet corrupted us as a nation nor as a mere mass of individuals.

For the Banner.

THE IMPORTANCE OF A WELL-SPENT YOUTH.

The desire for long life, is strongly implanted in the human mind. The young, especially, "count on long years of pleasure here," and dream not of an early grave. They suppose, too, but vainly, that the present has no connection with the future—that youth may be given to thoughtlessness and folly, without any detriment to the peace and happiness of their declining years.

But, we repeat it, this is a vain supposition. The early period of life bears the same relation to manhood and old age, which spring-time does to the season of harvest. Let a youth be spent in profligacy and dissipation, and you will be strangers to tranquility and comfort in the evening of life. This is the settled order of things, and to change it, is beyond your power. If you would reap the fruits of righteousness, when the frosts of age have silenced your head; you must now sow the seeds of righteousness.

We see the truth of this exemplified in thousands of instances. Let a young man neglect to improve his mind, and he will grow up in ignorance. Let him neglect to cultivate virtuous dispositions and habits; and he will soon become the slave of such as are vicious and degrading.—The heart is naturally a corrupt soil, and requires the most early and diligent care to prevent it from luxuriating in the vilest appetites and passions. Hence the necessity, that you suppress the first evil propensity, and guard vigilantly against the first inclination to pursue even a doubtful course. If you succeed in doing this, youth will be virtuous—manhood, useful and honorable—and old age furnished with matter for the most pleasing reflection and review.

"It may be, that time will correct the worst faults of youth; but it does not always; it does often; it more frequently confirms and increases them." It is the natural tendency of habits, to wax stronger and stronger. "They that sow wild oats, must expect to reap wild oats." "The child is father of the man." This being always about to live as we should, is a great delusion; he that is doing wrong now has no reason to expect that he will ever do right. The idle, vulgar, false, cruel, wicked boy is on the way to a useless, vicious manhood, and a miserable age. How can you hope to escape ruin, when you follow a path that leads nowhere else!"

These remarks must commend themselves to the approval of every considerate youth. Then, youthful reader!

"So live, that when thy summons comes to join The innumerable caravan, that moves To that mysterious realm, where each shall take

His chamber in the silent halls of death— Thou go not, like the galley-slave at night, Scourged to his dungeon; but sustained and soothed

By an unfeeling trust, approach the grave, Like one that draws the draper of his couch Around him, and lies down to pleasant dreams." Pine Level. J. D.

THE CAMDEN BRANCH.—We are happy to learn that the track is over the Wateree and the road landed fairly on the east bank of the river. The locomotives have not yet run over, but will in a day or two. Hand cars pass constantly. By Monday next, we understand, their passage over will be assured for business. We further learn that the superstructure is prepared and will be forced as rapidly as possible up to the Depot near Manchester, and that it is expected to have the road completed to that point by the first of March.

We congratulate the people of the east side of the Wateree with all our hearts on this happy event. The more they enjoy of the more will they value the inestimable advantages of Railroads.—Columbia Telegraph.

Disastrous Accident.—The boiler attached to the saw mill of Mr. A. DICK, situated in Mayeville, exploded between 11 and 12 o'clock yesterday forenoon, from what cause we have been unable to ascertain. The head of the boiler was thrown some distance, and after passing through the roof of one of the out-buildings of Mr. Wm. Mackay, in the neighborhood, fell into Chapel-st., a distance of some one hundred and twenty-five yards, from the scene of disaster, the body of the boiler itself, near twenty-five feet in length, and weighing about two tons, however, took an opposite direction, passing first a small wooden building on the opposite side of the street, and in its course killing a colored man named John Lewis, who was sitting at his desk writing, actually striking him in two, and scattering the weather boarding of the building in every direction. The boiler finally made a lodgment among a pile of wood on Macbeth's wharf, some of which was thrown against a white man named John Habricks, fracturing his left leg and breaking his right arm. The mill itself is much injured by the explosion, but we understand the proprietor has already commenced clearing away the fragments, preparatory to placing another boiler in the place of the one destroyed, which is stated to have been about six months in use.

