

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Selected from Eastern Papers.

The *Journal du Commerce*, of the 24th, says that accounts from Constantinople to the 25th of June, state the news from the Provinces was not very encouraging.—The Janazaries of Belgrade were not affected by the knowledge of the fate of their colleagues at Constantinople; but unfavorable reports were received from other parts of the empire. It was said that the Janazaries of Philippolis and Adrianople were in open rebellion, and contemplated marching upon Constantinople. It is added, although with little degree of probability, that they had proposed to the Greeks to make common cause with them. The Paris Editor remarks, that it is difficult to obtain correct intelligence, as, under the existing state of affairs, persons were restrained from writing.

The squadron of Lord Cochrane was about to be re-inforced by two steam-boats and a 74.

The Constitutionel is enraged that Spain should purchase peace with Algiers, by the payment of 6,000,000 francs claimed by the Dey, and neglect the debt due France.

Letters from Rome, received in Paris, state that the Massacre at Missolonghi made so deep an impression on Leo X. that it was in contemplation to address a letter in favor of the Greeks to all Christian Potentates.

A letter from Napoli di Romania, dated July 7th, says—"In the Peloponnesus, there are five thousand Romeliots, and the natives have at length determined to act in concert with them, as well as the Mainiots. It is probable that Mr. Gordon, who has just arrived here, will put himself at the head of the Romeliots. This gentleman has remitted to Colonel Fabver 150,000 francs to supply the wants of his troops. Two vessels, one laden with cannon, and the other with coals, have arrived here, with news of the early coming of Lord Cochrane. The Greek fleet, consisting of 120 vessels, is scouring the Archipelago, fully determined to attack the enemy wherever he may be met. The fortresses of Athens, Napoli di Romania, Corinth, and Napoli di Malvoisa, are vacuated for one year, and old Nothao the most virtuous of our citizens, is making great efforts to visitual Corinth for three years. Forty cannoniers, the remnant of those of Missolonghi, are destined, by command of the government, to form the garrison of Bozzi, under the command of Mitros Deligeorgopulo, who is appointed commander of that fortress. It was he who commanded the cannoniers at Missolonghi.

ENGLAND.—The aspect of things in the manufacturing districts continues gloomy. Nor can we flatter ourselves, that there will be an early improvement in the condition of our country. The distress among the artizans in the interior is unabated, and it is, we fear, likely to increase. Several extensive manufacturers have, it is stated, resolved to limit the time of their workmen to only four days in the week, in consequence of the demand for goods being almost entirely suspended. When trade is in the depressed state which this fact indicates it is not possible, that the thousands of industrious men who have, for several months past, been out of work, can obtain employment to enable them to provide for their own wants and those of their families. The prospect, it must be confessed, is sufficiently discouraging.—The bounty of the benevolent and humane has done much to mitigate the sufferings of the unfortunate poor; but experience has demonstrated, that private charity is perfectly inadequate to supply the necessities of all those who are at present pining under horrors little short of destitution.—Government, we are assured, are anxious to do all in their power to mitigate the sufferings of the poor; but the evil under which the country is laboring is one which we fear, "neither kings nor governments can cure." Ministers cannot give an impetus to commerce, or revive trade, or impart motion to the looms; and until commerce is quickened, trade revived, and the loom once more in motion, the present unexampled distress in the manufacturing districts cannot undergo any sensible diminution."

PORTUGAL.—The new constitution being promulgated at Lisbon, was warmly received by the people. A private letter says that the Austrian Ambassador proposed to the diplomatic body to protest against the Portuguese charter. The British minister replied firmly that such a step was so unaccustomed in the right of nations, and such an attack upon the authority of kings, that he felt it his duty to repel the proposition. The French ambassador and the other foreign ministers then abstained. The French minister urged sir Charles Stuart very strongly to exert his influence to have the publication of the charter postponed until he, the ambas-

sador, should receive instructions from France; but sir Charles replied that he could not enter into such combinations. The most perfect tranquility prevailed at Lisbon.

It is confidently reported that the Austrian ambassador at Madrid, has declared to the *corps diplomatique*, the determination of the emperor not to consent to the establishment of the new Portuguese constitution.

[No doubt the charter is offensive to the "holy allies" and the adored king of Spain. We hope that it may upset the latter, and it probably will, if honestly administered a year or two.]

COLOMBIA.—Our accounts, as to the present condition and prospects of *Paez*, are not clear. Some hold out the idea that no other province had joined him, and that his schemes would soon die a natural death. Others affirm that Carthagena and Maracaibo had joined him. Bolivar, it is repeated, was speedily expected to arrive, and it was hoped that all matter would be peacefully adjusted.

(From the *Lebanon Gazette*.)

### INTERESTING DECISION.

The following decision by J. M. Houston, Esq. upon a subject interesting to many of our citizens, has, by request, been furnished for publication.

