AMERICAN VOLUNTEER.

JOHN B. BRATTON, Editor & Proprietor.

CARLISLE, PA., DEC. 8, 1859.

CONGRESS assembled on Monday, but at latest advices the House had not effected an organization. Several of the Democratic members were absent. A vote was taken for Speaker. The Administration members supported Mr. Bocock, of Virginia. A portion of the Republicans voted for Mr. Sherman, and a portion for Mr. Grow. The votes of the American and anti-Lecompton members were scattered. After the ballot, Mr. Grow withdrew his name as a candidate for the Speakership, and after some debate, the House adjourned without a second vote.

ACQUITTED.—In the United States District Court, at Philadelphia, on Saturday last, Judge CADWALLADER presiding, PETER KIEFAUVER was placed on trial on the charge of secreting and embezzling a letter sent by J. M. RUSSELL to RICHARD WOODS, containing bank notes to the value of $170.

The defendant was employed as an assistant Postmaster in the Post Office at Dickinson, this county, and was charged with abstracting from said office a letter containing bank notes to the value of $170, alleged to have been sent by J. M. RUSSELL, dated Bedford, the 11th day of May, 1859, and directed to RICHARD WOODS, Treasurer of the Cumberland Valley Mutual Protection Society.

There not being sufficient evidence of guilt in the case, the jury rendered a verdict of not guilty.

DEMOCRATIC VICTORY.—The Democracy of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, at the recent election held there, succeeded in electing their candidate for Mayor, John R. Redding, Esq., by a handsome majority.

NON-INTERCOURSE ADVOCATED.—The merchants and business men of Richmond, are about to hold a public meeting, for the purpose of importing goods direct to Southern ports; they have also enrolled their names in a "Southern Rights' Association," the object of which is to pledge themselves not to trade with the Northern cities, till the people in that quarter learn to let the institutions of the South alone. As forty million dollars worth of manufactured articles from the North are annually sold in Virginia, this non-intercourse determination, if carried out fully, will affect the business of Northern manufacturers and merchants.

DEATH CAUSED BY MANIA A POTU.—Early on Monday morning, of last week, Mr. John A. Rockafellow, while laboring under the effects of *mania-a-potu*, jumped from the window of his bed room, in the third story of the State Capitol Hotel, at Harrisburg, Pa., and was instantly killed.

FEMALE "REGULATORS."—In Williamsburg, Ohio, on November 18, a company of women, 60 in number, charged on the brewery and rum establishment of one Booles, and knocked the heads out of the whisky, brandy and beer barrels, and turned the liquor into the street. To complete the work, they tore the furnaces up, broke the kettles, and destroyed the hops and malt. Booles intends to bring an action for damages.

"STOLEN BOY" IDENTIFIED.—The Cleveland (O.) *Herald* states, that the young man who recently visited that town in search of his parents, having been stolen, when a child, by Indians, and lived among them over twenty years, has been identified by a family named Brayton, as Matthew Brayton, and the story of his abduction has been verified in every particular.

MISSISSIPPI.—The inauguration of the Governor elect of Mississippi took place at Jackson on the 20th ult. In referring to the national questions of the day, he says he regarded the scene at Harper's Ferry as a mere rash attempt to put the Black Republican creed into practical operation. He thought it the beginning of the end of the "irrepressible conflict."

☞ At Newton, N. H., recently, a telegraph line repairer saw a partridge fly against the wire, striking it with some force, and fall dead. On examination, he found that the wire had passed between the bill of the bird, splitting its head and cutting off its tongue.

AN ARTFUL DODGER.—A German, riding in a wagon, near Franklin, Conn., a few days ago, was asked for a ride by a boy. The man consented, and the youngster asked him to smell a very fine perfume, which he had in a bottle. The German smelt the chloroform, and became insensible, and when he revived, found the young scamp had stolen his watch, $15 in cash, and a buffalo robe.

ATTEMPT TO MURDER.—On Friday evening of last week, George Lind, a German shoemaker, residing in Orange street, Baltimore, Md., was shot at by some unknown assassin, who fired through a transom door. The shot grazed Mr. Lind's head, and struck his daughter, about 9 years old, who sat by him, on the temple, severing the temporal muscles and artery, and inflicting a severe, but, it is hoped, not a dangerous wound.

SUBTERRANEAN FOREST.—The Racine (Wisconsin) *Advocate* states that in digging for water, in sloughs, throughout the whole town of Yorkville, Racine county, traces of dense tamarack forests are found, and generally in a leaning direction, their tops towards the southeast, as though some mighty flood had suddenly overwhelmed them.

SAD END.—A courtesan, called "blue-eyed Mary," was buried in St. Louis last week, only the driver of the hearse and a negro sexton accompanying the body to the grave. Five years ago she was the respected and lovely daughter of a wealthy merchant of that city, but went astray.

MURDER IN NEW ORLEANS, LA.—On the evening of the 21st ult., Ned Collins, a steamboat hand, was stabbed in the abdomen, on the levee at New Orleans, La., without the slightest provocation, and died in a few minutes. The assassin was Tom Murphy, another steamboat hand, who has escaped for the present.

