BALTIMORE CLIPPER.

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

VOLUME L.—NUMBER 38. BALTIMORE, TUESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 14, 1865. PRICE TWO CENTS.

Latest News by Telegraph TO THE BALTIMORE CLIPPER.

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH.

The War Meeting in Richmond.

SPEECH OF THE REBEL BENJAMIN.

He Favors the Arming of Negroes

&c., &c., &c.

As we have already published the speech of Jeff. Davis on the result of the Peace Conference, it is only needful now to lay before our readers the speech of Benjamin at the great war meeting held in Richmond on Thursday night last, to show the desperate straits to which the leaders of the rebellion are at last reduced:

Hon. J. P. Benjamin, Secretary of State, was the third speaker. He congratulated the large assemblage on the change of sentiment among the people, and apparent in the meeting, in the sudden revulsion from the despondency of a few days ago to the high resolve, holy determination and patriotic emulation of this period. Hope and confidence were renewed in the hearts and minds of men; what is the cause of it? Have any great military successes been announced? No It is the knowledge and consciousness that has come home to all, that is felt in the core of all hearts, that we must conquer in this fight or die. Thank God, we all know it now, that the path of duty is placed before us clear, straight and plain, and all know that we must treat it or perish. Our terms are independence.

With that one word on our treaty scroll, we say to Lincoln, "Put what you please, we will sign the deed." Mr. Benjamin, at this point of his remarks, entered into a recital of the circumstances that led to the sending by President Davis of commissioners with the terms and instructions under which they were sent. The speaker next touched upon the necessity of supporting the government and reinforcing the army. War was a game that could not be played without men, and *men we must have*. He (the speaker) was here today to tell some very unwholesome truths. He would be blamed and abused for them probably, but he could not help that.—When our soldiers in the trenches are sending up earnest appeals for help will you withhold that aid, whether that aid be white or black? (Great cheering.) Mr. Benjamin submitted some statistical facts, showing the fighting element available between the two sections.

In 1860 the Confederate States, exclusive of Tennessee and Kentucky, had within her boundaries one million sixty thousand fighting men between the ages of 18 and 45 years Against this formidable force the enemy have arrayed three millions of men at various periods since 1861. There are in the South six hundred and eighty thousand black men of fighting age, and capable of being made fighting men. *Let us say to every negro who wants to go into the ranks, go and fight, and you are free. Don't press them, for that will make them run away*, and they will be found fighting against us instead of for us. As yet but one side is told them. The Yankees can beat us from the beginning to the end of the year at making bargains.—Let us stop the negro from going over to the enemy by saying:—if you go over to the Yankees you will get your freedom, but you will perish off the earth, for you cannot live in that cold climate Fight for your masters and you shall have your freedom without incurring the other danger. Let us promise the negro in good faith that if he will fight for us, he shall have his freedom. [Voice—"Let's try it."]

Yes, let's try it. He, the speaker, had never lived in any but a slave country, and like most of his audience, doubtless, had his black mamma nurse, but he would willingly give up all for the attainment of independence. What State will lead off in sending the black man to the aid of General Lee? (Cheers.) Virginia, who gave birth to secession, and led off in the first cannon shot of the revolution. South Carolina, and one after another the South ern States wheeled into line. Virginia held back, for her love for the Union was as strong and warm and affectionate as the love of a mother for her child. People began to ask what of Virginia? Then came a telegram saying that Virginia was going to abandon the South; that she was luke-warm, reluctant and holding back—(Voice—"Who held her back?") But soon another telegram informed us that Virginia was with us, and, like South Carolina, we are looking to her to lead in the new measure of war policy, which is inevitable, and come it must. When shall it be done? (Voices—"Now, now, now.")

Yes, now. Ask your Legislature to pass a resolution recommending the measure to Congress, and in twenty days Gen. Lee can be reinforced by twenty thousand men. The speaker was no sensationist, no alarmist. He had come to the meeting for the very purpose of giving utterance to some distasteful truths.—*Without the adoption of some decisive, energetic, full way measure like this, there was danger—very great danger*—to avert which, were he as much a Virginian as he was a Louisianian, he would not hesitate to make this last sacrifice. Lou siana will follow Virginia, and she cannot take one step to which Louisiana will not respond. This only alternative is presented.

Either we must fight the Yankees with our negroes, or they will take and hold them as a shield, fighting us with their emancipation proclamations in force—And if there be such a place as hell upon earth then it would be illustrated in our condition. This struggle over and our subjugation accomplished, our slaves freed, and we slaves. What the Yankees propose to do by the amendment to the Constitution of the United States is to free the negroes if they conquer us, and if they fail to conquer us to let them remain as they are. In conclusion, Mr. Benjamin paid a compliment to the Virginia ladies for their patriotism and devotion to the cause, and closed with an eloquent apostrophe to peace.

