

Great Disaster.

Just as we are about to go to press news comes to us of the burning of the steamer "T. L. McGill," from St. Louis for New Orleans, which was burned at Memphis on Saturday evening last.

—Rev. Alex. Sinclair, pastor of the Presbyterian society at Titusville, was presented with a complete set of Appleton's Cyclopaedia and Webster's Dictionary, valued at \$150, and a \$1,000 greenback, by the members of his congregation, recently.

—We see by our exchanges that Belden: The White Chief, which we have several times commended in our readers, is having an immense sale, at which we are not surprised, for the book is worthy. We are informed that a full regiment of agents—a thousand strong—is already engaged in its sale, and that the work bids fair to be the great literary success of the day.

—At the head of our pure delights stands Jefferson's "Rip."—Ex.

—Lacy Rushton has turned up at Louisville.

—A man named Jessup, in Doston, claims to be the inventor of chewing gum.

It would have been a blessing to humanity if Jessup had been held in the water just up about two feet above his head before he invented this jaw-breaking nuisance.

—The Hartford Post suggests that this is a good time to collect autographs—of your creditors.

We are in the autograph business somewhat, and there are about seven hundred and ninety-two of our creditors whose autographs we are very anxious to get on a paper commencing, "For value received I promise to pay."

—Johnson (Andy of course) says, by way of warning to Grant, "There's no use trying to be nominated for a second term."

Andy speaks from experience. He might have been nominated a second time, but the Democratic party could "see more" chances of success in another man.

—A young man at La Crosse, Wis., looked through the key-hole of a girl's bedroom, and ever since the doctors have been trying to get a knitting needle out of the place where his eye used to be.

In other words, he "risked one eye" and lost it. He won't have so much curiosity hereafter, nor so many eyes to dot.

—Wm. Strausser, of Catawissa, is in the Columbia county jail, on a charge of attempting to poison his mother-in-law.

It seems that the same peculiarity is remarkable about the mother-in-law business that Josh Billings says there is about the mosquito business—"the supply exceeds the demand."

—On Sunday night two young men named Scott Plattner and Will Filson had a difficulty at Charleston, Mississippi, during which the former cut the latter's throat, severing the jugular vein, then fled.

In this as in many other cases, paying close attention to the jug, means wide severance of the jugular. "Who cuts wounds without cause? They they that tarry long at the wine they who go to seek mixed drinks."

—Rich widows in Brooklyn are reported as "thick as blackberries," but much harder to pluck.

When we formerly mailed our letters from Tionesta, there were sixteen widows in the town, but they differed from the above in that they were "thin" and "mildling." However, they are not as plenty now as they formerly were, and consequently we don't have as lively times.

—The Chicago Republican is out against the custom of general kissing of a bride at weddings, and calls it a "relief of barbarism."

Well, what next? What kind of a dried up old caricature on humanity is this Chicago Republican man? A "relief of barbarism," indeed! If he be barbarism, why, let us all become barbarians at once. This is about the only real fair chance bachelors ever get to taste the sweetness of ripe young feminine lips, and here is a man who wants the custom abolished. He deserves to be hanged to death by his own side.

The Press on the Governor's Message.

It is an elaborate and exhaustive document, touching on every topic in which our people can have any interest, and contains a vast fund of information for the public.—Pittsburgh Gazette.

The message is a voluminous and interesting document. At the outset we have a highly satisfactory statement of the State's finances. Since January, 1867, the public debt has been reduced \$6,592,747.87 or at the rate of \$1,643,197 a year. During the year ending November 30, 1870, the reduction was \$1,792,879.05. The present State indebtedness of every description is \$31,111,761.90. To meet obligations falling due, the Governor recommends that the Legislature authorize the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund to sell "all the assets that may be in their possession, amount to \$9,500,000. This applied to its liquidation, the debt would be \$21,500,000, to liquidate the whole of which at the present rate would require only eight years. The Governor wisely suggests that this rate may be considered too rapid as well as unnecessary, if not oppressive; that taxation to such an extent, which is mainly borne by our corporations and the manufacturing industries, may have an injurious effect, and the opinion is expressed that it can be safely eased off, so as to reduce the debt at the rate of \$1,000,000 a year.

As a whole, it is a document of marked ability, and even boldness, extremely well written, and cannot fail of arresting, to an unusual degree, the attention of those who take an interest in public affairs.—Pittsburgh Commercial.

The remarkable passage in the message of Governor Geary of Pennsylvania, on the subject of the employment of troops at elections, is mainly remarkable for its resemblance to the kindred utterances of Governor Hoffman. That the presence of troops is desirable nobody claims. That it is desirable in Philadelphia, was, perhaps, a subject for consultation between the Governor and the President—hardly for discussion in this message.—N. Y. Tribune.

