The Press.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1857.

☞ We give our political readers a glance at "State Politics" on our first page this morning; also, letter of "Greybeard," more of the Shipwreck, Money Panics, and General News. Fourth page, Dr. J. W. Gibbon's third article on Weight of Coinage.

☞ We regret to learn of the suspension of one of our largest and longest established importing and jobbing houses on Market street. The impossibility of negotiating upon any terms to supply the deficiency in their ordinary collections has led to this painful event. The indebtedness of the house, we understand, amounts to between six and seven hundred thousand dollars, and their assets, excluding all doubtful debts, exceed a million of dollars, besides the private property of the partners; which, together with the means of the firm, amount to more than half a million of dollars beyond their liabilities. It is but just to those now composing the firm in question to say that they have struggled earnestly, and at great pecuniary sacrifice, to sustain the credit of their house, which has suffered by causes over which the present members of the firm have had no control. We further regret to learn that the ill health of the senior partner will preclude his longer continuance in the mercantile business. But we trust that his juniors, with the assistance of his capital and friends, will be enabled to effect such an arrangement as will result in the resuscitation of a house of the highest importance to the trade of Philadelphia, and especially of Market street.

LEIGH HUNT'S NOTIONS.

Poets ought to be, and often are, excellent prose-writers. The necessity, while "weaving the immortal Verse," of carefully weighing the value, and ascertaining the different and delicate shades of meaning of each word, makes a poet a good writer of prose. Witness the correspondence of POPE and SWIFT, COWPER and GOLDSMITH, SCOTT and BYRON, MOORE and SOUTHEY, WORDSWORTH and COLERIDGE, and a long array of other illustrious men—to say nothing of their actual prose writings, produced for public perusal. We wonder, therefore, at finding such an agreeable writer as LEIGH HUNT (who, by the way, is the original of Harold Skimpole in DICKENS's "Bleak House") sending to the world a good deal of absurdity in the naive and interesting introductory letter, which he has prefixed to the beautiful "blue and gold" edition of his poems, recently published by TICKNOR & FIELDS, of Boston.

Addressing an American public, and having become saturated with the idea that from Maine to California there was intense and universal admiration of his poems, LEIGH HUNT evidently laid himself out for complimenting them, in return. He boasts himself as "more nearly related to the Americans by blood, than any other British author"—his mother being an American, his father a native of Barbadoes, and his aunt, Mrs. WEST, (wife of the great painter;) "a Philadelphia woman." We are glad that, like Mr. BENTON, he has a hearty hatred for the no-meaning word *lady*. In every way, the fine old English word *woman* is superior. What wretched pretension accompanies the word *lady*. Every female is a *lady* now-a-days. We find advertisements of "a lady wishes an engagement as cook," or "a lady wishes to wait on a family going to Europe," and, no later than yesterday, we saw an announcement that "a lady desired a situation as barmaid" in a drinking saloon. Far better, if we have to describe a person of the opposite sex, corresponding with our plain term *gentleman*, is the honest, unambiguous, unambitious word *gentlewoman*. It is a title, to our simple taste, greater than that of Empress or Queen, Duchess or Marchioness. Indeed, what *is* Queen Victoria, socially considered, but the leading gentlewoman of her realm?

LEIGH HUNT believes of his American popularity, (such as it may be,) "that relationship has something to do with it;" and that the American willingness to read what he writes, "lies for the most part in the amount of animal spirits, which it develops, your country (America) being nearer to the sun than ours, and the excess of fancy in its jesting having of late years not a little surprised me."

It may wound Mr. LEIGH HUNT's *amour propre*, but the truth must be told, and the truth is that scarcely any of his American readers were aware of his "relationship" with them, and, if they had been, it would not have influenced them, one way or another. Another bit of truth which he may as well know is that, up to the issue of the very beautiful edition now before us, his *poetry* was little known in this country. He was chiefly known, to American readers, by his pleasant, chatty, garrulous Autobiography, (re-published by the HARPERS of New York,) and by numerous volumes of gossip about books and authors, criticism and biography, antiquities and anecdotes, which he has produced, with greater facundity than force. Now, thanks to his Boston publishers, Mr. LEIGH HUNT's poems will obtain a large circulation hereafter, and one thing is to their credit, his writings have a delicacy and purity which permits them to be placed, without fear or danger, in the hands of young people.

The idea that Americans must like his poems because their country is "nearer the sun" than England, is very LEIGH HUNT-ish. To explain inexplicable things by a paradox is of the same character. But to say that the excess of fancy in American jesting, which has surprised him of late years, is another cause for the same liking, crowns the absurdity. What, does an American like the story of "Rimini," or "The Feast of the Violets," or that beautiful apologue of "Abou Ben Adhem," or the touching stanzas to his sick boy—because, in the extravaganza of our jesting, we talk of a man with so much absence of mind that he blew himself out and put the candle to bed, or of another who was so tall that he had to mount a ladder to shave himself, or of a third who was so thin that his shadow cut down the trees as he passed along? No. If the Americans did like Mr. HUNT's poems, there need be no metaphysical inquisition as to the cause. Let it be conceded at once that they liked them—because they did!