THE REPORTED SALE OF A WAR STEAMER TO THE REBELS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—Further information in reference to the Bordeaux steamer, said to have been obtained by the rebels, is looked for with interest; the Danish Minister, Mr. Radesloff, denies the report that the vessel was sold to the rebels by the Danish Government. This information has been obtained from an authentic source.

BANK STATEMENT.

NEW YORK, Feb'y 13.—The New York city Bank Statement for the past week shows a decrease of $120,000 in loans and $40,000 in circulation; and an increase in specie of $600,000, and of 4,000,000 in deposits.

BURNING OF A GOVERNMENT LABORATORY.

ASTORIA, L. I., Feb. 13.—The United States Laboratory at this place was burned this morning. Loss heavy.

Latest from Washington.

DEATH OF SENATOR HICKS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—Ex-Governor T. H. Hicks, United States Senator from Maryland, died here at seven o'clock this morning, having been stricken with paralysis on Friday last.

The funeral will take place on Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the Senate Chamber.

[From the Washington Star of Yesterday.]

In our first edition we announced the death of Senator Hicks, and we now add some particulars of interest.

On Saturday afternoon, President Lincoln, having heard of the serious illness of Senator H., visited him, and spent some time by his bedside, Mr. H. at the time being unable to speak. Senator Johnson, Representative Webster, ex-Governor Thomas, and, in fact, the entire Maryland delegation, together with many other members of Congress, also visited him on Saturday and yesterday.

Governor Hicks was a member of the Methodist Church, and during his last illness was visited several times by Rev. Dr B. H. Nadal, of Wesley Chapel, who each time, after conversing with him on spiritual subjects, closed with prayer.—Dr Nadal's last visit was last evening, when, after conversing some time, he called the attention of Mr. H. to his condition, asking him if he was aware that his earthly career was about to close, and if so to signify by raising his hand. He was then asked if he felt that he was ready, if he felt his Savior near, to which he replied by raising his arm in a decisive gesture, while his countenance was suffused with a happy smile, and in a moment after his eyes filled with tears. After a most impressive prayer, during which the dying man seemed to follow him closely, Mr Nadal took his leave.

Shortly after Dr. Nadal left him (about 11 o'clock) Mr. H. grew unconscious, and from that time he gradually sunk until 7 o clock this morning, when he breathed his last.

There were present with him during last night and at the time of his death Mr. J. B. Chapman, W. J. Nicholson, Dr. Bliss, Dr. Lippincott, Col. Powell, of Miss.; and to day his remains are in charge of Messrs. Chapman, Nicholson and Harris, of Md., while Mr. Brown, Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate, is superintending the arrangements for the funeral.

Gov. Hicks leaves two sons and one daughter. One of his sons was on his way, and a telegram from him reached Mr. H. last evening a few hours before his senses left him.

Governor Hicks at the time of his death was in his sixty-eighth year, having been born on the 23d of September, 1798, near Cambridge, in Dorchester county, Md—He was one of a large family of children, and his parents were not able to give him a collegiate course, but he attended the county schools and secured a fair education He aided his father in the meantime in working the farm and in supporting the family, and on reaching the age of twenty-one started in life without any means.

At that age he was appointed county constable and served as such until 1821, when he was elected Sheriff of the county, and subsequently engaged in mercantile business at Vienna, in Dorchester county, where he remained several years. In 1836 he was elected a member of the electoral college of the State of Maryland.—The same year he was elected to the Legislature, and was made one of Governor Veazy's council in 1837.

In 1838 he was appointed register of wills of Dorchester, and in 1846 and 1850 he was a member of the constitutional convention. After serving for four terms as register of wills, he declined further to serve, and a Mr. Mitchell was elected, but on his decease, Gov. Hicks was reappointed to the office, which he held at the time of his election in 1858 to the Governorship of Maryland.

On the death of Senator Pearce in 1863, he was appointed by Governor Bradford to fill the vacancy, and subsequently was elected by the Legislature for the unexpired term which ends March 4th, 1867. By his death the country has lost a good man and a true patriot.

His staunch adherence to the government during the early part of the war aided very materially in the suppression of the Baltimore riots in 1861, and checked in a great degree the efforts of secessionists to carry the State out of the Union, and from the time of his taking his seat in the Senate he gave a hearty support to the government for the suppression of the rebellion.

HEAVY GUNS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—The Committee on the Conduct of the War, to-day through Senator Wade made a report, calling attention to three classes of heavy guns, the first those made entirely of cast iron, the Dahlgren and Rodman gun; the second those made of cast iron and bound with wrought iron, the Parrot gun, and third those made entirely of wrought iron, the Ames gun. The Committee say that Admiral Dahlgren never received any compensation in the nature of royalty; that Mr. Parrott never charged anything excepting what he deemed a fair manufacturer's profit, and that Mr. Ames has made only 21 guns for the government, charging so much a pound for them.

