

BALTIMORE CLIPPER.

THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 27, 1841.

NEW YORK CUSTOM HOUSE. It is said that the committee appointed to investigate the concerns of the New York Custom House, have discovered frauds and other dishonest practices to an enormous amount. Corruption appears to be the order of the day, especially among banks and public officers. These acts of villany are so frequent, and the escape of the offenders so general, that they have ceased to create a sensation in the community. We may see the wealthy widow of to-day stripped of her last dollar to-morrow by the plunderer, without its arresting more than a momentary attention. The quick succession of crime appears to have paralyzed our faculties; we can hardly raise the finger to point after one villain, before we have to change its position in the direction of another. And are these things to continue? Shall the criminals still be permitted to escape? have we laws to punish the offenders? Where are the numerous government officers who have robbed the public? Gone to Texas or walking at liberty! Where are the plunderers of the Banks? Following at the heels of the public officers. They snap their fingers at justice and defy its power. And now we are probably about to add new recruits to the population of Texas from the Custom House at New York. There must be laws to punish men who violate their trusts, and thus rob the public and institutions. Why are they not enforced? The petty scoundrel is pursued from state to state, and when caught is punished with severity. The wholesale robber goes unmolested. If criminal acts be established against any of the Custom House officers of New York, we hope that Government will not be content with an exposure of their villany, but will have them punished with the utmost severity of the law. An example is absolutely necessary to check the onward progress of crime. In every instance where a public officer appropriates the government funds to his own use, or where he fails to make punctual settlements, he should be promptly dismissed and punished. No pretext should be admitted as a sufficient apology for neglecting regular settlements. If the new administration will insist on a rigid adherence to duty in every particular on the part of public officers, and punish them from service when negligent, and dismiss them when dishonest, they will deserve well of the country, and have the country well served. The examinations now going on in New York, would seem to indicate such to be their intention, and we hope that such will prove to be the fact.

We have spoken repeatedly of the causes of the great increase of crime; but we must repeat, that if the disposition to extravagance and speculation be not restrained, offences must continue to multiply. The man who risks thousands when he is not worth hundreds—or who spends a shilling where he earns only a penny, is not likely to be careful of the mode of supplying the deficiency; and will sometimes descend to become a rogue sooner than relinquish the false position he has assumed in society. The gentleman will act honestly and labor to pay his debts—and such a man in a threadbare coat is preferable to the knave in embroidery. We should distrust the honesty of any man whose style of living was beyond his means; and whenever public or bank officers, or others having the custody of funds not their own, are seen thus exceeding their proper limits, those interested cannot be too quick in having an investigation.

FRONT STREET THEATRE STRUCK BY LIGHTNING. During the thunder storm on Tuesday afternoon, about five o'clock, the conductor attached to the Front Street Theatre was struck by lightning. The fluid passed down the spout, shattered a number of windows and shook the whole building to its foundation. Several of the actors, musicians, and those engaged otherwise, were in and about the house at the time, three or four of whom were very seriously stunned, and knocked down by the shock. The cupola was somewhat injured. A little child which had been playing in Low street, was so affected by the concussion of the elements as to drop down upon the pavement. Many of the neighbors, in the immediate vicinity of the establishment, we learn, felt the shock very sensibly. We are happy in stating, however, that no serious injury was sustained by any one. This was certainly a miraculous escape, and adds another proof of the benefits resulting from the use of lightning conductors.

MONEY MARKET.—May 25, 1841. The stock of the United States Bank has advanced (says the Philadelphia Chronicle,) and the closing sales at the Board were 21. Our citizens seem to be pleased at once more having a currency of small bills circulated throughout the community, and which emanate from Banks located in the State. We have too long been delayed with a mass of worthless trash from neighbouring States and the issue of bills, under the new Relief Law passed by our Legislature appears to give satisfaction to all classes of the community.

TAKEN ON SUSPICION. Yesterday a fellow named Edward Hagan, was arrested by Michael Shmk, and taken before Squire McDonald, charged with stealing a coat and two breastpins, the property of Chas. F. Wescot, at Canton. A hearing of the case was had, and the prisoner committed for further examination.

