

A Negro's Will Case.

A case of more than ordinary interest was commenced in the Court of Common Pleas, before Judge Thompson, this morning. It is a feigned issue to test the validity of the will of the late William Johnson, a negro, who was reputed to have left a white wife and two small mulatto children, in life, besides and a black wife, married a few days before his death. The white wife was in Court, with her two children. They were quite respectable in appearance, better clad than ordinary people, and might reasonably pass for persons in the middle walks of life. Another singularity attending the case is, that one of the female witnesses for the white wife is a white woman of great beauty and youth, who has a mulatto husband and children. She attracted considerable attention. We felt relieved when we ascertained that both these females were of foreign birth—one a Scotch and the latter an English woman.

The facts of the case appear to be as follows: The decedent, Wm. Johnson, in early life, was a slave in Virginia, from which State he fled to Pennsylvania. He soon became acquainted with a colored woman, named Mrs. Harvey, who interested herself in his behalf, and prevailed upon the present Mayor Gilpin to purchase him from his Virginia master, for the purpose of manumission. This was accordingly effected. Johnson followed the sea for several years, but being a man of strong mind and business qualifications, soon discovered that there were better ways open, to persons of an energetic turn of mind, to make a living, than the drudgery and toil on shipboard. Instead of spending his earnings while on shore in dissipated living, as in his day was too much the case with seafaring men, he carefully hoarded them up, until he had sufficient to open a sailors' boarding house in the southeastern part of the city. His new business prospered under his careful supervision and in a few years the fruits of his industry and attention were manifested in his accumulation of real estate.

About twenty years ago—probably in gratitude for the sympathy Mrs. Harvey had felt for him while a fugitive from labor—he married her. She was a widow, with several children, among them a daughter, since known as Mrs. Duce, and now claiming to be his wife, and to whom, and her four children by Mr. Duce, he bequeathed the bulk of his property.

His first wife (Mrs. Harvey) died in 1847, without issue by him. In the same year, a young woman named Catherine Flynn (the alleged white wife) arrived in this city from Scotland. The decedent became acquainted with her in three weeks afterward and as she had none of the American prejudices against color, it is alleged he married her. It is certain they lived together as man and wife, in one of his houses in Gaskill st. He spoke of her as his wife and defended her as such, against his colored friends, whose antipathies against the intrusion of a white woman into their circle, as the wife of a rich colored man, were of the strongest character.

From this alleged marriage sprang three children, two of whom are now living. They continue to live together up to the day he was seized with his last sickness, which appears to have been on the 23d day of November, 1852. Finding he was likely to be taken to his bed, he expressed a desire to go to his place on business in Lombard, above Front st., where he could in part superintend business, even while sick. He went to that house, and was soon after taken to his bed and room, from which, it appears he was never again able to depart.

Mrs. Duce was then living in the Lombard st. house with her children, in the capacity of housekeeper. Her husband was not living with her at the time, and was reputed to be dead.

On the 4th of Dec., 1852, the will in dispute was made, and on the 8th a codicil was attached, making provision for a child not yet born of the body of the white wife. On the 14th of Dec., Johnson died. A few days prior to his death, he married Mrs. Nancy Duce, his housekeeper at the Lombard st. house, and his step-daughter by his first wife. She had four children living with her, who are named in the will by his own name, and are called his children. To them after the death of their mother, who has a life estate, the larger portion of his estate descends.

It is alleged that the will was procured by improper means, while the decedent was under the control of Mrs. Duce and Perry Tilghman, one of the executors. Perry Tilghman, it appears dictated the will which was afterwards taken to the room of the sick man and confirmed by him in the presence of two witnesses, one of them being the gentleman who drafted the will, and who testified that he knew decedent's intentions as to his property beforehand. The will and codicil both are signed with a cross, the decedent not being able to write.

The will calls the white wife Catharine Fossitt; and while it acknowledges her three children, calls them by her name. He gives to each \$50 per annum during their minority, and bestows the property in Gaskill st., and that at the N. E. corner of Christian and Fourth sts., to these three children, share and share alike, when they shall have attained the age of 21 years respectively.

