

VEVAY TIMES AND SWITZERLAND COUNTY DEMOCRAT.

THE VEVAY TIMES:

ISAAC STEVENS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.
Price \$2 00 a year in advance, \$2 50 in six months; or \$3 at the end of the year.

DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE, FOR SWITZERLAND COUNTY.

ELISHA GOLAY, WM. ARMINGTON,
JAMES M. KYLE, P. M. KENT,
C. THIEBAUD, J. MENDELL,
JULIUS DUFOUR, MAJ. P. BETTEN,
ISAAC STEVENS, LEWIS GOLAY,
F. L. GRISARD, U. P. SCHENCK.

AWFUL CALAMITY!

Steamboat Lexington Destroyed by Fire, and nearly Two Hundred Lives Lost.

The New York papers of yesterday say—"Our city was thrown into a fearful state of excitement yesterday afternoon, about 3 o'clock, by the news brought by the steamer Nimrod, Captain Brooks, from Bridgeport, that the steamboat Lexington, had been destroyed by fire on Long Island Sound. The Lexington left New York at 8 o'clock on Monday afternoon, with about 70 passengers, and 29 persons connected with the boat. She had a heavy deck load of cotton, and when about two miles from Eaton's Neck, and not far from Huntington, Long Island, the cotton and wood work round the stoves were discovered to be on fire; and in one hour she was burnt to the water's edge, and all but three persons perished, viz.—Hempstead, engineer, of the boat; Charles Smith, a fireman, and Captain Chester Hilliard, a passenger."

Office of the Republican Standard.
BRIDGEPORT, [Tuesday Even.] Jan. 14, 1840.

APPALLING CALAMITY.

STEAMBOAT LEXINGTON DESTROYED BY FIRE, AND NEARLY TWO HUNDRED LIVES LOST.

The Lexington left New York for Stonington on Monday, at 3 o'clock, P. M., having it believed, about one hundred and fifty passengers. A large quantity of Cotton was placed upon her decks. At 7 o'clock, when about two miles from Eaton's Neck, the cotton took fire near the smoke pipe.

The boat was headed for the shore as soon as the efforts to extinguish the fire proved unsuccessful. She was provided with three boats; yet such was the panic which took possession of all minds, that they were hoisted out while the boat was still under headway and immediately swamped.

The engine a few minutes after gave way leaving her utterly unmanageable. The scene which then ensued, is described as most appalling.

Captain Chester Hilliard, of Norwich, a passenger on board, from whom we have gathered these few particulars, states that soon after the engine stopped, the passengers began to leave the boat on boxes, bales, &c. In company with one of the firemen, he was so fortunate as to secure a cotton bale, to which he lashed himself. He remained upon this bale, the wind blowing off Long Island shore, until 11 o'clock this morning, when he was taken up by the sloop Merchant, of Southport.

His companion, in the meantime, had been released by death from his sufferings. Two others were taken up by the sloop, a fireman and the pilot of the boat. Both were nearly insensible. It is surprising that any should have survived the exposure. There is too much reason to fear that these are the only survivors. It is, however, possible that the others may have been saved.

The boat drifted up the Sound with the tide, and was off this harbor about midnight. Captain H. states that she sank at 3 o'clock, as he marked the time by his watch.

The efforts which last night were made, in this vicinity, and at Southport, to go in aid of the sufferers, proved, owing to the ice in the harbor, and to other untoward circumstances, entirely unavailing.

We learn that a boat, which succeeded in getting out of Southport harbor, after reaching the middle of the Sound was compelled to return.

The account which we have given of this awful catastrophe, is exceedingly imperfect. It may be well imagined that our informant is hardly in a situation to furnish many details.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.

The Editors of the Journal of Commerce have been favored with the following letter from Captain Brooks, of the steamer Nimrod, dated STEAMER NIMROD, Jan. 14, 1840.

I have seen Captain Chester Hilliard, one of the survivors from the destruction of the steamer Lexington, on Monday night last, by fire, and from him gather the following particulars. The boat left New York at 3 o'clock, he thinks with about 150 passengers, and full freight.