A MURDERER CONVICTED.—The jury in the case of Levi Ostrander, indicted last week at St. Louis, Mo., for the murder of Jas. McCoy, in St. Charles county, came into court with a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree.

☞ German is taught in the Cincinnati public schools, and the St. Louis papers are discussing the adoption of the practice there.

Death of Washington Irving.

Washington Irving, the venerated and beloved patriarch of American literature, is dead.—He died last Monday night a week, at his beautiful rural residence, "Sunnyside," near Tarrytown, New York. He retired to his room about 10 o'clock, feeling more languid than usual, and complaining of pain in his side, but apparently not more feeble than he had been for several months past. Just as he reached his room, and while one of his nieces was near him, he suddenly fell, and in a moment was gone. A physician was soon with him, but no mortal aid could avail to bring him back to life.

Washington Irving was born in the city of New-York, April 3, 1783, and was accordingly past the middle of his seventy-seventh year, at the time of his death. No man in America has contributed more than Mr. Irving, both in the variety and the excellence of his writings, to give a literary reputation to his country. He commenced early his career as a writer. The first efforts of his pen, at the age of nineteen, were critical notices of the drama and current town topics. The taste which was congenial to literature did not incline him to the study of law, which was chosen as his profession, and in a few years after he was engaged in the work of entertaining the town with his humorous papers, periodically published, as "Salmagundi; or the Whim-whams of Launcelot Langstaff, Esq." These papers were the first public indications of the playful fancy, humor, sentiment and grace of style, which are the distinguishing characteristics of Mr. Irving's writings. His "Knickerbocker's New York," produced at the age of twenty seven, is probably the richest exhibition of ludicrous humor extant. It laid the foundation of his fame as a writer, and soon introduced him to the notice of the first literary men of the age in this country and in Europe, among whom was the celebrated Walter Scott. His "Sketch Book" and "Bracebridge Hall" followed, both of which were produced in Europe, where he resided for seventeen years.—During his sojourn abroad, he enriched his fancy with the fascinating legends of Spanish history, and subsequently produced the "Chronicles of the Conquest of Grenada," "Tales of the Alhambra," "Life and Voyages of Columbus and his Companions," all of which were received with favor and added to his literary fame. His other works are a "Life of Goldsmith," "Astoria," "Captain Bonneville's Adventures in the Rocky Mountains and Far West," and "Mahomet and his Successors."—The last and crowning labor of his literary life, was the "Life of Washington," recently completed, in four volumes. This great work, incomparably the best memoir of Washington ever written, was at once the employment and the solace of his declining years, and will prove a lasting monument to the subject and the author.

Though much of Mr. Irving's literary labor was devoted to historical subjects, it is his humorous and sentimental writings which have most contributed to his reputation. Nothing could be more entertaining than his Diedrich Knickerbocker's history, and nothing more genial than the story of Rip Van Winkle. They reach the fancy and the feeling of every reader, and open their hearts at once to the author.—Mr. Irving's writings are remarkable for gracefulness of style, felicity and purity of language, richness of humor, playfulness of fancy, with a large and happy power of invention. There are no bold and original ideas in his speculations, such as philosophic minds would delight to follow, but there is entertainment in every page of his books; something so spirited, airy, grotesque and pleasant, that they will always commend themselves to the reader in his happier moments of leisure, as a source of rich enjoyment and of most pleasant fancies.

The character of Mr. Irving was cherished with such admiration and delight in the hearts of his countrymen, that a cold analysis of its qualities, almost within the hour of his departure, would be no less impertinent than superfluous. The language of fond eulogium has been lavished in his praise. Our most eminent writers have loved to make his virtues the theme of cordial panegyric. In truth, the sympathy which he called forth by the sweetness and kindness of his heart was not surpassed by the homage which was freely paid to the splendid endowments of his intellect. It was the man, more than the author, in Washington Irving, which commanded such reverence and love, from neighbor and friend. It is as a sincere, generous, large-hearted, and healthy-minded man that he will be remembered with lingering affection, even if the lovers of literature could ever forget the debt which they owe to the productions of his rare and beautiful genius.

THE POST-OFFICE AND ABOLITION DOCUMENTS.—The Attorney General of Virginia has given an opinion as to the rights of the State authorities to prevent the circulation of Abolition documents through the post office. Attorney-General Tucker says the laws of Virginia require postmasters to give notice to some justice, if they receive any books or writing inciting negroes to rebel or inculcating resistance to the right of property of masters in their slaves; and the justice shall have such book or writing burned in his presence. This State law, he says, is entirely constitutional, and does not conflict with the Federal authority. This Federal power to transmit and carry mail matter does not carry with it the power to publish or to circulate. This last is a great State power, reserved, and absolutely necessary to be maintained, as a security to its citizens and to their rights. It is true the postmaster is an officer of the Federal Government; but, it is equally true, he is a citizen of the State. By taking the Federal office, he cannot avoid his duty as a citizen; and the obligation to perform the duty of his office cannot absolve him from obedience to the law of his Commonwealth. This opinion has been sent to all the deputy postmasters in the State, that they may regulate their conduct by it. If they act upon it, their action will curtail very much the operation of the franking privileges as used to circulate incendiary documents.

