General Items.

A nineteen-ounce baby is the present wonder of Richmond.

Kansas City, Missouri, built 2,000 houses last year.

There are said to be a million Baptists in Great Britain and Ireland.

A Boston merchant has a business ledger one hundred and ninety years old.

Kentucky is about to remodel her State House at an expense of $750,000.

Six pullets in North Bridgewater, Conn., have laid 540 eggs in the last six months.

A quack doctor in Wisconsin has been arrested for poisoning three wives in succession.

There were but 20,426 gallons whiskey distilled in the Richmond district last month.

Hon. Wm. H. Seward intends to visit California this summer.

The flood in the lower Mississippi has begun to subside.

Three car-loads of cattle were shipped for Baltimore at Lynchburg on Tuesday.

Seventeen towns in Mississippi are preparing to build cotton factories.

A new stock company has been formed in Boston to make cigars by machinery.

St. Tammany's day was celebrated by the Red Men of Richmond with a grand ball.

Trout measuring two feet in length, are caught in the mountain streams of California.

A National Convention of Photographers will be held in Boston during the first week in June.

A man has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment in England for stealing 50,000 feet of gas.

The purchase of land for a site for the new State Capitol building at Albany, New York, has cost nearly $500,000.

The wars from 1853 to 1866, according to the London Peace Society, cost Christendom 1,743,491 lives and $9,655,000,000.

Mr. George Peabody, who is in ill health, has expressed a desire to return to this country and end his days here.

Clubs of tourists intending to visit the United States this summer are forming in Hamburg, Leipsic, and Berlin.

The *Detroit Tribune* announces that "Italy has followed the example of Michigan," and abolished capital punishment.

Rufus L. Lord, the victim of the great "Lord bond robbery," died on Saturday in New York.

Mrs. Victor, the Cleveland murderess of her brother, is in Columbus (Ohio) prison, in a condition dying.

The Apostle Islands in Lake Superior are discovered to be admirably adapted to the culture of the grape.

The *Nation* advises women orators to sit down when they speak, and to dress well, not wearing pantaloons.

The annual fair of the State Agricultural Society of New York will be held at Elmira, commencing about the first of October.

The State Agricultural College of Michigan is said to be the oldest and most successful institution of the kind in the United States.

The Chief Inspector for Virginia reports $7,603 83 as the amount of tax on oysters collected during the month of April.

There is a fine chance for ministerial talent in New Haven, Conn. Six of her churches are now without pastors.

Improvements in Staunton are still going on rapidly. The enterprise exhibited by its citizens since the war is quite remarkable.

The Galt House, built at Louisville, Ky., last Friday night, is said to have been the most magnificent ever held in the West.

The Court House and Jail at Charlestown, Jefferson county, West Virginia, are offered for sale by the "supervisors" of that place.

The ladies of the Portsmouth (Va.) Memorial Association decorated the graves of the Southern soldiers at that place on Saturday last.

Old Salt was met at the Minneapolis Railroad depot on Friday by a procession of several hundred Scandinavians and escorted to the hotel, where he spoke and was spoken at.

Bismarck has ordered the male ballet dancers in Berlin to cut off their moustaches, and they in dismay have appealed to the King.

The proposed extension of the Alexandria, London and Hampshire Railroad will, it is said, cross the Blue Ridge mountains at Snicker's Gap.

There are nineteen book stores in Constantinople. They are mostly kept by Germans and Frenchmen, and do a good business.

The gifts presented to the Pope on the fiftieth anniversary of his admission to the priesthood, it is stated, amount in value to $1,000,000.

Mazzini is said to have one thousand agents in Italy, all of whom are so devoted to him that they would not hesitate to risk their lives at his bidding.

It was an apt answer of a young lady who being asked where she got her native place, replied: "I have none; I am the daughter of a Methodist minister."

There are over one hundred thousand grape vines growing in the vicinity of St. Joseph, Missouri, and the number is being largely increased this spring.

The hotel now being erected on Washington street, Boston, extending several squares, is to cost $300,000, and will have 350 rooms.

The New York Legislature has adjourned, full of days and iniquity. Its last job was to raise the New York city tax levy from $5,600,000 to $9,200,000

A soldier with a bullet in his breast—not back—received at Bull Run, has been removed from an Indiana post office, to make place for a rich Radical.

Polygamy is said to be fast dying out in the Sultan's dominions. The Turk of the period finds that the expense of one wife is as much as he can support.

Mr. George Ripley, who has been literary editor of *The Tribune* from the infancy of the paper, left yesterday in the Scotia for a tour in Europe.

Lamartine, it is said, charged ten dollars extra for that edition of his complete works, in each of the twelve volumes of which he had written his name.

