

From the *Alexandria Gazette*.

SCENES IN NEW ORLEANS.

Doctor Alexander Ledger, charged with the crime of bigamy, and who had fled to Havana, returned to New Orleans a few days previous to the 30th ult. He was on that day arrested by Judge Watts, president of the criminal court, on the affidavit of Louis Chauvais, the lady he married in France. He was held to bail in the sum of five thousand dollars, and being unable to find it, he was remanded to prison. On his way there he was fired upon by a young man, the only son of the unfortunate lady whom the doctor had deceived in New Orleans, and received a pistol ball in the forehead. The wound is pronounced mortal. The young man was arrested. He is said to have been cool and composed, and made no effort to escape.

The sheriff of New Orleans received from the District court an order to seize the steam boat United States. He confided his mandate to his deputy who immediately repaired on board with an officer who was to take possession of her. The captain of the United States was absent, but the individual who had charge of her in the interim, after making use of the most abusive language, signified to the deputy that he must leave the boat, and threatened the deputy's officer with personal violence. Things having come to such a pitch, they both left her, and proceeded to the principal, where ten of the city guard were procured who accompanied the sheriff to the boat; but, before reaching her, they were opposed by a mob of at least one hundred men, who put the law at defiance and prevented its execution. This scandalous scene is as usual on such occasions, drew together a large assemblage of the curious. In vain did the sheriff urge upon the mob the necessity of respect and obedience to the law. He was only answered with scorn. Seeing no chance of succeeding peacefully, he was induced to retire; his instructions not going so far as to compel him to engage in a fight on the levee, in which himself and his little force would, perhaps, have been overpowered by numbers, and which might have endangered the lives of women and children, other impudent spectators, as well as combatants themselves.

We understand from the Courier, from which the above particulars are taken, that, after a night's reflection and consultation, the mob had consented that the process of the law might be served! These are startling proceedings, and yet they are of every day occurrence, and are confined to no particular section of the country.

American Heroism.—The *Algemine Zeitung*, a Gazette published in Vienna, gives an account of the upsetting of a pleasure boat in the river there, by which the Princess Adelaide Sophia was precipitated into the water, and would have been drowned, if it had not been for the heroic exertions of Mr. Bell, a young American gentleman, son of Dr. Bell, of Charleston, S. C. who happened to be near in another pleasure boat, immediately plunged into the river (without knowing the quality of the lady) and rescued her from a watery grave. He was next day invited to the imperial palace, where he was presented by the lovely Sophia herself with a breast-pin studded with diamonds, valued at twenty thousand dollars. Our correspondent, to whom we are indebted for the paper, states that "it is impossible to conceive how high the *Nation Amercanische* stands in this capital. The Austrian Court is certainly the proudest in Europe, yet the arch-duke has lately been heard to say that an American gentleman is fully on a par with an Austrian Nobleman. I should not therefore be surprised if something further grew out of this matter—particularly as young Bell is remarkably handsome and intelligent."

March of Machinery.—According to the last number of *Mechanics' Magazine*, a machine has been invented by one Mr. James Hunter, superintendent of the Leysmill Quarries, near Arbroath, which will entirely supersede the mason's hand-mallet and chisel, and leave all hand labor, in point of economy and despatch at any measurable distance. Mr. Hunter calls this machine a power stone planing machine; we are told that it is so ingeniously and judiciously contrived, that it will reduce and polish more blocks of rough stone in thirty minutes, at a cost of one shilling and seven pence than a good mason could reduce and polish in five days and a half, at a cost of fifteen shillings and nine pence; and the machine moreover, will do the work in a far more workmanlike manner than the man.

Benjamin Rathbun.—We hear it generally stated that there is a strong probability of the ultimate acquittal of Mr. Rathbun of Buffalo, notwithstanding the enormous charges resting against him. I said that there is no doubt that the value of the property which he has assigned, will be quadrupled in the course of a very few years. So convinced are his friends and creditors on this point, that they express themselves ready to take all his paper, for value received, in their apportioned share of his property. That some such disposition will be made of his vast estates, after the payment of his workmen, we are at last induced to believe plausible; and the liberated speculator will ere long have it in his power to raise another El Dorado in the Farther West and make the wilderness around him blossom as the rose. We desire the way of justice, but we believe the strong and sleepless energies of such a man as Rathbun,

directed to good ends, would confer far greater benefits on thousands of his race, than could be accomplished in the way of example, by coughing for life within the walls of a prison. *Philadelphia Gazette.*

We copy the following from the *Gazette*.
THE WHITAKERS.—The tragedy which happened last spring in New Orleans, is probably fresh in the minds of our readers, but the particulars attendant on it, which we give below, have never been published, probably for the substantial reason, that the lives of the editors of that city, had they published them, might have been the forfeit.

