Interesting Despatch from California.

Among the documents received by the Secretary of War, and communicated with the President's mesrage, is the following letter from Col. MASON, the military commandant of California, who presents the fullest description we have seen of the gold "placers" of that distant region:

[NO. 37.] HEADQUARTERS 10TH MILITARY DEP'T.

Monterey, California, Aug. 17, 1848. Sin:-1 have the honor to inform you that, accompanied by Lieut. W. T. Sherman, 3d artillery, A. A. A. General, I started on the 12th of June last; to make a tour through the northern part of Califorthe newly discovered gold "placer" in the valley of the Sacremento. I had proceeded about forty miles, The man then offered an ounce and a half, when when I was overtaken by an express, bringing me Capt. Weber had to take it. The prices of all intelligence of the arrival at Monterey of the United things are high, and yet Indians, who before hardly States ship Southampton, with important letters from Commodore Shubrick and Lt. Col. Burton. I returned at once to Monterey, and despatched what The countier on Sinter side of Weber's creek is business was most important, and on the 17th resumed my journey. We reached San Francisco on the 30th, and found that all, or nearly all, its mulo inhabitants had gone to the mines. The town, which a few months ago was so busy and thriving, was then almost deserted. On the evening of the 24th, the horses of the escort were crossed to Sousoleto in r 'runch, and on the following day we resumed the journey, by way of Bodega and Sonoma, to Sutter's fort, where we arrived on the morning of the 2d of July. Along the whole route mills were lying idle, fields of wheat were lying open to cattle and horses, houses vacant, and farms going to waste. At Sutter's there was more life and business. Launches were discharging their cargoes at the river, and carts wave hauling goods to the fort, where already were established several stores, a hoteh &c. Captain Sutter had only two mechanics in his employ (a wagon maker and a blacksmith.) whom he was then paying ten dollars a day. Merchants pay him a monthly rent \$100 per room; and whilst I was there a two-story house in the fort was rented as a hotel for \$500 a month.

At the urgent solicitation of many gentlemen, I delayed there to participate in the first public celebration of our national anniversary at that fort, but on the 5th resumed the journey, and proceeded 25 miles up the American fork to a point on it now known as to the Lower Mines, or Mormon Diggings. The hill-sides were thickly strewn with canvass tents and bush arbors: a store was erected and reveral boarding shantles in operation. The day was intensely hot, yet about two hundred-men were at work in the full glare of the sun, washing for gold-some with tin pans, some with close woven Indian baskets, but the greater part had a rude machine, known as the cradle. This is on rockers, six or eight feet long, open at the fuot, and at its head has a coarse grate, or sieve; the bottom is rounded, with small cleets nailed across. Four men are required to work this machine; one digs the ground in the bank close by the stream, another carries it to the cradle and empties it on the' grate. a third gives a violent rocking motion to the machine, whilst a fourth dashes on water from the stream itself. The sieve keeps the coarse stones from entering the cradle, the current of water washes off the earthy matter, and the gravel is gradually carried out at the foot of the machine, leaving the gold mixed with a heavy fine black sand above the first cleets. The sand and gold mixed together are then drawn off through auger holes into a pan below, are dried in the sun, and afterwards separated by blowing off the sand. A party of four men thus employed at the lower mines averaged \$100 a day. The Indians, and those who have nothing but pans or willow baskets, gradually wash out the earth and separate the gravel by hand, leaving nothing but the gold mixed with sand, which is separated in the manner before described. The gold in the lower mines is in fine bright scales, of which I send several anecimens.

As we ascended the south branch of the American fork, the country became more broken and mountainous, and at the saw-mill; 25 miles above, the lower washing, or 50 miles from Sutter's, the hills rise to about a thousand feet above the level of the Sacramento plain. Here a species of pine occurs, bed of mud and gravel was carried to the foot of the some glittering particles at its upper edge; he gath-Sutter of his discovery, and they agreed to keep it of things should continue to exist. secret until a certain grist-mill of Sutter's was finished. It, however, got out, and suread like marie. Remarkable success attended the labors of the first explorers, and in a tew weeks hundreds of men were drawn thither. At the time of my visit, but little, more than three months after its first discovery, it bank of gravel, which the people respect as the property of Capt. Sutter, although he pretends to no night to it, and would be perfectly satisfied with the simple promise of a pre-emption, on account of the mill which he has built there ut considerable cost. Mr. Marshall was living near the mill, and informed me that many persons were employed above and thelow him; that they used the same machines as at the lower washings, and that their success was about the same-ranging from one to three ounces of gold per man daily. This gold, too, is in scales a little coarser than those of the lower mines .---From the mill Mr. Marshall guided me up the mounthin on the opposite or north bank of its south fork, where, in the bed of small streams or ravine, now dry, a great deal of coarse gold has been found. 1 there saw several parties at work, all of whom were shown me, some as heavy as four or five ounces in weight and I send three pieces labelled No. 5, presome of the specimens accompanying this, hold rough and evidently moulded in the crevice of a rock. This gold cannot have been carried far by water, but must have remained near where it was first deposited from the rock that once bound it., I inquired of many people if they had encountered the metal in its matrix, but in every instance they said they had not; but that the gold was invariably mixed with washed gravel, or lodged in the crevices of other rocks. All bore testimony that they had found gold in greater or less quantities in the numerous small gullies or ravines that occur in that mountain-_ous region. On the 7th of July I left the mill, and crossed to a small stream emptying into the American fork, three or four miles below the saw mill .-I struck this stream (now know as Weber's creek) at the washings of Supol & Co. They had about thirty Indians employed, whom they pay in merchan-They were getting gold of a character simidise. .conall spe gold. From this point, we proceeded up the stream about eight miles, where we found a great muny stream, and others in the small side valleys that put

