Tantalus heaven! his hand discovered the contested garments; he grasped them tight; he began to drag her forward; but at this moment his foot struck against the casket for which he was searching. He stopped to seize it, and in his hold on Margaret slack ened. I contrived to pass towards his hand a portion of the old dingy cloth, so as to impress him with the belief that it was the original object of his grasp. He dragged it forward, and let it go. But he had disturbed the compact adjustment of the sacks, and as the vessel was now rolling violently in a tempestuous sea, a terrible lurch laid prostrate our treacherous wall of defence, and we stood full exposed, without a barrier between ourselves and the coffin commander of the Demon. To us, it now seemed that all was lost, and I leaned over Margaret just to offer my own bosom as a shielder and last defence.

[CONCLUDED NEXT WEEK.]

LITCHFIELD, CT. Nov 1.

Another murder and attempt at suicide.—A murder of a horrid and shocking nature was perpetrated in Goshen, on the 3d inst. It appears that a black fellow named Robert Van Tyne, had for several years lived with a woman (Lydia ——) as a wife, though never married—that she had recently determined on leaving him and on the day of the murder had commenced removing her things out of his house. Van Tyne had in the morning gone out to work, but in the afternoon returned home, procured a pint of rum, and with the woman drank pretty freely; he then invited or followed her into another room—and while there in the act of stooping, either to take out or put something into a trunk, he came behind her and drew a razor across her throat once, and was preparing to repeat it, when she rushed from the house, and fled towards a neighbour's a few rods distant. Just before she reached the house she fell, probably from exhaustion produced by the loss of blood, he immediately came came up to her, and gave her two or three additional cuts with the razor, which nearly severed her head from the body, and produced almost instant death. Van Tyne then returned to the house, took down the looking glass, and deliberately gave himself one severe gash across the throat with a razor, as he supposed giving himself a mortal wound; then ran and threw himself down upon the ground beside the woman. But as the razor had become dulled by the contact with the bones in the neck of the woman, the design of self murder was partialy frustrated. A physician was immediately callled, the wound dressed, and it is now thought he will recover. The affair took place in the street leading west from the meeting house, a few rods from the corner.

1st. session, 22d Con.

WASHINGTON, December 28.

In the senate yesterday, Mr Frelinghuysen attended and took his seat. Petitions were presented by Messrs. Robinson, Mangum, Lenston, Tyler, Marcy, Dallas, Wilkins, and Benton, and resolutions were submitted by Messrs. Holmes, Hanna, Hendricks, Buckner, Johnston, and Smith. The resolutions submitted on Friday by Messrs. Hendricks, Kane, and Benton, were considered and adopted; and the bills for the relief of Edward S. Medeer, and Dixon Spear, were read the third time and passed. A number of bills from the house of representatives were read the first time, and ordered to a second reading, and several senate bills received their second reading, and were ordered to be engrossed. After the consideration of executive business, the senate adjourned.

In the house of representatives, petitions were as usual presented, and a large number of private bills were forwarded through their different stages. Mr Drayton from the committee on military affairs, reported a bill to improve the condition of the non commissioned officers of the army, and to prevent desertion, which was read a first and second time and committed. Mr Hoffman from the committee on naval affairs, reported a bill providing for the repair of the frigates Java and Macedonian, and the sloop of war Cyane, which were severally read twice, and committed to a committee of the whole on the state of the union. Mr. McDuffie, from the committee of ways & means reported the pension appropriation bill for 1832, which went through its first and second reading and was also referred to a committee of the whole on the state of the union. The resolution introduced by Mr. Blair of Tennessee on the subject of the distribution of the proceeds of the public lands, was discharged until the expiration of the hour, and after the transaction of further private business on bills, the house adjourned.

Indiana Legislature.

IN SENATE.

December 16.

Mr. Graham from the committee of ways and means to which was referred the resolution relative to taxing Indian reserves, reported a resolution that it is expedient to tax said lands. After a resolution to amend the resolution of the committee, and a motion to lay it on the table had failed, said resolution was concurred in.

December 17.

On motion of Mr. Jessup,

Resolved, That the judiciary committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of giving mechanics a lien on buildings, which they may assist in erecting, until they shall be paid for their labor done on the same.

