THE DEMOCRAT.

MONTROSE, PA:

Thursday, May 24, 1849.

For Canal Commissioner,

COL. ASA DIMOCK.

Subject to the decision of the Democratic State Convention

☞ A cotemporary well remarks that the past two or three weeks have furnished more fearful tragedy and casualty, in different parts of the country than has ever been known before during the same space of time." Commencing with the Canada riots; then the Astor Place riot, resulting in the death of five and twenty persons; next the disaster on board the steamer Empire, with a loss of between twenty and thirty more lives; the burning of a large portion of Watertown; the fire at Milwaukie; the terrible conflagration in St Louis burning over three hundred buildings, twenty-seven steamers, and destroying about twenty more lives; the reappearance of the cholera in New York, and the terrible crevasse at New Orleans, threatening destruction to the entire city—these, added to some score or more of murders and suicides form a tableau of disaster and death seldom or never before recorded within so brief a space of time.

"A fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind."

Our neighbor of the *Register* has at length broken the web of professed neutrality and enlisted for a full term of service in defence of his special paragon, Mr. Little, whom he struggles to uphold, bepraise and heroize with a true fraternal zeal. We are not sorry to see this, as it gives us a release on furlough, at least, from any farther participation in the controversy. If we have in any point failed to show Mr. Little to have been false to his party and his constituents; if we have failed in a single instance to convince the Democrats of Susquehanna that he is entirely and pre-eminently unworthy of their confidence and support, we may congratulate ourself that our neighbor will effectually accomplish it. As no Whig will ever deign to defend a Democrat who is *true to his faith*, and who has walked erect with his party, so our neighbor's marvelous and "armed neutrality," and holy horror of "Locofocoism," would have caused him to abstain entirely from defending Mr. L had he not discovered something in his conduct "well-pleasing in his (Whig) sight." His motives are no doubt sinister, which fact will doubtless give his vindication of the gentleman additional weight in the opposite scale.

FAIR PLAY IS THE JEWEL.—Our Whig neighbor published in his last issue Mr. Little's spurious "excuse" for his neglect to vote on those Bank questions, for which we censured him three weeks ago. Now as that "excuse" was totally and entirely false, as we proved beyond controversy or cavil, and to the satisfaction of every one, in our last, we shall of course expect him to give our reply as wide currency in his columns as he gave the pretended "excuse." If he has any scruples about taking *our* statements in the matter, we will loan him a copy of the Journal, from which he cannot fail, in ten minutes time, to satisfy himself of their entire correctness. As we cannot suppose our neighbor mean enough to connive at, and *wilfully propagate* falsehood, even against one whom he published last week to appear in his next paper. Shall we look in vain?

The New York Riots.

The late disturbances in New York seem now to be entirely allayed, and the excitement consequent thereon fast abating. The Coroner's inquest closed its examinations on Saturday after having come to the conclusion "that the circumstances *existing at the time*, justified the authorities in giving the order to fire upon the mob. And we farther believe that if a larger number of the Police had been ordered out, the necessity of a resort to the use of the Military might have been avoided." This we consider tantamount to a biting censure of the conduct of the authorities, for calling out the military instead of the Police, as suggested. In this opinion, also, the entire press of the country, (with an occasional exception) concurs. There was no more need of resorting to "powder and ball," had the matter been rightly managed in its incipiency, than of calling on the inhabitants of the moon, if there be such beings. Those who recalled Mr. Macready; after he had resolved to play no more, and those who held the reins of the City government, have to shoulder the brunt of the responsibility. True, the rioters were in the highest degree culpable, and should have been put down; but challenging them to the conflict by inviting the reappearance of Macready, and then availing themselves of the *last* and most terrible of resorts before *others* had been tried, was but little less reprehensible.

A Boatmen's "Strike."

The Boatmen on the Canal at Easton, numbering some seven or eight hundred have been on a "strike" for the last fortnight. All transportation on the canal (of coal we mean) is suspended, and there is a determination evinced to continue it so until "higher wages and better pay" are obtained. There has been no riot, common to such events—no property destroyed—no personal violence inflicted, and no legal process resisted. It is true, private rights in one or two instances have been interfered with, such as preventing one or two persons from recovering their boats, &c., and the Sheriff was called on to interpose the "strong arm of the law." This he undertook to do, without process, but without effect. He then *summoned* a posse numbering seven hundred men, to his aid; but the time of organizing arriving, lo! barely 24 made their appearance. The Easton Argus says the sympathies of the community are almost entirely on the side of the Boatmen, who have been laboring for more than a year for a mere pittance, just enough to "keep soul and body together."—Last fall they were promised by their employers, (who were all Whigs,) that in the event of Taylor's and Johnston's election they should have better pay and better times. They had waited for the fulfilment of these promises long enough, but in vain, notwithstanding the price of coal had advanced twenty-five cents, and accordingly "struck." They refuse to work until their wages are raised, declaring that they will go to growing potatoes, or feed on their mules and horses, before they will draw at the line another hour at the old rates.

