## CONGRESSIONAL

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, 1848. SENATE.—At 11 o'clock, the Vice President called the Senate to order. After reading the journal of Thursday last, a great number of petitions were

presented and referred to appropriate committee. of public lands for the purpose of constructing a Railroad to connect the Mississippi River with the Northern Lakes. After a few explanatory remarks, elicited by a call for informatian, the motion was

Mr. Donglass next moved that the bill for the admission of California into the Union as a State, be his sole motive was to obtain information on a subreferred to the Committee on Territories; the bill in- ject which all classes of our citizens felt a lively corporating the amendments laying off the territory into the election districts, for the purpose of choosing delegates to a Convention to form a State Constitution, and defining the qualifications of voters.

Mr. Berrien moved that the bill be referred to the Committe of Judicary. Upon this motion, a very animated debate took place, in which Messrs. Douglass, Berrien, Hale. Clayton; and others took part. On the one side, it was contended, with no little degree of warmth, that its reference to the Committee on Territories was in every respect appropriate, and in accordance with previous usage. That it was simply a bill for the admission of a territory into the confederacy, and that whatever issues might arise in the discussion of the expediency or necessity of the measure proposed, it should not and could not influence the Committee in question in the framing of the bill for that object, if they decined it advisable. On the other side, it was contended with equal warmth, that in ordinary times and in ordinanary cases, no objection would be made to the Committe on Judiciary; but that in the framing of a bill for the admission of California into the Union as a State, some broad, clearly defined and comprehensive principle would have to be adopted with reference to the question of slavery; and as it was not unlikely that the constitutionality of introducing this peculiar institutution into the new territories would be tested before our highest indical trib unal, might be the means of producing much good.

The motion of reference to the Committee on ; The motion to refer to the Committee on the Judi- Panama. ciary finally prevailed.

Mr. Down's resolution of inquiry, in regard to the establishment of a branch mint in California, with a Director and Treasurer, was adopted, after a few renarks by several Senators.

Mr. Miller introduced a resolution calling upon

the President for any information which he may have in his possession, with reference to any official correspondence with Spain; having for its object the purchase of Cuba. The resolution was

A motion was made and agreed to, calling up the memorial of W. H. Aspinwall, John L. Steph as, Henry Chauncey, and their associates, in relation to the construction a railroad across the Isthmus of Panama. The memorialists ask of Congress the passage of a law empowering and directing the Secretary of the Navy to enter into contract for the transportation on said road, for a period of twenty years, of naval and army supplies, including troops, munitions of war, provisions, naval stores, the mails of the United States, and its public agents, at a sum not exceeding the amount now specified by law to be paid for the transportation of the mails alone from New York to Liverpool; provided that the memoralists shall within three years complete the construction of a railroad across the Isthmus of Panama, conneccing the waters of the Atlantic

and Pacific ocean.

Mr. Benton spoke at length in favor of granting the assistance asked for in the momerial-as he be heved the future prosperity of the whole country depended in a very great measure upon the fostering of such enterprises and improvements as would annihilated in a great degree the distance which now segarated as from our vast and incalculably passession on the Pacific.

Mr. Hale spoke in opposition to the bill. He was followed by Mr. Breese, who condemned in strong terms everything in the shap; of hasty actionparticularly in bills of vast importance, as in the present instance. He said that other companies were prepared to construct a railroad across the Isthmus of Panama, and that they offered better

ate, more unformation should be furnished and hence they would recommend delay.

A message in writing was received from the Pres-Mert, when, on motion, the Senate went into Secret

Hot su or Representatives. - The house met a the usual hour this morning. After prayer, and reading the journal, the Speaker laid before the House andry communications from the Executive Department, relating to the Land Office-the progress of the Coast Survey-the amount of the milstary force corplayed in Mexico during the warwhich were ordered to be printed. Mr. Vinton, of the Committee of Ways and

Means, reported a bill providing for the deficiency in the last appropriation bill, which was read twice and made the order of the day for Wednesday, the 

for advances made by the State of Alabama, eleven years ago, for the suppression of Indian hostilities, was read twice and referred.

Mr. Robinson's motion to reconsider the vote adopting Mr. Root's resolution, virtually abolishing slavery in the territories of Culifornia and New

Mexico, he vi came up.

Being chittled to the floor, Mr. Robinson addressed the Flouse at length. He said that the question of slavery, so far as it regarded the new territories, was one which the Democratic party, at this particular time, should not interfere with. It could not be definitely settled by the present Congress, and should be left to the next Congress and to the next administration to be disposed of. It would afford an excellent opportunity, he said, for General Taylor to define his position. During the late Presidential campaign, his Southern friends insisted that he was all right on the Wilmot Proviso question-that he was the owner of slaves-Ind that he was bound by the promptings of as-ociation and interest to vote against that obnoxious measure, in case he waselexated to the Presidency, and in case it passed both houses of Congress. At the North, said Mr. R., General Taylor was represented as being the opponent of the extension of slavery, and standing ready to support any measure calculated to arrest what all conceived to be an evil. He was for leaving the responsibility where it rightfully belonged. After some further remarks, the motion to reconsider was

laid on the table, by a vote of 106 year to 85 nays. Mr. Giddings asked leave to introduce a bill, giving to the people of the District of Columbia the privilege of expressing their sentiments on the subject of slavery in said district. The bill was read twice, and produced no little sensation. Messis. Jacob Thompson and Tompkins each interrogated Mr. Giddings as to the exact phraseology and ap-

plication of the hill.

