Sentence of Reese Evans.

☞ The following is the sentence pronounced by his Honor Judge Conyngham, upon Reese Evans, recently convicted in Wilkesbarre for the murder of Louis Reese.

REESE EVANS—We have addressed to you the most solemn question that man can propose to his fellow-being—Have you aught to say why sentence of death shall not be pronounced upon you? and you have given us no answer, which can stay the performance of the terrible duty which the Law has imposed upon me.

We have endeavoured to yield to you in your unhappy situation every indulgence, which the duty we owe to the Commonwealth would permit. At the first terms of the Court after the charge of this high offence was made against you, upon your affidavit of the absence of a material witness, who in truth had left the country, a fugitive from justice in a neighboring county, an escaped prisoner from a jail, but of whose return you seemed to have a faint and shadowy hope, we we continued over your case. At the next Term, tho' all your counsel were present, and we heard nothing of the absence of any witness, your challenge to the array of Jurors was sustained, and again was your trial postponed. At the present Court you sought a further delay, but the obligations of duty in our opinion denied it to you—We required that the Commonwealth should assent to the taking of the deposition of your absent sister if her evidence should really be thought material to you, and we assigned for your defence, in addition to those of your counsel who were present, and in the place of the gentleman whose attendance was prevented by sickness, one of the oldest members of the Bar, able, earnest, and zealous. Your counsel have done for you all that men in their situation could do—but you have been tried by an attentive, patient and intelligent Jury of your own selection, and you have been found guilty of murder in the first degree. The Judges of this court in their own opinions and their consciences, are obliged fully to indorse the truth of this verdict: the evidence though partially circumstantial is so complete and full, that there can remain no lingering doubt of your guilt.

On the first day of October last you came to the shop of the unfortunate Louis Reese, with whom you were acquainted, and to whom in former transactions you were indebted to a small amount. You professed to have no money, and such from your inability to pay your Tavern bill at Pittston in the early part of the same week, and other circumstances in the case, seems to have been the truth—You desired to purchase some clothing and promised Reese that if he would accompany you over the river to Mr. Lazarus house, that he should be paid both the old debt and the new one proposed to be contracted for the clothing The man unwilling to give you further credit agreed to go with you and putting up the clothing in one bundle, and the boots, you proposed to buy of his brother in another, he started, with you for the bridge, carrying a bundle. You were seen over the river on the road still together, and carrying the same bundles—this was the last ever seen by others of Reese alive. How he was induced to leave the road and pass into the neighboring fields we know not—about in the regular order of time afterwards, a report of fire arms was heard by some persons on the flats, but who from their position could not see you, and the next morning near the place whence they supposed the sound to come, Reese was found murdered by a pistol shot.—The appearance of the body showed that he had been itstantaneously killed by one in company with him, and directly behind him; the burning of the hair and powder stains showing the near proximity of the pistol. He was robbed of his pocket book, containing his money, his watch was violently torn from its place, leaving the broken guard around his neck, and the bundles of the clothing were taken.—Very soon after this you were seen with the bundles and with the watch without any guard, apparently heated and fatigued with exercise, and claiming to have travelled nearly six miles in about an hour—again on the same afternoon you disposed of a portion of this clothing in Pittston, and subsequently on the next day, when arrested beyond Dundaff, was found with the remainder of the clothing, the boots upon your feet, the watch in your pocket. Money is found in your possession, with that, which it is proven your expended at Pittston and elsewhere after the murder, answering in the general denomination of the bills, and about equal the amount which the witnesses think Reese must have had with him, when he left the shop in company with you. The Money the watch, the boots and clothing, all that Reese had with him of any value, where evidently taken from him, when he was murdered, and these things are found with you. The evident fruits of the horrid crime are with you; is there doubt about the necessary presumption thus arising for this unexplained state of facts? Were you not the last man known to be with the unfortunate Reese? Can we believe your story that he sold you this watch, and carelessly permitted you to take the bundles, when he started to take the walk in your company, against the wishes of his wife, only because he wanted to receive money and was unwilling to trust your credit? Can we believe that the money so slavishly expended and found with you was your own money, when you had none just before, and the persons whom you have alleged were owing and had paid you, deny positively your allegations, and say they neither owed, or saw, or paid you anything at the time? Was not the pistol which was found near the dead man's body (it certainly well answers the description) the one which you claimed and had as late as the Sunday before the murder? Are you not the individual to whom the gunsmith says he so lately sold a pistol of that character? If this be not your pistol, where is that one now? Why is there no attempt to explain this circumstance? The witnesses testify with caution, all but one of the many who saw it thinks it looks very like one you had; you must certainly know, and you could at least explain, if there is another, where that other so few days before in your possession, is.

