

From Wilmer's Liverpool News Letter.

### The Monster Gun for the American Navy.

The heavy piece of ordnance, ordered some time ago in this town to be made for the "Princeton," United States steam frigate, is now approaching completion; and being the largest cannon ever made in this country, and requiring in its construction great skill and attention to perfect it as a solid mass, it has become an object of considerable interest and curiosity among nautical and scientific men.

It will be remembered that the Princeton had on board a gun of great weight and calibre, which, last year, burst on being fired, while a large party of American officers were present to view the vessel, by which several parties lost their lives, including the Secretary of State. It is in lieu of the gun then destroyed, which was of malleable iron, and made imperfectly, of the same material, (requiring if well made, less bulk for a given strength than cast iron.)

The gun was manufactured in the solid, by Mr. Horsfall at his "Mersey Steel and Iron Works," and being of great length, and proportionate thickness, the securely welding or conglomerating the whole from pieces into one equal mass, before turning and boring, required the utmost effort of modern skill, and the aid of powerful machinery in heating and fashioning it.

In the rough it was nearly fourteen feet long, and little short of thirty inches in diameter at the thicker end. A round shaft of seven inches in diameter was first formed, and on this, as a foundation, were successively laminated wedges of iron placed longitudinally, on edge, and reversed in position so as to fit.

These, placed round the original spindles, were (as well as the shaft) brought to a white heat, and securely welded by a hammer, eight tons in weight, worked by steam. Another layer, in like manner, was added over the former, and so on until the whole was of the requisite thickness throughout. When thus so far fashioned, and proved to be perfect and equal in all its parts, the mass—a most creditable and, indeed, extraordinary specimen of forged work—was sent to the works of Messrs. Fawcett & Co., engine makers and founders.

The gun as sent to the foundry, weighed 11 tons 3 cwt. 2 qrs 11 lb. In the turning and boring it was reduced in weight about 3 tons 1 cwt. The length of the cannon, now that it is turned and bored, is 13 feet, and the bore is 12 feet in length, and 12 inches in diameter, leaving a thickness of solid metal of one foot at the breech. In form the piece is plain and unassuming in appearance, without raised mouldings and rings, (on the French system,) the object being to attain the required strength at each point, without useless metal; and the whole tapering nearly equally from the breech, which is 27 1/2 inches in diameter, to the muzzle, which is 19 inches—giving a thickness of metal to it as a tube of 7 1/2 inches at the former, and 3 1/2 inches at the latter. The model for this gun was made on an inch-and-a-half scale.

The turning and boring occupied over a space of nearly three months, though the operation is by no means slow, considering the quantity of metal to be cut away at a gradual and cautious rate to prevent any imperfection. The first drill introduced was seven inches in diameter; and about a foot from it, a 10 inch boring head followed on the same shaft, making a bore of ten inches at once. An 11 inch drilling was next used, and finally one of 12 inches. The gun was finally adjusted in the lathe, was turned, the borers being stationary. The finishing operation with the 12-inch drill took three successive days and nights, without intercession, the engine being kept at work, lest by ceasing even for a short time the contraction or expansion of the iron might, from alternate heat and cold, prevent the production of the desired true-ness of the bore, or leave a mark. As it is, the bore is as fine and smooth as that of a first rate fowling piece; and the interior of the gun is equally bright and even.

Through the centre of the breech a large hole is drilled to admit a thick bolt, with a large head, to counter-bore in the rounded cup or basin of the breech where the charge will be deposited. This bolt terminates exteriorly in a strong screw, upon which will be secured the outer or terminating breech piece as a finish; and this gun is so passive at the head, and will be so closely fitted, that it will become part and parcel of the gun, and cannot be blown out by any explosion which the piece will bear.

