

FOR THE AMERICAN.

SARATOGA.
Our patriot sires in freedom's cause,
On Saratoga's plain,
Obtained a haughty world's applause,
A never dying fame;
For there they tore the laurelled wreath,
From England's tyrant King,
And the British Lion bowed beneath
The Eagle's pinioned wing.

No monumental tributes rise,
To mark the hallowed spot,
No column mingling with the skies,
Proclaims their glorious lot;
But memory's reared a holier shrine;
In fame that ne'er departs,
For deeds that deeply graven by time—
Live in a nation's hearts.

JABONUS LANKJAW, Jr.
Saratoga, Dec. 22.

TO M—W—

Young love in one of his merriest hours,
Took two blue roses of birth divine,
One he dipped in the rainbow showers,
The other immersed in mantling wine.

The bud he wet with nature's showers,
Lost its fragrance and soon decay'd;
But that which he placed in ruby wine,
Bloomed and blushed like the sweetest maid.

JABONUS LANKJAW, Jr.
Saratoga, Dec. 22.

MOST ATROCIOUS MURDERS.

A most shocking case of the deliberate murder of five persons, committed, it would seem, for the sole purpose of preventing the discovery of a contemplated robbery, is related in the Portsmouth, Vt. Times of the 16th instant as follows:

From the Portsmouth (Vt.) Times, Dec. 16.

We learn that a series of most atrocious murders was perpetrated by a mercenary in South-Union County, on Monday night. An aged Quaker of the name of Scott, residing not far from Jerusalem, his sister, also aged, a little girl, about nine years old, named Fretlow, a negro woman and her child, were successively butchered to further the design of robbery, entertained by the destroyer. Six persons were on the premises at the time—and but one escaped. This was a young negro girl. She relates, we understand, that a man residing in the neighborhood visited the house a little after sunset and spent the evening by the fireside of Mr. Scott, in conversation with the family. As he was about to quit, he asked Mr. S. to walk with him to the gate, as he had a word to say to him in private. To this the unfortunate man consented.

The girls saw no more of him. A violent struggle was next heard in the kitchen. The murderer armed with a short heavy dogwood pole, had seized the negro woman, and was beating on her head, when the aged sister of Mr. Scott, attracted by the noise, appeared and begged him to desist. Irrevocably bent on his design, he instantly despatched the poor negro, and seizing the old lady lifted her to the floor with a blow of the pole. A negro boy about nine years old was then killed in the same manner. He next proceeded in search of the little white girl and the young negro. The latter made her escape unobserved. The other child was not so fortunate. She was caught in the room and murdered summarily as the rest.

Not seeing the negro girl, and resolved to leave no clue to his fearful secret, the monster made a careful search in the rooms, turning over the beds and examining every corner narrowly. Convinced that one of the family had escaped, he seems to have gone off without consummating the robbery. The girl fled immediately to the nearest neighbors, and communicated what had occurred in her right and hearing. They repaired to the premises forthwith, and found the melancholy confirmation of her story. The murderer had fled, and the house was burning slowly. The fire was extinguished before it had defaced the bodies, or done much injury to the building. In the morning, among the spectators of the night's bloody fruit, was the individual spoken of by the girl as the actor in the scene. He gave an instant contradiction to her story, and referred to the absence of blood from his clothing as proof of his innocence. He denied, also, we learn, having been on the premises for a fortnight.—Traces of blood, however, it is said, were found among his whiskers, and he was detained till search was made at his house. This resulted, we learn, in the discovery of a suit of his clothing excessively bedewed with blood. He was forthwith apprehended.

Mr. Scott was an old and extended resident of the county, and was reputed to be wealthy. The hope of securing his money led to a scheme of murder as boldly conceived and deliberately executed as any furnished by the annals of crime. The escape of the girl alone prevented the full execution of the plan. If she had fallen, all explanation of the mystery would have been impossible.—The house and bodies of the slain would have been consumed together, and the murderer would have possessed in security, the poor reward of his atrocities, beyond the fear of detection.