SUNDAY LAW IN OHIO.—An important decision concerning municipal Sunday ordinances has been given by the Supreme Court of Ohio. It is to the effect that any municipal ordinance prohibiting, under a penalty, the opening of shops, &c., on Sunday, without excepting cases of necessity and charity, and without exempting from its operations persons who conscientiously observe the seventh day of the Sabbath, is inconsistent with the laws of the State, and, therefore, void.

☞ The English and Americans rarely bathe their horses, but in Prussia it is the custom to attach to the cavalry barracks a capacious basin for swimming the horses in.

The Washington Family.

A correspondent of the *Louisville Journal* says: In correcting the error in regard to the relationship between Lewis W. Washington and the Washington, you inadvertently fell into some others. Dangerfield Lewis is not the grandson of Fielding, but of Warner Lewis and Bettie Washington, Fielding being a son of Warner and Bettie Lewis. Neither is Dangerfield Lewis the nearest living relative of General Washington, for while William Spottswood, of Orange county, Va., bears the same relationship (through his mother Elizabeth, the daughter of Augustine, the brother of Washington) there are three other persons living who are yet nearer—Robert Spotswood, of Henry county, Mo., Mrs. Adeline Butler Anderson, of Louisville, Ky., and Mrs. Eliza Washington Dodge, of Smyth county, Va., son and daughters of General Alexander E. and Elizabeth Spotswood. A very singular coincidence may here be stated. Gen. Spotswood was born in the same month, on the same day of the month, in the same house, in the same room, and in the same corner of the room, in which General Washington was born, and perhaps was more nearly like his great ancestor in size, features, and general appearance than any other of his descendants.

Mrs. General Spotswood was the daughter of Fielding, and grand-daughter of Warner and Bettie Lewis, by whom she was brought up after the death of her mother, which took place while she was a small girl; and General Spotswood, her husband, was another son of Elizabeth, the daughter of Augustine Washington.

Hence, you see that, while Dangerfield Lewis and William Spotswood are one degree nearer, it is through only one branch of the family, while Robert Spotswood, Mrs. Adelaide B. Anderson, and Mrs. Eliza Washington Dodge are direct descendants through two branches. During many years of his later life General Washington was the frequent guest of General Spotswood, and gave names and stood as godfather to several of their children, among whom were Mrs. Dodge and Mrs. Anderson.

EXPORTS OF WHEAT FROM FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES.—The exports of wheat from France for the year ending in August last, were 30,000,000 bushels, out of a crop estimated at 200,000,000 bushels. The crop was not more than an average one, and the exports were about 15 per cent. of the product. The largest quantity of wheat exported from the United States in one year was 32,000,000 bushels, or 20 per cent. of the growth.

NEW JERSEY.—It is stated that Mr. Ten Eyck's right to a seat in the Senate, as Senator from New Jersey, will be contested, on the ground that he was elected by a majority of only one, that one being Joel M. Johnson, whom it is charged was made a member of the Legislature by illegal means. A protest to that effect was drawn up and signed by the Democratic members of the Legislature immediately after Mr. Ten Eyck's election. It will be presented to the United States Senate as soon as Mr. Ten Eyck's credentials are laid before the Senate.

HEAVY VERDICT.—In the case of Ogier vs. the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, tried in Chester county last week, the jury rendered a verdict in favor of Mrs. Ogier, the plaintiff, of $10,250. It will be remembered that the award of the arbitrators, from which the company appealed, was $15,000. The only case tried besides this was Bond vs. the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and the jury rendered a verdict of $500 to the plaintiff. Herman Bond was in the carriage when Dr. Ogier was killed, and received some injuries from the collision.

NEWS FROM SEBASTOPOL.—Mr. Samuel F. Holbrook, of Boston, Mass., in a letter dated Sebastopol, Oct. 23, says: "We are quite busy in raising the big ships, and I assure you that it is hard work. We have raised eleven ships of the line, and twenty-four smaller ships, such as frigates, corvettes, gun brigs and steamers." He gives a sad account of the immorality of the people now inhabiting Sebastopol, and expresses an earnest longing to enjoy once more our New England Sabbaths. Another year will probably be required to accomplish the undertaking of the company.

MARINE LOSSES FOR NOVEMBER.—The marine losses for the past month have been unusually severe; more so, it is alleged, than for forty years past. The New York Courier and Enquirer states them as follows:—9 steamers, 56 ships, 37 barks, 19 brigs, 34 schooners. The value of the vessels and freights is stated at $3,202,100; that of the cargoes, $6,543,160; making an aggregate of $9,746,260! These are the losses, so far as known, from all parts of the world, but it is feared that when the amount of the losses on the British coasts is ascertained, the sum will fully reach $12,000,000.

