

unbounded generosity in a stranger which had preserved her last token, and made her comparatively rich and happy.

### TERRIBLE CALAMITY.

FOURTEEN SQUARES DESTROYED BY FIRE AT MOBILE.

From the Correspondent of the N. Y. Era, Dated, Mobile, Oct. 8th.

I right to you hastily to give you the first intelligence of the heaviest disaster this city has experienced since 1827. We were nearly all consumed last night by a dreadful fire, which laid at least four hundred houses in ashes. It broke out early in the evening, in an untenanted house, in Conception-street, a door or two from Dauphin-street. It was set on fire by some of the incendiary villains who seem to have sworn the destruction of the city. A high north-east wind was spreading it, and no water could be obtained until it was utterly hopeless to contend with the fury of the flames, which spread upward with a race-horse velocity, destroying every thing before them. At least twelve whole squares—I have not been to count—have been utterly consumed. The north side of Conti, from Conception-street to the Catholic square both sides of Dauphin, from Conception to Franklin; both sides of St. Francis and St. Michael, to nearly the same points, covering an area of a third of a mile square, are utterly destroyed. The Episcopal and the small Catholic Church are burned. Nothing tended to save the whole city, north and west, but the blowing up of many houses, at intervals, and the providential subsiding of the wind. I cannot compute the loss. Much of the property was old, but the most productive in the city. The rental destroyed was prodigious.

The banks, post-office, &c., being to the windward of the fire, happily escaped, as did the rest of the town south of Conti and east of Conception-street.

Extract of a letter, same date:

"Last night has been a memorable night for Mobile, for our city is nearly all in ashes. A fire broke out at 8 o'clock, near the corner of Conti and Conception-streets and made a clean sweep, including the north side of Conti to Franklin, up Franklin to St. Michaels, down St. Michaels to Conception, and from thence to Conti. About fifteen blocks have been destroyed." The letter states that families were carried out of their houses sick with fever.

Extract of another, same date.

"We were aroused again last night with the cry of fire, which proved to be on Conception-street, between Dauphin and Conti streets—the wind blowing fresh from the south east. It burnt down Dauphin street to Reid's bake shop, and continued up town. The flames spread with such rapidity, that at one time it was thought the whole city would be destroyed. At last it was checked by the Methodist Episcopal Church. It destroyed all the buildings on Conti to Dauphin streets, St. Francis and St. Michael streets. FOURTEEN SQUARES CONTAINING FROM FIVE TO SIX HUNDRED HOUSES, are now a heap of ruins, and I venture to say that one thousand families are left destitute, with not a shelter to put their heads in. It was the work of an incendiary, and I understand that four persons have been taken up on suspicion.

Extract of another, same date.

"A fire occurred last night, which destroyed ten squares, containing six hundred houses. The fire originated at the corner of Dauphin and Conception streets, and its progress was arrested towards Jackson street. At the time I am writing, the fire still rages and the wind blows from the eastward, which will blow it away from the business part of the town. The part of the city on fire consists principally of wooden houses, occupied principally by creole and colored people.

### STILL ANOTHER CALAMITY.

In our yesterday's paper we gave an account of a disastrous fire at Mobile; the above from the Advertiser being a continuation of particulars. And this morning information reached here of another destructive fire at that city, which occurred on the night of the 8th inst. (within 48 hours after the above) consuming property to a still greater amount.

It is suggested by some of our citizens that a public meeting be held in our city to devise some means for the relief of the large number of families in Mobile who have been thrown out of their homes, and are suffering in addition from the prevailing sickness. The following extract is from a letter dated.

Mobile, 9th October.

The city is again on fire. About half past 2 o'clock this morning the Mansion House was in flames; the whole block of buildings of Esclava—the Planter's Bank is burnt; we depend upon the strength of the vaults; these are of solid sheet iron rivetted and then thick brick walls around; and the notes of the bank, kept in an iron chest, in the cashier's vault; and the funds of the bank in the teller's vault, also in an iron chest.

Half past ten o'clock—The fire is fully suppressed and the general impression is, that the property in the vault of the bank is safe. The cashier and teller being absent with the keys, the vault could not be reached in time. The bank notes and bills receivable, and all other valuable papers not in the vaults were saved.

This is also yesterday's conflagration, is no doubt the work of a gang of desperadoes who infest our apparently doomed city.

Hitchcock's large Hotel is burned to the ground.

