BALTIMORE CLIPPER.

"THE UNION, THE CONSTITUTION, AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAWS."

VOLUME L.--NUMBER 29. BALTIMORE, FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 3, 1865. PRICE TWO CENTS.

Latest News by Telegraph TO THE BALTIMORE CLIPPER.

FROM THE SOUTH

HIGHLY IMPORTANT NEWS.

Fires at Wilmington, N. C. and Summit, Miss.

SHERMAN MOVING ON S. CAROLINA.

His Main Column for Charleston.

TWO OTHER COLUMNS FOR BRANCHVILLE.

Non-Combatants to Leave Augusta

REPORTED MOVEMENTS OF THOMAS

Beauregard to Command the Army of Tennessee

&c., &c., &c.

The Peace Commission.

THEIR ARRIVAL AT GEN. GRANT'S HEADQUARTERS.

HEAD'Q'RS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Feb. 1.—The announcement that Peace Commissioners had arrived within our lines and had gone to Washington, although premature, was not without foundation in fact. On Sunday a flag of truce appeared on the line near our centre, and being answered, it was found to be a request, in pursuance of an understanding with Mr. Blair and General Grant for permission for the following-named persons to pass to General Grant's headquarters: Lieutenant Colonel Hatch, Assistant Adjutant General and Exchange Commissioner, with Alexander H. Stephens, R. M. T. Hunter and J. A. Campbell.

Col. Samuel Hariman, commanding the 1st Brigade of the 1st Division, 9th Corps, received the communication and forwarded it to Headquarters, but owing to Gen. Grant's absence from City Point, no reply could be sent immediately. The matter however was referred to Washington, and after several communications had passed between our authorities and the Commissioners, the permission was granted and a deputation consisting of Col. Babcock, of Gen. Grant's staff, Col Harman, Col. Leidy of Gen. Parke's staff, and Capt. Brockett, of Gen. Wilcox's staff, were deputed to meet the gentlemen and escort them within our lines. The deputation reached the appointed place just before sunset yesterday afternoon and were soon joined by Mr. Stephens and his companions, and after a few minutes spent in interchanging civilities, the party came within our lines, the troops on both sides uniting in a simultaneous cheer which seemed to give them greater confidence than they had before exhibited.

They were escorted to the railroad in carriages, where a special train was in waiting to convey them to city point. A large crowd of soldiers were here assembled, anxious to get a glimpse of the strangers, and when the train started loud cheers again greeted them.

On arriving at City Point, they were taken to Gen. Grant's headquarters, where they spent the night.

Messrs. Stephens and Campbell looked much emaciated and careworn, but Mr. Hunter appeared to be hale and hearty as did Col. Hatch. The latter conducted the negotiations in his usual agreeable and happy manner. The only allusion made to our difficulties, was the hope, expressed by Mr. Stephens to Col. Harrison on bidding him good bye, that they would soon meet under happier auspices.

(Signed) W. D. McGREGOR.

SOUTHERN ACCOUNTS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—The Richmond Dispatch of Tuesday contains the following:

"Messrs. Stephens, Hunter, and Campbell, the Confederate Peace Commissioners, who left here on Sunday morning for Washington city, stopped on Sunday night in Petersburg, whence they went through the lines to City Point yesterday morning. They left our lines in General Bushrod Johnson's front. As they were making the transit, their characters and the object of their mission became known, when our troops sent up such a cheering as never was heard before, and continued it till the Commissioners were out of sight and well within the Yankee lines, when the clamor was immediately caught up by the Yankee troops, who cheered until they were hoarse. Amid the deafening shouts of the armies, the commission went on their way. The next we hear of them will be through the Yankee newspapers.

Gold yesterday was still at $45 for $1.

The enemy's newspapers have falsely reported the Tallahassee as captured.—She ran into New Inlet, just after the capture of Fort Fisher, when discovering that some important change (he knew not then what,) had occurred in the military situation, her commander, Capt. Maffitt, put to sea and made good his escape. He touched the South Carolina coast and put ashore a messenger with dispatches, who has reached this city. The news has not been made public.

In the Confederate House of Representatives on Monday, Mr. DeJarnette offered a resolution which was unanimously referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, saying that the time may not be distant when the Confederate States will be prepared to unite, on the basis of the independence of the Confederate States, with those most interested in the vindication of the principles of the Monroe doctrine, to the exclusion of all seeming violations of these principles on the "Continent of North America."

Mr. Machin, of Kentucky, introduced a preamble and resolutions, setting forth that it is reported that the Federal authorities in Nashville are practicing the most barbarous treatment of our prisoners, curtailing their diet to hard tack and water, and treating them in such a manner as to cause their death by disease, and instructing the special committee on exchange of prisoners to inquire into and report on said complaint."

☞ Secretary Fox tender has signed warrants for all requisitions of the Navy Department drawn prior to the first of January, and hopes within a few weeks to pay the army up to the same date.

FROM NEW ORLEANS.