P. S. Something of a riot occurred on the 17th, in which the Sheriff was knocked down, and stones and other missiles freely thrown. The rioters were fired upon. The next day, however, all was calm and quiet.

☞ Father Matthew writes, now, to Ex-Mayor Brady, of New York, that he has engaged passage in the packet ship Ashburton, and will leave Liverpool for New York on the 21st of May.

Political Reforms.

It is but a few weeks since we published an article on this subject in which we advocated several radical and important changes in the mode of choosing a large number of the officers, both of our State and National Governments. The reforms suggested we then, as now, deemed of no ordinary moment, but essential alike to the public good, and the perpetuity of those glorious and benign institutions under which we live. They are eminently just, Democratic, and practicable, and are imperiously demanded by this age of revolution and progress. Why the People are not safe depositaries of power in *all* cases as well as in a *few*—why they are not capable of choosing *all* their public servants as well as *one*, or a *score*, is what we never could understand. The truth is, they *are* thus trustworthy, thus competent. They are as capable of choosing a Postmaster as a Justice of the Peace; Judges to administer the Laws as Legislators to make them; Collectors of Customs, District Attorneys, Marshals, State Treasurers, &c., as Canal Commissioners; United States Senators as members of Congress or Governors. No one, we are satisfied, can gainsay or question this conclusion. Why is it, then, that they do not do it? or rather we should inquire, why is it that they are now deprived of the requisite power to evidence this capacity? The fault is their own: it is because they do not see fit to assert their rights, and to insist, as they should do, upon the entire and complete restoration of power to themselves, its legitimate and only true source.

But there are other evils besides those enumerated above, which are beginning to attract attention, and which should likewise be inveighed against until entirely obliterated. They are pointed out in the articles which follow, and prominent among them is that of *Special Legislation*. That this is a baleful, an unmitigated curse to our country, and especially to our Commonwealth, it is in vain to attempt to deny or conceal. Its evils are multitudinous, palpable and gross. Besides being unnecessary, it consumes almost the entire period of Legislation, plunders the people of their money and rights, and corrupts their public servants. That it can be dispensed with there can be no question; that it should be, none but an enemy to the prosperity and welfare of his country will dare deny. We heartily concede in the sentiments of the subjoined articles from the *Pennsylvanian* and *Keystone* upon this subject, and agree with them that this is an auspicious period for the Democracy to strike a bold and effective blow in favor of the reforms. That our opponents will ever do anything to aid them along is to the last degree improbable. They know nothing of the spirit of progress, and care apparently less, and if perchance they ever move from the old beaten paths of their ancestors, or give up an exploded or antiquated heterodoxy, it is because they are *dragged* along by the Democracy—because they are *compelled* to move.

The first article is from the *Pennsylvanian*:

"THE ELECTIVE JUDICIARY.—We are glad to see the almost universal approbation with which the proposed reform in the Constitution has been greeted. Even the Whigs, who clung to the absurd life tenure with ridiculous tenacity in the Constitution of 1837, have at length seemed to "cave in," and now profess to go for a system as radical as any Democrat can desire. There may be some clap-trap in all this; but we shall assume that those who advocate the measure are in earnest about it. The Whigs have committed themselves to it so strongly as to make any serious opposition from [illegible] *can be carried triumphantly through*.

The near prospect of success makes it a thing of the last importance, that the amendment to the Constitution should be so framed as to do the greatest amount of good. The resolution passed by the last Legislature, has some defects in it which another Legislature can remedy.

Firstly. The election for Judges is proposed to be held on the second Tuesday of October, when all the political officers are to be chosen. This would diminish the chances of an unimpassioned and careful selection, such as the people would make if called on at any other time, when there is no excitement on other subjects. New York adopted the wiser plan of holding the judicial elections in June, apart from all others.

Secondly. There is no provision for changing the districts as they stand at present. Some of them are too small. Every unprejudiced man can see that changes for the better might be made, and the number of the President Judges much diminished. The Legislature ought to be required, before the amendment goes into operation, to district the State equally and fairly—giving to each Judge a just amount of labor, and requiring all to earn their salaries.

