

GLEANINGS FROM EXCHANGES.

THE STRIFE in relation to the most feasible route for the transmission of the overland mails is kept up. The Washington Union advocates the southern route and, relative to the Salt Lake route, says:—

"Leading over elevated plains and mountains more than one mile and a half high above the level of the sea, in a region as far north as Boston, and where the deep snows fill every valley and level every gorge and chasm, though of fathomless depth, no man can reasonably expect stages to run on the 42d parallel route regularly in the winter."

What's the use of such continual "bloodless war of words," when there is a disposition in Congress to annihilate the whole concern? When we can secure an administration who will maintain the public weal, even to the utter demolition of private "pickings and stealings," then it may be admissible to enter into discussion as to which is the best route; till then it is vain.

—THE ICE, Jan. 27, was beginning to disappear from the Mississippi and light draft boats were advertising for the upper rivers. The rivers were low, still falling, and navigation precarious. The Missouri river steamers have changed their terminus from St. Joseph to Leavenworth city. This change has been made because of the opening of direct railroad communication with St. Joseph.

—GOLDEN inducements to immigration are presented by the delegate of the embryo Territory, Colona, H. J. Graham. If gold is the chief product of that region, better let it rest in peace. Gold has proved a curse which California would gladly have removed. There are, in the West, yet untitled, thousands of acres of lands, fertile in all the qualities necessary to yield the rich harvest of fruits and grains—the results of honest toil—the only true wealth of any State. To these should be directed the attention of the enterprising farmer and mechanic, who, having grown weary of the dull monotony of New England—now grown somewhat old—seeks a land where he may spread abroad and multiply and have room for the development of his energies, in whatever sphere he may choose—where he may, in his own way, carve out his fortune and obtain a competency that shall render comfort to his declining years.

—LATE advices from Paraguay, by the way of England, indicate an amicable adjustment of existing difficulties.

—"ELOPEMENTS," says the St. Louis cor. of the Sacramento Union, "are as fashionable on this side the continent as divorces are on your side." In one instance, at Springfield, Ill., a banker, Redick Ridgley, having a wife and two children, with a Miss Blanchard, of fifteen—the banker lugging off with him only twenty thousand dollars from his father's vaults. Another case was that of the wife of an honest German, with a gay Lothario, "black as the ace of spades." They took away with them, also, all the poor German's money.

—A DEER was shot near Boston, Jan. 19; bear tracks were discovered in the same vicinity.

—DISEASED mutton chops and pork steaks are not so well relished by the New Yorkers and, since the discovery of the fact that sheep with the "scabs" and hogs with the "measles" have been "done up" by the wholesale and sent to the New York market, to save them, an embargo has been laid upon such delicacies.

—A HUSBAND, in New York, set fire to his wife's clothes and burnt her to death. They were both fond of whisky. Four little children remain.

—POVERTY, wretchedness and degradation in its most loathsome form stalk abroad daily, through the cities of the east—especially New York. Unable to honestly sustain herself and one little child, and too virtuous to prostitute herself, the wife of a sailor who had been long absent attempted to put an end to the earthly career of herself and child, by taking laudanum, which she obtained by pawning an old blanket, taken from her child's back. The dose being too small, she was taken alive to the alms-house.

—MORE PRISONERS have been sent to the State prison from N. Y. city during the general sessions ending Jan. 21, than during any previous term.

—A WALKING match commenced, Jan. 27, between the Limerick Boy and Hughes, of California.

—THE AVOWED Infidels of Washington city celebrated Tom Paine's birthday, Jan. 29.

—BURNS' Festivals have been held in many of the principal cities of the Union.

—CHOLERA in Japan swept off 1,200 inhabitants of Nanjaski in four weeks.

—GRAPE vine culture is attracting attention in Upper California.

—A FREE negro lately purchased a plantation in Mississippi, with the negroes thereon, for \$260,000.

—SCHOOL desks and buncombe speeches in Congress are, it is hoped, soon to be abolished.