The case will occupy several days. Much feeling is exhibited between the two races, giving a practical illustration of the impossibility of blending the Caucasian with the African race. Their jealousies of each other are natural and mutual.

Abandoned.—One Joseph O. Martin, of Galena Ill., late School Commissioner of Jo Daviess Co., has absconded with about \$6,000 (he the same as the lawyers say, "more or less") of the school funds. He came to New York City, under the pretence of buying groceries, and just previous to sailing for Australia, from this port, sent back an assignment of his effects to his official securities, who are now to suffer for his scoundrelism.

He that talks what he knows will also talk what he knows not.

The Lehigh Register.

Allentown, Pa.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 1853.

CANAL COMMISSIONER.

Moses Pownall,

OF LANCASTER COUNTY.

AUDITOR GENERAL.

Alexander K. McClure,

OF FRANKLIN COUNTY.

SURVEYOR GENERAL.

Christian Myers,

OF CLARION COUNTY.

Lehigh Valley Railroad.

We are pleased to be able to inform our readers, and the citizens generally, that the prospect of seeing the "Iron Horse" blowing its way through the Lehigh Valley, is not far distant. The labor and perseverance of the Hon. ASA PACKER, has been the means of bringing this great improvement into effect. Although some of the most difficult portions of the road has been put under contract, yet up to this time, not any distance of the road has been laid; but from a notice which appears in our advertising columns to-day, it will be seen that proposals will be received for the graduation and masonry of that portion of the road not yet contracted for on the 30th of this month, at the company's office in March Chunk.

The Agricultural Society.

Our attentive friend LAURY of the Legislature writes us under date of the 14th instant, that the Act to incorporate the "Lehigh County Agricultural Society," was taken up that day and finally passed that branch of the Legislature. He expresses hopes that it will also pass the other branch before the adjournment.

Salaries of Associate Judges.

A bill was passed by the House of Representatives of our State Legislature, regulating the salaries of Associate Judges, except for the city and county of Philadelphia. It provides that for those whose attendance does not exceed four weeks in each and every year, the salary shall be one hundred and twenty dollars; for those whose attendance exceeds four weeks and does not amount to eight weeks, one hundred and forty dollars; for those whose attendance exceeds eight weeks and does not amount to twelve weeks, one hundred and sixty dollars; for those whose attendance exceeds twelve weeks, two hundred dollars.

A provision in the bill, makes it the duty of the President Judge of each District, at the close of the year, to forward a certificate under hand and seal, the number of weeks each Associate has been necessarily employed in holding Court during the year.

When the bill came up in the Senate, our representative our friend Fry, very strongly opposed the bill, stating that if the present Judges did not see fit to serve for the salary, others would be glad to fill their places. He expresses himself decidedly opposed to the increase of salary of offices.

Neither do we believe in the increase of salaries, but in this case we think many of the Judges are too poorly compensated for the services rendered by them. Some are engaged from two to four months a year.

Business Notices.

Spring and Summer Goods!—Our young and enterprising friends Messrs. GETZ & GILBERT, in the Borough of Catawauqua, are about turning over a new leaf; that is to say, they have disposed of their Fall and Winter stock, and are about receiving a tremendous lot of Spring and Summer Goods, which in style and variety will go ahead of any lot of Goods ever offered in that place. They are both capital business men, and have the tact of knowing how to please their customers.

New Boot and Shoe Store.—By reference to our advertising columns, it will be seen that our neighbor Mr. J. F. REISSER, has again commenced the Shoe Business, two doors east of his old stand, No. 13, East Hamilton street, in Allentown. He is a Mechanic that deserves to be patronized, as he is a perfect "Master of the Last." He will be pleased to attend to those who may favor him with their custom.

Keck's Hat Emporium.—Our friend Mr. WILLIAM KECK, has removed his Hat and Cap Emporium, to the House of Mr. Charles Scholl, No. 21, West Hamilton Street, where he is just unpacking his new style of Spring and Summer Hats. He also manufactures them to order, from the Beaver to the Silk, and he understands to "Head-dress" a gentleman as well as the next man in his line of business.