In looking through the hole (now open) the whole resembles a huge telescope. The piece will be poised on its carriage on strong trunnions of 8 1/2 inches long, forged upon a massive iron belt or ring encircling the gun near its centre. The belt is 11 1/2 inches in width, and 3 1/2 in thickness, and will also be brightly polished. It will be put in a hot state, so as to contract in cooling, like the tire of a wheel. Immediately in front of the belt (which cannot move toward the breech, from the increasing thickness of the gun; as well as a small flange) a groove or flat ribbon indenture has been turned out of the gun. Round this hoop or belt of iron will be put on to fit flushly, but not welded; and over this in contracting will clip the iron so tightly, that the trunnion belt will become immovable, or, as it were, in one mass with the gun, to resist all recoil or shock, the gun itself not being weakened in the least degree by any drilling or perforation to secure the belt.

The balls which this monster gun will carry will each be 11 1/2 inches in diameter, a quarter of an inch being left for wind-bore, and will each weigh in cast iron 236 lbs.—so that the piece is in reality a "236 pounder." Before delivery it will be proved at Kettle Bay, with a double charge of gunpowder (45 lbs.) and two balls, weighing (of course together) 472 lbs. It will be covered during the experiment with mats and sand, to avert the consequences of any accident from disruption—though this, from its admirable and scientific construction, is by no means to be apprehended. The Princeton is, we learn, to be here shortly to take the monster on board.



## THE AMERICAN.

Saturday, May 24, 1845.

**V. B. PALMER, Esq., at his Real Estate and Coal Office, No. 59 Pine Street, Philadelphia, is authorized to act as Agent, and receipt for all monies due this office, for subscription or advertising.**

**Also, at his Office No. 160 Nassau Street, New York.**  
**And 8 E. Corner of Baltimore and Calvert sts., Baltimore.**

A NUMBER of interesting articles will be found on our first page.

THE WEATHER, within the last few weeks, has been exceedingly changeable,—cool and windy at times, making a fire quite comfortable. The shower, of last week, did not extend but a few miles beyond us. At Northumberland there was but a slight sprinkling. On Tuesday last we had a slight but refreshing shower, and on Thursday night a heavy one.

JUDGE BLYTHE, late Collector at Philadelphia, has been appointed Comptroller of the Treasury Department, at Washington. The Judge is a good democrat and an upright man.

JOHN S. BRYAN has sold the "Doylestown Democrat," to Mr. Paxson, for \$5,000.

WE PERCEIVE that our old friend, Col. Carter, of the Lancaster Democrat, has been enlarging the dimensions of his sheet, to afford him "ample room, verge enough," for the exercise of his varied talents. We were pleased with the spirit of the Colonel's article in answer to Mr. Clark. It cut like the smooth edge of a well-honed razor. We love to see a spirit of honorable independence, even in rags. Gratitude does not necessarily exclude independence; and no where should it have freer scope than in the editor of a paper.

The Mail lettings will, it is supposed, be contracted for nearly \$800,000 less than formerly, under the present law, and directions of the present efficient Post-master General, Mr. Johnson, though originally opposed to the new law, says he will use his utmost efforts to carry it into effect, and hopes (of which we think there is no doubt) that it will succeed.

A GREAT fire occurred on Friday night, the 16th inst., in Allegheny city, opposite Pittsburg. Twenty-four buildings and four large Warehouses were consumed, together with all the contents of goods shipped for the east,—among which were about 300 hhds tobacco and 500 barrels of flour. The loss is estimated between \$200,000 and \$300,000. The fire is said to have been the work of an incendiary.

Tax News by the Britannia is not very important. The war fever seems to have abated in England as much as here. The papers are still discussing the Oregon and Texas questions, while O'Connell is haranguing the people in Ireland, on Repeal. The English are still in hopes that Texas will refuse the terms of annexation.

TEXAS.—All doubts in regard to Texas accepting the conditions of annexation, have already ceased. The Secretary of the Treasury has gone so far as to countermand the orders for the erection of light houses, at Matagorda and Galveston, stating that all their funds should be husbanded, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of Congress, and the convention that will soon be convened to consummate annexation, and that the U. States, with her ample resources, will erect much better buildings than they (Texas) could, under any circumstances. A correspondent of the Washington Union also says:—

"When I tell you that Texas will accept the terms, and that promptly, and that she will have on the first Monday in December next, knocking at the doors of Congress, two Senators and two Representatives, with a good constitution in their hands, I have told you all on this subject you desire to hear."