The message is well adapted to produce a favorable impression both in the State and country. The Governor has been fortunate in avoiding extremes, and success in taking a generally popular view of subjects treated upon. Even Democrats will find it hard, we think, to severely criticize the views, whether local or national, domestic or political, of the message. There are questions raised which might have been more thoroughly treated, but inasmuch as the chief aim of a State paper is to commend various topics to the attention of those to whom it is addressed, perhaps a brief expression of sentiment, without elaborate argument, is the better course.—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

Mr. Fish and Mr. Motley.

The State papers relating to the removal of Mr. Motley from the Court, of St. James are very long, and the controversy between the Minister to England and the Secretary of State is decidedly bitter.—Mr. Motley charges that manner of his recall was peremptory, unprecedented, discourteous, without just cause, and intimates that he was removed in order to punish his friend Senator Sumner for opposing the San Domingo question. Mr. Fish declares that Mr. Motley exceeded his instructions, and, indeed, directly violated them. His positive instructions were these: "He was directed to say to Lord Clarendon that this Government, in rejecting the recent convention, abandoned neither its own claims nor those of its citizens, nor the hope of an easy, satisfactory and friendly settlement of the questions pending between the two Governments."

Second, he was further instructed that in his private and social conversations, as well as in his official conversations, when it should become necessary, he should place the cause of grievance of the United States against Great Britain, not so much upon her issuance of the recognition of the insurgents' state of war as upon her conduct under and subsequent to such recognition. It was left to his discretion to touch upon other points. He is then accused of threatening England, of instructing Earl Clarendon in his duties of making grave diplomatic blunders, of refusing to resign when invited, of misrepresenting the President's views, and using language in his correspondence with the British Government tending to make hostile feeling between the two nations.

It is too soon for those who have no partisanship in this unfortunate quarrel to make decision in the case. It is plain that Mr. Motley devoted himself to his difficult mission with energy and intelligence, and that he had but one purpose—that to properly serve his country. Of Mr. Fish's foreign policy we have never had a high opinion, and therefore are inclined to believe that Mr. Motley will not lose the confidence of the public. But, however this may be, the question is not whether Mr. Motley acted right; it is whether Mr. Motley obeyed his instructions, and carried out the weak policy of Mr. Fish with the proper degree of timidity. If he did not, if he allowed his own judgment to govern his actions, it may have been perfectly proper for the Administration to remove him. That subject the Senate will examine, and the other question is already pretty well settled by public opinion.—Philadelphia Post.

—The corn crop of the Union is unprecedentedly large. From Cincinnati to St. Louis the whole country is almost literally one great corn field. Added to the extraordinary crop in the old producing States, hundreds of thousands of bushels have been marketed from Kansas and other States west of the Mississippi, which have never before cultivated beyond their own capacity for consumption.

—The recent failure of two or three prominent insurance companies is bringing out some ugly statements. One company in Cincinnati is charged with having paid out ten thousand dollars for managing fifteen thousand dollars of premiums. A list of New York companies is also published in which the ratio of expenses to receipts is by no means calculated to inspire an insurer with confidence. An Ohio company, with a gross income of \$187,253, contrived to get rid of \$81,217 in expenses besides what risks it paid. The Great Western is the last of the life insurance companies to become insolvent. Connecticut and New York, the States which have always watched the insurance business closely, have already found the need of still greater precautions.

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The Monarch of Advertisers.

Hembold's big sleigh was out in the Park the other day, with a load of Judges and Generals. A SUX man, meeting the Doctor, asked him how much the bells cost.

"They're gold plated. There are 378 of them. Cost me \$970." They're gold plated. There are 378 of them. Cost me \$970. They're gold plated. There are 378 of them. Cost me \$970. They're gold plated. There are 378 of them. Cost me \$970.

On Saturday morning last, while S. W. Updike, stillman at Hinkley & Allen's refinery, Titusville, was engaged in taking off the sideplate of one of the stills, after drawing the tar, the gas issuing from the stills took fire, burning Mr. Updike severely on his face and neck.

On Thursday last A. N. Spaulding shot a catamount back the Farr Farm, Venango county. It measured four feet from tip of nose to tip of tail, and weighed over twenty-five pounds.

On Saturday evening last the shingle, lath & saw mills, owned by A. S. Wilson, and situated on the Lake branch of Sugar Creek, four miles from Cooperstown, were totally destroyed by fire. Mr. Wilson's loss is \$6,000. No insurance.

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THE MAGIC COMB. Will change your colored hair or beard to permanent black or brown. It contains no poison. Any one can use it.

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