*Jacob Lawson, vs. Defendant is claimed as a person held to service or labor to the negro, or man of color* claimant under the laws of Kentucky, and as having escaped to this state. 1826, Sept. 4th, the claimant caused the defendant to be arrested and brought before me, and in support of his claim offered a bill of sale for the defendant as a slave, dated 5th March, 1815, and executed by William Lawson, of Scioto county, Ohio; he proved the execution of the bill of sale and the payment of the purchase money, by William Lawson, a son of the claimant, to have taken place in Fleming county, Kentucky, and that defendant had served Jacob Lawson and the said witness as a slave until about new year, 1825, when he was hired to one Drennon, with whom he stayed till in August, 1825, and then ran away, that said slave was about 13 years of age when bought by claimant—he also proved that the defendant at numerous times and places had acknowledged that he belonged to the claimant.—The claimant relied on the latter clause of the 2d section of the 4th article of the constitution of the United States, as also on the 3d section of the act of Congress entitled "an act respecting fugitives from justice and persons escaping from the service of their masters," passed in 1793. The defendant proved that the claimant had admitted that Thomas Lawson had been the former owner of the defendant, and had resided at the mouth of Tigert's creek Ky. near the bank of the Ohio river, and had hired defendant to William Lawson of Scioto county, Ohio, who lived in sight of him and where he had served a little less than a year, that William Lawson, then took defendant back to Kentucky, took a bill of sale of him from Thomas Lawson, and 8 days afterwards sold him to Jacob Lawson, the claimant, and relies on the 2d section of the 8th article of the constitution of the state of Ohio, as the guarantee of his liberty.

On the presentation of these facts, the object of our enquiry is whether the defendant is a slave escaped from the service of his master in another state, or a free man. The constitution of the United States, contemplates such a thing as slavery in the Union, and the common history of the country shows that the constitutions and laws of some of the states sanction the holding of persons of color as slaves, and that the construction given by their courts places all blacks & mulattoes in the class of slaves, and if any claim freedom the *onus probandi* rests on them, they must show that they are free. That the defendant at some date previous to March 1815, under the laws of Kentucky, was a slave to Thomas Lawson, seems to be tolerably well established by the evidence and admitted by the arguments of the defendant's counsel, although it is denied that he at any time was the slave of Jacob Lawson. There seems to be no doubt of the fact that the defendant, while he was the property of Thomas Lawson, served for some time with William Lawson in the state of Ohio, whether this was with the consent of T. Lawson does not so clearly appear from the evidence. Six witnesses who were all present and testify as to the fact as admitted by the claimant, differ as to the words spoken by him, but they are uniform in their understanding that the defendant was in Scioto county at work for William Lawson by and with the knowledge and consent of his master Thomas Lawson; and when we revert to the testimony that says that Thomas and William Lawson lived in sight of each other, there cannot remain a reasonable doubt that Thomas knew the defen-

dant was at William Lawson's, and knowing that the defendant was there, and suffering him to remain there so long a time, shows as clearly his consent. If then we believe as we must believe that the defendant served in Scioto county with the consent of his master, it was not an escape, within the meaning of the above mentioned section, of the constitution and law of the United States, as relied on by the claimant. For whenever the master consents that his slave may reside in any state, he also consents that he shall be subject to the operation of the constitution and laws of that state. It will not be said that when in Ohio, any municipal law of Kentucky could be enforced against the defendant.—The law and constitution of the United States, on the subject are rendered inoperative by the master's consent, and nothing at that time could prevent the full force and operation of the laws and constitution of Ohio.

But the evidence shows that after this service in Scioto county the defendant was taken to Kentucky, treated as a slave under the laws of that state, and served probably as much as ten years as a slave to Jacob Lawson, who purchased him of William Lawson of Ohio, who had purchased him of Thomas Lawson, after the before-mentioned term of service in Scioto county.

It has not been contended that hiring the defendant in Ohio for a term, then taking him back to Kentucky as a slave, was prohibited by any law of that state; indeed there seems to be little doubt that if the defendant had, after he was sold to Jacob Lawson claimed to be free in consequence of his having been hired out, in Ohio, the laws and courts of Kentucky would have decided against him, and if such a decision must have been applied to his case under these circumstances, he might well be said to owe service and labor to Jacob Lawson under the laws of Kentucky. And if Jacob Lawson never consented that the defendant should come to Ohio, by coming here has he not escaped from the service of his master in Kentucky? But he is now arrested in Ohio and presents this political paradox "a free man of one state and a slave of another at the same time." Thus, not only the rights claimed by these parties are brought in collision, but even the laws and constitutions under which they claim, seem to be at variance in this particular case. These should be reconciled if possible, and to do this it is only necessary to adhere to the true meaning of the word "ESCAPE" which is the hinge on which this question turns. To establish the claimant's right, it matters not whether the defendant escaped from the present claimant or from some other person from whom his title is derived, so that the chain of title be good and fairly made out. But the right to claim the service of the defendant has been forfeited or relinquished by any act of any person through whom the title is derived, the chain of title became defective from and after that date, and the services of the defendant cannot be claimed except in lieu of equivalent or stipulated wages to be received by the defendant agreeably to the constitution of Ohio. That this right of property was lost by the act of Thomas Lawson, hiring his slave to serve in this state there cannot remain a reasonable doubt. As this construction in some measure subjects the interior of this state to the evils arising from a black population, so would a contrary construction subject our southern frontier to all the evils of slavery, which in time would gradually extend throughout the state. Our constitution must be construed to protect us against the greater evil, we must look to our laws to protect us against the less. If the consent of Thomas Lawson has made the defendant free under our constitution, we cannot recognize him as the slave of Jacob Lawson who claims under him by the laws of Kentucky. The defendant therefore must be discharged.

### CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL.

The following information relative to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, which we extract from the *Cumberland Advocate*, confirms the views which we have already taken of the great reduction which may be made from the estimate of the engineers. It will be seen that the *maximum* calculation made in this extract is 10 millions, while the *minimum* computation brings the cost down to 8 millions. In a recent Pennsylvania paper it was stated that the expense of cutting the western canal in that State will not exceed the cost of making a turnpike road, about \$8000 per mile.—The difference between the estimates laid before the Central Committee, and those furnished by the great reduction which has recently sprung up among the canal contractors in Pennsylvania. To this spirit of rivalry, we believe, rather than to any incorrectness in the estimate of the engineers, at the time the information on which

it is based was obtained, must be attributed. The conflicting views which exists on the subject. There can, however, be no doubt of the truth of the reduced estimate, as it is on local and personal knowledge. As we entirely concur in the opinion that the facts ought to be circulated, in order to supersede the erroneous opinion which have been put into circulation as to the aggregate cost of this great work. We transfer the editorial article of the *Cumberland Advocate* to our columns, the information which can be obtained in relation to an enterprise affect such great and varied interests, is of value, and ought to be collected and combined, previous to the meeting of the Convention in Dec.

*Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.*—We have recently been favored with the personal letter from Gen. Bernard, chief of the Topographical Corps of Engineers of the United States. His estimate of the probable cost of the canal from tide water at Pittsburgh, is 20 millions of dollars though, says he, it has heretofore been set at 30 millions, it is probable that will serve to create a reaction in favor of the measure. We have also been favored with a copy of an analysis of the principal materials which will be used in the construction of the canal, of labor.

If the general was correct in his estimate of materials, work, &c. we would willingly agree with him that the aggregate of the whole work would be \$20,000,000. Indeed 20,000,000 would be a moderate estimate, were we to pay \$1 per day to common laborers, eight dollars per day and for bricks of a small size, say, by four inches, and two thick—four cents per bushel—stone at two dollars per perch delivered, and five dollars and twenty cents put in the wall; the basis of his estimates are equally high. In order to show the public how far the estimates of the General are above the cost of those articles, we will barely give their several prices in this country, which, too, many of our citizens were willing to deliver them at, on any point in the line of the canal, where limestone and clay can be obtained. Brick of the required size for the canal, can be had at one dollar per thousand, lime at ten cents per bushel, stone delivered within a reasonable distance, at fifty cents per perch, and in the wall at eighty-seven cents per cubic yard in abundance may be obtained at cents per day. Compare this estimate with the real prices of the articles, necessary for the construction of the canal, with the General's estimate, and you will find in many articles, he is at least three times too high. The canal, therefore, is costing \$20,000,000, will actually exceed \$28,000,000, or at the extreme not less than 10,000,000. This statement must be corrected before it goes before the public, lest the warmest friends of the canal should be frightened at the cost of the and desert it entirely. Put the cost of the General's estimate; even then it is the most profitable stock in which the general government could employ before we are permitted to take the N.Y. for a criterion. That the estimate of materials, labor, &c. is entirely too high, sure every practical man is prepared to say. General Lacock, who is one of the Pennsylvania Canal Commissioners, who is a man of practical knowledge, the construction of turnpike roads, &c. contends that the canal from the Ohio to Cumberland can be made for one and a half millions of dollars—and says, that he will contract to make that sum. Mr. David Shriver, who was lately attached to the States Board of Internal Improvement, so says, that he will join Gen. Lacock in the contract.

Gen. Bernard gives the most full account of his late surveys and observations of the Will's creek and Cass route, and states that there is no route in this route which cannot very easily be overcome.

*SINGULAR.*—A little circumstance has been related to us lately, which has most every thing of the kind we have collected to have heard, even in the neighborhood of witchcraft. A gentleman in the neighborhood discovering some unusual tokens attending the death of one of his children, had the curiosity to open the child, when, lo and behold! he found two of hog's bristles secreted in the stomach of the beast, 5 to 7 inches long. How these bristles got there is a conjecture. Some suppose that they were taken into the stomach by the pursuit of salt, during hog killing. We believe that by the regular movement of the digestive powers they had been collected into solid bodies and rolled into balls. We believe that nature had no hand in this singularity, and lay it to some familiar

*Ind. Palladium.*