Thirdly. The terms are too long. If responsibility to public opinion is the object aimed at, the terms of the President Judges ought to be shortened. A responsibility which is postponed for ten years, is only a little better than none. This applies with still more force to the Judges of the Supreme Court.

But the matter to which we would call special attention, is the crying demand for other reforms. If this proposition is submitted alone to the people, no other change in the Constitution can be made for five years afterwards, and the probabilities of ever accomplishing certain important modifications of our fundamental law, vanish almost entirely.

We are clearly, therefore, in favor of submitting an amendment along with the judicial reform, which will abolish, or at least restrain, the corruptions of *special legislation*. We need not enlarge on this subject. Every one knows that our Assembly, instead of making wholesome general laws for the whole body of the people, are engaged almost the whole of their time in passing special and private laws. The most of these laws are injurious to the community—many of the balance are useless, and scarcely any are a positive benefit. Yet we pay enormous sums out of the Treasury every year for the manufacturing of such trash; and the worst of it is, that it corrupts the legislative department, and taints it with a disease which nothing but a radical removal of the cause can cure. All the good that can result from special legislation, may be obtained by conferring the powers now exercised by the General Assembly upon the people themselves, or on some local tribunal to be by them chosen. Let the roads be attended to by County Commissioners and Grand Juries—election districts by the people of the townships and wards—estates and escheats by the Orphans' Courts—divorces, changing of names, and the establishment of municipal corporations, by the Courts of Common Pleas. We have not room nor time to embody our views on the whole of this subject. We call on our brethren of the Democratic press to speak their sentiments.

If we could abolish all special legislation, we would save annually some thirty or forty thousand dollars to the public treasury, and millions to individuals, who, by the present system are daily swindled out of their earnings. We would put down the system of "*boring*," which has so long disgraced Harrisburg; and it would only be necessary to have one session of the Legislature in two years, to last thirty days, instead of a three months' session every year.

We sincerely believe that there never has been a time when the Democracy had so fair an opportunity of striking a bold and effective blow at all the corruptions against which we have struggled for so many years.

Our creed may be thus briefly stated: A JUDICIARY CHOSEN IMMEDIATELY BY THE PEOPLE, AND THE ABOLITION OF, OR HEAVY RESTRAINTS UPON, ALL SPECIAL LEGISLATION."

Simultaneously with the foregoing appeared the following communication in the Harrisburg *Keystone*, which, although containing the same ideas, goes into the subject more fully, and perhaps to many, more satisfactorily. The editor prefaces it with some excellent remarks, which we regret we are unable to copy.

MESSRS EDITORS: You have already expressed your opinion in favor of abolishing special legislation by a constitutional amendment. In this opinion I concur. The reasons are numerous and weighty, but, at the same time, are so perfectly obvious, to any man who has ever spent even a few days of his life at Harrisburg, that I need hardly detail them. If however, there be one man in the commonwealth who is simple enough to suppose that legislation for local and private purposes is not a curse upon the state, I would tell him at least some of the causes which make it so.

1. It costs the state an enormous sum of money every year. Of six hundred pages of pamphlet laws, five hundred and ninety are not general but special laws. The time thus spent by the legislature is wholly lost to the great body of the people, and is beneficial only to the favored few who are the objects of this legislative bounty.

2. It is highly injurious to the interests and rights of that class who are not favored by it. I do not mean to say that every special law is deleterious, but I do say (and can prove it) that special legislation has *plundered the people of money enough to pay the state debt three times over*. A single law, the charter of the U. S. bank, swindled them out of some forty millions.

3. It is not necessary. The powers now exercised by the legislature can be better performed by the people at home, or by some representative body elected for that purpose.

4. It induces corruption. I do not make sweeping charges against the legislature. I think the representatives of the people of Pennsylvania are generally, as honest as any set of men on the globe. But this system is *corrupting in its tendencies*. Besides I have heard of downright bribery more than once, and so have most of your readers. The lobbying system is an organization of influences that the representatives of no free people ought to be subject to. Now, if special legislation be abolished, "boring" must, will die with it. They cannot exist apart. They are lovely in life, and in death they shall not be separated. Let them lay down their pious heads together in the same grave.

5. It reduces the standard of legislative talent and integrity. Any man is fit to carry a local measure—to trade off his vote to one private law, in order to get votes for another—to dispense favors to his fellows that he may gain them for himself—or to mouse over schemes of petty plunder—but it requires a broad-minded man to make general laws for a people. Our legislature would take a different tone the instant that the thoughts of its members were confined to the business of real legislation.

