

Commissioners for the affairs of India. The aggregate paid-up capital of these establishments, including the last half-year's profit, is £2,006,141, and their deposits and circulation £2,281,946. Of these sums, £1,708,436 is retained in bullion or invested in the government securities, and the remainder, viz: £2,579,651, employed as advances in loans and discounting bills at the chief town of each presidency. As the banks are prohibited from dealing in foreign exchanges, their operations are necessarily confined to the possessions of the East India Company. The other 10 are joint-stock banks, established on the same principle as similar institutions in England; and their aggregate paid-up capital, including profits and reserved funds, is £3,539,727, and their deposits and other liabilities £1,625,089, making together a banking capital of £5,164,816, of which sum £682,398, is retained in cash and Government securities, and the remainder, viz: £4,482,418, employed in advances on various descriptions of securities, discounting bills, and in carrying on exchange operations with India, China, and England, under the management of Boards of Directors elected by the shareholders.—*London Paper.*

TRAINING A SPIDER.—Abbe Olivet has described an amusement of Pelissor, during his confinement in the Bastille, which consisted in feeding a spider, which he had discovered forming its web in the corner of a small window. For some time he placed his flies at the edge, whilst his valet, who was with him, played on a bag-pipe; little by little, the spider used itself to distinguish the sound of the instrument, and issued from its hole to run and catch its prey. Thus calling it always by the same sound, and placing the flies at a still greater distance, he succeeded, after several months, in drilling the spider by regular exercise, so that at length it never failed appearing at the first sound to seize on the fly provided for it, even on the knees of the prisoner.

FREIGHTS.—The New York Express of last Tuesday evening, says:—The demand for vessels is most extraordinary. Nineteen pence sterling has been paid for the freight of Corn to Liverpool, and 5s. 3d., for Flour; 5s. 6d. is now asked for the latter, and 20d. for the former. 6s. a barrel is offered for vessels to go to Philadelphia and load with Flour for Liverpool.

The Marine Insurance Companies are making up their accounts. It is found that, as a general thing, the business has been more disastrous than ever. There seems to have been nothing but a succession of gales, and the shore strewn with vessels.

THE FIRST AMERICAN STEAM PACKET TO RUN BETWEEN NEW YORK AND EUROPE, building at the former place, is in a great state of forwardness. She is planked up, with her decks on, and will be launched about the middle of January.—She is to be called the Washington, and is the first of a line of four steamers, to be built by individual enterprise, under the contract and patronage of the American Government. They are to run between New York and Bremen, touching at Cowes and Southampton, which is within seven hours' ride of London. These are to carry the mails, and receive from the United States four hundred thousand dollars per annum, or one hundred thousand dollars for each vessel.

The Washington is to sail from New York in March. A second steamer, of smaller size and inferior strength, has been contracted for by the same parties, to be completed in August. The dimensions of the Washington are as follows:—

Length of keel,	220 feet.
" " upper deck,	240 "
" " main deck,	235 "
" " lower deck,	224 "
Breadth of beam,	39 "
Depth of hold,	31 "

Her engine and machinery are constructing at the Novelty Works, by Messrs. Stillman, Allen & Co. They have now upwards of 500 men employed, mostly on this vessel. They are determined that all her works shall be of the strongest description, and neither skill nor expense will be spared to make them perfect, in every respect.

The boilers are 16 feet fronts, 12 feet shell, and 36 feet long: they are braced in every square foot, and made in the most substantial manner, as well as of the best materials.

The main saloon is to be 90 feet in length, and finished with white polish and gold. This beautiful vessel, when she leaves the port, will have cost two hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

[From the New Orleans Delta.]

LATEST FROM THE FLEET.

Loss of the U. S. Brig Somers—Over 20 men drowned—Capture of Americans by the Mexicans—Situation of the U. S. Squadron.

We learn from Purser Warrington, that the U. S. brig-of-war Somers, was capsized and sunk in a few minutes in a heavy squall from the north, on the 8th instant, at 9 o'clock, p. m., off Green Island. There were 80 persons on board, of whom, it was supposed at the time, 39 had perished, and among them were Passed Midshipmen H. A. Clemens and John Ringgold Hynson.

Since then 16 out of the 39 have drifted ashore, one of whom died from exposure. 8 men went ashore on hen-coops, near Vera Cruz, after having been in the water 30 hours, and were taken prisoners of war by the Mexicans. Great credit is due the officers and crews of the English and French vessels of war at anchor near the Somers at the time; every assistance possible, on their part, was rendered.

