The Press.

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THE PRESS.

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BY JOHN W. FORNEY.

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LITTLETON COKE vs. FLORA McFLIMSEY.

BY THE BARD OF TOWER HALL.

Mr. Littleton Coke started up in surprise,
With wonder pervading from both of his eyes;
He sat up a moment, then fell out of bed;
Looked up at the ceiling and down on the floor,
And, placing one hand on the top of his head,
He carefully lifted the pannicle he wore;
And then from his pocket-book taking a note,
He examined it intently, determined that he,
With full seven senses, would put it to vote—
If Littleton Coke was the note's promisee;
Was he Littleton Coke, and was Littleton he?
When he got fairly dressed, and had fully awoke,
He found that he really was Littleton Coke;
That same individual, certain as true—
Is as much he was married, and strange though it
seems,
The maiden resembled the maid of his dreams.
The wedding, of course, was a splendid affair;
The guests of fortune were all of the fair;
The Burst-Ups, the Stock-Ups, the Stand-Ups, the
Lay-Ups;
But the catastrophe—How may we describe?
For this much is certain, that one of them there—
The proud cynosure of a bevy of beauties—
Was Flora McFlimsey, with nothing to wear.

And in debt to her uncle for unsettled duties.

The parties were married, the wedding was over,
The strings of their hearts were most sweetly in tune;
Shoes on, as they stood in the aisle of a clover,
From the heaven of love by a full Rosy-moon.
They packed up their things, and went off on a tour
To old Saratoga, of fashion the pride;
Where pun-kissed zephyrs, both balmy and pure,
Could about their sweets or the lips of the bride;
Where Cupid, well pleased with the work he had done,
Or rather the matter, so fairly begun,
The spark he had kindled, might fan with his wings
To a flame that no water could quench at the springs.

Safe on the fairy land, to Niagara going,
Found, amid the wonders, that wonder of all,
Where the deep rolling surge, in its majesty flowing,
Chants the anthem of nature in notes that appal.
The deep thunder hums till the soul with emotion
Awe-stricken and humble the gazer must stand,
And his heart be attuned by the priest devotion,
To Him whose lip spoke—"Let there be!" to the ocean,
And bridled in mirth, the floods in his hand.

They looked and they wondered; the bride was delighted,
As said to her husband, while passing along,
"Like those drops in the stream may our hearts be
united,
Our love, like Niagara, constant and strong."
"Yes," answered the husband, "and don't down me
small,
Those duplicate rose buds don't spoil with a pout,
If, in sport, I remark to my heart's dearest jewel,
Those diamonds which I gave will be falling out.
Nay, chase up, my love, and do not be afraid;
In the stream of our love there shall be no cascade."
"O! I fain took offence," she said with a sigh.
"A cradle rock, rather," his ready reply.
But speaking of tables reminds me that I
Am weary, and dusty, and hungry, and dry;
For Nature is stubborn; and still makes her calls
At home, in New York, or out here at the Falls."
We can follow, and come if we please.
But we can't get away from such troubles as these.

Now, my readers will perceive that I have jumped over the interesting particulars of a courtship, have married off my hero in a month from the date of his dream, and have got him as far as Niagara on his bridal tour. To my patient minster I shall give more particulars of the gossip at the Falls, and if certain parties do not get a thrashing over the back of one of the visitors there, then I will acknowledge myself mistaken in saying that the ladies hereafter would have all the best of the argument. Look for, then, for the next number, and, while waiting for it, not forget the bargains in clothing, now offered at BENNETT'S TOWER HALL, 518 MARKET Street.

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The Press.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 1858.

ITALIAN OPERA in THE UNITED STATES.

The Italian opera in New York seems to have collapsed. Mr. ULLMAN, who has been the latest *impressario* in the Empire City, has been compelled to close up, and the latest effort (but three) was to have been made last night, when "Don Giovanni," very well cast, was to have been produced. Mr. ULLMAN has been the victim of a turn-out of the male chorus. He declares that since the beginning of September he has made good all his pecuniary engagements, even paying in gold during the panic, and now is driven into a corner by the very people whom he has enabled to live through the last four months. He fulfilled his promise of bringing some of the first performers from Europe. In a word, the Opera, in his hands, has been a failure in this respect.

