

VARIOUS MATTERS.

Another Dreadful Catastrophe.—The Montreal Courier of the 11th inst. contains an account of one of the most distressing casualties which has occurred in the Province since the introduction of steam on the St. Lawrence. The high pressure steamer Shamrock, while between Lacelle and Pointe Claire, on her way to Kingston, with 120 passengers, about ten o'clock on Saturday morning last burst her boiler, and her bows being blown out by the explosion she went down head foremost. So sudden were the effects that in less than 5 minutes sixty-two human beings were precipitated into eternity. The passengers were English, Irish and Scotch immigrants; but principally English, and were distributed at the time of the accident nearly as follows: The English, in a number about sixty-five, exclusively, occupied the bow of the vessel, while the Irish and Scotch occupied the stern, in the cabin were three English women and two men between decks, in the forepart of the vessel were a number of loiterers. The loss fell principally upon the English who were in the bows; the three women in the cabin perished, and all who were between decks, with the exception of three Irishmen.

The steamer Dolphin was at the time about half a mile in the rear of the Shamrock, and made all haste to carry succor. When the Dolphin reached the scene of disaster, the sight was appalling, the steamer had disappeared and the surface of the water was covered with the living and dead bodies, the living clinging to fragments of the wreck, and to the sides of two barges which remained unimpaired. By the humane exertions of the master & crew of the D., about sixty persons of different ages and sexes picked up. Of these about thirty are more or less injured, and about thirty principally Irish, escaped unhurt.

Eighteen of the wounded were conveyed to the Montreal General Hospital—54 remain to be accounted for. Much money is said to have been lost, the emigrants being of a superior description.

One old lady, named Cousin, from Cleveland, Yorkshire, was found alive floating on a feather bed, but her husband and seven children had perished, a man named Coverdale from Dandy, Yorkshire sunk on Saturday night under amputation, leaving behind him a wife who besides her husband, lost six children.

The Montreal Courier gives the total number of lost or missing as 58.

Feats of Strength—Monstre Paul.—There is a man exhibiting at the Bowery Theatre, calling himself Monstre Paul, who performs almost miraculous feats of strength. We are told that on Monday night, he resisted the strength of two large Pennsylvania horses, who are accustomed daily to draw a weight of more than two tons. His method is to place himself horizontally upon a ladder, fasten a girth around his loins, to which the horses are attached, and then resist their pulling by means of his feet and hands.

These feats, at first, appear incredible; but, we are told by philosophers that persons of even ordinary strength can accomplish them, after a few trials, by learning to place the body in a right position. In Sir David Brewster's Letters on Natural Magic, an interesting and valuable work, published by the Harpers in their Library there are several instances of the kind narrated at length. About the year 1703, a native of the county of Kent, named Joyce, exhibited such feats of strength in London and other parts of England, that he received the name of the second Samson. His own personal strength was very great; but he had also discovered, without the aid of theory, various positions of the body in which men of even common strength could perform very surprising feats. He drew against horses, and raised enormous weights; but in the course of a few years, his methods were found out, and many persons of common strength went through his performances with success.

Not a long while after Joyce, a German named Van Eckerberg, a native of Martzgerode, in Anhalt, travelled through Europe as another Samson. He was a man of middle size, and ordinary strength; and as Dr. Besaguier was convinced that his feats were exhibitions of skill, and not of strength, he was desirous of discovering his methods, and with this view he went to see him; accompanied by the Marquis of Tullibardine; Dr. Alexander Stuart, and Dr. Pringle. They placed themselves round the German so as to be able to observe accurately all he did, and their success was so great that they were able to perform most of the same feats, the same evening. Dr. Besaguier exhibited some of the experiments before the Royal Society.

Sir David Brewster is of the opinion that drawing against horses admits of any easy explanation. It depends entirely on the natural strength of the bones of the pelvis, with a double arch that it would require an immense force to break by any external pressure directed to the centre of the arch, and as the legs and thighs are capable of sustaining four or five thousand pounds, when they stand quite upright, the performer has no difficulty in resisting the force of two horses or of sustaining the weight of a cannon weighing two or three thousand pounds.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT ABOLISHED.

The blot of shame has been expunged from the statutes of Pennsylvania Justice stern, equal justice has triumphed—the divine liberality of our free institutions has been redeemed—the genius of republican equality has risen, phoenix-like, from the ashes of the last relic of barbarism that remained upon her bright escutcheon. The prison doors have been thrown open by a righteous act of a liberal Legislature—the manacles have fallen from the limbs of that bondman, and he once again intakes the breath of Jehovah in the sweet air of morning. Oh! what a glorious triumph of liberal principles! What a lasting honor to the State and her legislators who enacted this humane redemption of the unhappy creditor! How many thousands of weeping wives and starving children do this day pour forth their very souls to the God of Heaven for the blessings of Liberty to their husbands and fathers. How many emaciated forms now stand erect in the image of God glorious in the sunlight of Heaven, and models of manhood—whose youth, and strength, and vigor had been spent in the foul jails of the unfortunate poor—whose bonds were the damp walls of oppression, and whose beds, for years, had been the slimy earth that the snails and the venomous toad marked with their slow progress by many a glistening tract!