THE AMERICAN BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS held their anniversary, at New York, on the 9th inst.—the Hon. Theodore Frelinghuysen in the chair. The Reverend and venerable Dr. Beecher was present, and made several speeches warmly recommending the cause of foreign missions, as one of the most important duties of those engaged in the cause of religion. There were a number of speeches from the Rev. Mr. Todd and others. The Rev. Mr. Hutchison, a returned missionary from India, after describing the condition of the heathen and the cheering success of our foreign missions, very strikingly contrasted the stunted offerings of Christian with those of some heathen. One wealthy heathen, it is known, gave \$150,000 a year afterwards to the support of his idol temple, as long as he lived. Another gave, at one time, \$1,500,000 for the support of his religion,—which Mr. H. saw borne through the city,—making between thirty and forty cart loads of specie! Our several hundred thousand professing Christians hardly gave for this object a single dollar a piece!

The narrative and report of Capt. Wilkes' exploring expedition, will be, although a highly interesting and useful work, a very expensive one to the government. The entire official publication, when completed, will embrace 24 volumes, nine of which are volumes of folio plates. The cost and expenses for publishing the whole work are estimated at \$89,570, viz: narrative, \$21,000; charts, \$15,000; the remaining portions occupying the residue.

The General Post Office Department have decided on a letter balance. They examined 101 specimens. Among them were 33 "spring balances," 28 "pendulum balances," 9 models with connected or attached weights, 5 model balances which require the use of fluids, mercury, spirits and water, and a number of common balances called the "trip scales." They have adopted the Roman balance. The Committee say:

"We are of the opinion that the common balance, called the 'Roman balance' is the best adapted to the particular purpose and service in view. Among the number of 'samples' which we find constructed on this principle, the one which we think the most eligible, is that marked No. 20, (S. H. & Davis,) having a single sliding weight (not suspended) on a brass beam, turning on hardened points, the weight falling into half-ounce notches, with an open scale (or dish) above. We suggest that the figures, to indicate the ounces, should be made larger and plainer on the beam. Of the other eligible models on this principle, the next, in our estimation, is that marked No. 88, (Fairbank's patent;) to which may be added No. 8, (Benjamin Morrison) both of which seem unwieldy; and in the latter, the adjusting weight at the end of the beam is objectionable for the service in view."

PEAS.—As peas will soon befit for use, and as it is important that what is worth cooking should be well cooked, we clip the following from an exchange paper, which is said to be the best mode:—Peas should be put into boiling water with salt and saleratus, in proportion of a quarter of a teaspoonful of saleratus to half a peck of peas. Boil them from fifteen to thirty minutes, according to their age and kind. When boiled tender take them out of the water with a skimmer, salt and butter them to the taste. Peas to be good, should be fresh gathered, and not shelled till just before they are cooked.

BISHOP DELANCY met with a very serious accident, while proceeding in a two horse wagon from Batavia, N. Y., to East Bethany. The N. Y. Advertiser says:—

"The Bishop was riding with Mr. Martindale and the Rev. Mr. Polles, in a two horse wagon. After they had started some person in the rear cracked a whip, and the horses became restive; one of them jumped violently, got astride of the pole of the wagon, and commenced kicking. The Bishop arose from his seat, and in the jarring caused by the rapid speed of the horses he fell out and struck violently on his face, causing a severe concussion of the brain. He was taken up entirely senseless and conveyed to the nearest house, where everything possible will be done to restore him."

By later intelligence we learn that he remained insensible till Saturday morning, when reason again partially resumed her empire, and strong hopes are now entertained of his ultimate restoration to health and usefulness although he is still in a very critical situation.

Correspondence of "The American,"  
SHAMOKIN, May 17, 1845.