Wholesale Establishment.—We are getting up in the world, as will be seen by our advertising columns. The first Wholesale establishment has been opened by our enterprising friend Wm. S. Weil, at No. 39, West Hamilton street, Allentown. He keeps a Variety Store, and has an assortment equalled by but few in Philadelphia, and is able to sell as low as any city establishment. Mr. Weil is always on hand devoted to his business and winning his way rapidly in the good graces of the trading community.

Improved Steel Pen.—We have been shown a steel pen, from the manufactory of J. Schlesinger, London, that goes ahead of any thing of the kind we have ever seen. They have a solid platinum point, will not corrode in ink or acid of any kind, and can not be impaired by falling on the floor, &c. The coating of the Pen by Gutta Purcha preserves the point not only from breaking but also from corroding. They can be had by Charles S. Massey, at 50 ois. a dozen, or \$4 a gross, we can recommend them to the writing community as a first rate article.

The "Derks and Schuyllkill Journal" came to us materially enlarged. The Journal is one of the best papers on our exchange list. It deserves to be well patronized.

Letter from the South.

Correspondence of the Lehigh Register.

Houston, Texas, March 27, 1853.

Friend Rule;—As some time has elapsed since I wrote to you, I thought a few lines might not come amiss. This country is rapidly improving and filling up, and the people are beginning to be awake to internal improvements. They have some seven or eight Railroads in contemplation, for which charters were granted at the last session of the Legislature. The State is very liberal with these charters, it gives to each Company eight sections of land for every mile of road finished, which they can locate on any unappropriated land in the State, which in a few hence, will almost bring what the road cost to build. The Harrisburg and Austin road, which starts five miles below this place, is going ahead rapidly; they have twenty five miles graded and are at present engaged in laying down the iron, at the rate of six hundred yards per day. On the Houston and Austin road they have commenced grading, but I understand, the Company never had an organization, and I have no doubt, as soon as the capitalists in New York, who it is said, have subscribed for the greater part of the stock, find out that the Harrisburg road, owned by the Bostonians, is going ahead so rapidly, they will no doubt give up their project; as they run nearly parallel to the same point, and will conflict with each other, and make but poor stock of both. The New York capitalists I am told, have been kept in the dark in regard to the latter road, and believe it to be only a branch road to the Brazos, they will, however, be here in a few weeks to organize, and examine the route, and we should not be surprised to see it abandoned.

I saw in one of my New York Herald's, that four hundred United States recruits, sailed from that port in the ship Irene, for Texas, they are very much needed here, as the Indians are getting to be very troublesome in some of the frontier counties, and unless a strong military force is concentrated along the borders, they will accomplish no good. Those immediately around us, are friendly and live by hunting. The few Mexicans, that are strolling about yet, are a miserable doped set, they stand on about the same footing with the free negroes in the south. They refuse to work, and are worthless for any other pursuit of life, they are treacherous and are viewed with suspicion. The inhabitants appear to have a natural hatred against them, which is owing to their former butcheries in the war of Texan independence.

In strolling through the burying ground at this place the other day, I had some of my early school-boy days, vividly called to my memory, by coming across the grave of one of my old schoolmates of the "Allentown Academy." A neat marble tomb stone, marks the grave, with the following inscription:

In memory of WILLIAM GANGEWER, a native of Pennsylvania, who died September 25th, 1848, aged 28 years.

Mr. Gangerwer followed the carpenter trade, and had made considerable money, when he was carried off by the Yellow Fever, which is the fate of many, that come here from the North; we have very hot weather for about eight months in the year, strangers become debilitated, and whenever they are taken with an attack of any of the prevailing epidemics, their constitutions are seldom strong enough to carry them through.

We have delightful weather, and every thing looks very prosperous. We are luxuriating on green peas and new potatoes; these would be I doubt not a great rarity with you at the North, at this season, yet we do not make much of them, as they can be cultivated nearly through the whole year. In my next I expect to be able to give you a more general description of the country, as I expect to start on my tour through the State in a short time. Until then Adieu!

Yours, STANHOPE.

Results of Advertising.