Why, then, has it been a failure in a pecuniary sense? Many causes have combined to make it so. The expenses are far too heavy. The rent of the Academy of Music is $20,000 a year, provided that the edifice be frequently used for balls, concerts, public lectures, and so on. Again, the highest foreign talent cannot be led to cross the Atlantic, without the inducement of much higher remuneration that it would receive in Europe. *Minor* talent, which thinks excessively high of itself, expects to be paid in an equal ratio with *major*, and not a flatulent chorus-singer but thinks that his or her assistance is indispensable, and must be paid accordingly. The expense of new scenery, new machinery, and new wardrobe, is heavier here than in the long-established opera-houses of Europe, and is a formidable drain upon the manager's funds.

Besides, nearly all the Opera Houses in Europe are supported by pecuniary grants from the respective Governments. It is so at Paris, Milan, Berlin, and St. Petersburg. At London the nobility, and rich gentry take their boxes by the season. This is the case under Mr. COWLEY, at Her Majesty's Theatre, and Mr. GYE, at the Italian Opera, Lyceum Theatre—which, by the way, is the better institution of the two. There are no subscriptions worth any thing in New York, and, with a great talk about the Opera, the New Yorkers seem to care very little for it. If they really understood it they would not have allowed FREZZOLINI (advertised by Mr. ULLMAN, three years ago, as having a worn-out and faded voice) to be passed upon them, by newspaper puffs, as a wonderful singer; nor would they have permitted charming Madame DE WILLHORST, simply because she had been one of the "Upper Ten," to figure as a *prima donna*, and then go to Europe to learn how to sing! We have really had more success with the Italian Opera in this city. The first season was brilliant and remunerative. The second failed—from the depressing influences of hard times. We know nothing of the future, but we have one of the best Opera Houses in the world, with superior scenery, machinery, and wardrobe.

Such a company as Mr. ULLMAN brings together to the performance of "Don Giovanni," has rarely met, at one theatre, even in Europe. La Grange, D'Angri, and Caradori; with Gassier, Rocco, Bignardi, Labocetta, and Carl Formes. Such a company as this would have been pretty sure of encouragement and success in this city. We have half a mind to explain why these great performers do not visit Philadelphia.

We state a fact well known, when we declare that, with scarcely an exception, Italian opera has ruined every manager who undertook it. It has ruined Maretzek, and brought GYE to the same hard place.

On the other hand, English opera has been very successful, here and in England. The SEGUIN troupe, and, more lately, LOUISA PYNE's company, realized largely in this country. SEGUIN had some excellent artists, but LOUISA PYNE depended, almost exclusively, upon her own voice—for HARRISON, the tenor, ceased to be a good singer years ago. Miss PYNE returned to England, last year, and took the Lyceum Theatre, still assisted by HARRISON. She played several English versions of Italian operas, without much success, but "The Crown Diamonds" made a hit, followed by a new opera, "The Rose of Castile," composed by BALFE, which had a run for months, and drew more crowded houses at the close than at the commencement. LOUISA PYNE had belief in the vitality of English Opera, and the result showed her to be right. In a short time, the Pyne-Harrison Company will reappear at another theatre, and a fortune is awaiting the management. They re-open with an opera (founded on the story of "Rip Van Winkle,") composed by an American artist, Mr. GEORGE BRISTOW, of New York. They have been paid the compliment, by Queen VICTORIA herself, of being commanded, or commissioned, to represent "The Rose of Castile" at the Italian opera-houses on the occasion of the approaching marriage of the Princess Royal, when all the London Theatres will be gratuitously thrown open to the public.

What if Mr. ULLMAN, or some other manager, experiencing that Italian Opera does not *pay*, would go back to English Opera? We have no Government here willing or able to pay out so much per annum to cover managerial losses. We have no aristocracy, to make liberal disbursements. A taste for opera music has to be *created*, after all, and why should not English Opera take the initiative?

The Horrible Affair in Madison County, New York.