The committee had examined into the bursting of the Parrott gun of large calibre, together with some of the cast iron guns of large calibre upon the vessels engaged in operations against Charleston and Fort Fisher, and which has tended to weaken confidence in their durability and seems to show the necessity of obtaining, if possible, some other gun which can be more implicitly relied upon. The bursting of these guns is generally attributed to the premature explosion of shells within the nose of the gun. The Committee in view of all the facts elicited by the testimony, recommend that Congress immediately adopt such measures as will enable the War and Navy Department to obtain and introduce into the service wrought iron guns especially of larger calibre, at as early a day as practicable.

THE SECRETARYSHIP OF THE TREASURY.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—The President this afternoon sent to the Senate the nomination of Senator Morgan, of New York, to be Secretary of the Treasury, but in the course of an hour thereafter withdrew it.

A bounty jumper, named James Devlin, was executed by military law, on Staten Island, N. Y., on Friday last. He was apprehended through his wife, whom he had deserted for a common prostitute, and on whom he was spending all his barely-earned money, leaving his wife and children in poverty. She was maddened by this, and informed on him, in order to get a share of what belonged to her. It is said that her agony at the execution was awful, she never having dreamed that her information would lead to such an end.

The recent discovery of sovereigns in circulation worth not more than seventeen shillings, caused the Bank of England to examine all the sovereigns in their vaults. The number was nine hundred thousand, which were rung separately by four tellers in about ten days. Only three of the seventeen-shilling coins were discovered.

A SALMON FIGHT.

Instances of the ferocity of the varied species of bipeds and quadrupeds have been often recorded in the public journals; but we have to narrate a more remarkable occurrence in the character of the salmon, than we have yet had the opportunity to record. The facts are these: While several cuttermen (of the preventive service) were on their rounds the other day, and Learing along the Findhorn, between Glenferness and Dolciebridge, they observed an unusual commotion among the spawning beds on the ford On approaching the spot, two large male salmon were seen engaged in mortal combat for the possession of a female Never did chivalric knights contest for the hand of "ladye fair" more fiercely than these burdly "lords of the flood." The tranquil bosom of the stream was lashed into foam by the struggles of the fiuny antagonists: in the meantime the object of the fray was bearing silently about, spectatress of the fight."

From the appearance of the stream—dyed with blood, and gradually assuming its former smooth surface—it was evident that the contest was over. One of the salmon at last floundered on the surface dead, and the victor, it may be conjectured, exhaustedly bore off the prize.—The men who had the curiosity to watch the fight, as a proof of their story, conveyed the dead salmon to the nearest dwelling. The victorious salmon had torn off the flesh, or rather fish, along the back, from head to tail, to the very bone. In the movement of salmon spawning, the males have often been seen chasing one another, but such a fray as this has not been witnessed by the oldest fisher or poacher on the Findhorn.—*English paper.*

A DIMINUTIVE BREED OF CATTLE.

In the report of the Secretary of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture for 1862, Mr Flint gives the following description of the cows of Brittany, a province in the north of France, as observed by him at the International Exhibition in London:

The little Bretagne cows pleased me exceedingly. Standing only about three feet high on their legs—the most fashionable height, mostly black and white, now and then but rarely, a red and white; they are as docile as kittens, and look pretty enough to become the kitchen pet of the hard pressed mountain or hill side farmer, with pastures too short for grosser animals. Ten pounds of hay will suffice for their limited wants for twenty-four hours, and they would evidently fill a ten quart pail as quick and as long as any other cow.—

"Those pretty cows will often hold out in milk," so the herdsman said, from fifteen to eighteen months after calving, and often begin with the calf with six or seven quarts a day. The horn is fine, not unlike the Jersey, but smaller and tapering on gradually, and the escutcheon or milk marts of Guenon generally very good—Good cows are held from sixty to seventy dollars a head, a fancy price of course, but I am not sure that they would not pay six per cent. on the investment, as well as most "fancy stock."

NOTES FOR THE CURIOUS.—The cricket is a curious little insect. It has given rise to two proverbial expressions; in France people say "silly as a cricket," while in England and America we say "merry as a cricket." Crickets eat grass, seeds, and fruit, conveying them to their holes, and, though they are very fond of drinking the dew on leaves and flowers, they are very careful not to wet themselves on their journeys in search of food. The young live in peace, but when they grow up they manifest a most bellicose disposition and are continually fighting with one another.

The boys in Germany are very fond of keeping crickets in boxes for the sake of their song, and for the purpose of watching their battles. What the game-cock is to the Cuban and the bull-dog to the Englishman the cricket is to the German youth. Their contests are very sharp and very amusing. According to the way in which they happen to meet they will butt like rams, kick like horses, or scratch like cats, and the contest is unceasing in its ferocity until one of the insect foes from the field or is disabled It must be remembered that the European house-cricket is not known in our country. Its song is much more varied and much cheerier than that of the species which sometimes find its way into our hearths

ROMEO AND JULIET.