H. B. MASSER, Esq.—I am frequently interrogated, by letter, &c., relative to the localities of the Shamokin Furnace, Ore and Coal mines. I wish to inform them, and all others concerned, through your paper, that the Furnace is situated near the Danville & Pottsville Rail Road, and is of the largest size, and capable of making 100 tons per week. The mouth of the Coal veins, by which the Furnace is supplied, are about 40 feet from the bridge that leads to the tunnel-head. The Ore mines, now opened, are from 40 to 100 perches from the Furnace and within a few feet of the Rail Road that passes said Furnace. The different veins are from 9 to 18 inches thick. One drift, or gangway, opens two veins of from 9 to 12 inches thick. Some of the veins are Kidney, some of Limestone, and others of a Red Shier Ore, and some of them are considered good. There is any quantity of Bog Ore in the neighborhood, of an excellent quality.—It being of the same kind that was carried from this place to the Cattawissa and Esther Furnaces, previous to the discovery of the Bloomsburg Ore. I do believe that Iron can be made as cheap, if not cheaper, in Shamokin, than at any other place in this State.

I am, with respect,  
S. JOHN.

NEW YORK RAILROADS.—From a report recently submitted to the Legislature of New York, it appears that the Railroads finished, over which cars are daily running, present a line of 682 miles, and cost \$29,736,931 20. There are roads commenced and being constructed, which will extend the line 429 miles further, at an estimated cost of \$10,104,000. There are now pending before the Legislature applicants for 490 miles of railroad, at an estimated cost of \$11,851,000.

OREGON WHEAT.—There was left with us, says the Frederick Herald, a few loads of "Oregon Wheat," which were taken from Bloomfield farm, belonging to Henry R. Smeltzer, Esq., near Middletown, Maryland. Said wheat was in head on the 28th of April. The gentleman who left it stated that it was the natural wheat of Oregon Territory, brought in by a missionary, and presented to Gen. J. Hite, of Pennsylvania; he stated that the natives told him that it had been growing there spontaneously for a great many years.

THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE.—During the discussion in favor of abolishing the franking privilege, it was contended that members of Congress had franked their shirts home to be washed. The romance created a smile, but it seems that something like it has actually occurred. A Mr. Beach of Georgia, in debate, charged Mr. Giddings of Ohio, with having franked "a calico frock," marked Pub. Doc. It turns out to have been E. D. Potter who franked home the frock. The Postmaster says it was McNulty's frock, but the package was directed to Mrs. E. D. Potter, and at the next mail some dry goods were franked in the same manner.

### Schuylkill Navigation.

From the subjoined communication, copied from the North American of Thursday, our readers will see that the Schuylkill Navigation Company are prosecuting the important work of enlarging their canal, with a vigor which promises a speedy and successful completion of it:

The Managers of the Schuylkill Navigation Company have determined to have the new large locks, eighty in number, between Phila. and Port Carbon, completed by the first of April next. Arrangements have been made for the funds required to complete the work, and proposals have been received from numerous contractors, some of whom have recently completed contracts on the Erie Extension Canal, and others upon the enlargement of the Welland Canal in Canada.

The bidding has been very animated, and the number of experienced and responsible contractors, proposing at prices nearly similar, has been so great as to render the task of allotting the work somewhat difficult. The board of Managers, at their meeting on Tuesday, allotted nearly all the locks to good men, at prices in no case exceeding the Engineer's estimates, and generally from ten to twenty per cent. below them.

The work will be immediately begun, and vigorously pushed, without interfering with the use of the existing navigation. The payments will be made monthly, in cash, reserving fifteen per cent. to insure the fulfillment of each contract; which retained per centage, when the work is done, is to be paid either in cash or in six per cent. bonds, at par, at the option of the Company.

The completion of the new locks will throw the Schuylkill open at once to large boats and boats from other canals, which have heretofore been shut out by the smallness of the lock chambers. With the present depth of water, boats carrying 120 tons of coal can navigate the line, and as the depth will be gradually increased to five and a half and six feet, boats adapted to carry 200 tons can be placed upon the line next spring and get up to their maximum tonnage in another year.

The importance of this improvement to Philadelphia, it is difficult to estimate. Furnaces and Factories are constantly multiplying upon the banks of the Schuylkill; and at the present time, besides a heavy coal trade, the miscellaneous tonnage of other articles now carried on the Schuylkill Navigation, is about one thousand tons per day.