We regard the abolition of Imprisonment for Poverty as a great moral reform—unsurpassed by any legislative act since the glorious Declaration—and hail it as the era of good feeling—the dawn of better days. It will be received everywhere with shouts, with bonfires and rejoicings. Pennsylvania now stands pre-eminent, the Keystone of the Federal Arch; her liberal institutions only equalled by the liberality and devotion of her whole population—whose wealth is Industry, and whose name is Honor.

Abolishment of Imprisonment for Debt.—The act of the Legislature of this State, is the 'Abolishment of Imprisonment for Debt and to Punishment Fraudulent Debtors,' has received the signature of the Governor and is now a law of the Commonwealth. It is universal in its application except in the following cases:

Where the debtor is about to remove any of his property out of jurisdiction of the court in which suit is brought, with intent to defraud his creditors;

Or that he has property or rights in action which he fraudulently conceals.

Or, that he has rights in action or some interest in any public or corporate stock, money or evidence of debt, which he unjustly refuses to apply to the payment of any judgments, which shall have been rendered against him belonging to the complaint;

Or, that he has assigned, removed or disposed of, or is about to dispose of, any of his property with the intent to defraud his creditors.

Or, that he fraudulently contracted the debt or incurred the obligation, respecting which suit is brought.

The exemption from arrest and imprisonment does not extend to persons who shall not have resided in the State for 20 days previous to the commencement of any suit against them. [Eve. Journal.]

Natchez Tornado.—The Natchez Daily Courier takes notice of a somewhat remarkable coincidence between the terrible tornado at that place and the recent destructive earthquake at St Domingo. After the last named catastrophe a person alive was dug out of the ruins, who had lived fifteen days under a bed of wall. After the tornado of '40 a living person was dug out from the Natchez ruins under the bill, who had been buried alive eight days. He fully recovered being not dangerously hurt. It is singular coincidence that the tornado and the St. Domingo earthquake both occurred on the same day of the same month—the 7th of May.

Race of Pigmies.—At a meeting of the Geographical Society in London recently, the chairman stated some interesting facts on a subject which would probably soon be brought before the notice of the society. It was, that a gentleman, employed by government, had, in ascending the river Juba, in Africa from east to west fallen in with a considerable tract of country inhabited by a curious race of pigmies, not exceeding four feet in height with very curious views of religion and government, and exactly resembling the type of Herodotus which singularly confirmed some opinions on the subject recently brought before the notice of the Aborigines' Protection Society.

Mysterious.—At Northfield, Mass., a few days since, Mr. G. R. Stebbins, on taking down a wall for the purpose of enlarging his cellar discovered the bones of a person, which upon examination by physicians, were supposed to be those of a female from 16 to 20 years of age. In the skull there was a hole about the size of a bullet and the probability is that the woman came to her death by being shot. It is said that there is a tradition, that about 20 years ago, a woman by the name of Kendle mysteriously disappeared. It was supposed at the time that she was drowned in the Connecticut river, near where she lived but her body never was found. Suspicious at that day rested upon an unprincipled and vicious man by the name of Mellory, who has since been in the state prison in Vermont.

COLUMBIA RAIL ROAD.

The Senate having refused to concur with House of Representatives in authorizing the State to put on passenger cars and carry passengers over this rail road, it will be seen by an advertisement in this paper that the superintendent of motive power has invited proposals for putting on passenger cars, and carrying passengers over the Road—of course the contract to be given to the lowest and best bidder.

We have heard it stated by pretty good authority that the State can make more money out of the road—and at the same time reduce the fare very considerable. If this be the fact—as we believe it is, the public will be the gainer.

We are pleased to learn, notwithstanding the decline of business, that the profits of the Columbia Rail-Road, over all expenses were very handsome in the month of June—and equal to a full average of the three first months under the new system of management.

The editor of the New York Tribune has just returned from a four-weeks tour through about one half of the counties of New York a portion of Western Pennsylvania, and parts of Connecticut and Vermont, and he speaks of the general appearance of the crop wherever he has seen them as cheering. Corn alone promises badly, and that only in some sections. Wheat, rye, oats, grass, potatoes, all bear the appearance of a heavy yield.

During the month of June the arrived at Cleveland from the interior of Ohio, by way of the Canal, 211,923 bushels of wheat, and 70,342 barrels of flour. The number of vessels that arrived at the port of Cleveland in the same month was 200, and the number cleared 207.