We mentioned briefly, the other day, the murder at Peolville, Madison co., N. Y., of Jared Comstock and Clarissa, his wife, by their own son, William Comstock. The parricide was arrested. He is a man about thirty-seven of age, about five feet and seven inches in height. His clothing was besmeared with blood when he was found. He has always resided with his parents in Hamilton and is unmarried. He had been drinking hard for some time, and is evidently laboring under the effects of *mania-a-potu*. He conversed calmly in relation to the awful deed, manifesting no concern for himself, speaking of the manner in which he deprived his parents of life as if he had been butchering hogs.

He says that for four or five days, something seemed to tell him he must have a number of hearts. This was repeated to him many times. He seemed to live in Sherburne, and a wire came over the hill connecting with the room, telling him he must have a number of hearts. Some one who lived in Sherburne seemed to telegraph for them three or four days ago.

I attempted to kill my father to get his heart. Yesterday I went and placed an axe in the room, intending if I could find my brother and his wife sitting down, to kill them both at once. It seemed as if I must have both their hearts. About dark I went over to my father's and found him and my mother sitting; she was sewing. I immediately struck her with a skillet and broke it. I then struck my father over the head three or four times with the remains of the skillet and attempted to get the axe. After knocking my father down, I got the axe and cut out their hearts and put them in the stove and burned them. The voice seemed to tell me that the hearts must be burned.

After the deed, I washed my hands, and after remaining in the house a short time left, and went down to A. Gustinge', when I arrived I found my brother and his wife there visiting, and told them I had some fresh meat up to father's. After remaining there a short time I went down to the house of Harmon Gustinge; told them to get me a quart of cider and a bottle; and after obtaining it, left for my father's house, without mentioning anything concerning the deed.

On arriving, I lay down upon the lounge, near my father and mother, and slept for some time—until near morning. On awakening, I left the house and met several persons coming towards it. I do not recollect who I had informed of the deed previous to this. As they approached me some one said "there is Bill!" This was about eight rods west of my father's. They asked me what I had been doing. I told them it was none of their business. Part of the company held me, while a couple of them went to the house, and afterwards took me to Potter's where I was arrested.

During the night, and after the deed, I attempted to take my own life, and thus close the tragedy. Afterwards I went for my brother's house to kill him and his wife. I kicked the panels of the door in, but they had gone away.

By the arrival of the brig Kalsa, Captain Long, from Port au Prince, at New York, we learn that the yellow fever rages severely at that port. Scarcely a vessel visits the place without burying portions of her crew. Captain Long and five of his men, out of a crew of eight, were down with the fever. West India traders have shortened the time of the crew, until, because of its sickly character.

SABBATH READING.

THE DEMOCRACY OF THE BIBLE.

BY GRAYBEARD.

[For The Press.]

That Democracy should be popular with the masses of intelligent mankind everywhere; is not at all surprising, when we consider that under the sway of aristocratic rule the happiness of the many has always been sacrificed to the licentious tyranny of the few. Democracy, technically defined, is "government by the people," as contradistinguished from forms of government in which the will of the people is not represented. As, however, the crowning virtues of a Democracy, or a representative government—which, to all practical purposes, amounts to the same thing—are that it secures to all an equality of rights which, under every other form of government, is denied them, and that it thereby secures to its subjects the widest possible personal liberty consistent with the public good, the effect may be substituted for the cause, in which case Democracy is at once presented to us as that justly popular element which prompts every man to respect the rights of his fellow-man; to acknowledge merit wherever it is deserved; to respect the man because of his manly qualities, rather than his wealth; to attribute superiority to superior virtue only, and to own no sovereign in temporal affairs.