The same mail also brings us the account of another murder, committed under the influence of jealousy:

From the Virginia Star, Dec. 16.

A murder of a most atrocious character, we understand, was committed in the county of Dinwiddie, on Sunday morning last, by Jeremiah Conway, on the person of Edward Lewis, a young man, only about 18 years of age, who, at the time when the murder was committed, resided with Conway's family. It appears that Lewis had dressed himself with the intention of going to Church, and was in the act of stepping out of the parlor, having his back turned towards Conway's chamber door, when C. advanced within a few steps of him, (having a gun heavily charged with buck shot,) and fired, when Lewis fell, having the entire contents of the gun in the neck and back part of the head! The

only supposable cause assigned for the perpetration of this dreadful act, was jealousy on the part of Conway. He has, for many years, been a member of the Methodist Church. After the act was committed, Conway made no effort to escape, and when questioned in relation to the murder, positively declared that he knew nothing about it. He has been committed to the jail of Dinwiddie county, where he awaits his trial for this outrageous act.

A Dreadful story.

It scarcely falls to our lot to record so shocking an occurrence as the following which we find in the Binghamton (Broom Co.) Republican:

"Cornelius Messerian, Esq. Coroner, on Monday last, was called to hold an inquest over the bodies of two children, daughters of Mr. Locke, of this county. It appeared in evidence that early on Saturday last, Mr. Locke and his two sons went to the barn to attend to their ordinary out door business. Mrs. Locke passed into the room where a niece of hers, who was sick, and her little daughter slept, asked her niece how she rested, and then took her child from the bed, under pretence that her niece might remain undisturbed the remainder of the morning.

She then took the child up stairs to the bed occupied by the other child, (the eldest child, and the youngest two years of age,) and got into the bed herself. About this time, one of the sons returned from the barn for some corn, and went up stairs for that purpose. His mother urged him to hasten down it, which he did. Mr. Locke, in a few minutes also came in, and inquired of his son where his mother was. He replied 'up stairs, playing with the children.' Mr. L. immediately went up, where a sight as appalling as ever was witnessed by mortal eyes met his view. The three lay in the bed with their throats cut from ear to ear, weltering in their blood! The children were quite dead, and their mother struggling as in the agonies of death!

The mother, it seems, had been inane, although no particular symptoms of her malady had been apparent, and it was thought, had been restored by a journey, which she had taken with her husband, to a sound mind. She still survives, has partially recovered her senses, expressed her regret, and hoped she might live to 'suffer the penalty of the law.' The verdict was, that the children came to their deaths by having their throats cut by their mother, with a razor, while in a state of insanity."

Hon. Waddy Thompson.

The accounts of this gentleman's wonderful escape from injury by an accident on the railroad near Petersburg, according to the Fredericksburg Arena, do not convey any idea of the imminent peril which he encountered, nor of the providential character of his preservation. That paper states that the General was knocked senseless by the shock, and fell longingly between the rails, and, most remarkable to state, precisely in the only spot, on the whole length of the road, where one of the transverse sleepers had been removed. The absence of this sleeper enabled him to fall his full length upon the ground, and, of course, to increase as far as possible, the space between him and the engine. Had he fallen across one of the sleepers—or on either rail—he must have been killed. His head fell so close to the rail, that the flange of the wheels, passing over it, pressed it into the mud. Had the ground been frozen the head would have been crushed. The blow which prostrated, fortunately stunned him so far as to deprive him of recollection, might have, in his efforts to escape, have brought into contact with some parts of the locomotive or train.

Body of Napoleon.

The ship Calumet, Capt Shreve, which arrived at Boston on Sunday, from Canton, left St. Helena Oct. 21. On the 18th the ceremony of exhumation of the remains of Napoleon took place with great parade. The body, which on his death was embalmed by French chemists, was found in a state of complete preservation, the features being preserved. It will be remembered that Napoleon died May 5, 1821. The body was conveyed on board the Belle Poule, which with the Favorite, sailed for France on the 19th. These ships sailed from France July 7, and arrived at St. Helena Oct. 8.—Daily Advertiser.