he had been engaged with faur others, with a ma- ject at an earlier date. The reason is, that I could THE WEEKLY OBSERVER. chine, on the American fork, just below Sutter's mill not bring myself to believe the reports that I heard -- that they worked eight days, and that his share of the wealth of the gold districts until I visited it was at the rate of \$50 a day; but hearing that oth- myself. I have no hesitation now in saying that there is more gold in the country drained by the ere were doing better at Weher's place, they had removed there, and were then on the point of resum- Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers than will pay ing operations. I might tell of hundreds of similar the cost of the war with Mexico a hundred times natauces, but to illustrate how plentiful the gold over. No capital is required to obtain this gold, de was in the pockets of common laborers, I will menthe laboring man wants nothing but his pick and

tion a simple occurrence which took place in my presence when I was at Weber's store. This store shovel, and tin pan, with which to dig and wash the gravel; and many frequently pick gold out of the was nothing but an arbor of bushes, under which he crevices of rocks with their butcher knives, in pie-had exposed for sale goods and greeeries suited to ces from one to six ounces. Mr. Dye, a gentleman residing in Monterey, and

his customers. A man came in, picked up a box of Seidlitz powders, and asked its price. Capt. worth of every credit, has just returned from Feath. Weber told him it was not for sale. The man offerer river. He tells me that the company to which nia. My principal purpose, however, was to visit ed an ounce of gold, but Captain Wet er told him it be belonged worked seven weeks and two days, with only cost 50 cents, and he did not wish to sell it .-their gross product was two hundred and seventy. three pounds of gold. His share, (one-seventh,) af things are high, and yet Indians, who before hardly which he brought with him and exhibited in Mon terey. I see no laborigg men from the mines who

does not show his two, three or four pounds of mild. much broken up by hills, and is intersected in every A soldier of the artillery company returned here a direction by small streams or ravines, which contain few days ago from the mines; having been absent on more or less gold. Those that have been worked are barely scratched, and although thousands of twenty days he was traveling ten or eleven days, leaving but a week, in which he made a sum of unces have been carried away, I do not consider that a serious impression has been made upon the whole. Every day was developing new and richer money greater than he receives in pay, clothes and deposites, and the only impression seemed to be, rations during a whole enlistment of five years that the metal would be found in such abundance as These statements appear incredible, but they are seriously to depreciate in value. true.

On the 8th of July Ly turned to the lower mines ad on the following day to Sutter's, where on the 10th I was making preparations for a visit to the Feather, Yubah, and Bear rivers, when I received a letter from Commander A. R. Long, U. States Navy who had just arrived at San Francisco from Mazatlan, with a crew for the sloop-of-war Warren, would not do, unless they were sure of finding gold with orders to take that vessel to the squadron at there in the same abundance as they do on the Sac-La Paz. Capt. Long wrote to me that the Mexican ramento. Congress had adjourned without ratifying the treaty of peace-that he had letters for me from Commo dore Jones, and that his orders were to sail with the nando, has long been known, but has been but little wrought, for want of water. This is in a spur Warren on or before the 20th day of July. In consequence of these I determined to return to Monterthat puts of from the Sierra Nevada: (see Fremont's map,) the same in which the present mines uccur. ev, and accordingly arrived here on the 17th of July. Before leaving Sutter's, I satisfied myself that gold existed in the bed of the Feather river, in the Yubah There is, therefore, every reason to believe, that in the intervening spaces of five hundred miles (enand Bear, and in many of the small streams that lie tirely unexplored) there must be many hidden and between the latter and the American tork, also, that rich deposites. "The "placer" gold is now substituit had been found in the Cosummes to the south of ted as the durrency of this country: in trade in passthe American fork. In each of these streams the cs freely at \$18 per onnce; na an article of commerce its value is not yet fixed. The only purchase I made gold is found in small scales, whereas, in the interwas of the specimen No. 7, which I got of Mr. rening mountains it occurs in coarser lumps. Neligh at \$12 the ounce. That is about the pre-Mr. Sincluir, whose rancho is three miles above sent cash value in the country, although it has been Sutter's on the north side of the American, employ sold for less. The great demand for goods and proabout 50 Indians on the north fork, not far from its vision made by the sudden developement of wealth, junction with the main stream. He had been enhas increased the amount of commerce of San Frangaged about five weeks when I saw him, and cisco very much, and it will continue to increase. up to that time his Indians had used simply closely woven willow baskets. His nett proceeds (which I some eligible point of the bay of San Francisco;

sdw) were about \$16,000 worth of gold. He shewed me the proceeds of his last week's work-14 pounds avoirdupoise of clean-washed gold. The principal store at Sutter's fort, that of Brannan & Co., had received in payment for goods #36,-