The "Boston Bee" of a recent date publishes the following significant paragraph: "All either Washington, Trenton or Hanover streets, are examined closely in their history for five years past, it will be found that those who have advertised most judiciously, have done the best business beyond all chances for comparison. On every point the principle is a fixed one. It admits of no doubt. It is based on clear reason and visible facts, and is not to be controverted. Advertising consists in plainly telling every body what you have got, where it is, what it is worth, and all other necessary particulars. This is told at the fireside, the office, the bench. People go to such places as naturally, almost, as they breathe. They know where to go, and though a hundred places must be passed in which, possibly, the very article wanted, is to be had, yet it is the advertiser who will get the dollar, the profit, the reputation."

No word need be added to enforce such testimony as the above. Whoever disregards the plain laws of business, expects the public to seek him out, and neglects the use of means to introduce himself and his business to the attention of the public—will be apt to find, in the end, that he has mistaken the public pulse in a most essential particular; that he has committed a fatal blunder, and given to a shrewd and more energetic rival the advantages which he might have enjoyed, had he not forgotten that trade is a flirt that must be wooed to be won, and that the most active and persevering suitor is generally the most successful.

Minister to England.

President Pierce has appointed the Hon. James Buchanan, Minister to England. This is certainly one of President Pierce's most appropriate selections. Mr. Buchanan is one of the ablest men in the Democratic ranks, while his English Free Trade notions and proclivities will render his appointment very acceptable at the Court of St. James, whatever it may be to Americans. Mr. Buchanan will now have an opportunity of studying at the nation's expense the blessing of the ten cent waxes system of which he was the advocate in this country.

Steamboat Accident.

Correspondence of the Lehigh Register.

Houston, Texas, March 27, 1853.

Friend Rule;—I wrote to you last week, and as I do not know but what my letter may have been on the Steamboat Farmer, that blew up on the night of the 23d instant; so I concluded to write again and give you the particulars of the explosion. On last Wednesday night, at about 11 o'clock, while the Farmer was racing with the Neptune, the boilers on board of the Farmer exploded, carrying away and blowing to atoms almost the entire Boat forward of the Ladies cabin. The number of lives lost is not yet ascertained, it is estimated that full 40 to 50 passengers were aboard, of which fully one half are dead and missing. There were only four Ladies on board, none of them are hurt. The reek sunk in about six feet of water. There has been existing for some time a great spirit for racing, between the Farmer, the regular Mail boat, and the Neptune, a first class opposition boat, which has finally resulted, in the explosion of the Farmer, killing upwards of thirty human beings, including the Captain and most of the officials, among the killed are several merchants of this place.

J. W. McGowan and Thomas Martin, stepped from the Farmer, aboard of the Neptune, while the Boats were locked together, about 2 hours previous to the explosion, and thus doubtless saved their lives. The Boat is an entire loss, mail, books, papers, money, cargo, &c. The Captain had been expostulated with, by a number of the passengers during the trip, for running his boat at such dangerous speed, and Mr. Stackpole was remonstrating with him at the time of the explosion, both standing immediately over the boilers. Mr. Stackpole was blown into the air, through the hurricane deck, and first came to consciousness when he came in contact with the water, after which he was rescued by the Neptune.

The Neptune left Houston at 11 o'clock on the 21st, and the Farmer at 3 o'clock, in the afternoon of the same day. The Neptune was at her ordinary speed; she stopped at Lynchburg, to unload a steamboller, at which place the Farmer overtook her. The Farmer stopped at the same place, and took on board four cords of Pitch Pine knots, by which time the Neptune got one mile ahead, running at her ordinary speed, with 137 pounds of steam on, when the Farmer overtook and tried to pass her, in so doing they became hung together and remained so for twenty minutes; the Farmer burning Rosin, and Pitch Pine-knots, until the bluze came out ten feet above her chimneys, when she passed the Neptune, and in less than two hours afterwards she blew up. The Neptune came to her assistance, and rescued some thirty of the passengers, nearly all more or less wounded. The explosion was so powerful that it twisted the immense iron shafts up, as if it were tire iron, and threw one of the wheels one hundred yards from the wreck.