Which was read and adopted.

December 23.

The engrossed bill regulating general elections, &c. was read a third time and passed.

The engrossed joint resolution on the subject of the U. S. bank, was read a second time and passed.

The object of the resolution being to obtain the consent of the state for the location of a branch of said bank within the state, several gentlemen entered into a debate on the subject, Messrs. Ewing, Farrington, Pennington and Clark in favor of the passage of the resolution, and Mr. Lemon against it, and the question being taken, the vote stood ayes 17, noes 8.

December 26.

Mr. Ewing from the select committee to which was referred that part of the governor's message which relates to making provisions for the support of the poor, reported a bill creating seven state asylums for that purpose.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

December 16.

Mr. Stevenson moved the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee on education be instucted to inquire into the expediency of so amending the law incorporating congressional townships, and providing public schools, that it shall be the duty of the school commissioners to loan out all monies coming into his hands, as principal or interest, to the highest bidder, upon proper security being given. The resolution was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Barber,

Resolved, That the committee on the judiciary inquire whether any, and if any, what legislation is necessary to cause the 30th Sec. of the 3d Art. and the 13th Sec. of the 11th Art. of the Constitution of Indiana, to be respected; and also whether offices under the general government and the government of Indiana, can consistently and constitutionally be held by the same persons at the same time; and especially whether postmasters can be justices of the peace, associate judges, or county treasurers, with directions to report thereon.

Mr. Cotton moved to amend the same, by inserting after the words 'justice of the peace' the words 'or members of the general assembly,' which, together with the amendment, was agreed to.

December 19.

Mr. Cravens from the select committee, to which was referred a report of the judiciary committee, made in pursuance of a resolution of the house, directing an inquiry into the expediency of repealing so much of the law of last session as allows a higher rate of interest than 6 per cent per annum, reported a bill to amend an act entitled "an act regulating the interest of money in the state of Indiana," approved Feb. 1, 1831, which was ordered to a second reading.

On motion of Mr. Proffit,

Resolved, That the committee on the judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of so amending the law as to allow justices of the peace to issue executions and other process on judgments on Sunday, when the judgment debtor is about to abscond.

On motion of Mr. Maxwell,

Resolved, That the judiciary committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of so amending the "act incorporating congressional townships," &c. as to provide by law a reasonable compensation for the services of trustees and clerks therein named.

December 21.

Mr. Smiley presented a bill to amend the act entitled "an act to establish a state road from lake Michigan, via Indianapolis, to some convenient point on the Ohio river." Approved Jan. 13, 1830, which was read the first time, when Mr. Alley moved to reject it.

The ayes and noes were taken, and the votes stood thus, ayes 28, noes 44.

December 22.

Mr. Bell moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That the judiciary committee be requested to inquire into the expediency of so amending the law, that qualified voters of the state of Indiana may vote any where within the limits of the state, for electors of president and vice president of the U. States, on the day of such election.

Mr. Steele moved to amend the same by adding the words, "upon giving affidavit that they have not voted elsewhere in the state."

Which was accepted by Mr. Bell as a modification of the resolution.

The resolution as amended, was adopted.

December 23.

Mr Cotton from the committee of ways and means, to which was referred a resolution of the house, directing inquiry into the expediency of exempting all persons from the payment of a poll tax, who are not entitled to vote, reported against the expediency of such an exemption, which was concurred in.

The power of fasting, or surviving without food, possessed by some animals, is astonishingly great; an eagle has been known to live without food five weeks, a badger a month, a dog thirty days, a toad fourteen months, and a beetle three years.

Acid counterfeit.—A counterfeit five dollar note on the branch of the United States bank at Louisville, Ky. the first we have ever seen, was presented at our counter for inspection a few days since. The following is a description thereof—letter F. payable to A. Thurston, dated March 1, 1828, signed E. Stippen, cashier; James Hughes, president. The engraving, filling up, &c. are sufficiently well executed to deceive even the best judges.

Sylvester's N. Y. Detector.