—A RUSSIAN organ, published at Brussels, thus gallantly and humorously alludes to the acquisition of Cuba:—

"The war which might result from it would be far more disastrous than the Crimean war, which has cost so much gold and blood to the world. It would be a war with a nation whose products are the first element of industry in all parts of the world, and whose commercial intercourse makes an important branch of income for most governments. It would be a violent rupture of all the arteries of commercial circulation; it would be a fatal separation between Europe, which needs America, and America, which can dispense with Europe. Take from England the gold of California, and the cotton of Louisiana, and her industry will at once be stopped in its prosperous action. We sincerely hope that such terrible occurrences will not take place."

—LESNIER, a victim of legal blundering, recently died in Paris. On June 30, 1848, he was sentenced to the "hulks" for life, as being guilty of murder and arson. For seven years he received the treatment of a culprit in the hulks, when the true culprit confessed his guilt and he was released; but the hardships he endured while confined were too much to bear and, only two years after his release, at the early age of thirty-six, he died, broken hearted. The French, however, hold it is better that ten innocent men should suffer than that one guilty man should escape.

—MR. LEE, of Boston, was recently arrested in Paris, suspected of seeking to kill the Emperor. He was conducted by two secret policemen to the Prefecture of Police. Upon showing his passport, the Commissary of Police asked a thousand pardons, and reprimanded the officers, saying that they were charged to arrest an Italian, a Red Republican, who, it was supposed, was lurking around with intent to assassinate Louis Napoleon, "and I am sure," he added with a smile, "that you are no Red Republican." "No," replied Lee, "I am a Black Republican." The Commissary was thunderstruck and said to his assistants, "He is a negro from the United States."

—THE NUMBER of emigrants who left Liverpool in 1853 was 70,466; 41,000 for the U. S.

—THE WAR in India is being brought to a close. It is almost time.

—A "PLENTIFUL LACK" of cash exists in some parts of California. The Napa Reporter says, "nobody has any money, and nobody pays anybody anything."

—THE VALUE of real and personal estate in Pennsylvania is \$568,770,234. The yearly tax assessment is \$1,484,816 23. The total population, 2,311,786.

—POWERS' statue of California, just completed and shipped to New York, is a beautiful woman in a state of nudity, leaning on a boulder of quartz. It is made of white marble from Carrara—the contract price about \$7,500.

—A BILL has been introduced in the Cal. Legislature, providing for an appropriation of \$50,000 to complete the road from Placerville to Genoa, in Carson valley. The report of the committee says:—

"The Salt Lake, or Central mail route, with the rapid progress of the Placerville, Humboldt and Salt Lake Telegraph Company, has attracted renewed attention. Already the distance to Salt Lake and other points at the east have been shortened one hundred miles by the discovery of the route through Ruby valley, by the mail contractors, while the same enterprising gentlemen are now engaged in exploring a new route, via Walker's valley and Tooele, which is expected to avoid the deep snow line, and reduce the distance from six hundred and eighty miles to five hundred and sixty."

—THE SHIPPING interests of Boston and New York are said to be opposed to the Pacific railroad. As well might the old pioneer stage-drivers oppose the steamboat.

—IT SEEMS, after all, that the U. S. does not possess, at present, the territory over which it would be most advantageous, in all respects, to extend the Pacific railroad. Two recent declaimers on the subject recommend entirely different routes from those heretofore proposed. One of them advocates the building of a road to connect Puget Sound with the Gulf of St. Lawrence; the other, from Aransas Bay, in Texas, to Mazatlan Bay, Mexico, connecting Aransas Bay with the present railroad system of the United States. It is asserted that the distance from Portland, Maine, to Mazatlan Bay is shorter than from Portland to Puget Sound. We shall be under the necessity, it is most evident, of "annexing" the "whole boundless continent."

—LATER advices state that considerable excitement prevails throughout the Atlantic provinces of South America, on the Paraguayan difficulties, and a South American league

against the Americans was openly broached. An alliance between Buenos Ayres and the United States against Paraguay, was confidentially circulated.