There are other minor circumstances, too well agreeing with, and strengthening the entire chain of the circumstantial evidence against you. So strong is the combination of the whole, that they are positively inconsistant with your innocence and capable of no reasonable solution, save that of guilt.

We do not repeat these circumstances unhappy young man, to aggravate your feelings, but though you deny it now, to others, you know that the proof of your guilt is too clear to leave you in a lingering hope of escape. Though immature in years, your deliberate plan, so coolly arranged and carried out, to lead your miserable victim to the place of his slaughter; your remarkable nerve, sustaining you so unmoved and so boldly, in the trying circumstances, in which you have appeared before us, your evident intelligence, and determined manner in which our presence, show a maturity of guilt, rarely found in one so youthful. We can discern in your case, no palliation—no deep seated enmity, no sudden heat or quarrel, no disturbance of your intellect by the intoxicating bowl, drove you to a hasty and deep repented act—but, for the purpose of wicked gain, by a falsehood uttered in the presence of his own wife, you lured and decoyed the wretched object of your foul design, a friend to you on former occasions, to his dreadful fate. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, walking just before you in confidence and trust, with no warning, and no suspicion, you gave him, from behind, the fatal wound. You had seen him, just before, part, as he supposed, for a short period, from his affectionate wife and beloved child. You knew that he was living a quiet and peaceable man, happy and contented in the occupation of his ordinary business; wonderful, indeed, is it, that your determination was sustained to the fatal end!

May God have mercy on you, for in man you can now have no hope. If this be the conduct of your young life, what would you be in the days of ripened manhood? If cast loose again upon society, who would be safe? We have heard, that among the books found in your trunk, was one of the vile publications of the day, the lives of pirates, murderers and thieves, which alas! we fear you have heretofore too closely studied—there was found too another book, introduced upon the trial to show the record of your age, which however presented no appearance of frequent perusal: Take this latter with you now to calm your excited feelings, to solace your private hours, to give you comfort in your woe, to draw your thoughts from time to eternity. Tho' the laws of man are heavy upon you, and there can be no thought of your pardon here you may yet find a pardoning Saviour.

As one called upon in the Providence of God, to pronounce your earthly doom, let me earnestly and anxiously implore you diligently to use your time here on earth and by repentance, and prayer, and faith, to seek to avert that doom, which awaiteth the unconverted sinner in the world to come. We condemn the body, but we would save the soul.

The sentence Reese Evans, which this Court as the humble instrument of the law, passes upon you, is, that you be taken hence to the place whence you have been brought, within the Jail of this County of Luzerne, to be kept there, and from thence be taken to the place of execution within the walls, or yard, of the said Jail, at the time when the Executive warrant shall direct, and that you be then and there hanged by the neck until you are dead and may God have mercy on your soul.

The Post Office.

We are glad on several accounts that the President has placed Judge Campbell last the head of the Post-office Department. In the first place he is a practical man, an indispensable quality for efficient Post-Master. He is also a good Judge of men. He has studied character well, and it is probable that his success in life is more atributable to his aptness in this particular than any other. This quality in the Post-office Department, with its thousands of officers, will tell more effectually than in any other department of the Government. We are glad on another account. He is a Philadelphian, and, a business man, must know how shamefully the business of the city has suffered by the bad administration of our city's Post-office, as well as by a lack of proper accommodations in our Postoffice building. The first of these grievances, we believe has been corrected in the removal of Post Master White, and by the appointment of a man who will make the duties of his office his business Mr. Miller should make a popular Post-Master, for he follows an officer who leaves the largest margin for improvement. Touching the better accommodations of the office building, we are glad to see that the Department has already given in early attention. There is a very great probability that the convenience of the public will be properly regarded, and accomodations will be provided in this city for those who have dealing with the Post-office, suitable to the extent and character of the business transacted. For years past the facilities for transacting business with our Post-office have been of the most insufficient kind. The building in which it has been located has been entirely two small, the number of clerks to few for the proper attention to the wants of the public, and the inconvenience for transacting business limited in extent with a small chance for any decided improvement. Mr. Campbell coming directly from among our men of business, and knowing the disadvantages they have suffered in their business from loss of time, and the imminent danger of losses of a more serious character from the insecurity consequent upon the present location will, no doubt, feel disposed to remedy these inconveniences at the earliest possible moment and we are pleased to see that Mr. Miller, the newly appointed Postmaster in this city, is ready to co-operate with the Postmaster-General in any plan which promises to remedy the evils which have been so long a cause of complaint. On Saturday last Mr. Miller had a friendly and social interview with a number of the merchants, publishers, and other business men of the city, with a view of ascertaining their wishes, getting the benefit of their suggestions, and learning the best mode of satisfying the public wants. At this meeting he communicated the gratifying fact that he was authorized to make a selection of a suitable place for a Post-office, and requested the co-operation of the gentlemen present towards introducing such reforms as the character and increase of the business of our city, and the proper accomodation of our citizens required. This early attention to the subject and willingness to promote an object so desired, will be properly appreciated by the public, and augurs favorably for the business capacity and intelligence of the Postmaster.—*Dollar Newspaper (Philadelphia.)*