On the 5th instant, Midshipman R. Clay Rogers, and Doctor J. H. Wright, with a boat's crew from the Somers, went for the purpose of reconnoitering below Vera Cruz. When Rogers, Doctor Wright, and a seaman had gone some distance from the boat, they were surrounded by 7 Mexican soldiers. Mr. Rogers and the seaman were made prisoners and sent to the Castle of Perote.

Com. Connor arrived at Anton Lizardo on the 13th instant, on board the Princeton, and went on board the frigate Raritan, as his flag ship. The sloop John Adams was blockading Vera Cruz. Frigate Potomac arrived at Green Island 13th instant. Frigate Cumberland sailed for Norfolk on the 6th.

Left at the anchorage at Anton Lizardo the following vessels, viz:—Frigate Raritan, Steamers Mississippi, Vixen and Petrita, and storeship Relief, and Schooners Boneta and Petrel. Also, brigs Oneco, Chinchilla and Garnet, loaded with coal; and Brig Abriasia, from Pensacola, with provisions and stores for the squadron.

Extract from a well informed source at Vera Cruz:—The recent intelligence from Tabasco is, that this state is much disgusted with the neglect of the Supreme Government of Mexico in not aiding them. It was thought a quorum of the Mexican Congress could not be got together.

We are indebted to our friends of the Tropic for the following interesting letter from their intelligent correspondent:—

OFF VERA CRUZ, Dec. 9, 1846.

One of the most afflicting calamities of the war occurred yesterday in the loss of the brig Somers, which foundered near Green Island, with the loss of Passed Midshipmen Henry A. Clemens and John Ringgold Hynson, and more than 30 of her crew.

That any escaped is due to the humane exertions and intrepidity of the British, French and Spanish officers of the squadrons lying at Sacrificios, who notwithstanding the fearful height of the sea, and the rage of the gale, sent several boats each from the principal ships to the rescue. Twenty boats are said to have been out.

The commander of the Somers, Lieut. Commandant Semmes, and his surviving officers and men, were taken to the different ships of the Sacrificios anchorage, and treated with much kindness until this morning, when they were sent down to us with the first intimation of the dreadful accident.

The John Adams, without a pilot, ran through the reefs in the heaviest of the gale which carried the Somers down, and succeeded at the most imminent hazard of destruction, in reaching the anchorage at San Anton Lizardo. A merchant brig also escaped in the same manner. The Adams takes the Somers' place to-morrow morning—filling up the breach.

The Cumberland frigate, under the command of Capt. Gregory, and officered and manned with the crew of the Raritan, sailed for Norfolk via Havana, on the 6th instant.

The Mississippi, bearing the red flag of Commodore Perry; the Raritan, Capt. Forrest; the John Adams, the Relief, the Vixen, the Petrita, (late Champion,) two or three gun-boats, and four or five merchant vessels, lie at San Anton.

Commodore Connor is expected every hour, with the Princeton, Spitfire, and their small vessels from Tampico; and the Albany and Boston from the north; and we confidently expect, upon their arrival, to make an immediate commencement upon Alvarado. Some of the patriot citizens of that place have thrown out polite intimations of their readiness to recommence the exchange of their copper for our iron, and Com. Connor is not the man to decline a traffic furnishing such returns.

I presume you have not yet heard of the attempt of Mr. Rogers, one of the recent cutting-out-party, to set fire to a building used as a magazine near the town. His life was probably saved by not succeeding. Himself, and one of his boat's crew were made prisoners, and it is said they have been sent to Perote—reason not stated. This is all I know of it.

[Correspondence of the Delta.]

FROM THE ARMY.

MONTEREY, Nov. 30, 1846.

There is much excitement in the city this morning, arising from a murder committed last night at Armstrong's Hotel. A party of Tennesseans from the camp came into town to take supper at the hotel, and while eating and drinking, a table was turned over, breaking a number of plates and glasses.

Armstrong came into the room much excited, and commenced a tirade of abuse, at the end of which pay was offered him double for all that was destroyed; but not content with that, he called in the guard, and after pointing out a very estimable young man, by the name of Forrest, said, "There's the d—d rascal who broke my dishes,"—but before the sergeant of the guard could reach him, Armstrong pulled out a pistol and shot him dead, and escaped before his companions or the guard could put their hands upon him. This is the only version of the affair I have heard.

No arrival from Saltillo since my last. A company of artillery left for that place this morning. The Indians I spoke of, as being ordered there, have not reached here yet.

Two Frenchmen, in addition to the "big-bug" Mexicans, have been arrested on a charge of tampering with our soldiers, and offering them inducements to desert. There will be a pretty hanging match here some of these days.

A volunteer lieutenant, dressed himself in a private's clothes, and was readily accepted as a voluntario, and given an order on a man