Shakespeare nowhere, even with his prodigal hand, scatters beauties more profusely than in his wonderful tragedy, Romeo and Juliet. Of course, we can never realize it on the stage. No man can act Romeo or Mercutio No woman can act Juliet, or even the old Nurse.—The finest of these creations can best be repeated in music, or copied in painting. The devoted lovers are all youth and poetry. Instinct with genius, they revel in passion too abstract for the action of humanity. Mercutio, so delicately drawn; his exquisite wit and humor, intermingled with the gravity and dignity of the gentleman and the soldier, defies exact personification; and the old Nurse is the very ideal of a faithful family servant, betrayed from her duty by her love for her young mistress, and even willing to counsel her to dishonor, that she may promote what she thinks to be the happiness of her beloved charge. Who shall act these ecstatic creations.

And yet there are few better stage plays than Romeo and Juliet The action of the tragedy is exciting, and throws the actors into situations of the most intense dramatic interest The poetry is a continued galaxy of gems. Love forever gilds the sky, whether radiating from the cloudless Italian canopy beneath which their young affection begins, or flashing like riving lingbtning through the storm by which the lovers are finally destroyed.

WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE GOOD PAPER.

Our San Juan namesake, says the California Mercury, an excellent paper, is parent to the following truthful paragraph.—We receive at this office thirteen daily newspapers, and from sixty to eighty weeklies, all of which we make it a point to read. From this mass and labyrinth of matter we carefully select such articles, items and tit bits as comprise the miscellany of our columns. Each editor acts upon this principle; hence, each individual paper is an epitome of the whole; and in proportion to the extent of the editor's judgment, contains the quintessence of the whole. It requires more talent to make good selections than it does to write a good leader; hence, we imagine that the popularity of a paper depends to a great extent on its selections. That editor is a fool who imagines he can write better on all subjects than any of his cotemporaries. We all have our specialities—some peculiar gift in which we may excel others. It is the art of combining these gifts, and culling the choicest gems, that makes the readable, eagerly-sought-for, splendid journal. Such is our idea of what a good paper should be; but, bless us, how few of us "fill the bill."

STARVING SAVANNAH.—One who visited Savannah since its occupation by Sherman, in a letter to the New York World, designing to make the point that there has not been so much destitution as set forth in the South, says: "I hastened to deliver the letters I had for several prominent and wealthy citizens of the place. I was received everywhere with the greatest cordiality and treated with the choicest wines and brandies. On one occasion, I recollect there were no less than fourteen different kinds of liquors on the table, which was spread with as many dishes as we had in one of our first-class hotels, all well cooked, well seasoned, and dressed in French style."

DAVIS' LIBERALITY.

The citizens of Richmond have been holding a meeting upon the subject of peace negotiations, at which Governor Smith and Jefferson Davis attended and made speeches. Davis' speech was very determined in its sentiment. Nothing save independence should ever receive his sanction. "Sooner than be united again, he would be willing to yield up everything he has on earth, and, if it were possible, would sacrifice thousands of lives before he would succumb." This is exceedingly liberal in Davis. It almost approaches Artemus Ward in the sublimity of its sacrifice. Artemus, in the bright of his patriotic fervor, has publicly expressed his willingness to allow all his wife's able-bodied male relatives to be drafted for the war.

Davis will as willingly sacrifice thousands of other people's lives to enable him to maintain the authority he has usurped, and which has been the source of so much evil and suffering to the people. But as Artemus' wife's relatives might not see the magnanimity of his offering them to the Moloch of war, so the people of the South may not desire to imperil their lives, and, what is equally dear, their liberty, to gratify Davis' pride of power, or the ambitious schemes of his confederates. When the Richmond journals talk of hanging submissionists to the lam-posts and deserters to be shot like wild beasts, it is very evident that there are a large number of persons in the South, who would prefer to close the war now, rather than sacrifice their lives uselessly in trying to accomplish impossibilities.—*Phil. Ledger.*

ATMOSPHERIC PHENOMENA.

A correspondent of the Staunton Spectator (rebel newspaper), writing from Lewisburgh, Greenbrier county, Virginia, gives a description of a remarkable atmospheric phenomenon witnessed in that town. It was an apparent procession of shadowy forms like those of human beings—thousands upon thousands in number—moving through a deep valley, in clear view of the spectators, and finally ascending a steep mountain and disappearing. They were heading "due North," and occupied about an hour in passing.—The writer says that "there appeared to be a great variety in the size of the men; "their arms, legs, and heads could be distinctly seen in motion;" they marched forty abreast, on the double quick, and observed strict military discipline; they were dressed in loose white blouses, with white pants, wore wool hats, and carried no guns, swords, or anything that indicated a hostile purpose. An army of Quaker ghosts, truly! The person who saw this spectral show is certified to as a "truthful man." The writer adds that "four respectable ladies and a servant" witnessed the phenomenon.