CAIRO, Feb. 1.—The steamer Hardy, from New Orleans on Jan. 25th, arrived to-day with a large number of passengers. Many persons are leaving the Department of the Gulf in consequence of Gen. Canby's draft order.

The steamer City of Cairo brings ninety bales of cotton from Memphis. Another skirmish took place on the 28th ult., back of Memphis, between the guerillas and our pickets. Several of the guerillas were killed.

Andrew Jackson Donelson passed here to-day for Memphis.

New Orleans advices of Jan. 24th show no change in the markets.

Gov. Hahn's Proclamation of the 6th was generally celebrated throughout the State as a day of festivity in honor of the Emancipation acts in Missouri and Tennessee. Some forty thousand persons outside the city celebrated the day. The news of the capture of Fort Fisher was received at New Orleans the previous evening, and gave increased spirit to the enjoyment of the occasion.

The courts adjourned, and the streets were thronged with white and black people. The public and private buildings and shipping were draped with the national flags, and the military schools and numerous societies of colored people were in procession. Speeches were made by Governor Hahn and several officers of the General and State Governments, and by colored orators. A salute of one hundred guns was fired, and the city was brilliantly illuminated at night.

Natchez letters say General Davidson, since assuming command of that department, has extended his lines on the roads leading out of that city, so as to protect the several plantations, and all the troops now encamped outside of the city. The office of the Mayor has been abolished, and the Provost Marshal has been executing the functions of that office. All the contrabands in Natchez and Vandalia are ordered to work on the farms back of the latter place, and furnished with rations, under supervision of Colonel Mitchell, Superintendent of Freedmen. Colonel Fuller commands the post of Natchez.

Two wagon loads of supplies, which were driven beyond the lines from Vidalia, under a proper passport, were captured by guerillas, and the owners lost everything, but were paroled not to do anothing to prejudice the interests of Jeff. Davis.

Twenty-one persons who were wounded by the explosion of the steamer Eclipse have died since their arrival at Paducah, and it is thought several others cannot survive.

RATIFICATION OF THE EMANCIPATION AMENDMENT.

ILLINOIS.

CHICAGO, Feb. 2.—The General Assembly of Illinois yesterday ratified the Constitutional amendment abolishing slavery in the United States. The vote in the Senate stood 12 yeas to 6 nays; and in the House 48 yeas to 28 nays. Five Democratic Senators voted for the amendment.

RHODE ISLAND.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Feb. 2.—The Rhode Island House of Representatives this morning passed the resolution approving and adopting the proposed amendment to the United States Constitution. The vote stood 52 yeas to 4 nays. The Senate shortly after concurred in the ratification of the amendment.

MASSACHUSETTS.

BOSTON, Feb. 2.—Salutes are being fired and bells are ringing throughout the State, in honor of the ratification of the amendment to the National Constitution abolishing slavery.

MICHIGAN.

DETROIT, Feb. 2.—The Constitutional amendment abolishing slavery in the U. States, was ratified by the Legislature of this State this morning.

Later from Europe.

HALIFAX, Feb. 2.—The steamer Africa from Liverpool on the 21st, arrived here at 3 o'clock this morning.

The London Globe authoritatively contradicts the rumors that British troops were about to embark for Canada.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

Liverpool, January 21st.—Cotton is unchanged. Breadstuffs dull. Wheat firmer. Provisions firm.

London, Jan. 21st.—Consols for money closed at 89¾@90.

RECONNOISANCE BY GEN. THOMAS' ARMY--EVACUATION OF CORINTH BY THE REBELS.

NEW YORK, Feb. 2.—The Herald says that a reconnoissance from Gen. Thomas' army at Eastport, Miss., recently showed that the main portion of Hood's force was, on the 20th ult., at Tupelo, Miss. On the appearance of the Union troops before Corinth, some 400 rebels stationed there evacuated the place after burning the railroad depot, and other buildings. Between thirty and forty of them were captured.

THE 7-30 LOAN.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 2.—It is announced that the 5 per cent. legal tender notes will be received by Jay Cook, the general subscription agent, in payment of subscriptions to the 7 30 loan with all accrued interest to the date of receipt by him.

THE CHAMPIONHIP OF THE ENGLISH PRIZE RING.

The belt, which was manufactured some years ago by an eminent London firm, at a cost of £100 subscribed by noblemen and gentlemen who take an interest in the exploits of the prize ring, has been handed over to Wormald, the victor in the late fight, who is now the acknowledged "champion." The conditions on which the belt is given are that the holder must defend his claim to it against all comers for three years, and fight for it every six months, if challenged to do so. In the event of the holder maintaining his claim for three years the belt becomes his absolute property. It was first won by Tom Sayers against the Tipton Slasher, in 1857. There were several contests for it, but Sayers succeeded in holding it up to his great battle with Heenan (the Benecia Boy,) on the 7th of April, 1860.