I could give more reasons, but forbear for the [illegible] state forever as a blessing. Let the rallying cry of the democracy be, *an elective judiciary, biennial sessions, and no special laws.*

Free Soil in California.

A telegraphic despatch from Washington, on Saturday, brings the gratifying announcement that "important despatches have been received at the War Department from California, setting forth that the people had organized a government for themselves, and had adopted the WILMOT PROVISO as a fundamental article." That they have organized a government we know to be fully corroborated, and that they have adopted the doctrine of the Wilmot Proviso we fully believe. It now remains to be seen whether Northern Representatives in Congress, who have heretofore grossly misrepresented northern sentiment, will longer pander to slavery by resisting the recognition of this eminently just and righteous edict of the people of California.

THE CHOLERA.—Eight cases of the Cholera occurred in New York, in the vicinity of the Five Points, last week. The Board of Health took immediate sanatary measures, such as cleaning the streets and all filthy dwellings in that ward, which has been effectual in staying its progress. No cases have occurred since Thursday.

P. S. The Sun of Tuesday says, "Apprehensions in regard to the Cholera are fast dying away. The efficient measures taken to check the disease have been successful. The infected district has been purged, and if kept so, there is little doubt that the city will escape the epidemic.

STATE TREASURY.—Gideon J. Ball, Esq, the modest gentleman who *elected himself* the Treasurer of this State, assumed the duties of his place on the 1st inst. His first act was the removal of the excellent Chief Clerk, Col. ASA DIMOCK, who is succeeded by THOS. NICHOLSON, Esq. former member of the House of Representatives from Beaver county.—*Doylestown Democrat.*

☞ FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF WASHINGTON.—A democrat in Washington inquired of a whig what he was to understand by Gen Taylor's promises to follow the example of the earlier presidents? The whig replied, with a knowing wink: "He means a *2nd* term—a *2nd* term—don't you understand that?"

GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK for June is a superb number. It contains four steel plate engravings, besides a colored fashion plate, and 72 pages—24 extra ones again, as usual—of diversified reading. This number concludes the volume, (39th) and we will here take the occasion to say that Godey has kept sacred his promise not to suffer any subsequent number to be inferior to the first, either in quantity or quality of matter, or number and elegance of embellishments. His next volume will commence in July, when he promises increased and increasing attractions, to continue, of course, through the year. Now is the time to subscribe. Three dollars will secure a copy for one year, and also a copy of the Lady's Dollar Newspaper.

☞ The reader must not overlook the article on "*The Slave Question*" from the *Keystone*, on our first page. It expresses our sentiments to a nicety, besides has the merit of being ably and strongly written. We are glad that there is one Democratic paper at Harrisburg that takes so bold and decided ground against the extension of slavery to free territory.

The Working Farmer and *Genesee Farmer* for May have both been received. Our readers shall have specimens of their contents soon.

"PROPERLY DISTRIBUTED."—The Whig Coon organ, of Susquehanna county, mourning over the result of the election in Virginia, lapses the following candid admission of the practices of that party adopted to carry Congressional districts:

[Here follows our neighbor's article, copied by us entire last week.—ED DEM.]

Yes! "A few hundred votes properly distributed" would doubtless have done wonders. Whiggery has tried the experiment effectually, and knows. "A few hundred votes properly distributed," and a few thousand dollars "properly expended" from Massachusetts and New York, carried Pennsylvania for Taylor. But such practices wont wear, and such expenditures wont pay in the long run, as Whigery found in 1840, and is in a fair way to realize again. A great party, like a great army, is in most danger from demoralization. And a victory gained through fraud demoralizes worse than ten defeats.—*Wilkesbarre Farmer.*

How Gen Taylor Interferes with the Members of Congress.—A Washington correspondent of the Hartford Times gives the following details of Gen T's interference with members of Congress.

"Soon after his arrival at Washington, Mr Thurston, of Rhode Island, a true democrat, called upon the President elect. Gen Taylor, learning that he was a member of Congress from *Rhode Island*, supposed of course he was a whig, and opened his grape upon him. 'Our friends must pass the bill for California,' said he, 'leaving the slavery question as it is; we must not meddle with that. All of *our friends* must take hold'—here the General was jogged by a whig, and informed that Mr Thurston was a *democrat!* The new President was confused, and stammered out the best excuse the occasion would admit of."

THE WATER-CURE MANUAL: a popular work, embracing descriptions of the various modes of Bathing, the Hygienic and Curative effects of air, exercise, clothing, occupation, diet, water-drinking, &c., together with the descriptions of diseases and the Hydropathic means to be employed therein.—By Joel Shew, M. D. Pages 284. New York. Fowler & Wells, 131 Nassau St.