From the Mines' Journal.

The Iron Trade.

Until the year 1710 iron was made in England exclusively with charcoal, and prior to that period none of the iron stones of the Coal region were used, but as soon as the iron manufactures found it necessary to locate themselves in the Coal region for the purpose of being convenient to the new kind of fuel they were about to adopt, they found the necessity of searching for Ore nearer their work than the magnetic Ores that they had been in the habit of using were; the result was that an abundance of excellent Ore was discovered in the Coal regions in the immediate vicinity of their works, and although it did not yield so high a per centage of iron as the magnetic Ore, they found it more profitable than transporting richer Ores from a distance.

With regard to our own country our experience has been the same; as it was not until after the erection of the Pottsville Furnace, that many of our land owners would go to the trouble and expense of searching for Ore, and no sooner had the exploration commenced than we heard of new veins of Ore being opened daily, and the Ore of such good quality that we no longer have the question asked, have you Ore in the Coal region?

Mr. Perry, the Anthracite founder says he visited one Mine (McCas, Mann & Co.) that could alone supply five furnaces for ages.

In comparing our Ore veins with those of England and Wales, we find the average richness of the Ores nearly the same, but we have a decided advantage in the thickness of the veins; many of the veins in the Pottsville Coal region are upwards of 3 feet and from that down to 6 inches—the average richness of the Ores taken from the Coal region of England and Wales is about 38 per cent.

The average richness of eight specimens of Ore taken from the Pottsville Coal region was 33, 17 of metallic iron.—These specimens were analysed under the direction of Professor Rodgers, the State Geologist—some of the specimens were all taken from different veins.



Saturday, December 26, 1840.

Democratic Candidate for Governor,
Gen. DAVID R. PORTER.

☞ We cannot admit into our columns the article in reply to the Sunbury Temperance Society, for several reasons, one of which is, the want of courtesy in its language.

The congressional news this week is not of much importance. The land bill, Subtreasury, National Bank and Abolition petitions are the principal subjects of debate.

☞ The "Yankee Farmer," an excellent agricultural paper published at Boston, (Mass.) will commence a new volume on the first of January next. The Farmer, the Maine Cultivator, and the Albany Cultivator, all of which are regularly received, are excellent publications and well deserve the patronage of the agricultural portion of the community.

National Foundry.

We perceive that the citizens of Lancaster, Reading, and other places are making efforts to have the contemplated National Foundry located in their respective towns.

Twelve months since several of these places might have advanced their claims with some probability of success. But at the present time, with all the light which the recent discoveries in the manufacture of iron with anthracite coal affords, it would be an act of the utmost folly in the general government to locate an establishment of such importance, in any place, other than the anthracite coal and iron region of Pennsylvania. It has been clearly established, that iron cannot only be manufactured at a much the per rate with anthracite coal than by the old process with charcoal, but that the iron possesses more tenacity and strength, and is infinitely superior for castings. The great iron ore beds of Montours Ridge, and the inexhaustible body of anthracite coal in Shamokin, lying within a few miles of each other, plainly indicate that this section of the country is the proper place for the location of a National Foundry, and that the general government cannot without manifest injustice to itself and to the community locate it any where else. Let a committee be appointed to make the proper examinations and let that committee do justice to the whole country, and we need not fear the result. A better location than this place would afford could not be desired.

New Cabin I.

It is generally understood that Mr. Webster will be appointed Secretary of War, and that Mr. Ewing, of Ohio, can have the office of Post Master General, if he will consent to accept office. Mr. Crittenden, of Kentucky, will be appointed Attorney General of the United States.

Land Bill.

Mr. Clay is making strenuous efforts to effect the passage of a land bill, by which the proceeds of the sale of public lands will be distributed among the different States. A similar bill was passed a few years since which Gen. Jackson refused to sanction. We trust, however, that this will meet a different fate. We can see no reason why the old states, who acquired the lands at the expense of much blood and treasure, should be deprived of their richest inheritance. Let politics be set aside, in this case at least, and all parties unite in doing justice to the old states.