Mr. Goldings replied. He said that he meant to include black in "the people of the District of Columbia"---that, in these matters, he knew no differ

Mr. Thompson, of Mississippi, moved to lay the bill on the table. Agreed to-yeas 105, nays 77.

Mr. Vinton submitted a resolution referring the President's annual message to appropriate committees. Referring to the Committee of the Whole.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19, 1848. The Senate met at the usual hour this morning,

the Vice President in the chair. After reading the Journal Mr. Breese of Illinois. from the Committee of Public Lands, reported a bill authorizing a grant of public lands for the construction of a railroad in the State of Illinois, which to the identical one of August, some date, of 1846. was read twice and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Miller brought up his resolution [see yesterday's report] calling upon the President for any in-

Mr. Berrien was opposed, not merely to the pas-

with the ultimate view of preventing any undue adversally held. This was a doctrine that all understood by men of the most ordinary capacity.

adoption of the resolution the Senate would be indiscounted in the committee on Manufactures. rectly infringing upon the rights and prerogatives ue:

at length for offering the resolution in question.—
He did not desire to infringe upon the prerogatives
of the President—the least as well as the greatest nterest in, and which he thought might be communicated with perfect safety. After some further remarks, Mr. Miller conseted to let his resolution lie

Mr. Bonton moved that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the special order, being the bill to make compensation for the transportation of troops and supplies, for a limited time over the Isthmus of

Panama; which motion was agreed to. Mr. Benton stated that at the closs of the debate vesterday, a call had been made upon him by Mr. Cameron, of Pennsylvania, for a copy of the contract made by the government of New Grenada with company of certain citizens of France, in 1838, for the purpose of constructing wrailroad across the Isthmus of Panama. This contract was transfered to Messrs. Aspinwall and their associates. Mr. Benton stated that he held in his hand, and would submit to the Senate, in compliance with the promise which he made yesterday, a copy of that contract or grant. But before doing sol he would endeavor o enlighten Senators who desired to know the terms of the contract under which Messrs. Aspinwall and associates, the present memorialists, claim the exclusive right of way across the Isthmus. He alluded to the letter of Gen. Harran, the minister, of New Grenada to the United States, procused by Messrs. Aspinwall, Stevens, Heney, and Chauncey, in which Gen. H. declares, that these gentleprudence suggested that the bill should be referred men, having given his government satisfactory guarto a committee whose indirect decision in the matter antees for the completion of the road on certain conditions imposed, are in possession of the privilege conceded by the government of Now Grenada, for Territories who lost by a vote of 24 year to 25 may-, the construction of a railroad peross the 1sthmus of

The copy of this grant' to the French company was then read.

An animated debate sprung up, in which the parlicipants were Massrs, Benton, Cameron, Dix, Foote, Clarke, Allea and others, on the merits of the bill.

Mr. Cameron did not favor the bill, as he thought

Mr. Ingersoll: I proposed it—for there ought,

that better terms could and should be obtained. Mr. Allen said that our government had already the right of way acrost the Isthmus. He desired to know whether the operation of this bill would or would not be to transfer that right from the govern-

Congress.
Mr. Benton, in reply, stated that the bill lefore the Senate did not in any way affect that right.

Mr. Dix is of opinion that our Government had no right, under the treaty with New Grenada, to confer the power of constructing a road across the Isthmus of Panama.

Mr. Benton said that the memorialists did not ask for the delegation of such a power. They merely wished to enter into a contract with our Government for the transportion of troops, supplies &c., across the Isthmus. Pending the discussion, a sealed message was re-

gived from the President at the hands of his Private Secretary.

On motion of Mr. Cumeron, the Senate went into Speaker called the House to order. The Journal of the preceding day, was then read, and the Speaker announced as the first thing in order, the reception of petitions by States. Several were received and

referred. On motion, the House went into Committee of the Whole, Richard W. Thompson in the Chair, for the purpose of taking up Mr. Vinton's resolution referring the President's annual message to the standing Committees of the House.

Several amendments were offered. One by Mr. Mea I, referring that part of the President's message which relates to the new territories of California and New Mexico, to a Select Committee of nine .terms than the terms offered by Mr. Aspinwall and After a brief, but animated debate, the motion was

