

~~THE RAILROADS AND THE MAILS.~~ Some of the railroad companies, by extraordinary efforts, have succeeded in overcoming the snow blockade, and thus setting their various trains in active motion again. The other roads will probably be in traveling order to-day. It was mentioned in the Sun yesterday that the mail train from Washington came through on Tuesday evening with the mail from that city. Yesterday morning another southern train arrived, bringing the New Orleans mail of the 12th inst., due here on Sunday evening. The trains for Washington left at the usual hour yesterday. The obstructions on the roads south of Washington will, it is expected, be removed in season to allow of the regular transmission of the mails to Baltimore to-day. The train from Washington came in promptly last evening, but without bringing a mail from beyond Alexandria.

The track of the main stem of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad has also been cleared, and yesterday afternoon a train arrived with Columbus, Cincinnati and Louisville papers, which were due here on Sunday. On the Northern Central railroad the trains are again in motion, but we have no arrival by the Philadelphia railroad yet. Interesting particulars in regard to the condition of all the different lines coming to the city, and the measures taken for freeing them of the obstructing snow drifts, are given in our local column, and show that the officers and employees of each have evinced untiring industry and commendable energy in disencumbering these great routes of travel and trade.

**NEW PAINTING FOR THE SENATE CHAMBER AT ANNAPOLIS.**—Some inquiries have been made respecting the painting ordered by the last Legislature for the Senate chamber, and for which the sum of \$3,000 was appropriated. The committee who have the matter in charge consists of Senator Wallace, of Dorchester county, Senator Hoffman, of Baltimore city, and Senator Galther, of Montgomery county. They have not yet contracted for the work, although the committee have not been inactive, and we are glad to learn that they are exercising a commendable caution in the selection of an artist, whose production, it is hoped, will do honor to the taste and liberality of the State, and to the great event—that of Washington resigning his commission—which it is intended to commemorate.

The leading artists of the country, it is said, are unwilling to undertake the work at the price designated, and to those of inferior fame the committee are unwilling to hazard its execution. They entertain the hope, however, to make an engagement shortly with an artist of brilliant genius, whose love of fame and desire to perpetuate so important an event in the history of the country by his own pencil will induce him to overlook what is deemed the limited compensation which the committee are authorized to offer for its production.

**THE FIRE AT PIEDMONT, VA.,** on Tuesday night of last week originated in the shoe shop of Mr. Wm. Heck, formerly of Cumberland, Md., and from thence spread to the adjoining frame house belonging to Mr. Paxton, and to a large double brick house belonging to Mr. William Thrasher. The former was a dwelling occupied by Mr. Heck and another family; the latter was occupied as a store and dwelling by Mr. Thrasher and another family. The shoe shop and the frame house were entirely consumed, with all their contents. The brick house was partially consumed; the goods and furniture were saved. Mr. Heck estimates his loss at \$300, Mr. Paxton at \$700, and Mr. Thrasher at \$3,000, being a total loss of \$4,500; none of the property was insured.