

In Senate.—Messrs. Black and Mathers introduced bills for the reduction of the capital stock of the Mechanics' Bank of Philadelphia and the Bank of North America.

Mr. Stewart reported a bill from the House relative to the auditor for the city and county of Philadelphia, with sundry amendments.

Mr. McCully, from the Committee on Finance, to whom the subject had been referred, reported the resolution relative to the Relief notes, so amended as to require the immediate cancellation of \$100,000 of said issue, and a like sum on the last of every month thereafter until the whole amount shall be cancelled and destroyed.

The bill abolishing the Court of General Sessions of Philadelphia was then taken up when a motion was made to increase the salaries of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, to which the duties of the above Court are to be transferred, to \$2,600, which was discussed until the hour of adjournment.

This being petition day in the house, but while other business was transacted, except of the seat of justice of Columbia county, which was under consideration for an hour or more, and then postponed.

On Thursday last, the removal question came up for action in the house and was passed second reading without much opposition, and upon the question for transcribing for a third reading, a debate sprang up between Messrs. Roumfort, Deford and Snyder, which lasted until the hour of adjournment, when the house adjourned before a vote was taken on the question.

On Friday, after the usual morning business was transacted, the removal question was again taken up, when it was advocated by Mr. Karns, of Allegheny, and opposed by Mr. Lowry, and Boal, the latter spoke against time and continued until the hour of adjournment.

On Saturday the removal was again under discussion. It was opposed by Mr. Boal, of Lycoming, in a dull heavy ridiculous speech, full of misrepresentation. He endeavored to make out that the question had nothing to do with the election of Daniel Snyder, but that Fruit was the democratic candidate, and supported by them exclusive, while Snyder was supported by the whigs and the disaffected democrats. After he concluded Mr. Karns and Mr. Bailey spoke in favor of the bill, when it was ordered to be transcribed for a third reading, by a vote of 40 to 27.

To day a bill came from the Senate proceeding for cancelling by the State Treasurer of \$100,000 of the relief notes monthly, until the whole shall be destroyed. After a lengthy discussion the bill was passed by a large majority and sent to the governor for his signature. Whether it receives it, is yet a question. In consequence of this taking up the time of the house, until within a few minutes of the hour of adjournment, the removal bill was not reached on its third reading.

There are 57 Postmasters in the Union whose compensation exceeds \$500, twenty-two are in Massachusetts. The Postmasters of the eight chief towns in that State receive as follows: Boston, \$2800; New Bedford, \$1,571 19; Newburyport, \$1,251 19; Northampton, \$1,807 14; Salem, \$1,702 95; Springfield, \$1,499 11; Worcester, \$1,591 29; Lowell, \$1,226 79.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 31, 1843.

After the reading of the journal of yesterday, a resolution was introduced, by Mr. Elwell, instructing the Committee of Ways and Means to enquire into the expediency of amending the bill passed yesterday cancelling \$100,000 per month of the relief notes until the whole was destroyed, so as to reduce the amount to \$50,000 per month after the first month. This resolution caused quite an animated and exciting debate, which continued until the hour of adjournment. It will no doubt pass to-morrow, and I have as little doubt, that a bill will be reported accordingly and pass the house.— This will reduce the amount to be cancelled within the year, to \$50,000; but should the project of selling the state stocks in banks, turnpike roads, &c. be carried into effect, as recommended by the governor, nearly the whole of the relief notes will be taken out of circulation within the year. This event is certainly very desirable, if it can be done without serious injury to the community. The only difficulty that we see in the matter, is, how to supply the vacuum caused by the withdrawal of these rates.— That it must be supplied by some kind of a currency, will be evident to all, or business will entirely cease. That there is specie enough in the country to supply the necessary circulation under five dollars, we believe. But then, when the banks of the adjoining states, are all issuing small bills and our own banks issue none, shall we not be flooded with a circulation not much better, if any, than the present. To avoid this shall we not be compelled to allow our own banks to issue one, two and three dollar bills. We acknowledge it is a harsh medium to be administered, but will it not be better to have bills of our banks, than those of other States, one or the other we shall have, and as much as we are opposed to the issue of bills of less denomination than five Dollars, we prefer the latter evil. We shall, at least, have the consolation of praising their worth and be less liable to counterfeits, spurious, or worthless trash. Under this view of the case, we think the Legislature will be under the necessity of authorizing the banks to issue one, two and three dollar bills, payable on demand.— And should the banks, in good faith redeem them, they would at once be the means of resuscitating business, by a free circulation, and erecting a healthy action to the transactions between man and man. That then will be a scarcity before the one can take the place of the other is probable, but then, the result will be the same, if the issue be put off for months or years hence. The relief notes are to be withdrawn, and we do not see how the vacuum can be supplied but by small notes.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 1, 1843.

