

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

UNITED STATES.

Congress had reassembled. The President's message had been delivered to Congress on Wednesday.

We have intelligence from Kansas to the effect, that thirty-nine of the Free State prisoners at Leecompton had effected their escape without committing any violence.

The President's message occupies five columns of the New York *Evening Post*. We have only time to glance at it. It sets out with a furious libel on the people of the Free States, whom it accuses of cherishing the most malignant and implacable hostility towards their fellow-citizens of the Slave States and seeking to wrest from them their constitutional rights at the peril of involving the country in civil war. In this part of the message, President Pierce, falls into the vein of Bombastes Furioso, with his "burning cities, ravaged fields and slaughtered population, devastation and fratricidal carnage," and other frightfully grandiloquent phrases. He comforts the country however, with the assurance that all this has been prevented by the result of the last election, in which the North has been beaten, and the Southern doctrine of the "equality of the State"—that is to say, the right of the Southern Slaveholders to take their property with them to the territories has been established.

OREGON.—The Indian troubles in this Territory have recently been renewed, and threaten to become more serious and extensive than ever before. Gov. Stevens, who had advanced in the Walla-Walla country for the purpose of negotiating a general peace with all the tribes in that quarter, had been obliged to vacate the same, together with such United States troops as had accompanied him. The entire country to the north and east of John Day's River was, at last accounts, in the possession of the savages, numbering about 30,000, many of whom were armed with guns. Col. Steptoe had come into the Dalles with his command, abandoning the whole country above to the Indians, except one block-house held by fifty men, whom he intended to relieve as soon as he could procure forage. Governor Stevens had addressed the people of Portland, and stated that the Indians had acted faithfully in all their transactions with the whites, that nothing would satisfy them but an unconditional surrender of the entire country to the east side of Dalles, and that there remained only a prospect of another general war with all the tribes in that quarter.

SHIP BUILDING IN NEW YORK.—The New York Courier & Enquirer gives some facts relating to the business of ship building, from which it appears, that during the years 1856 there have been launched from New York ship-yards, 20 steamers, and 36 other vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 42,470 tons. There are also now upon the stocks, six steamers and ten other vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 13,000 tons. The Courier & Enquirer further states:

Our ship-yards present no new feature; all which are not closed are in a semi-dormant state. Some from which a number of ships have been launched, now have none on the stocks; and the prospects are not considered promising, by anybody. The stock of ship timber on hand has become somewhat reduced, and there is but little in the forests ready for market. There has been no advance in prices, however, and the quantity offered is quite small. The Navy Yard is purchasing ship knees at fair rates, but there is complaint of delay and want of due discrimination in the inspection, and parties who entered upon the business are about abandoning it, in consequence of the difficulties they encounter.

At the late anniversary of the Philadelphia Baptist Association, one of the churches reported the baptism of a lady one hundred and two years old. This, says a correspondent of the Examiner, is the most re-

markable instance of coming to Christ at the "eleventh hour," which has occurred within the Association since—ten years ago—Rev. R. F. Young, of Chestnut Hill, baptized the same day a man aged one hundred and one years, and his great-grand daughter aged ten, of whom the one remained four years maturing his Christian graces, and was then gathered as a "shock of corn fully ripe;" and the other to this day adorns the Christian life. Another remarkable instance was mentioned in the letter of the Tenth church, which had lost one of its members aged ninety-six, who had spent sixty-four years, the life of two whole generations, in the Christian conflict.

An old man named Wilson, aged 86, who recently died in Miller county, Illinois, left directions, that he should be salted down before being consigned to the grave. This singular request was complied with, and he was buried in a cavity of a cliff, at a depth of fifty feet.

FURS.—The *Journal of Commerce* states, that on particular inquiry, the fur trade in New York will reach \$1,375,000 this year. The price of American furs has lately risen considerably. Mink, which formerly commanded from 30 to 50 cents, is readily bought up by our furriers at \$3.50 to \$4; ordinary Western, which was worth 25 or 30 cents, now brings \$2.50; other furs, too, are much higher.

