PITTSURGH GAZETTE.

MONDAY MORNING, DEC. 20, 1852.

The French papers have lately given us some extraordinary instances of mal-translation of English. A very lengthy account of the dog fight at Windsor by two Frenchmen, appeared in Le Droit, and was thence copied into all the other papers. This journal had rendered the word "sap," in the English version, which, of course, means "percussion cap," by the word "sanguine," or cap of the head. The ingenuity with which the passage was forced to make sense, was quite extraordinary, and it read without any too great violation of probability. A less excusable blunder has been made in putting into French the touching details of Webster's last moments. "Thy rod, thy rod; thy staff, thy staff," is rendered, "Votre soutien, votre soutien; votre escorte, escorte." Staff translated by escorte, the staff of a General or field officer!

"Homestead Exemption!" exclaimed Mrs. Partington, throwing down the paper—"it's come to a pretty pass that men are going to be exempt from home, just when they please, without any provision for cold nights!"

If all the nutmegs in the world were in a heap together, why, would not the box still boast of a greater number? Because it contains a nutmeg-grater. The author of this started for Van Dieman's Land, on Wednesday, in a one-horse wagon.

Rather Slow.—"Had you, sir," said Erskine to a dilatory, trudesman, "been employed to build the ark, we should not have had the flood yet."

Marvin Cruzzlewit, said: "A verb signifies to be, to do, or to suffer, which is all the grammar, and enough too, as ever I was taught; and if there's a verb alive, I'm it. For I'm a bein', sometimes a doin' and continually a sufferin.'

Different sounds will travel with different velocity—a call for dinner will run over a ten acre field in a moment and a half, while a summons to return to work takes from five to eight minutes.

A late writer supposes that the "indifference to danger," which most people exhibit on steam boats, springs from the common-place look that every thing wears. We should not wonder if he's right. Who can believe that a thousand horses are tugging to get out of a liler when they see the immense power kept in subjection by a knock-kneed man in paper hat and ill-kept nose.

A western farmer, being obliged to sell a yoke of oxen to pay his hired man, told him he could not keep him any longer.

"Why," said the man, "I'll stay and take some of your nows in place of money."

"But what shall I do when my cows and oxen are all gone?"

"Why, sir, can them work for me, and get them back again."

No man knows when, where or whom he'll marry. It's all nonsense planning and speculating about it. You might as well look out for a spot to fall in a steeple chase. You come smash down in the very middle of your speculations.

Mr. Jones, don't you think marriage is a means of grace?

Certainly, my dear madam, anything is a means of grace that breaks up pride and leads to repentance.

Scene closes with a mop-handle.

It is said, that four persons who were hit by a copper-headed snake, near Liberty, Va., were effectually cured by a physician, who dosed them severly with brandy. We should think that this remedy would prove effectual, on the principle that like cures like. We are told, that a few drops of alcohol, poured into the mouth of the reptile, will kill the most venomous rattlesnake, and the thing looks reasonable.

The Orleanean says there is a sign in that city which reads thus:

"Here my wife queers a goos, and I queers the gaunders."

Which being interpreted means that—

"Here my wife cures sgues, and I cures the jaundice."

PROPOSALS FOR GUN CARRIAGE TIMBER.

War Department,
ORDNANCE OFFICE, WASHINGTON, }
December 1, 1852.

PROPOSALS will be received until, and including, the 10th of December next, for Five Hundred Thousand feet of Merrimac Gun Carriage Timber, to be sampled at the following rates and sizes:

Two pieces, each 60 in. long,	17½ in. wide,	10¾ in thick.
Two do do 40 do	15½ do	10¾ do
Two do do 40 do	15½ do	10¾ do
Two do do 40 do	15½ do	10¾ do
Two do do 40 do	15½ do	10¾ do
Two do do 40 do	15½ do	10¾ do
Two do do 40 do	8½ do	7½ do
Two do do 40 do	8½ do	7½ do
Two do do 40 do	8½ do	7½ do
Two do do 40 do	8½ do	7½ do
Two do do 40 do	10½ do	10 3/8 do
Two do do 40 do	10½ do	10 3/8 do
Two do do 40 do	10½ do	10 3/8 do

The above measurements to be delivered in the following proportions, at the several Arsenals here mentioned:—To complete sets at the United States arsenal at Watervliet, N. Y., 150 complete sets at the United States arsenal at West Troy, New York; 60 complete sets at the United States arsenal at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; 150 complete sets at the United States arsenal at Washington, D. C.; 50 complete sets at the United States arsenal at the Point Dumfries, Virginia; the whole to be delivered on or before the first day of June next. Proposals will be received for the delivery of the whole quantity, or for that required for each arsenal separately. The timber above described must all have been cut in the middle of March, and must be straight grained, free from sap wood, and from shake, knot, and other defects known to rise from the centre heart; except in pieces of large size which cannot be procured free from it; and it must all be hewed full to the dimensions above stated; it may be delivered from time to time, within the period above named, at will be the interest of the contractor, but the Commanding Officer, or other authorized person, at each arsenal, will receive no timber that is not inspected and approved and received, if in complete sets, nor less than 60, will be paid for at the contract price less ten per cent. for the delay of the Government in paying for the timber until the contract is completed, when the amounts so retained will be paid. It will be necessary for the timber to be furnished to the United States, if the contractor fail to fulfil his contract, to have the marks of inspection on the timber for reservation declared by bidders, application may be made, by letter, or otherwise, to the Commanding Officer of either of the arsenals named.

No contract for the above mentioned timber will be allowed to be transferred by the contractor to any other person or persons, without special permission from the Chief of this Department for that purpose.

No advances on contracts will in any case be made; but the timber will be paid for as it is received.

Proposals will be forwarded in a sealed envelope, addressed to the subscriber, and endorsed "Proposals for Gun Carriage Timber." H. L. CRAIG,

Colonel of Ordnance.

To be inserted in the Intelligencer, Republic, and Union, Washington; Boston Courier; Albany Register; Philadelphia Inquirer, Pennsylvanian and North American; Boston Journal, daily for one week; and then twice a week till 10th December, and a copy of each of the papers to the Department whose names which contains it to be sent to this office.

de13

Proposals for Carrying the Mails

OF the United States in steam boats, from the 16th day of January next, to the 30th day of June, 1853, will be received at the City of Washington, until the 25th day of December next, at which time they will be opened, and the contract given to the lowest bidder, who will be required to enter into bond with two sureties, in the penalty of double the amount of the sum to be bonded by the following bar.

From Key West to Havana, Apalachicola, St. Marks, Cedar Keys, and Tampa, to Key West. Leave Key Orleans on the third and seventeenth of each month.

Arrive at New Orleans on the seventeenth and thirtieth.

Proposals are invited for trips once in three weeks, leaving New Orleans on the 1st and 21st.

NOTICE:

Articles of contract are to be executed by the accepted bidders within thirty days after the 1st day of January, 1853. The contract is to provide, among other things, that the pay is to be withheld for each trip which is not performed, and not more than three times the amount of the pay for each trip not run, and no sufficient excuse for the failure is rendered, and the proportion of all from a grade of service is rendered inferior to that contracted for. And that the pay is to be suspended, unless the deficiency be satisfactorily explained in case the vessel, or any one of the vessels, or any part of the service at the port of landing the mail belonging thereto, or a mail by any additional steamship or vessel, run by the contractor, or with his consent or connivance, be detained by the refusal of the owner, or his agent, to receive it, or to see it, injured, lost or destroyed, for the purpose of evading the contract, or delay of the mail, or any part of it, to be wet