## Letter from "Rural Rusticus."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, May 25, 1860.

During the debate to-day, Senator Pugh, of Ohio, was heading Benjamin and Wigfall over his political daughter-house, Mr. Senator John R. Thomson, of New Jersey, had the unbecoming impertinency—rather pert in him—to intrude into the intellectual collision. The valuable Senator from New Jersey seldom diffuses his wisdom in the Senate Chamber. He prefers, like Burleigh, in Shakspeare's brilliant farce, "The Critic," to show his profundity by shaking his head rather than his tongue. However, he injected "as the Congressional phrase is," some (in his mind of the *Congressional Globe*) into the debate. He was emphatic, too, and in relation to New Jersey politics said, "That no man could have been elected by the convention that was held in Trenton that dared to avow himself as a friend of Judge Douglas." I say that on my own responsibility.

Doubtless when these lines reach New Jersey the delegates will be inclined to think that some better authority than the responsibility of Mr. Thomson was necessary to make an unreality look like a fact. Now, several men had avowed themselves as in favor of Judge Douglas, and were elected delegates to the Charleston Convention on the understanding that they were so. At Charleston, at least, there were three men for Douglas, and contingent votes. Moreover, at the election in last August, what is known as the Douglas platform was adopted, and it was confirmed by the Trenton convention. These are facts, and can be found where Mr. Thomson's "responsibility" cannot—on the page of history.

Senator Crittenden spoke to-day on the Davis caucus resolutions. The general tenor of his remarks was directed to silent harmony. At this excited juncture he did not see the use of the resolutions. There was no existing contingency to be effected by them; and such a contingency might never arise. Where then was the policy of adding to the agitation which had already attained such violent prominence? The old man eloquent" appealed to the Senator from Mississippi, to inform him if any actual necessity existed which was to be met by, or embraced in, the adoption of the resolutions. Mississippi declined to give a satisfactory reply.

We had quite a spicy "bit of a debate" on these resolutions, and an amendment offered by Senator Clingman to them. Pugh, Collamer, Green, Polk, Wigfall, Brown, Mason, &c., took part in it. Brown, in referring to Wigfall, said that if the South meets in Convention at Richmond and nominates a good Southern man upon a good Northern platform, he will vote for him; but he deprecated and would not be led astray by abstractions (looking directly at Davis) outside of the National Democratic party.

I grieve to learn, this morning, that a severe affliction has befallen Governor McRae, of Mississippi, in the death of his son, an only child. He was quite a distinguished youth, full of talent and promise, and had reached almost the "blossom of his spring." It is, indeed, a sad bereavement.

RURAL RUSTICUS.

## Atrocious Murder by a Madman.

[From the R. O. Crescent.]

We have received the following account of a most foul murder, which can only be explained by supposing the wretched murderer to have been insane. The mind revolts at the idea of such deeds being committed in cold blood by a man enjoying the faculties of reason.

The undersigned, passengers on board the steamer B. L. Hodge, on her present trip from Shreveport to New Orleans, deem that a statement of facts of an atrocious murder, which occurred on board of her on Red River, about twenty-five miles below Grand Ecore, on the 22d of May, about 2 o'clock A. M., is due to the public and her officers:

A man calling himself B. L. Sleath came on board at Shreveport, and registered himself as a deck passenger for New Orleans. On the next morning, leaving Shreveport, he came to Capt. R. H. Martin's stateroom (commander of the boat) and expressed a desire to be allowed to change his passage from deck to the cabin, which was acceded to, and a stateroom was assigned him by the clerk. Having a small amount of money in his possession, he deposited it with the clerk.

Between 1 and 2 o'clock on Friday morning, while almost all the passengers were asleep, (several gentlemen were still sitting up conversing,) Sleath suddenly stepped up behind one of them (named F. G. Jernigan) and caught him around the head, drew a bowie knife from behind him, and cut his throat from ear to ear. He was prevented from making a fatal wound by Jernigan catching the blade of the knife in one hand and Sleath's arm with the other. He, however, received a very severe wound across the throat.

The passengers who were asleep were roused by the noise and scuffling, and found Sleath and the boat running into the bank. Just at that time a gentleman, named Charles M. Fort, coming out of his state-room into the cabin, was fatally stabbed by Sleath, and expired in a few moments. He resided in Springfield, Robertson county, Tenn. Another passenger, named R. S. Lyle, of Nashville, Tenn., being roused by the noise, opened his state-room door to look out, and was immediately stabbed by Sleath. Lyle only said, "I am stabbed" and expired without a groan, the bowie-knife having penetrated through the heart.

At this juncture, the captain, who had been asleep on his room, was roused and came out to see into the cause of the disturbance