Ernst Haberbler, the Norwegian Gottschalk, fell forward on his piano, dead, while playing at a concert in Bergen, Norway, recently.

The new whipping post and pillory at New Castle, Delaware, were inaugurated on Saturday. Three criminals were pilloried and ten were whipped.

Seventy-eight young men were admitted to the bar on Wednesday, by the general term of the Supreme Court of the New York city judicial district.

The Corporal of the Guard at the Palais des Invalides is an old *sabreur* who stood guard at the camp-fire at which Napoleon slept on the eve of the battle of Austerlitz.

A dealer in second-hand books in Frankfort advertises a complete collection of newspapers published in the United States. One thousand florins is the price he asks for it.

About sixty thousand acres of land are advertised to be sold at Lake City, Florida, on the first Tuesday in June next, by the tax collector of Cumberland county, for taxes.

Last year two thrifty Germans purchased eighty acres of land in Southern Tennessee.—This season they gathered strawberries enough from four acres of it to pay for the whole tract.

The present circulation of Mr. Bonner's *New York Ledger* exceeds 300,000 copies. In Chicago alone one dealer sells 22,000, and and another 2,200, besides those sent to mail subscribers.

Young Siegrist, who lately rode a bicycle on a wire rope 20 feet above a lake 300 feet wide in San Francisco, talks of crossing the Niagara River below the Falls in the same manner.

A negro girl, about fifteen years of age near Alexander, Burke county, Georgia, filled a tub with boiling water, and plunged a child a year old into it, causing death at once.

The high price asked for pianofortes, it is stated, is due to the great strength required in the frame of the instrument to resist the tension of the strings, which, in some instances, amounts to sixteen tons.

It is stated in a New York paper that Fred Douglass is to be appointed as postmaster in Western New York. In New York and Boston no difference will be made on account of race in revenue nominations.

In the Dominion House of Commons, on Monday night, a motion was carried for petitions regarding the seizure of the schooner Mazeppa, at Detroit, in 1854, the owner of the vessel never having been compensated by the United States Government.

On the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal the tonnage in the article of coal alone foots up 37,382 tons for the month of April, 1869, against 54,014 for April, 1868. Receipts of toll on the canal for April, 1869, $45,305 96, against $30,270.65 for April, 1868.

Secretary Seward's eldest son, Hon. Frederick W. Seward, has purchased Thurlow Weed's interest in the *Commercial Advertiser*, and will, it is reported, take the editorial chair of that old and well established journal.

A. H. Stephens is gradually recovering from his late severe illness, and now walks about his room supported by chairs. He hopes in the course of a few weeks to resume his labors on the second volume of his "War Between the States."

Miss Ida Lewis, the Newport heroine, has received a silver medal and a check for $100 from the Life Saving Benevolent Society of New York. A very handsome letter from the President, Royal Phelps, accompanied the gift.

The men who will never die are the men who voted for Washington, the man who first nominated Grant, the oldest Freemason, the last soldier of the Revolution, Jefferson's body servant, the oldest American actor, and the man who originated the idea of the Pacific railway.

Fourteen old girls assembled at a party at Saxton's River the other day, found that their united age was 1,043 years. The oldest, who was 91, on being invited to ride home in the evening after the party, resented the imputation, and answered testily that "she'd rather walk."

From the Congressional Globe we learn that in the present House there are one hundred and thirty one lawyers, seven editors, ten merchants, seven bankers, eight manufacturers, fifteen farmers, two planters, five general business men, one coal operator, two lumbermen, two real estate agents, two physicians, two railroad managers, three clergymen, one printer and one agriculturist.

State Items.

There are mad dogs in Williamsport.

The Huntingdon jail is without prisoners.

An equal rights league, composed of negroes, exists in Hollidaysburg.

Brooks, the Brodhead murderer, is still at large.

The Luzerne *Daily Union* will be issued in a few days.

The Erie *Dispatch* complains of snags in the Erie Harbor.

The Tyrone Methodists are about erecting a manse for their pastor.

The Altoona *Vindicator* appears in a new dress and presents a beautiful appearance.

Philadelphia is nearer to San Francisco than New York by one hundred miles.

There are fifty-one post-offices in Montgomery county.

Some damage was recently done to the car shop of the D. L. & W. R. R., at Scranton by fire.

Zinc ore has been discovered four miles from Milroy, in Mifflin county.

Snyder county has instructed its delegates to the Radical state convention for Geary.

Fulton county people have lost a number of horses lately at the hands of thieves.

Commodore Henry A. Adams, United States Navy, died in Philadelphia, on Tuesday.