Beware.—The Boston Daily Advertiser says, that several fifty dollar bills of the North Bank of this city were shown to us yesterday, from each of which a narrow strip had been taken in such a way as that from every twenty-three bills, a new one might be formed. In the places thus mutilated, they were blotted with ink so as to conceal the deficiency of the letters, and pasted on the back with small pieces of paper.—*ib.*

PUBLIC DOCUMENT.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.—The report of the Postmaster General exhibits a very favorable state of affairs. The receipts for the year ending on the 1st July last, were $1 997 811 54

The expenditures were, in compensation to Postmasters,	$635 028 4
For transportation of the mail,	1,262,228 44
Incidental,	48 304 44
Total,	$1,935 559 36

Excess of revenue $63,252 8

The surplus revenue on the 1st of July last, including the balance of the preceding year was $ 10 4 2 89

The increase of postages, over the last year, amounted to 147 225 44

During this year also, the new contracts made an annual increase of the transportation of the mail of 968,702 miles. The whole annual transportation is now equal to 15 468,692 miles.

Hint for lovers.—If a youth who is wooingly disposed towards any damsel, as he values his happiness let him follow my advice; call on the lady when she least expects him, and take note of the appearance of all that is under her control. Observe if the shoe fits neatly, if the gloves are clean, and the hair well polished. And I would forgive a man for breaking off an engagement if he discovered a greasy novel hid under the cushion of a sofa, or a hole in the garniture of the prettiest foot in the world. Sloveliness will ever be avoided by a well regulated mind, as would a pestilence. A woman cannot be always what is called dressed, particularly one in middling or humble life, where her duty, and it is consequently to be hoped her pleasure, lies in superintending and assisting in all domestic matters; but she may be always neat—well appointed. And as certainly as a virtuous woman is a crown of glory to her husband, so surely is a slovenly one a crown of thorns.—*Mrs. C. Hall.*

Distances of the planets.—The vast extent of the solar system is but vaguely to be conceived from the ordinary mode of stating it in millions of miles. To demonstrate it in a more striking and impressive manner, a continental astronomer has proposed, or rather renewed the proposal, that the computed distances of the planets be measured by comparison with the velocity of a cannon ball, rated at 1½ German miles per minute. With this velocity a cannon ball fired from the sun, would reach the planet Mercury in 9 years and 6 months. Venus in 18 years; the earth in 25 years; Mars in 38; Jupiter in 130; Saturn in 238; and Uranus (Herschel) in 479 years. With the same velocity a shot would reach the moon from the earth in 23 days—a little more than three weeks.

These confounded yankees.—Yes, these confounded yankees! There was never a trick, but they could discover it, for they are up to all kinds of tricks. And yet they have no greater affection for satan than most other folks.—Maelzel's chess player, what was it? Pooh, nothing; for didn't Dr. Balcom make one like it. All the inventions that have surprised Europe, what are they? Fetch'em along, say the yankees," and we bet a load of turnips we'll make some improvements and get out a new patent. Mons Chabert has come over from Europe, the "fire king," the "human salamander," and, as some say, the "old scratch" himself! but the latter *fact* we don't believe; for if the "old serpent" had half the cunning attributed to him, he never would have come to America; for, don't he know the yankees can beat him with his own tools? At any rate, Mons. Chabert comes over, and now looks out—"there's no mistake," for an American salamander is advertised, who will compete with Mons. Chabert, and who, we have no doubt, (if the yankees were as cruel as the heathen gods in the time of Apollo and Marsyas,) will sit with him and roast him alive in his own oven.—*Long Island Star*

Force of conscience.—Plutarch tells a story of a Lacedemonian, who had killed his father, and escaped discovery. Some time after, when in company, he darted his spear in to a nest of swallows. When asked the reason of that unaccountable action, his answer was, that "he thought that those swallows were reproaching him with his father's death." The strangeness of this answer begat suspicion, discovery, conviction, and punishment.

You shall swear—and you shan't swear!—What a bundle of contradictions are the laws of christian countries in relation to oaths. They require you in a court of justice to swear upon the evangelist, while in those very evangelists the author of the christian religion has said, *swear not at all!* Here is a flat contradiction, and a mockery of the scriptures.