CONGRESS. Monday next is the day appointed for the commencement of the extra session of Congress. It is hoped and expected that members will set to work and despatch whatever business may require their attention—and that they will spare their long speeches for a colder season. The friends of the administration having a majority in both branches of the national legislature, will be held responsible by the people for waste of time as well as for measures passed.

The President's message will be eagerly looked for. It is expected that it will contain some recommendation on the subject of the currency; or at least express a willingness to sanction any measure in relation to it which may be adopted by Congress. We have no doubt that he will be explicit in his approval of the distribution bill and revision of the tariff, two measures of great importance.

The strength of parties in Congress is supposed to be as follows:

Senate—Administration,	29
Opposition,	22
One vacancy.	
House—Administration,	135
Opposition,	98
Uncertain,	4

RULES OF THE HOUSE. We unite with a Washington letter writer in the hope that there will be an alteration in the rules of the House. Those which have been in operation for some sessions greatly retarded the progress of business, and gave rise to scenes which excited disgust. A few plain rules would be sufficient if properly enforced; but by complicating the machinery it never can be made to work well. A great portion of the time of the House is usually wasted in the endeavors to get business before the House. It would be easy to so simplify the rules as to permit business to proceed so smoothly, and we are sure that members, as well as the nation, would find their advantage in it. All that is wanted in the formation of rules to govern a deliberative body is the application of common sense.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE. Among those who have been named for this important station is the Hon. William Cost Johnson, from this State. Mr. Johnson's course in Congress has been brilliant and distinguished, and the fact of his being named for the office of Speaker of the House of Representatives, proves that he possesses talents of a high order. It would be gratifying not only to his immediate constituents, but we are convinced, to the people of Maryland generally, to see him chosen the presiding officer of the House. We are sure that he would discharge the duties of the station with dignity, ability and impartiality.

SHAMEFUL. A young and very pretty girl about 14 years of age, named Lara Ridgley, the daughter of one, who no doubt is able to support her genteelly, was yesterday brought before Squire McDonald and by him committed to the Alms-house. She was found in the street by officer Zigler, in a most destitute and pitiable condition—had in her hand a small pistol, which from the manner of her actions it was supposed she intended to use for the purpose of destroying her life. Is this not a heart rending picture? To think that a young innocent girl—one just bursting into the bloom of womanhood, shall be thus prostrated and disgraced forever—and that too in a christian land? Is the pure spotless temple of female virtue of so little account as to be thus suffered to sink in oblivion's night? Shall the flower be trampled upon by relentless humanity ere it has had time to unfold its tender leaves. Gracious heavens, is there not a breast with sympathy and a hand to save?

NEW RIFLE COMPANY. Active measures have been taken by a number of gentlemen for the formation of a new Rifle Corps, to be uniformed altogether with domestic cloth. A meeting was held at the Assembly Building on Tuesday evening, and there is every reason for believing that a full and efficient company will be organized. The object is a good one, and we recommend it to the attention of young men who are "innoculated with military ardour."

CUT IN THE FACE. A colored man named George Watkins got into a quarrel last night at the Front St. Theatre, and before the altercation closed had his face cut half off by a razor, or some sharp instrument similar to it. The knife entered above the eye and passed down the left cheek to the lower part of the chin, making a passage large enough to lay two fingers in. He was also stabbed in the side. The dispute arose about a colored woman. He was taken out to a doctor. The wounds were thought very dangerous.

THE LADY'S BOOK. We have received from Wm. N. Harrison, No. 23 North Gay Street, the June number, of this highly popular monthly. It is handsomely embellished with a steel engraving, and a plate of the fashions. We commend it to every tasteful reader.

We have also received a copy of the above work, from N. Hickman, Baltimore street.

THE PHOENIX & BUDGET. We have received the June number of this monthly from the publishers. We have not had time to give it a careful perusal, but recommend it to the reader.

SLEWED AND VOEFERERS. In the Eastern District, on Tuesday night, two seamen, Daniel Ferguson and James Williams, were apprehended and locked up in the watch house, charged with being in the unpleasant condition above named. It is sincerely hoped that the gallant and indefatigable "Neptunes," who know how to do "good works," will render such assistance in the premises as will redound to the honor of all concerned.