The Whitaker family, noted desperadoes, reside at a considerable distance from New Orleans, on the Mississippi, and are the terror of that part of the country. Young Whitaker, the convict suicide is said to have been obnoxious to the censure of his brothers, on account of his timidity, although he had committed at least one murder previous to that of which he had been convicted. The latter was perpetrated in a bar room, on the person of the keeper, because he did not wait on him quick enough. Whitaker drew his knife and stabbed him to the heart.

He was arrested, tried, convicted and sentenced to death. The family, consisting of the father, mother, two brothers and a sister, repaired to New Orleans with the determination of effecting his rescue, or putting him to death with their own hands. Our informant states that the eldest brother told him that he had paid to the keeper of the prison \$5000 to be instrumental in his liberation. It is true he sawed off the bars of his prison window, and was in the act of running off, when he was retaken and carried back to jail, where he was more closely confined than before.

The day of execution drawing near, and little chance being left that he would gain his freedom, his family determined that the gibbet should lose its victim. They therefore furnished him with laudanum, which was either not taken by him, or failed in its intended effect. He was afterwards visited by one of the family, who put into his hands a knife of peculiar construction, (a pattern of which we have seen,) such as are carried by the assassins of that portion of the country, with an injunction to use it on himself; and the whole family have been seen on their knees at prayers, invoking God that he might not die a coward.

A short time previous to the day on which he was ordered to be hanged, he made two attempts on his left breast, with the instrument given him, but his courage failed. He was goaded on to the fatal deed by his brother, and he plunged it between his ribs seven inches in depth, perforating his breast. This knife, covered with blood, is now held by his father as a trophy of honor. The body was delivered up to the family, taken home, and buried with military honors.

To show the utter recklessness of this horrible crew, they have sworn that the governor, who refused to pardon him, the jailer who confined, and the judge who sentenced him, shall die by their hands; and even the sister declares that if these deeds are delayed, she will train her little boys up for the purpose of putting them to death. This fiendish woman had armed herself for the purpose of assassinating her brother on the way to execution, had he failed himself to perform the deed.

But the whole of the story is not told.—The family immediately on hearing the death of the young man, employed a gentleman of this city to take a cast of his face in cement, and procure a bust to be made from it. The cast was taken while the body was yet warm, and a young man who accompanied him, executed the bust, which was considered an admirable likeness, for which they agreed to pay him a hundred and ten dollars. After repeated applications for the money, which was not paid, the family having returned home, he left the city repaired to their residence, and demanded the amount promised him. The elder brother bade him be off, or he would kill him, and drew his knife, but his purpose was prevented by the interposition of his mother. The young man mounted his horse, and was returning to New Orleans, but was intercepted next evening on the road by two of the Whitakers, painted & disguised. They first insulted him by asking him who he was, whence he came, &c., but he knowing their object, drew a pistol, and shot one of them dead on the spot. He fled soon after abandoning his horse, and took to the woods, where he secreted himself during the day, and travelled by night. An hour after his arrival at New Orleans, he had been preceded by the remaining Whitaker and another person, who inquired for him at his lodgings. His landlord kindly informed him of the fact, and placed him on board a ship bound to Mobile, at which place he arrived in safety.

Our readers will recollect the account which we published the other day, of a meteoric stone, or clump of pebbles, which fell at Norwich, Conn. on the 28th ult. The Norwich Aurora received yesterday states that it fell during a most magnificent display of the Aurora Borealis. Here is a fact for the meteorologist.

