

THE NEWS.

AWFUL AND DESTRUCTIVE CONFLAGRATION.

Charleston City in Ruins.

We have melancholy news to communicate to our readers this morning. The city of Charleston has been visited with an awful and most destructive fire.

A slip from the office of the Augusta Chronicle, dated April 28th, 6 P. M. furnishes the following particulars:

"We learn with the deepest regret, by passengers from Charleston, who arrived here this evening by the Carolina Railroad, that the city of Charleston has been visited by one of the most awful and destructive fires that has ever visited any city in the United States. One third of the city was laid in ashes at the departure of the cars this morning at 6 o'clock, and the fire was raging as if it would at least consume one third more.

The fire broke out last night at a quarter past eight o'clock, in a paint store, on the western side of King street, corner of Beresford st. The wind blowing strongly from the south west, blew the flames diagonally across King street, and at the time of the departure of the cars, the whole section of the city above Beresford street, up to Society street, and east of King street, to the Bay, was burnt down or burning. From Beresford to Society are four streets—from King street to the bay about as many, or perhaps more. The fire had also extended four or five blocks west of King street, and was still pressing with terrific rapidity up that street in the direction of Boundary st. when the cars left. Our informant believes it impossible to calculate what will be the ultimate extent of the fire, as it seemed in no way checked at 6 o'clock this morning.

Among the buildings consumed are a number of churches, the new theatre, the splendid new hotel recently erected, and the whole market except the fish market. Nearly all the large merchants, in the centre of business, on King street, were burnt out, among them Parish, Wiley & co. and G. H. Kelsey & co. Boream & co. and all in that neighborhood, and the large storehouse of Miller, Ripley & co. on the corner of King and Society streets, was catching the flames when our informant left. The Merchant's Hotel, formerly Miot's had not caught, but it was believed to be impossible to save it. At Norris' Hotel, still higher up King street, and on the west side, they had removed all their furniture and bedding, in almost certain anticipation of being burnt out.

A large number of houses had been blown up, to no purpose. All the powder in the city was exhausted, and all the water in the pumps; the people, wearied with a whole night's incessant and unavailing toil, found themselves this morning, able to make but a feeble resistance to the still raging and devouring flames. A number of persons had been killed by the blowing up of houses and throwing furniture into the streets. The steamboat Neptune, lying in the Bay, caught on fire but was fortunately extinguished.

The trunks directed to this office and to the Constitutionalist office, from the newspaper offices in Charleston, failed to come this evening, as we presume no papers were printed there last night; and as the regular mail was closed last night before the fire broke out, no other information has been received here than that from passengers, which is necessarily limited as to particulars.

This is indeed a mournful catastrophe! A flourishing city laid in ashes, her people burnt out of home and subsistence, and millions of property destroyed in a single night! The Insurance Companies of Charleston, we learn, are of small capitals, and will, every one, no doubt, be ruined, and still be unable to make good but a small portion of the losses. Hundreds of families must be utterly ruined by this general calamity. Years cannot make Charleston what she was.

STILL LATER.

Letters and slips by the Express Mail, inform us that the fire raged with incredible fury for sixteen hours, and exhausted itself about one P. M. on the 28th ult. The extent of the calamity is frightful indeed.

Thirteen hundred buildings are destroyed with their contents—supposed to be worth \$5,000,000! The flames were visible for 20 miles. The noble Hotel, called the "Charleston," worth, with its furniture, \$200,000, is a heap of smoking ruins! The Masonic Hall, a Methodist Episcopal, and a Methodist Protestant Church, Catholic Chapel, and Hebrew Synagogue, are destroyed, with many of the handsomest houses in the city.

Colonel C. J. Stedman, Mr. F. Schmierle, Mr. Piant, and Capt. Duff, of the ship Herald, have lost their lives. Many are dreadfully injured by the falling ruins, and their lives despaired of.

Nearly 1500 families are entirely without a home, and many even without shelter. The distress and suffering are inconceivable.

About 2,000,000 are said to be insured; partly in New York.

The fire had broken out afresh in two or three places before the last accounts left but it was subdued.