After that fight Sayers retired from the ring, and the belt was placed in commission. The result of the late fight rendered Wormald entitled to it but circumstances seem to show that he will not be allowed to retain it long unchallenged. It is said that in the course of a few days Mace will throw down the gauntlet to the new champion, while in other quarters it is rumored that King is inclined to reconsider his resolution never to fight again, and to engage in a conflict for the belt.—Marsden, who was unsuccessful in the late fight with Wormald, is not likely to enter the ring again, one of his arms having been rendered almost useless by the rough treatment it received.—*London Times, Jan. 17.*

FROM SAVANNAH.

Great Conflagrations in the City.

TWO SQUARES SAID TO BE DESTROYED.

Discovery of a Diabolical Plot.

THE WORK OF REBEL INCENDIARIES

NEW YORK, February 1.—The steamer Suwo Nada, from Savannah and Hilton Head on the 29th ultimo, has arrived.

Among her passengers are Maj. Gen. Leggett and Brig. Gen. McCullum.

On the evening of the 27th of December a disastrous conflagration occurred in Savannah, destroying considerable property, but there was no loss of life.

On the morning of the 28th fire again broke out, destroying two squares in the third district. Buildings were torn down to prevent the spreading of the flames, as the wind was strong from the east.

Some fiend had placed a keg of powder at the side of the arsenal, corner of York and Water streets, undoubtedly to blow up the city, as the arsenal contained some thirty tons of powder. The keg was placed in the shadow of a tree to avoid discovery, with the top taken off. This hellish design is attributed to the rebels, who are in anything but an amicable mood in view of their present condition.

GREAT CONFLAGRATION—EXPLOSION OF A REBEL MAGAZINE.

[From the New York Tribune.]

We are indebted to Mr. Theodore H. Vosburg, a passenger on the steamer Suwo Nada, for a copy of the Savannah Republican of Saturday morning last, from which we take the following rather highly colored account of an explosion and large fire in that city:

DISASTROUS CONFLAGRATION—THRILLING SCENES—GALLANTRY OF SOLDIERS.

At a few minutes past 6 o'clock last evening the streets of our city again resounded with the peal of the fire alarm from the belfry of the Exchange, and at the same time dense volumes of smoke were discovered issuing from the large double tenement four story brick building on the north side of Broughton st. The fire, which is supposed to be the work of an incendiary, originated in the cellar of the western tenement, which was used as a miscellaneous store-room, and filled with cotton, rosin, leather, furniture and other combustible materials. The upper portion of the building was occupied by several families, and so rapid was the progress of the flames that all modes of egress or ingress were cut off, and bidding defiance to all attempts to enter the building.

As soon as it became known that there were several persons still in the building, including women and children, unable to escape, a thrill of fearful terror ran through the vast crowd, and the greatest excitement prevailed. Presently the windows in the second and third stories were opened, and there at the casemates could be dimly discerned the forms of three or four women—one a terrified mother clasping her innocent infant in her arms. The multitude cheer and shout, rending the air with their cries of warning: "Jump for your lives, we'll save you;" "for God's sake jump, woman;" "jump on the mattress, no danger;" "jump, we'll catch you," &c., while an expression of the deepest solicitude and horror was depicted upon the upturned sea of anxious faces. Brave men, with stout hearts, stood ready with mattresses to rescue the inmates, if they could only be prevailed upon to take the fearful leap for life. Higher and more dense arose the clouds of smoke each moment, and soon the forked flames hissed savagely, threatening the total destruction of the building.

No time was to be lost. Either the dizzy leap must be made or all would perish. Through the nebulous film that partly obscured the form of the panic-stricken women who stood shuddering with dismay, we caught the glimpse of a woman preparing to jump from the third story.—Mere hearty cheers rolled up from the trembling crowd; one woman, seeing no hope of escape from the horrible fate that was momentarily threatening her, jumped and was caught on a large mattrass by the soldiers, sustaining no injury beyond a slight shock and considerable fright.—From the second window a fond mother threw her babe upon the mattrass, and jumped out immediately after it. Both were rescued without injury, save the slight concussion, by the noble veterans.

The first occupant who plunged from the building was a colored woman, who was caught in the arms of the soldiers—As soon as it was ascertained that all were saved a wild shout of joy went up, and each soldier appeared anxious to test the full capacity of his lungs. The lower portion of the building, which was completely gutted, was occupied by Mrs. O'Brien as a millinery and dress making store.

Mrs. O'Brien's loss in stock and furniture will amount to $1,500. The lower part of the building, which was entirely destroyed, was occupied by Mrs. Michael Prendergast, whose loss will be about $1,000. Mr. Thomas Daniel's loss will amount to $5,000. There was no insurance on either building or goods, and the loss falls heavily upon those who can ill afford it.

By the active and determined efforts of the soldiers the flames were entirely subdued by eight o'clock, and had it not been for their energy and stubborn will, a most destructive conflagration would have swept over our city.

One of the greatest obstacles met with at the fire was the absence of fire-plug wrenches, which were in the possession of the city firemen.