ALABAMA.

It is said that the vote of this state is likely to prove a nullity in consequence of an oversight of the Electors in voting by calling out the names of the candidates, instead of voting by ballot as the law requires.

A Protective Tariff.

These are changing times in which we live. The election of Gen. Harrison has astonished even his most sanguine friends, and the prediction of John Quincy Adams that "he would come in like a whirlwind," has been literally verified. What then has caused this sudden revolution, that has swept away all the ancient political landmarks from the centre to the extremities of the Union. We answer a desire to change. The friends of Gen. Harrison have made great promises. The beacon of reform, in their hands, was to accomplish wonders. An attempt at least, must be made to fulfil these promises. This will be a task of a difficult nature. Conflicting opinions will naturally arise, where so many different interests are to be represented. Some leading measures, some absorbing topic of general interest must therefore be resorted to, upon which the whole strength of the party will be concentrated, so far as concert of action can be obtained by unity of interests. The question then is, what are likely to be the prominent measures of the next administration. We think we can safely say, judging from a combination of circumstances, that a protective tariff must take precedence of all others. The late contest was emphatically a verdict of the people in favor of such measure. The great commercial and manufacturing states have spoken in a voice not to be misunderstood. A revision of the

present tariff is not only necessary as an object of revenue, but as an act of justice to the community. The luxuries of the day, such as silks and wines, should be made to pay a proportionable rate of duty. The manufacturing of iron for railroad purposes for which we are wholly dependent upon England, should also be encouraged. A few years experience would enable us to manufacture the article in this country as cheap as it is now sold in England.

Operations on the Danville & Pottsville Rail Road.

The following is an abstract of the operations of that branch of the Danville and Pottsville Rail Road leading from Sunbury to Shamokin, for which we are indebted to the politeness of Mr. Budd, the weigh master. But little was done on this road in the transportation of coal, until late in the season. These operations have, however, clearly demonstrated, that this portion of the road can even now be rendered highly profitable. In the course of another year, it is presumed, that 50 or 60,000 tons of coal, iron and iron ore will be transported over the road, for the purpose of manufacturing iron in this vicinity, independent of the quantity that will be required for Baltimore and the intermediate places, where the demand for the Shamokin coal has increased so rapidly, that the supply has already nearly run out. We have no doubt, that in less than three years the amount of coal transported over the road will exceed 200,000 tons. This is a matter of deep importance to our state improvements, as nearly the whole of this tonnage will be carried in the Pennsylvania and Tide Water Canals. The number of passengers, it was at first supposed, would scarcely pay for the wear and tear of the passenger cars, which are generally attached to the train of burden cars, with but little additional expense. The number of passengers, it seems, exceeds 3100 in about seven months. Preparations are making for a large business next season, and we have no doubt under the able management of Mr. Samuel R. Wood, the superintendent, the company will not fail to prosper.

Amount of Transportation.

Over the Danville and Pottsville Rail Road, from Dec. 2, 1839, to Dec. 23, 1840.

15,868 tons Coal,	
78 " Brick and Sand,	
352,610 lbs. Nett Transportation,	
442 perch Stone and Lime Stone,	
55,605 feet Lumber,	
2,607 bu. Lime, Grain, Seed, &c.,	
1,881 Coach Passengers,	20 miles.
296 " " "	12 "
29 " " "	11 "
625 " " "	8 "
583 " " "	6 "
17 " " "	4 "

Dec. 23, 1840. JOHN BUDD, S. T.

Dumb Wives.

It is said that the male grasshopper sings, not the female. What a happy set grasshoppers must be—they have dumb wives.—*Ex. Paper.*

The happiness might be shared by the wives if they could also be deaf and blind. The wife is often, from family pride and womanly shame, dumb to that which gives her infinite pain to see and to hear.—*U. S. Gazette.*

All true enough. A dumb wife under such circumstances is truly wretched. But the wives complained of here, we presume, are such as are described by a learned poet in the following lines:

Ill thrives the hapless family that knows
A cock that's silent and a hen that crows;
I know not which lead most unnatural lives,
Obliving husbands, or commanding wives.
Ed. Sunbury American.