was in favor of referring it to the committee on man-

## SPEACH OF Hon. James Thompson.

Mr. Thompson, of Pennsylvania, said when the the subject of the tariff bill was under the consideration of Congress between two and three years ago. he was one of the few members of the Democratic party who had protested against its passage. He had opposed it most conscientiously, foreseeing, as he thought, the effects of the change, so sudden and radical, in the adoption of a new system—of the establishment of an entire new principle-foreseeing, as he believed, that it was going to have a great effect upon the future policy of the country. He should leave to those of the present day to decide whether his predictions then were right or wrong. What had taken place, had taken place, and could not be altered. He had voted the other day against the resolution of his colleague on the other side of the House, [Mr. Pakent,] for the resuscitation of the tariff of 1842. He had no hesitation at all in saying that he would not return to a system deemed so odious, and which would necessarily destroy itself in a very short period of time. The tariff of 1812 was sent forth to the world bearing the marks of its own condemnation and that of some of its friends upon it. It had carried within its own bosom the seeds of its eventual destruction; we had seen, in the process of time, that they had sprung up, and its destruction, consummated. Its principles that were bad-obnoxious, were its system of minimums. They violated everything like reason, common sense, and, he might say, common honesty. Why, cotton cloths which it cost one, two, or three cents per yard to manufacture, were called worth twenty cents, and a duty, as if worth that sum, levied. It discriminated against the poor and in favor of the rich, taxing cheap articles that were mere imitations most heavily, and laying but a light hand upon articles of luxury of the richest kind.

seeds of decay were deeply implanted within its bosom at the moment it came into existence. He had been opposed to that bill, and exceedingly anxious for a compromise that might give us something better. There had once been a certain committee organized for the purpose of compromising the tariff bill. He was one of that committee: he had proposed to his friend from North Carolina, the then chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, [Mr. McKay,] that he should give them the tariff bill which he had reported in 1844, and he (Mr. T.) would have voted for it. No, sir, they would not agree to this. New lights had been shed upon the world. Men had become wiser, perhaps better; they thought they had at least-perhaps they were. This was refused, although it had been proposed by what was called the free-trade portion of the country. He was desirous of compromise. He wanted comething reasonable and something permanent; Now, sir, what followed? The tariff of 1846,-Sir, (said he,) I opposed this measure, earnestly and with all my might. It was a radical change-a new principle-one that I thought wrong, and which, in many particulars, I still think wrong. And now, ser, I go for a modification of it; a change to suit the wants and interests of the country. I am not wedded to dates-the bill of the 30th August, 1842-nor I subscribe to the principle of progress and reform. What might have been right in 1842, may have betormation which he may have in his possession in en down; dynasties become extinct; policy had form should be the result.

changed; revolution in everything had taken place, and manufactures son farcould be the result.

Mr. Greeley of New York, followed Mr. Thompstering the commerce, the trade, and manufactures son farcould be the result. altering the commerce, the trade, and manufactures of almost every country in the world. A change in Air. Berrien was opposed, not merely to the passage of all ressource of many things, became, was necessary, to factures. Mr. Greeley said that it was quite fashsolutions of a similar character. He believed that us. Wisdom would, and he thought did, dictate

These were objections to the tariff of 1812. The

private as well as public affairs, much that was tariff of 1846 was passed. The objection to the half paid operatives. It was high time that these strictly honorable in its character, was concealed, new system was great. The doctrine of a tariff for slanders and misrepresentations should be answered, with the ultimate view of preventing any undue ad-revenue, discriminating for protection, seemed to and answered in a manner which could not be mis-

This is all we wanted, he said. But the act of the President. The Constitution vested in him of 1846 discriminated against protection. It oper-Mr. Douglass, of Illinois, asked and obtained leave to bring in a bill, having for its object the granting that those powers were used to the detriment of the public service, the Senate should not seek to curtail ple, iron. And he instanced this article, as he was committee, provided the proper kind of report went or weaken them.

Mr. Miller replied, giving his reasons, somewhat We will suppose, at the time of the passage of expose the misrepresentations of the President's that act, that pig metal was selling for \$30 per ton; the thirty per cent, on that would be a duty of \$9. This was a high duty-more than, was wanted; but to the example: When the price of iron abroad came down to \$18 per ton, thirty per cent. was \$5. 40 duty; a loss of \$3 60 cents revenue, as well as \$12 cheaper by way of competition. But if it came down to \$9-and-he believed it had at one timethen the duty was \$2 70 per ton, and a reduction of \$31 per top in the price, to facilitate competition -Thus, sir, you lost \$6 30 revenue per ton, and \$21 protection, if you choose. It discriminated against abor when products were abundant abroad, and cheap. We thus become losers of revenue, with-

out a shadow of a shade of protection.

Now, sir, what is the remedy for all this? It is plain. Specific duties-moderate specific dutiesmoderate, not inconsistent with revenue. Take iron again as an example; fix a price for it, say #20 or \$25 per ton; calculate it at \$20, if you please; say thirty per cent. on this valuation; this would be six dollars. Now, sir, when it would become abundant abroad, and should come in at nine dollars, (the valnation per ton,) you would still get your six dollars on the ton; and the more that should come in, (the evidence of superabundance, and want of market abroad,) the more revenue there would accrue to the country. Let this be the system in regard to the great articles of manufacture and produce of the country. Specific duties would give stability. Our affairs would not be made to fluctuate, nor our rev enue either.

Mr. C. J. Ingersoll inquired, if his colleague did not consider specific duties necessary on liquors, wines, and brandies? Mr. Thompson said he did not know-he could

ot answer-he did not deal in these articles. Mr. C. J. Ingersoll. You will, if you consider

the interest of the country.