The undertaks to prove that this desirable state of things is more nearly realized in this free land of ours than in any other on Heaven's footstool, would be a work of supererogation; and yet, it would certainly be the height of ungrateful neglect towards the Author of all our blessings for us not to acknowledge our indebtedness to the Bible for whatever advantages we may enjoy over lands less favored in their political, social, and religious institutions. Deep down in the foundation of this Republic was laid the corner-stone of this divout recognition. The pilgrim as he stepped forth from the May Flower and kneeled upon the rock of Plymouth, did it no more certainly under the consciousness of having left behind him shores to escape the ban of civil and religious intolerance, than he did it with the vow in his heart to honor *God in his new home, by adopting* the teachings of the Bible as the fundamental rule of his future intercourse with men. A God-fearing, a Bible-loving, and hence a law-abiding nation of men, was thus developed. Every step towards the consummation of this righteous liberty among men was marked with the Christian recognition that the God in whom they put their trust was the Lord of glory. "Happy is that people whose God is the Lord" was the language of their every act; and if the divine truth that "righteousness exalteth a nation," has ever found a hearty response in the souls of men, it was among those pilgrim pioneers and their children who founded this Republic. Well may we revere the memory of that band of Christian heroes, who in the darkest hour of our birth as a free and independent people—when the world may be said to have been in labor to be delivered of the fetus of a national liberty that had long been maturing in the womb of the thirteen colonies—forgot not to bow in humble prayer to Him whose throne is in the heavens. Ah! that first prayer in Congress, after Independence had been declared, what a baptismal halo it casts around the dark deed of death—only second, in the importance of its results upon the destiny of the race, to the Saviour's advent!

Thus, at every turn, do we see some ominous tribute to Bible truth incorporated in the motives and plans of the founders of our Government.

The mottoes of inspiration were adopted as the watchwords of our incipient liberty, even long before it was sufficiently matured to be heralded throughout the earth. That ominous inscription from the twenty-fifth of Leviticus, "*Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof!*" cast as a motto upon the bell intended for the State House steeple, as early as the year 1752, nearly a quarter of a century before it was actually used to echo the triumphant fulfilment of this prophetic inscription throughout the land, will stand forever as one of the most marvellous and pleasing coincidences in the record of any nation; and yet, had it not been for the fact that similar mottoes were engraven upon the *hearts of the men* of that age, the bell and its inscription could at most have been but "as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal!"

Civil liberty and Democratic simplicity may, in one sense, be said to be synonymous; and, if history proves anything, it is that in proportion as the latter is cherished and practised, will the former be secured and enjoyed; and that which would deprive the people of their equal rights. The undue and licentious desire for office, instead of a more ardent zeal to evince our patriotism by acting the part of good citizens in private life, has always led to unfortunate results. It was this crafty and corrupt strife of the few to obtain, through foul means, the mastery over the many, that hastened the decline and ultimate fall of Rome. Amongst the Jews the shameless stratagems employed by ambitious aspirants to the sacerdotal dignity, who coveted the priesthood more from avarice than real for religion, were the cause of many of their greatest misfortunes, and doubtless had much to do with the ultimate ruin of that once chosen people of God, and it is not unsafe to predict that no nation, however firmly it may be founded, can always withstand the tide of this undercurrent of self-aggrandizement when it once acquires the power of defeating the popular will.

"Where the spirit of the Lord is there is liberty," wrote St. Paul, and never was divine truth more explicitly stated. With the spirit of righteousness carried out to the letter, liberty would be so perfectly adjusted that the restraints of human law would be unnecessary; but how was that spirit of liberty inaugurated? Certainly nothing was ever more unsparingly denounced by the Saviour of men than their undue aspirations to places of power and distinction. His lessons bearing upon this point are almost innumerable.

Instead of countenancing in any respect an aristocratic assumption of social or civil superiority, He rather exalted the humility of servitude. Himself, although a part of the divine Godhead, counted it no dishonor to wash the feet of his disciples. "Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant," is the language of Christ; "*in honor* preferring one another," was the motto recommended by the apostle. Humility was this virtue of unostentatiousness repeatedly set forth and commended, but in one remarkable instance we find it laid down as the legitimate road to future preferment; here is the substance of the statement:

"When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room, lest thou be required to give a more honorable man thy place; and he that bidden thee and him come, and in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, friend, go up higher; then shalt thou have worship," &c.

This is a most beautiful embodiment of the principle of preferment on the score of merit, and embraces, with the quotations already referred to, the whole ground of what was stated in the beginning as constituting the effect and substance of true Democracy.