☞ Extensive efforts appear to be simultaneously making in different parts of the country to put in circulation large quantities of counterfeit money. A party of eleven men lately left Cario, Illinois, on a circulating voyage down the Mississippi, having on hand $125,000 of counterfeit $100 notes on the Canal Bank of New Orleans. Some $5000 in counterfeits on the Philadelphia Bank have been received in Cincinnati within a few days, at the banks.

☞ The tide of emigration into and through Arkansas is said to be very great. At Little Rock, the steam ferry boat, though constantly running, cannot cross the wagons as they come, so that fifty or sixty may be seen on the opposite bank of the river. The *Democrat* says all the leading roads of the State are lined with movers. The greater part of this emigration is destined for Texas.

☞ In a recent sermon, Rev. Dr. Cumming stated, that more people went out of London every Sabbath on excursions of pleasure than were found in all the churches and chapels of the city, and that out of a population of three millions, there were but 150,000 communicants in the churches of all evangelical denominations.

EFFECTS OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD.—The municipal council of the town of Anderson, Canada, have presented a document to the Grand Jury of the county of Essex, in which they state that nine tenths of the crimes committed in the county are perpetrated by colored men, fugitive slaves, and they call for measures to protect the property of the citizens; or persons of capital will be compelled to leave the county.

Uneducated Condition of the Rural Population of England.

It is a very singular fact that England, which has the advantage over most other countries, in the degree of political liberty enjoyed by her inhabitants, should be so far behindhand as she really is in the matter of general education.—While a liberal provision had long ago been made in her universities and colleges for instructing the nobility and gentry of the kingdom in the ancient classics, and in such branches of knowledge as it was thought most desirable that they should become acquainted with, it is only quite lately that institutions have been established for teaching to the working classes of the community anything beyond the veriest rudiments—and the agricultural population have been allowed to remain to this day in a state of lamentable ignorance.

The Rev. Mr. Pilkington, Chaplain to Walsingham Bridewell, in the county of Norfolk, draws a gloomy picture of "the awful, almost incredible, ignorance of the agricultural classes in this district of Norfolk;" and there is no evidence that the condition of things in this respect is any worse there than in other parts of the country.

It is stated by Mr. Pilkington that during the past year 240 prisoners were committed to the Bridewell, and of these 121 could not read a letter in a book, 157 could not write their names, 57 could not say a word of the Lord's Prayer, and 84 could say it but very imperfectly; 61 could not tell who Jesus Christ was, or mention how or for what purpose he died, and were to all intents and purposes heathens.

☞ The Banking business in Georgia is likely to meet with some disagreeable drawbacks. The Governor of that State, in his recent message, recommends a revision of the criminal code, to the end that a suspension of specie payment by any bank in Georgia shall be deemed conclusive evidence of fraud on the part of the President and Directors, and the officers of the bank should be punished for it by imprisonment in the Penitentiary, without permitting them to show that it was not a fraud. This is rather strong, but it is quite likely that suspensions of specie payments would not become very fashionable or popular under the operation of such a law.

☞ Of the 5,000 "mothers of the Revolution," widows of Revolutionry soldiers, who originally received pensions under the law of 1836, only 36 remain alive. All these were married during or prior to the year 1783, and have consequently survived their marriage 77 years or more. Sally Stewart was married in 1776, at the age of 16, and has survived her marriage 84 years. Ann Davis was married at 13, and has survived the event 80 years. It is a remarkable fact that 30 of the 36 were married under the age of 18 years, and that the average age of their marriages was about 16½ years.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH STATISTICS.—The Episcopal Church in the United States contains 88 dioceses. The present number of bishops, provisional bishops and assistant bishops is 43; priests and deacons, 2030; parishes, 2110. There were ordained during the year, 78 deacons and 93 priests. Number of candidates for holy orders, 281. Churches consecrated, 69. The baptisms were as follows:—Infants, 24,416; adults, 5121; not stated, 487; total, 30,028. Number of confirmations, 14,596; communicants added, 14,794; present number, 135,767; marraiges 7059; burials, 12,442; Sunday school teachers, 14,091; scholars, 118,069. Amount of contributions for missionary and charitable purposes, $1,627,183 12.

☞ Thos. G. Rutherford, late Superintendent of the Western House of Refuge, who was convicted of adultery with several of the inmates, at a recent term of the Allegheny county Court, was, on Saturday last, sentenced to pay a fine of fifty pounds, costs of prosecution, and undergo an imprisonment of twelve months in the county jail. The fifty pounds is Pennsylvania currency and amounts to the sum of $133,33⅓. The sentence was the full extent of the law.

ANOTHER MEXICAN SOLDIER DEAD.—We regret to learn of the death of Col. James Coulter, which occurred at Latrobe, on Monday of last week. Colonel Coulter served gallantly throughout the whole of the Mexican war. He leaves behind him a family and many warm friends to mourn his demise. He was forty years of age at the time of his death.