About half past 7 in the evening, he heard the cry of fire, he ran on deck, and saw the fire bursting through the wood work round the chimney. All was confusion and terror in a moment. He ran up to the wheel to advise running to the shore, which Capt. Childs informed him they were doing, he being up at the wheel. He then ran down on deck.

An attempt had been made to rig the fire engine on board, but did not succeed. They rushed for the boats, and jumped in, to the number he thinks of 20 in each, and lowered them down, while the boat was under full headway, and they were filled immediately, and he is of opinion that not one of them escaped.

We think that the Directors of this Company ought to be indicted by the Grand Jury, for putting their worst boat on the line during the worst weather and overloading her with freight. Capt. Vandebill was lying sick at home or he would have been in her. We never saw public indignation so much aroused, and all the Directors are deeply censured; one of them, a brother of Thaddeus Phelps, was burnt up. Childs, the Captain of the boat and his brother, were both lost. The Lexington has been fined for not having wires to her jillers, and yet she evaded the law again. Over thirty stores were shut in the city as soon as the news was received.

Captain Hilliard was saved from perishing by frost, because his body was in the water, and he had only out. He is now at the United States Hotel.

The boat drifted with the tide, and sank at 3 o'clock on Tuesday morning, off Bridgeport harbor. Cox died about 8 o'clock, on the bale with him.

Capt. Manchester, the pilot, and Charles Smith, boat hand, and Capt. Hilliard, are supposed to be

all that are saved. Two bodies were found, one supposed to be the steward, and Cox as mentioned above, and were taken to Southport; Capt. H. is now on board from Bridgeport to New York.

Your ob't serv't.

JONH BROOKS.

FINN, the Comedian, who performed in this city on Saturday, night last, at the benefit of Madame Celeste, is among the lost.

PHILADELPHIA FAMILY LOST.—We are pained to hear it rumored, that the wife and family of Russell Jarvis, Esq. late of this city, were among the number of sufferers. The information was derived by a private letter, which reached this city this morning. We trust it may prove untrue.

In addition to the above, we give the following, received in an extra from a Bridgeport paper.

Our citizens were alarmed on Monday evening, by the appearance of a great light at some distance west, on the Sound, which was generally believed to be a steamboat on fire. Nothing conclusive, however, was heard in regard to it till the arrival of our boat from New York, on Tuesday afternoon, which brought the melancholy intelligence that the light was occasioned by the conflagration of the Steamboat Lexington, which was entirely destroyed, and that all on board except three perished. One of the survivors, Capt. Hilliard, of Norwich, this State, whom we have seen and conversed with, came on board in the House.

Mr. Spann rose and said, that became his duty to announce to the House the death of the Hon. William Shields, a member of the House from Jackson county, after a few days illness, did on the morning of the 27th ultimo, at 3 o'clock. Upon the announcement of his death in the House,

On motion of Mr. Spann,

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to make arrangements for the Hon. William Shields, late member of this body, and to pay appropriate honors to the memory of the deceased, and make arrangements for the same by this House.

Meas. Spann, Zenor, English, Lane and Henley, were appointed said committee.

On motion of Mr. Spann,

The House took a recess for one hour to enable the committee to make a report.

Mr. Spann made the following report:

Mr. Speaker—

The committee appointed to take into consideration the manner most suitable for the House of Representatives to adopt in expressing their respect and esteem for the memory of the late William Shields, a Representative from the county of Jackson, have the honor to report:

That it is with feelings of regard and respect to the deceased that they take this solemn occasion to pay a suitable tribute of respect to his memory. The deceased was the son of James Shields, who distinguished himself on several occasions during the last war, by which he proved his ardent love of country. The deceased has resided in Indiana during the last thirty years; and, by his conduct and attachment to the constitution and laws of his country, has proved himself worthy of his noble and patriotic sire. The deceased has, on all occasions, during his brief career, manifested a strong and abiding attachment to the institutions of his country, and especially those of his adopted State. He was amiable in his disposition, courteous in his manners, abiding in his friendship, fond of his friends, and generous and liberal in his intercourse with those who differed with him in opinion; faithful and vigilant in the performance of every trust confided to him. Such has been his intercourse with the world, that those who knew him best esteemed him most. A good neighbor, an honest man, an affectionate husband, a kind and indulgent father; therefore,

Resolved, That the members and officers of the House of Representatives, as a mark of respect for the Hon. William Shields, late a member of this House, will wear eraps on the left arm during the remainder of this session.

Resolved, That arrangements be made, at the expense of the State, to convey the body of the deceased to his family residence.

Resolved, That, as a tribute of respect for the character and virtues of the deceased, the members of this House, Governor and officers of State, will form in procession at the Capitol, at 3 o'clock, P. M. and move in that order to Mr. John Elder's boarding house, and from thence attend the deceased to the limits of the city, and that the Senate be informed of the adoption of these resolutions, and their concurrence respectfully requested.

The Senate concurred in the above resolution.

After the motion of Mr. Armstrong to reciprocate the resolutions of the House, announcing the decease of Mr. Shields, and the orders of the House thereon had been adopted.

Mr. Carr, Senator from the counties of Jackson and Scott, arose and said,

Mr. President—

It is with no ordinary class of feelings that I rise to offer the following resolutions, rendered necessary by the sudden and unexpected decease of the Hon. William Shields, late a member of the other branch of this General Assembly, from the county of Jackson. From a long personal acquaintance with the deceased, I feel justified in saying, that he was a warm friend, an affectionate husband and kind father, and that those who were best acquainted with him were his most ardent friends.

On motion of Mr. Carr, it was

Resolved, That this Senate entertain for the memory of the Hon. William Shields, late Representative from the county of Jackson, the highest regard, and can well appreciate the loss sustained by that branch of the Legislature, of which he was a member, deprived as they are by his death, of the services of an honest man, and faithful guardian of the interests intrusted to his care.

Resolved, That the President, members, and

officers of the Senate will wear eraps on the left arm during the remainder of the session.

Resolved, That a copy of the above resolutions be transmitted to the family of the deceased, that they may be informed of the estimation

placed upon the character and reputation of our deceased associate by those who are not ignorant of his former worth.

Resolved, That the Senate will unanimously adjourn until to-morrow morning at the usual hour.

The officers of the State, and members and

officers of the two Houses, together with a large

number of the citizens of the place, formed a

procession at the appointed time.

The House, by this, sudden death, has been

deprived of a useful member. The Hon. Mr.

Shields was highly respected and much esteemed

for his numerous virtues. His death is attributed to the scarlet fever.

hope, and joy, no later than Monday last. It is feared that Professor Longfellow is lost in her, the most correct list was burnt up on board the boat; perhaps no one will ever know all that were lost in her. The thought is awful. Finn, the comedian, the wit, the humorist, died this awful death. The German Professor in Harvard University, was there. Captain Kimball, and Foster, had just arrived from South America, and were going on visit to their friends. Two brothers named Winslow, (with their sister and mother) were taking, to Boston, the corpse of their brother, who died here a few days since.

In fact, we might fill our paper, with interesting particulars, and touching domestic anecdotes of each one of the sufferers. It is possible that some one or two others may be saved, but it is hardly probable. The thought is heart-rending.

Death of the Hon. William Shields.

We learn from the Indianapolis Democrat that the Hon. William Shields, a member of the House from Jackson county, after a few days illness, did on the morning of the 27th ultimo, at 3 o'clock. Upon the announcement of his death in the House,

Mr. Spann rose and said, that became his duty to announce to the House the death of the Hon. William Shields, a member of the House from Jackson county, after a few days illness, did on the morning of the 27th ultimo, at 3 o'clock. Upon the announcement of his death in the House,

On motion of Mr. Spann,

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to make arrangements for the Hon. William Shields, late member of this body, and to pay appropriate honors to the memory of the deceased, and make arrangements for the same by this House.