That very much for which the shield of Democracy is claimed falls far short of the Christian basis of Democracy upon which our fathers based the magnificent structure which we have inherited, is, indeed, to be regretted; yet, thanks to God! the heaven is by no means exhausted; and if in some instances we could exclaim in anguish of heart with Jeremiah, "How is the gold become dim! how is the most fine gold changed!" there is still enough evidence of Jehovah's partiality for the American nation left to make us proud of our goodly heritage, and, it is to be hoped, enough to stimulate the patriotic zeal of this and future generations to efforts worthy of the price set before them, so that when the talent entrusted to our stewardship is required at the hands of this nation, we may not be found in the position of the "wicked and slothful servant," but rather in the condition to yield up this temporary inheritance, with the certainty of basking in the delights of more enduring scenes in the Theocracy of Heaven!

The following officers have been ordered to the United States sloop-of-war Marion, now fitting at Norfolk for the African coast: Commander, Thomas W. Brent; lieutenants, Chas. M. Morris, W. D. Whitney, E. E. Stone, A. W. Weaver; master, John M. Stribling; passed assistant surgeon, Randolph F. Mason; acting boatswain, Chas. W. Smith; acting gunner, Chas. W. Homer; carpenter, Jos. R. Miller; acting sail-maker, Samuel V. Turner.

Judgment was rendered on the 5th instant against Gen. William Walker and his surety, S. F. Slatter, in the Circuit Court of the United States, at New Orleans, for $2,000 on the recognizance of the former to appear to answer for a breach of the neutrality laws, and which recognizance was forfeited by his departure in the Fashion for Honduras.

Jacob Loisenring has been appointed postmaster at Northumberland, Northumberland co., Pa., vice Jacob Uip; W. D. Dickson appointed postmaster at St. Thomas, Franklin county, Pa., vice W. Burkholder, resigned; Levi Strohm postmaster at Lee's Cross Roads, Cumberland co., Pa., vice Daniel S. Croft, resigned.

Charles L. Cater, the murderer of Warden Tenney of the Massachusetts State Prison, who has of late been suffering severely from confirmed pleurisy, during his probationary year of confinement in the Boston jail prior to execution, suddenly died from the disease at about five o'clock on Wednesday morning.

The name of Papertown, Cumberland county, Pa., is changed to "Mount Holly Springs," without change in postmaster.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

SERMON TO BE DELIVERED TO THE PHILADELPHIA FIREMEN.—The Reverend Newton Heston, pastor of Nazareth Methodist Episcopal Church, having been requested by the Good Will Engine Company, through its President, Wm. J. Pascoe, Esq., to preach a sermon for the special benefit of firemen, responded in a neat note of acknowledgment under date of the 11th inst., and from which we are permitted to give to the public the following:

In view of the fact that firemen are too frequently made the subjects of undeserved censure and abuse, Mr. Heston quaintly remarks in his letter that, in his opinion, time might be better employed in saying *good* things to them than in *saying hard* things *of* them

Deeply sympathising with the firemen as a class, and acknowledging that their duties are such as often to place that brave and indispensable portion of our fellow-citizens in a false position, he has generously volunteered (without any expense to the Department) *to preach a sermon to the firemen of this city*, at the same time designating, as the most suitable place for such an occasion, National Hall, Market street, below Thirteenth street. The Hall has already been secured for that purpose, and the sermon is to be delivered on a Sabbath evening soon, although the committee which has been appointed to complete the necessary arrangements with Mr. Heston have not yet fixed the time. The desire of the Good Will Company is to enlist the interest of *firemen generally* in this movement, feeling assured that the occasion, if carried out as Mr. Heston has expressed a wish that it should be, cannot but prove highly interesting.

The plan of arrangements recommended is to commence the services precisely at 7 o'clock; the different companies to leave their respective houses so as to arrive at 0 o'clock, each company coming in a body, and to be announced from the platform by a committee on their arrival; the whole to remain standing until all are in the Hall. An efficient choir has already been engaged for the occasion, and we have no doubt it will prove both interesting and profitable. The firemen, and our citizens in general, will await it with a great deal of pleasure; and we trust this contemplated spiritual repast will carry with it an undying record of good to all who may participate in it.

