

News of the Week.

Affairs in the Gulf of Mexico are fast verging towards a solution of the Isthmian problem. The news brought by the steamer Washington indicates that not only the most valuable interests of the United States are in imminent danger, but that even our honor as a nation is involved in the attitude assumed by the British naval officials on the Central American station.

We observe by our exchanges that Mr. Crittenden has made a short visit to New York, a few days ago, and was waited upon by the Republican Committee.

Miss Summers, of Ontario, Livingston county, New York, who has been connected with the Female College at Oberlin, was most shockingly murdered on Friday, December 18th.

The New York correspondent of the Buffalo Commercial says that he has been informed by the Buffalo State prison for life, for committing a rape on a little girl only eight years of age.

A lady—it is evident she is a lady, because she has her handkerchief tucked under her chin, and her feet are shod in the latest fashion.

John H. Brownson, of St. Paul, Minn., on the night of the 24th inst., while in a fit of somnambulism, walked out and fell a hundred feet down the bluff near his window, where he landed.

THE ACQUISITION OF CUBA.

We fully agree with the late number of the Pittsburg Post that among all the important questions which Mr. Buchanan has treated in his able magazine the opening of Oregon, there is not one which will be received in Europe with more profound attention, than the position he has taken in relation to our claims upon the Spanish monarchy, and the acquisition of Cuba by the United States government.

The wholesome tendency of our commerce towards the south, is trammelled, in a great degree, by the exercise of Spanish power in the maritime outlet of more than half the sovereign States of the country, but its relative position to the routes across the Isthmus, through our great Atlantic and Pacific domains, will enable it in a few years to command channels of American trade of the most gigantic importance to the welfare of our people on both sides of the continent.

Our interests on the Pacific shores are daily developing, by the opening of new routes to the western shore of our own possessions, and the commerce of Mexico, Japan, China, the Sandwich Islands, the Western Coast of South America, and even Australia and India, are inviting our most interested attention in this direction.

The universal approval of the nation must in this view of the matter, meet Mr. Buchanan's announcement in his message, that the settlement of our claims against Spain is to be "finally" attempted, and a negotiation entered into to purchase Cuba.

THE OTHER SIDE.

Mr. Editor—I have seen a manifesto addressed to the editor of the Erie City Dispatch and published in that and most of the other city papers, coming from Mr. Lane, President of the Erie Gas Company, in which manifesto it is most coolly and modestly asserted that, "the only reason why the lamps have not been lighted, that I am aware of, is, that a majority of the City Councils, without reason, in disregard of the public sentiment, and in violation of their contract made with the citizens and the Gas Company, have voted the light out and left the City in darkness."

Now, Mr. Editor, let us see who is guilty of this "violation" of contract between the citizens and the Gas Company. In 1855 the Gas Company procured the passage of a law authorizing the Councils to contract with the Gas Company for the lighting of streets, or parts of streets, whenever a majority of the property owners should petition for the same.

Indiana Senators.—Our readers are aware that the Legislature of Indiana recently passed a resolution declaring that the election of Messrs. Bright and Fitch "was illegal, unconstitutional and void, and that therefore, the State of Indiana is not, at this time, legally and constitutionally represented in the Senate of the United States."

"Nothing more, we presume, was designed to be effected by the passage of this resolution than to make a public expression of dissent from the conclusion reached by the Senate in its decision, and to stand as the formal utterance of the opinions of the majority of the Legislature in the premises. If the Senate had decided the question improperly, it forms a legitimate source of public criticism, but offers no occasion for any legislative proceedings on the part of the present Legislature of Indiana impeaching the constitutionality of the decision itself.

A SIGN.—On the reception of President Buchanan's Message at Middleburg, Snyder Co. the Democrats held a meeting in order to testify in a proper manner their gratification at the tone, temper and contents of this admirable and patriotic state paper.

The State Treasurer, by advertisement in the Philadelphia press, invites proposals for buying, from the lowest bidder, \$100,000 of the State five per cent. loans. The purchase will be made on account of the Sinking Fund, there being that amount on hand, applicable to the redemption of the State Debt.

Highly Important from Nicaragua.

We are indebted to the purser of the steamer Washington, for the following narrative:—The steamer Washington sailed from New York Nov. 7th for San Juan del Norte via Kingston, Jamaica, and arrived at Port Royal on the morning of the 14th, and anchored in the harbor.