In addition to the above, a slip from the Charleston Mercury, dated April 29th, records the death of two colored men employ-

ed to blow up some houses to prevent the spread of the fire.

A slip from the Patriot says that several negroes and a mulatto boy had also been killed by the explosions; and that at least 1000 buildings are destroyed.

FURTHER FEARFUL PARTICULARS OF THE TERRIBLE STEAMBOAT DISASTER.

Cincinnati, April 26.

We have just returned from the scenes of horror occasioned by the explosion, and the accounts before published, instead of being in the slightest degree exaggerated, (as has been intimated by a few,) falls short of the dreadful reality! The fragments of human bodies are now lying scattered along the shore, and we saw the corpses of a number so mangled and torn, that they bear scarcely any resemblance to the human form. We also saw several with their heads and arms entirely blown off, others with only a part of their head destroyed, and others with their lower extremities shivered to an apparent jelly. Fragments of the boilers, and other portions of the boat, were thrown from fifty to two hundred yards on the shore, some of them having passed entirely over the two rows of buildings on the street, and a portion of the boilers tearing away the gable end of a stable situated high up the steep hill in rear of the houses, at least 200 yards from the boat. Other parts of the boat were driven entirely through a large house on the street, entering through the window on one side, and passing out at the other. It is positively stated that one man was picked up this morning on the Kentucky side, having been blown completely across the river.

There was no doubt more persons lost than we have stated. We conversed a while ago, with Mr. Broadwell, the agent of the boat, who says positively that there were 95 deck passengers, whose names were entered on the boat's register, at Pittsburgh, Wheeling, and other towns on the river above this place, for Louisville, St. Louis, and other places below. Here then are one hundred and thirty passengers that must have been on board, exclusive of the very large number who took passage at this place. The boat was unusually crowded, and Mr. Broadwell thinks the whole number on board at the time of the accident, cannot be little, if any, short of three hundred persons! From the best information we can gather, it does not appear that more than thirty or forty of this number are known to have been rescued. It is therefore probable that the whole number drowned or destroyed, is somewhere in the neighborhood of two hundred, or two hundred and thirty or forty persons! It is impossible that any accurate detail of the dead and missing can ever be made, or the precise number ascertained. A very large portion of them were deck passengers, whose humble sphere in life, will preclude the possibility of finding out their names.

ANOTHER STEAMBOAT EXPLOSION.

We are indebted to our neighbor of the Post for the following particulars of another disastrous steamboat explosion:

The Oronoko, Capt. Young, collapsed a flue near Vicksburg, on her passage to New Orleans, and from forty to fifty persons were severely scalded, eight of whom are since dead. Several persons on board at the time of the accident, arrived here this morning on the Monarch, who give the above information.

The explosion of the Oronoko seems to have occasioned much greater injury than stated by us yesterday. Our friends of the Express kindly sent us a proof slip about half past 1 o'clock to-day, containing further particulars, obtained from a passenger on the Oronoko. The slip came too late for us to publish to-day, and we have only time to say that the number of persons believed to be killed and drowned is not less than from 70 to 90. No names are mentioned. We shall publish the account on Monday, unless something still more authentic shall reach us in the mean time. The accident was caused by imprudence and carelessness.—*Chit. Whig.*

INTEMPERANCE AND MURDER.

On Thursday last the 3d inst. an inquest was held by Isaac T. Dodson, Esq. at Nesquehoning, over the body of Mrs. A. Coyle, wife of Thomas Coyle, who suddenly died that morning under suspicious circumstances. The facts as elicited by the inquest were that Mr. and Mrs. M'Nally, in whose shantee Coyle and his wife boarded—the whole of whom were addicted to intemperate habits—that on Sunday evening the 29th of April, Coyle being absent, Mrs. M'Nally in a fit of jealousy and intemperance struck Mrs. Coyle several times on the temples with a fire poker inflicting severe contusions—Coyle returned that night and commenced a series of brutal outrages on the person of his wife, and repeated them at intervals for several days, when his wife was found dead in the morning.