Terrible Affray.—The steamer Carrollton, arrived on Sunday last from Vicksburg, brings intelligence of a deadly affray which took place there previous to leaving, between a planter of the name of Randolph and a Dr. Watts; both citizens of the place. It appears Dr. W. met Mr. R. on the morning of the 14th inst. when he drew from his breast a pistol which he fired at Randolph; but missing

him, and perceiving that he was unarmed he ran up to him and inflicted several severe blows on his head with the butt end of the pistol. Sometime after, when Randolph had recovered from the blows inflicted on him, he armed himself with a brace of pistols, and meeting Watts at the mansion house, where they both boarded, followed him and fired as he entered his own room, when in the act of seating himself alongside his lady. The ball passed through his right arm; with the other he made an effort to seize Randolph, but failing, R. fired a second pistol at him, the ball from which lodged in his side. The Doctor's brother on being informed of the rencontre, seized a rifle and made towards Randolph's apartment, threatening to break open the door and take his life. The window happening to be open at the time, R. fired from it with unerring aim, and shot W. through the heart.—Both the Watts were placed on the same bed; the dead and dying—a sight well calculated to check the uncontrolled and fiery passions of those around.

Randolph after the perpetration of the above, walked deliberately from the room into the street, amongst a crowd of spectators, with cocked pistols in each hand. No attempt was made to impede his progress, and he quietly proceeded to the ferry, which he crossed, seemingly under no apprehension of arrest. *N. O. paper.*

Failure of Benjamin Rathbun.—It will be seen by a notice published in our paper this day, that a general assignment of all Mr. Rathbun's property has been made for the benefit of his creditors. The names of the gentlemen who have assumed this responsible trust, we feel assured, will satisfy the public, that the settlement of his large estate is in good hands.

The large space which the operations of Mr. Rathbun have occupied in our city, render this event one of no ordinary character in the annals of this section of the country, and will doubtless produce a temporary shock in the feelings, at least, of our community. Yet we are happy to learn that the actual liabilities of our citizens, on his account, are far less than have been generally apprehended; and we feel confident that they are not such as to effect materially the interests or prosperity of the place. From the suddenness of this event and the short time yet transpired, we have no means of knowing the extent of his liabilities, or the value of his property; although we believe the latter to amount to near, or perhaps exceeding two millions. We hope the short time to be enabled to learn more of the particulars of this unfortunate termination of Mr. Rathbun's affairs, as we are unwilling that reports other than such as may be relied on, should go forth through our press.

Unfortunately as the development of this affair appears in a business view, we are pained to say, that it is apparent that forgeries to an amount exceeding a million of dollars, have been committed upon the names of many of our prominent citizens, and immense amounts of this forged paper sold in New York and elsewhere, at enormous sacrifices, to supply funds for the concern. Farther than this we are not informed. Mr. Rathbun and his brother, Lyman Rathbun, were last night secured and committed to jail for further examination.—*Buffalo Commercial Adv. Aug. 4.*

IMPORTANT.
In Boston Laboratory, of the 13th, we find a letter from David L. Child, Esq. of that city, to a gentleman, (a Mexican as we infer,) in New York. We copy from the epistle the subjoined paragraph:

"My object is to impart some particular facts which have come to my knowledge during a recent visit to Philadelphia."

"The Hon. Hutchins G. Burton, formerly a representative in Congress from the state of North Carolina, and more recently Governor of that state, has made a purchase of 40,000 acres in Texas. Week before last he was in Philadelphia, and declared to a near relative (to which he proposed to give 2000 acres and a dozen slaves if he would remove thither); that the reason of his making said purchase, was, that Texas was soon to be annexed to the United States, that President Jackson had declared to him at the city of Washington on the occasion of his calling upon him in his journey to Philadelphia, that 'we must have it that if 10,000 men would not do 100,000 should, and that it was his intention to take Burton the first Governor of the new territory.' My informant likewise stated that Jackson made a similar declaration to other persons whose names I have belonging to Virginia and North Carolina, at two several times."

More Hamburg.—The Pittsburgh Advocate says—"There is at present in our neighborhood a man who knows how to extinguish any fire, burning house, steam boats and carriages, sea vessels on fire—and even if a whole city is on fire—without the use of water—by means that can be applied at any season, whether hot or cold—at any place or without any expense." What next? *Balt. Chr.*

Loan to the bank of the United States.—The Paris papers of the seventh ult., announce that Hottinger & Co. have just concluded a loan of twelve & a half millions of francs, for a count of the Bank of the United States. This is said to be the first American loan ever directly contracted in Paris. *Balt. Chr.*

We have witnessed some remarkable instances of the progress of what appeared to be the pulmonary consumption arrested in a

very late stage of the disease by a removal from the Atlantic States to the country beyond the Alleghanies. One of these was the case of an old lady who saw several years since in the state of Illinois, in whom consumption appeared already to have done its work, if one might judge from the pallid complexion, and the frightfully sunken chest. Eleven years previous she was living in the eastern part of the state of Massachusetts, and had been given out by the physicians, when the family determined upon emigrating to the valley of the Mississippi. Here among the vast and rich prairies of Morgan county, then untouched by cultivation, she recovered and was living in the enjoyment of comfortable health notwithstanding the vestiges which the disease has left in her physiognomy and figure.