The resolutions of Mr. Elwell came up again to day, and after considerable discussion was postponed for the present, when after the usual business of receiving reports &c. was transacted the REMOVAL BILL came up on its third reading, when it was passed by an almost UNANIMOUS VOTE, without the calling of the yeas and nays and was sent to the Senate for its concurrence, the bill was opposed in the house, from the time it was reported until passage with all the tact, falsehood and misrepresentations that the Danville faction are so capable of using, but it was no avail.

No other business of important was transacted in either branch.

They have an Indian Rubber boat in New York which will sustain one ton, takes four minutes to inflate, and one minute to let out the air and fold up. Weighs twenty-five pounds, and can be put in a half bushel measure. Convenient.

The Caroline Rascal.—Captain Drew who cut out the steamer Caroline, has been appointed to the command of a ship of war, and visited by Prince Albert on board of his vessel. We suppose if he had burnt the city of Buffalo, in addition to his other exploit, the Queen would have visited him also.

Governor Bouch, of New York, has appointed his son his Private Secretary—his other son, his Military Secretary—his son-in-law, Adjutant General—and his nephew, Governor's Messenger. And why not; if they are all capable!

Rhode Island.—A proclamation has been issued by Governor King, declaring that the Constitution lately adopted will be the supreme law after the 2d of May.

Lucky Escape.—We had the pleasure of conversing yesterday with Col. Andrew Neill lately resident at Guadalupe, Texas, who; among several others, was taken prisoner by the Mexicans at San Antonio, while the Court for that district was in session. The prisoners, amounting in number to about fifty nine, were made to march under a strong guard on the way to the city of Mexico—changing the numbers and character of the guard as they came to this and the other military post. When within fifteen leagues of Mexico the route was changed, and the prisoners diverged into the Puebla road on their way to Perote, in the castle of which, about half a mile from the town, they are now in manacles and confined. On the evening of the 14th December, Col. Neill bade his captain 'farewell' with very little ceremony, and on the next morning at 8 o'clock he had walked forty-five miles, and was in the heart of the city of Mexico. Having money enough to last him three or four days, he stopped at a hotel—demanded a private room—received no company, and attended to relieving himself of his fatigue, and curing his feet, then weary and sore.

In a day or two he had walked out—found a certain street, and returned to his quarters. He searched the next night for the number in that street which he desired—entered—was embraced by his friends, & concealed in his house two weeks. He then boldly took a seat in the stage (under an assumed name,) which runs from Mexico to Vera Cruz, and even stopped one night at Perote, within rifle shot almost of the prisoners in the castle. Here he heard of his own escape, and cautiously made his safety known to those in the Castle. Arrived at Vera Cruz, he was concealed on board a vessel until another craft was ready to take him to Havana, where he arrived, and thence came to this city, via Key West.

He mentions that fifty five captives still remain, and that they are treated in no gentlemanly or honorably manner, Judge Hutchin (whose wife is now in this city,) was the only person allowed to go about without being chained by the legs. Col. Neill has not yet recovered the healthy use of his feet, but purposes returning to Texas immediately, and joining the 'army of the West' on the other side of the Rio Grande. He states that the Mexican soldiers are few and far between in that region, and anticipates a glorious result from the reported advance of the Texas army.—N. O. Bulletin.

Affecting Scene.—The New Orleans Tropic of Tuesday says that Judge Canonge paid a visit on Sunday to Larking, the murderer whose sentence of death was pronounced. The criminal spoke freely upon the subject of his awful end, and desired most earnestly that a minister of the Methodist persuasion might be allowed to wait upon him. There was one little incident in his conversation that is well worthy of record although the sentiment springs from the breast of one who has crimsoned his hands in the blood of a fellow creature. He said that his father was dead, but that his mother is now living, and that there was but one thing connected with the horrid crime for which he must soon pay the just penalty, that brought peace to his mind, and afforded him, unhappy as he was a gleam of consolation. In making out the accusation, the prosecuting attorney accidentally spelt his name improperly, yet he had answered to it, and never corrected the mistake, for the reason that his poor old mother might never know that it was her son who had suffered a felon's death. There is something beautiful in this, and it serves to show that the heart of man, although dyed with the blackest crime, may still be susceptible of the holiest emotions of our nature. To hear one for whom the hangman waits, express a feeling that the purest of us adore—to hear him say that he thanks God that his mother will never be apprised of her erring child's untimely end—may well enlist the sympathy of the sternest of our kind in behalf of one from whom all shrinks as from abasilisk.