The above named work has been received from the publishers. To any one having the slightest faith in Hydropathic mode of treating diseases, it cannot but prove interesting and useful. Price 50 cents.

COUNTERFEIT 5s on the Troy City Bank have appeared—letter A, vignette Neptune seated [illegible] ter Von [illegible]; on right margin a steamship; on the left N. Y. State arms; purports to be engraved by Rawdon, Wright and Hatch—paper light.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

LIST OF JURORS

Drawn to serve at the Special Court,

Commencing June 5th.

Auburn—Powel G. Birch.
Bridgewater—Roswell Kingsley, James Shaw, Amherbis Williams.
Brooklyn—Francis Fish, B. S. Saunders.
Choconut—Archie Stanley.
Clifford—Solomon Bolton, J. T. Langdon, Mahlon C. Stewart, John Stephens, Charles M. West.
Forest Lake—Hiram Allen, Thomas C. Howe.
Franklin—Rufus Tuttle.
Gibson—Naaman F. Chffin, Alonzo P. Kinney, Finch Russague, Willard Walker.
Harford—Loren T. Farrar.
Herrick—Almon Spoor.
Jackson—John Olin.
Jessup—R. S. Birchard, Robert Griffis, Austin B. Lathrop, David C. Sherman.
Lenox—Orrin T. Kinney, Halloway Robinson.
Middletown—Cyrus Babcock.
New-Milford—Alphaxed Buck.
Rush—David P. West.
Silver Lake—James Gage.
Springville—Asa Carling, Asahel B. Pritchard, Samuel T. Platt.
Thompson—John Jenkins.

"Warning Out."

[illegible] Intelligencer is "warning [out] shoulder arms for the remaining Congressional elections. "The labor of the Presidential campaign will be in good part lost," says this journal, "unless we have a House of Representatives that will act in accordance with the Administration and give *its powerful assistance in carrying out the wise and patriotic measures of General Taylor.*"

After all General Taylor *is* to have measures of his own, and Congress is to *assist* him in carrying them out. There was some talk previous to the presidential election, about the impropriety of the President's meddling with the legislation of Congress. General Taylor himself, professed to think, that the example of the earlier presidents, taught the Executive to leave the making of laws, to the legislative branch of the government. It seems now, however, that the example of the earlier presidents has been misunderstood. It is the President who projects the policy and guides the legislation of the country, and the legislature that is expected to lend him its "powerful assistance."

If such be the new arrangement, we conclude that General Taylor has found the leisure he so much coveted, when writing some two years ago from his camp at Monterey, to examine into certain important questions of public policy, about which, up to that time, he had enjoyed no opportunity of informing himself. The Intelligencer speaks of certain of these measures—those for which it invoked the "powerful assistance" of Congress—as wise and patriotic. Of course, therefore, the Intelligencer has been trusted with the conclusions to which the President has arrived. Is it too soon for us to ask to be let into the secret?—There is no subject upon which we could be enlightened with more pleasure or profit, than upon the future policy of his Excellency. We know his opinions upon two subjects. He approves of the example of General Washington—whether as a surveyor, a soldier or a president we are not advised—and he means to frown indignantly upon any free soiler whom he may detect defending free soil principles. These are all the President's measures we believe, which have been duly authenticated.

If the Intelligencer will reveal the new measures which have blossomed since the recent spring elections, the country will be delighted to know what they are, and the whig party we presume will rejoice in them or in those of them at least, which the Intelligencer designates as "wise and patriotic," in contradistinction to certain others contemplated by the President, which by implication, are not wise and patriotic, and which therefore we conclude have a democratic exposure.

We suppose henceforth that we shall hear no more from the whig press about leaving legislation to Congress. In fact, that flam ought to be relieved from farther duty, and dismissed with a handsome retiring pension. If flams could hold offices—and we do not say they cannot—this flam deserves of the President the best office in his gift; for to it, more than to any man, friend or circumstance, is it owing, that he has offices to give.

The Intelligencer continues:

"The friends of the administration have relied too much upon what they considered a certainty. They felt sure of a whig house, and therefore trifled with the elections.—Virginia and Connecticut, we think, however, will put an end to the trifling. The stake is too important to be lost by divisions or want of action in our own ranks. We, therefore, before it is too late, sound the alarm, which we trust will be re-echoed by the whig press of the whole Union, and thus endeavor to save the nation and the administration from the curse of a Locofoco Congress for the next two years."

