SLAVE QUESTION IN ALABAMA—VIOLENT ACTION PROPOSED.—Gov. Collier, of Alabama, transmitted to the Legislature of the 22d ult., a letter from Washington signed by Senator Clemens and all the Representatives from that State except Mr. Cobb, calling the attention of the Governor to the condition of things at Washington, and the attempted aggression of the North upon Southern rights, &c., in the election of a Speaker, and concluding as follows:

"We think we are well acquainted with the spirit of the people of Alabama, and we believe that it is their fixed purpose never to submit to the threatened encroachment on their rights; that they will never submit to any act of the Government of the United States, which excludes slavery from the territory acquired from Mexico, and which is the property of the States of this Union; that they will never submit to any act of the Government abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia, and that they will demand that the provisions of the Constitution in regard to their property shall be faithfully observed. We trust that no further aggression will be made upon the rights of the slave-holding States; but we regard the existing state of affairs as so serious that we cannot forbear from making this communication to you."

The Governor, in his message accompanying this letter, says:

"The time for decided action has arrived, and I recommend to the General Assembly to announce the *ultimatum* of Alabama upon the great question which now convulses the Union. It is due to ourselves, as well as to the memory of our fathers, that we take the ground which self-respect, honor, and constitutional equality demand. Our position once taken, there can be no footsteps backward."

The reading of this message produced a great deal of excitement in the Legislature. It was immediately referred to a special committee, who reported a preamble and a series of resolutions, which, were unanimously adopted. The preamble recounts the threatened invasion of the rights of the South, and encourages the members to resist the election of a Speaker unless the candidates will give some pledge to enable them to protect Southern interests, concluding with the following resolutions:

Resolved, That in the event of the passage of any law by Congress prohibiting, while the Southern States from a just participation in the pleasures and enjoyment of the territories of United States—we call upon the people of the slave-holding States to meet in convention for the purpose of taking such actions as our rights may demand.

Resolved, That in the event of the passage by Congress of any act contemplated by the foregoing resolutions, the members of Congress from this State should not participate in the action of a body so regardless of our constitutional rights.

One of the committee, a Mr. Hall, after these resolutions were adopted, moved for a suspension of the rules to allow him to offer another resolution, requesting the executive to ask of the General Government all the military arms belonging to the State, and to report immediately the number of men within the State liable to military duty. But the Legislature, although very positive, do not seem to have been in so great a hurry to take up arms as Mr. Hall was.

GRANDMOTHERLY FURNITURE.—The N.O. Picayune says:

"The information from Santa Fe that the inhabitants were about to organize a territorial government, and exceed the present encroachments at Austin, Texas. Many hopes for marching an armed force thither and putting down the rebellion in the bud, rose in old. The Austin Gazette advises delay until the receipt of the President's message, and at all events that the Texan rebellion not precipitate a crisis, or complicate matters by violence. It still reiterates a determination to have Santa Fe, and says:—Rather than surrender to the usurpation of the General Government one inch of our blood-soaked territory, let every human habitation in Santa Fe be levelled to the earth, and us, if the necessity of the case requires it, be buried beneath the ruins."

You don't say so? Wonder whose blood it was that won Santa Fe? We have a vivid recollection of reading, in a message of one James K. Polk, the account of the capture of Santa Fe by the American troops under Gen. Kearney, without the shedding of any blood at all, and this event took place subsequent to the annexation of Texas to the Union. But perhaps our folks had only known that Santa Fe was all the time a part of Texas, and that they were making war upon their young and Sable sister, they might have saved themselves a deal of ammunition and house flesh; but it seems they didn't then know the difference between Mexicans and Texans. Why didn't you tell us this before, Mr. Gazette?—*N. Y. Tribune.*

THE UNION.

It is truly gratifying to observe the expressions of regard for, and attachment to the Union, which have recently been called forth, apparently, in response to the threats of disunion which have lately gone forth from our legislators at Washington. At the great celebration of the anniversary of the landing of the Plymouth Pilgrims, in Charleston, South Carolina, which has always been considered the hot bed from whence disunion reared its ugly crest, a number of patriotic toasts were proposed, and speeches were made upon the occasion, from which we infer the strongest attachment to the union of the states.

The following was received:

The North and South Poles of our Country: Heaven grant that the true *equatorial line* between them may be found right speedily.

To which Dr. Gilman responded, in an eloquent speech, in which he strongly argued the impossibility of the dissolution of the Union. Dr. Robertson proposed the following:

The Sovereign States of the Confederacy—Their union was cemented by the commingled blood of the Northern and Southern Southerner. May the prosperity and success, and all persons, rise as one man, and crown that sacred bond from the Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico.

The President then gave the following volunteer sentiment.

The good old time of the Confederacy—*which South Carolina and Massachusetts stood shoulder to shoulder battling for our independence!* May a recollection of those times serve as a Beacon Light to guide the Ship of State through all the storms that may assail her, into a haven of safety.

Mr. Roberts, of Boston, responded to this toast from the chair, assuming Massachusetts and South Carlina together, and concluded with—

"THE UNION—NOW AND FOREVER—ONE AND INSEPARABLE."

We subjoin several extracts:

By B. Campbell, Esq.—*Daniel Webster:* A true representative of Mass' Eagle—a true patriot, and a true scholar, the classic poetry of his productions will be an intimately interwoven with the history of the Union, as were those of the ancient classics with the arts of Greece and Rome.

By Dr. F. M. Robertson—*John C Calhoun:* While a true and fearless exponent of Southern rights, he is true to the Union.

By H. T. Street—*Henry Clay:* A close beaded Statesman and eloquent Patriot—may the cool aspect in the Political waters that now threaten to engulph our country.