The thermometer was 84 degrees above zero, in Hartford, Conn. on the 22d inst.

THE AMISTAD AFRICANS. These sable sons and daughters of Africa, says the Philadelphia Daily Chronicle of Wednesday, continue to excite the curiosity and attention of our citizens, especially the religious portion of them, and ladies particularly. There was another meeting of the Africans yesterday afternoon, at the Nazareth Church, in Thirteenth street, and another last evening, at the colored Presbyterian Church, in Seventh street, below Shippen. The exercises they go through with, consist of singing and spelling—Kiama addresses the audience, and holds conversations in English, and Cinque speaks in the Meadi tongue, the language of his native land. The Africans are to return shortly to their homes, accompanied by some one, or perhaps, two or more, missionaries. In appearance, they are the real bona fide African, but with countenances much more intelligent than Africans, usually have.

The Rockingham Va. Register contains an account of a horrid murder, recently committed in Rockingham, a father was murdered by his own son. This fearful crime, says the Register, "was the result of a drunken frolic, in which father, mother and son were all engaged." The murderer has been brought before an examining court, and discharged, it appearing that the father made an attack upon the son, in repelling which the fatal wound was inflicted. The son defended himself with a hoe, "a blow with which stove in the parent's skull, and laid him dead at his feet."

POLICE. Three negroes, Edw'd Hogan, Coles Aiken and John Reed, were apprehended, on Tuesday evening, by the Police, and confined in the Middle District watch house. Yesterday morning Reed and Aiken were discharged, and Hogan committed to prison by Justice McDonald, to answer an alleged charge of felony.

Two colored vagrants were committed to the Alms-house by Justice Pennington. An insane man, named Jeremiah Crean, was found wandering the streets yesterday morning, at 1 o'clock, in a destitute condition, and taken to the watch house. He was afterwards taken to Calverton.

GREEN MOUNT CEMETERY. We learn from a paragraph in the American of yesterday, that "the Managers have acted with most liberal spirit in granting tickets of admission to the large number of persons who daily visit the Cemetery, that they have resolved hereafter not to admit any but *Lotholders*, and those accompanying them, on Sundays. A due respect for the Sabbath, and the sacred character of the place, would appear to justify this course."

RAIL ROAD ACCIDENT. The cars of the Frederick city train, run off the track about two miles beyond the Relay House, coming in contact with a cow, which caused immediate death. Nother accident occurred. The cars reached the city about half an hour after the usual time. We learn from one of the passengers, that sundry implements were found in the vicinity of Frederick, belonging, no doubt, to the gentlemen who helped themselves to the funds of the Bank of that city.

DISGRACEFUL. A disgraceful scene occurred on Light Street wharf, yesterday afternoon, which proved a new way to us of settling a debt. A youth was engaged to do some hauling, which, when done, was paid by the commandant by sundry kicks and blows, in the shape of Pugilism, for which the gentleman is likely to get himself into difficulty.

ACCIDENT. From the Richmond Star of the 24th we learn that on the Thursday previous, two gentlemen, Mr. Caldwell, of the White Sulphur Springs, and Mr. E. G. Davis, were thrown out of their carriage, together with the driver, and very seriously injured. To the editor of the same paper some stalks of rye have been shown measuring six feet, ten inches and a half in length.

A young man who was lately arrested by the police of New Orleans for some misdemeanor, on being made prisoner asked permission to go into his room for a moment, which was granted him. He at once opened his razor and cut his throat in a manner which leaves little hope of his recovery.—His friends are respectable.

REPORTS. Capt. Ferris, of the Westchester, arrived at New York, on Monday morning, reports that on the 15th inst. when in lat. 41, lon. 61, passed the wreck of a vessel from 500 to 600 tons, full of water—all her masts gone—had a poop deck. It being dark did not board her. Captain Flanders, of the Silas Richards, arrived on Sunday from Liverpool. On the 20th April lat. 39. 32, lon. 72, saw the wreck of a large vessel, with jib-boom and bowsprit standing.

The election in Indiana, has resulted in the choice of eight administration members of Congress and one Opposition. A Van Buren man has been elected in the district last represented by Rariden, Whig.