A man is said to have fished $235 in gold pieces from the Conemaugh river, near Johnstown.

Hon. Wm. H. Koontz is the delegate from Somerset county to the Radical State convention.

Abraham Brouse, of Jackson township, Snyder county, committed suicide by hanging, on the 5th inst.

The radical town of Sunbury, says the Selinsgrove *Times*, supports 27 drinking houses.

The State Homeopathic Medical Society will meet at Wilkesburre on Tuesday, the 18th inst.

The Mercersburg classis of the German Reformed Church, holds its annual meeting in Lancaster during this week.

The barn of Charles Davison, of Bradford County, was struck by lightning and burned to the ground not long since.

A party of diplomatists, including the British and Austrian Ministers, are visiting the coal and oil regions of Pennsylvania.

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Exciting News from Europe.

The Alabama Claims.

Rumors of an Alliance between England, France and Spain Against the United States.

The following despatch by cable created much excitement in the cities when received:

LONDON, May 11.—Initial steps have been taken for an alliance, offensive and defensive, between England, France and Spain against the United States—the rejection of the Alabama treaty, the tone of Mr. Sumner's speech, the alleged filibustering tendencies of Gen. Grant's administration, and the reported connivance at expeditions from the United States against Cuba, being made the pretext for a necessity for such alliance.

The following article from the *Pall Mall Gazette* of May 1st, shows the feeling in England:

Mr. Sumner has proved to demonstration what is the *real feeling of the nation and the Government, which, on this question, he may fairly be said to represent.* It is evident that it is not a feeling which can possibly be propitiated by any half-and-half concessions. Either we must acknowledge that the civil war was as much our work as the Southern, and meekly accept the consequences, or we must abandon the hope of bringing the American people into a more friendly attitude toward this country. As even the extremest Northern sympathizer will hardly go the lengths demanded by Mr. Sumner, *we may hope that the opinion of Englishmen will be practically unanimous in favor of the latter course.* The right answer for Lord Clarendon to give Mr. Motley is a simple *non possumus—a refusal to enter into any discussion which includes the mention of the proclamation of neutrality as matter either for compensation or arbitration.* We should have spared ourselves some humiliation and the Americans some additional irritation if we had acted on this principle throughout Mr. Johnson's visit. There is another use to which Mr. Sumner might be put in the Beer Saloon of Mr. Slinkey. There is another use to which Mr. Sumner might be put in the Senate. We will be greatly to blame if we did not see in it a warning that we have incurred, though by no fault of our own, the anger of a very powerful people, which has only now found the means of inflicting a heavy injury upon the great rival of Pennsylvania.

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The Virginia Constitution.

At the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, in Washington, the question of the Virginia Constitution was taken up, and after thorough consideration, it was decided that the two clauses designating the classes to be disfranchised, and describing the test oath for office-holders, should be submitted separately with the remainder of the Constitution at the election on the first Tuesday of July next. The county and township organization features, to which there has been considerable opposition, it was decided should remain and be submitted without elimination. The following is the fourth clause of the first section of the third article, which covers the disfranchisement:

Every person who has been a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President or Vice President, or who held any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of a State Legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemy thereof. This clause shall include the following officers: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor of Public Accounts, Second Auditor, Register of the Land Office, State Treasurer, Attorney General, Sheriffs, Sergeant of a city or town, Commissioner of the Revenue, County Surveyor, Constables, Overseers of the Poor, Commissioner of the Board of Public Works, Judges of the Supreme Court, Judges of the Circuit Court, Judge of the Court of Hustings, Justices of the County Courts, Mayor, Recorder, Alderman, Councilmen of a city or town, Coroners, Executors, Inspectors of Tobacco and Flour, and Clerks of the Supreme, District, Circuit and County Courts and of the Court of Hustings, and Attorneys for the Commonwealth, provided that the Legislature may, by a vote of three-fifths of both Houses, remove the disabilities incurred by this clause from any person included therein, by a separate vote on each case. The test oath, which follows, is the seventh section of the third article, is as follows:

In addition to the foregoing oath of office, the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, members of the General Assembly, Secretary of State, Auditor of Public Accounts, State Treasurer, Attorney General, and all persons elected to any convention to frame a Constitution for this State, or to amend or revise this Constitution in any manner, and Mayor and Council in any city or town, shall, before they enter on the duties of their respective offices, take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation, which shall be applied, except to those who adopt the *whole Radical programme.* A good Englishman means a man who has started from the same premises as Mr. Sumner and has come to the same conclusion. I am glad to see that there are sufficiently numerous and sufficiently persuasive to bring the majority of Englishmen round to their view, Mr. Sumner may be right in thinking war between America and England a permanent impossibility. But if, as we anticipate, there is difficulty in finding the preachers, or if, as we are sure will be the case, their exhortations fall on deaf ears and stony hearts, it is quite possible that the century of unbroken peace may prove only a fool's paradise. The ties of blood are not likely to count for more where England and the United States are concerned than they counted for when the contending nations were sections of the same people. The paramount considerations which should govern the present policy of this country toward the United States are *the fruitlessness of further negotiations and the necessity of being prepared for war.*