Mr. Thompson said he could not charge his colleague, for whom he had the highest-regard, with any want of consistency, not in the least. But it seemed to him to be within his recollection, that his ted by the New Orleans Dalta, of the 9th, as folcolleague, at the last session of Congress, proposed lows:

no doubt, to be a reduction, but it ought to be a reduction to specific duties; they are a good deal better thin your ad valorems. Mr. Thompson said he was opposed to ad valorems

as universally applied. He thought it a mistaken Skillman, a most worthy and excellent young man, ment to the company who were now memorializing policy in every point of sight. He was in tavor of easonable specific duties, but opposed to minimums. vania to tell him how he could have specific duties

> tariff act of 1842. They fixed by law an artificial alone for a few moments, the door of Byrd's office sessed a duty equal to its whole value in some cases, sions of Dr. Skillman, it appears that he asked Byrd without any regard to supply, demand, market, or invihing else.

Voicits. You are wrong.

Mr. Thompson. I am not wrong, I think. The as a consequence of the advalorem system. With-House of Representatives .- At 12 o'clock, the ter, he had not taken the terms as convertible. At all events, these minimums, to a greater extent

than anything else, overthrew the turiff of 1842.

Mr. Thompson proceeded. He wanted specific duties, moderate and reasonable. Those fluctuations as he could with his pistol, with which he inflicted that contingencies produced abroad, he wanted to several severe wounds on Bird's heal, and finally ar industry was of the kind to be inpuriously affected by foreign revulsions. Let us have a system, uniform, that will not run up prices to day, and depress them to-morrow, by the accidency of want of demand in other countries. The Democratic dectrine was a tariff for revenue, with incidental protection; and it can be arrived at by no other process one, asked no "protection for protection." This, his as ociales.

Mr. Cob'), of Georgia, moved that the tariff part tors, suggested that many difficulties were in the way in granting the aid desired. They believed, that belowe any netion should be taken by the Sential below any netion should be taken by the Sential Company and the suddenness of the message herefored to the Committee on Agrand Water was opposed to. Their suddenness is objectionable. That the charge from specific duties the fisher between these two places, occupying their respective farm houses are redeevors, was exploded. And he was glad it was so. But these extreme and radical thy farmers, owning firms in Oswego and Water was glad it was so. But these extreme and radical thy farmers, owning firms in Oswego and Water ville. It is alloged that they have practiced their ville. It is doubtless the richest place in the world. Within a copying their respective farm houses are redeevors, week or two past, diamon's and plating have also become Ingersoli, Hotmes of South Carolina, Gentry, Thomp-son, of Pennsylvania, and others. Mr. Ramsey had the honor in part to represent, he did not doubt; feeted, to some extent, the politics of the State he but to what extent, he was unwilling to say. Many agencies were at work to defeat the Democracy of the old Keystone. This was one of them, and con-

tributed, to some extent, to produce the result.

Mr. Chairman (said he) I was opposed to the tariffact of 1816 in its then shape, I preferred amending the act of 1842. I now desire most earnestly a modification of the act of 1816. I care not about the increase of duties; it is their form I wish to alter. The interests of my State (said he) require (and he spoke only of them from his being better ne-quainted with them) stability—the stability to be nequired from specific duties. He was opposed to the repeal of the act of 1816. He most cornestly opposed going back to the exploded system of 1812. if reenacted, it would only become the object of the most untiring warfare. No reliance could be placed in its stability. It would be the nucleus around which, in opposition, thousands and thousands would con-tantly accumulate, until it would be overthrown and destroyed. It would be the element in every Presidential contest, and become a mere political question, in disregard of all the principles, whether

Amend, sir, this bill. He appealed to his friends over the way. They now had the power. Now smepd-reform-16 not destroy. The tariff question had some effect in Pennsylvania at the late electhat would be broken de who as soon as it should my deserves. come into existance-but reform the present system. Sir, we ask for stability-moderate duties, but in a form consistent with revenue, discriminating, with-Amend, and not destroy. No subject, he supposed, It must frequently be revised and aftered, and our ng established systems, slowly and cautiously.

great error has been in overthrowing, and not amend-Mr. Fries begged to ask the gentleman a questhey were in 1846?

[SEVERAL VOICES: "No. 17 Mr. Thompson said no, they were not; and gave the House, who opposed it now, were to blame for its passage or not-not now, he said, but he would Give us the maximums and specifics! have something to say about it at some future time.

There is a resort sometimes to a smile, when an loing so.

"But we shall see," he said, what the gentlemen on the other side will do with this question—whether they will reform or destroy systems. It is with them, and the responsibility rests with them. I invoke the spirit of moderation as the only medium of stability, or the means by which it may be arrived at. He said he had no great choice as to the com-

portion of the message to the Committee on Manusolutions of a similar character. He believed that us. Wissom would, and ne thought und discounting the part of the President, in furthat we should change our systems only so far as ing to assail the manufacturers of our country—denous to the public interests. In all negotiations a doctrine. Notwithstanding his objections to the

certain degree of prudence should be observed. In tariff of 1846, and that of most of his colleagues, the ealize inordinate grains, out of the toil and sweet of THE WEEKLY OBSERVER.

He thought that the Committee on Manufactures could best do it. That committee had reported tariff of words, which was recommitted to the Commessage.