to secure their faithful services, else the whole plan 000 (worth of this gold) from the 1st of May to the may be frustrated by their going to the mines as soon as they arrive in California. If this course be 10th of July. Other merchants had also made exnot adopted, gold to the amount of many millions tensive sales. Large quantities of goods were daily sent forward to the mines, as the Indians, heretoforo of dollars will pass yearly to other countries, to enso poor and degraded, have suddenly become conrich their merchats and capitalists. Before leaving the subject of mines, I will mention, that on my umers of the luxuries of life. I before mentioned that the greater part of the farmers and rancheros return from the Sacramento I touched at New Al-had abandoned their fields to go to the mines. This moder, the quicksilver mine of Mr. Alex. Forbes, consul of her Britaunic Majesty at Teoic. This is not the case with Capitain Sutter, who was caremine is in a spur of mountains 1,000 feet above the level of the bay of San Francisco, and is distant, in a southern' direction from the Puebla de San Jose, ully gathering his wheat, estimated at 40,000 bushls. Flour is already worth at Sutter's \$36 a harrel, and soon will be \$50. Unless large quantities of breadstuff reach the country, much suffering will about 12 miles. The ore (cinnabar) occurs iu a large vein dipping at a strong angle to the horizon. occur; but as each man is now able to pay a large price, it is believed the merchants will bring from Mexican miners are employed in working it, by driving shafts and galieries about 6 feet by 7, fol Chisi and Oregon, a plentiful supply for the coming winter.

The most moderate estimate I could obtain, from The fragments of rock and ore are removed on men acquainted with the subject, was, that upwards the back of Indians in raw-hide suchs. The ore is of 4,000 men were working in the gold district, of then hauled in on an ox-wagon, from the mouth of whom more than one-half were. Indians; and that the mine down to a valley well supplied with wood fr im \$30,000 to \$50,000 worth of gold, if not more. and water, in which the furnaces are situad. The furnaces are of the simplest construction-exactly like a common bake oven, in the crown of which is was daily obtained. The entire gold district, with ter feeling the great want of lumber. contructed" to by The Mexican such firmer is made some reats 290 September last with a Mr. Marshall to build a saw- the United States. It was a matter of serious rekeitle forms the lid. From a hole in the lid a small orick channel leads to an apartment, or Chamber, In mill at that place. It was elected in the course of the clion with me, how I could secure to the governthe past winter and spring-a cam and race con- in at certain reats or fees for the privilege of procu- the bottom of which is inserted a small iron kettle. This chamber has a chimney. structed; but when the water was let on the wheel ring this gold; but upon considering the large ex-, the thil-race was found to be too narrow to permit tent of country, the character of the people engaged, In the morning of each day the kettles are filled the water to escape with sufficient rapidity. Mr. and the small scattered force at my command, I rewith the mineral (broken in small Marshall, to save labor, let the water directly into solved not to interfere, but to permit all to work the race with a strong current, so as to wash it wider, freely, unless broils and crime should call for interand deeper. He effected his purpose, and a large ference. I was surprised to learn that crime of any kind was very unfrequent, and that no thefts or robdown the race to this deposite of mud, observed hve in tents, in bush arbors, or a the poil district. All men have frequently about their persons thousands ered a few, examined them, and became satisfied of of dollars worth of this gold, and it was to me a their value. He then went to the fort, told Capitin matter of surprise that so peaceful and quiet a state Conflicting claims to particular spots of ground may cause collisions, but they will be rare, as the extent of country is so great, and the gold so abundant, that for the present there is room and enough for all. Still the government is entitled to rents for this land and immediate stops should be devised was estimated that upwards' of 4,000 people were to collect them, for the longer it is delayed the more employed. At the mill there is a fine deposite, or difficult it will become. One plan I would suggest is, to send out from the United States surveyors with high salaries, bound to serve specified periods. A superinten lent to be appointed at Sutter's Fort, with power to grant licenses to work a spot of ground -say 100 yards square-for one year, at a rent of 100 to 1,000 dollars at the discretion; the surveyors o measure the ground, and place the renter in posession.

SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 23, 1848. THE PAST AND THE FUTURE: During the campaign which has just closed by the election of Gen. Taylor, to the Presidency, we hear a

ERIE, PA.

great deal from his supporters, especially the whig portion of them in regard to the ranchor of party, and its baneful influence upon the country, together with the great effect the election of such a man as Gen. Taylor would have in suppressing those feelings of party hatred which so long a contest have engendered. We were the formation of an association at Buffitd, and since then GHASGES 17 Man's LIFE. The Rennsy van an enje an average of fifty Indians, (washers,) and that promised an era of good feelings, and told that in the elecwe see that a company of 80 minors, bound for California. tion of Gen Taylor there would not be a party triumph. via Chagres and Panamo, have left New York, The a twenty dollar note of the Farmers' and Mechanian but a triumph of the people over party. With these probarque John W. Coffin recently cleared from Boston Bonk. At that time he was full of life, and in the pas ter paying all expenses, is about thirty-seven pounds, fessions fresh in the minds of the people, one would natwith an assorted cargo valued at \$36,000 and something se sion of repl estate in the city of Philadelphia valued urally suppose, that their authors would be a little chary, more than the usual complement of men. /Three other at 80,0.0 dollars. Alas!-what changes doth Time to say the least, in their denunciation of those who differ vessels are fitting out in that port for the same destina- | make! On Saturday last this foolish man was seen ber. with them in regard to measures, and endeavor to treat tion, and associations are being formed /for these expedithem with candor, if they could not approve. Not so, tions to the gold region. At Plymouth Rock, an asso- was gastly pale, on I misorably clad. furlough twenty days. He made by trading and however. That era of good feeling is put off to some more working during that time \$1,500. During these convenient season, and from the small wits of whigery ciation is being formed, having the same destination. In New York, it is suid that to such a degree is the exc:teup to grave newspaper reviewers, all whigdom is just ment prevailing among the soamen, that they are now now engaged in maligning President Polk. His annual shipping for Collifornia, at a dollar a month. Some idea in Boston the other day went to the dobr of his wife's message-a document, by the by. every way worthy a of the state of things may be formed from the fact that no chief-magistrate of a great nation like this-is seized upless than eight vessels are advertised to sail for San Franon as the pretext, and made to furnish the material, for cisco from the port of Now York alone. They are