Hereafter let not this criminal neglect imperil the safety of our entire city!—"Young America" is in the habit of extinguishing fires in a more speedy manner than the Savannah firemen are accustomed to, and in the future let there be no lack of fire-plug wrenches.

The fire occasioned a great commotion in our city, as great apprehensions were felt lest the wind should communicate the flames to the adjoining buildings.

The roaring of hundreds of voices, the rattling of the fire engines with their bells ringing, the rushing of thousands of feet, and the presence of thousands of troops, all conspired to form a grand and thrilling picture. After witnessing the extensive conflagrations that range throughout our Northern cities, and the [illegible] of our well trained fire department in extinguishing them, it is quite novel to watch the peculiar and intricate process by which the Southern firemen proceed to battle the Fire King.

LATER ACCOUNT.

APPALLING CALAMITY!—EXPLOSION OF THE OLD REBEL MAGAZINE.

Savannah, Ga., Jan. 28, 1865—2½ A. M.—As we go to press, one of the most fearful catastrophes that has ever occurred in this section of our country is in progress. At 11½ o'clock the alarm of fire was again sounded from the steeple of the Exchange for the 3d district. The firemen were soon on the spot, and found a small row of wooden buildings in flames. The wind was blowing a strong easterly gale, and the fire spread with frightful rapidity, utterly baffling all attempts on the part of the soldiers and the firemen to stay its progress.

Several small buildings were torn down in order to prevent the spreading of the flames, and if possible save the dreadful dangers consequent upon the burning of the old rebel Navy magazine, which was known to be stored with a large amount of heavy rebel ammunition and a considerable amount of powder. As the heavens grew red with the fiery element, the air was filled with sparks resembling a golden shower.

In a very short time the news spread like wildfire through the city that the magazine was on fire with fifty tuns of powder and several hundred shells stored therein. This alarmed and horrified every one in the city and created a great panic throughout the entire city limits, extending even through the camps. Thousands of people arose from their beds and began to make preparations for their safety, which could only be had in fleeing beyond the range of bursting shells and crumbling walls.

In half an hour the worst fears were confirmed by the explosion of the first shell which burst and sent its fragments hissing through the air. In less than five minutes a fearful series of explosions took place, resembling a furious bombardment, followed by terrific flashes as fast as the powder ignited. We have reports that lives have been lost, but owing to the dire confusion it is utterly impossible to give any accounts or reliable statements.

We have authentic information that one soldier was quite severely wounded and a colored boy killed. Doubtless there are many casualties of different kinds resulting from this awful disaster. Dozens of poor families have been rendered houseless by the fire, and owing to the freezing state of the atmosphere, their sufferings must be intense.

We shall issue an Extra at an early hour, containing all the particulars of this deplorable calamity.

STILL LATER—A DIABOLICAL ATTEMPT TO BLOW UP THE CITY.

3½ O'Clock, Jan'y 28—Lieutenant T. J. Spence, Depot Ordnance Officer, "Military Division of the Mississippi," has just brought the astounding intelligence that some fiend had placed a keg of powder at the side of the Arsenal, corner of York and Walker streets. This was undoubtedly placed here to blow up the city, as the Arsenal contains over thirty tons of powder. The keg was placed in the shadow of one of the trees to avoid it being discovered. A single spark would easily have carried out the hellish design of the wretches, as the top of the keg was entirely open.

OVERTURN OF ANCIENT IDEAS.

There never was so extensive and systematic a disruption of ancient faiths in religion, of ancient ideas in philosophy, and of ancient customs of daily life going on, as at the present time. For ten years past a civil war has been raging in China, and although nominally subdued, it is not so far subdued as to allow the revolution to go on quietly, and without so much bloodshed, but really far faster than ever. It was the decay of the ancient faith in the old religion of China before the superior light of Christianity, and the superior strength of Christian civilization, that caused the whole of that rebellion; and it has ended, not in the triumph of the rebels but in the adoption of European customs of the war, and all the ideas of Christian countries.

This alone has secured the conquest of the rebellion. Wheaton's International Law, an American work, translated by a Christian missionary, has been adopted as the basis of the foreign policy of the Chinese Empire, henceforth and formally.—The higher classes of China were a cold, *atheistic* race, the lower orders full of superstition. The higher faith in Christianity, while yet it has hardly reached the masses, has now begun that work of overthrow which can never cease until it has abolished all faith in idols by elevating in its place the purer, higher faith, in one true and living God, to whom nations and individuals are alike accountable. The heavy guns of the Christians have done much to effect this.

In India, ever since the putting down of the great rebellion, the whole fabric of Hindoo faith has been giving way. Not only do whole villages openly cast off their former faith and become Christian, but all the great festivals and sacred places are so widely neglected, that the priests and expounders of the ancient faith cannot find support, and it seems as if caste and everything heretofore held most sacred is utterly giving way. In Burmah it is the same. In fact the whole of Asia, containing half the inhabitants of the globe, is rapidly changing its faith and customs and social life. The more immediate occasion of all this seems to be the physical science of Christian nations.