I had a conversation with Mr. Pritchard, Clerk of the Farmer, on the day before they left Houston, in regard to the relative speed of the two Boats, when he remarked, "that he would bet five hundred dollars, that the Farmer could beat the Neptune and run around her, or they would burst her boiler in attempting it," so his saying was verified, and he killed before he thought of it.

I might have given you the particulars a day or two earlier, but as we have but one mail a week, you would not have received it sooner. This melancholy affair will convince you that the people in the South understand murdering wholesale, in the way of Steamboat racing, as well as those of the North.

Yours, &c. STANHOPE.

Philadelphia Easton Railroad.

In consequence of our being a warm friend and advocate of this line of public improvement we have been frequently, and by some rather sneeringly, questioned as to the probable time the Company intend to commence the work which question, previous to this time, we were unable to answer. Now, however, we have the positive assurance of the officers of the Company that the road is located between Freemansburg and Flourtown, on the Wissahickon in Whitemarsh township, Montgomery county, and that the heavier portions of the work will be let to contractors early in May. From Flourtown to the city they have not yet decided upon a route but most probably they will run up Sandy Run for a short distance and then run down by Frankford and enter the city on this side.

The company have now over a million dollars worth of stock taken, independent of what has been subscribed for along the route, which is getting to be quite an item as we learn that at Sellersville alone, there is about one hundred shares taken. From present indications do not think that there is much fear of their not being able to raise money enough to prosecute the work. We trust that ere two years more roll around the people of Wissahickon and Saucon Valley will be gratified with a sight of the "iron horse" in their midst, and be amused, with its snorting and heaving.—Easton Sentinel.

The New Minister.—Hon. James Buchanan, the new Minister to St. James, completed his sixty-second year yesterday, having been born in Franklin county, on the 13th of April, 1791. He studied law, was elected to the House of Representatives in 1814, and re-elected in the following year. He was elected to Congress in 1820 and continued as a member of the House till March, 1831, he was offered and accepted the mission to Russia. After his return from that mission he was, in 1834, elected to the Senate of the United States, to fill an unexpired term, and was subsequently re-elected in 1836 and 1843. President Polk, in March, 1843, called Mr. Buchanan into the cabinet, and until the close of that administration, he held the office of Secretary of State.

A Long Term.—John McRae, postmaster at Fayetteville, N. C., has declined a re-appointment. He has been connected with the office for fifty-two years, seventeen years as clerk under his father, and thirty-five years as postmaster.

Pennsylvania Legislature.

Harrisburg, April 17.

Senate.

April 8. Mr. Crabb, called up Senate bill No. 410, to incorporate the Allentown railroad company. Passed committee, and was laid over on second reading.

April 9. Mr. Fry, called up the bill to incorporate the Allentown and Breinigsville turnpike road company. Passed its several readings.

House.

April 11. The act to incorporate the Allentown and Breinigsville Turnpike and Plank road company. Passed second and final reading.

April 12. Mr. Barr, presented a petition of forty-nine citizens of Northampton county in favor of striking Easton from said county.

An act to incorporate the Lehigh county agricultural society, was taken up and prepared for second reading; and on the 14th passed finally.

April 13. An act for the relief of Jacob Housman, Barbara Weida, and others, soldiers and widows of soldiers of the Revolutionary and Indian wars, was taken up and passed.

A Veteran Politician.

Hon. HENRY SHAW, the representative of our 15th and 16th Wards in the Assembly, is probably the oldest member of that body, yet still alert and vigorous in mind and body. He was in Congress (from Berkshire Co. Mass.) more than thirty years ago, and voted for the Missouri Compromise of 1820, which cost him his seat.—In a recent passage with his colleague, Mr. D. B. Taylor, Mr. Shaw gave the following good natured account of his own political experience.