Meas. Spann, Zenor, English, Lane and Henley, were appointed said committee.

On motion of Mr. Spann,

The House took a recess for one hour to enable the committee to make a report.

Mr. Spann made the following report:

Mr. Speaker—

The committee appointed to take into consideration the manner most suitable for the House of Representatives to adopt in expressing their respect and esteem for the memory of the late William Shields, a Representative from the county of Jackson, have the honor to report:

That it is with feelings of regard and respect to the deceased that they take this solemn occasion to pay a suitable tribute of respect to his memory. The deceased was the son of James Shields, who distinguished himself on several occasions during the last war, by which he proved his ardent love of country. The deceased has resided in Indiana during the last thirty years; and, by his conduct and attachment to the constitution and laws of his country, has proved himself worthy of his noble and patriotic sire. The deceased has, on all occasions, during his brief career, manifested a strong and abiding attachment to the institutions of his country, and especially those of his adopted State. He was amiable in his disposition, courteous in his manners, abiding in his friendship, fond of his friends, and generous and liberal in his intercourse with those who differed with him in opinion; faithful and vigilant in the performance of every trust confided to him. Such has been his intercourse with the world, that those who knew him best esteemed him most. A good neighbor, an honest man, an affectionate husband, a kind and indulgent father; therefore,

Resolved, That the members and officers of the House of Representatives, as a mark of respect for the Hon. William Shields, late a member of this House, will wear eraps on the left arm during the remainder of this session.

Resolved, That arrangements be made, at the expense of the State, to convey the body of the deceased to his family residence.

Resolved, That, as a tribute of respect for the character and virtues of the deceased, the members of this House, Governor and officers of State, will form in procession at the Capitol, at 3 o'clock, P. M. and move in that order to Mr. John Elder's boarding house, and from thence attend the deceased to the limits of the city, and that the Senate be informed of the adoption of these resolutions, and their concurrence respectfully requested.

The Senate concurred in the above resolution.

After the motion of Mr. Armstrong to reciprocate the resolutions of the House, announcing the decease of Mr. Shields, and the orders of the House thereon had been adopted.

Mr. Carr, Senator from the counties of Jackson and Scott, arose and said,

Mr. President—

It is with no ordinary class of feelings that I rise to offer the following resolutions, rendered necessary by the sudden and unexpected decease of the Hon. William Shields, late a member of the other branch of this General Assembly, from the county of Jackson. From a long personal acquaintance with the deceased, I feel justified in saying, that he was a warm friend, an affectionate husband and kind father, and that those who were best acquainted with him were his most ardent friends.

On motion of Mr. Carr, it was

Resolved, That this Senate entertain for the memory of the Hon. William Shields, late Representative from the county of Jackson, the highest regard, and can well appreciate the loss sustained by that branch of the Legislature, of which he was a member, deprived as they are by his death, of the services of an honest man, and faithful guardian of the interests intrusted to his care.

Resolved, That the President, members, and

officers of the Senate will wear eraps on the left arm during the remainder of the session.

Resolved, That a copy of the above resolutions be transmitted to the family of the deceased, that they may be informed of the estimation

placed upon the character and reputation of our deceased associate by those who are not ignorant of his former worth.

Resolved, That the Senate will unanimously adjourn until to-morrow morning at the usual hour.

The officers of the State, and members and

officers of the two Houses, together with a large

number of the citizens of the place, formed a

procession at the appointed time.

The House, by this, sudden death, has been

deprived of a useful member. The Hon. Mr.

Shields was highly respected and much esteemed

for his numerous virtues. His death is attributed to the scarlet fever.

Captain Hilliard was saved from perishing by frost, because his body was in the water, and he had only out. He is now at the United States Hotel.

The boat drifted with the tide, and sank at 3 o'clock on Tuesday morning, off Bridgeport harbor.

Such is the fate of the Lexington, and the hun-