The Richmond Dispatch, copying and commenting on this curious story, says that a spectacle almost identical with the one described, was seen on the day previous to the date of the above-mentioned occurrence, by eight or ten of the rebel pickets, at Banger's Mill, also in Greenbrier county. The latter place is not put down on the maps, so that we have no means of calculating the rate at which the spooks were progressing. The Dispatch also says that the "same scene has been described in several respectable papers, the editors of which all vouch for the reliability of their informants." The opportunity to give a prophetic twist to this phantasm was a tempting one; but the rebel newspapers seem to have resolutely resisted it. We are not told that it was interpreted as an augury of coming peace, symbolized by the white dresses of the ghostly array.

Bad Taste and Waste of Cloth.

We dislike to say a word which might, by any possible construction, be offensive to the ladies, for whom we entertain a very profound respect, not unmingled with admiration. We might use a stronger term than the latter without believing our feelings, but we are confident that, without resorting to more rapturous expressions, our lady friends will understand what we mean, and hence receive what we have to say—if not thankfully—at least without betraying any emotion of anger or annoyance Now to the point. Flatly, we do not like the style of street-sweeping dresses. It is the work of scavengers, not of ladies, to sweep the dust and tobacco and every kind of filth from the pavements, and it offends our sense of propriety to see silk and poppin and barege and calico do the work of hickory brooms. Besides, long skirts, except in parlors or well furnished sitting rooms, are an annoyance to their wearers. Not a word, Ma am or Miss, if you please, till you have heard us through. We assert that they are troublesome and annoying to you. They must be—and what is more to the purpose, you know it, and only wear them because they are fashionable; just as you would shave your head and wear rings in your nose, if the fickle goddess commanded it to be done. What a fixing up it requires before you are ready to step over the threshold of your door for a walk; and sometimes a part of the gearing gives way when you are on the pavement, and then you undergo the mortification of re-fixing with the public gaze full upon you.—*Harrisburg Union.*

MAGNIFICENT DWELLINGS.—A correspondent of the New York Advertiser says:—

The style and magnificence of the new dwelling houses in the upper part of this city surpass belief Two or three just put upon the market, on Murray Hill, are valued at $60,000 and $70,000 each, and, if rented, $6,000 annually They are elegant houses, yet only twenty-five feet front, though finished with black walnut from basement to attic. The largest sized houses, in price, reach $100,000 to $150,000 One of this kind, with spacious stables, corner of 33d street, is said to have commanded $200,000 The new residences combine every imaginable convenience and improvement. "Dumb waiters" go as high as the top-most story, and, in addition to food and crockery, they daily transport all the coal and ashes and dirt, which in most houses are carried up and down by "sturdy Bridget," are transported on this most convenient wooden waiter. Some of the mantle fire-places cost $1,000 each, and the gas fixtures, and furniture to match, would involve an additional outlay of at least $10,000 more for each house

THE BOUNDARY OF MARYLAND.—A Washington letter-writer gives the following surveyor's legend, showing how Maryland was cheated in her boundary: The Commissioners who were to determine the boundary between Maryland and Virginia, in the progress of their work had reached the ferry where the river forks. Their day's work had ended, and as was frequent then and now, indulged in the exercises of the bowl, or rather bottle, so that when morning came they knew but little of the work that had been done without during the night. They were instructed to follow the larger body of water to its source, and that should be the boundary. During the darkness the rains fell, and the North Potomac, though really the smaller stream, was so swollen as to be the larger. It was followed, and thus Maryland was cheated out of all that fine stretch of country that borders on the North Potomac. Such addition would have made it a large State, and much more comely in form.

A tavern keeper in England, who was taxing boastingly about his customers, said of one of them:—"He is the most regular man in Harwich; he comes here and gets drunk every Saturday, and has done the same for ten years, except when his mother died, and that time he came on Sunday. It is a grand thing to be punctual."

HUMAN SACRIFICES AT DAHOMEY.

The Paris Moniteur publishes a letter from Whydah, which supplies details respecting the festival of human sacrifices recently held at Abomey, the capital of Dahomey, before the King and in presence of his court and great dignitaries of State. The letter says:

The King having announced to the people that in a short time, to honor the names of Agongero, his ancestor, and King Gezo, his father, forty prisoners belonging to the rebel tribe of Akankas would be immolated on the market place at Abomey, with the usual ceremony.—Three days afterwards he decided that this barbarous deed should be accomplished one hour before sunrise. Many Europeans who were in town had an audience of the monarch, and imploed him to give up the horrible sacrifice.

The King declared that he could not suppress the national festival, but that in consideration of the foreigners, he consented to reduce the number of the victims to twelve. On the eve of the sacrifice he went to a great shed, under which the forty prisoners were secured to posts. He gave an order that twenty-eight should be released, and that they should be taken back to their prison, and then addressed himself to the twelve others, in order to announce to them that, next morning, in explation of the crimes committed by the chief of their tribe, and to satisfy the shade of his father and of his ancestor, they would be decapitated before the assembled people. The unfortunate men heard the speech with the utmost indifference. The King added that two of them would be executed with his own hand, and retired.

