

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Selected from Eastern Papers.

Russia. A Boston paper says—The whole number of conspirators convicted by the high court of justice is 118—Some were convicted of a design to commit regicide and other murders; some of exciting revolt and rebellion; and others of participating in the military insurrection and assassination at St. Petersburg. They have been sentenced as follows:—

To be drawn and quartered,	5
To be beheaded,	31
To suffer civil death, and be confined for life to hard labor in the mines,	17
To hard labor in Siberia for a term of years, with deprivation of rank of nobility,	33
To perpetual exile in Siberia,	15
To transportation for life,	3
To degradation to the ranks,	9

118

Most of the above sentences, it will be seen by a previous article, have been commuted. Those sentenced to be *quartered* were hung; those to be beheaded, have been ordered to be imprisoned for life; and the terms of the exile of others have been shortened.—A large part of the convicts were the younger branches of high nobility, and officers of the army and other establishments of the empire.

Greece. Speaking of the enterprise and devotion of the Greeks, a late writer says, "Look to the little islands of the Archipelago—to Hydra, for example: who are its inhabitants? Why, the *degenerate* Greeks. A few fishermen first fixed themselves on this rock, on which there is neither a single blade of grass, nor even a spring of water. Others gradually came from the continent, and settled. They purchased permission from the Porte to govern themselves. As soon as this was granted, the little colony thrived; they built ships, formed a commerce, and soon a fair town arose; and the astonishing number of 40,000 inhabitants found a refuge from slavery on this rock. The Condurioti family acquired, it is said, a million during the last war, and it was from this spot that the revolution emanated. This little rock is still the hope of Greece, although now their riches are gone—expended for the common cause.

"Will you talk to me, of selfishness, when men, possessing wealth and comfort, thus ruin themselves for their country's sake? Or will you tell me there is no virtue in a people, whose women even fight? They are brave, sagacious, and cunning; and they only want enlightening to vindicate their descent. They are a barbarous people, and that is the secret of the diversity of opinion concerning them.

"The industrious islanders will never submit. Already they have planned their own exile. A friend of mine saw a letter yesterday which states, that to a man they have determined, in case of the worst, to leave their homes, and embark for America."

[Let them come—if come they must! We have bread enough, and to spare—land enough—and all the civil rights and social blessing that men can be expected to possess; and the sceptres of kings, the tails of bashaws, mitres of bishops, or even the standard of the prophet, are things that we laugh at, except as those who use them honor them.]

AFRICA. The Brazilian brig Natuno, with 33 slaves has been captured and sent into Sierra Leone, by the British ship Esk. While in charge of a prize master and a few seamen, the Natuno was spoken by a strange vessel, said to be the Spanish brig Carolina, armed with 10 guns, and manned and fitted for the slave trade, which would have recaptured the Natuno, but for the firmness of the prize master—who shot the officer from the Carolina, when he attempted to force himself on board, and sustained a battle with the pirates for an hour and three quarters, by which one of the recaptured slaves were killed. If the British should meet with the Spanish vessel, it is probable that *justice* will be rendered to the crew, by spilling them in the ocean, in consequence of the battery and destruction of their floating hell.

The French government appears to be exerting itself in good faith, to suppress the slave trade; and has a frigate and seven other smaller vessels of war on the African coast.

COLOMBIA. Mr. Watts, our chargé d'affaires at Bogota, has not been assassinated, as was so absolutely reported. Letters from him dated the 10th of August have been received.

Affairs are yet in a very unsettled state in Venezuela, and some of the adjacent provinces—but blood had not yet been shed, and a hope exists that good order may be restored, without proceeding to extremities.

Buenos Ayres is more closely blockaded

—eighty Brazilian vessels of war are in the river. Partial engagements take place between some of the vessels of the opposing squadrons. The Chilian squadron was expected.

PERU and BOLIVIA are considerably disturbed. The people as yet do not know how to manage themselves as freemen, and rather desire, and perhaps, need, a strong government, for the present.

From Miner's Journal, September 30.