It is the superior fighting qualities of our soldiers in India and China that has given weight to the words of our missionaries—the discipline, the drill, the weapons of range and of precision and power possessed by European nations, have made all they have said respected. The railroads and telegraphs and canals of India are cutting trenches right through all ancient faiths and principles, and giving them higher ones instead. Thus while the Ganges canal was being cut, the Hindoo priests prayed that the sacred waters of the Ganges might not flow in the artificial channels cut by Christians. But it does flow, and now the Hindoos have lost all faith in the prayers of their priests.

Persons of high caste, for the sake of the convenience of riding in railway cars, violate the traditions and forfeit the pride of thousands of years in caste. The petroleum of Burmah will overturn the customs of that country and Americanize them. Our method of boring for oil and Dr. Judson's bible will each aid the other.

In these days of steamboats, railways and telegraphs, there is no great improvement in arts, or arms, or science, but seems to produce some certain, but incalculable, improvements in the morals, manners and religion of the nations where they touch. And so there is no great religious movement but will eventually lead to a thousand new forms of civilization, liberty and social progress.

The Reformation commenced by Luther was the prelude to the political revolutions that afterward ensued. If all this be true and clear it may well be asked what are the changes which the present civil war in this country is about to produce? One thing at least is clear, that it was the loss of faith in the righteousness of slavery by the North, while the South clung to it, which has been the cause lying at the bottom of the present intense strife. It would also seem that the great danger in respect to all these changes is in attempting to resist by force those growths of opinion which should be met by reason or quietly submitted to.

All of these changes may transpire peacefully enough in due time, provided only they are not violently resisted. It is the attempt to do by force the work of reason which makes all the trouble. Be it a truth in politics, in science, or in religion, it will never do any harm if it is only let alone. It is only when confined and obstructed that it is dangerous. Be it an error, and if let alone it will soon die out like an empty bombshell with a lighted fuse. In Europe itself, faith in ancient systems of government is fast dying out, and respect for the more liberal forms of civil institutions is rapidly making its way and producing quiet revolutions.

☞ The town of Hadley, Mass., raised five hundred and thirty tons of tobacco last year, and forty or fifty tons of ice weed have been sold there within a few days. A man in Easthampton raised four thousand four hundred pounds on two acres of land, last year, and said it for twenty-eight cents per pound throughout. It is estimated that the tobacco crop of Easthampton is worth $10,000 to that town.

☞ The wife and child of John Page, of Newburyport, Mass., were burned by the explosion of a kerosene lamp Saturday night. The child was about a year old, and died soon after the accident. A sister of Mrs. Page was talking with her on a fatal kerosene accident when the lamp blew up.

☞ The Buffalo Courier announces the death of Mr. Wm. F. Ketchum, inventor of the mower and reaper which is known by his name. He was also the inventor of a hand grenade. Mr. Ketchum had resided in Buffalo more than thirty years.

☞ The reports of the cotton crop in Central America are favorable. The ravages of the worms have not been so serious as at first anticipated.

NEVER DESPAIR, OR THE STORY OF A PEBBLE.

One might have thought the picture had been studied, so graceful was that of the little group on the portico of the old Edgewood mansion; but it was a scene of every day. Reclining in a large arm chair of antique form, and richly cushioned, was an old gentleman who may have numbered his three-score years and ten. His attenuated form was wrapped in an elegant gown of ample proportions, and his gray hairs were partially concealed by a small velvet cap, while in his hand he held one of those strong, stout staffs with which old age is usually provided. The placid serenity of his look betokened the Christian, one who had fought the battles of life, and for whom nothing remained but to pass through the "Dark River," and to enter into his Father's house prepared for those who love Him. On a low ottoman at his feet was seated a beautiful girl of perhaps seventeen years, with her lap full of flagrant flowers, which she was weaving into a garland, while on either side of him stood two fine boys, somewhat younger than their sister, who were looking wistfully up into the old man's face, as though expecting some pleasure not yet bestowed.

"Grandpa," spoke one of them, "we are waiting for a story to-night, and will you tell us a true one?"

"Certainly, children," was the reply, "both of your wishes shall be gratified, but the story I shall relate to-night is tinged with sadness."

"Grandpa," intimated the youngest of the listeners, "I don't like sad stories—tell us something that is merry, one that will make us laugh."

"No, Charles," spoke the old man, slowly, "I cannot please you in that respect, for it is well to know even in early life that this world is not all sunshine, and, as your sister here sometimes sings, 'Some days will be dark and dreary;' and aside from this, I wish to show you that, from the most humble beginning, men have carved out a path for themselves to success and fame, and, above all, that whatever the condition in life, NEVER DESPAIR. So now give me your earnest attention while I proceed:

"In the kingdom of Bavaria, seated in a plain by the river Iser, is the large and splendid city of Munich. Many of the edifices are very costly, and it contains, besides numerous other objects of interest, a valuable library of 100,000 volumes, and a gallery of paintings ranked among the finest in Europe. Here, in this large and beautiful city, dwelt, some sixty or seventy years ago, a young man, an actor, who in one of his performances so utterly and completely failed, that the enraged and disappointed manager peremptorily dismissed and turned him away to earn his living elsewhere. Sad, unutterably sad and heavy was the young man's heart, as he went forth for the last time from the theatre; and, well, dear children, might he be so, for in a dreary lane towards which he now bent his footsteps stood one of those old, dilapidated buildings, the abode of misery, poverty and want, within whose walls, away up in a wretched garret, was all that his heart held most dear.