A short time afterward arrived Prince Pocu sau, the King's brother. He choose two of the prisoners, announced to them that they had been selected to be dispatched by his brother; but in order to be admitted to such an honor, it was necessary to purify their crime-stained bodies, and that they must pass the night in the great fetish temple, prostrated before the idols. On the next day the prisoners were led to the market place, their hands bound behind their backs. The King presided at the ceremony, seated on a large ivory throne, surrounded by his court, the great dignitaries of the kingdom and the ministry. On the centre of the place was a large silver vessel, intended to receive the blood of the victims. When the hour had come, the King advanced, took a very thin steel sabre, and depressed the head of the two prisoners he was about to immolate. These poor wretches, on the order given to them, were placed at the edge of the vessel which was about to catch their blood.

At the conclusion of the first execution the crowd uttered enthusiastic shouts of applause for full five minutes, after which the King resumed his seat on the throne. The other ten prisoners were executed by the great fetish man, or high priest, who picked up each victim's head and showed it to the people, whilst they uttered ferocious yells. When all was over the populace fell upon the bodies of the unfortunate victims, which they cut into pieces and then drank their blood. The king retired in great pomp, and caused the twelve heads to be fixed on the walls of his palace. These monstrous scenes occur three or four times a year, and this in the nineteenth century! Unfortunately, human sacrifices are not confined to the kingdom of Dahomey. They take place also very frequently in the kingdoms of Abbeokuta, Ashantee and Benin, also situated in Africa, and in the same region as Dahomey.

WEST VIRGINIA AS A PLACE OF RESIDENCE.

I could not, says a Wayne county, W. V., correspondent of the Springfield Republican, conscientiously recommend any one to come here now to live, although investment in farms will surely be profitable. The trouble now chiefly is, that the guerillas have broken up their organization, if they ever had any, and scattered into small squads to rob and steal. A schoolmistress, passing a lonely road not far from Ceredo, was robbed of all her money, the amount she had just received for three months' teaching, by three ruffians.

A few nights ago three men went to the house of a quiet farmer, one mile from Ceredo, and robbed him of a few dollars, all he had, and boots and some clothing. Some of the citizens keep arms in the house, and intend to use them if visited in that way. One of these shot one of a gang of six one night not long ago, but became frightened himself and ran off, giving the robbers a chance to take their wounded companion away. He has not been troubled since General Crook, commanding the department of West Virginia, has issued a circular notifying the people that they must organize for their own protection, and recommends them to hunt the bushwhackers and kill them. Governor Boreman offers to furnish arms and ammunition.

AN HUMBLE REBEL.—We often hear of repentant rebels, but the following from the Nashville Union, shows that there is such a thing as an humble one:

We met recently with a gentlemen from the country, who, in 1861, was a rebel and a very warm one. Taking the start of us, he said, "You need not ask me if I've got my rights in the territories. I rather think *I have*. But I have'nt a negro worth a cent left on my farm. I don't care if I never see another. I'm humble—not after the Uriah Heep style—but really humble. Humiliated in the very dust to think that I once gave my influence to drag Tennessee into rebellion against a Government that ever afforded me protection, and never did me an injury.

I am truly penitent—not a bit of the rebel is left in me I rather think I would give my life willingly, gladly, to heal the wounds of my country, and restore her prosperity and happiness. And I will add, were I permitted to vote, I would consider it the greatest privilege I ever enjoysd to cast my suffrage for making Tennessee forever and ever a Free State' That's my position." Here our old friend ran out of breath, and we got a chance to give him a word of comfort and consolation.

SINGULAR SCENE.—On Sunday last a singular occurrence took place at St. Paul's Church, Syracuse, during the morning service. The Journal says:—"The Rector, Rev. Mr. Hill, was reading the Litany, when a man rose in a pew in the body of the church, proceeded deliberately up the aisle, entered the chancel, and approaching the officiating clergyman, threw one arm around his shoulders, seized one of his hands and brought his head near to that of the clergyman. This proceeding caused the entire congregation to wonder what was its significance.—Mayor Powell went up from his seat, and in a few words induced the man to return to his proper place. The whole time occupied did not exceed a minute. It appears that the strange acting person was a visitor in town from a western city (Buffalo, of course,) and that he, accompanied by his wife, had attended St. Paul's, which was convenient to their hotel. He was a fine-appearing, well-dressed man, and is said to have been laboring under the effects of hard drinking. When he put his arm around the clergyman he asked of him in a whisper if he would not pray for him. The Rev. Mr. Hills preserved his composure throughout, and there was scarcely a minute's interruption of the services."

CURIOUS METAMORPHOSIS.—Wonders will never cease! the other day we heard that "a horse was turned into a stable;" and this is the boasted nineteenth century.

RECOGNITION EXPLODED.

A London letter, by the last steamer, says:

"On your side of the water, a notion seems to have gained ground that England and France intend to recognize the South after the 4th of March, on the ground that Mr. Lincoln had been elected only by the Northern States, and that consequently he is not President of the entire Union On this side of the water the idea is laughed at by every intelligent person.

