

The fine frigate St. Lawrence, commanded by Captain Patterson, has been displaying the American flag in the North Sea, the Baltic, and in the British Channel. Everywhere it has been greeted with distinguished attention.

At an entertainment given to Captain Patterson, his officers and crew, by the citizens of Southampton, (England,) a tone of cordiality prevailed highly pleasant to witness.

Old John Bull has had many sons, but the first-born and noblest of them all is Jonathan, the American; and while Jonathan was a little boy, he was a very docile obedient child; but Jonathan grew stout and strong, and became a man, and learned to think and feel for himself, and he claimed to set for himself as a man.

Now, Jonathan, the son, has become great among the greatest nations the world has ever seen, and John Bull, the father, looks with exultation and pride on the greatness and glory of his son, and admires, with approving and exulting emotions, his giant form, his manly strength, his mighty intelligence, his aptitude for all the business of life, his indomitable courage, and his unconquerable love of freedom and liberty.

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Some six months ago, we gave a short sketch of a Government Survey, with reference to minerals, then progressing in the regions of Lake Superior and the adjacent territory.

The party to which we were attached, have spent the summer on the north shore of Lake Superior, and the streams that flow from the dividing ridges each way to the Gulf of Mexico, the great Lakes, and Hudson's Bay.

Dr. Randall's party went up the Crow Wing river to near the source, and thence across to the mouth of the Crow Wing, a tributary of the St. Peters, where he was robbed by some renegade Sioux.

Dr. Schumard and Mr. Wyle were on the St. Peter's river a part of the season. Mr. Protton, Dr. Parry, and Messrs. Weeks and Haines, were on the Mississippi, below the Falls of St. Anthony, and its tributaries of both shores.

After coming to the mouth of the Crow Wing River, which is about 150 miles above the Falls of St. Anthony, the country does not appear to be of much value for agriculture.

A FEMALE OF SPIRIT.—A young man from a town in the north-eastern section of the State became afflicted with the prevailing mania, and took passage for California in a brig now fitting out from this port.

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Messrs. Wm. H. Aspinwall, John L. Stevens and Henry Chace, of the City of New York, propose to build a railroad across the Isthmus of Panama to connect the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

The Government of New Granada granted a charter to a French company for the above purpose, some years ago, which was recently transferred, with additional stipulations, to the New York company.

The bill passed by Congress is also very favorable. Its principal features we extract: They shall transport by steam, on said road, across the said Isthmus, for a period of twenty years, free of cost, or charge, the mails, all persons in the employ or service of the United States.

At least seven-eighths of the stock of said road shall, at all times, be owned by citizens of the United States, and the principal office of the said company shall be in some seaport town of the United States.

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION.

Gov. Edwards, of Missouri, comes out in his late message, in favor of homestead exemption. As this is a subject on which there is considerable interest, we give the argument of the Governor.

THE CALIFORNIA FEVER. A letter received from Cuba, and published in the New York Dispatch, dated Havana, Dec. 29th, contains the following interesting particulars:

SINGULAR MARRIAGE. A few days since, while the sleighing was fine, a party of ladies and gentlemen met at a hotel at Kingsbridge, Westchester county.

THE CALIFORNIA FEVER. A letter received from Cuba, and published in the New York Dispatch, dated Havana, Dec. 29th, contains the following interesting particulars:

ERIE, PA. SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 3, 1840.

MR. CLAY ONCE MORE IN THE SENATE.

Since the whigs in the Kentucky Legislature have nominated Mr. Clay for a seat in the United States Senate, and that distinguished individual has consented to serve in that capacity, many of the whig papers are expressing their joy in their usual extravagant style at the event, and predicting all sorts of party prosperity as likely to flow from the result.

"The whigs are rejoicing—but surely this is not the time for the Democrats to keep open a question which is only calculated to divide them, when we want all our strength to maintain our principles against the Whig party, just flushed with victory, and just coming into power—at whose head we shall find the Father of the American system, and the Champion of their party."

Now with all due deference to the acknowledged political experience and wisdom of the Editor of the Union, we cannot refrain from expressing our belief that nothing could be more appropos to the times, or better calculated to promote the cause and unite the friends of Democratic measures every where, than this return of Mr. Clay to the field upon which he has been so often put hors du combat by the champions of Democracy.

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EARLY DISCOVERIES OF GOLD.—The Washington Union, re-publishes an interesting document, recently submitted to the Historical Society of New York, going to show that Capt. Geo. Shelvocke, of the ship "Speedwell," fitted out in 1719, by a number of merchants of London, to cruise in the South seas, discovered gold in California in 1731.

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By Telegraph to the Observer and the Buffalo and Pittsburgh papers.

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