We do not wish to be alarmists, or to represent matters as in any way worse than they really are. But nothing is gained by denying that the sort of misfeeling which seems to animate the mind of nearly every American towards England is an element of serious danger. Suppose, for example, that it had reached its present height at the time of the seizure of the Confederate ambassadors on board the Trent, the most popular of Presidents could hardly have ventured on making the required reparation. The utmost caution cannot secure a Government against being compromised by the hasty act of an official, and if England were now compelled to urge a similar demand at Washington, we question whether General Grant would have the power to concede, even on the assumption—and it is very large assumption it is—that he had the will.

The London correspondent of the N. Y. *Tribune* writes as follows:

There can be but one logical conclusion to such a premise, and the *Pall Mall Gazette* does not shrink from drawing it. The pith and purpose of its whole article, and of what is to be henceforth its policy are condensed into one cogent sentence:

"The paramount considerations which should govern the present policy of this country toward the United States, are the fruitlessness of further negotiations, and the necessity of being prepared for war."

It would be a total mistake to suppose that this is said hastily, or is the effect of irritation on reading Mr. Sumner's speech.

I think it beyond doubt that the very able and remarkably sagacious conductors of this journal long since resolved on this policy, and have waited only for a suitable occasion to declare it. Mr. Sumner's speech furnishes the occasion. By this declaration, the *Pall Mall Gazette* has put itself at the head of a movement destined, I believe, to go far and much better and sooner than most people think, the revival of that old party which longed for the destruction of the Republic by the Rebellion. Had the *Pall Mall Gazette* been in existence at that time, it would have been the rival of the *Times* for the leadership of that party. Now, by a single article, it has achieved the distinction which then it might have struggled for in vain. It takes the lead in the strong, resolute, and clear-sighted party which wants a war with America.

From Europe.

LONDON, May 11.—The *Morning Standard* (Conservative) has a leading article on the Alabama question and the speech of Mr. Sumner in the United States Senate in opposition. The writer reviews the relative positions of the United States and Great Britain, and asserts that raids and other outrages perpetrated by the American Fenians in Canada, during the past few years, more than counterbalance the depredations committed by the Alabama on American commerce. The Government of Great Britain, in consenting to submit the mutual international grievances to arbitration, did more than could be fairly demanded, and to yield further would be an act of cowardice and irreparable degradation.

O'Sullivan, Mayor of Cork, Ireland, has resigned his office. Mr. Maguire, member for Cork, announced the fact in the House of Commons and stated that O'Sullivan had taken this action to prevent resignation. The bill disqualifying the Mayor from acting as a magistrate was, in consequence, postponed for one month.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 11.—The Government is considering a plan for the reorganization of the Roman Catholic Church, throughout the Empire.

LONDON, May 12.—The Hon. John Ray, Minister to Austria, who sailed from New York on April 28, in the Russia, arrived here to-day.

There is much agitation at Paris, in consequence of the elections. Four public meetings in different parts of the city have been disbursed by the police.

MADRID, May 12.—Sir John Crampton, British Minister to Spain, has asked to be recalled.

In the Cortes to-day an amendment was proposed by the Republicans to the Constitution, to the effect that all powers emanate from the nation, and all persons to whom they are entrusted must be elected by, and held responsible to the people, was considered. Prim approves the proposition for a Regency under Serrano.

Despatches from Lisbon show that the political discontent in Portugal has terminated in serious disorder in the capital. A plot against the Government is on foot. The conspirators have been tampering with the garrison of Lisbon.

Cuba Affairs.

HAVANA, May 11.—The "Diario" publishes a meagre report of an engagement between Gen. Cut Gem. Lesca and the insurgents, at Altagracia. It says the rebels offered a more determined resistance than in any previous battle, and acknowledges that the Spaniards lost Col. Caphan, and six privates killed and thirty wounded. It also claims that the rebel loss was heavy. The insurgents have burned the village of San Minguel, near Nuevitas. Puerto Principe is reported to be plentifully supplied with provisions. It is expected that the "Prensa," of this city, will soon suspend publication. The Steamship Columbia has arrived from New York, with Mr. Plumb, the new Consul General.