As might be expected, Mr. HUNT, who is English to the back-bone, echoes back the familiar note of "identical in race, language, laws, and literature," and glibly speaks of "the Anglo-Americans." He says, more prettily than truly, when speaking of differences between the two nations, "But of all quarrels, family quarrels are accounted to be the most exacting; and the reason in general why they are so—if the parties were but oftener aware of it—is the same which ought to render them the most forgiving; for it is but love inverted affection, the more wounded the more it thinks affection its due."

It seems to us, whom the Gods have not made poetical, that "love inverted" is nothing smaller than *hate*.

Mr. HUNT adds, "I am no friend of cant of any kind, John's or Jonathan's, but old proverbs are still good; blood is thicker than water, and the pure matter-of-fact truth is, that when Englishmen and Anglo-Americans speak ill of one another, they speak ill of themselves, *for they are one people*."

But they are *not* "one people." There is a remarkably small per centage of Anglo-Americanism in the United States. The pervading and prevailing element, in the distribution of races, among us Celtic is and not "Saxon!" In a word, Mr. HUNT blunders terribly—from utter ignorance of the fact. He proceeds to say:

"They inherit the same blood, the same names, the same glories, the same Alfreds and Shakspeares; nay! and related to Englishmen as well as Americans, were your illustrious ancestors and relatives, the Lees and the Washingtons. Englishmen and Americans have the same good qualities and the same faults; are carrying on the same good of mankind under different forms of free government; and would each have acted, must have acted, precisely in the same manner under the same circumstances. Lee and Washington were obedient loyalists, till George the Third himself forced them to be otherwise. Had a Sovereign like Queen Victoria been then reigning, reason would have been upon the throne, and Washington remained its loving subject."

It strikes us that though WASHINGTON ceased to be "loyal" to GEORGE the Third, he never did cease to be a "loving subject" of Reason. Mr. HUNT writes so loosely that a meaning widely different from what he intended may be drawn from his words. We believe that whatever monarch was on the British throne, the Independence of the American States was inevitable. They had become too rich, too powerful, and, even then, too populous to be governed from Whitehall and St. James's.

Mr. HUNT winds up with this very singular remark—"And I venture to add, that if Queen VICTORIA had chanced to be of WASHINGTON's family, *she would have been one of his staunchest abettors.*"

Would that have been wonderful? As a matter of course, a man's own family, who see his daily life, who possibly listen to his explanation of his own views and motives, are precisely those who would be "his staunchest abettors." There would have been nothing to be surprised at if ALEXANDRINA VICTORIA WASHINGTON (had such a woman existed) had been one of GEORGE WASHINGTON's staunchest supporters;—but had a certain ALEXANDRINA VICTORIA GUELPH, grand-daughter to GEORGE III., been among that staunch phalanx of "supporters," the case would have worn a different aspect.

We have done with LEIGH HUNT. He went out of his depth—misled by vanity and ignorance—and babbled out his compliments to America, in full expectation that America would very gladly accept them, because they came from *him*. We would part with him in peace, and have pleasure, therefore, in saying that those who love poetry, which rarely rises to the emotional, will be gratified with this handsome edition of poems which, though more or less known here, have never before been collected in this country. HUNT is a thoroughly amiable man, and has freely poured out his mind into his verses.

THE WRECK.

There is no lack of melancholy details respecting the wreck of the *Central America*, but it is surprising how few facts have been ascertained, beyond two—namely, that the vessel is lost; and that, out of over six hundred persons known to have been on board, one hundred and eighty-two have been saved. This is all, if we do not include the gallant conduct of Captain HERNDON, who, by his prompt action, saved the lives of the women and children. It is said that there is *a chance* of this excellent man having escaped the doom by which so many were sacrificed. But, keeping our hope under subjection to our judgment, we can scarcely cherish any such expectation. We fear, and we believe, that Captain HERNDON is of the dead.

There are many points over which doubt still hovers—doubt which it is imperative on some parties to remove. The seaworthiness of the *Central America* is one. It is alleged, on one hand, that she was almost a new vessel, built at one of the first ship-yards in New York, in 1853, and had been recently overhauled, and put into complete repair, at considerable cost. It is charged, on the other hand, that she was unfit to face a great storm, and was not in a condition to carry passengers or freight; that she leaked, more or less, from the time of her departure from Cuba; that the strain of the sea upon her, during the hurricane, made her leak in divers places; that the pumps, by which the crew and passengers endeavored to free her from water, were out of order and would not work; that when carpenters and blacksmiths' tools, with which to repair the pumps, were sought, no one could find them; that, by laboring in the trough of the sea, her upper works gave way, so that she was thus inundated from the top, from the sides, and from a heavy leak in her bottom.