OLD! GOLD!! GOLD!!!

all sorts of ebulations of party ranchor. That President Ships Albany, Sherman; Sutton, Ekerman; Massathe Sierra Nevada; and when at the mines, I was informed by an intelligent Mormon that it had been found near the Great Sult Lake by some of his fra-foundation of the government, is a sufficient crime in Leverett, Ellige.

In addition to these, which do not probably embrace tertity. Nearly all the Mormon's are leaving Cali. | the eves of men, who, but a few short weeks ago were all the vessels fitting out, the Isthmus sails for Chagros, dird at St. Louis. But Fremont sent Benton a mental fornia, to go to the Salt Lake; and this they surely the most loud in condemning party ranchur, to bring down upon his head language that would disgrace the in conjunction with the Pacific steamers, about the 25th requesting B., as Kearney was dying or dead, to my n inst., and as the Isthmus route is the most direct, she will verest pot-house brawler. The object of this course is

plainly seen, however. The stubbern facts, figures and undoudtedly go fully freighted with gold diggers. The New York Express states that several ships are arguments of the mossage, must be met in some way, fast filling up at that port, for Cultfornia at the rate of the following:and as they cannot be in the manner they are put forth, calmiy, dispussionately and trathfully, the only resource | \$5,50 fieight per barrel; and that Harnden & Co., having recently advertised a ship for San Francisco, had had tice I cut lately from a newspaper :-left is resorted to. But the whigs mistake their policy-500 applications for passages, mostly young men. they miscalculate the intelligence of the people-and There can be no doubt that the conviction which has they will find that vulgar witticisms, low abuse, and flat now become as fixed as the fact itself, that gold may be donials, will not destroy the effect of the President's facts, picked up in California, and that its riches can scarcely or answer satisfactorily his poworful and unanswerable arguments. The day for such a policy has passed. The be exhausted, for years to come, will soon fill the territory with a valuable and a permanent population, and lead masses keep up with the times, and intelligence borne upon the wings of the lightning is finding its way into every to results which in their reaction upor our glorious and hamlet and neighborhood; and while the people of the expanding confederacy, it is impossible fully to estimate. Taylor a censeless flood of unfortunate rominders of old world are rising in their might and throwing from their Call it a "mania," or a "delusion." or whatever clea incredulity or a desire to depreciate the value of the nequi- fires, thoir poverty, and their peculiar fitness for the de shoulders the political chains and heresics which bound them to the favored few for so many centuries; the free sition of California, may find it convenient to apply to it. and giant masses of the new world will be far from sub- the rosalt can searcely fail to prove a national advantage, mitting their necks to the same yokes, although it may of no slight magnitude, to whatever temporary evil or in- it to the owner, and a young ma connected with a bark be gilded with the bait of "home protection." It will conveniency it may subject individuals who have entered

not do, either, for the whig party to wrap itself in the or will enter upon the gold search. mantle of Gen. Taylor's success, and claim by his elec-HUMBUG .- It was'nt the "ie mara of a Kom in Consul," do to by, and are not entitles to any particular commention that those questions of policy embraced under the but it is nevertheless a very time one, that this world is dation. head of the "American System," received on endorsedreidfully given to humbuging. All classes and proment from the people, and that the policy of the present ad- fessioners resort to it to att in their ends, and why should ministration was condemned by the same tribunal, for it not grave and dignified membras of congress? Of course in that cit . It was made in Geneva, is about as lar is well known that, elected though he be, he is in a mi- they should-hence we find that in the House, a resolu- as a half dime, only somewhat thicker, and keeps adm nority larger than any President ever before elected by tion offered by Mr. E hart, of Penasylvania, instructing ruble time. Its value is \$1590. A dear triffe we show the people. Besides, these questions did not enter at all the Committee of Ways and Means to report a Tauff bil. into the canvass, for in fact the whigs took especial caro based upon the Tariff act of 1812, was passed-yeas 96, to dony that Gen. Taylor's election would be claimed as Jays '93. This movemen', we take it, s inten editor a condemnation of any particular set of measures. When, respectable shuffle. There will be a great publishing of therefore, the whigs stoop to abuse the President's arguyers and mays upon the quest on for effect-noth ny e'ss. ments in favor of a liberal system of commercial inter-Mr. E-kait, certaly is not so big a duate ta got to course, and proclaim that they intend to substitute that know that a bill of the ch ractor he proposes will in et bundle of abominations, the tariff of '42, for that of '46, with certain doleat in the Senate, honce we infer that he they should recollect, that the Democracy have the Senis engaged in a very shallow gime of humbug. ate, and thus possess the power to provent any such con-HEAD HIN-OR-DIE-BOLIS .- It would stem that John

