

THE ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.—In the House of Representatives on the 25th of March, Mr. REPELEY from the committee on naval affairs made a report on the subject of the expedition to the South Seas, recommending an appropriation for the purpose. —This report contains a letter from Mr. REYNOLDS in answer to a call from the committee for a statement of the advantages which commerce might expect from the expedition.

Mr. Reynolds furnished the committee with a full and satisfactory statement; the appropriation was made, and he is now in this city, fitting out the vessel of exploration.

Mr. Reynolds, in his statement, informs the committee that he had examined the following subjects—*Firstly*, the nature and extent of the whale fishery, and its importance to the welfare of our country—*Secondly*, the extent and character of the sea-otter skin trade—*Thirdly*, the fur seal-skin trade—*Fourthly*, the sandal wood trade—*Fifthly*, the ivory sea-elephant tooth trade—*Sixthly*, the land animal fur trade—*Seventhly*, the feather trade.

From Mr. Reynold's statement we learn that there are now engaged in the whale fishery about 150 American vessels, each capable of carrying, on an average, 2,000 barrels of oil. Allowing 1,200 barrels to each, with the proportion of candle matter, and 2 years for each voyage, we have 135,000 barrels a year, and the spermaceti candles amount to 837 tons. The whale fishery is decreasing in the places now frequented, and others must be found. Oil, of a less pure quality than that of the whale, for gas light, is increasing in demand, and the shoals and isles of the ocean must be explored for the porpoise and sea elephant. Other fisheries in high latitudes may be enlarged, such as the salmon and the cod, and a market will for many years be found in the South American provinces.

The sea otter trade is very profitable.—These animals have hitherto been found only between latitude 44 and 60 north. Naturalists can assign no reason why they should not exist in yet undiscovered land in the south. This can only be determined by an exploration.

The sandal-wood trade amounts to nearly half a million per year. When this wood becomes scarce, the nations of the few isles where it is found must be taught to cultivate it, or new groves must be sought in other regions.

The demand for fur seal-skins is increasing in this country, and the supply from the Pacific is diminishing. New islands must be found, where the animal has not yet been disturbed.

The Ivory trade is already important, and will become more extensive when the sea elephant is hunted for oil to supply the increasing demand for gas manufacturers.

The feather trade has not yet been followed in the Southern seas, where the immense quantity of sea fowl ensures an ample supply.

The articles exported for the south sea trade are all within ourselves, such as rice, tobacco, rum, whiskey, blankets, cocoa, woolen, cotton, trivial jewelry, &c.

In the Southern Polar Region, there are a million and a half of square miles entirely unknown. A coast extends more than 300 deg. in which the antarctic has never been approached, and there are immense regions within latitudes comparatively temperate, which are but partially known.

From these facts it will be seen that this expedition is closely connected with the interests of our country, while it cannot but add to its glory and fame.

N. Y. Courier.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER
From a gentleman attached to the board of commissioners engaged in locating the Wabash Canal, dated

Spy Run, Oct. 14th, 1828.

“Col. Asa Moore, Assistant Civil U. S. Engineer, died about the first of October, near the rapids of the Maumee, while finishing the survey of this Canal, through Ohio, to the Lake. He had about 17 miles to run, and the line would have been completed.

Mr. Moore's estimates of the expense of the Canal, from the state line to Tippecanoe, at something less than \$1,000,000. The lands are more than half the expense of the canal.

Gen. Tipton purchased at the Pottawattamie treaty, on the St. Joseph's of the Lake, held on the 15th of September last, the whole of the North East corner of the state, containing not less than 100,000 acres of land. It is said to be the largest body of good land in the state, comprising all the Elk Heart country, which for its fertility, is unequalled anywhere.

The public is really not apprised of the great services of this enterprising gentleman; his influence with all the Indians of Indiana, is unbounded—General Tipton was not one of the commissioners, they were Gov. Cass and Col. Menard, Indian Agent at St. Louis, but he obtained leave from the commissioners to treat with the Indians. I do not know the precise sum paid for the land, but it does

not amount to more than one tenth of former purchases, and very few reservations, and none of them larger than one section.

