

UNITED STATES.

FATAL STEAMBOAT EXPLOSION.—While the tow-boat Anglo Norman was on a pleasure excursion up the river from New Orleans, on the 13th, her boiler burst, and a fearful loss of life occurred. There were 110 persons on board, including several ladies. Nearly 100 were wounded, mangled and killed. Junius Bebee, late President of the Tow-Boat Company, is missing; C. Perry, reporter of the Bulletin, and the first engineer were killed, with it is supposed, 15 others. Many were severely scalded, and others slightly injured. Mr. Stillman, of the Novelty Works, New York, is badly wounded.—

TRIAL OF LOPEZ.—ANOTHER SHEAMBOAT EXPLOSION.—New Orleans, Dec. 17.—The trial of Lopez and others, engaged in the Cuba expedition, has commenced at the circuit court.

The steamer Knoxville, bound for Nashville, while pushing from the levee, half an hour since, burst all her boilers, killing and wounding several persons, and also damaging other boats lying along side. The names of the killed are not yet ascertained.

LATER.—There were about 50 persons killed and wounded by the explosion of the steamer Knoxville.—She exploded all four of her boilers, one of which was thrown a distance of nearly 100 yards, and another passed through the Steamer Washington and lodged on the Griffin Yeatman. The steamer Ne Plus Ultra was considerably damaged by the effects of the explosion.

THE LOVELINESS OF FANATICISM.—The call of Samuel J. May, Charles B. Sedgwick, Charles A. Wheaton, Ira H. Cobb and John Thomas, for a convention at Syracuse, Jan. 7, to consider "the internal Bill" for the return of fugitive slaves, exhibits the insane temper of those who sign it. They say that "if the bill had been devised by the Austrian Haynau, it would have enhanced his guilt;" that its passage "has forced upon our country this great question, shall tyrants henceforth rule this republic or free men?" that "the oppressors of the south and their abettors have waked up the lion;" and that they must consent to "annul the wicked bill or see the American Union deluged in blood." This language may show that Rev. Mr. May and his abettors are very angry, but its extreme violence also shows that they feel that they are powerless. Should it ever come to the shedding of blood, these reverend invokers of it will probably retire to "the snows of Canada," to sympathize with the fugitive negroes.—Boston Post.

UNITED STATES CONGRESS.—In the House of Representatives on the 10th inst., Mr. Harris, of Illinois, introduced a bill to establish reciprocity of trade between the United States and Canada, and the free navigation of the waters connecting the lakes with the Atlantic Ocean.—Referred to the committee on commerce.—New Bruns.

A Bangor paper says, that supplies for lumbermen, and other goods intended for the upper waters of the Aroostook, are now carried up the St. John to Tobique, and thence by land to Fort Fairfield, where they are again embarked and sent up the Aroostook. The Maine Farmer says, that by this route a barrel of pork can be carried from Boston for \$1.50, which is a great saving of expense compared with the cost of land transportation from Bangor.—Ib., Dec. 19.

Great improvements have lately been made in locomotive engines. The English Mining Journal mentions one lately manufactured at the works of the great Northern Company at Boston, which is warranted to run the distance from Boston to London, (108 miles,) with six carriages and two breaks—a usual express train—in one hour and a half.

On Tuesday, 10th instant a Frenchman who kept a variety store near the Post Office, Detroit, was murdered. His name is Louis or Sohn Charbonneau, from Montreal, where he has a wife and family. His throat was cut by a blow from an axe. His money is missing.

Two mutes were recently married in New York, by a mute-Clergyman. Previous to the ceremony, Mr. Peet, the President, made a silent address to the pupils, which, though entirely incomprehensible to ourselves, seemed to interest those who understood the language.—New York Tribune.

From an official statement it appears that the total coinage of all the U. S. mints, up to the 1st of November, 1850, is \$186,572,000.

A RICHLY ENDOWED CHURCH.—It is stated that the property of the corporation of Trinity Church, New York, is estimated at from twelve to sixteen millions of dollars. George B. Trowbridge, of Bethel, Ct., has committed a forgery to the amount of \$2000, given him and cleared out. Character hitherto irreproachable.

FOREIGN COIN.—Here is an item interesting to those who have been hoarding up the quarters and ninepences.

It may not be generally known that Spanish and other silver coins which have been and are still in circulation, have been reduced to a specific value, by a late act of Congress, which took effect on the first inst. By this act, Spanish quarters are reduced to 20 cents, and other coins are reduced in the same proportion. A knowledge of this fact will be sufficient to put all upon the qui vive in passing or receiving these coins.—Boston Transcript.

The friends of cheap postage in New York, are taking active measures to induce Congress to pass the bills relating to that subject reported last session by the Committee of the Senate and House of Representatives.—Portland Transcript.

The story about Mr. Johnston being arrested in Ban-

gor and taken to California to be tried for murder is a foolish hoax started by some scamp in Oldtown.—Ib.

The London Lancet tells a story of a woman who induced a hospital physician to cut her leg off, in order to be revenged upon her husband with whom she had quarrelled.—Ib.