SPIRIT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

All our great public improvements, the canals, are rapidly progressing to completion. The Schuylkill navigation may be said to be now finished, and ready to undergo the best test of utility, a full trial. The Union canal is also very far advanced. The greater part of the excavations have been made, the locks are nearly completed, and the tunnel is in a forward state, the water house is up and the great dam nearly finished. The labor which has been performed upon this canal is prodigious; and the work, in particular the locks, executed in a style deserving the highest commendation. From appearance, there is every probability the works necessary to supply the summit level with water from the Swatara feeder, will be completed before the termination of the present season. The great Pennsylvania canal is also being executed with great diligence. We speak in relation to the eastern section, that portion which extends from the Union canal, at Middletown, nearly to the mouth of the Juniata, a distance of 23 miles. The western section, 25 miles, in the vicinity of Pittsburgh, we are informed, is also under contract, and the work going on rapidly. The Chesapeake and Delaware canal is daily becoming more and more an object of attention and interest to the Susquehanna traders. Of the state of this work we cannot speak with much confidence. Great vigilance, however, is exhibited in pursuing the work, but some formidable obstacles to its progress have presented themselves, in the want of tenacity of some parts of the ground through, or rather over which the canal has to pass. The parts alluded to are bog or quicksand, and swallow up every thing placed upon them; earth, stones and timber, in large quantities, disappearing in rapid succession. Even piles, it is said, driven to the depth of forty feet, do not retain their erect position for any great length of time. Measures, however, are in progress to overcome these difficulties; and the power and perseverance with which obstacles are met, are an earnest that this great national work will be steadily prosecuted to completion.

In the list of public works, the improvements of the Conestoga, by a few enterprising citizens of the city of Lancaster, is not undeserving a place. It is, it is true, limited in extent, and in some respects but of local interest, but it is evidence that the spirit of enterprize is awake, and it repels the charge that the people of Lancaster are hostile to public improvements. The Conestoga is a fine stream; and the object of the improvement is to render it navigable by dams and locks for a distance of 18 miles, from the city of Lancaster to Columbia, on the Susquehanna. The dams and locks are of timber, the interstices filled up with loose stone, and the whole faced or lined with plank—a plan in our opinion which nothing but its cheapness can recommend. The locks are formed in the dam, that is, extending from the face or breast of the dam the whole length of the lock up into the pool. An innovation which we fear in this case will be found to be inconvenient. One section of the canal is completed, and a pleasure boat placed upon it, which affords a delightful source of recreation in an afternoon's sail or ride.

Upon the opposite side of our state the amalgamated company of the Delaware, Hudson and Lackawaxen canal are pushing forward their work with much spirit and enterprise. The canal from Kingston on the Hudson, to Carpenter's Point on the Delaware, a distance of 70 miles, will, it is said, be completed the present season. The canal will then be extended 20 miles up the Delaware to the mouth of the Lackawaxen, from thence up the Lackawaxen about 40 miles, by a route not fully agreed upon, with the addition perhaps of a rail road to the Lackawaxen coal mines. This, by a route of about one hundred and thirty or forty miles, will open an extensive body of coal to the N. York market.

In the interior of our state, many valuable though minor improvements are being made, and several as extensive and important as any yet undertaken are in contemplation. Almost every town and village in the state, as far as our knowledge extends, is increasing the number of its inhabitants, and those generally of a very respectable quality. Roads are being made and repairing; in truth there is yet much room for improvement. Manufactories are daily gaining ground, and generally, the appearance of the people and the country, indicate that the former are in possession of at least a competence.—The most important contemplated improvement is a canal upon the north branch of the Susquehanna, and down the main stream to the Chesapeake. The necessary surveys have been made and measures are taking to have this extensive and very important enterprise, brought fully and forcibly before the public and councils of the state.

In addition to the survey above mentioned, two others have been completed, one upon the west and the other upon the north branch of the same river. The former relative to the location of the Pennsylvania canal, upon which we understand a report has been made, that a further examination of the Summit Level is necessary to a decision as to the route of that canal. The latter survey has been made by what is termed the river party, with a view to the improvement of the bed of the river. This party passed Danville on their way down the river, on the 19th inst. The river commissioners continue their operations in clearing out the channels of the Susquehanna. We saw several parties blowing rocks and removing stones from the bed of the stream between Harrisburg and Sunbury.

Another invaluable source of wealth, our coal mines, is daily attracting more and more attention. An extensive and valuable bed of coal has been opened and worked within a few miles of Danville, and some additional discoveries have been made upon Stony creek, by the Susquehanna and Dauphin company, and in the vicinity of the Swatara by individuals. There are mines now opened upon the Lackawanna, at Wilkes-Barre, at Dauphin, Peter's Mountain, the Swatara, the Lehigh and Schuylkill. From the Colossus upon the Lehigh, to the infant upon Stony creek, the busy note of preparation is heard, some, we presume, for work, others for speculation.