We fear this alarm, like Louis Phillipe's, is "too late." We could tell the friends of the administration why, and would, if it were our duty. They will discover the insect that has ruined their crop, when they have harvested it, but probably, not before. —*N. Y. Eve. Post*

(From the New York Sun of Friday.)

Terrible Steamboat Disaster!

Great Loss of Life!!

The steamer Empire, Capt. W. W. Tupper, left her dock in this city last evening as usual, at 7 o'clock for Albany, having on board a large number of passengers, among whom were many ladies.

At about ten o'clock, when opposite Newburgh the pilot, Mr Levi Smith, discovered the schooner Noah Brown with a heavy deck load of lumber, beating down at a rapid rate through the channel, apparently not discovering the proximity of the steamer.

He immediatly stopped the engine and went forward to hail her. Although his voice crying to the man at the wheel of the schooner to "Luff! Luff!!" was heard in the cabin, it appears that the person for whom it was intended did not hear it.

The engines were then reversed and while the steamer was still in the water, or making stern way, the schooner came upon her with a tremendous crash. The bowsprit entered the forward cabin just under the larboard guards and so heavily was the schooner loaded that she was not brought up until her very bow had also entered the Empire's side.

The schooner was beating down the river with a stiff breeze when the collision occurred, the wind being from the south or south by east, and she on the tack from the east to the west shore of the river. She was owned by Mr Snyder, of Troy, a coal dealer.

The pilot of the Empire measured the distance with his eye, and found it doubtful if he could get by the bow of the schooner, and for that reason had afforded her every opportunity to come into the wind while he could pass or go upon the other tack.

The awful scenes which now followed cannot be described.

When she struck and the water came rushing into the cabin, the men leaped from their beds and rushed to the stairs to save their lives.

It is very possible that many in the forward cabin, were overwhelmed with the water before they could escape, though to all appearance, every one escaped.

In the terrible confusion they trampled and bruised each other.

In the ladies' cabin, when it was found that the boat began to sink, the most awful consternation ensued [illegible] then on their husbands, and children clung to their parents. for safety.

On shore, at Newburg, the first intimation of the dreadful catastrophe was the awful screams which arose from the passengers and the mournful tolling of the steamer's bell.

Axes were brought, holes cut thro' into the ladies cabin, and many thus liberated.

One of the ladies were accidently killed by a blow on the head from an axe at one of the holes; such is our information from a passenger.

All this—including the assembling of the passengers on the after promenade deck and around the pilot house—occupied a period of *less than eight minutes*, during which the boat was slowly and constantly setting down, floating meanwhile with the tide.

When the water reached the furnace fires explosions, caused by its rush upon the burning coals, occurred, which forced out the panel work upon the deck, and added still more to the confusion of the moment.

Shortly after, the steamer Rip Van Winkle, Capt S. Schuyler, bound up to Albany, and about two miles behind the Empire, came along side, and by admirable management, the passengers were speedily taken from their perillous position, the Empire taken in tow and carried to the flats, where she still lies—the stern caught upon the flat, and the bow floating—promenade deck even with the water.

The steamer Hudson, bound for Hudson also astern, came up and rendered much valuable assistance.

A passenger on board assures us that he saw many in their fright jump overboard, and he thinks that not less than twenty lost their lives in this way, though a great portion of those who jumped overboard were picked up by the small boats from Newburgh.

The only bodies which have been recovered are those of two ladies and a little girl. One of the ladies is quite elderly, and is supposed to be a Mrs. Noble, who was known to be on board. Of the other, nothing was ascertained before the steamer Troy left Newburg on her way to this city.

General Davis and Daughter, of Troy, were among the passengers. Both we are happy to state, were saved.

The little girl was the daughter of Mrs. ——— and during the awful confusion at the time of the collision, the mother was seen running hither and thither in her night clothes, and with an infant at her breast, calling upon all she met to help her find her child. She was finally persuaded to give up the search and to go above with the other passengers at Newburg in the hope that the child might have been saved in the small boats. Soon after she left the Empire the body of her daughter (as supposed) was found.

It is not known how many, if any, gentlemen were drowned in the lower cabins. About 150 in all were there and none of those who escaped had time to save more than they had upon them. Those who were in bed and asleep were awakened by the noise and screams and barely escaped with their lives.

There were about 260 passengers on board, all told, and it is deeply to be regretted that no list of those who were saved was taken, and that the number of them was not counted.

The Captain's office was buried so quickly that the books, papers, passengers' lists and money were not recovered.

To the kindness of the people of Newburg the passengers by the ill-fated Empire are indebted for many comforts, which they will never forget.