"Extract of another letter."—We had hardly got through giving you an account of the fire night before last, when we have to inform you that last night another fire broke out in the Mansion House and consumed that building with the large Government-street Hotel, the Market House, that splendid edifice the Planters' and Merchants' Bank—the books and papers of which we are happy to learn has been saved; all the valuable Esclava property on Coyal street up Government-street to Dr. Robert's corner. The fire is still raging, and God, only knows when it will stop. Several attempts were made to burn Col. Lewis Judson's property in Water and Commerce-streets. Some six or seven whites have been taken up on suspicion. The Post Office, you know was in the Mansion House. The papers, we believe, are saved."

"Extract of another."—Another conflagration last night. It appears that the devils are determined to burn up the whole city. I wrote to you yesterday about the fire that occurred the night before, when there were thirteen blocks of wooden buildings burned, but last night the fire commenced in third story of the Mansion House, which was totally consumed, as also the Planters' and Merchants' Bank, the new hotel of Hitchcock's, in Government-street all on Royal between Government and Conti, to the old guard-house; all on Government up to Robert's house, and all in front of the Mansion House. A great many more attempts were made to fire several other places—the Chronicle office was attempted. I am afraid that we will go next. I will describe to you the boundaries of the previous fire.—It commenced in the rear of the old theatre, burnt all on the north side of Conti-street, up to the Catholic Church, and crossed to the Methodist Church; all on the south side of St. Michael-street, down to St. Joachim-street; all on the south of St. Francis-street, the other side of the city square, up to Bean's house. Our city is at present about half laid in ashes and ruin. They have a number of persons up on suspicion, but what it will amount to there is no telling. The place is nothing but smoke and ashes.

**Sickness at the West.**—The Peoria (Ill.) Register of September 28th, states that an unusual degree of sickness prevails in many parts of that county, especially upon the bottom lands along the water course. The upland prairies were generally healthy. Within the last two weeks there had been about twenty cases of sickness in Peoria, and two deaths. Population about 1200. The St. Louis Republican of the same date says:

All the numerous accounts which we have received from different parts of this State and Illinois, concur in representing this as a season of unusual sickness. A high grade of bilious fever has prevailed generally throughout the country, varying only in the virulence of the attack, which if taken in the early stages, mostly yield rapidly to medicine; but if delayed often proves fatal. The most singular feature in the season; and one which appears to have been universally observed, is, that the towns especially those on the rivers which are considered more unhealthy than those in the interior, have almost universally escaped with less sickness than common. This has been the fact in our immediate vicinity. The sickness and bilious attacks in St. Louis have been fewer this, than former seasons, whilst scarcely a neighborhood in the country round about has escaped. This peculiarity in the sickness of the country merit the attention of medical gentlemen.

### "NEW JERSEY—ALL RIGHT!"

So say the federal prints; and so say we, New Jersey is all right. And had the question been upon the Congressional Ticket, which is always voted for by the people of the whole State instead of by districts, the Democrats would have succeeded by a majority of near fifteen hundred! The Democratic majority in the popular vote is near Two thousand; therefore, the rejoicing of the whigs at the gain they have experienced, is only rejoicing at the success of a well-planted piece of cheatery. The Democrats are glad because they have the majority of the votes, and will thus secure their five members of Congress; the Whigs because they can "jerry-mander" with such happy results.

Lancaster Intel.

**Susquehanna and Tide Water Canal.**—We are truly gratified to have in our power to say to the Stockholders and our fellow citizens generally, that the admission of water into the entire line of the Canal has been begun. The process, we need scarcely remark, is necessarily a slow one—the present object being to test the strength of the work and to remedy at once any leakage or other defect which may appear.—The fact that the Canal is thus brought to the eve of the completion notwithstanding the great amount of sickness along the line during the season, is greatly to the praise of Mr. Gay, the chief engineer, and his assistants.—*Balt. American.*

**A Queer Affair.**—On Monday, rather a queer case occurred in front of Mr. Sanderson's hotel, in Fourth street. A gentleman named Stroud was viewing the procession in honor of the arrival of President Van Buren, and in putting his hand into his pocket to extract his handkerchief, he pulled out a purse and a pocket book, neither of which articles belonged to him. The surmise is, that they had been deposited there by some pick-pocket, who being pushed rather hard, made use of the sailor's maxim, "Any port in a storm." The articles are yet in his possession.

**Motion to Discharge Dr. Dyott.**—The following motion was made on Saturday last by Joseph R. Ingersoll, Esq., before the Judges of the Court of Criminal Sessions: "A rule to show cause was entered why the indictment in this case should not be quashed and the defendant discharged from imprisonment." The rule was made returnable on the 26th inst., when it will be fully argued.—*Ledger.*

We learn from the Washington Globe of Wednesday evening that the President arrived in the city this day at 11 o'clock. He was met and welcomed at the Capitol by a large concourse of citizens, where he was addressed by the organs appointed by the several meetings for that purpose. From the Capitol he was escorted to his mansion and was there received by his cabinet. The President is in fine health.