By S. Mowry, Jr.—*The Union—The Whole Union:* May it never be severed by sectional interests and feelings.

By Capt. Blanding—*The Telegraph and Steam:* they will effect a real unity of the race, when the question is settled by the pellucidity.

KENTUCKY AND THE UNION.—Governor Crittenden, of Kentucky, in his remarks on the violent disunion debates in congress, utters the following noble sentiments:

"Dear as Kentucky is to us, she is not our whole country. The Union, the whole Union, is our country, and proud as we are of Kentucky, and dear as she is to us, we have a better and more far-famed title—that of *American citizens*—a name and character which we brought with us, and which, where ever we may be, has power to protect us from the despotism of power of Kings and Princes.

"As a party to the Constitution, Kentucky interchanged with the other states, pledged herself to abide by and support that Constitution and the Union which it established. If that pledge were her only obligation, it ought to be inviolable. But the seal of Washington stamped upon it—the blessings and enjoyment associated with its origin—the benefits and blessings it has conferred—the grander hopes it may inspire, have, day by day, increased our attachment, until the mere sense of plighted faith, and allegiance is lost in proud, grateful, and affectionate devotion.

"I can entertain no apprehension for the life of such a Union.

"The approach of any danger to it would be the signal for rallying in its defence—the first rumor of its peril would be the moment of its rescue. I persuade myself that there will be found in Congress, on the assembling, a spirit which has given rise to the late agitation and alarm, a *wise forbearance* and a *wise patience*, that will enable us from danger; and that the very men who, in the heat and commotion of debate, have spoken most boldly in the language of defiance and menace to the Union, will not be hindmost in making sacrifices for its preservation."

"Kentucky is not insensible to the causes which have produced so much excitability and irritation with her brethern of the southern States, nor is she without her sympathies with them. She does not permit herself to harbor one thought against the Union. She deprecates disunion as the greatest calamity that can befall her country in—none, certainly, for any grievance can be compensated for by disunion.

"Kentucky will stand by and abide by the Union to the last, and she will hope that the same forbearance and patience of our fathers to make it will enable us to preserve it. Our whole history has taught us a consoling confidence in that providence."

A SHIP PASSAGE ACROSS THE ISTHMUS OF PANAMA.—Such a project appears so Quixotic, even to Londoners, which has been received with favor. The plan is to connect the river Atrato and Neipi, between which the navigation of the Cordilleras dips to a pass of but a few hundred feet in height. A deputation of the promoters has had an interview on the subject with Lord Palmerston, at the Foreign Office. His lordship received the project favorably, requested a further interview when the plans were more matured, and expressed his willingness to consider how far assistance might be afforded through the Board of Admiralty to any expedition sent out by the projectors to explore the district and survey the line of the proposed opening from sea to sea. The plan is at present under the consideration of several parties of capital and influence, some of whom are largely engaged in the trade of those seas; and, should their decision prove favorable, it is intended to dispatch forthwith an engineer, in company with some able assistants, to the spot.

OHIO LEGISLATURE.—A disgraceful scene occurred on Wednesday last, in the senate of Ohio. The contested seat of the Senator from Hamilton county was the origin of it, and Mr. Broadwell, the Whig claimant, was a prominent actor in it. On a vote that was to be taken by yeas and nays; and, should their decision prove favorable, it is intended to dispatch forthwith an engineer, in company with some able assistants, to the spot.

On Wednesday last, JOHN FARNSWORTH, Esq., the new County Treasurer, filed the requisite bonds, and entered upon the duties of his responsible post.

On our first page will be found several Legislative and Congressional proceedings, crowded out last week in order to give our readers the benefit of a *full* copy of the Governor's message at an early hour.

By the Division of the Pony, on Tuesday last, an appointed Sarvin Carter, Steward, and Dr. D. Hunter, Physician to the Almshouse and James Dunkin, Esq., Solicitor to the Board of Commissioners. J. Bankum was appointed Clerk, in the room of Wm. W. Paxton, resigned.

In noticing the Annual Distribution of Patrimony, &c., by the American Art Union, a few weeks ago, it was stated that no prize was drawn by subscribers in this locality. We observe by a corrected list of the drawings, that one of the "Starved Models" was drawn by the lady of D. M'Cord, Esq., of Gettysburg.

We are requested to say that the sale of the Real Estate of Wm. Dentzer, as advertised by the Sheriff, will not take place—the difficulty out of which the sale issued, having been arranged.

Mr. Cole's "Journey of Life," which is a proof impression of his own portrait, which is to house the February No. of that favorite Magazine. Mr. Cole has painted over the Lady's Book for twenty years, during which time it is said he has paid to American writers and artists no less than $200,000. He has also advertised his Magazine at a high rank in popular favor. The patronage of the Lady's Book will of course be pleased in being in possession of an authentic likeness of its enterprising publisher.

The "Reading Gazette and Democrat," a well conducted journal of the Locofoco school, has just enlarged and clothed in a new dress. The Gazette has been a zealous and efficient Whig paper, and the Democracy of old Berks.

Legislative.

Congress has done very little in the way of business during the past week. The House has not yet completed its organization, having thus far failed to elect a Clerk. A number of ballots have been taken, the proceedings of which stand thus: Forney (Loco) of the State, Mr. Campbell, the present Clerk, and Dr. Cook, of Mississippi, received votes in the early ballots, but the contest was soon reduced to the following:

Forney—Messrs. Ahl, Packer, Crabb, M'Causlen, Thompson, Wilmot, Wright, Wm. Smith, Strong, Thos. Smith, Stanton, Stevens, Thos. Thompson, Vinton, Wentworth, Wheeler