The Reading Gazette says the number of Iron Works in Berks County according to the late census is:

"No. of Furnaces 11; tons of cast iron produced 9165; of Bloomeries, Forges, and Rolling Mills 36; tons of bar iron produced 6266; tons of fuel consumed 45,765; of men employed, including mining operations 1245; amount of capital invested \$367,444; value of product of mines \$54,800; of men employed 161; capital invested \$32,100."

The Maine Cultivator of Saturday last, published at Hallowell, Maine, says:

"Two expresses from Sir John Harvey, passed through this town on Saturday last—one destined for Gov. Fairfield at Saco, and the other for the President of the U. S. at Washington. It is rumored that Thompson, the Governor General of Canada, has marched several regiments of troops on to the Disputed Territory, and stationed them at Madawaska, and that Sir John has sent word to our state and national authorities, announcing his fact, and protesting that the act is not his, but that of his superior officer. If Maine undertakes another Aroostook war, her troops will march to the North-eastern-most line, cost what it will, and plant the standard of the U. S. just exactly there."

The Western Mail.

We learn with pleasure that the mail arrangement is about to be resumed, with regard to the Western Mail. The Pennsylvania gives the following order from the Post Office Department:

"The authorities of the railroad having refused passage on their road for the mail, except upon conditions with which the contractor would not comply, and which the department could not enforce, he has been allowed to convey it temporarily on the turnpike at a reduced compensation, until better arrangements could be made. And now Mr. A. B. Cummings having offered to carry said mail as heretofore, twice a day on the railroad, at the former pay of \$200 a mile per annum, and due notice of said proposition having been given to the contractor, it is on full consideration decided to transfer the contract for the route, to A. B. Cummings, to take effect on the 25th inst., unless the contractor shall in the meantime succeed in restoring the original contract service."

☞ It is stated in the N. Y. Tatler, that the small pox and the varioloid are very prevalent in some sections of that city.

ITEMS.

A bill to abolish imprisonment for debt is now before the Legislature of New Hampshire.

PLEASURE IN STORE.—It is announced in the Evening Star, that our talented and accomplished countrywoman, Miss Sennick, intends to publish a sketch, &c., of her late visit to Europe.

LARGE CASTING.—An immense cylinder, weighing thirty tons, arrived in New York, the other day, from England, in the Cambridge. It is for an hydraulic press in that city.

TRICK OF THE JOBBERS.—It is stated, says the Philadelphia Spirit of the Times, that a rumor was set afloat in New York, previous to the departure of the Great Western, that the United States Bank had resumed specie payments. The news will of course be taken to England, and exercise an influence on the stock of the Bank, which may probably put some thousands of dollars in the pockets of the authors of the device.

LIQUOR.—A man by the name of Joseph Mozen, in Washington, fell dead in a fit caused by excessive drinking. He had only been a half hour out of the Washington city almshouse.

☞ We yesterday saw, says the N. O. Picayune, a "sure enough lemmion," which measured no less than 24 inches in circumference, 7 inches in diameter, and weighed within half an ounce of 5 pounds.

GEORGIA LEGISLATURE.—The House of Representatives of Georgia have refused to repeal the act to prevent the evils of private banking, by a vote of 143 to 23.

A STRANGE BALLOT BOX.—The Hawk Eye, of Burlington, Iowa Territory, says that the ballot box at Burlington was in the shape of a tin bucket, with a paper cover, and was placed in the land office overnight before the votes were counted.

THE IRONSIDERS, a Bristol iron ship, arrived recently at Galveston, Texas, from Liverpool, with a cargo of iron, tin, dry goods, 100 tons coal, fine pianos, &c., together with blooded stock of various kinds.

DEATH BY CHARCOAL.—Mr. Samuel Baldwin, aged 23 years, was found dead in his bed on Sunday morning, the 6th December, in the house of Pardon Barnard, Lennox, Madison co., New York, from the effect of acid from charcoal, which had been placed in the room.