summation until the people again have a chance of speak-Minor Botts (we love to give his full name) has had "a ing on the question through the ballot-box. We advise flea in his car" ever since his bed-fellow-ship with Capthe whigs, then, to drop abuse, and prepare their argutain Tyler in 1840. In a recent specch at Richmond, ments for the people-the facts, deductions and figures of Va., he said that while in New, York cuty, just before the the President's message and Secretary Walker's report election, he received letter after letter, assuring him that will have to be met hereafter upon the stump and through he "held the State of New York in his hand!" and adthe press. The tariff question is just as fresh now as it

the bill of 1846, they will find that this, hke all other revthe bill of 1846, they will find that this, like all other rev-olutions, will not go backwards, and in-tead of duties be-ing increased, they will be cut down. Webster and nothing, but if Taylor was a man of gratitude he would Greety and Clay, then, like Napoleon on the morning make me somebody for my services to him. I mule him write the second Alison letter, without which he certainof the battle of Waterloo, have all their battles to fight

Daragraphs for the Million

DF Notwithstanding all the fuss we make about "F. As the most interesting matter at the present moment, we give in another column the official report of the Gov- quality" in this country, we are sadly humbugged on ernor of California, relative to the gold mines of that the subject. The fact is, we can all see it, practically country. This report together with others of an unofficial apoaking, all mon in good society are endowed with cer. character which have reached the country, and the fact tain inchemable righ s, except pour men. All man who that a large amount of the precious metal from these do not pay their honest debts are great scampe; except mines has already reached Philadelphia, and been pro- those who cheat on a large scale. All men are bern free nounced pure, appears to have set the whole country in , and equal; except those who ain't! . All men are great a blaze of adventure, and in almost every eastern and sinners; except those who belong to the church! An southern city, we hear of companies forming, and ships men are allowed to think and act freely; except those fitting out, for the gold region. In New York it is sad who work for a living! All well dressed and accomplish. even to have over-rode the excitement consequent upon ed women are ladies; except Factory and Serrad girld the breaking out of the cholera. We noticed last week The Philadelphia Times is responsible for this.

> -About five years ago we saw a man light his cigar with ging alms in our public streets. Ho looked wretched

> IF This is truly a ("fast" ago, and curjous things wa sometimes happen very unexpectedly. A young husband room with the intention of getting his umbrella' from 1 closed. After some delay she let him in, when on open. ing the closet, he found a nice young man standing then in place of the umbrella. Abem!

Kearney, touching a reconciliation with Gen. K., sha

THE PATHETIC .- A funny correspondent of the South ern Literary Gazette fills out his letter by manufacturin

"Let me give you a copy of an exquisite obituary as

"Farewell, dear babe, a short farqwell

From father and mother;

You have gone with angels to dwell,

When there you will see your grandmother! THE WHIST DOS'T WANT OFFICE-O NO!-The S. O Deitas informs us that office-expectants and office-ten ninty rackless of all the proprieties of life, pour upon Gen their services in his behalf-of their trials, their men s red officer

A newspaper reporter in Boston found \$85 and restored cretarnedito t' e ov nor a \$50 hill whic's he found. Both is w at they ought to have done, and as they would be

TT A Lilliphtian wrtch is descr bollby the New O loans Plonyune as having recently made its appearat think.

IT The following copital hit was perpetrated by member of the Ugle-Club:-

"Which is General Taylor's latest and most favori march? Give it no? March the 4th ??

THE DIFFERENCE-Wach a gentleman matrios als bsantiful and rich, his friends say, "the has married p ff at Boyl of Paradis ." If the lady happens to b poor, however, they say, "a perfect bird of Parada, with the exception of feathers "

INDIAN.-A disputch from Indianapolis states the Gov. Junes Whitcomb, democrat, has been elected ! the Indiana legislature a Senator in Congress, for t term of six years, from the 4th or March new, ind place Hon. Edward A. Hannegan. The Whigs genals voted for Mr. Earle.

NT Gov. JOHNSTON has got his guillotine in mouse. is cutting off Democratic heads without merer. the beauty that opposed Proscription before the elect UF A curious fact is mentioned by the New I-Herald in relation to the cholera, viz: the

ounces were considered an ordinary yield for a day's work. A small gutter, not more dhan a hundred yards long by 4 feet wide and 2 or 3 feet deep, was point-ed out to me as the one where two men-William Daly and Perry M'Coon-had, a short time before, obtained \$17,000 worth of gold. Captain Weber informed me that he knew that these two men had

employed four white men and about a bundred Indians, and that, at the end of one week's work, they paid off their party, and had left \$10,000 worth of this gold. Another small ravine was shown me, from which had been taken upwards of :\$12,000 worth of gold. Hundreds of similar ravines, to all appearances, are as yet untouched. I could not have credited these reports had I not seen, in the

truth. Mr. Netligh, an agent of Commodore Stockover 82,000 worth of gold, and Mr. Lyman, a gen-

A better plan, however, will be to have the disrict surveyed and sold at public auction to the highest hidder, in small parcels, say from 20 to 40 acres. In either case, there will be many intruders, whom for years it will be almost impossible to exclude, The discoveries of these vast deposites of gold

has entirely changed the character of Upper California. Its people, before engaged in cultivating their small patches of ground, and guarding their doing very well; a great many specimens were hords of cattle and horses, have all gone to the mines, or on their way thither. Laborers of every trade have left their work benches, and tradesmen sented by a Mr. Spence. You will perceive that their shops. Sailors desert their ships as fast as they arrive on the coast, and several vessels have mechanically pieces of quartz; that the surface is gone to sea with hardly enough sailors to spread a sail. Two or three are now at anchor in San Frandisco with no crew on board.