Mr. Greeley was listened to with profound atten tion by the House-whigs and democrats being alike a well traveled thoroughfure. The route by Chagres anxious to hear one about whom so much has been said and written.

Mr. Marvin followed with a history of past legis lation on the tariff question. At the conclusion of his remarks, a motion to ad ourn prevailed. Mr. Fisher has the floor on this question to-mor

row.

THE Acquestrion or Crna.-This is the actual position of the matter: Spain consents to "entertain propositions." England will only interfere by a protest to save her dignity, and Cubs will make, and ing upon our labor for support, we'd pack up, bid adica s making, such a mine of anxiety, that even slow- to pen, seissors, paste brush, and non-paying subscribers of distant when it will be looked upon as being as much of sighted, inactive Spain, perceives that as many millions as we are content to give for her, can never be lect more of the "filthy lucre" in a year than we can here obtained in any other manner out of the Island, and the United States is pressing for, an answer to her libera: "propositions." The commercial revenue of Cuba will cover the cost of purchase-principal and interest-in ten or twelve years, and when she has store for those who have the enterprise to graspit. raid the price for heremancipation, she can, if she hooses, take the position of an independent Republic. Meanwhile, we shall have the moral triumph

political-of that unrivaled centre of trade. - Times and Keystone. TRAGEDY AT BATON ROUGE, LA.

of ending the African slave trade in North America,

and secure forever all the benefits-commercial and

The usual harmony and order of this city, says the Baton Rouge Alvocate, of the 5th inst, was interrupted on Monday last, by one of the most lamentable uffairs that ever marked its history. Our entire population was thrown into the most profound and melancholy sensation, at hearing that an affray had taken place between Dr. Elward Skillman, of Washita parish, and Dr. J. G. Byrd, of this place. The canees which have led to this affair are sta-

It seems that Dr. Burd, who has resided for some time at Baton Rouge, is implicated in an offence againts the peac, honor and happiness of one of he most esteemed families in that section -- an offence which it is difficult, if not impossible, to commit in this State with impunity. Dr. Elward a native of West Fel cinna, I at at the present residing at Quachitachearing of the in-ult offered to the Mr. Greeley begged the gentleman from Pennsyl- family and name of which he was one of the props and defenders, came to Baton Rouge, to save that honor which was degree to hum than life. Shortly and not minimums?

Mr. Thompson. There was a difference between after his arrival, Dr. S. was introduced to Byrd, value, without any regard to its real value, and as- was closed. From the subsequent dring confesif he was ready to make the only atolement which the nature of the injury he had done to his family's peace and honor allowed-to which Byrd returned mums, not as a consequence of specific duties, but from, the door of which he closed on the inside. -Skillman struck at the door, and endeavored to force out critically inquiring into that branch of the mat- it, when suddenly Byrd opened it, and Skillman being forced forward, Byrd, who was standing near to the door as it opened, sprung upon him with a knife, and inflicted no less than seven wounds upon Skill-man's hody. The latter defended bynself as well avoid; and he only wanted this when any part of succeeded in throwing Byrd down and taking away his knife; he was in the act of stabbing him, when some person rushed in and pulled him off.

IMPORTANT ARREST. - The police of Warterville, says the Utica Gazette, have recently arrested sevcrai members of a family by the wane of Loomis, charged with having been engaged for a long time than by the imposition of specific duties. He, for in a system of thefts, by which they have collected one, asked no "projection for projection." This, he conceived and believed, was exploded. And he father and several sons, and have been reputed weal- by 31. The following is an estract:and that a brother in Vermon, (who has or will soon be arrested) is also in connection with them.

THE IRISH INFORMERS. The arrival at New Orleans of several of the has excited much feeling and resulted in violence in ' that city. The Crescent comments up it as follows: THE IRISH DETECTIVES.—Cavanagh, the Irish detective, who was beaten in the Third Municipality Thursday, we vesterday learne at the Charity Hospital, is not considered by any means in a dangerous condition, and is doing well. The attack upon this man and the threats against his confederates have been the subject of various comments with the pre-s. Every good citizen deprecates violence, and perhaps in this instance it moral punishment would have ultimately proved sufficient, burif there ever has been an instance in which pupular indignation overbearing the law admits of palliation, it is this. No republican, no honest, no honorable man, can sympathize for a moment with these detectives. They have been employed as an instrument-the dirty instrument of a tyrannical governprestion, in disregard of all the principles, whether ment—to make abortive the efforts of a band of patrices for the freedom of an enslaved land. They have succeeded, not only in destroying the hopes of a nation, but in decimating its great and gallant spirits, and with their hands—cast of by their mas-ters—they seek to pollute a free and a pure air with tion. Let not the hope of keeping that State dis-be enriestly hoped, however, that it may not be nesatisfied, and thus keeping her out of Democratic cessary to record another instance of violation of traces, prevent your amending the system. You law; and we trust, henceforth, the miscreants may are expected to do it—not give her the act of 1842 be treated only with the utter contempt their infalaw; and we trust, henceforth, the miscreants may