### Illness of Gen. Jackson.

APPROACHING DISSOLUTION.—The Washington Union announces the painful intelligence that Gen. Jackson's health is such as to excite fears that his life is drawing rapidly to a close. A letter has been received at Nashville, which says the impression of the General's nearest friends now is, that he cannot long survive. Symptoms of dropsy have intervened. His legs are swollen from his feet up to his abdomen, and his respiration is feeble and difficult. His great mind and clear memory, however, remain perfectly unclouded. His every act and word shows his patient resignation to the will of God. The letter says:—

"In his perfect resignation, he manifests all the meekness and humility of a true follower of the blessed Redeemer; and in his constant prayers he looks up to God in confident assurance of salvation through the atonement and mediation of the Saviour. Supplications to Heaven for blessings on his country and her institutions—for the perpetuity of our constitution and liberties, civil and religious—are continually mingled in all his prayers and in all his serious conversations with his friends. Truly, when he departs, it will be the fall of a great man in Israel, and politically and in moral weight of character, it will be the loss to his country and to the world of the first and greatest man now numbered among the living—the greatest benefactor of his country now surviving."

Mr. Blair received a few lines from the General, as late as the 7th, stating that he had attempted to write to him; but his great feebleness had prevented his finishing his letter.

LARGE HAUL OF FISH.—The New Haven Courier states that the largest haul of white fish ever taken in that place was last Monday, when fifteen hundred thousand were taken. One million is the largest number ever before taken at once in the harbor, and were taken last year at that place. The net used is three hundred and fifty rods long, and yet it was filled to overflowing. So great was the rush of fish in a body from one extreme to the other of the net, that a bystander represents the noise to have been equal to that of a steamboat. At the rate they are sold, this haul would produce the snug little sum of 750 dollars.

STRANGE RECOGNITION.—The Boston Times says a young gentleman in the public streets of that city clasped a young lady around the waist, and uttering a cry of joy, printed several kisses upon her lips with the quickness of thought. On coming to an explanation, it was found that the young gentleman had mistaken the lady for her twin sister, whom he was courting. The Times thinks it dangerous to marry a lady who has a twin sister, as a man might be kissing somebody else's wife when he thought he had his own.

The labor of a single Locomotive is equal to that of 668 horses, according to statistics recently published. Trains of cars leave Boston and Albany every morning, each train carrying 100 tons of merchandise, running at an average rate of 12 miles an hour, or 100 miles a day, including stoppages. A horse would carry 1200 lbs over the mountains 25 miles per day. Divide the load of this one Engine by 1,200, and the number of horses for 25 miles in a day is 167. Four times this number, or 668 could carry this load 100 miles each day. Hence the iron horse is every day, foul or fair, doing the work of 668 horses.—Ledger.

### Still Later from Texas.

Galveston dated the 8th inst., have been received. Major Donelson, the U. S. Charge, has returned to the U. States.

Gen. Houston, with his wife and son, arrived at Galveston on the 3d inst., from his farm on the Trinity. He proposed to visit the seat of Government of Texas, and will then come at once to the United States, he being extremely solicitous to see Gen. Jackson once again before the death of the latter, which appears so imminent. He yields to annexation as a matter of necessity, if not of choice.

Mr. Wickliffe, the ex-Postmaster General, was at Galveston on the 7th inst.

Commodore Moore has involved himself in a controversy with Gen. Houston, and publishes an address to the people of Texas, in which he exposes his grounds of dissatisfaction with the ex-President. He enclosed a copy of this address to the ex-president, threatening to follow it up with other exposures, until he can receive personal satisfaction for the injuries which he thinks himself to have received.

The Picayune says:—"There is no limit to the enthusiasm of the people of Texas in regard to Annexation. The only trouble with them appears to be, whether to meet in Convention and form a Constitution for the State of Texas prior or subsequent to the meeting of Congress. This is a fertile theme for the several editors. To show the disposition of the President of Texas, we make a short extract from the Morning Star of the 3d inst., published at Houston:—

"We rejoice to say that we have the most positive evidence that the President and a majority of the members of his Cabinet are anxious to act with the utmost harmony with the people, and will cordially co-operate with them in their efforts to consummate this great measure at the earliest practicable period."