—DURING the past two years ten vessels, with a tonnage of 3,600 tons, were built at Cleveland, Ohio, and freighted by merchants of that city for English ports—their cargoes being chiefly staves and black walnut lumber. The trade has proved remunerative.

—FOR SOMETIME past a series of violent demonstrations have been enacted against the operation of the Fugitive Slave Law, by the abolition, amalgamation, "nigger-worshipping" community at Oberlin, Ohio. A runaway slave was rescued by them, from the officers having authority to apprehend and return him to his master. The mutineers were arrested and indicted for interrupting officers of the law, in the proper discharge of their duties. Great sympathy was elicited by the Oberlinists for the "persecuted" prisoners; a grand feast was got up for them, at which speeches were made and resolutions offered of a most treasonable character. They were resolved never to submit to the Fugitive Slave Law. Such are the inevitable results of zeal without knowledge.

—PRINCE Napoleon left Paris on Jan. 13, for Turin, to espouse the Princess Clotilde, daughter of the King of Sardinia, which marriage, probably, will cement the alliance between France and Sardinia and assist Victor Emmanuel in becoming King of Italy. In his Majesty's speech, on the opening of the Sardinian Chambers, Jan. 10, he said, "We are not insensible to the cry of suffering which reaches us from so many parts of Italy. Strong by our concord, confiding in our good rights, we await, prudent and decided, the decrees of divine Providence."

—PETER ARRIE, one of the murderers of police officer Rigdon, Baltimore, has been convicted of murder in the first degree.

—FIRE in Southington, Conn., had destroyed property to the amount of \$100,000.

—A WAR message has been issued by the Governor of Missouri. "With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again."

BY THE CALIFORNIA MAIL.

THE PACIFIC telegraph line had been completed, at latest advice, as far as Leavenworth city.

—THE GOVERNOR of California has pardoned M. Robinson, sentenced to a year's imprisonment for gambling; also Felix Gallardo, bound for a year's respite in the penitentiary; also Girard M. Jones, convicted of murder, by the District Court in Mariposa, on the condition that he leave the State within thirty days, never to return and that his friends execute a bond in the sum of \$3000 for its faithful performance.

—THE SALE of the mining lands of California is being strongly urged. The miners, of course, oppose the measure. A writer in the Sac. Union says:—

"As for all the unmarried Americans (whatever their occupation) who may come hither to spend a year or two—to carry away our gold if they are successful, or to remain with us as human wrecks if they fail—all these are no better for California than so many Chinamen; I call them 'white Chinamen.' They will not become permanent citizens; the yellow Chinamen cannot; so there is not much difference between them. If there is any legal, constitutional and just measure by which we can drive the white and the yellow Chinamen out of the country together, and obtain white, permanent Californians in their stead, I, for one, shall be heartily in favor of it."

This writer recommends, rather than have the present state of affairs continue, that all gold mining in the State should be brought to an end by the passage of a law declaring it felony, which, he thinks, would induce a more general attention to farming and other pursuits of more lasting benefit to the State.

He winds up as follows:—

"She welcomes no suitor save him who comes offering his whole heart in a life-long union, and solemn and public promise that she alone shall be loved and cherished by him."

Such vows are frequently recorded, but their sacredness is not always observed.

—A GANG of horse-thieves, five in number, were lately hung in Arkansas by a mob. One of them, named Rogers, turning "state's evidence," was spared.

—MR. SLIDELL, Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Jan. 24, submitted the report on Cuba, from which it seems that its acquisition may be considered a fixed purpose of the government. Three alternatives are before us. 1st, "The possession of Cuba by one of the great European powers, which is incompatible with our safety, and must be resisted. 2d, 'The independence of the island, which would result in a protectorate more or less disguised.' 3d

"Annexation." It is affirmed that nearly the entire population of Cuba desire annexation.

—WASHINGTON'S birthday, Feb. 22, was honored in California.