Another instance occurs to us of a young man who was cured of an alarming pulmonary affection by fixing his residence in the western part of Ohio, and who feels a return of his ancient symptoms whenever he visits the eastern states. We have been told that formerly the country on the Genessee river in this state had the reputation of being remarkably friendly to the constitutions of those who labored under complaints of the chest, though now it is said affections of that kind are as common there as elsewhere. Be this as it may, the people of Illinois boast that the consumption is not indigenous in their region, and affirm their climate to be a sure antidote in all cases of simple predisposition to the disease. *N. Y. Post.*

Mr. Van Buren and the Anti-Masons.—The following is Mr. Van Buren's reply to a letter asking him certain questions in reference to Free Masonry:

WASHINGTON, May 19, 1836.

Gentlemen.—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, communicating to me a resolution adopted by the "National Anti-Masonic Convention," recently assembled at Philadelphia, instructing you to ask me whether, if elected President of the United States, I would appoint adhering masons to office, and have the honor to state, in reply that I should not in the event alluded to, feel it to be my duty to inquire whether applicants for office were either adhering masons or opponents of the Masonic institution. Whilst the fact of any such applicant being adhering mason would certainly not be regarded by me as constituting a ground of preference, I could not at the same time, look upon either circumstance as creating disqualification for office if the applicant should prove to be, in all other respects entitled thereto.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

M. VAN BUREN.

To Wm. W. Irwin, Ezekiel Birdseye, Wm. A. Simpson, Thaddeus Stevens, Edward S. Williams, and Charles Ogle, Esqs.

Wood, the treasury robber.—The persons who were arrested on suspicion of robbing the treasury of this county, a few weeks since, were ironed by putting hobbles on them. A few days after their confinement, Wood's hobbles were discovered to be in a situation so that they could be taken off with but very little trouble. Having the privilege of the yard, he had managed to rub down the rivets by which his irons were fastened, so that they would easily come. There was found on his person a small file, made from the spring of a watch which he had concealed in his boot, and with which he could soon have filed off the iron grate at his window. He was immediately ironed more securely by a larger pair of hobbles, with the addition of a pair of handcuffs. With these he was thought perfectly secure. But he has shown himself to be an adroit, accomplished member of his profession.

On Monday evening last whilst the deputy sheriff was sitting in his parlor at the jail, he overheard the prisoners apparently engaged in taking out the stones of the wall of the prison. He was in a room on the second floor in company with another prisoner—there not being rooms enough to accommodate all the prisoners separately. Mr. Bradin immediately called several gentlemen to his assistance, and proceeded to Wood's room, when they found his irons off both his hands and feet; and he had succeeded in getting a hole almost through the wall, quite large enough for him to pass through. He had laid his bed on the floor for the purpose of letting the plastering and stone fall on it, to prevent making a noise, but he was not quiet enough for his purpose. Had he succeeded in getting through, he would still have had to scale the wall; but he doubtless understood his business enough to accomplish this. He was immediately re-ironed and chained to the floor. It cannot be ascertained where he procured the materials for cutting his irons. *Williamsport Car.*

COLUMBUS, (Geo.) Aug. 5.—We have just heard from a source entitled to much credit, that the Government has determined to make arrangements, if possible, with the friendly Indians, to enter the service of the United States against the Seminoles, in the approaching campaign. We learn that Col. Lane, one of General Jessup's Aids, is at this time engaged in bringing about this desirable object.—This scheme seems to us to be a measure of sound policy, particularly when we reflect how very serviceable the celebrated chief Jim Boy and his command were to Gen. Jessup, in fighting the lower Creeks.

A Third Ship Canal in the Empire State.—Besides the project for a ship canal round the Falls of Niagara, and another from Oswego on Lake Ontario to Utica, we have a third from

Sodus Bay on Lake Ontario to Cayuga Lake, which, though it has hitherto attracted but little attention, appears about to be undertaken in good earnest. The *Ithaca Chronicle* of Aug. 10th says, the books for the increased capital to effect this object, had just been opened, at Geneva, and \$800,000 promptly subscribed.

