

LETTERS FROM MISSISSIPPI.

The following article, giving a description of a part of the Mississippi Country, is published by request. It is one of a series of letters written for the "Mississippian," a paper printed somewhere in that State.

JACKSON is the political capital of the state of Mississippi—having been selected as the permanent seat of government until 1850. The seat of government was temporarily located there about fifteen years since; but owing to the uncertainty of its permanency, scarcely any improvements were made until since the Convention settled for a time, at least, that long agitated and perplexing question. Since that time, the town has been improving at a rapid rate; and nothing but a want of materials and workmen, has prevented the erection, ere this, of many valuable buildings. A steam saw mill having got under way in the vicinity of the town, and the high prices paid for mechanical labor having attracted workmen from a distance, it is now a reasonable calculation, that improvements in Jackson will progress with rapid strides. A splendid state-house—one which, when completed, will we hope, do honor to the state—is under contract, and will be finished with all possible despatch. A college—no! An academy—no!! A school house—no!!! Not even a school house is yet to be found, to give evidence of the disposition of the inhabitants of the Capital of Mississippi to encourage literature. A splendid brick church!!—will my readers pardon my blunders? I am endeavoring, with all the state pride of a full-blooded Mississippian, to describe the capital of my state; and is it a matter of surprise, that colleges, academies, churches, and other similar appendages of large towns, should occasionally rush into my undisciplined mind, and drop from my unpracticed pen? Oh! tell it not in New York, publish it not in the streets of Philadelphia, that the seat of government of the proverbially wealthy, exceedingly fertile, and highly interesting state of Mississippi, contains not a single church!!! But to guard our friends in "the land of steady habits," and more especially our recent European visitors, Madam Trollope, Captain Basil Hall, Mr. Fiddler, &c. from the impression that we are altogether in a state of heathenism, I would observe that the state house—(should the friends alluded to pass a sabbath in Jackson, I hope they will not mistake it for a barn or a stable)—is occasionally used for the purpose of divine worship; and two of the citizens of Jackson minister at the altar. And though it may seem strange for such a wilderness country, there exists there an organized church and a temperance society. But the periodical press—the glory of this republic—is the forte of Jackson. From this fountain of intelligence there issues forth, weekly, two streams, which, though the ingredients infused into their waters by the respective individuals at whose bidding they flow forth, are of directly opposite natures, are, nevertheless, both intended for the healing of the nation. Both of these individuals are zealously engaged in issuing forth their weekly exhortations to their respective partisans, warning them to beware of the nefarious plots and designing intentions of their opponents—exhorting them to touch not, taste not, handle not the poisonous, though tempting cup which is concocted for their taste. Now, may it not be the case that these individuals, so seemingly opposite in their politics, are, nevertheless, each actuated by motives of true patriotism, differing only in the use of the means to promote the same end, i. e. "the greatest good of the greatest number?" Having no pretensions to the character of a politician, I pretend not to decide the question, but would merely ask, as one interested, do not other subjects, as well as politics, demand the attention of an editor who caters for the public taste?—who labors for the public good? Is every individual in the community a politician? Were I asked for an answer to the question, "why are three foreign papers taken in Mississippi to one published in our own state?" I would answer unhesitatingly, because of the destitution of miscellaneous intelligence in the home paper. Instead of devoting a portion of their columns to education, internal improvements, agriculture, temperance, and other subjects of general interest, our editors fill their papers weekly with a mass of politics, which few of our common farmers, or men of business, have a sufficient degree of moral heroism to wade through.—But to return from this digression, (for which I beg pardon,) to the town.

Jackson is situated on Pearl river, at a point to which steam boats ascend at a high stage of water. The situation of the town is beautiful, being an elevated plain, sufficiently undulating to drain itself of a superabundance of wa-

ter, and yet far from being hilly. It contains a population of six hundred, 6 mercantile houses, 10 lawyers, three physicians and two ministers.