### GEORGIA ELECTION.

Returns from 42 counties in the above state, indicate that McDONALD, the Democratic candidate for governor, will be elected by 1,500 or 2,000 majority. These returns show a Democratic gain of 1,500 on the election for governor in 1837, when GILMER, the States Rights candidate, was elected by about 700 majority.

**Specie coming East.**—The St. Louis Republican thinks that not less than twelve hundred thousand dollars have been shipped from St. Louis for the east within the last five or six weeks—the high rate of eastern exchange making it an object to buy and transport specie and draw against it.

**Destructive.**—An Exchange in speaking of a thunder shower, says: "The sky was black and dreary, murky, an ominous cloud drove furiously from the West, and in fifteen minutes it rained like everlasting hoky."—*N. O. Pic.*

**A Public Library.**—The New York paper states that Mr. John Jacob Astor has determined to make a bequest, in his will of three hundred and fifty thousand dollars for the establishment of a free public library in the city of New York. The gentleman who has been authorized to purchase such works has recently sailed for England, as it is conjectured, for this object.

**A Female College.**—In Buckingham county, Va., a Female Collegiate Institute is in full operation. At the last session there were ninety-four pupils, three of whom had the honor of receiving the diploma of *Misses of Polite Literature*. The Rev. Mr. Wilber, A. M., is at the head of this Seminary.

The Africans, now in jail in this city, have excited a superabundant amount of sympathy in the bosoms of many good people, perhaps more than would have been felt for the same number of whites under similar circumstances. Within a few days a black man, who understands their language, has been brought to this city from on board a British man-of-war now in New York, who has obtained their history. Cinquez acknowledges that he has been a slave-dealer himself, and that he was brought away for failing to furnish a certain number of slaves by a stipulated time! They have no wish to return to Africa; and we heard that several of them give, as a reason, that they would probably be again caught, if they returned.—*Columbian (Cl.) Register.*

We learn that the horrid traffic in human flesh is still carried on by vessels bearing the American flag. The Globe of Washington, announces that orders have been issued to fit out a Sloop of War and Schooner, from our Navy, to cruise on the coast of Africa in order to prevent any attempt of the supposed slavers.

The largest Cake in the World was exhibited at the Mechanics' Fair in Boston.—It weighed nearly three thousand pounds—was two feet high, and measured nine feet 9 inches in circumference. The name of the thirteen old States of the Union, with their arms, were emblazoned around the edge in beautiful frost work.

**Valuable Cargo.**—The Liverpool has brought out from England among other goods, sixty cases of rich figured silks, each valued at £10,000—amounting to £600,000 in silks alone!

**Sweet and Profitable.**—A man in Illinois recently raised about four thousand pounds of honey among his sundries or recreations. This brings him ten cents a pound, or four hundred dollars for the lot.

## THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.

"TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR"



BLOOMSBURG:

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1839.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION—1840.  
FOR PRESIDENT,

MARTIN VAN BUREN.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT,

RICHARD M. JOHNSON.

AND THE  
CONSTITUTIONAL TREASURY.

### OUR OWN CONCERNS.

This number (26) completes a year and a half since our connexion with this paper, and it has now become absolutely necessary that the small sum due us from each of our patrons be paid. We have claims pressing upon us that must be settled, and we have no other resource to look for means to liquidate them, but to our subscribers, not having either a Prothonotary or Collectorship to sustain us. It is true that the sum due from each is small, yet it is from such small sums that we must make up large ones.—Our terms, it will be remembered, are two dollars, if paid within the year, if not, fifty cents to be added. From such as will now pay us, the extra will not be charged. We hope that such of our subscribers at a distance as have not paid us any thing from the commencement will forward us a five dollar bill, that we may credit them a year in advance. Wood, and Grain of all kinds, will be received in payment.

DONT FORGET THE PRINTER.

The New York Banks still persevere in their determination not to suspend. At last advice, the prospect for a continuance in this course was excellent.

Specie in New York is 1 1-2 per cent. while in Philadelphia the brokers are paying 10 per cent.

The National Gazette recommends the coining by the United States Mint, of dimes and half-dimes, and thinks they would not be hoarded up.

General Wm. T. Rogers, of Bucks county, is spoken of as a candidate for Speaker of the Senate.