☞ The Leavenworth (Kansas) *Herald* says that it is probable that Parrott's (Rep.) majority will not exceed 500. It is not certain that the Legislature will be Republican. In the Council there are thirteen members. The Democrats have certainly elected five members, with a chance of two more. In the House are thirty-nine members. According to the *Herald* the Democracy have elected twenty members, which gives them one majority.

A GOOD BEGINNING.—A young married woman in Jackson township, Lebanon county, recently presented her husband with three female children at one birth. This was her first effort in the family line, and may be considered a very good beginning. One of the infants died, but the other two, with the mother, are doing well.

A NEW ENTERPRISE.—A meeting of the citizens of Pottstown, Pa., was held on Saturday evening last, to consider the feasibility of erecting a building for the manufacture of cotton goods. A committee was appointed for the purpose of devising plans to give life to the project, and to secure the co-operation of the citizens generally.

IMPRESSIVE SCENE.—In Leghorn, Italy, on the 7th of October, a remarkable incident took place. For the first time, the Jews of that city offered up a prayer for a Christian Prince, and invoked the blessing of Heaven upon Victor Emanuel, King of Sardinia. At the first word, the three thousand Jews present rose to their feet, and remained standing until the close of the prayer, to which they all responded with an overwhelming "Amen."

SOLID CIDER.—The Messrs. Borden, of Litchfield, Conn., who solidify milk, have also succeeded in solidifying sweet cider, so that five quarts are reduced to one, which becomes a jelly-like substance, and can instantly be made sweet and liquid cider again by the addition of water.

☞ Some persons in Paris have under consideration the practicability of supplying the city by means of pipes, with compressed air, for the purpose of driving machinery, &c., and the scheme is attracting considerable attention in scientific circles.

☞ The shoes of the people of England are estimated to cost more than fifty million dollars annually.

Latest European News.

We have news from Europe to the 20th ult., received by the Europa. It would seem that our treaty with China is not likely to be carried out, as the Chinese are reported to have refused to open the ports of Suantople and Taiman. England has not yet received any formal invitation from France to join the European Congress; instructions, however, had been given to the French ambassador at London to arrange with Lord John Russel the preliminary conditions. The French prefects have received directions to request the French journals to be more circumspect in their language toward England. England and Austria have both protested against the regency in Italy. Buoncompagni was about to tender his resignation of the regency to the Sardinian government. The Spanish were continuing their preparations for the invasion of Morocco, and were expected to land 40,000 men in that country early in December. A general massacre of Christians in Morocco was feared. Two British war steamers had brought off 350 Christians from the small ports in Morocco.—There appears to be a good deal of apprehension in England of hostilities with France.—England will commence enrolling a naval reserve of 30,000 men on the 1st of January.—The *Times* says the feeling of hostility in France against England is more bitter than ever since 1815, and charges the French government with encouraging it.

☞ Wonderful accounts are given in the California papers of the richness of the famous Washoe valley, or rather Carson valley, silver mines—far ahead of the world-renowned mines of Chili and Peru. The vein now being worked is situated just over the line of California, in Utah Territory, distant about 175 miles from Sacramento city, perfectly accessible by teams, over 400 of which are now hauling over that route to and from Salt Lake. The mines were discovered by a man named Comstock, and, as usual, he sold his claims for a small amount to different parties, who are now working them. One company, known as the Walsh Company, are getting out at the rate of two tons a day of the silver ore, besides several tons of the quartz stripped from the vein, which has been yielding, by the Mexican "Arasta" process, over $400 per day; but the gold is lessening as they go down, and gradually merging into silver. The vein has been traced over a thousand feet. The Walsh Company have 1,400 feet; next comes Bryant & Raymond, who own fifty feet, for which they paid $400 per foot; from which they have already shipped thirteen tons ore, worth, by actual demonstration, over $3,000 per ton. From the Walsh vein there have been about twenty-eight tons shipped. This ore is sold for from $2,500 to $6,000 per ton, containing both gold and silver, but silver principally.

STOCK RAISING IN TEXAS.—The tide of emigration that has set toward this State for the last few years has been very great, and the number of emigrants this year undoubtedly exceeds that of any previous one. The mania for stock raising which has grown out of the glowing accounts sent us by those who have been hitherto successfully engaged in that business there, have materially contributed to this influx. Texas is admirably adapted to agricultural pursuits; her soil, her climate, are all that can be wished for fertility and salubrity. The New Orleans *Delta* says it would not be surprised if, at the next census, Texas should be found to contain nearly a million of people, devoted to those branches of industry, for which her vast surface and varied resources offer so many inducements.

WANTS ANOTHER WIFE.—A Cingolese tailor lately petitioned Sir Henry Ward for leave to marry again, as he has not seen his wife for 20 years. He was thus made happy. "His Excellency the Governor, having taken into consideration the petition of B. De Hobn of Kandy, praying that he may be permitted to marry again, has directed the petitioner to be informed that the Governor has nothing to do with settling matrimonial quarrels, but that his Excellency thinks that a man who has not seen his wife for twenty years may fairly assume that he will not see her again, and may do his best to supply her place."