Not only was it impossible to find the necessary tools to repair the pumps, (the good working condition of which should have been ascertained before she left Havana,) but out of seven hundred life-preservers on board, not more than two hundred could be found in the dark and dreadful hour of need. Having them on board, without being able to have immediate access to them, at a moment's notice, was precisely as bad as not having them at all.

One point on which the public are greatly in doubt is, the vessel's change of name. From 1853 to June, 1857, she was the *George Law*, and the question is, Why was her name changed to the *Central America*? We have already stated that, on her arrival at the Quarantine ground, New York, on June 18, 1857, a meeting of seven hundred passengers was held, at which indignant resolutions of complaint were passed. But these resolutions, if we rightly recollect them, though they denounced the wretched accommodation on board the steamer, and the abominable neglect of the most ordinary comforts of the passengers, did not declare that the *George Law* was a bad or unsafe vessel. Why, then, was her name changed?—changed so suddenly, too, that she was sent back to Aspinwall, a few days after her arrival, as the *Central America*. The public have a right to have this change of name accounted for. What was the Steam-Company's *motive* in making this change? Was it simply because of the bad odor which the vessel derived from the resolutions adopted, in indignation, by the assembled passengers, on reaching the Quarantine, or was it because the directors thought that the general reputation of the steamer was at zero?

One thing forces itself upon the mind—the necessity of having ocean-steamers built in air-tight compartments, so as to render their sinking next to an impossibility. We are confident, also, that the loss of this vessel supplies a very powerful argument in favor of the construction of the Pacific Railroad.

Much blame has been cast upon Mr. ASHBY, chief-engineer, for deserting the vessel in her hour of extremest need. His published explanation, which seems straightforward and truthful, goes far to show that he strictly obeyed orders in leaving the steamer, in charge of the women and children, and that, when he reached the brig, the men who rowed his boat refused to take him back to the steamer. There is evidence, supplied by some of the passengers who were saved, that he manifested the most urgent desire to return to the *Central America*, that he offered a considerable amount of money to be taken back, and that, in peril of death, the boatmen refused again to trust themselves to the treacherous "hell of waters" which rose, and roared, and yawned before them. Mr. ASHBY appears to have satisfactorily vindicated himself from the heavy imputation hastily thrown upon him.

It rests with the proper authorities of New York, whoever they may be, to make a full and open investigation of the loss of the *Central America*. Had such a calamity occurred in France or England, on the very first intimation being made to the Government, an experienced officer would have been sent down to examine into the extent and causes of the calamity, and, if needs be, to collect and arrange the evidence for the immediate prosecution, before a legal tribunal, of whatever parties appeared to be implicated by carelessness, criminal neglect, or misconduct. The same course ought to be pursued in the present instance, but "what is every one's business is no one's business;" so, in all probability, the matter will be a nine-days' wonder, and then be ousted out of the public mind by some newer incident—in this case, perhaps, by the approaching trial of Mrs. Cunningham Burdell.

NOSTRUMS IN POLITICS.

Like quackerics in medicine, are potent of mischief. When we desert principles for expedients, and attempt to tinker where we should boldly renovate and reform, we only postpone the evil day, and render the inevitable crash more destructive. Another discreditable thing is the attempt to turn to party account the sufferings of trade, manufactures, and labor, which grow out of unavoidable causes. For instance, the allegation that the present stringency in the money market is the result of the Tariff of 1846 is eminently unfair and discreditable. One of the city papers boldly asserts, that the failure of REEVES, BUCK, & Co., and the consequent discharge of some two thousand workmen, was produced, in part, by that Tariff. Now, we have no doubt that this firm itself would disdain adopting such a pretext as this. Under the Tariff of 1846, the manufacture of railroad iron in this country was, in fact, largely protected. The great house of REEVES, BUCK, & Co., has been almost continually occupied in this important branch of trade for years past, and to its utmost capacity. Their suspension was caused by the simple fact that they have been manufacturing iron for railroad companies, receiving in payment the bonds of these companies, having some thirty years to run. Failing to negotiate these bonds, or to borrow upon them, in consequence of the enormous speculations in public lands, and the abstraction of our capital to pay our foreign debts—which capital was diverted to other purposes in the Old World than investments in American securities—a catastrophe became certain. The idea of lugging in the Tariff of 1846 as the cause of these suspensions, is, we repeat, unworthy of a great and enlightened party; and we are glad that the expedient has not been generally resorted to.