Many desertions, too, have taken place from the garrisons within the influence of these mines; twenty-six soldiers have deserted from the post of Sonoma, twenty-four from that of San Francisco, and twenty-four from Monterey. For a few days the evil appeared so threatening, that great danger existed that the garrisons would leave in a body; and I refer you to my orders of the 25th of July, to show the steps adopted to meet this contingency. I shall spare no exertions to apprehend and punish deserters, but I believe no time in the history of our country has presented such temptation to desert as now exists in California. The danger of apprehensions is small, and the prospect of high wages certain; pay and bounties are trifles, as laboring men at the mines can now eath in one day more than lar to that found in the main fork, and doubtless in double a soldies pay and allowance for a month, and sufficient quantities to satisfy them. I send you a even the pay of a heutenaut or captain connet hire imen, presented by this.company, of their a servant. A carpenter or mechanic would not lis-im this point, we proceeded up the stream ten to an offer of less than fifteen or twenty dollars a day. Could any combination of offairs try a man's people and Indians-some engiged in the bed of the | fidelity more than this? and I really think some extraordinary mark of favor should be given to those into it. These latter are exceedingly rich, and two soldiers who remain faithful to their flag throughout this tempting crisis. No officer can now live in

California on his pay, money has so little value; the prices of necessary articles of clothing and subsistence are so exorbitant and labor so high, that to hire a cook or servant has become an impossibility, cave to those who are earning from thirty to fifty dollars a day. This state of things cannot last forever .--Yet from the geographical position of California, and the new character it has assumed as a mining country, prices of labor will slways be high, and will hold out temptations to desert. I therefore have to report if the government wish to prevent desertions here on the part of men, and its secure zeal on the part of officers, their pay must be increased very materially.

Soldiers, both of the volunteers and regular serabundance of the precious metal, evidence of their vice, discharged in this country, should be permitted at once to locate their land warrants on the gold too, had been at work about three weeks in the district. Many private letters have gone to the neighborhood, and showed me in bags and bottles [United States, giving accounts of the vast quantity ther 82,000 worth of gold, and Mr. Lyman, a gen-theman of education and worthy of every credit, said of surprise why I have made no report on this sub-

with lime; fire is then applied and kept up all day, The mercury is volatilized, passes into the chamberis condensed on the sides and bottom of the chamber, and flows into the pot prepared for it. No water is used to condense the mercury.

mixed

Gold is believed to exist on the easten slope of

The gold "placer" near the mission of San Fer-

I would recommend that a mint be established at

and that muchienery, and all the necessary appara-

tus and workmen, he sent out by sea. These work-

men, must be bound by high wages, and even bonds,

owing the vein.

During a visit I made last Spring, four such ovens were in operation, and yielded in the two days I was there 656 pounds of quicksilver, worth at Mazatlan \$1,80 per lb. Mr. Walkinshaw, the gentleman now in charge of this mine, tells me that the vein is improving, and that he can afford to keep his peo-ple employed even in these extraordinary times,-This mine is very valuable of it-elf, and becomes the to defend measures instead of preaching foloful serioons more so, as mercury is extensively used in obtaining gold. It is not at present used in California for that, purpose, but will be at some future time.-When I was at this mine last Spring, other parties were engaged in searching for veins; but none have been discovered that are worth following up, although the earth in that whole range of hills is highv discolored, indicating the presence of this ore. send several beautiful specimens, properly labelled. The amount of quicksilver in Mr. Forbes's vats on the 15th of July was about 2,500 pounds. I enclose you herewith sketches of the country

through which I passed, indicating the position o the mines and the topography of the country in the vicinity of those I visited. I have the honor to be your most obedient ser-

R. B. MASON. vant, Colonel 1st Dragoons, Commanding. Brig. Gen. R. Jones,

Adjutant General U. S. A., Washington, D. C.

AN AWFUL TRAGEDY-A CITIZEN OF CLEVELAND MURDERED.

It is our painful duty to annonnce the murder o one of our most estimable citizens. His name was David Johnson. He was in the employ of Hijliard & Smith buying cattle, and was at the time in Mercer county in this state. He had put up at a tay ern in Marion, where he intended to make it headquarters for a time-had explained to the landlord chanical poin of view it is equal to any of its cotemporahis business, and as usual the next day had gone into the country around to look for cattle. The landlord knowing that he had considerable money upon his person, sought him when about twelve miles from his tavern and alone in a by place, shot him, robbed him, dragged his body some distance and deposited it between two logs and covered the some with brush. Johnson feigned death until the laudiord left, when soon after a teamster was pass ing by a id made hiraself heard to say, "put me in to their subscribers, the proprietors have procured two elyour wagon and drive to the tavern as fast as possible." The teamster did so, taking him to the same tavern where he put up. On arriving, the landlord came out to take the horses, when Johnson raised his head and exclaimed, "That is the man who shot \$3, per single copy: \$5 for two copies. Address, "John me! He has two thousand dollars of my money!' and in ten minutes after, Johnson was dead.

The landlord, overwhelmed at the evidences of his guilt gave himself up, confessed the murder, and i now in jail.