We forbear adding any further particulars of this inhuman affair, as it will be referred to the proper tribunals, to whose decision we will leave the subject. We do this in order that no prejudice may be created, by which injustice may be done to any of the parties concerned. Coyle, M'Nally and wife, and a German who was present, were duly committed to wait their trial at the next sessions.

Blanch Clark Courier.

From the N. Orleans Courier of April 11.

LATEST FROM TEXAS.

By the fast-running steam packet Columbia, Capt. Wright, in 39 hours from Galveston, we have received our files of Houston papers to the 7th April, but they contain not one iota of news, if we except a reported skirmish between a party of Camanches and Lapines, in which the former were defeated with the loss of eight warriors killed.

W. C. Quick, for the murder M. W. Brigham, and David Jones, for the murder of Madred Woods, were executed at Houston on the 28th March, a few minutes previous to the execution of Quick, he addressed the by-standers from the gallows as follows:—

My friends and fellow-citizens: I request your attention for a short period! I trust you will listen for a few moments to the words of a miserable and unfortunate being about, almost instantly to be launched into eternity; and I most earnestly hope, my dear audience, that what may fall from my lips, will make upon your minds a deep and lasting impression. I have little to confess—little to state as regards the events of my past life which is novel, or calculated to interest those whom I see around me; but I may possibly give utterance to something that may prove beneficial to the rising generation. My life, for upwards of twenty years, has been spent in a state 200 miles distant from this country; almost every act of that life has been performed in broad day, within the scope of the public eye, before the whole community. Whatever of evil I have done has been done openly. I did commit the outrage which has placed me in my present situation; I have been tried for it and condemned, and am now about to pay the penalty which the laws of my country and the interests of society demand. When, however, I have paid the penalty—when I have yielded that retribution which is demanded on earth, and my body has ceased to exist, may the Almighty, into whose presence I am rapidly hastening have mercy on my soul!

Had I time, I would address myself particularly, and more at length to the youth of this generation. I have been an absentee from my father's house since I was 12 years of age; previously to that period I had been for a considerable time the inmate of a boarding school. I afterwards entered and served some years in the United States army. I then emigrated to the southern country; then to Mexico, and last to Texas. I am well known; I have traversed an extensive portion of this continent, the world at large is well acquainted with every prominent act of my past life. I have perpetrated no secret crimes, and have nothing of that kind to communicate to this assembly. I have inflicted death in more than one instance, but it was done publicly; and I pray God my Redeemer to pardon me for the heinous crime.—Mingling with the dissipated, even though in the present case but for a short time, has placed me where you now behold me. To all—young and old—I say, shun such company and the places they frequent. Avoid the slightest approach to them; and to every amusement that may have a tendency to bring you within their influence.

I came to this city with as good intentions as any man; business called me here, and I tried day after day but unavailingly to get that business finished. I wanted to return to my home, but could not for a much longer period than I expected. I had avoided the gambling houses till just before I fixed to leave the city—but I had been robbed a day or two before; and as it was to be my last night in Houston, I thought I would risk one \$10 bill at the gaming table. That ten dollar bill [enunciating the words in a low and deeply impressive tone, and casting his eyes upon the gallows] that ten dollar bill cost me my life!

I had heard that nothing but dirks and Bowie knives were used in Houston, but was never myself in the habit of carrying a weapon of the kind. The man whom I killed was a total stranger to me—I had never before seen him—I slew him in the heat of passion—I had no malice or hatred to him in my heart—but I did the deed! and (pointing to the platform) there I am about, as far as this world is concerned, to expiate the offence.

The prisoner here again addressed himself to the young, entreating them to treasure up the advice given to them by the better members of the community, and let his fate be a warning and landmark to them. Much of his time (he said) had been spent in the instructions of youth; he had frequently given advice to others; but had never, unfortunately, been able to take it himself. To not having done so he might have traced all the evils he had endured through life. He repeated he had nothing to communicate in relation to unknown crimes. He had been unjustly persecuted in regard to this particular. The newspapers stated that he had killed six or seven persons. Of this charge he was innocent. I killed a man (said the prisoner) in Mississippi, four years ago; but the act was not done secretly; it was committed publicly; the circumstance was well known, and I was tried for it in the state whose law I had violated.