GOVERNOR WALKER'S CONFIRMATION

Our correspondent "Occasional" thinks that, from present appearances, the Southern and the Republican Senators will reject the President's nomination of ROBERT J. WALKER as Governor of Kansas. The grounds upon which some of the Southern Senators will act will be the alleged interference of Governor WALKER in favor of making Kansas a free State, while that of the Republican and Abolition Senators is, that he is the servile instrument of the South, and stands committed to making Kansas a slave State. We do not, of course, arrogate to ourselves the right of calling Senators to account. They are, we hope, all honest men, and will act with the lights before them, according to their consciences. But it is a strange phase in politics, when those whose rights are best protected by a rigid adherence to the Constitution are openly declared to be ready to join hands with those whose designs against that Constitution are alike notorious and flagrant. And we hope, whatever may be the course of the fanatics of the North and the West, that the Southern Senators will pause before inflicting upon the truly conservative sentiment, North and South, that would, which would be felt to the very heart by the great body of our countrymen, and might be the cause of the most frightful dissensions.

PEACE IN KANSAS.

The war of factions, on the Kansas question, is confined to those outside of Kansas. The people of the Territory are deeply interested—interested in their homes, in their churches, and schools, in their household gods—that there shall be a permanent and a perpetual peace in Kansas. No such motives inspire the politicians who want war and dissension. They desire to help themselves as partisans, not as patriots, and hence they cry out against the amiable and fraternal spirit which is preparing Kansas for admission into our family of States. Two gentlemen connected with the public press, but both entirely independent of party politics, who have just returned from Kansas, concur in saying that when they left everything was singularly quiet and satisfactory. The people were absorbed in business and other pursuits more enduring than politics; and it was only when our informants returned to the States that they found the real Kansas war. A few days, however, will settle the matter, and we shall then be able to tell how far these prognostications are well-founded or not. We cannot doubt that what the people of Kansas most desire themselves they will obtain, no matter how the factions, who have no right to interfere, may clamor.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

The Banks have adopted a measure, which, however highly to be commended, would have given great heart and hope to the business community, had it been extended a week ago. They have agreed to discount good paper to the full extent of their receipts, and to relieve all solvent bonds from the pressure, to the full extent of their ability. There is a vast amount of money in hand. The capacities and productions of our country are prodigious. To call out this money, to develop these capacities, and to realize upon these productions, requires only one thing—CONFIDENCE. With confidence, CREDIT will arise, full of health and power; and those who now suspend will resume, full of the determination never to be caught by such an amazing conjunction of misfortunes as has befallen our country, in the full tide of prosperity in all the branches of substantial wealth. We learn great lessons in hours like these; and if we gather no other benefits, we shall "from the nettle danger pluck the flower safety."

The worst, we hope, is past. As soon as the determination arrived at became known, everything grew a more cheerful aspect. Men who went to bank to get answers to their applications for discounts, dreading a refusal, returned to their counting rooms with lightened hearts and smiling faces. They had got the accommodation they needed and breathed freer for the relief that had been granted them. The banks never performed a wiser act. We have no disposition to lessen the merits to which they are justly entitled, by ascribing to them a selfish motive for pursuing the course they did. But it is perfectly clear, that had more timid or less generous counsels prevailed in their deliberations, the end would have proved most disastrous to them, and to their customers who had to depend on them. Let CONFIDENCE and CO-OPERATION be our watchwords now, and soon business will resume its wonted animation, and money will return to its accustomed channels.

But or those tried and unfortunate men who have gone down in the storm, what shall we say? It is a bitter thought to them, a sad one to us. They have our warmest sympathies. Nay, more—we are proud to say—that no instance as yet has come to our knowledge in which they have not also the kindly wishes of all their creditors.

GOLD.

At this season of the year it fortunately happens that some of our Philadelphia banks annually receive large sums from New York, and their supply of specie is thus liberally replenished. We know of one institution that has obtained in this manner a quarter of a million of dollars within the last few days, and it will probably continue to frequently receive large amounts from that city.

At the United States Mint we learn that within a few days past $750,000 has been received in refined bars of gold, stamped by the New York Assay Office, and half a million more will also be forwarded here for coinage a few days hence. This fact is interesting in connection with the present rate of exchange, as a proof of the strong check given to the exportation of bullion by the extraordinary demand for it here. The refined bars are greatly preferable to coin for exportation, and the principal portion of shipments of bullion made to Europe have been in that shape, as the bars are, for that purpose, not only more convenient, but less expensive.

☞ The Southern mail, due at midnight, had not arrived up to our hour of going to press—two o'clock this morning.

PROSPERITY AND PANIC—No. 2.