From Texas.—Important, if true.—The steamship Neptune arrived at New Orleans on the 19th inst, with later Texan papers. They give something of a cock and bull story of a division having taken place in Gen. Somerville's army. One party, about 300 men, becoming dissatisfied with him, elected Col. W. S. Fisher their commander, and went down to Mier and captured the town; but a shower of rain came up just after they had captured it, so that they could not use their rifles to advantage; and the Mexican army arrived and after a desperate engagement retook the town, and captured about two hundred or two hundred and fifty of the Texans.—The toughest part of the story is that about 400 Mexicans were killed in this engagement and only four Texans. It is not known upon what terms the Texans surrendered. Only two Texans escaped, and the particulars came from them. The story is not believed in Texas.

More Rascality.—Great frauds have just been discovered in the Canadian Custom Houses. It is asserted that three-quarters of the revenue has never reached the government. One collector returned less revenues for one quarter than was known to have been received in a single importation, within the knowledge of the inspector.

THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE.

We continue to meet, in our exchange papers, says the Post, notices of the Earthquake which was felt in the West on the evening of the 4th of January. It was felt at Jackson, Gallatin, Carthage, Sparta, Murfreesborough, Franklin, Columbia, Shelbyville, Trenton and Memphis, in Tennessee; Huntsville, Ala.; Cincinnati, Ohio; Louisville and Mill's Point, Ky. and Madison, Indiana. It is reported that the earth sunk, in several places in New Madrid Mo. In Tuscaloosa three very violent shocks were experienced, during which, is said, the houses seemed to reel. They lasted ten minutes, and produced much alarm among the inhabitants. The Memphis Enquirer very graphically describe the effects at that place:

It was the severest shock, we imagine, which has been felt in this region since the 'Great Shakes' of 1811. The paroxysm lasted about half a minute, during which time the firmest earth did reel to and fro as a drunken man, so violently indeed, as to make hundreds run into the streets from the fear that the houses they were in were about to tumble down. No damage, however, was done, unless it be to crockery ware, which we should think it likely has suffered somewhere, placed loosely on shelves. The vibrations of the earth might have lasted in all nearly two minutes, and were accompanied by a heavy, rumbling sound, as if some seventeen hundred and fifty heavy loaded waggons had been driving briskly along the street. We were seated quietly at our writing table at the time, and had a better observation of it than those who were in the bustle and noise of a crowd. It was stupendously magnificent. How puny and insignificant are all the works of man, in comparison with the sublime phenomena of Nature!

We understand there was quite a rush at the theatre, and indeed, every where else, to get out of doors. We, ourselves, heard the shriek of females, in several quarters of the town.

A SCENE.

Pfeordt, and old Norwegian writer, not much known, relates that, having occasion to travel one night in winter, when the whole land was one wide street of new-fallen snow, he met upon the road, far from any village or habitation, a sight so strange and singular, that it haunted his memory to the very closing scene of his long life. To describe it, was the last effort of his pen. The moon shone with terrible brilliancy, and, with the reflection of snow, produced a light, strong, glaring, and painful. He had upon his feet a sort of wooden shoe, or runner, then, and probably now, worn in travel with considerable speed, and the noise they made upon the track was the only sound he could hear, except that indescribable crackling caused by increasing cold. Not the bark of a dog, nor the growl of a bear, nor the shadow of a pine, was there to break the monotony of his journey, when suddenly appeared before him, a monstrous hearse, blacker than darkness, drawn by four large black horses, whom the raven would have been white. Appalled by the apparition, Pfeordt stopped. The hearse moved without noise, and 'almost without motion,' for it seemed an hour in passing him. The driver sat as carved in ebony. But strangest of all was the corpse, lying in a shroud whiter than snow, under the blackness of that fearful pall. It was simply a corpse, without a coffin, and the face was bare.—Boston Post.