WORTHY IMITATION.—There is a gentleman in Springfield, Mass., who regularly celebrates the anniversary of his marriage, by paying for his newspaper. The same gentleman celebrates the birth of every new comer, by subscribing for a new paper.

A DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.—Under the above head, the St. Louis New Era, of the 5th inst., states that Hoses J. Lewis, late Cashier of the Schuylkill Bank, was in that city a few days since. He registered his name as H. Miller, at the City Hotel. He did not tarry long, and is understood to have taken his departure for New Orleans, in the steamboat Meteor.

MAIL ROBBERY ARRESTED.—The Chicago Democrat states that a young man named Reuben Rose has been arrested and committed to Cook county jail, (Illinois,) for robbing the mail last winter near Lancaster, Pa.

The police of New York broke up a gambling establishment in that city, and arrested 88 negroes—a number of white girls of the town, and twenty or thirty others of both sexes, and all complexion.

BENEVOLENCE.—Dr. Franklin once said that a benevolent man was known by his spreading ashes before his house in winter, to prevent passers by from slipping on the ice, and endangering their limbs and lives.

A bill before the Georgia Legislature for the abolition of capital punishment, makes the singular exception of the crime of treason. An execution for this crime, never did happen in the United States.

Those of our readers, says the Salem Gazette, who have the Mountain Ash growing on their premises, may feel interested to know that the pear has been successfully grafted upon that tree in Europe.

SELECTED FOR THE AMERICAN.

THOUGHTS ON THE FUTURE.

"There is not even a probability of his defeat, success is certain to the candidate who possesses the means of so simply compensating his friends." Ah! my country, I exclaimed, as the last words of this conversation fell upon my ear. Is it thus? Must your best interests be entrusted to men who trample upon principles, and concentrate their whole efforts to promote their own emolument? Can the sons of freedom so far forget that chosen band of great and fearless spirits who nobly combated with the oppression of the mother land, as thus to barter stations vital to the interests of our commonwealth, for filthy lucre? Will they contribute their influence to the destruction of this great, noble, and through their own infatuation prevent the blessings which would accrue to the world from her prosperity? But who can forestall the destiny of this bright and occidental Star? Will dark and fearful deeds mark her annals, or shall her name be transmitted to future generations enriched with a rich halo of glory? Shall it ever be that her soul stirring deeds will be forgotten, and the memory of her great ones be only as the murmurings of the night breeze among the withered leaves of autumn? Shall her power, as that of Rome, the once proud metropolis of the world, die away as the last faint echo of the seraphs harp, and darkened ages again succeed the bright reign of intellect? Will America thus sport with her destiny, until some mighty power undermines her foundations, and this smiling land of the great and brave, become as the mouldering ruins of Carthage, and the fugitive stranger of a fat lot land (Marius like) wander desolate among the melancholy monuments of her former greatness? And will the deep broad basis of this great republic thus totter and fall and sink into oblivion, and this fair land again become the mournful sepulchre of a great people, and sought remote to tell of their existence, but the wild requiem of the night winds among the mounds and burial places

of her unknown dead! Shall the day star of our country's glory set, and the clouds of despotism forever gather around this highly privileged land? Oh! America! dark and fearful would seem thy impending doom, were we to witness such corruption in thy national councils, and such degeneracy of thy sons from that pure and elevated standard of religion and morals which characterized the pilgrim fathers, and know also, that infidelity, that open foe of all law and virtue, which once traversed the continent of Europe in revolutionary phrenzy, has already invaded our fair heritage, and unless freemen and christians awake, will ere long walk through the land in blood, and seat itself upon the graves of all our hopes. But there is yet moral principle remaining—America is still the land of the patriot, the home of the oppressed and the sanctuary of religion; and who will dare, whilst there are her proud names, to write her ruin? It cannot be that she too will participate in the mournful destiny of the nations of by-gone ages. Ah, no! my country, the spirit which inspired the revolutionary fathers, is yet breath'd by their sons; and bright and fades less as the stars, let us hope will be thy glorious career. The towering pyramid, indeed, may not tell of thy greatness, nor the frowning obelisk speak of thy might,—the perishable and imperfect fragment will transmit to posterity no record of thy fame, but mighty and magical will be the "still small voice" of thy influence upon the nations of the world.—The high and holy example of the patriotism and self-sacrifice of those spirits who struggled for freedom, shall bring a change over the spirit of the world; and nations now languishing beneath the oppressor's chain shall burst from their fetters, and the dark places of the earth that are now full of the habitations of oppressed humanity, must receive from this favored land the radiant light of science and religion, which will raise them from degradation and misery to the pedestal of happiness and virtue. Thus the streams which flow from America, will fertilize and gladden the earth.