—IN AUSTRALIA, the squatters on government lands and estate owners have come into collision. A league was about being formed to oppose the squatters, who are taxed, by a law recently passed, £7 10s. for every thousand sheep; which law the squatters are trying to prove unconstitutional.

—THE CHIEF of the Feejee islands has ceded them to England. There are, in this group, some 530,000 acres of cotton-growing lands.

—THE LATEST advices from Paraguay state that President Lopez still continued his warlike preparations to resist the American squadron, and is determined not to yield to the demands of the United States. He continually declared in the *Semanario* that he would not pay a penny. The last number of the *Semanario* says:

"The Americans commence by insulting the decency and dignity of this government, making demands which in no case whatever can be acceded to. This government is required to indemnify a mercantile company with the sum of nine hundred thousand dollars, to give satisfaction to the North American flag for the shot fired from the fortress of Itapira at the war steamer Water Witch, and to allow the persons who now demand indemnity to return and re-establish their business in the Territory of the republic. The Committee of the United States Senate doubtless wish to make Paraguay the laughing stock of the world. No, a thousand times no. Altho' we cannot promise ourselves the laurels of victory, we can at least be assured of the reward which all the world accords to the honorably defeated. It is not powder and shot that destroy a nation, but the opprobrium that falls upon her when she submits dishonorably to humiliating conditions."

This war is brought upon us to rob the money from the Paraguayan treasury. Who knows that it is not true—as we have been assured that it is—that Buchanan has a private interest in the triumph of this company, as others have whom we do not care to name? A refusal will be the result of the reclamation, for we know, now, the nature of the demands to be made upon us. The natural consequence will be war; and for war the Republic of Paraguay is prepared."

—THE FIRST woolen factory on the Pacific coast has recently commenced operations in Salem, Oregon Territory. A pattern of cassimere, manufactured there, has been pronounced a first rate article and, for durability, superior to any eastern goods on the Pacific coast.

—AN EFFORT, as yet unsuccessful, has been made to form the southern counties of California into an independent Territory.

—A PRESENT of a fine boy, about ten days old, wrapped in a lady's shawl, was deposited on the door-step of W. W. Shedd, San Francisco, accompanied with the following:—

"To the dear lady who will be my mother:—
I'm little Frank, without a home. O, take me for thine only son. None shall annoy thee in thy choice, and I'll do better than any of the boys. LITTLE FRANK."

Shedd is married, but childless.

—MERCHANDISE, from Loud, Hosmer & Co. to the amount of 75 tons, were shipped from San Francisco for G. S. L. City, Feb. 19.

—THE COINAGE at the S. F. U. S. branch mint, for the fortnight ending Feb. 12, was \$310,000.

—HEAVY SNOWS, high waters and horrible roads are much deplored throughout California. It is said that, within 15 miles of Sonora, the snow is 15 feet deep.

—THE MINES of Frazer river are almost entirely abandoned. Gold was scarce, provisions held at ruinous rates, and the Indians settled the balance.

—A SLIGHT shock of an earthquake occurred at San Francisco on the night of Feb. 17.

—A COMPANY of packers, Rice, Campbell and Nichols, from San Juan, bound for Forest city, Feb. 19, having with them \$16,000 in coin, was attacked by three highwaymen, who succeeded in getting only \$80, which they rifled from the wallet of Rice, who with Campbell, they tied to trees till they made good their escape. Nichols escaped with the treasure.

—THE PEAR, peach, apricot, nectarine and other earlier fruits, were about blossoming in and around San Francisco, Feb. 19.

—HENRY O'RIELLY, John J. Speed, jr. and Tal. P. Shaffner have proposed to Congress to complete a telegraph communication between the Atlantic and Pacific States—to be ready to transmit the President's Message at the next session of Congress—so that the message, with each day's congressional proceedings and news, shall be printed simultaneously on the Atlantic and Pacific coast.

—A WAR of rivalry is now being waged between the banks and the saving institutions of St. Louis, Mo.