While Mr. Clay in person is kindling up enthusiasm in the Southwest by eating white heifers, &c; the fire burns dim at the eastward. The following passage from the Boston Mercantile Journal, a coonish paper, has rather a frosty aspect:

In New England, it is now past a doubt, that he will be unable to obtain the vote of a single State. His nomination in this Commonwealth to the Presidency, carried discord and paralysis into the whig ranks. The enthusiasm of his friends and adherents are responded to by the great body of the New England, who are opposed to his election on various grounds, satisfactory, at least, to themselves. It is not only unwise, but impolite to press with pertinacity upon his countrymen the claims of this distinguished individual to that high office.—(Pennsylvania)

A forcible Appeal.—The Governor of Illinois lately sent a message to the Legislature urging it to immediate action to raise the means of paying its own expenses. Having nothing but Auditor's warrants to pay with, he stated the cost of wood for public use, to be three dollars and a half, instead of the cheap price of one dollar seventy-five cents; candles one dollar, instead of thirty-seven and a half cents; and so forth. It was with the utmost difficulty that the Executive Department could pay its postage. Such a state of things, if no other, would soon put a stop to a favourite amusement of Legislature, that of creating and filling offices of trust and profit—or at least make them offices of trust only.

Official Murder.—A man named Carroll was shot by a constable, in Highland county, Ohio on Monday of last week. The constable had levied on and was taking away personal property of Carroll; when the latter followed, assailed him and was killed by a pistol ball. The constable was discharged.

The General Naval Court Martial to try Commander Mackenzie, upon three charges—the first murder, the second cruelty and oppression, the third not mentioned, convened on board the North Carolina on Wednesday last, the first of February. The Court will be composed of the following members:

President, Commodore Downes; Commodore Read, Captains W. Compton Bolton, Dan. Turner, Charles Skinner, Isaac McKeever, John H. Aulick, Bladen Dulany, John Gwynn, and Thomas W. Wyman; Commanders Henry W. Ogden, Irvine Shubrick, and William W. McKean; Judge Advocate, Samuel Rueh, of Philadelphia.

The Madisonian, in speaking of the Court Martial, says, the paragraph which originated with the Courier and Enquirer, stating that the President had ordered the Court Martial without waiting to learn the decision of the recent Court of Inquiry, is entirely without foundation. No court was ordered till the 25th instant, four days after the adjournment of the Court of Inquiry, and more than two days after the receipt of the record at the Department. The President has done nothing in the matter, and the Secretary of the Navy ordered a Court Martial as soon as he made up his mind that it was proper to do so, neither waiting for the civil authority to act nor hurrying in order to prevent its action. A Court Martial is necessary, under every possible view of the case. If Mackenzie be guilty, it is necessary in order to try him; if he be innocent, it is necessary in order to try the mutineers. It was not necessary, therefore to postpone it even till the rising of the Court of Inquiry. The fact that it has been postponed till several days after that event, is proof enough that it is not now called with any view to take the case from the civil authority.

IMPORTANT FROM MEXICO.

We learn from letters which appear in late Mexican papers, that the recent proceedings of Commodore Jones, at Monterey, are not the only grounds of complaint the Mexican Government have against this country. 'El Singlo Diez y Nueve,' publishes three letters from the new Governor of California stating the particulars of what he terms an outrage on his government, at the port of San Diego. From the statement given, it appears that during the month of November a party of men entered that port, and spiked eight cannon belonging to the fortification. The officers of the brig Alert, bearing the U. S. flag, are charged with the perpetration of this offence, as she was seen off the port some days before, and several boats filled with men, were seen passing between the alleged offence. In his own peculiar style; the Governor invokes the action of the Supreme Government in this business.—N. O. Tropic

MIDSHIPMEN'S DUEL.

A letter received in this city dated Genoa November 30th, states that Midshipmen Beers and Cook, both of Philadelphia, recently fought a duel at twelve paces with pistols, and Beers received Cook's ball in his leg. The wound will not prove fatal, and the patient was doing well. The quarrel originated during the reception on board the Columbus, of the Queen of Sardinia—both the young gentlemen being attached to that ship. The parties have been suspended by the Commodore, and it is said will be sent home for trial.—Post.

Railroad Accident.—An accident occurred on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad on Friday between 11 and 12 o'clock, at the North Mountain deep cut, near fifteen miles from Cumberland, when the train was on its way to Baltimore.—The cause of the accident was owing to an embankment having slid down on the railway, which being at a short curve, was not perceived in time to check the locomotive, but it was in consequence thrown off the track. The engineer was scalded, though not seriously, and considerable damage done to the engine. None of the passengers were at all injured, nor were any of the passenger cars thrown off.

A personal rencontre took place in the lower house of the Alabama Legislature.