Of course, outsiders cannot divine what is in the hearts of Kings and their confidential advisers, but the idea of war with you is anything but popular here, and it can hardly be thought that Lord Palmerston and his colleagues would like to appeal to the country on such a subject.—They have a general election before their eyes, which must come off some time this year, and they wish to appear before their constituents in as favorable a light as possible. Not but what the general sympathy of England is in favor of the South; yet sad experience has taught the English that war is certain to increase the burdens of the people, however successfully conducted, and the people—that is, the working classes—are of more importance now than they were of yore.

The recent Federal successes, too, have sent Confederate stock down in the market—and as what the English principally respect in success, the Federal stock has risen in proportion. There is less virulence in the leading articles of the newspapers—less point in the political squibs and caricatures. The attention of the latter is rather more directed towards continental proceedings. One of the best of them is that borrowed from the Paris Charivari. It is a representation of 1864 giving instructions to 1865, both drawn under the guise of young women. In front of them is seen a tremendously fat Prussian soldier, walking about with great self-complacency. "If that customer," says 1864, "should call for anything, be sure not to serve him, for ever since I have been here he has done nothing but help himself."

A NEWARK REBEL.

William Lawrence McDonald, who figures in the papers as the rebel agent in Canada, and the leading spirit in the Chesapeake, St. Albans, and New York hotel burning affairs, was formerly a resident of this city and of Orange, where he has relatives and is well known. He was a steamboat captain on the Mississippi river for ten years, and became largely acquainted with Southern people. In 1849, he associated with Mr. B. M. Whitlock (his brother in-law), in the carriage business, and opened a Southern repository at 511 Broadway, in New York city. His trade, which has been almost exclusively with the South, having been shut off by the war, he became a most bitter and consistent partisan of the rebels.—Having become heavily indebted to Mr. Green, carriage maker in this city, "Larry," as he is familiarly called, tendered his services to him to pay his obligations, and, on the former gentleman being appointed sutler to the 26th regiment, he accompanied him to Virginia. After the first stock of goods had been sold, Larry came North and purchased $3,000 worth of goods for Mr. Green, and, on his return to Virginia, deliberately drove them into the rebel lines, where they were, of course, confiscated. While in Richmond, as is since ascertained, he lived in luxury, affiliating with all the rebel leaders, giving them information as to the number and position of our forces, and other valuable facts. He was then released on a pre-tended parole, and came to this city, and while visiting his wife at Westchester, New York, learned that his exploits had been divulged to the War Department, and detectives were after him. He immediately shipped as a sailor on a schooner for New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and succeeded in eluding the vigilance of the authorities. McDonald is about forty years of age and a native of Canada, but came to Orange when very young. "Gus" McDonald, a brother of the above, who also lived in Orange, but recently a resident of New York, is in custody on a charge of harboring the incendiaries while they were in that city.—*Newark (N. J.) Advertiser.*

STEWART, THE MERCHANT MILLIONAIRE.—He has many partners, but they are only partners in profits He is the sole master of all that is bought and sold. He knows every article that comes in or goes out of the store. No bundle leaves without a check. He selected a shawl for his wife one day, and neglecting to check it, it could not leave the building. No merchant in New York works so many hours or gives such undivided attention to his business. His rooms are in his down town store. He comes down early, takes his dinner about five o'clock, returns and remains at his work till late at night. He finds his pleasure in business. He is as difficult to approach as the Grand Lama. Go to the store and you will be met at the door by a courteous gentleman, once an affluent merchant who kept his own establishment.

To your question if Mr. Stewart is in? a response comes, "What is your business?" "I want to see Mr. Stewart" "You cant see him unless I know your business" It is private you say. "Mr. Stewart has no private business; I must know what you want, sir." If your statement is satisfactory, you are allowed to pass up stairs. Here you are met by another bland, but portly gentleman, once a judge of one of our courts—now the confidential business agent and companion of Mr. Stewart, to whom he devotes all his time. He subjects you to a series of cross questions as rigorous as if you were on a stand at court. He keeps you from Stewart if he can. If he can't, when your turn comes, he ushers you into a little box, ten by twenty, where sits the autocrat of the New York merchants. He receives you with a blank countenance and a cold eye. His voice is suppressed, his face inanimate, and his air impatient. You hurry through your business and need a strong temptation to induce you to run the gauntlet again.

A Contrast.

As to the numbers engaged in the present civil war, the little State of Massachusetts, according to an article in a recent publication, has furnished more men in our present struggle than fought on both sides in the great English rebellion. It has sent more men into the field than Julius Cæsar commanded to gain the empire of the world; more than all the troops of Hellas put together in the long struggle that rent her in pieces, when the sun went down in blood. The State of New York has equipped more soldiers than all the troops of Cæsar and Pompey put together, though drawn from every province, from the Euphrates to the pillars of Hercules. The whole army of Cromwell would only serve as skirmishers, or as a detail for a "raid" from the army of Grant or Sherman. His great military fame was gained by managing twenty-five thousand men; and its marches and evolutions were within an area less extensive than the State of Virginia.