There lay the corpse of his father; there a widowed mother looked up to him as her only stay and support; there waited for his coming a group of little brothers and sisters, dependent on him for their daily bread—oh! how bowed down was the heart of this poor youth. With the few crowns he had left in his pocket he bought bread for the hungry family, and a plain coffin for the departed. That night saw him a watcher by the side of his lost father. In the morning he followed his remains to a lonely grave, and then wandered off to assuage, if possible, his grief.

Strolling on the banks of a neighboring river, he thought, in his despair, of throwing himself in; but a moment's thought checked him, and, shuddering at the thought of the great crime he had been tempted to commit—that of suicide—he fell on his knees and asked forgiveness of his Heavenly Father, and prayed long and earnestly. At last, quite worn out, and completely overcome by mental distress and bodily fatigue, he lay down on the grass and fell asleep, sleeping long and heavily.

When he awoke with the morning sun, the birds were singing merrily, as though returning thanks to their Creator in songs of praise; the river still flowed peacefully on in its course, the trees shook their leaves in a gentle summer breeze, and all nature looked beautiful. Thanking God that he was still alive, he rose to return to the city. But a small white chalkstone pebble caught his eye, and on it was an exquisite tracing or outline of some little creature. Here was a subject of thought and study. He examined it long and attentively, and finally took it home with him. He experimented, and at length saw the possibility of obtaining impressions from the stone. Continuing his experiments, he succeeded so well from the little white pebble finally arose the art of LITHOGRAPHY.

"What was his name, grandfather" said both of the boys in a breath.

"His name, children, was Aloise Senefelder. And," continued the old gentleman, "remember this, that God always helps those that help themselves, that He never forsakes those who are good and true, and that He heareth even the young ravens when they cry. Moreover, remember, too, that come what may, we must never give up in life's battle, but press onward to the end, always keeping in mind the words—NEVER DESPAIR.

"Now children, as the dew is falling, we will go into the house, and Mary shall sing to us some of her sweet songs, and thus passing the evening pleasantly, none of us can say '*yesterday thus*,' for no day is lost wherein we have imparted pleasure or received instruction."

THE SIMPLEST FORM OF ANIMAL LIFE. In making the soundings for the Atlantic telegraph between Newfoundland and Ireland, a small tube with a valve was fitted to the end of the line, so as to bring up a little of the sediment from the bottom of the sea, and when this was dried it was found to be a dust so fine that on rubbing it between the fingers it would disappear in the cracks of the skin. On placing this dust under a microscope each particle was seen to be a shell—the home of a sentient being. When these shells are highly magnified, little holes are discovered in them, through which delicate filaments protruded, which were the animal's organs of locomotion. As these filaments branch out like the roots of a tree, the animal is called a rhizopod, from two Greek words which signify root-footed.—As the rhizopod is the simplest form of animal life, it is probably the oldest. The shells are found in all of the geologic periods, and as we go down in the strata, or backwards in the ages, they regularly increase in size and numbers. They form a large portion of the chalk formation, which was laid down in the age of reptiles, and at that time the shells were generally of about the size of a pin's head; in lower strata the shells are found as large as a penny, and in still lower a foot in diameter. They have lately been found in Canada three feet in diameter.—*Scientific American.*

CONSCIENCE.—"A little boy in petticoats, in my fourth year, my father sent me from the field, home. A spotted tortoise, to the shallow water, at the foot of the rodora, caught my attention, and I lifted my stick to strike it, when a voice within me said, 'It is wrong.' I stood with uplifted stick, in wonder at the new emotion, till rodora and the tortoise vanished from my sight.

"I hastened home and asked my mother what it was that told me it was wrong!

"Wiping a tear from her eye, and taking me in her arms, she said, 'Some men call it conscience, but I prefer to call it the voice of God in the soul of man. If you listen to it and obey it, then it will speak clearer, and always guide you right. But if you turn a deaf ear, or disobey, then it will fade out little by little, and leave you in the dark without a guide.'"—*Theodore Parker.*

A ONE-LEGGED DANCER.

Donato, the one-legged dancer, is attracting much attention in London, and a paper there thus describes his feats:

When Senor Donato first presents himself, hopping on from the side scenes, no pleasurable emotion is felt; on the contrary, the immediate feeling rather partakes of the disagreeable. To see a man in the very prime of life with one leg and a stump without support, coming forward smiling and proferring to do in a state of mutilation what few male dancers, perfect and whole, of the greatest art and experience, ever could do—namely, afford unqualified gratification—seems to shock one's delicacy, no less than mock his credulity.