The money pressure in New York seems to be less severe, although there can be quoted no diminution in rates for the best paper, yet more money is to be had at those rates, and there are no new failures reported. The bank return of yesterday has imparted a good degree of confidence, inasmuch as that, including the London insurance of the lost gold, $1,000,000, which is the same as if so much gold had arrived and been re-shipped, the banks may be considered to hold to $14,500,000, with $1,500,000 due from California at the close of the week, making $16,000,000. At the same time, good exchange can be had at 6½ per cent, at which rate the import of it from London will leave a profit. It is true that this low price is partly the result of dear money, but it is also the case that the same dear money causes the goods imported to sell on consignment to be sacrificed in a manner that greatly diminishes the amount to be remitted ultimately. The movement of the crops, particularly grain, is already on a scale which insures an early and large supply of bills from that source, while the new crop of cotton goes forward at double prices this year, that is to say, 18 cents for fair New Orleans cotton. It follows that the supply of bills will be early and large to meet the returning ease in the money market, with relative abundance of paper. In so far there is no further difficulty to be apprehended from the state of the external exchanges. The main difficulty now in the market is the rebound from other cities. Already Boston, Albany, and Philadelphia have felt the worst. Apparently at Boston, where the pressure first manifested from New York, the worst has passed, and confidence is restored; but as the trade goes westward and South, the effects are brought back to us, more directly in the pressure which arises from the redemption of currency. This requires a great deal of money. In New York State the country circulation secured upon stocks is, in round numbers, $24,000,000, and this is usually redeemed in New York and Albany three times in a year; but, under the panic of the last thirty days, $35,000,000 has been redeemed at the Metropolitan and American Exchange Banks in New York. Of this amount $1,000,000 has been returned to the State Bank, deposited and burned; 501,000 of State notes had been surrendered and sold to meet the redemptions; also 110,000 mortgages, making $611,000 of securities realized. The redemption has, however, required so much of the means of the two redeeming banks as to compel them to curtail their discounts largely. The weekly reduction of the loans of these two redeeming banks, compared with the total of all the others, is as follows:

	Total Loans.	Reduction Two Bk's.	Reduction All others.	Total Reduction.
Aug. 8..	$122,077,252			
Aug. 15..	121,241,472	$1,154,070	$875,780	
Aug. 27..	120,199,582	831,101	829,739	1,101,890
Aug. 29..	116,586,910	714,557	2,836,103	3,550,653
Sept. 5..	112,221,365	693,049	3,674,505	4,367,554
Sept. 12..	109,985,523	609,408	1,625,924	2,235,792
Sept. 19..	108,777,421	207,318	966,009	1,208,162
Total.....		$2,649,318	$10,050,618	$13,299,931

Thus, it is observable that the two redeeming banks made far the largest portion of the curtailment. This they were compelled to do in order to prevent the dishonor of the interior banks. They were between the protection of the note currency and the accommodation of their customers. Under the "clearing" system, in New York, which pays the balances are paid in specie, and that eagerly demanded, when one leading bank makes an important curtailment in its loans it becomes a creditor bank, unless all the others follow the movement. Hence, as the circulation pressed upon those two banks it forced the contraction upon the others, and this contraction making New York a creditor city has raised rapidly the specie in the banks, but does not restrict their ability to remove discounts until the currency pressure has passed, and that has now much subsided. This has been the secret of that bank pressure in New York which has been regarded in some cases as wanton, but which has been imposed by the weight of Western currency.

The ability of the redeeming banks in this city to receive these country circulating notes in such quantities depends upon the fact of their being well secured on Government stocks. Without this security, of course, the risk would be too great, and the currency would come upon the market through the brokers at every possible variety of discount. Thus, when the Mechanics' Banking Association failed there was no discredit to their bills; they were all taken by the other banks as usual, sent to Albany and redeemed. When, therefore, produce and business are active at the West, more currency is needed; the banks become buyers of stock, pledge it for bills, and pay them out to float in the circulation; when business becomes slack, and produce falls, the tide turns as now, the bills flow back, and the stock comes on the market at rates much below those paid by the banks originally. In 1855 banks paid 95 freely for Missouri 6's, to pledge for circulation. The circulation now runs back, and they sell the stock at 69, an apparent loss of 26 per cent. This is the inconvenience of the secured system. It is remarkable, however, that when those stocks rise under the demands of the bankers, saving banks can sell, and these institutions now buy back cheap. Since during the pressure the amount of savings deposits have much increased. As we have said, all the elements of a disturbed market originating in panic are subsiding, leaving the fact manifest that the community has been called upon to pay up immense sums at short notice, and has done so with remarkable promptness.

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH FOR THE PRESS.]

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 22, 1857.—Gen. PACKER spoke yesterday afternoon at Washington, Pa., Col. WM. HOPKINS, presiding; the meeting was enthusiastic, the speech telling and decisive. Washington county will give a majority for Gen. PACKER. Col. BUCHANAN speaks at Greensburgh, Westmoreland county, on Thursday.

J. P. BARR,
CHAS. BARRETT.

FROM WASHINGTON

The Tehuantepec Route—Important Charge against our Mexican Minister—The Mormons Controlling Indian Trade—Complicity of Gen. Houston with the Mexican Invasion, etc.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22.—Senator Slidell has received a letter from Senator Benjamin, dated from the city of Mexico, 4th inst., announcing that he and his colleague had succeeded in making satisfactory arrangements with the Mexican Government, relative to the Tehuantepec Transit Route, and that President Comonfort had acted in this matter against the earnest protest of our Minister Forsyth, who thwarted Messrs. Benjamin and La Sere to the extent of his power, causing them, by his opposition, the loss of a million dollars.