I shall next notice CLINTON, which but for the fact that Jackson is the seat of government, would be entitled to a place at the head of the list. This place contended, and with good prospects, for the seat of government, from its origin, until the decision was made by the Convention. Clinton is an excellent site for a large town; not so much on account of the beauty of the immediate spot, where the commerce of the place is carried on, as for the many splendid situations for private residence within the environs of the town. Beautiful streams of limpid water flow forth on every side of the village, furnishing a great desideratum, especially to a place containing, as I am told it does, a Temperance Society of 100 members. But the glory of Clinton is her institutions of learning and religion. Of the former is the Mississippi College, with which is connected a male and female department; over the former of which departments presides as President, Rev. Daniel Comfort, a gentleman whose character, as the head of a literary institution, is such as to need no praise from a newspaper scribbler.—Suffice it to say, that he has sustained the institution over which he now presides, under sacrifices of a personal nature, to which nothing could have induced a submission, but a sincere desire and disinterested regard for the welfare of the College. May he yet live to reap the reward of his labor! Over the female department presides at present Mrs. C. M. Thayer, a lady who has had great experience in her profession, and whose literary qualifications are undoubted. The male department numbers about one hundred students; the female, 80. An infant school in connection with this college, has been spoken of, but is to be regretted that it has not yet gone into operation. There are four respectable brick buildings belonging to the seminary. The main college edifice occupies a site, the beauty of which could scarcely be surpassed.

There are two brick churches in Clinton; one belonging to the Methodists, the other owned by the Presbyterians and Baptists jointly. There are at present residing in that place, a minister of each of the following denominations: Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian. Divine service is performed in the churches alternately, every Sabbath, and the congregations are usually large.

Clinton contains a population of 700, ten stores 2 apothecary shops, 17 lawyers and 7 doctors.

Such ample justice has been done to Amsterdam, in the last twelve months, (for I believe there are few newspapers of much celebrity in the United States, in which its praises had not been sung) that I shall content myself by observing that it is a thriving little village, with a population of 200, situated on Big Black river, about 100 miles above its junction with the Mississippi. When standing on the bluff you behold the ox, the horse and the mule teams, from Simpson, Rankin, Madison and Hinds, and half a dozen other counties in the interior, heavily laden with the products of the soil, or returning from market, richly freighted with "up country" produce thronging the roads, and espy at a distance a four wheel carriage approaching with great velocity, which the shrill sound of the "herald of a noisy world" proclaims to be the "United States mail stage." And then cast your eyes downward, to the landing, and behold there, safely moored, the steam boat *Privateer*, with some half dozen barges and keel boats, while a bellowing from below announces the speedy approach of the *Coyuga*, and a puffing from above proclaims the return of the *Choctaw*, from a visit to the country of her namesake. When viewing Amsterdam under these circumstances, the beholder might be disposed to acquiesce with me in the assertion, that it was "a thriving little village;" aye, and that half of its praises had not been told. Amsterdam contains a church and temperance society. All the towns in Hinds anticipate a great acquisition to their commerce, by the construction of the rail road from Jackson to Vicksburg.

WABASH BILL.—For the information of our readers we mention that the bill appropriating \$20,000 for the improvement of the navigation of the Wabash river, is held up by the President for consideration, and not vetoed as reported. The President having signed a bill appropriating land to enable Indiana to connect the Maumee and Wabash rivers by a canal, induces as to believe he will sign this bill, as it will only continue the improvement, and make the passage of boats certain, when the canal can be passed.

New-Albany Gazette.

MEXICO.

The packet ship Congress, Captain Collins, from Vera Cruz, has arrived, and brings advices from the city of Mexico to the 3d of June, and from Vera Cruz to the 10th of that month.

Indirect intelligence from Mexico by the way of New Orleans had already prepared us to learn that political affairs there were in a very unsettled state, and this the present arrival fully confirms. So contradictory, however, are the accounts, and so various the opinions expressed, according to the predilections of the different writers that it is totally impossible to form a correct opinion of the existing state of things in that country, or of the precise causes which produce them. The interest too which we are accustomed to feel in the fate of this and the other new Republics in our southern hemisphere, is fast dying away under the instability of all the different governments they have essayed, and the conviction which is gaining ground, that they possess few or none of the capabilities of self-government.

Santa Anna, who, but so lately was the hero of a new revolution, and afterwards elected to the Presidency of the Republic is now by some represented as having deserted the cause he pretended to espouse, and to aim at consolidating all power in his own hands. Santa Anna, who but lately promulgated a decree, depriving the Romish Church of some of its greatest privileges, is now represented as making common cause with that church, in opposition to the interests of the people. This much is certain, that the Church is at the bottom of the present disturbed state of affairs. We do not wonder at it—Deeply rooted as is the influence of the Roman Church in the mother country, it exercises a still greater power over the minds of the mass of the people in the countries which were once its colonies, and we are well convinced that no government can exist there in tranquility for half a century so come, which does not respect these opinions or prejudices, whichever they may be called, in their full extent.

The city of Vera Cruz continues its adhesion to the cause of Santa Anna. Tampico, on the contrary has declared against him. The convoy for Vera Cruz had been stopped, and the money withdrawn which was to be forwarded by it.