A TALL AND HEAVY FAMILY.—The largest, tallest, and heaviest family in the country, is probably to be found in Bourbon county, Ky.—The father of this family of six sons and three daughters, who is now in his seventieth year, is a native of Maryland, but removed to Kentucky when quite young. He is 6 feet 4 inches in height, and weighs 200 pounds; the mother 6 feet 4 inches, and weighs 285 pounds; James, 6 feet 6 inches, 212 pounds; Thomas, 6 feet 4 inches, 286 pounds; Sarah, 6 feet 6 inches, 165 pounds; John, 6 feet 11 inches, 290 pounds; Mary, 6 feet 2 inches, 150 pounds; Elijah, 6 feet 2 inches, 150 pounds; Matthew, 6 feet 2 inches, 210 pounds; Eli, 6 feet 4 inches, 197 pounds; daughter, 6 feet 8 inches, 160 pounds. Total height, 70 feet; total weight, 2,829 pounds!

COLORS AS INDICATIVE OF BREED.—Some persons are inclined to give the preference to the darker colors, from the fact that among animals generally the lighter the skin the weaker the energy. Lord Bacon seems to have entertained the same idea, when he asserted white to be the color of defect. In some respects white may be regarded as denoting debility. Renewed skin generally produces white hair, and grays become gradually lighter as they advance in years. The most esteemed as well as the most common colors, are the bay, gray, brown, black, and chestnut. Some breeds maintain a peculiar and uniform tint. The Flanders horse is usually black.

THE SUPREMACY OF THE LAWS.—The Rev. Dr. Bacon, says the *Hartford Courant*, in his discourse to his people on Thanksgiving day, took the opportunity sharply to rebuke what he denominated an *unmanly, unpatriotic, unchristian spirit*, manifested at the North in regard to the tragical affair at Harper's Ferry. He specified three particulars in which we were in the wrong:—1st. In deriding the fear occasioned by the invasion; 2d. In blaming Virginia for maintaining her laws; 3d. In sympathizing with the insurgents in their unlawful act. On each of these points the doctor spoke with great plainness and solemnity; and many, if not most of the large congregation present, felt that the reproof was just, timely and important.

☞ It was stated some time since that the British frigate Shannon, which captured the Chesapeake, was to be broken up in England. A song writer has saved the ship, as O. W. Holmes saved our own old Constitution. One of the London rhymers, on reading the Admiralty order to break up the Shanon, addressed a patriotic poem to the powers that be, the effect which is, that the captor of the Chesapeake will not be blotted from the navy register. She has just been detailed as a sort of practice ship for young marines at Liverpool, and will be carefully attended to.

Later From California.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 2.—The Overland California Mail from San Francisco on the 11th, was received at Jefferson City this afternoon.

Dr. Forney, Superintendent of Indian Affairs in Utah, has arrived with the remaining two survivors of the Mountain Meadow massacre, who served as witnesses in the investigation made into the affair.

Further intelligence with reference to the discoveries of gold in the southeast part of Missouri, confirms the previous reports.

The recent rains had penetrated every section of the State, giving renewed activity to the agricultural and mining interests.

The bridge across the Yuba river at Park's bar, had been swept away by high water.

The Sacramento Valley Railroad was being vigorously pushed forward. An additional section of eighteen miles will be finished on the 1st of January. The portion already finished was paying 18 per cent. on the cost.

The claim of Henry Cabruston, to eleven square leagues of land in Sacramento Valley, had been rejected by Judge Hoffman, of the United States Court, on the ground that Mr. Cabruston was an unnaturalized foreigner, and was consequently incapable of receiving a grant of land from the Mexican government. This decision has an important bearing upon other cases, involving a vast amount of landed property.

James Jenison, late Deputy Clerk of Sacramento, absconded in the steamer which sailed on the 4th ultimo, for New York. It had since been discovered that he was a defaulter to the amount of $16,000, and also that he had converted to his own use $14,000 worth of county bonds.

Four highwaymen had attempted to rob a stage having a large amount of treasure, belonging to Wells, Fargo & Co. Two of the robbers were killed and one wounded by two Sacramento policemen who were in the coach at the time of the attack.

General Kibbe, of the California militia, who has been engaged for several months past in breaking up the haunts of the Pitt River Indians, has thus far succeeded in killing eight warriors and taking four hundred prisoners. The laiter have been placed in the Mendocino reservation, for domestication.

The special correspondent of the Sacramento *Union*, waiting from the new silver mines as East Sierra Nevada, says the actual cash sale, of but a small interest in the Comstock vein, since the last of September, amount to $60,000. The same correspondent says there are indications of other and extensive silver veins, and thinks that the coutry around Carson Valley and along the eastern slope of Sierra Nevada, is destined to become one of the richest mineral regions in America.