TREATMENT OF SCARLET FEVER BY INUNCTION.—An eminent physician of Washington City, Harvey Lindsly, has recommended the following treatment for scarlet fever, practised by Dr. Scheemann, Physician to the King of Hanover, as contained in a recent number of the London Lancet:—

From the first day of the illness, and as soon as we are certain of its nature, the patient must be rubbed morning and evening over the whole body, with a piece of bacon, in such a manner that, with the exception of the head, a covering of fat is every where applied. In order to make this rubbing somewhat easier it is best to take a piece of bacon the size of the hand, choosing a part still armed with the rind, that we may have a firm grasp. On the soft side of this piece slits are to be made, in order to allow the oozing out of the fat. The rubbing must be thoroughly performed, and not too quickly in order that the skin may be regularly saturated with the fat. The beneficial results of this application are soon obvious, with a rapidity bordering on magic all, even the most painful symptoms of the disease are allayed; quiet, sleep, good humor, appetite return, and there remains only the impatience to quit the sick-room.—Scientific American.

A gentleman of this city, informs us, that on returning home a day or two since, he discovered a large house cat engaged in sucking the breath of his infant, about five months old. The mother had gone into the yard, leaving the child lying asleep in the cradle, and but for the opportune arrival of the father, the cat would have destroyed the child's life. When discovered, the mouth of the cat was in close contact with that of the infant, and the convulsive breathing of the child told plainly how nearly the cat had accomplished her purpose. This was the third time she attempted it. We have frequently heard it asserted that cats often caused the death of infants, but were led to believe it an "old woman's" tale. Our informant, however, assures us that he had every opportunity of ascertaining fully that the convulsive breathing of the child was produced by the sucking of its breath by the cat. We leave it for those who understand such matters, to decide.—Launceston (Pa) Gazette.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.—Yesterday afternoon, a little son of Mr. Samuel G. Thurlow, of this village, was crossing a street where a number were coasting down hill, when he was struck by a sled and thrown violently down. But little was thought of the accident at the moment, as he did not seem to be much injured. He even came down street to his father's store, and went home from thence with his little sister. Soon he complained of a headache, was taken with vomiting, and died at 9 o'clock. He was an intelligent and sprightly lad, a general favorite and the community sympathize with the afflicted parents.—Republican Journal, Belfast.

TWO WEEKS LATER FROM CALIFORNIA.—The steamer Empire City, from Chagres via Jamaica, arrived at New York on Sunday morning, with over three hundred passengers, and upwards of two millions of dollars on freight, and in the hands of the passengers.

The cholera was committing serious ravages at San Francisco. The disease was also prevalent at Sacramento. It broke out on board of the Schooner G. H. Montague, from that port, the day after sailing, and six passengers and the second mate died. The captain and four passengers were sick on her arrival at San Francisco.

A San Francisco paper, of the evening of the 1st November says, there can be no doubt that this terrific disease is gradually increasing and in the great proportion of cases a fatal termination ensues.

At Sacramento City, from the 21st to the 27th October, there were fifty-eight deaths by cholera. Among the number we notice the names of Edward Ray of Nova Scotia, aged 23, and Jesse Haycock, of Boston—Mr. H. was formerly a resident in St. John, N. B.

Steamboat explosions have already commenced in California. On the 29th ult., as the Steamboat Sagamore was casting off from Central Wharf, San Francisco, with a large number of passengers bound for Stockton, her boiler burst with a terrible explosion, scattering human bodies and pieces of the boat in every direction, reducing the steamer to a complete wreck. The number of persons on board was 75 to 100—half of whom were missing. Many bodies were so mutilated as not to be recognized, and limbs and fragments were gathered up in baskets.

NEW YORK, Dec 20. TWO WEEKS LATER FROM CALIFORNIA.—Arrival of the Cherokee, with \$1,680,000 in Gold!—The steamer Cherokee arrived this morning from Chagres, via Kingston, with \$1,680,000 in gold, and 361 passengers. The passengers by the Cherokee have \$400,000 additional to that on the steamer's manifest. San Francisco dates are to the middle of November.

The cholera had abated at San Francisco; but at Sacramento City and up the river it was more fatal. At Nevada City, Rough and Ready, and the Yuba Mines, eight or ten cases occur daily.

Gold continues to come into San Francisco from the mines plentifully, and was selling at San Francisco at \$15 1-2 an ounce. Business is reported to be very brisk. Lumber drags heavily.

The English steamer Tay arrived at Panama, with 370 passengers, for Realejo.

SHIPWRECK AND GREAT LOSS OF LIFE!—It is stated that the barque Emily, from San Francisco, for Realejo and Panama, was lost on the 20th of Sept., on the Pacific coast, and out of 200 passengers, only two were saved. The Cherokee left Kingston, (Jamaica) on the 14th inst. The Cholera had abated at Kingston, but was still raging in the interior of the island.