“Our Engineer has been unwell since the 6th of September, yet the commissioners are making every exertion, to locate the middle section of the canal, viz: from the summit, to the forks of the Wabash. They have been as busily employed as the sickness of the hands and assistants would permit. They may not be able to lay before the Legislature as much information as they may expect, but a sufficiency will be laid before them to enable them at the next session to act decisively on the subject, if ever.”

From the Boston Bulletin.

A Whale Story.—An Eastern paper contains an animated account of a novel circumstance which occurred in the river near the town of Harpswell. A shoal of large fish, of the grampus species, had entered the river, and by their puffing and blowing attracted the attention of the fishermen along shore, many of whom immediately assembled, and by dint of muskets and other weapons succeeded in driving the visitors up in shoal water. Here a battle royal took place—the fishermen, 22 in number, stimulated by the prospect of such rare booty, dashed in among the affrighted *grampus*, armed with all sorts of deadly instruments, which they plied in every direction with such effect, that in the course of a short time they had captured, sunk or destroyed the whole of the enemy's *squadron*, amounting to 71 taken, besides divers others sunk in the river.—Some of these marine animals were upwards of 20 feet in length; and the product of the whole is estimated at about seventy-five barrels of oil, worth 6 or 700 dollars. It is not precisely settled among the Harpswell ichthyologists, whether these creatures that live in the ocean and occasionally resort to the elements above it for respiration, are, or are not, *fishes*, according to the celebrated definition of Dr. Mitchell. Some call them *Blackfish* others *Puffish*, and others a sort of *Grampus*. They are described as having teeth, a dorsal fin, a fin on each side, and a horizontal tail; no gills, a heart, lungs, and warm blood; and a large spiracle in the upper part of the head through which they spout like the whale.

From the relation given of the achievements of these fishers, and of the zeal with which they assaulted their prey, the scene must have been worthy of celebration both by pen & pencil. The van of the attack was led by the worthy representative of the town, who, armed with a broad axe, sprang from his boat upon the back of the biggest monster among them, and thus seated astride, like Arion, or Sinbad the sailor, rode his strange steed a number of rods, cutting and hacking most industriously the whale, until at length both “the horse and his rider” reached the strand, where the finishing blow was given. Another adventurer, after several unsuccessful efforts by his brethren to secure an unmanageable *grampus*, waded forth to the giant, who lay floundering formidable in his rage, and seized him by the head; but the enemy, with a huge lurch, capsized his assailant, who was fain to make good his retreat to the shore. Another, drove two large fish to the beach, where he fastened them by ropes to some trees. And another, who had come in contact with one of the largest, thrust his fist into the spouting hole, expecting thus to stop his breath, and cause him to become more buoyant; but the experiment failed, and the adventurer came near being blown up by the monster's next sigh.

A Whaler.—The number of miles traversed by many of the Nantucket Whalers, in their daring pursuit, is almost incredible. There is one person belonging to that hardy Island, George Washington Gardiner, who has passed over a million of miles of the ocean, and taken one thousand and sixty-four whales. The whalers keep their memoranda, by sketching in their journals, the form of a whale, whenever they have succeeded in capturing one; and it would be considered the basest of forgery to make false entry of this kind.

Prov. Am.

Singular Circumstance.—We understand that a short time since, a little child, between one and two years of age, at Elmira, in this county, crept out of the house unnoticed by its parents and sat down upon the ground a short distance from it, and while playing with a pair of shears, the little speechless innocent had its attention arrested by the appearance of a Rattlesnake, and not aware of any danger, the child struck the animal with the shears—he coiled and sprung by the infant's side—the child gazed with the greatest intensity upon the beautiful though venomous reptile—and for a long time, as the child repeated the strokes, the serpent would hiss and rattle, without attempting in the least to injure the child. The snake was between 4 and 5 feet in length.—*Tioga paper.*

New York, Oct. 20.—A deputation of Winnebago Indians, under the charge of Messrs. Forsyth and Kuzie, arrived in

this city last evening. We understand they are on a visit to the seat of Government, upon business connected with the cession of an important district of country. This is the tribe who have been so restless and disaffected for many years; and we have been informed they are more savage in their character, and more dangerous to the frontier, than any of the other Indians. Independent, therefore, of any purchase we may wish to make of them, we think the policy of thus exhibiting the strength of the country to them, is a wise one; it may save an expenditure of blood and treasure hereafter. They will remain in the city a few days, to visit the forts and ships of war, and other works of the white people.