Every office from the highest to the lowest, is entered upon with swearing. The president, king, or other chief magistrate swears. His prime minister, his inferior ministers secretaries or whatever they are called, all swear.—Every officer of government, whether civil or military, swears. The pettiest tide waiter, or mail carrier, takes as big an oath as the president himself. Legislators swear, judges swear, jurymen swear, witnesses swear, (and some of them confoundedly too) lawyers and constables swear. What a swearing set are christian countries made of. It is enough to make one's hair stand on end to think of it. Law makers swear, and law-breakers swear! and every body swears except the Quakers. If a man in a gay coat and ruffle shirt will not swear in a court of justice, he is punished for contumacy and contempt of court, but if a man who has neither coat nor shirt, swears out of court, he is punished for profanity and contempt of the laws. What absurdity! what inconsistency! Away with all oaths, say we. Banish them from the statute book. Abolish them entirely.—*N. Y. Constellation.*

Extract of a letter from master commandant Beverly Kennon, commanding the U. S. sloop of war Vandalia, to the secretary of the navy, dated Lynn Haven Bay, Dec. 15, 1831.

"The whole of Brazil is in a state of tumult, and continual eruptions may be expected to occur, particularly among the soldiers, who are no doubt instigated by persons of higher rank. This is made more apparent by the circumstance of their never molesting the foreigners who reside in the country, or indeed any one except 'the old Portuguese,' as they are termed. They are particularly obnoxious to the Brazilians, whose aim, it obviously is, to drive them from the country."

Extract of a letter enclosed to the secretary of the navy from John T. Mansfield, dated Consulate of the United States, Pernambuco, 16th November, 1831.

"I regret to inform you, that to-day this city is in great commotion, the people under arms, &c. It is difficult to arrive at the truth of the case, but from the best information I have obtained, it appears that a small body estimated at about 100 to 200 men, have taken possession of the fort in the southern part of the city, whose avowed object is to expel from the province the Portuguese residents, with the exception of such as have intermarried with Brazilians, and also to depose all Portuguese (naturalized) from the offices they hold. This party has evidently other objects in view, and if they are enabled to accomplish their first or avowed object we shall, I believe, have a change of government. I have this moment been informed that the force collected on the Boa Vista side, have declared that they will not march against the insurgents, giving as a reason that they will not fight against their countrymen. If this report is correct, the insurgents are likely to carry the day. The matter will probably be decided in the course of a few hours."

Sudden death.—It is stated in the Lexington, Ky. Observer, that judge Mills, late judge of the court of appeals of that state, was attacked by a fit of the appoplexy, on the 7th ult. while walking in the streets of Frankfort, and instantly expired.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 9.

Steamboat disaster.—The Cumberland, capt. Diller, from Louisville to this place, was wrecked on Saturday last, 8 miles above the Grand Tower. She had left Fenwick's woodyard an hour before, every thing being favorable to her progress. Suddenly, however, about 8 o'clock, A. M. a fog set in, which rendered it impossible to discern objects at the distance of more than four or five rods, when she struck a rock on the Missouri shore; the blow was repeated, and she immediately filled.

No efforts were spared to save the passengers, from 150 to 200 in number, and tho' the loss of any particularly under such circumstances, cannot be viewed without keen emotions, yet we would receive it as a merciful providence that only three are positively known to have been drowned. These unfortunate persons were children: one, a son of Mr. Head, another an infant of a Mr. Tracy, the third the son of a woman in attendance upon a lady in the cabin.

Sugar.—Our sugar planters are going on at a rapid rate. The sugar made this year by them will go far in lessening the loss of the last season. Some samples have been shown us which are of a superior quality, and we are informed that in all cases the sugar crop is abundant.—Corn, cotton, &c. have been very short this season, owing to the continuance of bad weather, and the frequency of heavy storms.—*Opelousas Gazette*

THOMAS GRAY, who absconded from London with a large amount of bank of England notes and sovereigns, and for whose apprehension £500 reward was offered in our paper of yesterday, was taken up this morning on Staten Island by S. McClelland and J. Alexander, two boatmen, and lodged in Richmond county jail.

N. Y. Cour. & Enq. Dec. 27.