The Empire can easily be recovered, so that the loss to the owners will be comparatively trifling. The shock was so sudden that the hull and timbers of the boat were not materially injured.

The accident wholy resulted from the want of a proper look-out on board the schooner or from the inattention of the man at the wheel. The least regard as to the sailing of that vessel would have discovered to them the vicinity of the steamer. On board the Empire everything was done which prudence could dictate to avoid the accident.

Later—By Telegraph.

The Telegraph sent the following which was also received at the office here:

NEWBURG, May 18, 10 P. M.

The number of bodies found up to 8 A. M. is 11. They have just pumped the water from the boiler of the Empire, and the body of another, a young lady, has come to light. A large number are still missing, but it is impossible to say how many yet.

NEWBURG, 8½ P. M.—May 20.

The wreck of the Empire still lies near the east side opposite this place, her stern sunk in about 20 feet of water. Rough weather would, it is thought, cause her irrepairable injury. No means have been taken to raise her.

The wreck presents a sorrowful appearance. The upper rigging contains many [articles] of linen apparel found floating on the boat, which denotes that the extent of [illegible] is not yet ascertained.

There are numerous strangers in pursuit of the remains of deceased friends. [The] Coroner's Jury returned a verdict last evening [illegible]. It censures the pilot of the Empire, and attributes the collision to his neglect, carelessness, or want of judgment.

A Coroner's Jury at Fishkill are to meet again to-morrow morning. Seven bodies have been taken to that side and 3 on this.

The little steamer Arrett has been running all day to the wreck loaded with passengers, and made a harvest in the way of passage money. As the deck begins to give way and go to pieces valuable freight is reached.

In the clothing recovered several sums of money, in specie and bank notes, have been found.

NEWBURG, May 21, 8 P. M.

Five more bodies have been recovered this afternoon from the wreck of the Empire, three of which are identified as the remains of the Ladd brothers, from Stonington, Conn., and four of them were missing. The other two bodies are unknown but are supposed to be emigrants. Mrs. Ladd the mother, is still here.

No efforts have yet been made to raise the empire; the delay is exciting deep feeling [illegible] is so much injured as not to be worth repairing, and that its machinery will be taken out, and the wreck left to the mercy of the elements. But it is due to the public and especially to the survivors of missing friends, that the boat ought to be raised, and that as speedily as possible. Many are waiting here hoping to find the remains of their deceased friends. The Coroner's Jury is sitting on the other side of the river. The total found is seventeen.

Suicide of Dr. Coolidge.

PORTLAND, Me., May 18, 6 P. M.

We have just learned from passengers in the steamer Governor, from Bangor, that Dr Coolidge, the murderer of Mathews, poisoned himself while in prison last night.

More about Coolidge.

BOSTON, May 19—10 A. M.

Dr Coolidge, the murderer of Mathews, committed suicide, in consequence of having been detected in a plot with a prisoner, who was about to be liberated, to kill Flint, his former student.

The plot was as follows:—Flint was to be lured to a certain place, where he was to be killed, in such a manner as would lead to the impression that he had committed suicide. A bottle was to be placed near him containing poison, and a letter confessing himself the murderer of Mathews. The warden found on the prisoner the letter with the details of the plot, and at once shut Coolidge up. Shortly after on going to the cell, Coolidge was found expiring, and soon after died. The latter expected if the plot proved successful, that he would be liberated.

He had promised to pay his accomplice $1,000 for murdering Flint.

Interesting From California.

BOSTON, May 18th—3 P. M.

A letter received here from a highly respectable source, dated San Francisco, March 12th, gives the following interesting intelligence:—"There are at present 28 sail of vessels in port, among which is the bark Tasgo, from Valparaiso, which is the only American vessel, the rest being all foreigners.

Emigration to the mines has commenced, and the number there from Valparaiso is not far short of 3,500, and from Telcahuana 500.

It is thought that the steamship California, which has now been lying deserted for some time, will be able to get away by or on the 20th of April, manned by amateur sailors, consisting of such as wish to get back home with their gold.

The Agent of the steamer has offered $200 per month for regular sailors in vain.

From Canada.

MONTREAL, May 18—7 P. M.

Immigrants are crowding in upon us in large numbers. There were 325 landed this evening.

In Legislative Council to-day, the Hon. Mr. Blaquirrier withdrew his motion—of which he had given notice—for an address to the Queen, to consider the expediency of dissolving the union of the province.

It is an error to think that a long face is essential to good morals, or that laughing is an unpardonable crime.

Tremendous Conflagration!

Half of St. Louis in Ruins!!