Many of the members of the Legislature had been arrested by order of the Government, and a new Ministry formed. The Congress had suspended its sittings in consequence of an order from Santa Anna.

The State of Puebla had declared against the government and a force had been despatched from Mexico to reduce it to submission. In many other places similar examples of disaffection had been shown. We must wait further accounts ere we can judge of the relative strength of the Government and its opponents.

FRANCE.—We learn that among the passengers, by the North America, is Theodore Sedgwick, Jr. Esq. bearer of despatches from Mr. Livingston, our Minister to France, to this government. The French government, after long delay has also consented to give us copies of the decisions by which the condemnation of those vessels was made. Mr. Sedgwick, we learn, is the bearer of the original ship's papers. It may be inferred from being sent at the present time that Mr. Livingston entertains full confidence, that at the next session of the Chamber of Deputies funds will be appropriated to carry into effect the treaty concluded with Mr. Rives.

[N. Y. Ev. Post.

THE POLES.—Great and liberal exertions are making in our various cities, thorough churches, theatres, and private donations, for the relief of the exile Poles. Those ardent friends of freedom, who once occupied such a vast extent of territory, and whose population exceeded 22,000,000, (nearly equal to that of the British Isles and about double that of the United States) are now banished from their country, scattered over the face of this habitable globe, and left in their feebleness to the mercy and hospitality of their fellow-beings. Many have sought the "asylum of the oppressed," and it is to be hoped they have not sought in vain.—A spirit of sympathy must exist within the bosom of every patriot, merely from the truth of their having suffered every privation and want, and shed their blood to throw off the same yoke of bondage and oppression which our forefathers labored under; and in their support of the principles of liberty with Pulaski, Kosciusko, and others, have been blotted from existence as a free and independent nation. To aid such a People, must reflect the highest honors upon American philanthropists.—Pa. Argus.

WEST POINT ACADEMY.

When the West Point School was about to be founded, there were many, who did oppose it upon pure Constitutional doctrine.—It was considered as a stretch of power beyond the limits prescribed to the Federal Government in the Constitution. Many doubtless, had seen the evil results that arise from similar institutions; and they opposed it because in principle it did not accord with our republicanism. They, perhaps, perceived that in time it would become a place where the aristocratic part of the community alone would gain admission, and that the doors would be shut to the poor man's son for want of conspicuous names to fill his list of recommendations. All of which has become true, too true to be denied. I will here insert a few remarks from a late traveller, to show that every stranger cannot but perceive that there is "partiality" existing in its management.

"It has been made a subject of complaint that too large a proportion of those admitted are the sons of wealthy parents not designed for the army, while the poor are almost debarred from the gratuitous advantage of such an education." We have proof daily that it is growing, not only mischievous to democracy, but it is encouraging aristocratical principles in our army. Examine the army of England and then that of America; on one side they purchase their commissions; on the other they are bestowed by favoritism; but the poor man's son has neither wealth to purchase nor conspicuous friends to intercede.

AMERICAN FEELING.—The mob that attacked the house of Mr. Lewis Tappan, in New York, on the 9th ult. were for a moment arrested in their work of destruction upon the furniture by the discovery, that they were about committing to the flames the likeness of "Washington." A general cry was sent forth—"it is Washington; in the name of God don't burn Washington." The painting was thereupon borne off in triumph by the populace, and safely deposited in a neighboring house.

[Commercial Adc.

MEDICAL CONVENTION.—A circular has been addressed to the gentlemen of the Medical profession throughout this State, relative to a proposed Medical Convention to be held in this City on the 5th of January next, the policy of which we understand, has met with the warm approbation of the profession. The responsibilities of the medical life are of all others the most interesting to society. Whatever may tend to the advancement of the character and respectability of the profession—whatever may conduce to an extension of its knowledge in the healing art, will proportionably increase their sphere of usefulness, and must needs command the best wishes of the community for its success. The proposed Convention, if brought into action, will no doubt have such good tendency, and merit the approbation of the public.—Columbus (O.) Sen.

HORRID MURDER.

FREDERICK, (Md.) July 9.

Our peaceful, quiet and orderly city has at length been made the scene of a most foul and atrocious murder. On Saturday morning last, Mr. Bender one of our constables, was aroused by one of the female tenants of a house of an infamous character, and apprised that one of her guilty companions, living in the same house had been murdered. Upon repairing to the spot, accompanied by a number of citizens, Mr. Bender found lying in the entry of a house on 5th street, long known as the abode of the most abandoned of the female sex, the body of a woman, who evidently died in consequence of a stab which she had received in the back, a little below the arm-pit.