"In politics he had been everything. He had been a member of every party he had ever heard of. [Laughter.] He was at this time a member of the Democratic party—of that faction known as "Hunker"—a moderate one—rather softly.—[Renewed Laughter.] Before the time of Andrew Jackson he had been a Democrat. But when he was talked of as a candidate for the Presidency, and Crawford was mentioned too, he (Mr. S.) became a Clay man. He remained a Clay man during the whole of that despotical Democratic rule and the one that followed. He clung fast to Mr. Clay as long as there was any hope of placing him in the Presidential Chair, and was present at the Harrisburg Convention that witnessed his (Mr. C.'s) political death. And a sorry death it was too! After that he left the party and again sailed under the Democratic banner. He had been a Democrat, and left them when opposition to the old United States Bank was made a test of the party. He had been a Democrat, when on the other hand they were the advocates of such a measure; and he expected to find them returning to it again some day. [Shouts of laughter.] He had been always consistent! [Laughter.] He had made it a point to belong to all parties in turn! [Renewed laughter.] He was just now a Democrat, but how long he should remain so was quite uncertain! It depended on the course pursued by Mr. Pierce—a man who had been elected President lately. [Laughter.]

A voice—How about John Tyler?

Mr. Shaw—I was the personal friend of Mr. Tyler, but I found to my sorrow that high honors turned his brain and unsettled his intellect, and made him a poor vain fool! [Loud laughter.]

Mr. S. said he had now stated his position, and given, he believed, a clear history of his political life.

Benton and St. James.

It is rumored at Washington, that Mr. Benton has been offered the Mission to England. If this is so, we trust he will not accept it, for his services can ill be spared in Congress. Of the galaxy of great men, who, twenty years ago, made the Senate chamber the first intellectual arena in Christendom, he remains, nearly alone. Ejected from Congress, for a temporary period, he has triumphed over all his enemies, and regained a seat there, chiefly by his indomitable courage, his plain spoken eloquence, and the memory of his past services. Of all the men in the federal legislature, he is the most powerful, perhaps, for good or ill. As his integrity is unquestioned, and as age has sobered his eccentricities, we may naturally expect from him a career of single-hearted patriotism, unmingled with baser motives. In no other capacity, consequently, can Benton serve his country so effectually as in his present. There are fifty men, who will answer as well as he for a Minister to the Court of St. James; but there is no other man in the whole Union, who possesses the same qualities as a legislator. We have so high an opinion of Mr. Benton's good sense, that we believe he will himself see something of this, and that he will in consequence decline the appointment, and remain in Congress. We hope soon to behold him in his old place in the Senate. But meantime he will be of the greatest service in the House.—Evening Bulletin.

Railroads in the West.—The Ohio and Pennsylvania Railroad was opened, and the first cars went over the entire distance from Pittsburgh to its western terminus, Crestline, a point on the Cleveland Columbus, and Cincinnati road, distant 187 miles, on Saturday last. The Pittsburgh Gazette of the 11th says:

It is announced by advertisement in our columns to-day, that the Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad is to be let to contractors the whole length, one hundred and fifty miles from Fort Wayne to Chicago. By the close of the next year the cars will be running, and the direct line from Pittsburgh to Chicago will be complete.—The distance from Pittsburgh to Chicago by this route, will be 467 miles, as follows: "From Pittsburgh to Crestline 180 miles; from Crestline to Fort Wayne, 131 miles; from Fort Wayne to Chicago, 156 miles. This is the shortest line that can be constructed between this city and the thriving metropolis of the north west. It is a line of easy grades and large curvatures, and will have a first class railroad the whole distance and when finished, can be run in from 16 to 18 hours.

The Murder of Mr. Roberts.

Harrisburg, April 17.

Enough has already been fastened upon Spring convicted of the murder of Mrs. Lynch and Shaw to convince the public that he is a fiend of no ordinary character. We would not excite public curiosity against this miserable man in that direction, but as curiosity as to the perpetration of the murder of Mr. Roberts, in Camden, has not yet subsided, we will give a few circumstantial details which may, perhaps, assist in solving and ascertaining the name of the guilty parties. At the time Spring occupied the store No. 34 1/2 Market street, Mr. Roberts stood in Market, directly in front of his store and both Spring and Mr. R. were intimately acquainted with each other. During the time of Spring's pecuniary difficulties, Mr. Roberts was very kind to him, and frequently loaned him small sums of money. It is said, on pretty good authority, that on the day Mr. Roberts was murdered, Spring knew that he had considerable money in his possession; and that late in the afternoon, Mr. R. started across the ferry, on his way home beyond Camden.—Mr. Roberts was seen to cross Cooper's creek, and as Spring was acquainted with the localities of the road, it is believed, he waylaid him. The singularity of the murder is—whichever committed that act did it with a degree of boldness only equalled by those already fixed upon Spring.—As soon as Mr. Roberts was murdered, the person who committed the deed, jumped into the wagon, rifled his pockets, and, turning his horses around, drove them back to the vicinity of Camden, where he left them and crossed over the ferry to Philadelphia. It being in the edge of the evening the persons disappeared before the horses were recognized; and on searching the wagon on the dead body of Mr. Roberts was found horribly mutilated. His pocket book was found in the dock the next morning. Whoever the perpetrator of that act may have been, we hope the circumstances above alluded to may have a tendency to lead to his arrest and conviction if living so that justice may yet be administered to him and the public.—Daily Sun.