☞ Quite an excitement has been caused in our borough, says the *Easton Argus*, during the past week in consequence of an occurrence that took place between the Methodist minister residing here and one of the young attorneys. It seems that the minister some three or four weeks ago united in matrimony the sister of the lawyer, a lady of fine personal appearance though rather too young to assume the cares of wedded life, contrary to the wishes of her parents, to a New York news boy who has been delivering papers here since the opening of the Railroad. The parents of the lady did not believe for some time that they were married, but finally sent for the minister to enquire. The marriage certificate having been shown to him he acknowledged it to be his and admitted having performed the ceremony. On Saturday evening her brother called on the minister, and invited him in a courteous manner to take a walk with him, saying that he wished to have some private conversation with him. The minister consented, and after they had walked three or four squares, report says, the attorney pulled a cow hide from under his coat and applying it to the back of his clerical friend, who ran and retreated into a store. There the matter ended. It is to be regretted that such things should occur in an intelligent community.—An attempt to taw hide a man is contrary to law and therefore wrong. It cannot be justified. But it is also a matter of regret that some ministers do not exercise more judgement and discretion in performing the marriage ceremony. In this instance both parties were under eighteen years of age, and the minister to whom they applied should not only have declined their request but he should at once have made it known to the girl's parents. As the matter may not end here, we decline saying more about it.

A NEW LEGAL TENDER.—A new way of paying old debts was enacted in St. Louis last week. A young lady was prosecuted before Esquire Treadway, for obtaining $127 worth of goods from a young merchant under false pretenses. When the suit opened the lady appeared, owned up, and willingly offered *herself* for pay. The merchant liked her and accepted the *legal tender*, which was ratified by the magistrate.

THE DEMOCRAT.

The Largest Circulation in Northern Pennsylvania—1632 Copies Weekly.

S. B. & E. B. CHASE, EDITORS.

MONTROSE, APRIL 28, 1853.

Democratic Nominations.

CANAL COMMISSIONER,

Thomas H. Forsyth,

Of Philadelphia County.

AUDITOR GENERAL,

Ephraim Banks,

Of Mifflin County.

SURVEYOR GENERAL,

J. Porter Brawley,

Of Crawford County.

The Close of the Session.

Our readers are aware that our State Legislature closed its Session Tuesday of last week. It is very natural for the people to inquire, as they always do, at the close of a Session,—what has been done by our Representatives to advance the interests of the Commonwealth and the security, happiness, and prosperity of her citizens? All, however humble, feels a deep interest in the common welfare and glory of the State,—an anxious solicitude for her rapid and permanent progress in freedom and purity of government,—in science, arts, financial independence and wealth, together with all other elements of State prosperity: and all therefore turn their eyes to the Legislature anxiously desiring that each Session shall develop something having a tendency to fulfil their reasonable and just expectations.

We are among those who believe that there is great danger, especially in a republican government, of governing, or in other words, of *legislating* too much. There will always exist the greatest security to the liberties of any people, where is found the least restraint upon opinions, persons and natural rights. The tendency of all legislation is to restrict natural rights rather than enlarge them,—to forbid and command, rather than relent and unloose. This being the case, slight evils or inconveniences should often be endured rather than to seek legislative relief or correction, lest in correcting the one something else may be disarranged and the harmonious action of the whole seriously interfered with. A perfect system of laws as well as a system of perfect laws can be found only in those given by the hand of Divinity, and therefore it is that all attempts to frame laws that shall be free from individual instances of hardship, must end in a miserable failure of the one object even, and finally involve the government itself in confusion and difficulty. Laws should then be general to the whole people having a voice in their enactment, and so shaped as to regard the greatest good of the greatest number of persons and interests, and on that foundation left to stand. All attempts to accommodate them to instances and circumstances, in themselves anomalous, should be frowned upon—never permitted for a moment to gain a foothold, that end in making a tyranny, of what otherwise would have been a mere inconvenience.