The account from all parts of Virginia are very flattering in regard to the abundance and excellence of the wheat crop. In Jefferson county the yield is the largest ever known. In the James River county where fears were entertained that the grain from the lowness of the ground, would be injured by rust the result has exceeded all expectation. In Fairfax county the wheat turns out better than was expected though in some places it is partially injured. Rye and oats promise well. In Loudon county there has been some rust, but the crop will be an average one.

It is announced in the Nashville Banner on the authority of the officer of the banks that the banks in Tennessee and their branches will resume specie payments on the first day of August next, having been for some time past fortifying themselves for that purpose.

We learn by the Northampton, (Mas) Courier that the late John Hopkins, Esq., of that town bequeathed \$7000 to benevolent societies; as follows: To the Home Missionary Society \$3000, American Board of Commissions \$2000, American Bible Society, \$1,500; American Tract Society, \$500.

The Mormon Schism.—It appears that the report that Joe Smith, and some of his disciples had quarrelled is too true. John C. Bennett who has been excommunicated by the Mormon Prophet; threatens retaliation; in a late Burlington, Iowa; paper, He says—'The holy Joe fears the consequences of my disclosures and has threatened to take my life; and has ordered some of his Danite band to effect the murder clandestinely—but he shall be exposed. If he murders me; others will avenge my blood; and expose him; if I live; I will do it to the entire satisfaction of all. Just suspend your judgment a few days until you see my exposure in the 'Sangame Journal' next week, or the week following, over my name.' So the Grand Theological Hamburg is to be exposed and the Latter Day Saints mortified by General Bennett, of the 'Nauvoo Legion.'

Better than Good Luck.—The New Orleans Crescent City mentions, as a piece of good luck, the drawing of a \$1,000 prize by the engineer of the steamboat Lalla Rookh, and the Mobile Register registers a still more lucky individual: On the last upwards passage of the Lalla Rookh, he was accidentally knocked overboard, about Twenty-one mile Bluff, in the night, and nobody being aware of the accident, the boat went on, and to this time, they doubtless believe that he is drowned. He arose to the surface, however, after the wheels had passed over him, and swam to shore, although encumbered with a part of his clothing and a pair of heavy boots. After spending the night in the swamp, he footed it into the high road, borrowed a horse, and arrived in Mobile richer than any prize in the lottery could make him, having saved himself from the jaws of death.

New Remedy for Hydrophobia.—Dr. Heller, member of the Royal Academy of Medicine, Paris, lately communicated to his society, that in Greece it is a practice to observe the tongues of these persons who have been bitten by dogs, because at the end of eight or nine days there appears on each side of the tongue, and near the upper part, pustules, called lyses by the Greeks. These pustules contain the whole rabid matter, and immediately they are cut out and wound cauterised, which prevents hydrophobia.

J. Orville Taylor estimates that there are 80,000 common schools in the Union.

Declaration of Independence.—In the year 1826, after all save one of the band of patriots whose signatures are borne on the Declaration of Independence had descended to the tomb, and the venerable Carroll alone remained among the living, the government of the city of New York deputed a committee to wait on the illustrious survivor and obtain from him to be deposited in the public hall of the city a copy of the Declaration of 1776, graced and authenticated anew with his sign manual. The aged patriot yielded to the request and affixed, with his own hand, to a copy of that instrument the grateful, solemn, and pious supplemental Declaration which follows:

'Grateful to Almighty God for the blessing which through Jesus Christ our Lord, he has conferred on my beloved country in her emancipation, and on myself, in permitting me, under circumstances of mercy, to live to the age of 89 years, and to survive the fiftieth year of American Independence, and testify by my present signature my approbation of the Declaration of Independence adopted by Congress on the 4th of July, 1776, which I originally subscribed on the 2d day of August of the same year, and of which I am now the last surviving signer, I do hereby recommend to the present and future generations the principles of that important document as the best earthly inheritance their ancestors could bequeath to them, and pray that the civil and religious liberties they have secured to my country may be perpetuated to remotest posterity and extended to the whole family of men.'

'CHARLES CARROLL, OF CARROLLTON
'August 2, 1826.

From the Cultivator.

Indian Corn demands much of the farmer's care and attention during this month (July) as on its growth now the future crop is depending. Keep the corn free from weeds, stir the surface often, thin the corn in the hills, and with a good soil, you can scarcely fail of a crop. Some farmers hill up their corn so extravagantly, that it looks as if planted on the summit of ridges. This is a bad practice in any season, and in a dry one is most injurious. Attention to the structure of the corn plant, the manner in which its roots, particularly the upper or brace roots, are thrown off, would convince any one that the practice of hilling is not demanded by any thing in the nature of the plant and that unless the condition of the soil is such as to require it, hilling should never be attempted. It sometimes happens that after the usual dressing has been given to corn, it is laid by for the season a rank growth of weeds will spring up owing perhaps to the not fully occupying and shading the ground, and these are allowed, most injudiciously to stand and perfect their seeds. The farmer who goes over his corn for the sole purpose of cutting down these weeds, instead of allowing them to encroach on his corn and ripen their seeds to plague him hereafter will find the increased crop will amply reward him.