Senor Donato, however, enlists your sympathies pretty well before you have finished inspecting him. But his extraordinary bounds and pirouettes on his entrance he fixes your attention in a moment, and you are astonished at beholding a dancer accomplishing on one leg, what you cannot remember any professor of the Terpsichorean art having accomplished on two legs. Nor when astonishment has passed off is your interest in Senor Donato exhausted. On the contrary, you see something to be pleased with in his performance every moment, until at last you acknowledge that he is not only one of the most surprising dancers you ever beheld, but one of the most engaging; and such is the case.

A person may smile at hearing the word 'graceful' used in speaking of a one-legged dancer, but if ever the term were applicable to a male Terpsichorean artist it is to Senor Donato, whose motions, actions, gestures, and general deportment are instinct with that natural ease and propriety which are the essentials of grace. In short, the fact of Senor Donato having but one leg is soon forgotten by the spectators, and their sympathies are enchained in following his marvellous feats of agility and science, and these are by no means easy to describe. Senor Donato enters bounding on the stage to the tune of some Spanish dance.

He accompanies the tune with the castanets, which he plays with mere consummate skill than any one we ever heard.—This may be a trifle, but it is a great gain for him. His pirouettes are made with incomparable ease, and the dexterous manner in which he swings his body round, performing two revolutions, is beyond all belief. Among the most difficult feats he performs is placing a castanet on the ground with his right hand, at right angles to his body, and taking it up with his left hand, without bending his leg all the time. The practitioners in gymnastics will understand the difficulty of achieving this feat standing on two legs.

That part of Senor Donato's performance, however, which engages most attention and creates the greatest excitement, is the cloak dance. How the dancer flings the cloak around him, making it assume all sorts of fanciful shapes—now clothing his body with it, transforming it, as it were, into a sea shell; now waving the mantle over him like a banner, and now changing it into a floating cloud land, mixing it descend like a mist around him—must be seen to be understood.

Enough, let us hope, has been said to show that Senor Donato is one of the most remarkable performers of this or any age; and that London is about to do his talents full justice, following the example of many of the towns and cities of the continent, is evident from the crowds that attend Covent Garden nightly, and from the immense enthusiasm his performance creates."

THE OIL DISCOVERY IN CHICAGO.

One year ago a number of citizens of Chicago organized a company for the purpose of boring for oil in the stone quarries on Chicago avenue, at the extreme limit of the city. After going through different strata of stone and clay, and when at the depth of seven hundred and eight feet, a subterranean lake of pure water, instead of oil, was reached, which has proved the finest artesian well in the West. The projectors of the well, after submitting to much ridicule, on the 9th of January commenced boring another well about thirty feet east of the original well.

The same geological formations were encountered as in the old well, save perhaps that the indications of oil were more marked. At a depth of thirty-three feet the oil became quite abundant, flowing apparently from a seam in the limestone. The drill was kept at work until a depth of forty-two feet was reached, which was two feet into the strata of Athens or Joliet marble which underlies the city. In every seam the indication of oil were very strong. On Tuesday last the drill was withdrawn and a pump inserted. After pumping half an hour, and bringing nothing but water, the pump suddenly commenced throwing oil and water, the proportion of oil growing greater and greater with each stroke of the pump. There were provided two vessels in which to save the oil, and after pumping some half an hour, and raising about half a barrel, the pumping ceased.

The company are now constructing vats. The pumping will be resumed sometime this week, and judging from the quantity raised on Tuesday last, says the Times, the proprietors of the enterprise confident by predict that the well will yield from fifteen to twenty barrels per day. The drill, as it passes down, clogs up the seams in the rock through which the oil flows, and it is often many weeks before the seam is removed sufficiently to allow the free passage of the oil. In Pennsylvania they frequently pump several days before the well yields, but after it once has started and the seams in the stone have been opened, the yield of oil becomes better and better each day.

The Chicago oil is thick, almost like tar, and I will never make an illuminating, though it is of far more value for lubricating purposes. It has been tested and pronounced superior to the best lubricating oils found in Pennsylvania, not clotting materially in the coldest weather, possessing an adhesive quality which will prevent it being thrown off by machinery in rapid motion, and a peculiar quality which enables it to last for a long time upon machinery heated to a high temperature by friction.—*Post, Ch.*

Chief Justice Chase's First Opinion.

A Washington dispatch of the 30th says Chief Justice Chase to-day delivered his first elaborate opinion in the Supreme Court. It happened to be on a question of international importance. A few days after the capture of New Orleans, the steamer Circassian was taken by one of our vessels while attempting to run the blockade into the city of New Orleans, under the impression that it was still in rebel possession. The owners of the Circassian claimed that although they had intended to run the blockade, yet New Orleans having been taken by our forces, the blockade was thus raised, and the voyage of their vessel was thus converted into a lawful one, for which it could not be taken as a prize. The Chief Justice held that the occupation of the city by our forces did not raise the blockade, and that it was not raised until the President had by proclamation declared the port again an open one. All the Judges concurred in his decision, excepting Justice Nelson, who gave a dissenting opinion.