Nor do we believe that great communities require a much larger and more complicated system of laws than a small one. True, a State like ours, rapidly increasing in wealth, population and greatness, will have developed, in a corresponding ratio, various and conflicting interests, together with a complication of contingencies unprovided for by her organic and more primitive laws. But to all these, the simple rules of natural right will apply as well as to others, and further than this no government should advance with any interest. Let the government only provide laws for the protection of society and itself, leaving everything else to the operation of natural causes, natural laws of commerce and community, and you then have a model of freedom, prosperity and governmental excellence. Follow out this doctrine and no matter how simple your code, it is alike a protection to ten or ten thousand. The Great Law Giver ruled the world by the ten commandments, so simple and well digested as to require but little more space in print than is required by the "enacting clause" for the simplest of the Bills introduced into our Legislature at the present day. The most successful of earthly monarchs, governed a great people by a code so simple that each of his subjects was required to commit to memory the laws of the empire. "The world is governed too much,"—our State is governed too much.

By what we have already said, we presume our readers can see that all kinds of special, local and class legislation meets no friendship from us. We regard it as fatal to the interests of any State, pernicious in its tendencies and destructive in its results. It begets uneasiness and restlessness among the citizens,—a desire for privileges and exemptions from the hardships or inconveniences necessarily incurred, where every individual is obliged to give up some of his natural rights for the benefits of community. The harmony of government is disturbed thereby, and instead of a great State, or great nation of free and happy people,—prosperous because of fair and equal laws, we find a complicated machinery of government, forever unmanageable, forever out of order, and forever interfering with the interests of the State and the rights of the citizens. The great idea of republicanism rests on natural rights, especially in this country, where it was made the basis of our Declaration of Independence. The less those rights are restricted then by any kind of laws, the greater the liberty of the citizen, the more simple the government, and the happier the people.

It is perhaps the peculiar misfortune of Pennsylvania, that her interests are becoming so multiform and complicated as to occupy the great portion of a Session of her Legislature in purely local legislation. A great share of this is brought about by her mineral wealth and natural resources. In this respect she is differently situated from any of her sister States. These productions are justly the pride of our Commonwealth, but we fear that the system of legislation which has been resorted to for their development, will end in a sad history for the welfare of the masses of the people. Too great State dependencies are erected, special legislation has been too often abused,—so much so that a general law can scarcely now be passed. Counties, and even single townships are beginning to regard themselves as independent sovereignties in legislation.—The confusion and fatality of such a state of things will at once present themselves to every thinking mind, and it is therefore unnecessary for us to point them out. The time has come when such legislation must be arrested—when the purity of the government and the common good of the citizens demand its arrest,—and it may well be a subject of congratulation that some advance has been made the past Session towards stopping its further progress. The manly determination and firm action of our excellent Governor, aided as he was by some members in both branches of the Legislature, has brought men to their senses and paved the way for greater results in future time.

The general laws passed during the Session that has just closed, have been few, and not of a character to excite much interest. Indeed, such is now the peculiar situation of the country, that no legislative body can have anything of exciting interest before it. Peace, happiness and prosperity in full fruition, relieve the public mind from apprehension, and the government from difficulty and danger. At such a time the less important matters of State are attend to, all of which may be and are more or less important however in themselves. There arrangement requires time and attention, and, with such the time of the past Session has been largely consumed. In one respect though will the past Session be regarded as an important one, in that the final completion of one of our most stupendous projects of internal improvements has been provided for,—a project that has required a long series of years to consummate, and immense treasure to construct.

Altogether, the close of the Session left the State prosperous and well provided for. We have but one thing to regret, and that is that no hope has been discovered of relief from the terrible and crushing weight of our State debt. That must we suppose be left for time to wear slowly away, and if it ever shall vanish, we then trust our people will be wiser on the subject of indebtedness. It is that which paralyzes all our energies and robs us of our independence and strength, as the man who is bankrupt in estate is thereby robbed of his independence and manliness. Time we trust will finally "set all things even," and with that idea are we consoled in our anxiety for the welfare of a Commonwealth we love.

Court Proceedings.

FIRST WEEK.

Common'lth vs. John W. Brackney, Defendant, convicted of Assault and Battery and fined ten dollars and costs of prosecution.

Common'lth vs. Otis Newton, Indictment for Perjury, tried Thursday and verdict *not guilty.*

James Brink vs. John W. Dodge, an action for slanderous words,—verdict for Plaintiff for $37 and costs.

SECOND WEEK.

Cornelius J. Curtis vs. Tho Montrose and Harford Plank Road Company, Damage—verdict for Plaintiff for $150.

G. W. Goodell vs. Lucy Terry, Appeal, tried Tuesday and Jury being unable to agree, were discharged. Appearance and Plea withdrawn and Judgment—by consent for $25 and costs.

J. W. Curtis vs. The Montrose and Harford Plank Road Company, now (Wednesday noon) on trial.

Book Notices.

Graham's Magazine for May is a gem of choice reading—a credit to the talent of our country. It is entirely original, but not trashy, like much of the Magazine Literature of the day. But we cannot enumerate its attractions: any of our readers who wish farther particulars can address Geo. R. Graham, Phil'a, with $3 inclosed for a single copy; or $16 for 10 copies; $20 for 13 copies.