The prisoner concluded by again humbly imploring the Divine mercy for himself and his wretched companion. I am about (said he) to die; and I am conscious that I go to my grave unrepented, unreprieved, in all probability not an individual who now hears me commiserates in the slightest de-

gree my fate; but I trust that the all-compassionate God will have mercy upon our souls, through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

At the court of Cyer and Terminer, which held its session in this place last week, *Archibald M'Clarty* was put upon his trial for the murder of John Nicely. The trial occupied the entire attention of the court from Wednesday till Saturday evening, when the case was submitted to the jury, who, after a very brief consultation, found the prisoner guilty of murder in the second degree. He was sentenced by the court, to a solitary confinement in the Eastern Penitentiary for the period of nine years.—*Centre Democrat.*

From the Union Times.

A FALSE ISSUE.

It seems to have become a settled habit with the opposition to falsify and misrepresent every measure and intention of the General Administration. For instance, upon the subject of the Currency, Mr. Biddle says in his last manifesto, that

"The credit system of the United States, and the exclusive metallic currency, are now fairly in the field, face to face, one or the other must fall. There can be no other issue. It is not a question of correcting errors or reforming abuses, but of absolute destruction: not who shall conquer, but who shall survive. The present struggle must be final."

This false issue which Mr. Biddle is so anxious to make and which is re-echoed by all his whelps throughout the union, is thus met by Mr. Grundy a senator from Tennessee:

"As to an exclusive metallic currency being aimed at by the administration and its friends, I consider the charge as wholly gratuitous and unfounded. A sound metallic basis for paper issued upon it, and a paper at all times convertible into specie, is all I have heard contended for. The truth is we are charged with being for an exclusive metallic currency because, we are not in favor of paper not convertible into specie. It is true, many of us, myself among the number, are in favor of banishing small notes from circulation, that their places may be supplied by specie for the ordinary daily transactions of life.

I have said this was an extraordinary letter; and it seems to me that every thing attending and connected with it partakes of the same character. It is addressed to the Hon. John Q. Adams, whose opinion upon this whole subject had again and again been expressed, under circumstances much more favorable to the bank than those which now exist. In a written address made to some of his constituents, immediately after the suspension of May last, when speaking in reference to this same bank, he says, "I incline more strongly to the opinion, that the suspension of specie payments by such a bank should not only operate as an immediate forfeiture of its charter, but be made a penal offence in the president and directors of the institution. The violation of moral principle committed by a bank in suspending specie payments is, in my estimation, not inferior to that of fraudulent bankruptcy in an individual."

A Spring Morning.—To walk abroad among rural scenery on a fine sunny morning, is to ramble in the temple of Deity, and witness the creative process. Every day, almost every hour, witnesses some change: buds, blossoms, leaves and flowers are woven by unseen hands, painted by invisible artists, and perfumed from vials full of odors sweet—we look upon them in the morning with surprise and pleasure, while the first dew and sunbeam are visiting them. What an admirable and perfect taste must he have who performs all this! There is no noise, no useless display. The Creator therein teaches modesty to his creatures.—His goodness is also visible—the blossoms soon perish, but their hue and fragrance are the breathings of a benevolent mind. Look at the multitude of little heaps of sand that lie in the paths, and suffer your eye to rest for a moment upon the busy and apparently happy insect that brings out his grain of sand. Nothing seems too minute and insignificant for the Almighty to put his hand upon and invest with faculties of intelligence and happiness.

A Printer's Anecdote.—It used to be related of Corporal Nymn, a printer, well known for many years in this town as being more remarkable for his odd humor than the length of his purse, that while he was travelling from Lowell to Boston, he was met by a highwayman, who politely (as is the custom of those gentry) demanded his purse.

"My dear sir," quoth Corporal Nymn, "I perceive you don't know me."

"That is nothing to the purpose, sir, give up your purse immediately," demanded the highwayman.

The Corporal repeated with an earnestness which could not be misunderstood, "positively you don't know me!"

"Well, then," said the highwayman, somewhat surprised at the manner of the Corporal, "who the devil are you?"

"Why, I'm a printer."