A FEMALE PATRIOT.—During a contested election at Exeter, England, one of the candidates called at a house to solicit the vote and interest of an honest freeman. The honorable gentleman was met at the door by the better half of the freeman, and directly made known his business. "My husband shan't vote for you," was the reply of the lady. Remonstrance was attempted to no purpose; for, acting on the now recognized principle that she had a right to do what she pleased with her own, the good woman pertinaciously persisted in her hard-hearted refusal. Smiles and entreaties having failed, the candidate requested permission to see the husband, as a person who was a little interested in the business; but the freeman's wife, absolutely shocked at the proposal to tamper with her nominee, exclaimed, in great anger: "What, sir, attempt to make a difference between man and wife? I am ashamed of you!" She instantly slammed the door in his face. In order to keep her word, she took her husband to the polling booth, and witnessed the manner in which his vote was tendered.

RELIGIOUS MADNESS.—The physician of a lunatic asylum attached to a hospital in a neighboring State, says that a large proportion of the recent cases in that institution are owing to religious excitement. A majority of these are of the "weaker vessel," and therefore easily wrought to a state of phrenzy, which has ended in perfect madness. Attending religious meetings early and late, to the neglect of all other duties—listening to the doctrines of predestination—and persuading themselves into the belief that they are among the foredoomed to everlasting burnings—it is not to be wondered at that, under such circumstances, poor human nature should take refuge in insanity.—But these religious lunatics are not all females; among them is a young man who is constantly crying out—"He has destroyed the whole world! Satan has destroyed the whole world!"

Many of our modern preachers, like John Bunyan, get their hearers into the "Slough of Despond"—but they do not, as honest John did, take care to get them out again. Like the poor creatures who were thrown into the water, in the famous Ordeal Trials, if they cannot swim they must perish.

FORMATION OF DIAMONDS.—A writer in one of the German scientific magazines gives it as his opinion, founded on carefully conducted experiments, that the diamond is the product of condensed carbon, crystalized from liquid carbonic acid. It is known that diamonds not rarely show cavities, in which, according to all appearances, a considerable pressure must have taken place. Supposing these cavities to contain some kind of gas, it is argued that there is no reason why this might not be carbonic acid under a high pressure, and this theory would furnish a ready explanation, it is thought, of the color-rings with black crossing observed around the cavities in diamonds—by supposing them to be caused in a similar manner as those of unevenly compressed glass. The carbonic acid then stands in the same relation to diamonds, as the mother lay inclosed in a number of artificial and native crystals. That there are large quantities of carbonic acid under a high pressure in the body of our planet, is shown by the immense quantities escaping at various localities.

DISCOVERY OF INDIAN CORN.—Previously to the settlement of the Puritans in New England, they formed parties for the purpose of exploring the country. Capt. Miles Standish, who was called the "Hero of New England," commanded one of them, consisting of sixteen men. In their progress they met with several hillocks, supposed by them to be burial places for the Indians, but, as they advanced, finding many more, they closely examined them, and discovered that they contained *Indian Corn*. Being buried in the ear, it excited their curiosity, and by some of the party it was thought a valuable acquisition, while others, who ate it in a raw state, did not relish it, and thought it worth little or nothing. They secured, however, some seed. In the ensuing spring, a *Squanto*, a friendly Indian, instructed them in the culture of it, and it was probably the means of saving them afterwards from famine.

☞ The Governor of Mississippi, in his annual message, recommends making it the duty of the Governor to communicate to the Legislature, at its regular sessions, the number of pardons which he has granted, and his reasons in each case for the same.

The Execution of Brown.

Order and Quietness in Charlestown—Interview of Brown with his Wife in Jail—His last Will and Testament—Brown's interview with his Fellow Culprits—He charges Cook with Deception—The Scene at the Scaffold—No speech from Brown—His Last Words—Impressive and Imposing Military Display at the scene of Execution.

CHARLESTOWN, Va., Dec. 1, 1859.

Mrs. Brown arrived here this morning, under an escort of nine cavalry. She travelled in a carriage from Harper's Ferry, accompanied by Capt. Moore, of the Montgomery Guard, now stationed at that point. The Captain was on his way from Richmond yesterday to join his company at the Ferry, and while on his way from the Relay House was informed by a citizen of the State, who was a passenger on board, that Mrs. Brown was in the cars, accompanied by two gentlemen and a lady.

Capt. Moore, on getting to Harper's Ferry, took the whole party in charge, and telegraphed to Gen. Talliferro informing him of the arrival of the party. The General's instructions were to have them detained until further orders.

A detachment of nine cavalry was sent on this morning to conduct Mrs. Brown hither, and orders sent to Capt. Moore to have the lady and two gentlemen who accompanied her detained on their way to this town. The Captain frequently referred to the sad fate of her husband, but she was in no way moved by this reference, she seemed rather to regard him in the light of a martyr.

Gen. Talliferro, before Mrs. Brown entered the cell, asked Brown what time he would require for an interview. He replied, "Two or three hours." "That," said the General, "is too long, for Mrs. Brown has to go to Harper's Ferry to-night." "Well, then," said Brown, "I want the favor from the State of Virginia."