The *Journal* says:—"We lately saw a box of Russian sable, not more than three feet long, of camphor wood, which contained four hundred small skins, bearing the seal of the Russian Government, valued at \$14,000. Some of the skins cost \$52 each. A lower grade of inferior colour are worth \$23, and some not more than \$16. These are commonly sold at a profit of 30 or 33 per cent. Sixteen or eighteen skins are required to make a full-sized cape, so that the cost of a choice quality garment of this description would be about \$900. Adding the cost of making and the profit, such an article could not be procured for much less than \$1400. Hudson's Bay sable cost this year about \$25 per skin."

The mail from India brings the cheering news that the barrier of ages has been burst at last, and that a Hindoo gentleman has married a widow. Still further, it appears that an influential body of natives have petitioned the English Government for the abolition of polygamy. These are remarkable indications that the labors of the missionaries, continued through long years of obloquy or indifference, have not been in vain—that the seed they sowed, though it lay long dormant, is now showing itself in a flush of vegetation, which is not only valuable in itself, but still more so as a promise of better things to come.

It is doubted whether there is an appeal from the Archbishop's court in the Denison case after all. The *Daily News* says, it is rumoured that eminent legal authorities have given their opinion, that no appeal lies from the Primate's judgment and sentence. If this should prove correct, there will be ample reason for the dismay which even now is apparent in the Tractarian camp.

Our readers will learn with pleasure, says the *Record*, that one of the first acts of the Bishop elect of London has been to allow his name to be added to the list of Vice-Presidents of the British and Foreign Bible Society. We are not aware that any bishop of London has filled this office since the time of good Bishop Porteous, and we hail the fact, as one which augurs well for the Christian spirit in which the new bishop encounters the responsibilities of his new office, as well as for his appreciation of that blessed written Word, which Tractarians disparage by their traditions, and latitudinarians by their bitter attacks on its divine authority and plenary inspiration.

Gregory M. Wortsabet, the talented Oriental, who lectured to crowded audiences during his brief sojourn in Halifax, is now studying for the ministry in Princeton, and intends to return to Syria as a Missionary.

A man was charged before Lord Mansfield for stealing a punch ladle. The prosecuting counsel inveighed bitterly against the prisoner, declaring that he was an attorney, and had disgraced his profession. "Gh," said Lord Mansfield, "I don't think he can be an attorney, or else he would have taken the bowl as well as the ladle."

JUDICIAL PLEASANTY.—During the trial of a cause before Mr. Baron Alderson, at the Stafford Assizes, Mr. Huddleston was obliged to leave the court in consequence of his nose bleeding, on which the learned Baron facetiously remarked, that this was the first instance he knew of a learned counsel shedding his blood in a cause [much laughter].

A paper announces the marriage of R. Wolfe to Mary Lamb. "The wolf and the lamb shall lie down together, and a little child shall lead them"—after a while.

A person pretending to have seen a ghost, was asked what the apparition said to him. "How should I know?" he replied: "I am not skilled in the dead languages!"

MORTALITY.—One-third of the twenty-eight American physicians who went to Russia during the war have died.

A NEGRO BIGAMIST.—CHOICE OF COLORS.—A thick-lipped, flat-nosed negro as black as the ace of spades, was arraigned before the Recorder yesterday on a charge of bigamy the plaintiff being his first wife a white woman, whom he had married in New York. He is cook on one steamboat and she is chambermaid on another; A few weeks ago he deserted his white love, and married, in due form of law, another wife of his own complexion. When the case came up for examination yesterday morning, and the first wife was offered as a witness, the counsel for the defence objected on two points of law, which consort together rather strangely. The first was that, being the wife of the defendant, she was not a competent witness; and the other that being a white woman, our laws did not recognize the marriage as legal, and there was, therefore, no cause of action. The lawyers not having the books at hand to settle the debated points of law, the court continued the case until the afternoon. In the meantime, the parties made an amicable arrangement of the matter by the ebony husband agreeing to give himself up to his first love, provided she would withdraw the complaint. On leave being asked of the court for its withdrawal, it was granted, inasmuch as the offence was committed in another state, and the law could not compel a wife to testify against her husband.—St. Louis Ledger.