REFUGEES.—The war has cast eighty thousand families upon the Government for support, the vast majority of them women and children, whose natural protectors have been unable to leave the rebel lines. Their sufferings have induced a movement at Washington, to see what relief can be extended to them, or how they can be placed in a situation to help themselves hereafter by their own industry. One of the wickednesses of the rebellion is the amount of misery which it has entailed upon those who are entirely innocent of promoting it, women and children helpless and homeless, left to fight their way through the world, and to suffer in abject poverty.

THE MYSTERIES OF IRON.

There is no miracle recorded in the annals of any religion more mysterious, more incomprehensible, more inconceivable, than some of the well known properties of the simple metal, iron. Consider, for instance, its change from its ordinary, to its passive state If a piece of the metal in its ordinary condition is immersed in nitric acid, it is powerfully acted upon, entering into combination with the acid, and losing its metallic form. But if a piece of platinum wire has one end inserted in the acid, and the iron is then immersed in contact with the wire, it is so changed that the acid has no power upon it, and this condition continues after the platinum wire is withdrawn.—The contact of a single point with the platinum sends a transformation through all of its particles which renders them invulnerable to the attacks of the most powerful acid. Even more wonderful is its change under the influence of a current of electricity. When a bar of pure soft iron is welded with an insulated wire and a current of electricity is sent through the wire, the bar is instantly converted into a magnet. It is endowed with an unseen force which stretches out from its ends, and seizing any other piece of iron within its reach draws them to itself and holds them in its invisible grasp. The object of insulating the wire is to prevent the electricity from leaving it, and yet through this insulating coat a power is exerted which changes so strangely the nature of the iron, enabling it to act on substances with which it is not in contact. As soon as the circling current ceases, the iron becomes like Sampson shorn of its locks, its miraculous power has departed.

No less mysterious than either of these is the more familiar phenomenon of the fall of a piece of iron to the ground, under the simple action of gravitation What is that invisible force which reaches out in all directions from the earth, and clutches all matter in its grasp! The fibres of this power are imperceptible to any of our senses. If we pass our hands under a suspended rock we can feel nothing reaching from it to the earth, yet there is *something* stretching up from the earth, taking hold of the rock, and drawing it down with the strength of a hundred cables! We walk enveloped in mysteries, and "our daily life is a miracle."—*Scientific American.*

"THE EMPIRE OF CALICO."

Malakoff, in his last letter to the New York Times, from Paris, thus speaks of a French criticism on England:

M. Lemoinne, one of the ablest writers in the French press, but who has written nothing for some time, made his re-entrance this morning in the columns of the Debats in a lengthy and able article on the American question. Lemoinne, after predicting the speedy downfall of the bogus Confederacy, treats at length of the outrageous conduct of England in this question, and especially of her barefaced abandonment of the abolition doctrines she had always professed. He concludes as follows: "At this moment we see, in effect English women standing in fairs and selling goods for charitable purposes in America, but it is no longer for the once popular hero of Stafford House, Uncle Tom.

The good cotton now rule the day O, Wilberforce! What would your grand soul have thought, if, unhappily for relief, it were brought back to life to have seen the England which you had intoxicated with the divine doctrines of humanity falling back into the empire of calico! Is it not to be feared that these demonstrations of England's partiality for the rebellion will bring about their fruits, bitter, bloody fruits? When the American Republic shall have emerged from this terrible trial without its slavery, but, alas! with a great army, she will recollect the offences she has submitted to during the conflict, and when that day comes cotton will be dearer than ever."

ADULTERATING LARD WITH WATER.

Lard is now worth from 20 to 20½ cents per pound, and this high price is stimulating the practice of adulterations. We learn that the old plan of mixing water with lard is being extensively practiced By pouring water into the lard and keeping it constantly agitated till it cools, some 20 or 25 per cent. of water can be mixed with the lard.

Of all substances there is none in which adulterations can be more easily detected than in lard. It is only necessary to melt it at a temperature of 212 degrees, if it melts without ebullition or bubbling it contains no water, and if it deposits no sediment it is probably pure. Sometimes lard is adulterated with starch; this may be detected by the addition of a solution of iodine, which will turn the starch first violet and then black.

Water is used to increase the weight of butter as well as that of lard. By making the butter very salt its capacity for containing water is greatly increased. Hassall examined 18 samples of London butter and found water in all of them. The salt butter contained from 8 14 to 28 40 per cent of water, and the fresh butter from 4 18 to 15 43 per cent The salt in the salt butter ranged from 1.53 to 8 24 per cent, and in fresh butter from 2 21 to 2.91 per cent. The butter in several samples was from 67 72 to 80.93 per cent, showing a proportion of combined salt and water from 3.07 to 22 28 per cent.

COTTON CLOTH.

Cotton cloth made within the past two or three years is much