Mr. Benjamin promises, at an early day, to set forth all the facts in a proper form, to be laid before the President of the United States. It is further stated that Forsyth was overreached by Soule, who is represented as the Attorney of parties who are opposed to the Transit Route.

The Administration having sanctioned or advised the movement which has resulted in the annulling of the Sloo and Garey grants, it is reasonably inferred that our Government will take the conduct of Minister Forsyth into serious consideration.

Senator Slidell has submitted Mr. Benjamin's letter to the President.

The United States Indian agent at Fort Laramie has informed the Interior Department that the Mormons have initiated measures to control trade with the Indians, by making settlements at every twenty or thirty miles. He calls on the Secretary to remove them, saying that if this is not done, the Mormons will become exceedingly troublesome, and defeat any policy our Government may adopt with the Indians. It is plain the Mormons are acting in this matter in violation of the law.

Captain Goldsborough has been ordered to serve on the third Naval Court of Inquiry, in place of Commodore Stephens, retired.

The information in the possession of our Government, relative to the complicity of General Sam Houston with an expedition, supposed for the invasion of Mexico, to help the inhabitants of Tamaulipas, disaffected against their Government, is derived from reliable sources; the movements being conducted with more than usual secrecy. Full information upon the subject cannot yet be obtained.

A letter has been received from Supt. Magraw, who had reached Scott's Bluffs, and was progressing finely with his portion of the California wagon-road.

It is now positively known that Dr. Tao, of Virginia, has been appointed Sixth Auditor of the Treasury, in place of Mr. Phillips, and James Madison Cutts, father-in-law of Senator Douglass, Second Comptroller, vice Brodhead.

The Board of Examiners, having reported in favor of the plan of Mr. Westervelt, of New York, for a screw-propeller sloop-of-war, the Secretary of the Navy has awarded him the contract

The Loss of the Central America.—Additional Passengers Supposed to be Lost.

NEW YORK, Sept. 22.—The following additional passengers are known to have been aboard the Central America, and are supposed to be lost:

Judge Independeld, of California.
Charles Kent, Richmond, Va.
—— Moseley, Arkansas.
Michael Cregan, Hazel Green, Wis.
Oliver Garrison, St. Louis.
Mr. Hailey, Pittsburgh.
John Horn and Son, Cincinnati.
Robert Hughes, Chicago.
Mr. Lee, Philadelphia
David Jones, Schuylkill county, Pa.
Dr. Leavenworth, or Lellingerell, Mich.
Mr. Lohman, Wisconsin.
Philip Sechlioner, Huntsdale, Pa.
Samuel B. Swan, near Pittsburgh.
David Stewart, Maysville, Ohio.
Elijah Spooner, Schuylkill county, Pa.
Robert Taylor, Wisconsin.

Arrival of the City of Baltimore.

NEW YORK, Sept. 22.—The steamer City of Baltimore, from Liverpool for the port of New York, has been signalled below. Her advices have been anticipated by the Indian at Quebec. Her papers will be received too late to be sent South by this evening's mail.

Operatic Treaty.

NEW YORK, September 22.—Manager Ullmann has made an amicable arrangement with the Marshall Ballet Troupe. The combined company, including Brignoli and Amodio, will hereafter appear at the Academy of Music in this city, as well as in the Philadelphia Academy.

The Affairs of the Michigan and Southern Railroad Company.

ALBANY, September 22.—The committee appointed to examine into the affairs of the Michigan and Southern Railroad Company have reported a floating debt of $1,800,000. They say the expenses can be largely reduced, and with economy, the road be made to pay dividends.

New York Politics.

ALBANY, September 22.—It is currently reported here, that the "radical" Democrat in the Republican State Convention, soon to be held at Syracuse, intend to offer a resolution instructing Hon. O. H. Matteson, member elect of Congress from the 20th district, to resign.

Failure at Boston.

BOSTON, Sept. 22.—Messrs. Emmons, Danforth & Co., grocers, have suspended. Their liabilities amount to $300,000.

Railroad Accident.

NEW HAVEN, Sept. 22.—The morning train on the New Haven road ran off the track this morning, when near Fordham. All the cars were smashed. One person was killed and many wounded.

The Survivors from the Central America.

BALTIMORE, Sept 22.—All the survivors from the wreck of the Central America, who had arrived in this city, and belonged to the West, started for home to-day. They have been kindly treated, and take with them sufficient funds to see them safely home.

An easterly rain storm prevails this evening. The weather is warm and sultry.

Session of the Grand Lodge of I. O. of O. F.

BALTIMORE, Sept. 22.—The Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows of the United States now in session here. A large amount of business was transacted to-day, but not of any general interest to the order. To-morrow the various committees will report, when considerable information will be presented. The Lodge will probably adjourn on Saturday.

Later from Havana—Arrival of the Cahawba at New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, September 22.—The U. S. mail steamship Cahawba, from New York on the 12th inst., via Havana, has arrived here.