HAVANA, May 12.—Accounts from Spanish sources represent that after the fight at Altagracia General Lesca reached Puerto Principe with his army, the insurgents being unable to detain him, and that the Cubans lost 100 killed and wounded. The Diario says 200, but the Voz de Cuba doubts the correctness of the Diario's information. Letona, who made official reports of the affair, gives a few details. He says that since the fight the rebels cannot get together 2000 men.

The taxes for the ensuing fiscal year are to be reduced 50 per cent.

The Delaware and Pennsylvania Boundary Line.

A joint commission for the ascertainment of the unsettled question of the boundary between Delaware and Pennsylvania was provided for by a law passed at the last session of our Legislature, to consist of two commissioners on the part of each State. Governor Geary has appointed Strickland Kneass, Engineer, of the city of Philadelphia, and Col. James Worrall, of Harrisburg, to represent our State.

It is hoped that the long unfinished eastern terminus of Mason and Dixon's line will be, at last, correctly and permanently established.

Gettysburg Dedication.

It is expected that the dedication of the Soldiers' National Monument at Gettysburg next July will be a large and imposing demonstration. Every State of the Union, it is said, will be represented—the South as well as the North. Senator Morton, of Indiana, is to deliver the address; Mr. Beecher to offer up a prayer, and Bayard Taylor write an ode. President Grant, Gen. W. T. Sherman, Gen. Meade, Gen. McClellan, and a great number of officers and soldiers will be present.

The Virginia Constitution.

At the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, in Washington, the question of the Virginia Constitution was taken up, and after thorough consideration, it was decided that the two clauses designating the classes to be disfranchised, and describing the test oath for office-holders, should be submitted separately with the remainder of the Constitution at the election on the first Tuesday of July next. The county and township organization features, to which there has been considerable opposition, it was decided should remain and be submitted without elimination. The following is the fourth clause of the first section of the third article, which covers the disfranchisement:

Every person who has been a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President or Vice President, or who held any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of a State Legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemy thereof. This clause shall include the following officers: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor of Public Accounts, Second Auditor, Register of the Land Office, State Treasurer, Attorney General, Sheriffs, Sergeant of a city or town, Commissioner of the Revenue, County Surveyor, Constables, Overseers of the Poor, Commissioner of the Board of Public Works, Judges of the Supreme Court, Judges of the Circuit Court, Judge of the Court of Hustings, Justices of the County Courts, Mayor, Recorder, Alderman, Councilmen of a city or town, Coroners, Executors, Inspectors of Tobacco and Flour, and Clerks of the Supreme, District, Circuit and County Courts and of the Court of Hustings, and Attorneys for the Commonwealth, provided that the Legislature may, by a vote of three-fifths of both Houses, remove the disabilities incurred by this clause from any person included therein, by a separate vote on each case. The test oath, which follows, is the seventh section of the third article, is as follows:

In addition to the foregoing oath of office, the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, members of the General Assembly, Secretary of State, Auditor of Public Accounts, State Treasurer, Attorney General, and all persons elected to any convention to frame a Constitution for this State, or to amend or revise this Constitution in any manner, and Mayor and Council in any city or town, shall, before they enter on the duties of their respective offices, take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation, which shall be applied, except to those who cannot take the oath, to all persons who have held any office under any authority or pretended authority in hostility to the United States; that I have not yielded a voluntary support to any pretended government, authority, power, or Constitution within the United States hostile or inimical thereto. And I do further swear, or affirm, that to the best of my knowledge and ability, I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter, so help me God."

The above oath shall also be taken by all city and county officers before entering upon their duties, and by all other State officers not included in the above provision.

The proclamation of Gen. Grant, ordering an election to be held in Virginia on the 6th day of July, concludes as follows:

I direct the votes to be taken upon each of the above cited provisions alone, and upon the other portions of the said Constitution in the following manner: Each voter favoring the ratification of the Constitution, excluding the provisions above quoted as trained by the convention of December 12, 1867, shall express his judgment by voting "for the Constitution." Each voter favoring the rejection of the Constitution, excluding the provisions above quoted, shall express his judgment by voting "against the Constitution." Each voter will have an opportunity to cast a separate ballot for or against either or both of the provisions above quoted.

Six River Steamers Destroyed by Fire.

CINCINNATI, May 12—9 A. M.—Six river steamers were burned to the waters edge at their docks on the Ohio river in this city last night. Several lives are reported lost. The loss which has not yet been footed up is very heavy. When the fire broke out the steamers destroyed were new first-class passenger boats. There names are the Darling, Westmoreland, Mary Erwin, Meinotte, Cheyenne and Clifton.

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