Peterson's Magazine for May is on our table, and is a visiter to which we feel illy competent to do justice. The Steel Engraving, "Crossing the Brook" and the colored plate "Des Modes Parishioners," reflect great credit upon the artists of our country. The matter of this Magazine, though, mostly of the story order, is interesting and instructive; and some of the ablest pens contribute to its pages. $2 single copy: 8 copies for $10.

Address C. J. Peterson, Phil'a.

Dickens' Household Words, No. 3, Vol. 7. Contents:—Received, a Blank Child; An Inundation in Bengal; Photography; The Ballad of the Gold Digger; Leicester Square; The Roving Englishman, Register. Says the *Louisville Journal* of this work:

Every number gives some valuable information, presented in the most delightful manner. Its articles, even on scientific subjects, are as interesting as the finest tale. The family in which the magazine is read will do ten times as much thinking as would be done without it.

Terms $2,50; 3 copies for $6; 5 do $9; 10 do $15. Address McElrath & Lord 17 Spruce St. N. Y.

GEN. CUSHING AS A LINGUIST.—A Washington correspondent of the *N. Y. Herald*, says that Gen. Cushing is the only man in the Cabinet who can talk anything besides English; and relates the following, in proof of his proficiency in that respect:

"At the diplomatic dinner given by M. de Bodisco, on Wednesday, the Attorney General charmed and surprised the distinguished party by his captivating and versatile accomplishments. Like a veritable polyglot he conversed in French with M. de la Compte de Sartiges, in Spanish with Don Calderon de la Barca, and in Dutch with Baron Testa, spoke German with Baron Von Gevolt, Portuguese with De Figaniere, and the most unexceptionable Tuscan with the representative of the two Sicilies."

☞ The North American Review has an elaborate article on the production of gold and silver, in which the writer thinks it but the exercise of ordinary caution to assume that "the annual supply of the precious metals will not fall below a hundred millions of dollars for many years, and that in a quarter of a century this supply will depreciate money to one-half or one-third its present value."

New York Correspondence.

NEW YORK, Saturday, April 23.

MESSRS. EDS:—We are now enjoying another lovely day after four or five wet, cold, and disagreeable, had brought again various winter accompaniments. A severe thunder storm last night, seems to have served as a weather settler, and it is hoped that it will stay settled for some time to come.

The past week has not been very prolific of news, either foreign or domestic, and were it not for the temporary revival of the discussion respecting the provisions and operation of the Constitution in case of the death of the President, we would have been almost a city of quakers.

The death of the Vice President of the United States, has been so generally looked for that the intelligence of that event, or its receipt in this city, on Tuesday afternoon, provided only a transient excitement. The venerable statesman had reached his home in Dallas county on Sunday, and on Monday evening under his own roof, and surrounded by his friends and neighbors, he yielded up his spirit respected alike by politicians of all parties.—The colors on the shipping and the various public buildings and hotels were immediately displayed at half mast, remaining so during the whole of Wednesday, the day of the funeral. The various courts of law adjourned over to Thursday, and several of the public offices were closed in token of respect.

The *Black Warrior* and *Cherokee* have supplied us with advices from Havana to the 14th inst. The most interesting item is the sudden visit of the Governor General, in person, to St Jago to investigate some troubles in that city, in which the local governor and the magistrates of that city and neighborhood are parties. It seems his potty excellence has undertaken to practise his hand by imprisoning some of these magistrates and their fellows have thrown down the gauntlet, and demanded their release. The whole affair is kept as private as possible, yet the importance of the movement is apparent from the *personal* movements of Cañedo. Galiano, the notorious Secretary of State, has retired, taken to wife a Miss Scull, daughter of a resident American, and started for England. Reports were prevalent that Canedo had been superceded in the Governor Generalship by Gen. Cordova.

Our old friend Santa Anna, had been received at Vera Cruz with great enthusiasm, and having accepted the Presidency tendered to him by 18 out of 23 states and territories, had started for Mexico, under an escort of 1000 men to assume its duties.