FANNY IS COMING. The Elster her own self was among the passengers who arrived at Louisville, by the steamer Queen of the West on the 20th inst. She immediately left Philadelphia.

A servant girl in the employ of Dr. Welch at Wethersfield, has confessed the crime of setting fire to his out buildings, last week, and been committed to jail.

NEW YORK AND HARLEM RAIL ROAD. We learn that this road carried on the 23d inst. upwards of five thousand passengers.

It is said that measles and varioloid are quite prevalent in Philadelphia at present, especially among children.

BREAKING JAIL. All the prisoners, five in number, broke jail at Amherst, N. H. on Wednesday night, and made their escape.

COMMUNICATION.
[Mr. Editor—] When with the confinement incident to a sedentary occupation, and the lowness of the weather, I have been home bound for the last few months until Sunday afternoon last, when the weather having related its austere character, I availed myself of its benign influence to take a stroll around the wharves, and in my course fell in with a few friends, who were wending their way to the Steam Boat Company's wharf, where they were to embark on a pleasure excursion to Dr. HOUCK'S Pavilion, at the North Point Battle Ground, head of Bear Creek. At their solicitation I joined the party, and I must confess I felt gratified that I had fallen in with an excursion which afforded me more pleasure than an excursion which afforded me more pleasure, returned from an hour with me renovated or elastic spirits. The trip itself, after being shut up as I had been for months amidst dirty streets and brick walls, was calculated to impart new life and vigor to both body and mind. Almost every point on its waters, brought up in recollection some reminiscence of the late war. On the right, as we glided onward, was Fort M'Henry, which so nobly defied the enemy's bombs—on the left, we could see the remains of the Lazaretto Battery, which, under Commodore Rutter, had done our country service in the hour of its need. In looking on these two points, so famed in the defence of Baltimore, the mind instinctively inquired, where now is the gallant Col. STRAUER, who so nobly headed his men on the Beach at Fort M'Henry—where the brave AMISTAD, its daughter commander—where those chivalric spirits, Nicholas and Farrington, who, at the head of their respective volunteer companies, stood out the siege, sustaining the star spangled banner with the firmness of veterans? And when the answer told they were gathered to their fathers, a patriot tear was dropped over their memories—for we could dwell upon the history of their patriotic deeds, and discharge, it appearing that the father made an attack upon the son, in repelling which the fatal wound was inflicted. The son defended himself with a hoe, "a blow with which stove in the parent's skull, and laid him dead at his feet."

As the steamer entered the mouth of Bear Creek, we beheld North Point, and there too we recalled the main force—that it was thence he marshalled the hostile force with which he made his "demonstration" upon Baltimore, the home of the free and the brave. And, as she neared the landing at Hock's Pavilion, we beheld the point at which the Commodore Rutter, and his gallant crew, had landed on the day of the battle—where which, but for the accidental grounding of their boats, would have been in our rear long before the action had ended; and who, as it was, fired upon a portion of our troops as they retreated. All these circumstances came fresh to my mind, and I, in looking on these two points, so famed in the defence of Baltimore, the mind instinctively inquired, where now is the gallant Col. STRAUER, who so nobly headed his men on the Beach at Fort M'Henry—where the brave AMISTAD, its daughter commander—where those chivalric spirits, Nicholas and Farrington, who, at the head of their respective volunteer companies, stood out the siege, sustaining the star spangled banner with the firmness of veterans? And when the answer told they were gathered to their fathers, a patriot tear was dropped over their memories—for we could dwell upon the history of their patriotic deeds, and discharge, it appearing that the father made an attack upon the son, in repelling which the fatal wound was inflicted. The son defended himself with a hoe, "a blow with which stove in the parent's skull, and laid him dead at his feet."

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There was but one circumstance during the evening that cast a gloom upon the minds of any of the number. It was this—A small party of us, as we waited for the intended monument, whose foundation was laid some twenty months ago, and we were filled with regret and shame, when we learned, that although the patriotic proprietor of the ground had, at the time, given a deed to the State of Maryland of an acre of land to be appropriated to the monument, nothing had been done towards its completion, than the casting of a granite block to the earth, and that from present prospects, there was no reason to believe that the patriotic fervor of our people would not subside there. Can such things be, and not excite our special mortification? 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