Newspaper Antiquities.—The first newspaper ever published in the British colonies, which are now the United States, was “The Boston News Letter,” from Monday, April 17, to Monday, April 24, 1704.” It was published by John Campbell, bookseller, who styled himself “Postmaster of New England, at Boston.” This looks as if Boston was then the only post office in New England; but it is probable that there were two or three more, altho' we cannot ascertain that there was any regular mail in the country at that time. The paper was printed in “Pudding Lane.” The first number contained only one advertisement, which was the publisher's own work. It was printed on half a sheet of pot paper, with a small pica type, folio. Some of the succeeding numbers contained a number of advertisements of two, three or four lines each, filling up part of the column at the end of the paper.—Such as—“Goods for sale, by A—W—, at No. 2, Newbery street”—Five shillings will be paid by J—T—, near the Post Office, to any one that will return his apprentice, E—B—, a runaway”—“P—W— has fresh goods for sale at his shop near the market,” &c. &c. The News Letter published for the week from May 22 to May 29, 1710, printed on an open sheet about one-third part as large as this paper, contains but one advertisement, which is in the following words: “Advertisement—Two Negro Women, one aged about 25, and the other about 30 years old, to be sold by Mr. Wm. Clark, junior, merchant, to be seen at his house in Common street, Boston.” It is in erecting to learn, in this land and time of freedom, that the first and only newspaper printed in New England, 118 years ago, contained a solitary advertisement, offering two human beings for sale!

The above facts are taken partly from Thomas's History of Printing, and partly from other sources. It would be but the gratification of a natural and laudable curiosity for some of the Boston editors of this day, to search out and ascertain the exact site of the original News Letter office in Pudding Lane. Having referred them to the “name,” we should be glad to see a description of the “local habitation.”

Brattleborough (Vt.) Mess.

New York, Oct. 23.

From Maderia.—We learn by the passengers in the schooner *Midas* arrived this forenoon, that on the 23d August, Don Miguel's squadron, consisting of one 74, 3 frigates, and 3 transports with 700 troops, had landed and taken possession of the island of Madeira. The Governor and Don Pedro's troops revolted and threw down their arms; the Governor made the best of his way on board of a British sloop of war for protection. Don Miguel had taken most of the nobility, put them in irons, and sent them on board of his ships for Lisbon. He had appointed all new officers for the island. From 2 to 3,000 of the inhabitants had left for the western island and foreign ports. Don M. allowed the people from the country to come down and rob and strip the inhabitants of every thing they were possessed of. The fleet was bound to Tevera, to force allegiance to Don Miguel; and when the *Midas* sailed, (16th Sept.) he was still in possession of the island.—*Statesman.*

From the Norfolk Beacon of Friday 17.

Banjitti routed.—A gentleman residing upon Broad Creek, in this county, about three miles from town, having a few days since, given an intimation to Capt. J. N. Gibbons, Inspector of this Borough, that a number of runaway Negroes were concealed in a covert in the woods of that neighborhood, whence they saluted forth during the night, and committed depredations on the corn fields, potato-patches, hog-pens, &c. of the farmers in the vicinity, he determined to explore their haunts and bring them to justice.—Accordingly, yesterday morning, attended by several of our police officers, among whom the Messrs. Cherry, Guy, and three others, Capt. Gibbons proceeded to the suspected place, and dividing his party into squads, diligently examined the recesses of the woods. The squad composed of Mr. Guy & Mr. Domeraville, upon arriving at the extreme end of Nimon's Point, discovered the ends of two pieces of scantling projecting out of the ground, at the top of a bank several feet above the level of the Beach, which was covered with

leaves.—Upon striking the bank with a stick, the hollowness of the sound indicated the want of solidity, and upon closer examination, and removing the leaves, they discovered a scuttle or door which evidently led to an apartment in the bank. This unexpected invasion of their retreat, aroused the tenants, who in a boisterous tone, forbade the entrance of their unwelcome visitors, on pain of death, & of one them fiercely brandishing a long knife to deter officers from their purpose.