Advices from Europe to the 9th inst. have been received per the Pacific and Arabia, but their dullness hardly pays for the time required to read them. Cotton is in fair demand at former prices, all other articles of produce has declined. Business generally was dull, and money rather tight. Gold continued to come in from Australia at the rate of *five or six tons per week*, and emigration from England and Germany was tending towards that vicinity. Ireland alone sticking to her text by her usual exodus to America. Queen Victoria had presented to Prince Albert and the public treasury another bouncing boy, and her subjects' were rendering themselves ridiculous by their usual toadyism. A plan for paying off £10,000,000 of the public debt, and for reducing the interest on other portions had been published by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and it was the subject of considerable discussion in financial circles. Meetings had been held for the purpose of urging the Government to protect Turkey against the aggressions of Austria and Russia, but the government seemed disposed to attend to its own business, after trying to regulate other peoples for many years. An accident had occurred at the Dublin Crystal Palace, by which five men were killed, and eight dreadfully wounded. France was unusually quiet. The emperor had been sick a day or two. The relative importance of the religious and civil rites of marriage was beginning to attract some attention, in the absence of all other subjects of general interest. The Baron Dubois, son of the surgeon of Maria Louise, had been appointed accoucher of the Empress. Mazzini is said to be safe and his return to London within two weeks, was announced. Has he been out of London, or is the rumor of his presence on the continent a *ruse* to withdraw the attention of the police from other matters? I think the latter, and I have no doubt the result will show the truth of my suspicion. *Holland* is all on the *qui vive* in opposition to the re-establishment of the Papla hierarchy in that country, as now proposed. The whole of Central Europe seems to be ready to spring to action at a moments notice, and I very much doubt the meaning of the 'foverish' symptoms which prevail there about, if there is not a general uprising before many weeks. Her pilot discovered at Berlin a few weeks since confirms the opinion especially since its ramifications have been traced to Italy, London, Switzerland, &c.—From Genoa there have been shipped 82 political refugees consigned to the United States and a market:—a new movement clearly indicating that they are not disposed to sow the seed which has been heretofore scattered there with a liberal hand. I refer to the blood of political martyrs. At last they fear the people and seek preventatives rather than cures. The Russian army having withdrawn from the Turkish borders there is no doubt the difficulties between the two countries are about disposed of.

From *Washington*, we learn that Senator Borland declines the Gubernatorial chair of New Mexico, and that he will probably take the Central American Mission, declined by Mr. Slidell. Gov. T. H. Seymour of Conn. it is said has accepted the offered mission to Mexico. The celebrated Sim. Draper, who "Draperized" the Whig National Convention has involved the late Secretary of the Treasury in trouble, if reports of pending investigations at Washington are correctly stated. It seems that Sim.—who is a stock broker in this city, as respectable as any of them, by the way, and quite as wide awake,—had been instructed by Mr. Corwin to purchase government securities to the amount of $1,700,000, which amount was placed at his disposal on nominal securities being placed in Mr. Corwin's hands. It is said that $300,000 of securities have been sent by him to the Treasury, leaving about $1,400,000 still in his hands for which the collaterals are quite insufficient. It appears strange, if this story is true, that we have not heard of it before, for even in Uncle Sam's wallet that amount is something of "a pile." I am confident, whether the report is true or false, Mr. Draper will make it all right; but the temptation is too great for any man, and the carelessness of our Buckeye statesman is very extraordinary. The *Gardner trial* "drags its slow length along," with like prospect of a verdict for the government. In fact, as far as the evidence reaches us there seems to have been little grounds for the charge, and the acquittal of the accused seems inevitable.

From the extreme west, "back of sun-down" we learn that the overland emigration to California, especially that from Arkansas, is greater this year than usual; while our Texan brothers are telling the world that on the upper Colerado, placers of great richness are discovered. California must look sharp, or her laurels will be tarnished; for if Texas begins to pick up the gold by the side of her brooks, I see no reason why New York should not do so too, and if she once sets about it she will do it thoroughly.

The notorious Caravajal having started on another of his campaigns on the Mexican borders, he has been accommodated with quarters and a *ne exeat*, in Fort Brown—a place he ought long since to have occupied.

Local intelligence seldom possesses much interest to general readers. There is occasionally an item which pays for the perusal, such may be the fact that our city is shortly to become the abiding place of two of the three great presidential candidates at the last election. Gen. Scott and his family are now here preparing for occupancy a splendid brown-stone front house on one of our fashionable streets which the General has recently purchased; while John P. Hale of N. Hampshire will soon be J. P. Hale of New York, at which place he is about to settle in the practice of his profession.

On Monday evening old Tammany Hall was the scene of quite an excitement, the "Hards" and the "Softs" of the Society contending for the Sachems and Council; and, indirectly, for the Hall, which was tantamount to a death struggle. The Council decides who are "regular" when conflicting parties ask for the use of the Hall; and, their decision stamps with success the lucky party, for as goes Tammany Hall so goes the city, and in a close election the State also. The struggle as may have been expected, was severe, but the "Softs" entirely routed the "Hards" by a two-thirds vote and the "Hards" are really nowhere.