"A printer did you say?—Whew!—Im' off—d—d dry picking."

General Cannon, of Tennessee, has issued a proclamation for the raising of sixteen companies of volunteer infantry, under the requisition of Major General Scott, to serve in the Cherokee country.

A Summary Account of the first discovery and settlement of North America.

ARRANGED IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER.

North America was discovered in the reign of Henry the VII., a period when the arts and sciences had made very considerable progress in Europe.—Many of the first adventurers were men of genius and learning, and were careful to preserve authentic records of such of their proceedings as would be interesting to posterity. These records afford ample documents for American historians. Perhaps no people on the globe can trace the history of their origin and progress with so much precision as the inhabitants of North America; particularly that part of them who inhabit the territory of the United States.

The following will show the chronological order in which the first settlements were made in North America.

Names of places.	When settled.	By whom.
Quebec,	1608	By the French.
Virginia,	1610	By Lord de la War.
Newfoundland,	1610	By Governor John Guy.
New York,	1612	By the Dutch at Albany.
New Jersey,	1618	By do. at Bergen.
Plymouth,	1620	By part of Mr. Robinson's congregation.
New-Hampshire,	1623	By a small English colony near the mouth of Piscataqua river.
Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland,	1627	By the Swedes & Fins.
Connecticut,	1632	By Lord Baltimore with a colony of Roman Catholics.
Rhode Island,	1635	By Mr. Fenwick, at Saybrook near the mouth of Connecticut river.
New Jersey,	1634	Granted to the Duke of York, by Charles II., and made a distinct government, and settled sometime before this by the English.
South Carolina,	1669	By Governor Sayle.
Pennsylvania,	1682	By William Penn, with a company of Quakers.
North Carolina,	1710	By a number of Palatines from Germany.
do. do.	1727	Erected into a separate government.
Georgia,	1732	By General Oglethorp.
Territory south of Ohio, about	1750	By Col. Wood and others.
Kentucky,	1773	By Col. Daniel Boone.
Vermont, about	1774	By Emigrants from Connecticut and other parts of New England.
Territory N. W. of Ohio river,	1787	By the Ohio and other companies.
Tennessee,	1789	Became a separate government many years before.
do.	1796	Became an independent state.

The above dates are generally from the periods when the first permanent settlements were made. New York Evangelist.

The following decision of Judge McKinley, which we copy from the Mobile Mercantile Advertiser, is likely to have an important bearing should it be sustained by the Supreme Court of the United States.

IMPORTANT DECISION.—A question of great importance, came up yesterday before the Circuit Court of the United States, now sitting in this city, and was decided by the Court, Judge McKinley, of the Supreme Court of the United States, presiding. The Carrolton bank, a banking company chartered in Louisiana, purchased in Mobile, through an agent, a bill of exchange, which being unpaid, the bank brought an action against one of the parties to the bill. The Court decided that a bank corporation of another State could not make a contract in this State for want of capacity to contract; and, therefore, that the bank could not recover on the bill.—The case will go up, as we understand, to the Supreme Court of the United States, where the question will be settled.

The above decision has produced great excitement here, and is the subject of general conversation and alarm. Its ruinous consequences, if it be sustained, can hardly be imagined.

Poland.—The Czar, of Russia, has issued an ukase abolishing the distinct existence and the name of Poland; absorbing the kingdom into Russia, and incorporating the Polish troops with his own barbarians. The following is the ukase. 1. The boundaries of the governments of the kingdoms of Poland & Lithuania, anciently incorporated with Russia, have ceased to exist. The inhabitants can pass from one country to the other without asking for passports at Warsaw or St. Petersburg; there are to be no more custom houses between the governments of Russia and Poland.—2. The term of military service for the Polish recruits is to be 23 years as in Russia. The children of married soldiers are to belong to the government, and are to be placed in its military schools. The liberty which the Polish peasants enjoy of changing their domicile is abolished: they are to submit to the same rules as Russian peasants.

Amongst the names of those killed on board the Moselle, are Patrick Thompson and Edward Thompson, of Cumberland county, Pa. and of the saved, James Thompson, of the same county.