

SPHIT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals Upon Current Topics—Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

FUNCTUS OFFICIO.

The Hon. Garrett Davis, who was a delegate to the Capital Convention at St. Louis, and who voted against the removal of the national seat of government "to some place in the valley of the Mississippi river," has given his reasons for that vote, in a long letter to the Governor of Kentucky.

Mr. Davis might have safely left the discussion at this point, but he indulges, after his dry logic, in various poetical and historical suggestions. "Shall public buildings," he exclaims, "whose style and magnificence command the admiration of every traveler; shall halls, made historical by eloquence and statesmanship, surpassing the Roman forum and all the learned seats of Athens in their palmy days, be abandoned to bats and owls?"

What was Goose-creek once is Tiber now. We have made a fair start in a classical direction, and in the year of our Lord 3069, if we will but wait, Washington will (Mr. Davis thinks) "run the parallel of Rome" in the duration and splendor of metropolitan history.

This may be a very good way of mitigating the ardors of Occidental ambition; but we fear that those who have this movement in hand will not care the drippings of a whiskey jug for Mr. Garrett's talk about the Tiber, Carthage, Hannibal, the Polesias, Mesopotamia, and Alexander; for, although they are well-seasoned and respectable names, there is no spell in them to prevent St. Louis from running away with our seat of government, provided she does not find it an insupportable back-load.

A master of this kind was recently brought before a United States District Court, in the Territory of Idaho. The Legislature of that Territory, following the lead of some of her older sisters in her prejudices against the Chinese, had passed a law declaring that no Chinaman should work at mining in the Territory without a license, which would cost him \$5 a month; and furthermore, that "all Mongolians, whether male or female, and of whatever occupation, residing in the mining districts of this Territory, shall be considered foreign miners under this act, and shall pay a license of \$5 for each and every month they reside in this Territory."

reside in this Territory." A Chinaman, bearing the euphonious name of Ah Bow, thereupon applied to the United States Court for an injunction to restrain a Sheriff from collecting this tax. The Judge, who bore the equally euphonious name of Noggles, refused the injunction on some technical ground. But he took occasion to express an opinion on the law in question and all laws of a similar character. This circumstance very clearly indicates what their fate must be when brought before the national tribunals.

Mr. Justice Noggles talked good law when he declared that the Burlingame treaty must override any State law which is in conflict with it. The Constitution declares that such treaties shall be "the supreme law of the land," and this provision has been expressly decided by the Supreme Court to be binding upon State Courts and Legislatures.

A DEAD MAN'S HEAD. The ruthless determination of the law (or, rather, lawyers) to "find a victim" was never, it would seem, more singularly illustrated than during the late trial, in Rockland county, of Antoine Maurer, the Alsatian, for the murder of Joseph Porter.

Without the fairness to bring it into court—where the hapless Alsatian's horror at the sight of it would very likely have been so stimulated by the horror expressed on the visage of the other spectators that an intelligent jury must have been puzzled to distinguish between the conscious guilt of Maurer and the shuddering innocence of Maurer's fellow-beings—the District Attorney, it is said, had the head itself "preserved in a can," in readiness to be popped out, like a hideous toy-ghoul from a box, before the eyes of the victim in his prison solitude.

Should this horrible story be substantiated by an official investigation, public sentiment would justify the Governor in so postponing the execution of the sentence as to enable the friends of Antoine Maurer to procure for him another trial. Justice cannot have been conserved by any such device for extracting a confession of guilt, or guilty participation, from a man on his trial for murder.

THE BURLINGAME TREATY AND ANTI-CHINESE LAW. The ratification of the Burlingame treaty with China will have an important effect upon our commerce with that nation, and upon our own laws and customs in those parts of our country into which the Chinamen have made their way.

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Crown vastly and almost daily with questions relative to his case. The Attorney-General (Mr. Cassock Smith) becoming impatient, one day said to him: "Mr. Steele, I cannot reply to your questions, and if you ask another one I will omit your name from the indictment and you won't be tried at all, either as conspirator or rebel." This threat silenced Tom, just as Napoleon once silenced Henri. Such mode of action results from the universal communism of great minds in contempt for professional politicians.

ROEBUCK ON DEPORTMENT. Our good friend Mr. Roebuck has laid mankind under a fresh obligation by furnishing a very good definition of the meaning of the much-abused word "gentleman." "A gentleman," said Mr. Roebuck, addressing himself to the members of the Dewsbury Mechanics' Institute, "means a man of gentle manners, a man of enlarged knowledge, a man who does to his neighbor what he wishes his neighbor to do to himself, who is kind and gentle in all his intercourse with the rest of the world, and who sinks himself when he has to consider the benefit of the community."

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