Our Crystal Palace, like the Gardiner trial, seems to get along rather slowly. This has been the consequence of delays on the part of the contractors in supplying the iron work, and of the bad weather which prevented the workmen from laboring during the early part of the spring. There is now no possibility of the exhibition opening before the first of June, if, indeed, it will then be ready, and some who profess to know set down July as the earliest time at which it can be opened to the public. The association and its officers are certainly doing their part of the business, yet, where so many persons and interests are concerned, either possessing power to disarrange the whole, it is not surprising that they are behind time. Many applications have been made for space where none can be given; and it is said that three times the room could have been advantageously disposed of had it been at the disposal of the management. Some of your readers may feel interested in knowing that on many of the railroads leading to this city, articles which have been accepted for exhibition, will be conveyed free of expense when accompanied with a certificate of the fact. Others are expected to come into the arrangement, and the names of all will be duly announced.

Our markets are quite lively, and seem to be quite easy. *Flour* is rather dull, with a downward tendency. Western sells at $4,56 to $4,81. Ohio $4,56 to $5,19, extra qualities still lighter. Southern was rather brisk at $4,00 to 5,50. *Rye flour* is rather scarce at $3,75 to $4,25. *Corn Meal* is dull at $3 *Wheat* tends downward at $1,20 to $1,25.—*Rye* is quiet at 90 to 91. *Barley* is also quiet at 63 to 67. *Oats* are firm and in fair demand at 48 to 50, for Western and 39 to 45 for Southern. *Corn* is brisk and steady at 63 for mixed southern, 96 to 65 for White do. 65 for round yellow and 65 to 66 for yellow southern. *Pork* is stiffer at $13,50 for Prime, and $15.75 for mess. *Lard* is quite brisk at 9 1-2 to 10. *Beef* is heavy at $4,50 to $5, for prime and $8 to $10,25 for mess. *Butter* is quite brisk at 9 to 15 for Ohio; 12 to 20 for W. New-York, and 20 to 25 for Orange Co.—*Cheese* is scarce active at 9 to 10. *Tobacco* is active at 6 to 9 for Kentucky, and 5 to 15 for seed leaf Penn. and Conn. X.

Littell's Living Age, Conducted by E. LITTELL. Boston: LITTELL & Co. This sterling periodical has commenced a new series with an improvement in shape and general appearance. The constant value which has always been set upon it by both the studious and practical minds of the country is the best of all testimonials of its intrinsic worth. The happy aptness with which it culls from the whole field of English periodical literature could only be acquired by a long experience like that of its veteran conductor. Nothing that is rich or rare in the Quarterlies, the Monthlies, Weeklies, or even in the vast expanse of the Daily Press, escapes its vigilance and the selection is always made so as to be as attractive for its variety as it is in its adherent excellence. He who would know the direction in which the tides of human thought and feeling in his own age are setting, must take careful and constant note of its current literature; especially the literature of its periodical press, for that is widest in diffusion and most powerful in influence. But this would be an endless task, were it not for such facilities as this Magazine affords. Selections of what is most striking and effective must be made, and that too with a discrimination which detects at once the difference between a barren vagary and a fruitful idea. This periodical does this with admirable skill, and as an exponent of the intellectual and moral energies of the times, it has a just claim to its title of *The Living Age.—N. Y. Courier.*

THE DIFFERENCE.—What is the difference between Scott's best novel and Desdemona? Listen and we'll inform you. One was 'Bride of Lammermoor, while the other was the bride that the 'Moor, 'Lem'd.

Latest from California.

Loss of the Steamer Independence, 140 *lives lost.*

NEW ORLEANS, April 23.

The steamship United States, Capt. Berry, arrived here to-day, in five and a half days from Aspinwall. She brings but a few straggling passengers.

The steamship Uncle Sam left Aspinwall for New York on the 18th, with the passengers by the steamship Cortes, which arrived at Panama in fourteen days from San Francisco.

The steamship Georgia, from New York, arrived at Aspinwall on the 17th.

ACCOUNT OF THE DESTRUCTION OF THE INDEPENDENCE.

The steamship Independence was lost on the 16th of Forbuary, having run ashore on the shoals off-Margaretta Island, where she took fire and was burned to the water's edge.

Five hundred passengers were on board all of whom leaped into the water and tried to swim ashore, of whom at least *one hundred and forty were lost.* Margaretta Island is upon the coast of Lower California, and is uninhabited.

After striking, the Independence backed off, but finding eight feet of water in her hold Captain Sampson ordered the pilot to run her on the beach at a spot three hundred yards from land.

The ship took fire from the intense heat of the furnaces; the flames spread rapidly and created the most frightful consternation among the passengers.

A very heavy surf was running, and all the boats of the steamer were swamped in trying to make the first trip ashore.