The Cahawba arrived at Havana on the 19th inst., but did not enter the harbor. On the 13th and 14th inst., she experienced rough weather, and was compelled to heave to for twenty hours.

The Cholera in Havana was dull. Sugars and Molasses had a declining tendency. Exchange on New York was quoted at 2@3 ⅌ cent. premium.

The Cahawba passed the steamer Philadelphia, for New York yesterday.

The steamer Calhoun, from Pensacola, is coming up

Non-Arrival of the Canada.

HALIFAX, Sept. 22.—11½ o'clock P. M.—The weather is very thick outside, and it is raining. A strong south, southeast wind is blowing. The Canada has not yet been signalled.

Markets.

BALTIMORE, September 22.—Flour is dull, wheat quiet, corn lower at 68@70c for white, 72@74 for yellow. Whiskey, 23@26c.

NEW ORLEANS, September 22.—The Cotton market to-day was slightly dearer; sales of 3500 bales at 10½@10c. Flour has an advancing tendency to-day; sales at $5.25@$5 40. Mess Pork is firm. Sterling Exchange quoted at 7 ⅌ cent. premium.

FROM WASHINGTON.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21, 1857.

The vacancy on the Supreme Bench of the United States will not, I think, be filled by the appointment of Mr. Soucey. The President gives no indication of his intentions, but it is evident the man who will get the post is not yet named.

It is now stated that Senator Slidell is openly opposed to the confirmation of Gov. Walker. Should this prove to be true, and I have every reason to believe it is, the Governor of Kansas will not get seventeen votes in the Senate—that is, provided the Republicans unite with the Southern Senators to reject him. Of this there can be no doubt.

The division in the military superintendency of the work on the aqueduct in this city, and on the extension of the Capitol, discussed some days ago by the public press, will, it is said, shortly take place. I have heard the name of Major John Sanders, now located at the Pea Patch, or Fort Delaware, spoken of as one of the new engineers. He is competent, experienced, and incorruptible.

OCCASIONAL.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

A repetition of "Faust," at the Academy of Music last night. Mrs. Hoey and Mrs. Blake, Mr. Lester and Mr. Blake, in "The Poor Gentleman," this evening, with these fine comedians in the cast, and a repetition of the "Captain of the Watch," in which Mr. Lester and Miss Gannon will play. At Burton's National Theatre will be brought out this evening, a new *tableaux* throwing out drama, called "The Life of a Woman." The idea, (the same as was adopted by Douglas Jerrold when he wrote "The Rent-Day," to embody Wilkie's painting,) is to reproduce, on the stage, successive *tableaux* which embody one of Hogarth's series of pictures. The piece is written by the person who adapted "Jack Shepherd" to the stage. Miss Kimberly represents the heroine.

At the Arch Street Theatre, last night, Mrs. Bowers appeared as *Camille*. Her manner of playing this character was entirely her own—and Nature's. If there was a more limited exhibition of physical force than we have seen in this character, there was no lack of intellect. The closing not was extremely fine and greatly applauded. "The Brigand" will be revived this evening, Mr. Davenport taking the leading character. It will be repeated to-morrow evening, with "The Belle's Stratagem," in which Mrs. Davenport and Mr. Wheatley will play.

VIEUXTEMPS, THALBERG, AND D'ANGHI.—Sigesmund Thalberg was well received in this city when he gave concerts here, some months ago. He returns now, to give two concerts, at the Musical Fund Hall, on next Friday and Saturday. On these two occasions, he will be supported by the renowned Henry Vieuxtemps, (who has just returned from Europe;) Madame Elena D'Angri, the well-known *prima donna*; Signor Klotzer, and the *buffo* Signor Rocco. Signor Abella will be the Conductor. The admission will be $1.00, with no extra charge for reserved seats. Such a rare combination of ability, vocal and instrumental, as will be collected on this occasion is certain to command the popularity which wins success.

THE CITY.

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MUSIC, CORNER OF BROAD AND LOCUST STREETS.—Bonzani Ballet Troupe—"Faust."

NATIONAL THEATRE, WALNUT STREET, ABOVE EIGHTH.—"The Life of a Woman"—"The Limerick Boy."

WALNUT STREET THEATRE, S. E. CORNER OF NINTH AND WALNUT STREETS.—"Captain of the Watch"—"Poor Gentleman"—"A Fearful Tragedy Up Town."

WHEATLEY'S ARCH STREET THEATRE, ARCH STREET, ABOVE SIXTH.—"The Brigand"—"The Willow Copse."

SANFORD'S OPERA HOUSE, ELEVENTH STREET, ABOVE CHESTNUT.—Ethiopian Minstrelsy, concluding with a Laughable Burlesque.