We wish some of our farmers would try the experiment of sowing some corn broadcast for fodder. Some experiments that have been made seem to show that this would be one of the easiest methods of making winter fodder known and it would certainly be a highly relished, and very nutritious food to all animals. The trials made indicated that from eight to ten tons of food could be grown on an acre. From two and a half to three bushels of corn may be sown per acre, but there can be little hope of success unless the soil is clean and rich.

The following extract from the Evening Journal, does not represent Gov. Dorr in quite the same light which is shed upon him in the whig newspapers generally:

'Governor Dorr, so called by courtesy, but not because the honor is legitimate or deserving, has not been apprehended. We understand this hero is a graduate of Harvard University. He is represented by one who knows him intimately, as a man of indomitable firmness and courage, possessing great intelligence, cultivated manners, but with a cold austere bearing. He was originally opposed to the Suffrage party but finally took part in the proceedings of convention which nominated him for Governor. He resisted the nomination, but when none other could be found to stand in the front rank, and encounter the tide of public odium, he reluctantly consented. Once placed there, & encouraged as he was with promises of aid from abroad as well as at home he stoutly resolved to maintain his position. But his friends played false, his advisers were found to be heartless and cold blooded, and his followers shrunk away in the hour of need.'

The Philadelphia Gazette states thousand of dollars worth of silver plate have lately been sent to the mint in the city to be converted into money. The Gazette adds—'It is nothing rare to see gold and silver goblets and sundry other silver plate taken from the sideboard to the mint, thence to owners' pockets in the shape of substantial money.'

Inland Commerce.—has so increased between Philadelphia and Havre-de Grace, that the Directors of the two boat company have determined to run a regular daily line hereafter.

DENIGRAT.

"TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR"

BLOOMSBURG:

SATURDAY, JULY 23, 1842.

FOR PRESIDENT,

JAMES BUCHANAN.

(Subject to the decision of the National Convention.)

The Bill, leaving the settlement of the removal question to the people of the county, has not yet been acted upon in the Senate.

Having observed in the Recorder's notices the settlement of several estates in the centre portion of the county, we again publish his notices *gratis*. The Recorder appears to think this portion of the county entirely beneath his notice, except when he wants their votes. The approaching election will test the question whether they will consent to be treated with such utter contempt by him, as he has thought proper to do, ever since his election.

We have received a communication too late for this weeks paper, animadverting in strong, but manly language, upon an article which appeared in the Berwick Sentinel of last week in reference to a sentiment given at the Orangeville celebration on the 4th. It shall appear in due season, and if we are not mistaken, it will show up some folks in a light that will make them appear more like "knaves" and "fools" than "wise" men. It is an old saying, and a very true one "that a man living in a glass house should not throw the first stone."

The Farmers, in this neighborhood for several days past have been very busy in general their wheat crops, for which they have had fine weather. The wheat is generally very good, through, in some instances we learn that it is injured with rust and smut.

The Volunteer companies in this neighborhood, have been invited to attend an encampment at Lewisburg, the first of Nov. We learn that extensive arrangements are making for a fine display of military.

Each branch of the Legislature has concocted and passed several apportionment bills, which, in their turn, have been voted down in the other branch. On Tuesday last, the house of Representatives passed a bill making a Congressional District out of Columbia, Schuylkill and Northumberland. What its fate will be in the Senate, is yet uncertain. It is generally believed that no apportionment bill will pass at this session, but that the subject will be postponed until next winter.

The NOTES OF THE WYOMING BANK, are received at the Treasury for dues to the Commonwealth.

A stay law has passed the Legislature and been signed by the Governor. It provides that no property, either real or personal, shall be sold unless it brings two thirds of its appraised value.

IS REPEALED.

The obnoxious section of the law abolishing imprisonment for debt, which required all persons to have resided twenty days in the State, before they were entitled to the benevolent provisions of the bill, has been repealed.

Rumor of War.—By information received at New Orleans from Mexico fears were entertained that the American minister, General Thomson, would withdraw from Mexico in which event Santa Ann would declare war against the U. States Government. The Picayune alluding to this rumor remarks:—'We know nothing of the nature of instructions sent to General Thomson in relation to the claims of our citizens upon Mexico, nor what has been done as regards some of the Americans among the prisoners taken at Santa Fe who have claimed the protection of their government; but this much we do know, that there will be little temporizing on the part of Gen. T. Whatever may be our present relations with Mexico, they will not suffer while in the hands of so prompt and efficient an officer.'