M. W.

☞ In our last Reporter we noticed the alteration of \$5 bills in the West Branch Bank, to \$30. To day we have a letter from the Cashier, in which he states that the issues of the Bank has been confined to 5's, 10's and 20's.—*Bicknell's Reporter.*

Counterfeit Notes.

The Philadelphia Gazette states that on Friday last a seizure of a large deposit of counterfeit notes was made by a police officer of this city, on the preceding day, in a house in the Northern Liberties. The amount was \$2,100, nearly of which were 10's, purporting to be of the U. S. Bank, bearing date Dec. 1, 1838. The Gazette states that the information which led to the discovery was given to the officer by one of the gang of villains arrested for the robbery of the two B. Liner wagons in September last.—*Bicknell's Reporter.*

Post Office Department.

The annual report of the Post Master General occupies five columns in the Washington Globe, which reached us this morning. We learn from it that the extent of post routes in the United States is 155,739 miles, and the annual transportation on them 36,370, 776 miles at a cost of \$3,296,876. The number of contractors is about 2,000; post offices 13,638 of which 958 have been established within the present year. Within the same period, 271 have been discontinued. Postmasters appointed within the same period, 271 have been discontinued. Postmasters appointed within the present year 3,231, of whom 959 were for new offices.

The receipts of the department for the year ending 30th June last, were \$4,539,266. Expenditures \$4,759,111. Excess of expenditures \$219,845. The Post Master General mentions as among the causes for this excess, or rather of the deficiency in the revenue, the embarrassments of the times, the practice extensively adopted of carrying newspapers outside of the mails, and the abuse of the franking privilege.

During the weeks ending the 2d May, 2d June, and 7th July last, there were 22,338 free letters and packets sent from the Executive Departments, 20,363 free letters from the members of Congress, and 392,268 public documents and other franked packets, making in all 441,960. The public documents and packets from Congress weighed 32,669 lbs.

Mr. Niles recommends the abolition of the allowance to Postmasters of 2 cents on free letters, and of the franking privileges, except to the Heads of Departments, a limitation by law, of compensation for all Steamships, Railroad, and coach service, the equalization of postage on newspapers and other printed matter, with an advance of one hundred per cent. (tax on knowledge, and a revision of the tariff of letter postage with a reduction of 25 per cent.—*U. S. Gazette.*

Concerning Salt River.

Inasmuch as many are believed to be interested in the latest intelligence from this famous river, we append the following from the recent message of Gov. Boggs, to the Legislature of Missouri:

"The improvements of Salt River can be effected by a connected series of locks and dams, but at too heavy an expense (compared with the benefits to be derived from the improvement) to justify the undertaking—the estimate is about four hundred thousand dollars. In connection with this subject it is proper to call the attention to the fact that dams have been, and others are being constructed by individuals across this stream without any provision for the passage of boats. Salt River has been recognized as a navigable stream by the general government, and also declared to be so by positive enactment of the legislature of this state, and it is but reasonable that individuals in the erection of their dams, should be compelled to so construct them as not to obstruct the navigation."

The Nashville Whig, commenting upon this says that "the concern manifested by Gov. B. to keep the navigation of the stream unobstructed is certainly commendable, though candor compels us to add, that while the Whigs had the Salt River trade expressly to themselves, we do not remember to have seen the same anxiety expressed in his Excellency's annual communications."—*Balt. Amer.*