Mr. Guy presented his musket and threatened to fire upon the negro who had the knife, if he attempted resistance. The fellow then dropped the knife and seized a large piece of wood, reiterating his threats of violence if they persisted in entering. Unapprised of the number of the inmates, Mr. Guy awaited the arrival of the whole party, for whom he made a signal. The whole of the officers having come up, surrounded the entrance of the cave and demanded the immediate surrender of the occupants. After many stout resolutions to resist to the last, appalled by the numbers opposed to them, and seeing them in the very act of firing, they, very prudently, determined to give themselves up, and both (for there were only two tenants to this subterranean abode) were secured and conducted to the Borough Jail.

Upon entering the cave, they found quite a commodious apartment, regularly excavated in the bank, and prepared for an abode of some permanence, being ceiled within, and stored with fresh and salted pork, several bushels of potatoes and corn, some green peppers and other articles of sustenance. The apartment was also furnished with some cooking utensils and crockery-ware, and two sleeping bunks. These were removed to a house in the neighborhood.

One of the negroes named Jim, is the property of Mr. William A. Lacoste, of this town, who acknowledged that he had been a tenant of this cave since March last. The other had lived with Mr. Robert Saunders in Princess Anne County. They confessed that they had been living by pillaging the neighborhood during the night, never venturing out in the day. It is believed they had other associates, but they would not admit it. Several female dresses were also found in the cave, which they confessed they had taken by force from the backs of women of colour.

Aerostation Extraordinary.—On Tuesday afternoon Mr. Green ascended on horse back, in his balloon, from the city road, London.

Mr. Green, giving an account of his ascent, states, that when he was released from the earth, the horse made several plunges, backwards and forwards and trembled violently, alarmed at the shouts which he distinctly heard till he had passed the Thames. The horse, however, in a few seconds regained his wonted serenity, and became quite passive, eating some beans from his hand, which by leaning forward, he could easily give him. Mr. Green then hung out a grapple to be prepared for a descent, and he goes on to state—“I then dismounted to arrange some ballast, but finding that my weight on one side threw the platform off its perpendicular, and considerably discomposed my little companion, I resumed my seat, and discharged a little ballast, and attained the elevation of about a mile and a quarter. Here I was visited by a fall of snow of the finest texture, which had, from the reflection of the direct rays of the sun from above, and the oblique rays from the clouds beneath, the appearance of a shower of silver dust. On descending a little the snow appeared changed to rain; but on a still further descent, neither rain nor snow was to be felt or seen, a circumstance not to me unusual. During these gradations the little animal appeared quite at home, and finished his bag of beans.—Having been in the air upwards of half an hour, I began to prepare for a descent, and which I effected at Beckenham, in Kent.”

The weight taken up in the balloon was as follows. The balloon and appendages, (including grapple, platform, cables, ballast, &c.) 500 lbs. Weight of pony, 258 Weight of myself, 148 Total, 906 lbs.

The next day he made another ascent from Beckenham with the remainder of the gas, and descended on Bromley Common.

Trespass.—A verdict of \$5000 has been obtained in New York city by John A. Sturtevant against Zera Waterbury and others, for a trespass in entering plaintiff's store removing his property and ruining him in his business, under pretext of securing a debt of \$200.

Washington Pa. Nov. 1.