To add to the horrors of the scene the fire reached the powder magazine, which exploded with terrible force, shattering the steamer's stern to pieces, and scattering the fragments in every direction. Many of the passengers were blown overboard, and others jumped over and were immediately carried out to sea by the strong current that was sweeping from the shore.

Those who succeeded in reaching the shore were unable to render any assistance to those struggling in the water, and were obliged to remain passive spectators of immense numbers of men, women and children, perishing by fire and in the sea.

The number of persons lost has been variously estimated at from one hundred and forty to two hundred.

The ship finally swung round broadside to the beach, when her coal also took fire, and she was totally destroyed.

The passengers who were saved found themselves on an uninhabited island without water, where they were compelled to remain for fifty-six hours in a state of intense suffering.

Finally, by firing a cannon, the survivors were enabled to attract the attention of some whaling vessels lying in Magdalene Bay, a few miles off, who came to their assistance, with provisions, and finally took them off.

The following are the names, as far as ascertained, of the passengers belonging to the Eastern States, who were lost:—

FROM NEW YORK.

John Morris.	R. Mosher.
J. Jones.	J. Myers.
Geo. E. Light.	Mrs. Muffin.
—Hartman.	T. O'Neal.
William Doyle.	T. O. Berlee.
William Leonard.	Charles A. Ward.

FROM MASSACHUSETTS.

Robert Taylor.	W. S. Moulton.
—Welsh, of Boston.	—Johnson of Boston.
O. Hale.	

There were other New Englanders lost whose names have not been ascertained.

MARYSVILLE AGAIN UNDER WATER.

The city of Marysville has been again inundated, by a rise in the Feather and Yuba rivers, and much loss of property had occurred.

GOLD FOR THE ATLANTIC STATES.

The steamer California, which left San Francisco on the 1st of April for Panama, took down $2,230,000 in gold dust, of which $800,00 was shipped by Page, Bacon & Co., and $530,000 by Adams & Co.

SAN FRANCISCO MARKETS.

The markets at San Francisco were quiet, in expectation of a great change, owing to a large number of marine arrivals. Flour was quoted at $12 to $13, with small sales. Mess pork, 40, and clear pork $44. Hams 24c a 25c. Butter 43c. a 45c. Rice, 6 1-2c. Lard, 29c. to 30c.

The Central Route for the Pacific Railroad.

The Chicago people are pushing the proposed central route for the Pacific Railroad, says the *N. Y. Post*, which, they allege, is shorter and more practicable than either Colonel Benton's, Mr. Gwin's, or the southern route, and better than the more nothern by Lake Superior and Wisconsin. This route runs from Chicago, to Council Bluff, through Iowa, thence to the Fort Laramie, by a level and direct plane, fertile as to the soil and well irrigated, and from there up the Laramie Fork by its road, which the Indian traders take with their wagons and packs for twenty miles, issuing upon the Laramie plains, which wave with luxuriant grass, and invite cultivators. Afterwards, it skirts along to the south of the Black Hills of the north Platte, which comes out of the New Park and runs north a hundred miles *into the south pass.*

There are several passes in the South Pass. The great ridge of mountains from the south terminates at the New (or North) Park, and again rises in the chain about 120 miles northwestwardly, and is called there the Wind River Mountains. Now in this gap of the eastern ridges of the Rocky Mountains lie several crossings: 1st, the South Pass of Fremont; 2d, the Evans Pass, followed by Arkansas emigrants to California; 3d, Bridger's Pass, explored by Captains Stansbury and Gunnison; 4th, Jones's Route by the New Park, &c.—all practicable, though the particular place for crossing will be determined by the opportunities it furnishes for getting wood and water.

On the other side is the great Coal Basin, described in Stansbury's report, printed by Congress, as perfectly inexhaustible in its deposits of the precious mineral. The route next passes to the rim of the Salt Basin, thence to the head of Humboldt river, and so along its valley to the Sierra Nevada, through Truchee or Salmon-trout Pass, to San Francisco.

This route is urged by its advocates for the following reasons:

1. Because it is the most direct from San Francisco to Europe.

2. It is on the great commercial line of the United States.

3. It is through a rich country to the settlements of Utah.

4. It is over an immense coal field, one hundred and fifty miles in diameter.

5. It is nearly half built already, from New-York and Boston beyond Chicago.

6. It is on the most level flat on the habitable globe, and where nature has plainly indicated her wishes that it should be built.

A BIG STICK FOR THE WORLD'S FAIR—Messrs. Campbell, Moody and Bissell are preparing a large white Pine Stick of Timber, at Allegany, for the World's Fair. It is 80 feet long, and squares clear 3 feet containing 720 cubic feet, or 7200 feet of lumber, board measure. It was measured by Mr. H. Bissell, one of the firm. It was over five feet in diameter on the stump.