Truth is indeed stranger than fiction. That Johnion in his dying extremity should insist upon being carried twelve miles in a lumber wagon to convict is murderer, is not considered at all remarkable by

hose who knew him. 'He was a man of great prob- United States the right to create other states out of that ity of characrer, undaunted courage-had been cattle buyer for many years and handled an immense amount of money. He understood well the dangers of his calling, went armed and had some experience in the stratagems of robbers. It must have been a shrewd villian who found him off his guard, and not to be circumvented, he yielded up his last breath to bring his murderer to justice.

Johnson leaves a devoted wife and an Interesting family in this city to mourn his untimely; death.-Cleveland Plain Dealer.

EBOMT CONUNDRUMS --- Gumbo! precode to divalgo y hemlock swamp is like a rooster? I can't vindikate dat probability, cuff; jis gib us de fin ar on the subrin.

Kuse de craw cume from.it. good bread?

Vell, dispatch your self-refine your perishen. Kase you can't hav it without the litenin

uid not have been elected." over again, and the enemy is more advantageously posted When old Zick "makes him somebody," may we be and better marshalled than in any former campaignhere to witness the maracla.

for the next four years, without burthening themselves

with the infamy of undeserved abuse of an administra-

tion which, in spite of all they can say, will occupy a

proud niche in the history of the country.

chango, Philadelphia, Penn."

district attorneys, marshals &c.

The question of national prosperity must be analysed, and its elements must be examined. Just as national in-Orloans'Dolta, of a distinguished Democrat, who overdependence and personal liberty are different things, so national manufacturing prosperity does not necessarily heard his son, also a warm Democrat, and office -holder, expressing a rather unfavorable opinion of Gon. Faylor. imply the well-being of both laborer and capitalist. There "Shut up, boy," exclaimed the sagacious old gentleman, is no nation more absolutely free on earth than Great "shut up; don't you know that Clay is going to the Sen-Britain, and there is none so, eminent for success in ato, and we may have to defend old Taylor!" trade, but her people are proverbs of individual bondage

and pauperism. In future, therefore, the whice will have finition of "the most worthless part of community." In gate Calendar, &c., were part of the youth's steria on the ranchor of party-will have to resort to arguments giving it, we by no means endorse it, as we know some trade. He left his father's house some time ago wa first rate fellows who would'nt refuse office from "old \$16) in gold. and facts, instead of Gen. Taylor's no-party popularity -when they go before the people. In future the Democ- Zack." They are not his elsrenth hour supporters, howracy will go before the country united as a band of brothevor:

ers. The question which shivered them into fragments II' We do most sincerely wish that there were no ofin the last canvass will be settled, and the first onset of fice-seekers in the Whig party, and we hope and believe that a course will be adopted calculated to reform them. the enomy upon their financial and foreign policy, will As a class, they are the most worthless part of the commube the signal for a general rally of the whole party-barnnity, and they should understand that the more fact of harners, hunkers and all, from Maine to the Rio Grande, their applying for office will be taken as prima facie eviand from New York bay to San Francisco. When we dence of their entire unworthines. - Lohisville Joarnal.

and to this array the thousands of independent politicians, HOLIDAY PRESENTS .- A fine lot of annuals, and other who fought for "old Zack" through a mistaken idea that olegantly illustrated Books, for holiday presents, can be he would not be a party President, or "yield himself to" found at Hewson's and Spafford's. party schemes," the whigs proper will have work enough

IMPORTANT TO THE FASHIONABLE .- The New York Tribune, says: "The fashionable colors for the ladies, this winter, are blue and green. Scarlet, crimson and cherry still maintain a feeble reign with a few high colored beautics; but the more general tone of Broadway in

"THE UNION MAGAZINE."-Our favorite "Union Magpromenade weather is subdued and cool. Feathers are azine" has passed into the hands of Messis. J. Sart in flaunting and vulgar; and furs have not yet made their | Francisco Bay, the place of destination. & Co. of Philadelphia, by whom the January number has appearance." been issued, and is now on our table. It is certainly a

IF An old man named Allen, residing at Palmyra, N. splendid number, containing eighty pages of letter press I., set two barns on fire, and then hung himself up in printing, and is embellished with three splendid Mezzoone of them. The first was burnt to the ground, but the tinto and eight other beautiful illustrations. In a Mofire went out in the one in which he hung himself, and he was found next morning suspended to a beam. ries. The number before us is entirely original, and in commendation of the matter it contains it is sufficient to

say that, the following gifted and emineut writers are "ultra whig" paper, of the Corwin species, declares :---

among the contributors :- Roy. G. W. Bethune, Mrs. Sigourney, Rev. Albert Barnes, Mrs. Ellet, Mrs. Osgood, not be worth " six week's purchase." This is only the listhmus is sixty miles, toin of which man be "" Joseph R. Chandler, Mrs. C. M. Kirtland, Rev. Jno. beginning of the end! We apprehend that the old Gen. on the Chagres river, and the remining tweet Todd, D. D., and others. The editors are Mrs. C. M. Kirteral will soon discover that fighting the Mexicans was mules. The United States mail steamers will soon land, and Prof. G. S. Hart. As an additional advantage but childish amusement, compared to meeting the "ultra a monthly line from New York to San Francisco, b whigs," who will gather around him at Washington. agant ongravings-one full length of Gen. Taylor and