The almost total destruction, by an earthquake, of the town of Canea, the chief port of the Isle of Candia, on the night of the 11th of October, has already been announced; but the details which have now reached us represent that dreadful calamity as having been even greater than was at first believed. It appears that the town, a census of which was taken last year by Vely Pacha, the governor, contained 3,620 dwelling houses, of which there are only eighteen which now remain erect and habitable. The above number does not include the shops of storehouses, many of which were built of wood and have not been destroyed like the stone dwellings. The number of persons killed in that one night was estimated immediately afterwards at 230, but so many dead bodies have since been discovered in the ruins that the whole number is now calculated at not less than 750. The earthquake was not confined to the devoted town of Canea, but caused immense damage and loss in other parts of the island.—Several villages in the eastern districts were entirely ruined; and it is probable that the total number of human beings who perished throughout the island must be reckoned by thousands. There were more persons killed outright than were injured by the fall of their houses; and this is attributed to the peculiar construction of the houses in Canea, most of which had very massive roofs, and terraces on the top of them formed of solid masonry, beneath the ruins of which, the inhabitants were crushed in a moment. When the Pacha, accompanied by the French Consul, arrived at the scene of desolation, he

found the survivors of the population in the most wretched and miserable despondency; every one was wailing or weeping upon the heap of rubbish which had covered his home, without making an effort either to construct a shelter for himself or to extricate the remains of his friends who had perished; the maimed and the dying lay unattended, and the starving had no relief. These wretched people were gathered by the Pacha into an extensive mansion belonging to him at Retymo, which, being constructed of timber, had escaped the destruction. Every sort of comfort and aid was provided for them by his benevolent assiduity; and in the meantime an English engineer, Mr. Woodward, was employed to set up some wooden huts, in which they were subsequently lodged. No description can give any idea of the suffering and distress which the islanders have experienced.

On the cover of Harper's last Magazine, is the announcement of a new Periodical to be issued from their marvellous Laboratory on the 3rd January next, and to be called Harper's Weekly Journal of Civilization. They say that neither labour nor expense shall be spared to make it the "best Family Newspaper in the World." It is to contain 16 pages of the size of the London Illustrated News. We refer our readers to the Prospectus in the December corner for further particulars—only observing that this weekly may be had for about \$2 per annum.—Coming from a source of such acknowledged reputation, there can be little doubt that it will meet with a very extensive patronage.

Lord Palmerston's tour has been very successful, and it is thought that his Ministry is stronger than ever.

A sportsman in East Weymouth killed four wild geese at one shot in a pond where they had lit to rest. The *Niagara Gazette* says a boy snatched his flint gun at six wild ducks in a pond in that vicinity; it didn't go off, but as he took it up to fix the lock the ducks rose and the piece discharged itself, and killed every one of them!

CAPE DE VERDE.—The *Imperador* (s. s.), which arrived in the Mersey on Saturday morning from the Cape of Good Hope, reports that the male population of St. Vincent, Cape de Verdes, had suffered so much from cholera as to be almost annihilated. The bodies of the dead had to be burned on the public square for want of the means of burial. The *Imperador* was coaled by women.

Amongst the announcements of Murray, the great London publisher, is "Shall or Will; or, Ten Chapters on future Auxiliary Verbs," by Sir Edmund Head.

ANOTHER FATAL COLLISION AT SEA.—Capt. Robertson, of British bark Perthshire arrived at Savannah, reports passing, off the coast of Ireland the wreck of a ship which had been run down by a large vessel, supposed to be a New York packet. Capt. R. took off the wreck a Spanish sailor, but he could give no information as to the name of the ship. All the rest of the crew, 16 in number, perished.

THE WEST INDIA COMMAND.—Rear Admiral Sir Houston Stewart, K. C. B., is appointed Commander-in-Chief of the North American and West India station in room of Rear Admiral Fanshawe, whose term of service expires on the 23d. Mr. Arthur Jones (Paymaster), who was secretary to Sir Houston in the Black Sea and at Malta, will go in the same capacity to the West Indies, and Dr. William T. Domville, late Staff Surgeon in the *Agamemnon*, will be the Staff Surgeon of the Squadron. The *Indus*, 78, is the ship selected to bear Sir Houston Stewart's flag. She is fitting at Devonport Dockyard, and shipwrights have been taken from ships building to expedite her completion.

The Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, it is said, declined to preach a funeral sermon for an obnoxious deacon deceased. At length he consented, and took for his text, "The beggar died, and was buried."

The lost steamer *Lyonnaise* had a small freight valued at only \$50,000, and \$45,000 in specie—partially insured. She was built with seven water tight compartments, and if all of them were gone but two, the wreck would still float.