Elections will be held in the States of Mississippi, New York, and Massachusetts in the month of November.

Col. John Swift has been elected Mayor of Philadelphia, as was anticipated.

The Directors of the Northumberland Bank, and of the West Branch Bank at Williamsport, have pledged their private property as a guarantee for the redemptions of all the liabilities of the institution.

### CIRCULAR.

Address to the Temperance Societies, and friends of Temperance, within the bounds of the County of Columbia.

FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

The next annual meeting of the C. C. T. Society is approaching, and in accordance with our sense of duty, we beg leave to call the attention of the *Auxiliary societies*, and friends of temperance, to the subject through the medium of this circular.

At our last annual meeting, the importance of renewed action and effort in the cause, was deeply felt, and various resolutions were passed in view of this end. It remains for us as friends of the cause, and guardians to some extent of the morals of the young, and happiness of all classes, to exert ourselves in promoting the great object of the temperance reformation. The personal advantages derived to ourselves, through its instrumentality, demand this at our hands. The moral and mental degradation caused by intemperance—the half famished children and neglected family of the drunkard—the crime profanity and wretchedness resulting from intoxicating drink—the enfeebled constitutions and reproach entailed on posterity—all are so many voices crying aloud to every lover of his country and of his species, "Come to the

rescue." The call we trust will be nobly responded to at our next annual meeting.—Truly it is our duty as citizens—as parents—as philanthropists—as christians. Let us then come up to the work—use all our influence to increase its respectability, and promote its laudable design.

It is most evidently desired, that all the regularly organized societies send on their delegates promptly, that the auxiliaries be well represented. Those societies, situated at a distance, or having local difficulties with which to contend, and did not represent at the last annual meeting, are now pressing urged not to fail at this time in sending on their delegates.

In those sections of the county where no Temperance Societies have heretofore existed, we would strongly urge their organization. Let men who feel an interest in the subject, call meetings, and if unwilling to address them themselves, procure a suitable person for the occasion. Let the pledge be circulated and subscribed as extensively as possible.

It has been recommended to the district societies to take into consideration the propriety of procuring a Temperance Agent, whose business it should be to visit every society several times during the year—to deliver lectures on Temperance—take up collections; likewise to organize as many new societies as possible. It is desirable that all the delegates, should come up properly instructed on this point.

An other subject which should not be lost sight of. There are many places within the county where no temperance societies exist. These portions will therefore not be represented unless there be some special action taken upon the subject by the county or auxiliary societies. In the mean time we would recommend that each society take such measures as will enable them to report the general situations of those districts.

In conclusion we earnestly solicit the continued friendship and co-operation of christians of every name—of the benevolent of every order of masters, and parents universally; in support of the *Temperance Cause*, and a powerful weapon will be wrested from the hands of our common enemy, religion will flourish more free and less trammelled—unhappiness and misery will be banished in a great degree—attention to business will be greatly promoted, and parents and masters will have the pleasure of holding a much more satisfactory control over their children and apprentices than exists at present. All this, and, much more, may be effected by checking the use of intoxicating drinks—by raising your voice against the hydra monster which through the sanction of law, has worked himself to the very vitals of our republic, paralysing by his deadly influence, the energies of our free institutions—our noble minded young men—our middle aged and old, carrying death and misery to the abode of thousands—causing a neglected and abused wife to labor hard to support a drunken husband, and a dependant family of children.—Rouse every patriot—every religionist—every friend of reform and moral emancipation—let your influence be felt in favour of the Temperance Cause, and nations yet unborn will enrol your names as the benefactors of our race, and posterity, witness the cheering results of your labors.

JAMES C. SPROUL, President.

JOHN VOIS, } Vice  
JAS. DONALDSON, }  
JAS. McMAHAN, } Prest.

Stephen Brealey, Treas.

A. Vallerchamp, } Secretaries.  
Wm. McVicken, }

### TEMPERANCE MEETING.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the next annual meeting of the Columbia County Temperance Society will be held at Mooresburg, on Thursday, the 2nd day of January next, to commence at 12 o'clock noon. Punctual attendance on the part of the delegates and officers at the house appointed, is particularly requested. Several addresses it is expected will be delivered on the occasion. Friends of the cause are invited to attend.

Editors throughout the county friendly to the promotion of the Temperance Reformation are respectfully requested to publish the Notice and Circular of the Columbia County Temperance Society in their respective papers.

A. Vallerchamp, } Secretaries.  
Wm. McVicken, }

It is said that the notes of the New York banks have almost wholly disappeared from circulation in this city. Their place is supplied by the notes of the New England Banks.