The interview between Brown and his wife lasted from four o'clock in the afternoon until near 8 o'clock in the evening, when Gen. Talliferro informed them that the period allowed had elapsed, and that she must prepare for departure to the Ferry. A carriage was again brought to the door, the military took possession of the square, and with an escort of 20 mounted men the cortege moved off—Capt. Moore, of the Montgomery Guards, accompanying her.

The interview was, I learn, not a very affecting one—rather of a practical character, with regard to the future of herself and children, and the arrangement and settlement of business affairs. They seemed considerably affected when they first met, and Mrs. Brown was on a few moments quite overcome, but Brown was as firm as a rock, and she soon recovered her composure. There was an impression that the prisoner might possibly be furnished with a weapon or with strychnine by his wife, and before the interview her person was searched by the wife of the jailor, and a strict watch kept over them during the time they were together.

At the time of separation they both seemed to be fully self-possessed, and the parting, especially on his part, exhibited a composure either feigned or real that was truly surprising. I learn from Capt. Moore that she rather repelled all attempt on his part to express sympathy with her under her afflictions.

She resented the idea that Capt. Brown had done anything to deserve death, or to taint his name with dishonor, and declared that the ignominious character of the punishment that was about to be inflicted upon him was as cruel as unjust. She regarded him as a martyr in a righteous cause, and was proud to be the wife of such a man. The gallows, she said, had no terrors for her or for him. She stated that she had not seen him since last June, about six months ago, and that they had been separated with the exception of a few days for nearly two years. They had, however, corresponded, and she had always felt a most deep interest in the cause in which he was engaged.

The character of the interview may be judged to some extent from this conversation with Capt. Moore, which took place previous to it.

I learn from Capt. Avis, the jailor, that the interview between the prisoner and his wife was characteristic of the man, and the directions given for the management and distribution of his property embraced all the minor details of his last will and testament.

Gen. Talliferro was present, and Capt. Brown urged that his wife be allowed to remain with him all night. To this the General refused to assent, allowing them but four hours.

On first meeting they kissed and affectionately embraced, and Mrs. Brown shed a few tears, but immediately checked her feelings.—They stood embraced, and she sobbing, for nearly five minutes, and he was apparently unable to speak. The prisoner only gave way for a moment, and was soon calm and collected, and remained firm throughout the interview.—At the close they shook hands, but did not embrace, and as they parted he said, "God bless you and the children." Mrs. Brown replied, "God have mercy on you," and continued calm until she left the room, when she remained in tears a few moments and then prepared to depart.

The interview took place in the parlor of Capt. Avis, and the prisoner was free from manacles of any kind. They sat side by side on a sofa, and after discussing family matters proceeded to business. He stated that he desired his property to pass entirely into her possession, and appeared to place full confidence in her ability to manage it properly for the benefit of his younger children. He requested her to remain at North Elba, New York, on the farm belonging to her. He desired that his younger children should be educated, and if she could not obtain facilities for their education at home to have them sent to a boarding school.

He then gave directions and dictated to Sheriff Campbell a will, which directed that all his property should go to his wife, with the exception of a few presents and requests which he made. To one of his sons he gave a *double ent glass*, and to another a watch, while a third was directed to take a tomb or monument that marks the grave of his father at North Elba, and have his name, age, and the manner of his death, together with the cause for which he had suffered, inscribed upon it. He directs that it shall remain at North Elba as long as his family reside there.

To each of his children he bequeathed the sum of fifty dollars, and to each of his daughters a Bible, to cost five dollars to be purchased out of money coming to him from his father's estate. Also he directs that a Bible, to cost three dollars, shall be presented to each of his grandchildren, and that fifty dollars each be paid to three individuals, whom he named, if they can be found, and if not, to their legal representatives.

During the course of conversation, Mr. Brown asked him if he had heard that, Gerrit Smith had become insane, and had been sent to the asylum at Utica? He replied that he had read of it in the papers and was sorry to hear it, but immediately changed the subject.

The subject of the death of his two sons was spoken of, and Mrs. Brown remarked that she had made some effort, while she was at Harper's Ferry, for the recovery of their bodies, to which object she said Col. Barbour had kindly consented to give his assistance. Capt. Brown remarked that he would also like the remains of the two Thompsons removed if they could be found, but suggested that it would be best to take his body with the bodies of his four sons, and get a pile of pine logs and burn them all together; that it would be much better and less expensive to thus gather up all their ashes together and take them to their final resting place.

Sheriff Campbell told him that this would not be permitted within the State and Mrs. Brown objected to the proposition altogether.

The prisoner said that he contemplated his death with composure and calmness. It would undoubtedly be pleasant to live longer, but as it was the will of God he should close his career, he was content. It was doubtless better that he should be thus legally murdered for the good of the cause, and he was prepared to submit to his fate without a murmur. Mrs. Brown becoming depressed at