INCREASE OF CHAPLAINS IN THE NAVY AND ARMY.—The religious community is daily becoming more fully awakened to the importance of this movement. A meeting of the clergy of this city was held on Monday afternoon of this week, in the lecture-room of Dr. Wadsworth's church, for the purpose of making the necessary preparatory arrangements for the meeting to be held on Monday evening next, at Jayne's Hall. The design intended to be consummated is to increase the number of Government chaplains. Disavowing anything that would favor the union of the Church and State, the gentlemen engaged in this movement feel no hesitation in saying what they believe to be a strong conviction in the mind of the American people, viz: that for our national freedom and prosperity we are indebted to the influence of those anti institutions of the Christian religion. They say that the system of chaplaincies was introduced by Washington himself immediately upon taking possession of the chair of the Revolution, and was maintained by Congress throughout that glorious struggle, and that inasmuch as the annual expense of keeping it up has never exceeded the sum of $100,000, and now that the present number is insufficient, considering the nation's wants, there should be no objection made to this increase. The meeting to be held at Jayne's Hall on Monday evening, we understand, is to be addressed by four eminent representatives of four different religious sects, and will doubtless be largely attended.

SABBATH-SCHOOL ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA.—The meeting held on last Monday evening, which is the anniversary of this Church, announced in THE PRESS a week ago, was not so largely attended as was desired, owing to the extreme inclemency of the weather. The object of this meeting, as stated by the chairman, Mr. George H. Stuart, was to take counsel together and devise means for enlarging the usefulness of this important auxiliary of the Christian Church. There were delegates from sixty-five schools present on this occasion. From the statement of Mr. Martin, general superintendent of the association, it appears that the number of *mission-schools connected* with the association is fifty, embracing nearly four thousand teachers and one hundred and ten teachers. Forty-one of these mission-schools are sustained by thirty-two of our churches, the remainder not being connected with any church. The fact that there are yet one thousand children in our city without the benefit of Sabbath-school instruction was considered a sufficient incentive to stimulate the friends of the cause to more earnest effort. *Presbyterian.*

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.—Our merchants continue to give their attention to financial affairs, and we have not in mercantile affairs at the result of the financial crash of the East. Our merchants have made supposed efforts to assist their brethren at the East, as our enormous semi-monthly shipments of treasure will show, but still business matters remain undisturbed. Comparatively speaking, money is abundant. It is true that our "banks" in the mountains yield a never-failing supply of the precious metal, but we principally owe our prosperous condition to the Constitution prohibition against a paper currency. If our sister States would pursue a similar policy which would lead to a gradual substitution of gold for paper, they would be in like manner, to a considerable extent, safe from the influence of panics. Money, in the hard-money sense of the term, is not what seeks investment, and if it is released from employment at home, by the circulation of notes in its stead, it will go abroad, and cannot be recalled immediately, it is wanted.

There is not likely to be as large an amount of cash in the public treasury as has been anticipated at the opening of the Legislature. This will cause the delinquency of some larger taxpayers, who have a chronic habit of fighting off the tax-collector, finding it profitable to receive two or more per cent. per month for the money from their hard borrowers, and by so doing secure a protracted law-suit with the agents of the State. The Legislature, however, will, without doubt, put the screws to these obstinate speculators. The State Treasurer reports that there is some $90,000 on hand.

The suit to test the constitutionality of the law by which the public debt was submitted to a vote of the people has been dismissed by Judge Bolton, and, I suppose, that will put an end to the controversy.

THE NEW ALMADEN MINE.

The suit to obtain possession of the new Almaden quicksilver mine still draws its slow length along in the United States District court. The parties held by Bolton, Barron, & Co., and others, principally residents in Mexico. The stock is divided into twenty-four shares, and the receipts from the mine are said to be some $800,000 a year. The opposing parties are principally residents of this city. They claim that Bolton, Barron, & Co. obtained their title by the forgery of documents which were signed after the annexation of this State to the Union. The opposing parties have been supplied by Mr. Forbes, who was consul here, and who, for a long time, held possession of the mine, in behalf of Bolton, Barron, & Co., with important correspondence, on the 6th cross, to show that the title was manufactured to order, and ante-dated, some time, I believe, in 1850. It appears that Forbes has been ruined by speculation in quicksilver, and he has applied to B. B. & Co. for assistance, he was badly treated. Chagrined, and having been offered $20,000 for the documents in question, he determined to revenge himself on his supposed ungrateful employers, and the documents have been published, and created quite a sensation. This, you must understand, is only one side of the story; the other has yet to come.