HARD TIMES. A farm of one bondred acres, lying upon the in this principle, in favor of our interests. The river about three miles above this place, with the gentlemen on the other side of the House are in usual buildings and improvements was sold last power now, and will be, at least in the House and weeks for \$15,500, cash! This we suppose is an in the Executive department, for some time to come. other evidence of the "downward tendency of things," Let me advise them to give us reasonable measures. occasioned by democratic administrations. Feeding "naupor ledgrees" in Europe, under the operation ever occupied the mind of man of greater practical of "Sir Robert Walker's distructive British taydifficulty than the financial system of this country, if," makes sad inroads upon the figricultural inprices of our/grain and meats. Last year alone, Mr. Fries begged to ask the gentleman a question. Were not the prices of iron higher now than of our breadstuffs and provisions. Enough to roin a nation! Our farmers will soon be but out of house and home at this rate! A high while protective tariff is the only thing that can keep our eatables from a statement showing considerable difference at this going abroad, and save the country from the melantime. As to the passage of the act of 1846, Mr. T. chily influences of democratic measures! Old Zack said he could not now say whether the other side of preserve us! Webster! Crittenden! Clayton! rescue the Haise who appeared to the preserve us! us! Take away the ad valorems and minimums!-

A corespondent of the New York Journal of Commerce makes this suggestion:
Let the city purchase some few of the vessels

answer is not at hand, (said Mr. T.) and it has been that the government bought for the Mexican war said that some men can laugh who cannot always service and now offer for sale at great sacrifices, reason. It was enough for him to remark now, that fit them up for the voyage, and tender free passages act of 1846, carried it, or his vote had the effect of drink to all such individuals as will prove to the satisfaction of competent judges that they have no home, and have slept at least one night in the station house, and cannot raise one hundred cents in specie. SINGULAR CIRCUMSTANCE.-When the western

train approached Schenectady last evening, the Conductor awakened a passenger and asked for his tick et. He instantly started from his seat, ran to the come wrong in 1816 and 1848. Empires have fall- mittee to which this subject should go, so that re- platform and jumped off, while the cars were in full motion. The train was stopped instantly; but on going back, no trace of the missing man could be son, favored Mr. Ramsey's motion to refer the tariff found. When the train reached Schenectady, the engineer and others returned to the spot; but, after a diligent search in every direction, they returned

ERIE, PA. SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 30, 1848.

THE GOLD FEVER!

The California gold fever-or as it is very appropriately named, the yellow favor-still ragos with unabated vigor in almost every section of the country. People are going, or preparing to go, by thousands: and if it receives no check before spring, our western prairies will become costs too much for the majority of those who will seek that country, while that around Cape Horn, occupies too much time, hence the overland route, being cheaper. and otherwise better, will be chosen as the route to the El Dorado of the Pacific. There is a company of young men now forming here to take this route who propose leaving on the 8th of January, and from all sections of the west, we hear of similar companies of the young and enterprising preparing their rifles and other accourtement for the same destination. If we had not others depend and see if amid the sands of California we could not col in a life time at publishing a paper. Situated as we are, however, we shall try and be content to see and hear of others reaping the golden harvest we are satisfied is in

The following are some of the paragraphs we daily see n our exchanges, calculated to "give aid and comfort" to those who have this species of the vellow fever:

LUCKY AT LAST .- The Utien Gazette has been shown a letter from a young man in San Francisco, who formerly lived in Utica, showing that after seven years of country in the capacity of Marshall for the Western La change and hardship, he has at last droped anchor in a trict. Good-his letter declining to serve as a Tage lucky spot. He left Utica seven years ago, at the age of elector will be sufficient recommendation to rold Zack fifteen, and went to the Pacific on a whaling voyage - to secure the appointment. By the by, has the present Getting tired of whaling, he left the ship at the Sadwich incumbent intimated that he intended to resign? W. Islands, and some time after, shipped on board a Spanish vessel bound to Carfornia for hides. While in this service he was wrocked on the coast and his next move was to enter into the employ of the great New York company, Prime, Ward and King, who had vessels at California gathering hides. He has been in this business for that we have been, and are still laboring under a serge the last five years. The lefter, just received, is dated "San Francisco, August 10, 1818," and the touching passages in it read as follows:-

"I have more gold than I can lift, and am getting more every day. I shall soon be home independently rich.—
There have been two ships here, and their crews left
them and went to digging gold. They dig no deeper
than five feet, but I found the most of mine in the

De A young man named Polger, says the New York Sun, who went out to California a year or more ago, to falk" and no road. Strange things happen now-a-daurned recently with \$15,000 in gold, to be expended in and the take may result it something. We hope it w goods for a second Californ's speculation. A merchant and checifully tender the use of our columns towardthem, he thought to thought the framers of the and then requesting his introducer to leave them who failed in Boston about fourteen months ago, and was promotion of the object. arrested in New York under the Stilwell act, but who managed to make his escape, and with a cargo of tin ware went to California, has returned to that city with. us he informed Alderman Slevens, \$61,000 in gold. A man living in the Third Avenue has returned with bea negative answer. Skillman then drew a pistol, tween sixty and seventy thousand dollars, and the son act of 1842 contained specific duties and mini- and fired twice at Berd, who retreated into a back of counsellor Dewitt are also stated to have made large romittances from the gold region. No wonder all classes are intensely exc'ted when suc't, proofs are given of the region to oin them; and we can safely say no beare. realization of the riches of El Dorado.