A most cruel and cold blooded murder is said to have been perpetrated in Pike Run township in this county, on Saturday last, the particulars of which so far as we have heard, are the following;—Miss — McCrory of that township, had agreed to meet a young man of the

name of — Nixon of Fallowfield township, also in this county, for the purpose of paying a visit to one of her relations on the Fayette side of the Monongahela river, and the day above-mentioned had left home with this view. On last Monday she was found on or near the high road in the former township, dead, with her throat cut from ear to ear, a knife laying in her hand, and the hand cut also. Nixon was missing, and suspicion was immediately fastened upon him; after search he was found, apprehended, and we understand is in custody.

What increases the affliction and enormity of this case is, that the unhappy girl, it is said, had been seduced by Nixon, and was pregnant at the time.

Examiner.

Murder.—The Lt. Governor of Upper Canada has offered a reward of \$100 for the apprehension of a fugitive named John Christie, a native of Ireland, who is charged with the murder and robbery of a young man named Isaac James of Uxbridge, in the Home District, U. C. James was found dead behind a log heap near the road side in the Township of Whitechurch, on the 30th ult, and from several gun-shots and other wounds inflicted on his person, no doubt exists of his having been barbarously murdered. Suspicion fastened on the fugitive Christie in consequence of the deceased having left home for the purpose of conveying C. and family to York in a wagon; and the latter having absconded with horses and wagon.

The fugitive John Christie, the murderer of Isaac James, a young man of Uxbridge Canada, and for whose apprehension the Lieut. Governor of that province has offered a reward of £100, was apprehended with his wife and family, on Friday last, by Mr. Allen, of Troy, and lodged in the gaol of that city.

The African Colony.—The African Repository contains letters from Liberia, as late as the 22d July. The new settlement at Millsburg is doing well; every man has a good farm of great fertility, on which a plentiful crop is growing, and most of them have finished building their houses. A gun house has been built at Caldwell, another new settlement, and the houses at Half Way Farms a third are completed. The missionaries who had been sick are recovered and out of danger. A schooner which had previously been seen in company with two brigs of a suspicious appearance, cast anchor in the Roads on the 25th of June.—The Rev. Lott Carey directed for Norris Battery to be manned, and ordered out the two volunteer companies, also the artillery to support the guns and protect the beach. A shot fired at a little distance from the schooner, brought a boat to the shore with the Capt. and interpreter, who reported the schooner to be the Joseph from the Havana, which had been three months on the coast trading, but not for slaves—that she had been chased by a patriotic brig & had taken shelter under the guns of the fort, and that they wanted a supply of wood and water. Mr. Carey told the Capt. that he knew he was engaged in the slave trade, and that he would not aid him; and that moreover he gave him one hour and one only, to get out of reach of the guns of the fort, a privilege of which he immediately availed himself. An additional number of buildings are to be erected at Millsburg for the reception of from one hundred and fifty to two hundred emigrants, and for the purpose of strengthening the settlement.

Boring for Water.—An agent of Mr. Disbrow has been boring for water at Providence, R. I. with complete success. In one place, at the end of a wharf some hundred yards from the shore, the workmen penetrated through the “made land,” then through 20 feet of mud, then a bog meadow, from which excellent peat was brought up, then a stratum of sand, pebbles, and quartz gravel, and plenty of water impregnated with copperas and arsenic; and lastly, 3 or 4 feet further, and 35 feet below the bed of the river, a “vineyard,” furnishing vines, grapes, grape seeds, acorns, hazel nuts, pine burs, and the seeds of a variety of unknown fruits, and a spring of pure water.—Much speculation is excited among the curious by these discoveries.

A number of state prisoners are employed on Blackwell's Island, New York. They sleep in a temporary building and a guard paces before each door. On the night of the 6th inst. a black man named Smith rushed out, and on being called to stop, he threw two stones at the guard: when about to throw a third the guard fired upon him and badly wounded his left arm. On the morning of the 3d inst. a prisoner named Terry McDermott was seen sculling the only boat they had from the Island. He desisted when observed; but was not found until several mornings after, when his body was seen floating on the opposite shore with his prison clothes and a chain around his neck. These unsuccessful attempts did not deter another prisoner from taking his chance on the 9th inst. and he escaped.