The Hon. E. Allen, the acting Secretary of State, arrived at Houston on the 22d ult. The Telegraph assures us that he is an ardent friend of Annexation, and is desirous that the great measure should be consummated at the earliest practicable period."

The papers contain ample reports of public meetings declarative of the feelings of the people in regard to annexation. There is no occasion to give these reports, so nearly unanimous are the sentiments of the whole country. The Texans already regard themselves as part and parcel of the United States, and, proud of the Union, are only impatient that any delays should be interposed to its completion. Even the papers opposed to Annexation but insinuate their objections; they see that it must take place, and refrain from any open resistance to it. If we can judge from the tone of the press, and from verbal communications, not all the diplomatic resources of the world can sway at all the general mind of Texas. The papers have some rumors of disaffection to the Mexican Government in some of her Northern Departments. The "wish may be father to the thought" in this case. We have probably as late advices here as to the movement of Gen. Arista as has been received in Texas."

### Slavery in the British West Indies.

The "apprentice system," as the new species of slavery is called which the British have introduced in the West Indies, is exciting much attention, and calls for inquiry whether that government is acting in good faith in its professions of a desire to suppress this horrible traffic. It seems that when a slave is captured on the African coast by a British ship, she is taken to Sierra Leone, the slaves are landed, and instead of being settled in the colony as formerly, are told that they must emigrate to the West Indies as "free laborers," to shift for themselves. If they will consent to emigrate, the government will give them a passage gratis. If they refuse, they must hire themselves out at Sierra Leone, at four pence or seven pence a day, when they can find employment, which is seldom possible. If they try to reach their old homes, they have no means of supplying their wants on the journey; and if they escape the danger of being enslaved by the way, they have nothing to expect but to be sold by their old masters to the next slaver that arrives. They are virtually obliged to emigrate. Mr. Wise, in one of his despatches to our government, says:—

"I submit whether, under our treaty with England, some inquiry should be made which will elicit information as to her mode of enslaving captured Africans in her colonies. Is it not, in fact, a part of the slave-trade to take them away from their own country without their consent, to bind them out under a system of apprenticeship? Are proper steps taken to guard their identity, and to prevent them from being enslaved for life? If they may be held in bondage for a term of five or ten years, why not for fifty or one hundred years, or any period beyond the duration of human life? It is openly avowed here, from various quarters, that many of these apprentices, after being bound out, are reported to be dealt by their masters; their names are changed and flesh marks are taken out, and they are transformed into slaves for life. Has England, under her treaties with and pledges to the world, a right to carry on a system like this, which leads to the direct encouragement of the trade she professes to suppress, and which, by fraud and cruelty, increases its horrors, inhumanities and crimes?"

AN EXTINGUISHER ON SNUFFERS.—Candles may be made to burn their own wicks by saturating them with a strong solution of nitre, and then thoroughly drying them. The cause of the wicks of the candles refusing to burn, is, that the air cannot get access to them. The nitre, however, at a high temperature, will supply oxygen enough for this purpose.

OHIO AND VIRGINIA.—Ohio has a population of about 1,800,000; Virginia has about 1,250,000. The former produces 5,000,000 bushels of wheat more than the latter—more than twice as much barley, and one-third more of oats.

### The President's Appointments.

The Washington Union, in answer to a correspondent who uses partly the language of complaint and perhaps of advice, on the dispensation of the executive patronage, and remarks, that there is "no possible way to rally the democratic party and keep them together, except the friends of all the presidential candidates are fairly and equally dealt by according to their political standing, recommendations and merit," says:

"We speak advisedly, when we say that the President of the United States knows no cliques in the republican party; that, in the dispensation of the public offices, he makes no discrimination among the friends of the late Presidential candidates; that, in giving or refusing office, he does not ask himself, nor does he ask others, 'whether this man was a friend of Mr. Van Buren,' or 'that a friend of Mr. Calhoun, or Mr. Cass, or Mr. Buchanan.' In filling up vacancies, he takes care to put in Republicans who are amply qualified, according to the best lights which are presented to his mind, to discharge its duties—who 'are honest, capable, and faithful to the constitution.' He has enjoined the same course of action upon the members of his cabinet, and will take care to see, as far as possible, that this rule will be faithfully carried out by all the officers, whom he calls on to co-operate with him in the public service. He has already declared more than once, that he himself will not be a candidate for a second term of office. He has authorized us to declare it again in the Prospectus which we have submitted to the nation, as the creed of our own faith, and the guide of our own course. He does not, therefore, design to shape his administration to assist any aspirant, or to make his appointments to promote his own re-election; but to carry out faithfully the powers which the people have placed in his hands."

The Union says Mr. Polk may be deceived in some of his appointments, but no one more regrets when an unwise one is made. The President, it appears from the same article, devotes himself with the greatest assiduity to the public business. He works from ten to twelve hours in every twenty-four; holds two cabinets a week; sees visitors two hours every day, when the Cabinet is not employed. He is also in frequent communion with his Secretaries. His correspondence is very heavy. His care in looking over every letter which he receives is far from being inconsiderable. Letters of recommendation are pouring in upon him in favor of applicants for office. The other day he had to appoint four officers in one of our principal towns. For one of them there were not less than thirteen candidates, each of them backed by numerous friends. The President had to wade through the budgets of letters which each one presented to his consideration. But for the business habits which he brought to Washington, the Union says, it would scarcely be possible for him to discharge his duties as carefully and as conscientiously as he is now doing, without serious injury to his constitution.—Ledger.

### More Scientific Wonders.—Wilmer's News Letter states that there is an announcement in the Mechanics' Magazine, of the 12th ult., of a plan, invented by Mr. W. H. James, for the rapid transmission of letters and light despatches through tubular passages, at certain intervals, in which he proposes to place air-exhausting machines, which will establish a perpetual current or artificial hurricane, by means of which spherically shaped elastic vehicles, or bags, will be blown at inconceivable speed from station to station. The first cost is estimated by Mr. James at £2,000 per mile, and the working expenses at from £300 to £500 per annum for every fifty miles. It is alleged that a wonderful engine, called the air engine, has lately been constructed by Professor Reingale, who is securing patents in every civilized country of the earth. The power, which is self-produced in the engine, is obtained from condensed air, which though easily unaged, begets an immense force, the present engine, which stands on a space not exceeding two feet square, having a power equal to five hundred and sixty eight horses. For pumping water out of mine it is gravely proposed to use a 10,000 to 20,000 horse power, in order to do the work promptly. It is stated, that, with the present small engine two hundred and twenty tons can be propelled at a rate of twenty-five to thirty miles per hour. The description of the action of the machine is very vague, but it is said that several very eminent and scientific men have examined it and expressed their astonishment. Professor Faraday, having seen the drawing and heard the theory and practice of this invention explained complimented the inventor by declaring that he had discovered perpetual motion of the most terrific description.

### Baltimore Market.

Office of the Baltimore American, May 19.  
GRAIN.—We quote Md. Wheats at 100 a 10 cts. for prime reds—receipts very trifling. Sale of 4000 bushels Penna. reds at 95 a 97 ct. Sales of Md. Corn at 58 a 59 cts. for white, at 41 a 42 cts. for yellow. A sale of Penna. yellow at 41 cts. We quote Oats at 26 cts.—sale.

WHISKEY.—The market continues very dull and the sales confined to very small lots at 1 cts. for hhd. and 22 cts. for bbls.

THE BRANDRETH PILLS ARE ENTIRELY GETTABLE, and made on those principles which experience has proved correct. It is now no speculation when they are restored to in sickness, they are known to be the best cleanser of the stomach and bowels, and in all dyspeptic and bilious cases they are a great blessing. Let every family keep these Pills in the house. If faithfully used when there is occasion for medicine, it will be seldom that a doctor will be required. In all cases of cold, cough, or rheumatism, the afflicted owe to their bodies to use these Pills.

Purchase of H. B. Masser, Sunbury, or the agents, published in another part of this paper.