FRANCE AND TURKEY.

A BRUSH EXPECTED.—London, July 18.—The Paris papers of the 15th contain some notices of a supposed collision between the Turkish and French fleets off the coast of Tunis, upon which great interest and not a little uneasiness appeared to be felt. It has been already stated that the two governments are at issue, and rather intemperately too, upon the subject of the removal and replacing of the Bey of that place. The rumors upon the subject were more alarming than exact. One was that Admiral Hughes had sent to Toulon for reinforcements, as he was upon the point of contending with a very superior Turkish naval force. Tahir Pacha, the Ottoman Admiral, was stated to have appeared off Tunis demanding to enter, in order to land the troops he had on board, but that Admiral Hughes had determined to prevent him; to defend the entrance of the Goletta, and that in fact an engagement had already commenced, the results of which were not known. The Turk was understood to be accompanied by 17 ships of war, whilst the French commander had but four, which were ships of the line. He was, however, in expectation of being joined by another ship.

[Paris papers of the 16th, do not confirm the statement of an actual collision between the two fleets.]

Explosion on board the Motto.—The *Wheeling Times* of Saturday gives the following as a list of the deck passengers, and hands, killed and scalded by the explosion on board the Motto, so far as known:

Killed.—Fisher 1st engineer; Nathaniel 3d do; Kella Devney, fireman; Jonas Smith, do; Robert Lowry, deck hand; Seth Jones, fireman; T. Beck, cabin boy; J. Eelwe, deck passenger.

Scalded.—Two Germans, Wheeling, very badly; Sides, Warren, Ohio do; J. M. Harford, do; South, Wheeling, badly; J. Davison, Pittsburgh; D. Fuderish, Wheeling, badly scalded; W. T. Crouch, slightly scalded. Four others were missing.

The accident occurred by the boat running aground, and after laying some time, an attempt being made to back off without letting off steam.

Bank notice to Endorsers.—It was stated some time since that the banks in Boston had adopted a rule to notify endorsers as well as drawers of notes discounted or lodged for collection, excepting when the only endorser was the person depositing the note or draft. Would not this rule have prevented the extensive fraud of Rathbun, had it been put in practice by the banks? And is there not as much necessity for such a wholesome rule being put into use, as before his failure? Let some leading bank begin the practice, and the others will soon follow.—*Jour. of Com.*

The United States and Mexico.—The governor of Tennessee has caused to be published in the Nashville Republican the important documents which will be found under this head, in another column. We had been led to believe, not only by the tone of the Globe, but by the alleged conversations of the president himself, that he did not disapprove of the measures contemplated to be taken by General Gaines, and any one who will examine the instructions of the War Department to that officer cannot be surprised at the language of General Jackson. Our contemporaries, we perceive, are disposed to award the president much credit for his last move in this business, and might unite in approving of it, also, if we could forget that it was by his express command that General Gaines had taken a position in reference to the Mexican government which might lead to hostilities. Besides we are at a loss to understand why the requisition of Gen. Gaines was not countermanded by the president, before the expense and trouble of levying and enrolling the troops had been incurred. The president was not certainly ignorant, that the governors of Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi and other states had made a call for mounted gun-men and that the enrollment was going on. The proclamations of the Governors were issued months ago, and yet the president permits four or five thousand men to leave their families and incur all the expense of arming and equipping and repairing to head quarters, when he has resolved in his own mind, that they have been illegally called for and must be disbanded. So far from discovering any merit in such conduct as this, we cannot but regard it as in the last degree improper and unaccountable. Both Gen. Gaines and the States have ample cause of complaint, and we have not the least doubt, that, when they come to be heard at the bar of public opinion, its verdict will be in their favor and against the President.

A Leader "called out."—Mr. B., a provincial manager, who visits several small towns within forty miles of the metropolis, (Guilford, Reading, Croydon, &c.) engaged a new leader of the band, a very efficient musician; but this gentleman was eternally teasing Mr. B., with hopes that he would "go to Croydon." "What has Croydon done to you?" asked the manager. "Are you in debt there?" "No." "Have you a wife there?" "No." A dozen interrogatories were negatived, and