Il J. A Call fornia correspondent of the New York San represents the soil of that country to be isoperior for agr cultural purposes. He says that the Yankees will soon make the country a rich beritage. Nature has done every thing for it; let the industry of man be brought in requisition, and it must become the greatest country in the world. We have not the least doubt that those who go to California for the purpose of cultivating the soil, rath r than digging gold, will in the end do best.

THE GOLD REGION .- Arnol & Bullam, of New York, has received a letter from his son. Edward Gould Buffum, dated Pueblo de los Angelos, Upper Cahfornia, Ju-

People who have been to the "placers" say there is Clay or hot. found. The stories, strange as there is a yearin, are structed all the other dictors have left San Francisco and generative figures. I know them to be so. There will probably be digging gold. He is the only doctor there and is lead into an extensive practice against his well gets spread at home, and I wish you would show this letter, and recommend him to come by all means. caitiffs who have made themselves infamous by There is no humbug about 0 i. New paces are by my hunting up the Irish patriots for British judgment, discovered every day, and Peru and Mexico will ene long suck into inergolificance compared with Colifornia. Ev. the lady being the bridgeroom's ninth wife. Such is only thing connected with mining as well as all goods and instance of daring on the part of a lady, and present provisions, are selling in the mining region at most exorbitant prices. Pick-axes are worth key declars each,
shovels twenty-five dollars, hope ten dollars, flour \$100
a barrel, cotton cloth \$1.50 a yard, and every thing else

Asorther Jter axe Rightman, is not very select
recorded.

Asorther Jter axe Rightman, Anchorage

> CURRENCY IN CALIFORNIA - VALUE OF GOLD. - A publie meeting at San Francisco, the 12th September, fixed the streets, while driving at a formers rate. The lucce the value of the gold dust, in the absence of coin, at \$16 bore down hard on the fact that he displayed no regrets personnce, as the medium for doing business. It applears | the act, and did not stop to see if the child was burt, that the value of the gold in June wis \$14 per ounce in cosh, in July \$12, and at a later due \$10 for cash. In his bar, that a variety of other songs might be expected exchange for goods it was somewhat more. The gold oto tell has to mention." could be had of many pour holders of filly the of gold, at the rate of \$7 per onnce cash. Gold was taken by Gov. Mason in pledge for duties at \$10 per ounce. \_\_\_\_\_\_

Norming Strange.-The papers are publishing it as something strange because a welf was seen in the streets of Albany lately. We are thinking a is not the first wolf that has visited that city, nor the last. Its "illustrious predecessors" might not have had four legs, but they were wolves nevertheless-"in sheeps clothing."

ENGLISH ANSEXATION .- The Huglish horror of Agnexation is strikingly exemplified in India. It is now deter- daylight." mined, the London Times says, to "anner the Panjauh definitely to the dominions of British India." What will those writers employed on the London press, who furnished diatribes upon American rapacity think of themselves, when they are concecting articles in support of the British policy in India. What, also, do our mock philani groat Statesman, is unccusingly on the rack. Macco thropist, the abolitionists, think of their patern nation!

ANOTHER ROUTE TO CALIFORNIA .- A very favorable grant from the Mexican Government is now in the hands terests of this country. These same "laborers" of several American gentlemen for opening a ship canal are such large feeders that they even regulate the or building a railroad across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. of several American gentlemen for opening a ship canal The route has been carefully surveyed by an intelligen, engineer, and found to be perfectly feasible. The grant is for lifty years, and can be extended to any reasonable time. The distance across the Isthmus is about 130 miles, of which 40 or 50 may be navigated, by the river Coatzacoalcas, and with some enlarging of the channel sont to California. The different parts will be 122 of the river may be used for a still greater distance. On bered so that they may be put together an San France the Pacific side two large lakes, called Lakes Supersor co. and Inferior, set in some distance, thus reducing the number of miles to be canalled very materially. The Hampshire, required the young women in their fact. cost of a ship canal across the Isthmus has been estimated at about twelve millions of dollars, and it is believed that it would yield per annum, from transit duties three wages nearly one-third! and a half millions; sale of lands, &c., two hundred and fifty thousand; timber, mahogany, &c., a million and a and three-quarter million of dollars, or nearly fifty per to the free sile party." cent on the outlay, from which the repairs and management of the Canal must be leducted.

> VERY TRUE AND SESSIBLE. - Rev. Henry Word Beecher, who is now lecturing in Boston, said the sensible thing that follows, in a discourse on Amusements, delivered the other evening before the Morcantile Literary Association:-"Amusements were indispensable to sound morals. If the young were not provided with harmless and virtuous amusements, they would have vicious and corrupting amusements. Some parents are so much afraid that their children would do wrong, that they would not let them do anything. But when they obtain their liberty, with none to control their pleasures, novor have traversing the thoroughfares. Under it four draws ing learned to act aright, they were quite sure to riot in well arrested and fined, a tew days back for having the self indulirence."