FROM SOUTH CAROLINA.—Progress of Disunion.—The Legislature of South Carolina met at Columbia on the 25th ult. The Governor in his message advocates secession. He thinks that the appeal of the Fugitive Slave Law will lead to disunion, and that unless the south is protected, secession will be best. He proposes the establishment of depots for military stores and instruments of war at Anderson, Spartanburg and Marion court houses. He suggests the expediency of furnishing the Charleston Artillery companies with two additional batteries, and the removal of the Magazine from its present site to Citadel Hill. Also that he be authorized to purchase six 12 pound brass field pieces; six 6 pounders, and six 4 pounders.—Also the necessity of establishing within the State limits factories for small arms and munitions, and foundries for iron ordnance, and bronze field pieces.

The Legislature subsequently have had resolutions under discussion, declaring their determination not to elect Senators to fill vacancies, and instructing Senator Butler and the Representatives not to take their seats at Congress. Also, a resolution instructing a committee to report a bill of non-intercourse with all States that throw obstacles in the way of the enforcement of the Fugitive Slave law, with a long preamble of grievances. It is also resolved, that in the judgement of the Legislature, secession is the proper remedy; also that South Carolina sooner than submit to the aggressions of the Federal Congress will interpose her sovereignty to shield her citizens from further outrages and wrongs at every hazard.

A WRITTEN LANGUAGE IN WESTERN AFRICA.—One of the Sierra Leone agents of the Church Missionary Society of London, Rev. Mr. Keolle, has discovered a written language existing in the interior of Western Africa—the Vy language. Mr. Keolle says that the alphabet consists of about one hundred letters, each representing a syllable. The new characters are said to have no analogy with any other known. Mr. Keolle has taken passage on board a vessel going to the nearest point from which the Vy Nation can be reached, with the resolution to investigate fully this interesting discovery.—Buffalo Advertiser.

CONSUMPTION OF FOOD.—There is a distillery at Richmond, Va., which annually consumes in the distillation of whiskey, the enormous quantity of 156,500 bushels of grain, being an average of 500 bushels a day. Of this amount, about 120,000 bushels of corn are required, which at sixty cents per bushel, will yield \$72,000 to the producer. But this is not all; about 35,000 bushels of rye are also required annually, which, at 70 cents per bushel, will realize \$25,000.—N. Y. Com. Adv.

A few days since we announced the burning of a large amount of grain at Detroit, and it was set down as so much "lost." But we consider the immediate destruction of grain by fire as incomparably better for the community, and far preferable, to the use made of it as mentioned above. When it is wholly destroyed, the "loss" is at an end. But when it is converted into intoxicating drinks, "that steals the reason and damns the soul" the "loss" has but commenced. The sixty cents per bushel is but a small consideration compared with the misery and woe, and ruin and poverty and crime, which follow it, in its changed state, through all its after course. Could all the grain that is converted into whiskey in the United States be gathered together in one vast pile, and consumed in a general conflagration, the "gain" to the community would be incredible. Our national revenue would be but a small sum alongside of it.—Buf. Adv.

A few days since, 25,000 barrels of Flour were in the East Albany depot, waiting to come East over the Western railroad. Sixteen hundred freight cars are constantly employed in transporting produce, and even that large number failed to meet the present demand! When this road was constructed, an enterprising director hazarded the suggestion that before many months full fifty freight cars would be needed. He was laughed at, and his estimate was considered extravagant. Times have changed since then.—Springfield Republicans.

Mr. William Smith of Johnson County, N. C. who is described as a man of "miserly habits," recently took a runaway negro girl belonging to him from Wilmington jail. He carried her home, and as soon as he released her, she seized an axe, struck him on the head and killed him.

BURNING OF THE STATE PRISON.—The Argus has a telegraphic despatch which says:—

The State Prison at Thomaston, Me., was discovered to be on fire about 4 1-2 o'clock Sunday afternoon last.

The Warden's dwelling house, main prison, and guard room, were entirely destroyed. The workshops and western wing were saved by the throwing of snow, &c., on the flames, by citizens.

The prisoners, about ninety in number, were all safely lodged in the workshop.

ART UNIONS.—At an evening party in Providence, R. I., a few evenings since, it was proposed to dispose of the belle of the room by lottery. Twenty tickets were immediately sold at a fixed price. The holder of No. 20 drew the prize. The joke ended not here. The fortunate adventurer has since married the lady whose name was drawn against his number. Thus has the season of "art unions" commenced in Providence.

William G. Allen, a coloured young man, has been appointed to the Professorship of Greek and Rhetoric in Central College, Mt. Granville, New York.

PUSEYISM IN BOSTON.—The Rev. O. P. Prescott is on his trial before the Episcopal Ecclesiastical Court at Boston for heresy—his errors consisting according to the presentment in leaning towards Catholicism. One of the charges is, "that he has made confession to a priest notorious for his Romanizing tendencies." The Mormons have formed a treaty "offensive and defensive" with the Utah Indians, and it is stated that many of the latter have been baptized in the Mormon faith.