The adjoining room and entry bore unequivocal signs of a struggle, being both covered with blood. Suspicion having been directed to an Irishman named James O'Connor as the probable perpetrator of the deed, the officers proceeded to his boarding house, where he was discovered in bed, apparently asleep. A dagger covered with blood, and a loaded pistol were found under his pillow. Having been carried before Michael Baltzell, Esq. he was committed for further examination. On Saturday morning he was brought before the same magistrate who considered the evidence against him so strong as to justify him in full in committing him for trial. This excitement caused by this occurrence, in a community in which such outrages have been seldom committed, is as might be rationally expected very great. It is due, however, to the prisoner, and to the impartial accomplishment of the ends of justice, that public opinion should be suspended until after the trial, to which he will we hope, be speedily brought. We refrain, for this reason, from detailing the

evidence taken by the committing magistrate.

The victim of this atrocious deed was, we understand, a married woman whose husband, a respectable mechanic, named Gower resides in Funcktown, Washington county. Her maiden name was Mary Sprinkle, and she was born in Gettysburg or Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.—Examiner.

RICHMOND, LA., July 26.

MORMONS.—A number of the Mormons whose passage westward through this place we noticed in May last, have returned this week, and look indeed like the remnant of a scattered army.—They say they are returning to the east for their families, some to settle business, &c. They were not communicative, but they speak of a battle having taken place between some of their people and the citizens of Jackson county, Missouri. They say the Governor ordered them to give up their arms which they did peaceably. Their persons and equipage denote hard service and make quite a contrast to their outward bound appearance.—Palladium.

INDIAN HOSTILITIES.—A meeting has been held at Polecat Springs, Macon county, Alabama, composed of the most influential men in that county, to take into consideration the hostile attitude of a portion of the Creek Indians. They have passed resolutions expressive of the belief of the existence of danger, pledging themselves to stand in readiness to assist each other in bringing offenders to justice; and they declare they are ready at any moment's warning to assist in apprehending the murderer of Beverly G. A. Lucas. It is stated as the opinion of the meeting, that the safety of the citizens in that part of the State requires an organization of a company of mounted men, by the State authorities, to attend and assist the civil officers in the execution of their duty, and otherwise to keep the disaffected in awe.

Niles' Register says:—"During the present week we made a brief excursion to Frederick, and proceeded to Harper's ferry. We have never before saw such crops of wheat, or more flattering prospects for those of corn. Several intelligent gentlemen expressed an opinion that the average of the wheat crop of all Frederick county would be more than twenty-two bushels to the acre and of the best quality. And many of the fields of growing corn had an average standing in height, we think of more than four feet.

The crops of wheat are also heavy in Pennsylvania, and the west, and the corn looks well.

The British Bible Society has circulated since its formation 13,000,000 copies of the Bible; expended £2,000,000; and printed it in 72 different languages. Of these, 11 for Europeans; 50 for the use of Asia; and 7 for America. The income has increased £3000 within the year, amounting now to £83,000 annually.

THE CHOCTAWS.—We understand that a party of about 200 Choctaw Indians, with arms and baggage passed New Iberia, in this Parish, a few days ago, on their way to Texas, where it is said, they intend to settle. We have not heard mention made of the place whence they came.—Attakapas Gaz.

RECIPE FOR BURNS.—Dissolve in cold water as much alum as it will dissolve, put it in a bottle and keep it ready to apply immediately to a burn. Dip a cotton rag in the solution and spread it on; keep it on until inflammation ceases. Pain will immediately cease, and blisters will be prevented or soon healed.

TEMPER.—Ladies, especially married ladies, ought to know that men are what elderly maidens are apt to denominate "strange creatures,"—and here, by the way, we do not mean "strange" because they refuse to marry when they can, but "strange" because they become disaffected and dissatisfied and indifferent after they are married. Now in order to prevent or remove this mental indisposition, every lady should be careful to exhibit only her endearing properties. If at times (and we must suppose it to be occasionally only that such an event could happen,) she finds herself out of temper, she should withdraw from the family circle, and in some secret retreat await the settling of the turbid waters. Nothing among the common occurrences of domestic life, will sooner exasperate a husband, than a wife's ill temper. Next to ill temper comes what is termed an irritable and fretful temperament. This is by some considered as the least infirmity of the two—but we say, no to the man who has the latter to contend with; better can he endure the periodical blows of a woman's weapon, (a broomstick,) than the pitiless peltings of a continued storm.—Conn. Mirror.