The fact every day becomes more evident, that California is more fertile in natural resources than any other country under the sun. The announcement of the discovery of borax, in immense quantities, has recently been made. A person named Dr. Veitch, in company with a Major Lewis, while on a hunting excursion in the northern portion of Napa county, discovered a lake, the surface of which appeared to be a spring of very pure water. The peculiar taste induced them to bring a bottle full of it to the settlements, and the chemists informed them that it contained boracic acid. The parties then made further explorations, and found that the bed of Clear Lake, a sheet of water of considerable extent, in the vicinity of the coast ranges, was composed, to a considerable depth, of crystals of borax. Several wealthy gentlemen then formed themselves into a company, with a view to the development of this new source of wealth, and I believe their agents are now in Europe endeavoring to make arrangements with capitalists there for an extensive trade in the article. I am informed that the supply of borax is sufficient for the wants of the world, and the value of the property is variously estimated at from one to two millions of dollars.

Uncle Billy Rogers's copper mine, in the Sierra Nevada, about which you doubtless have heard, has not been so successful as had been anticipated. The ore is very rich, (from 30 to 50 per cent.,) and exists in inexhaustible quantities, but the mine being situated in an almost inaccessible region, and so far from a seaport, capitalists will not purchase.

ATROCIOUS VILLAINY.

A foul conspiracy has just come to light in this city. The *Herald* gives the following description of the affair: A Mr. Coburn and a Mr. Taylor rent for a Mr. Robinson, paper-hanger, to furnish a room. While on Coburn's premises Robinson was seized, and, under threat of immediate death, was compelled to assign over to Taylor all his property.

THEATRICAL.

In the theatrical world here there is little of interest to note. Miss Ince and Julia Dean Hayne are the stars. The latter lady is playing to crowded houses at the "American." The former lady is playing at cities in the interior. Mrs. Hayne will leave in the course of a week or two for New York. She has grown very womanly, and has won the universal admiration and respect of the people during her stay amongst us.

POLITICAL.

Political affairs are in a very quiescent condition. Democracy is predominant, and has no foeman worthy of its steel. All eyes are turned towards Washington.

STONE'S PARTY.

I am informed that Captain Stone's surveying party will leave for Sonora on the 1st of January.

SPORTING.

On Thursday, the 17th instant, the celebrated horses, "Glencoe Chief," "Jim Barton," "New York," and "Rhode Island," came together on the Pioneer Course for purse and stake of $2,500—mile heats, best three in five—to go to harness. This contest we claim for California to be as good, if not the best race on record. "Jim Barton" made the first heat in 2.32½, which is good time in any country for trotters. Then comes "New York," the pioneer trotter of California, once the property of "Corinthian Tom," of Porter's *Spirit of the Times*, making the unprecedented time for a sixth heat in 2.32½, going to the half-mile in 1.13½, and closely lapped by "Jim Barton." Below we give you a summary:

Mr Ferguson's (Capt. S. Cards) b. g New York, 2, 0, 4, 3, 1, 1, 1.

Mr. Jas. Eoff's s. g Rhode Island, 3, 4, 1, 1, 4, 3, 3.

Mr. Werner's b. g Jim Barton, 1, 3, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2.

Mr Crook's (Mr. Peas) g g Glencoe Chief, 4, 0, 3, 4, 3, 4, r. o.

Time—2.32½, 2.35, 2.35, 2.36, 2.35, 2.32½, 2.35.

ADIOS.

Highly Interesting Narrative of Lieutenant Beale's Wagon-Road Expedition from Fort Defiance to the Colorado River.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 17, 1857.