The concussion at the time of the explosion was tremendous, and was felt in every direction, to a considerable distance. The wreck gives an evidence of the power of steam seldom seen, and the astonishment of every spectator is expressed, that a body of iron could thus be sent like an arrow from a well-strung bow, a distance of some eighty yards, after encountering a number of obstructions. There can be little doubt that had it been unimpeded in its progress, it would have landed in the marsh beyond the wharf.

It is fortunate that there was not a more extensive loss of life and limb, as there were several narrow escapes. One gentleman in forms us that he had but just passed the spot when he heard explosion. Had he been but a few seconds later, he would doubtless have been killed.—Char. Cour. 16th.

The State vs. Nicholas, slave of Kelly.—We give the following extract from the opinion of the Law of Court of Appeals, in this case, as a useful guide to Courts of Magistrates and Freeholders, in the administration of our slave Law.

Curia per Wordlaw, Justice.—"This Court has attained no distinct conclusion as to the meaning of the words, 'if any slave shall grievously wound, maim or bruise any white person,' used in the 24th Sect. of the Act of 1740; but, seeing that the offence pointed out is, by the section, equivalent to three several presumptive strikings of white persons; that the punishment is death, and that temporary excitement may sometimes mislead Magistrates and Freeholders as to the meaning of the Legislature, all the members of this Court agree that the grievous wounding, maiming or bruising, must be done with evil intent and be severe; and that the degree of severity is not sufficiently expressed by saying, that it must inflict pain, distress and suffering, although it is hard by any words to attain the precision, which is desirable. Some of us think that this grievous wounding, maiming or bruising, must be such as ensues from an attempt to commit murder, or other felony, and is likely to endanger life."

A theft by means of chloroform lately took place at Mardigny, near Port-a-Mousson, in France. Two persons went to an inn, under the pretence, as they said, of ordering a little banquet. They succeeded in putting the mistress of the house asleep, by making her breathe the perfidious liquor, which was concealed in a small bottle within a medallion. Her husband had been sent away, under pretence of looking for some of the party expected, who had not arrived. On his return he found his wife in a state of alarm, for she had not entirely lost her senses; she had been sensible of the robbers taking away her keys, and had seen them take from her chest a bag of silver containing a sum of 335 francs, with which they had absconded.

Bicknell's Remarks.

DEMARRA.—EFFECT OF EMANCIPATION.—The New York Express publishes a letter from Demarra, dated Jan. 11, which describes the financial condition of that Province as critical in the extreme. Estates are, one after another, being abandoned or passing from the hands of the proprietors, at execution sale, for a few hundred dollars. Merchant after merchant is failing, and particularly those immediately connected with the Colony. The banks have ceased to discount drafts, even with bill of lading attached, and many planters have, in consequence, been unable to procure money to pay wages, and even the more improvident of the working classes, are beginning for the first time to feel the limitation of credit.

The citizens of Boston have got up a petition to the Legislature praying for the repeal of the usury law of Massachusetts. A strong movement is making in New York for the abolition of such laws.

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.—At a meeting held in Paris last month, on behalf of the above Society, it was stated that the income for the past year was above £115,000; that the society maintains 417 missionaries, with nearly 800 other agents, has in its congregations about 500,000 hearers, of whom 102,000 are communicants and members, has in its schools 72,000 pupils, and employs 8 printing establishments.

Char. Cour.

A Temperance King.—A recent letter from the Sandwich Islands, gives an account of a juvenile temperance meeting at Molohai, attended by a thousand children. A speech was made by his Majesty the King, who exhibited great pleasure at the scene. Speeches were also made by the Prime Minister, by the High Chief of the Privy Council, and by the Governor of Maui, who did honor to the occasion.

A man of Honour.—"Monsieur, you have no courage."
"Repeat that, sir, if you please."
"I repeat; you have no courage!"
"Thank you! thank you! two negatives make an affirmative. I am delighted, monsieur, that you take me for a man of honor."

The following conundrum took the prize at Mayeville, Ky., on the 21st of November: Why is Santa Anna like a wet day? Because he remained as long as he could, and then nizzked.