The U. S. men-of-war Savannah and Jamestown, and English steam frigates Leopard and Valorous, (Sir Wm. G. Ouseley being on board the Valorous,) were in the harbor. Col. Childs, the company's agent, came on board and informed us that nothing had been heard of the arrival of the Hermann at San Juan del Sur, and that the Nicaragua Government refused to permit the passengers of the Washington to pass through the country, alleging that the passengers by the Washington were filibusters connected with the passengers on the Hermann.

On the evening of the 25th ship Capt. Leach, and flag officer McIntosh, arrived at anchor outside the harbor from Aspinwall, bringing the intelligence that the Hermann had arrived at Panama on the 7th and proceeded to San Francisco on the 11th.

The Philadelphia Press affirms that the Spanish Government has notified the State Department that Spain has declared war against Mexico. If the statement is true, it involves a hundred new issues in our political programme and must lead to important changes in the position and power of parties in the United States.

The assets of the Macon County Bank, of Michigan, which came into the hands of its Receiver, are reported to consist of bank notes to the amount of \$2, specie \$4 and notes of John F. Bell, New York, for \$75,000.

On the contrary the boat was not allowed to pass from San Carlos without an officer with a file of soldiers on board. The proceeds of a Virgin Bay, the officer being instructed not to allow the boat to land until he had ascertained that there were no filibusters at that point.

A FRENCH OUTRAGE.—By a private letter from French, Illinois, we learn that great excitement prevails at that place, occasioned by the statement of a married woman named Forcat. According to her story she had been to a neighbor's house, attending a prayer meeting, and returning home through a lot, was assaulted and dragged by two men, who threw her upon the ground and violated her, which (being eight months advanced in pregnancy) caused the birth of a child. Being unable to care for herself or care of the child, the villains took the infant, killed it, and taking its body with them, departed. The perpetrators of the outrage have not been caught, but if they are, they will be lynched.

Life in St. Louis—Bignay and Murder.

A certain Dr. E. Vander Roccoke, about a month ago came from Illinois, and settled in the practice of his profession in Fourth-street, No. 27, between Erie and State streets. Whilst residing in Illinois, he had occasional visits to this city, and formed the acquaintance of a very interesting young lady, Miss Mary Ann Linhoff, sister of Henry Linhoff, a well known respectable citizen, formerly in business with a gentleman named Poiret.

A few days ago an unlooked for revelation was made. Letters from another wife, in German, fell into the hands of the new Mr. Roccoke, and the latter's grief, as may be imagined, was excessive on learning that she had been so outrageously deceived, and she immediately sought the advice of her friends. The letters showed that Roccoke had been living under an assumed name, and that his real name was Leonard Edward Roccoke.

Against Hoffman, summoned by the County at an inquest yesterday, stated that on Tuesday he went to Mr. Henry Linhoff and apprised him of the shocking disclosures of the letters above mentioned, and consulted with him as to what would be the best course to pursue in order to protect his Linhoff's sister's honor.

After hearing the evidence, the Coroner's jury brought in a verdict that the deceased came to his death by a ball passing through the heart, shot from a pistol in the hands of Henry Linhoff. Hoffman was required to give bail in the sum of \$500 for his appearance at a witness.

From Washington, Dec. 15. There is now much less apprehension of trouble with Great Britain than was anticipated when the intelligence was first received respecting the recent events in Central America.

The rumors that the President contemplates sending Congress a war message are not well founded. The administration has still under consideration this important subject, and its most prominent feature is its action in relation to the next reasonable expectations of the country.

The treaties with China and Japan were also ratified and Hon. Mr. Preston confirmed as Minister to Spain; Gen. Ward, of Ga., as Minister to China, and Hon. J. Glancy Jones as Minister to Austria. On the last there was a party division.

Closing of the Mail at the Post Office.

New York, Buffalo, Washington and Baltimore, Pa., New Orleans, Mobile, Savannah, Ga., and all other places, will be closed on Saturday, Dec. 19th, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Several editorial articles, local and general, have been found on our first page to-day. C. W. Kuzio, Esq., is to lecture at the Lyceum on Monday evening, in this city, on the subject of "Individual Liberty."

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One of our exchanges says the director of the most profitable business in this city, is the sale of a very profitable city—every street is fashionable, getting more so every year.

Speaking of the gas company, we find some money lately, a little out of the ordinary business, that will prove a poor investment. We ask for information.

A food made in Washington, D. C., could not be eaten about half, he was severely violent vomiting, which will likely kill him.

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The Great Republic. The Great Republic is a new monthly journal, published by the publishers of the Erie Observer, at No. 114 William street, New York. It is a new monthly journal, published by the publishers of the Erie Observer, at No. 114 William street, New York.