The expressed objects of the present expedition were these: First, the survey of the line of country lying on and near the 35th parallel of N. lat., between Fort Defiance, in New Mexico, and the Great Colorado, at the supposed mouth of the mojave, with a view to the construction of a wagon-road from our Western settlements to California, shorter and more desirable than those now traversed by emigrant trains. Second, to test the adaptability of the camels (already imported by the Government) to our climate and country. The expedition left Philadelphia on the 14th of May, Lieutenant Beale, with the majority of his party, proceeded to New Orleans, and from thence by steamer to Indianola, Texas

The necessary arrangements for the journey having been completed, the train started for San Antonio, where they arrived on the 16th of June. Leaving his party encamped on the Leon, Lt. Beale continued his way to Camp Verdi, to which place they had been ordered from the Pacific coast, and accommodations prepared for them by Major Wayne, U. S. A. Having discretionary orders with regard to them from the Secretary of War, he selected twenty-two camels, and three dromedaries, which he considered sufficient for a large number. With them he engaged a Turk, two Greeks and two Arabs, in the capacity of packers and drivers, and, with these two, proceeded to the settlement of San Antonio, being anxious to return home.

On the 25th of June the train started on its way to El Paso, the camels carrying 600 lb. of corn for our mules. During the march from San Antonio they proved themselves capable of much harder service than was required, bearing their heavy packs without the slightest complaint or fatigue. They kept pace with the mules, and seemed quite as contented browsing upon the mesquite bush, on the barren portions of the road, as feeding upon the fine grass of the Doudo or Verdi. Incapable of being stampeded, and requiring no more care or attention than the mules, they also were the more serviceable in case of Indian attack. Their appearance, as seen from a distance, was so much like that of the same animals whose tumuli are visible from Peru to Wisconsin.

Sloping from the southwest is a plateau leading to the eastern base of the mountain, which forms a natural corral of great size, and evidently impregnable to the aboriginal warriors, who doubtless lived through this country. Riding into it, they found a spring within it the largest pine trees, whose heads are far below the crest of the rock which rises above them.

The party from this point proceeded to the Pueblo, where they awaited Mr. Beale's arrival on the Fort Defiance. He with his escort arrived on the 28th. They then travelled to Zuni, where they spent a few days trading with the Indians for corn and pinole, of which they have abundance.

At this point the expedition traversed Lt. Whipple's trail, and found in every camping-place plenty of fine grass and water. They passed now over a comparatively level country, occasionally skirting groups of mountains. The most origin. ... this mountainous feature is the prevailing topographical feature between Zuni and the Colorado. The expedition came in view of the little Colorado on the 6th of September, and on the 6th crossed it without difficulty, though the river was swollen by recent rains, and its northern bank very deep and boggy. It is very narrow, winding, and most of its course is bordered by little timber.

From the point where the party left the Colorado Chiquito, they may be said to have passed over a country before unexplored. Though the features, taken by themselves, presented no novelty to those already witnessed, the same wave line was perceptible in its plains and valleys, and the same irregular black serrated mountains of metamorphic rock were observed. The Colorado Chiquito is simply a reservoir of water, to which Mr. Beale gave the name of King's Creek, and from that point he despatched exploring parties in various directions.

One of these, led by Lieut. Beale himself, they discovered what was believed to be the celebrated oasis of Aubrey, and described by him in his notes.

The natural peculiarities of this part of our route are worthy of remark; the pallisade formations crowning the summits of the mountains are formed with such regularity as to appear less like a work of nature than of art; and the road being over the perfectly level mesas, resembles those great thoroughfares of ancient times familiar to the historian. The route was covered by the most luxuriant blue gramma grass in greater abundance than many of the mountain men of the party had ever seen it.

Here petrifactions of the most wonderful description presented themselves; whole trees, in many instances, having been seen turned to stone; and on one occasion, on the bank of the Rio de la Xara, a trunk of a large cedar was found petrified and imbedded in the solid rock, rising at least 20 feet above it.

The party moreover discovered on the rocks, and in the caves near the bank of the Colorado Chiquito, ancient yet unefaced inscriptions, evincing the change from the idiographic to the phonetic style of writing, among the people who once undoubtedly inhabited in vast numbers this at present deserted country, and whose remnants of civilization are described