RAIL ROAD ACROSS THE ISTHMUS .- The gold fover har the other comprising a group of the Washington family, revived this project of connecting the waters of the At- Chagres over. one of which will be furnished to each patron. Termslantic and Pacific by rail road across the Isthmus of Panama. The New York papers assort that the road is to Sartain, & Co., Third Street, opposite Merchant's Exbe pushed forward to an early completion, by the most

energetic merchants and citizens of that city. The com-STATE OF CALIFORNIA .- Mr. Douglass, of Illinois, has pany is now ready, according to their advertisement, for introduced into the Senate a bill which contemplates the subscriptions, and have offered for trustees the names of admission into the Union at once, as a state, of the engentlemen whose reputation is a sufficient guarantee for tirestorritory acquired by the treaty with Mexico, to be the faithful expenditure of all monies other citizens may of the note must reside in the State!" represented in congress by two representatives, until the choose to subscribe for this great enterprise. A memonext consiss and apportionment in 1850-reserving to the rial of Mr. Aspinwall, and others, to Congress, explains much of the project; but it may be further stated, that the entertaining our citizens during the past week m? portion of the territory lying cast of the summit of the grant from Now Granada, alluded to, gives the following Theatrical performances, and will close this every Sierra Nevalla and California mountains, and all rights advantages; 🖉 of property in the public domain, the power of disposing let. An exclusive right of way across the Isthmus

of the same, &c. &c. It also flivides the territory into with the right to use gratuitously all the public lands ly- had better drop in this evening. They will st two judicial districts, by a meridianal line, and provides ing on the route of the rond. for the appointment of judges, the establishing of courts, 2d. An absolute gift of 300,000 acres of public lands to

be selected by the company. 3d. All the materials used on the road, as well as ef-III." "The Protest" is a small sheet published at Lofects of persons employed thereon, are declared free of du. well by the operatives. Here is its list of deaths and

ty. . 4th. Two ports viz: one on the Atlantic and one on matriages: - and person and the state of the the Pacific Oceans, which shall be made termini of the road, are declared free ports.

Rev. Abbott Tariff, Mr. Pauper Labor of Europe to Miss Industry of Massachusetts. Died-In Lowell, Massachusetts, about the 20th inst., The company have arranged with an eminent engineor, Mr. Norris, who is to make further surveys at once, favors extended to him." Some of these city part of a lingering, corporation consumption, American Wa-ges, aged nearly 55." A the line and base with a second and it is thought the road can be in operation by January, 1851. The opening of the road will change the av-The Protest don't appear to have any great respect for ende of trade now dong with the Pacific and China, by the for a big sheet filled with a lot of old John D the promised blessings of Gen. Taylor's Administration. the United States as well as by the European nations.

board the packet ship New York this year when shem in exactly the same lattude that the packet ship lle Chy was in, in the year 1832, when she was visuely Nor BAD .- We heard a story yesterday, says the New the cholera on to former career.

UP A lad of 17. years, named Russ, was found sen ted in the New York custom house, just before closers on Friday evening. He had a spange and chlorid tin his possession, with which it is supposed he intesid to stupify the watchman and then tob the sub-near, Pistols, matches, sperm candlos, yellow other, fill EF The following is the Louisville Journal's de- whiskers and mustaches, the Life of Edwards, her

> IT An old resident of New York, in 1832, decorer he inhalition of a minute insect, shared' visible to the naked eve, to be the origin of Cholera. This fact my be ventilied, anys its discoverer, by pressing a cloth on portions arm and waving it in the air, where Cholers presont, and the insects will adhere and may be erazs ed. Doubtful.

> II Eleven vessels are now advertised to soil in Philudelphia for California. Some are up for Chara and others for San Francisco and Monterey. Ar the number for Chagres is the steamship Columbus.

D A gold company is organizing in Ausia. Te they start about the 1st of February. It is thought a visable to travel up thei valley of the R.o Grando w Paso, and from that point to pursue the most d recint that it is practicable to San Diego, on the Pacific, " from thouse north along the shores of the Pacific 12 54

OF The area of the United States is now near ir 4 and square miles, equal to the support of 200, 100, 100 and 14 lation, the country then less thickly settled than the of Massachusetts. The Continent, when enclosed the arms of the Union, will be equal to the same 200,000,000. The child may now be born who will THE BEGINNING .- The Xenia (O.) Torchlight, a rabid all this realized; we are now on the eve of might the

"were the President to veto the Proviso, his life would Tun Isuruus or Danky - The disable and way of Chagres and Partama. The journey from " sea will be made in a few hours, as soon as some of enterprising steamboat proprietors get to havigabil

> A POOR ENDORSTR .- "A worthy but poor mit writes a friend from the country, "requisted a let since the loan of fifty dollars from the cashier bank; and in the note requesting the favor, he favor, if the cashier would oblige him, he would "part ten days, on the faith of Abraham." The cast turned word that by the rules of the bank, the est

> 17' Mr. Bungerr's Vaudeville Company bar the best bill of the wock. All who have witness performances speak well of them and those sho but enough to last them for a month, Mr. LANGRISET. phys the principal part is rarely excelled in const We understand the company intend going South Waterford, Meadville, &c. We bespeak for the ouses wherever they stop.

D. We have received from Philadelphia a sheet the size of a cradle quilt, called "Scott's Weekly ?! which the editor tells us he sent in return for "the" must think country publishers most "all fired F" when they ask them to pull their humbugs into post

wood ents.