The Mysterious "Lady in Black."—The Police Court at the Central Station, yesterday afternoon, presented a scene of unusual yet melancholy interest. The occasion was the preliminary examination of Mrs. Thompson, and her sister Anna Montague, two young and lady-like appearing persons, upon various charges of felony—shoplifting and obtaining goods under false pretences. The hearing was fixed for two o'clock. At that hour the accused, who were out on bail, presented themselves punctually at the Mayor's office. There were already eight female and a number of male witnesses waiting to give their testimony, while the area approaching to the office public was filled with curious spectators. At half-past two o'clock two large trunks were brought into the office, and opened in the presence of the accused. They contained, however, nothing beyond the scope of a lady's ordinary wardrobe, excepting that several packages of new hosiery, and an unusually large supply of shoes, indicated an unreasonable profusion of the latter articles. The dresses were all made up.

There were several handsome silks among them, and a mantilla in moire antique trimmed with rich Mattese lace, that should speak of opulence in the wearer. Several sets of tambored curtains, new and in their original folds, and two sheets that had never been worn, excited some suspicion, especially as both were identified as having been purchased by Anna Montague. We have said that the accused were sisters. The elder Mrs. Thompson, was attended in court by her husband, who is said to be doing business sufficient to support his wife in a respectable manner. In her case only one witness proved a direct attempt to defraud. In the case of Anna Montague, however, there can be no doubt that a systematic mode of procuring every variety of merchandise has been pursued by her for some time past. In the hearing of yesterday both parties were arraigned together. The first witness called was J. R. Cadbury, a storekeeper at No. 53 North Eighth street, and two of his employees. According to the concatenated testimony of these three persons, the younger sister, Anna Montague, purchased goods, some weeks since, amounting to $27. The lady requested that a boy might be sent to her house with the goods, she agreeing to pay for them on their arrival. A boy was accordingly sent, but the lady by some means obtained the bundle from the boy before reaching the house, since which time nothing was learned of her up to the time of the arrest. A shawl and other articles, found among the property produced in court, were identified as being a part of the purchase, and the evidence of detective officer Russell, who testified that the same shawl was found in the house of the accused, left nothing wanting to confirm her guilt.

Isaac Chism, of the firm of Thornley & Chism, dry goods retailers, in connection with some of his employees, proved that within a short time past, Anna Montague had purchased goods at his store to the amount of twenty-one dollars, which were sent to her house by a boy, she promising to pay the bill on arriving there. Among other things a shawl was sent. On reaching the house indicated, Anna entered, taking one bundle and telling the boy to go with the shawl a few doors above to show it to a lady who would buy it, and call for the amount of her own purchase on his way back. The boy did so, but found no one who wanted the shawl. On returning the lady in black was missing, and on inquiring at the house it was found to be occupied by a respectable family who, of course, knew nothing of the matter.

Mr. W. S. Ringgold, No. 1030 Market street, was similarly victimized by Miss Anna. He sent a bill of sixteen dollars' worth of goods to Nineteenth and Cherry streets, and was swindled in the same manner.

Casper Rehn, a German shoemaker, No. 204 N. Eighth street, identified the oldest sister, Mrs. Thompson. He stated that Mrs. T. purchased a pair of fine shoes at his store, and said that they were to be charged to Mrs. Harrison, No. 1125 Spruce street. The saleswoman allowed her to take the shoes, but, upon afterwards sending to the place designated, ascertained that no such person lived there.

Robert H. Milliken, Ninth, above Arch, and Martin Lauer, 119 South Eleventh street—the former a dry goods retailer, and the latter a tailor and clothier—testified that Mrs. Thompson had purchased goods which had been sent to her proper residence, but had never been paid for. This not being found, of course could receive no attention.

The last witness called was Elizabeth R. Wagner, doing business at 803 Arch street. She deposed that in February last Mrs. Thompson purchased some gauntlets, and offered as pay a counterfeit five dollar bill; she was told that it was bad, but gave away the goods, leaving as her address, "Mrs. Davis, in Callowhill street." This, as was afterwards found, was untrue, no such person residing at that number.

Upon this evidence both parties were bound over to answer at court, and were conducted to the cells below. As Mrs. Thompson was led away, she looked appealingly to her husband. Her lips quivered, and her eyes filled with tears. The "lady in black," however, betrayed the most stolid indifference throughout the ordeal. Both, we believe, resided with their parents, and the husband of Mrs. T. in Twenty-second street, near Race. It is not supposed that the parents entertained the remotest idea of their daughters' dishonesty, though this we obtain only from hearsay. The spectacle presented by the accused was, however, most deplorable, and affords an impressive commentary upon that morbid spirit of extravagance in dress, which unfortunately pervades, to a greater or less extent, nearly every class of females in the social scale.

It is but just to say, that in ferreting out this matter, and causing the arrest of the accused parties, the entire credit is due to detective officer Russel—an officer whose uniform courtesy to the representatives of the press renders additionally pleasing the frequent occasions which we find for applauding his diligence and integrity in his official capacity.

Police Items.—At a late hour on