ADMIRAL POREN'S remark that Fort Fisher is "stronger than the Malakhoff," is calculated to create unjust impressions, as the difference is that a small force of Americans did better than was done by a large French force. The Malakhoff was taken by surprise, and the terrible fighting of which it was the scene was in consequence of vigorous attempts made by the Russians to recover what they had lost. According to a French account, but one French column cut of five maintained its ground against the Russians, but that sufficed to give victory to the Allies. The fight in the Malakhoff was of the same length, as the fighting in Fort Fisher, that is, it lasted between six and seven hours in each case. As respects killed and wounded, probably the loss on both sides, at the Malakhoff, was eight or ten times greater than it was at Fort Fisher, and the force employed by the Allies were by far the more numerous.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS ITEMS.

☞ The Chicago Council have adopted resolutions donating Union Park or other suitable place in the city that may be selected, for the erection thereon of the State Capitol, should the Legislature so prefer to remove the seat of government to Chicago. They have also appropriated $50,000 to aid in constructing the State building. The Legislature is now visiting Chicago and Peoria, the two contesting cities for the honor of being the State Capital.

☞ There is no scarcity of oats in the West, we infer, from an item in the Dubuque (Iowa) Herald. The amount handled at that place, it says, is enormous, and there are no signs of giving out. It is nothing but oats about the levee, oats in the elevator, and oats in all the store houses in town. Some thirty or forty cars loaded with oats arrive daily. At Dunleith, there is also a great accumulation of oats. The people out there, evidently feel their oats.

☞ It is estimated that the oil product of Venango county, Pa., is at least 10,000 barrels daily. This, at the average price of ten dollars at the wells, which is a low average, will give one hundred thousand dollars a day, or over thirty one million dollars a year. The number of wells in Oil Creek, in July, 1862, was seven hundred; at the present time, the number of wells down and going down in the country, is estimated at between three and four thousand.

☞ George Augustus Sala, the English literateur, in running up his expenses, pays this striking tribute to the women of the United States:

"In all earnestness and sincerity, I render to the young ladies of America the tribute of being the most accomplished talkers in the world. Their readiness of diction, their facile flow of ideas, their quickness of apprehension, are really at a lively surmounting."

☞ Papers in Richmond contain something. Here is a notice from the Richmond Dispatch:

The carriers of the Dispatch will be required to pay thirty dollars per one hundred copies for their papers after this week, and, as a consequence, will be compelled to charge their patrons two dollars and thirty cents per week for the paper. Single copies of the paper at the office fifty cents.

☞ Oliver Lesey, of Attica, Indiana, has put make a successful experiment with his new submarine battery in the Wabash river, near that place. A boat frame of water and fire was thrown three hundred feet into the air. Some of the boatmen narrowly escaped injury from the falling fragments of ice, some weighing over fifty pounds. Mr. Lesey goes to Washington with his invention as soon as the Pilot matures.

☞ The power loom of Lawrence, Mass., is so great that it has produced the most success will need it the coming year in the State, both in amount of [illegible] and in quality. New enterprises will be carried out during the coming year. The Pacific Company will erect another mill of large proportions on the site of the Washington, and the Atlantic corporation will put up a mill for the manufacture of worsted.

DRAMATIC TITLES.—They call Lucille Western now, "The Dramatic Queen." She has changed her dress lately. Then she was "Queen of the American Stage." As Maggie Mitchell is the "Princess of Comedy," why not, Mr. Manager, let us have the "Duchess of Melodrama," and the "Empress of Tragedy?" The "Marquis of Farce" is wanted, too! Probably right do for the "Burgomaster of Burlesque."

☞ The House Committee on Military Affairs has commenced and is still gathering a large amount of testimony and facts relative to frauds and abuses under the laws for the collection and purchase of cotton and other products of the insurrectionary States, and will doubtless report a bill for the correction of the evils and the punishment of mercenary speculators.

☞ The Lynn Post Office receives some [illegible] letters. For instance, in one month of 1864 there were [illegible] and seven thousand one hundred and fifty-six parcels of letters, three thousand three hundred and [illegible] of sugar, twenty-nine and a half [illegible] of hops, a specimen of asparagus, a cake of [illegible] board, two tooth pickers, an [illegible] beetle, a bit of [illegible] and a pair of stays.

☞ Elizabeth Porter has bought the territory in which is located the city of Taunton, Mass., for a pair of boots, and it is proposed to memorialize the transaction on the city seal with a picture of the boots and the Indian the trade with, [illegible] the motto, "Dux femina facti"—a woman was the leader of the enterprise.

☞ Miss Emma Stone is again giving, in Edinburgh, her celebrated entertainment, "The Seven Ages of Woman." She is well, and changes