Colonel M'Kenney, who was associated with Governor Cass, for the purpose of making a treaty with the Indians of the North-west, has returned to this city, the objects of the mission which was entrusted to these gentlemen by the Secretary of War having been fully accomplished. In the few months which this mission has occupied, upwards of 4000 miles of territory have been traversed, including a voyage of about 2000 miles which was accomplished in a birch canoe. A great scope of country has been traversed by the commissioners, which is entirely unknown to us from any information which may be relied on. It is to be supposed therefore that much valuable knowledge relative to the country itself, and the manners, and character, and customs of the tribes which dwell there, must have been obtained. We are assured, that a great variety of very interesting materials have been collected; and we understand it is the intention of Col. M'Kenney to prepare these materials for publication. As every thing which tends to illustrate the history of our country, and the habits and traditions of the original inhabitants, must be valuable and instructive; and as we are aware, from the characters and qualifications of the gentlemen employed on this mission, that they have suffered nothing which invited and justified the labor of investigation to pass by unexplored, we cannot, for a moment, doubt that the work of Col. M'Kenney, if indeed such a work be contemplated, will make a very useful addition to our domestic literature.—*Nat. Journal.*

The leading article of the last Nashville (Tennessee) Whig, commences thus:

"Matters and things.—We have heard that several duels are in embryo, but, as yet, we have seen nothing of a more hostile character, than a few "paper bullets of the brain," except, now and then, the muzzle of a pistol peeping from under a coat tail."

This is the paper edited by Mr. Erwin, who has recently challenged Gen. Houston, of the House of Representatives, for having calumniated his character. This challenge Gen. Houston declined; and, judging of the future from the past, it is to be apprehended that assassination may ensue.

In another part of our paper will be seen the account of the murder, in Kentucky, of Dr. Brown, the brother of the American minister in Paris, and well known to and highly respected by many persons in this city.

These occurrences have now become so common in the west, that except when, as in the case of Dr. Brown, they involve the fate of some individual whose character and talents have made him known to the Union, they pass by almost unnoticed, and always unproven. And yet what can be more shocking—what state of barbarism

worse—claiming to belong to a civil and Christian country—boasting of the quality and efficiency of our laws, and the tendency of our institutions to promote a higher degree, than those of any other country, the great objects of social existence, "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," we yet daily witness the unfeigned perpetration of crimes, that would concern every conductor of a public spirit that leads to these evils, it still more concerns every individual among us, to avoid the society of, and especially to deny all confidence, friendship and honor, to those who are, or have been, parties to such broils. The act of fighting a duel, reprehensible as it has yet in it something of chivalry—of honor and manhood. It is in the face of day, with equal arms, a common peril. But the habit of carrying concealed arms—of entering society with a dirk or pistol in one's bosom, to be used on any provocation, whether gross, and in any presence, as sometimes unarmed, at others as well-armed individuals—without attemptation or reconciliation—and without respect for the laws of God, or of man—surely is a state of things which every consideration of good order, morality andigion should induce the public to put—and it is by public opinion only that can be done—for in a country where laws are made and administered by living under them, unless public opinion plainly expressed, be brought to bear in principle and feeble in execution, above all, let it not be seen that any whose earlier life has been a series of bloody broils and licentiousness, shall be put forth as a candidate for the high honors of the nation.—*N. L.*

SYMMES' THEORY. Mr. Reynolds delivered and repeated his course of lectures at Baltimore, on the new theory of the form of the earth, to very numerous and respectable audiences—and the attention paid to him was conclusive evidence of the interest felt in the facts and calculations which he has collected and adduced to the subject, and every body was pleased with his manner, which is, indeed, most merrily happy.

It does not appear to be Mr. Reynolds' main purpose to insist upon the supposition that the earth is hollow, and capable of sustaining multitudes of organized beings like unto ourselves, or others with whom we are acquainted, within, though analogies are certainly very curious and interesting, and the use that he makes of them exceedingly ingenious—but the of his facts and reasonings are chiefly directed to make us believe that the state of things beyond the icy circle is very different from that which has been generally believed to exist, and in this he has been measurably successful—for we hardly doubt that many animals go on to the north to avoid the severe winters, in the highest latitudes of the north with which we are acquainted. With this in his favor, his claims to engagement in his projected voyage of discovery to the south, beyond the ice, are powerfully urged on those who are the means and the public spirit to promote the cause of general science. The splendid undertaking, and does not promote the cause of general science at that quarter, as the British are so far attempting in the opposite direction as we apprehend, for the discovery of a north-west passage, for that would be less if discovered—but to add to the extent of human knowledge, and do it if possible, the figure and condition of earth at the pole.—*Niles.*

THE JEWS. Though a little paper complimentary to ourselves, as it came from Baltimore, was prepared for the past week, it was accidentally omitted, intended to have said, that at the last meeting for members of our city congregation, the gentlemen of the Jewish persuasion chosen by the suffrages of a large number of the citizens of their several wards, S. Etting and J. L. Cohen. They are as we would (in the language of Hebrew IV.) introduce either to the friends and enemies of our city. They are Jews ever elected by the people in Maryland, being until lately denied the rights of citizens, by the constitution of the state. Mr. Etting has been elected president of the first branch of the congregation.—*Niles.*

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