SPEECH OF JUDGE THOMPSON

We call the attention of our readers to the remarks of Judge Thompson, on the Tariff question, in the Hours of Representatives. They will be read, we doubt had with interest, unfolding as they do his views in the much vexed question. The Judge well remarks the this is an ago of progress, and what may be best for the welfare of the country to-day, may not answer a year hence; therefore he is not wedded to any particular ac but will go for such amendments to the present bill s. will yield the prost revenue to the government and extra; incidental projection to the manufacturer. We need not say those views assimilate very nearly to our own,on many points as far as they go. If specific duties on certain articles will give us more revenue than ad valoreme, it is the policy of the government cortainly to adopt them in preference. We would not have the government resert to specific duties in no case, unless it was clearly demorstrable by facts and figures that by doing so a larger Nek of revenue would be secured without imposing onercu and unjust-takes on the consumer who, reason as we mar, in the end has to pay them. We look upon the who's system of indirect taxation as wrong in the abstract, at are only willing to submit to it from the firm conviction that its days are numbered-that, the future is not very faan "obsolete idea" as its great parent of iniquity, a X1 tional Bank. This result, however, from the nature? our institutions, and the character of our people, musical blought about gradually. Sudden changes of police, a pecially of this character, are to be deprecated. Theb's of '46 was a good beginning, and as revolutions never; backwards, we believe when it is pmended there will s another step taken in that progress which so eminents marks the present age.

ANOTHER PAIRIOT .- We see by the last Garete, that W.M. S. Leve, Esq. of this city, is willing to selection have not heard of it-and we are certain no complains have been made in regard to the manner he fulfill's ! duties of the office! Why then is he to be removed?

IT If any apology is due for the lack of interestings; editorial columns this week, it may be found in the fact attack of the prevailing disease of the season - had cel--which has totally incapaciated us for mental labor of overy kind.

PLANK ROAD .- Our citizens, having talked about rail roads until it has become a bye-word, have now con menced ag tating the construction of plank roads through various parks of the surrounding country; As local in rovements they are much sufferior to railroads, 25. hence we trust this, like the former, will not be "-

## HO! FOR CALIFORNIA!

. We are requested to say that some ten or twill of on young men have formed themselves into a compact, and are about to leave for the gold region of California. Then menatations are so nearly completed that they profes leaving on the 8th proximo, taking the overland route -They myice all who have any desire to visit that favore portunity will be offered, as they are "b'hoys" of the right milt I for fun or danger!

A Tyron One vs. - It is asserted that Mr. Bullet, the New Dileans Picayune, and Mr. Gallagher, of v Richmond (Va.) Republican, me about to stat a page in Washington City, to be rolled the "Reynblean Press. They are both able writers, and experienced in the new paper business. It is to be a partican Journal, and a divocate of the views of Gen, Taylor, the Presidenteles T. e charleter of this organ may be judged someth from the fact that Mr. Bullett has been the confiden adviser of Gen. Taylor throughout the entire cameand Mr. Callagher is the gentleman to whom he wron hi celebrate I letter declaring his determination to be candidate whether the whig convention nominated Mr

III' A phys c an attached to the New York Volunte &... into an extensive pract congainst his will.

A Dalasa Won is .- The Indianapoles Journal chaicles the marriage of a Mr. Pontright to a Mrs Thomas

Anormen Just and Righthous Vendice .- A fich your gontleman of Troy has been fined one thousand dollars for running over and breaking the arm of a poor child is

17. A Musician, a while ago, informed the publica

D' A thief who had succeeded in penetrating in " middle of the night into the apartment of the wellknown author Balzac, was suddenly startled by a loud bard laughter, and turning round, he saw by the dan held the moon penetrating the chamber, the porty figure the author sitting upon the bed and hold ug his sides-Seeing himself detected, he cook asked Mr. Balzac S what reason he laughed so immederately. "I laugh, replied the latter, "at the idea that you should far yourself able to find money or valuables in the dark, and without a lamp, when I can't discover any even in britis

AFRAID OF HIM! -- Many of the Taylor scribblers is precate in strong terms the return of Mr. Clay to 21 United States Sonate. They already quake with furespecially "Independent" of the Philadelphia No American, whose political conscience in regard un had the ghost of Banque to uffright him, and Tark men lave Clay. Poor fellows!

Since in some of the States, laws have been ?" ed taxing old Bachelors, a Vankee down east has inv ted a courting machine, by which bushful lovers may brought to law in an incredibly short time. It is ealer ted to lessen the number of old Bachelors one half: first year and clear them out entirely the second.

I Mr. David S. Anderson of Trenton, New Jos has contracted to build one dozon frame buildings

II It is stated that the Whigs of Portsmouth, " light procession, and immediately after reduced in

"Sonny, dear," said a fond mother, "von'res

The New York Evening Post, in speaking of C forma, remarks that the Anglo-Saxon race for the time in their lives, own and occupy gold wines of m great value. Hithorto, Africans, Asiates or lad have held them, and they have not shown that store combined with preserverance, which belongs to m. Es land never had a gold mine. The Americans have be a golden chance, and they are the first of their bloomer had it. They will be sure to turn the oppositated to account.

Curious Law .- In Cincinnati they have a cm et nauco requiring all vehicles to keep thirty feet apart drays together.