27 STEAMBOATS DESTROYED!

ST. LOUIS, May 19.

A most destructive fire broke out this morning, which has laid nearly one half of this beautiful city in ruins.

The Telegraph office was consumed at an early stage of the progress of the fire, and hence the want of intelligence at an earlier hour. A battery was, however, erected with all expedition on the opposite side of the river, and the following facts concerning this sad disaster were thus transmitted.

Nearly half of the heavy business part of the city is in ashes, including five Banking Houses, every Insurance Office, twenty-seven steamboats lying abreast of the town, close to the shore, on account of the high stage of the water, and being generaly without hands on board, laid up on account of the river trade being very dull, consequent upon the cholera reports, it was impossible to move them. The flames spread like wild fire among the combustible material of the boats, defying all the efforts to arrest their progress, and twenty-seven of our largest and most valuable steamers were consumed.

No estimate is given of the probable amount of the loss, but it must be immense and the calamity to the sufferers, incalculable.

Another Despatch.

St Louis, Mo, May 18, 1849.

At ten o'clock, last night, a fire broke out on board the steamboat White Cloud, lying near the head of the landing, and (the wind, at the time, blowing a gale from the north-east) soon spread from the White Cloud to other steamboats lying below along the Levee, and from them to the warehouses and stores—continuing its work of destruction during the night and to-day, until (at the time I forward this despatch) one-half of the richest, the business portion of the city of St. Louis has become a heap of ruins; and yet the progress of the fire continues.

The whole river-front of warehouses, from Locust street to Chesnut—three squares—were destroyed; and extending to Main street, the flames swept both sides to Market street—crossing to Second diagonally; thence taking a course southward.

More than a mile in length, by three blocks in width of the centre of the city, has been laid waste, and the fire will probably continue until it reaches St. George street.

On the river, at Market street, the progress of the fire was stayed by blowing up the drug store of Messrs. Doenich & Valbaux.

About twenty-five steamboats lying at the Levee were destroyed.

Three persons were killed by an explosion on board the steamboat Alice; and it is probable that as many as twenty lives have been lost, during the progress of the destroyer.

The City Hall was several times on fire, but is saved.

The printing offices of the *Republican*, the *Reville*, the *Era* and the *Organ*, were all destroyed—only one daily paper printed in the English language, the *Union* being left.

At least three hundred houses are burned. Many robberies were committed of course.

The telegraph office was among the buildings destroyed, and in consequence, this despatch is forwarded from Shawneetown, on the opposite side of the river.

The value of the steamboat stock was about $580,000—insured for $200,000.

Value of the cargoes of the steamboats, $175,000. Freight on the landing valued at $50,000.

The total loss by the fire is about $5,000,000.

All is confusion, and I can forward no further particulars at present.

Great Flood at New Orleans.

300 Houses surrounded with Water, &c.

BALTIMORE, May 19, 10 P. M.

The Southern mail has arrived with dates from New Orleans to the 12th inst.

The great crevasse above the city was still unchecked. The water was flowing out rapidly, and thousands of acres of land were covered. The crevasse was widening and the water was gradually rising.

The Picayune entertains the worst apprehensions, and thinks the most serious calamities may be realized. Thousands of workmen have been employed to close the Crevasse, but have not been able to make any successful headway.

The water in the swamps, and in the Second Municipality is gradually rising.—People are daily moving out and abandoning their dwellings. Some were taking refuge in the second and third stories of their houses, using boats to get out and in. As before stated, White and Benton streets, with portions of Hercules, and Dryiades Market House, in the latter street, were entirely surrounded by the flood and were only accessible by boats and horses' producing great distress among the inhabitants.

The north bank of the new canal was overflown and the people of the 7th Ward and second municipality were preparing to escape from their abodes.

A considerable portion of the shell road near the Half Way House, was submerged, and the water covering the street at the New Basin warehouse, near to the head of the Basin.

About 300 houses were surrounded by water.

At last accounts some workmen employed at the Crevasse were dying with cholera.

WASHINGTON, May 18th—5 P. M.

President Taylor upon mature reflection, has at length determined to dispatch two national vessels for the purpose of seeking out and succoring the expedition of Sir John Franklin,—or failing to find them, ascertain their fate. Measures will speedily be taken for the accomplishment of this purpose.

KEEP MATCHES FROM CHILDREN.—The *St. Lawrence* (N. Y.) *Republican* says that two children in its vicinity, one aged four, and the other three, came to their death from eating the composition of some Lucifer matches which fell into their hands. One died in twenty four hours after, the other lingered a little longer.