Harvest of Gold.

The condition of affairs in Australia occupies much attention in England. The leading journals abound with details of the latest news, and speculations as to the future prospects of the colony. The latest advices says Bicknell's Reporter, announces the shipment of nearly two millions sterling in gold, or about ten millions of dollars. The Victoria mines yield ten millions of dollars weekly, and gold had also been discovered at Natal, New Zealand. The effect thus far may be readily imagined, when the fact is realized, that the value of the exports from Victoria alone has been increased in a single year, from about five millions of dollars to seventy five millions. Several steam-vessels sent from England for sale, have been disposed of at immense prices, and others were greatly needed to carry on the intercourse between the flourishing ports of the Australian continent.—The emigration from the mother country continued, and was rapidly increasing. The inquiry has again been started—what will be the effect—the effect of the increased supply of gold?—The London Times predicts that in a few years, the value will fall one third, and some predict half, or that a bushel of wheat which now cost a dollar will bring two; or that an acre of land worth thirty dollars, will command sixty. Mr. Hunter, the keeper of the mining records, in a lecture recently delivered in London, treats these apprehensions as chimerical. His opinions, however, seem to be founded upon the assumption that the gold fields of California and Australia are soon to be exhausted—an opinion, not warranted by facts, in our judgement.

A Sermon Manufactory.—In England, some persons are constantly employed in writing sermons to sell to clergymen. The following advertisement in the John Bull newspaper: "Many young ministers, from the press of parochial business, and from inexperience, in composition being sometimes obliged, very much against their inclination, and to the serious injury of their ministry to copy sermons, from books, the advertiser, an experienced clergyman, engages to supply original sermons, of good composition, of decided Evangelic doctrine, and of practical application on receipt of half a sovereign (\$2.50) each. Persons requiring sermons, may choose their own texts, and need not disclose their names, as the sermons can be directed to a fictitious signature, at any post office they are required to be sent to."

The Overland Emigration this Spring.—We notice by St. Joseph and Council Bluffs papers, that preparations have been made to equip and help forward a large emigration this Spring, and already considerable numbers are arriving on the frontier preparatory to the long journey. The Western Host is full of advertisements of ferries and ferrymen on the Platte, Loupe, &c., rivers, and the representations are that unusual facilities will now be enjoyed in crossing the rivers and plains. The Emigration from Missouri, Illinois, Iowa &c. will be large, and Ohio will furnish her quota: We learn by the Ashland Union that some twenty-five emigrants left that place for California on the 28th ult, and they expect to join another company from Ashland which preceded them, west of the Mississippi. We observe other companies about to start in various portions of the West, and altogether quite an army will again move forward toward the setting sun. Australia, however, divides the current of gold seekers somewhat, as the ships advertised in New York for Melbourne, Port Phillip, &c., go out full. By the last San Francisco papers it appears that some large parties are about leaving California to try and do better in Australia, although the Transcript figures out that with the same number of diggers at work, California would still beat Australia in its yield of native gold.

The Siamese Twins.—The Twins are soon to reappear before the public, and are now in Boston. Where they arrived in America, from San Francisco they made their first appearance in Boston. For the last fifteen years they have been engaged in agricultural pursuits in North Carolina, where they have wives and eleven children, and it is now their intention to visit a few of the principal cities in this country and Europe, after which they will again retire into private life.