

[Communicated by the officers of the Polar Star.]

Border News.

A comparative cessation of the disturbances in Kansas, has made it generally believed that the Territory is quiet, but how unsatisfactory, feverish and incomplete that quiet is to the parties most intimately concerned, it is not difficult to conjecture.

An intelligent gentleman told us that those of the Abolitionists that remained in the Territory had been driven far into the interior, where supplies of food could be obtained only at great peril and cost. If such be the case the feast of strife which the Abolitionists wished must have palled their appetites, and the apple of discord which Northern sympathy made to look so lusciously inviting, may have turned to "ashes upon the tongue."

At Lexington, last Sunday night, eighty Chicanos, armed to the teeth, "invincible free-men of the North," were quietly relieved of their arms on board of the "Star of the West," by about twenty-five citizens of Lexington (including boys). It is said that the leader of the party, on board the boat, made a public boast, that the Lexington ruffians had taken arms from one man, but he should like to see them get those belonging to his company. He doubtless, had the satisfaction which he challenged. The Abolitionists were to disembark at Leavenworth City; and, at Kansas City, as the boat passed up, the company of passengers was augmented by fifty South Carolinians, bound for the same point, who will, unquestionably, see their Northern friends well taken care of. Beyond a doubt each valorous Chican is now ready to return home, with a "flea in his ear," and a depressing lack of what Henry Ward Beecher calls "back bone."

The weather has been very hot and dry. In some counties corn, and especially hemp, are suffering greatly from the continued drought. Farmers think that unless they have rain very soon, hemp fields will not yield half a crop. Earlier in the season many fields were injured by hail, plowed up and resown, and the present "dry term" is deemed to be particularly bad for the late sown hemp. Wheat is said to be looking very well and a fine crop is expected. —[Mo. Republican, June 27.]

THE PRESIDENCY.—The candidates of the three principal parties of the country for the Presidency and Vice Presidency of the United States, are now before the people, as follows:

DEMOCRATS.

For President—James Buchanan, of Pennsylvania.

Vice President—John C. Breckinridge, of Kentucky.

AMERICANS.

For President—Millard Fillmore, of New York.

Vice President—Andrew J. Donelson, of Tenn.

REPUBLICANS.

For President—John C. Fremont, of California.

Vice President—William L. Dayton, of New Jersey. —[Mo. Repub., June 24.]

WESTPORT, June 23.

MURDER OF WILLIAM GAY.—William Gay, the Shawnee Indian Agent, was killed about two miles from this place, on Saturday evening, near five o'clock. He was almost at home—the old Shawnee Agency—but not quite across the line, when killed. The facts of the case, as stated in the affidavit of W. J. Gay, son to the deceased, who was along, are these. Three men overtook his father; they asked him to take a drink. He did so. They then wanted to know if he was pro-slavery or anti-slavery. Gay answered that he was from Michigan. They repeated the question, when the deceased said he was in favor of a free State. One of the three then commenced shooting at him; a scuffle ensued, and the old man was shot through the head, being wounded in several other places. —[Cor. of Mo. Rep.]

HALIFAX, June 14.

SHIPWRECK—SEVENTY-TWO LIVES LOST.—The ship Pallas, Capt. Spitland, from Cork, for Quebec, with 120 passengers, sighted off the coast of Cape Breton on the morning of May 10. In the afternoon it was discovered that the compasses varied from one another, and the course of the vessel was then shaped between Cape North and St. Paul's. At 10 p.m. she struck on the breakers at St. Paul's and bilged, the sea washing over her. The passengers became panic struck and rushed into the boats, which sank almost instantly. Seventy-two persons were drowned. In the morning the Superintendent of the Island sent off boats and rescued the remaining passengers.

A vessel had left Sydney to convey them to Quebec. The ship is a total loss. —[Ex.]

THURSDAY NIGHT, 10½ o'clock,
June 26, 1856.

Gov. SHANNON.—To the Editor of the Mo. Republican:—Dear Sir: I am authorized by Governor Shannon, of Kansas, who has just arrived at our house from there, to say that he has not resigned. He is here to meet Mrs. Shannon, and will return to Kansas in about four days. He reports all quiet in Kansas.

THERON BARNUM.

FORT KEARNY.—The Leavenworth Journal, of June 25, says that information has been received of more Indian depredations on the Plains, and of a determination of the Cheyennes to kill all the whites whom they may meet with. Capt. Stein of the second dragoons, was waiting the arrival of two companies, ordered to his assistance before taking the field against the Indians.

The Inundations in France.

The Journal de l'Indra et Loire, of May 20th, gives the following description of Tours on that day: The Rne Royal presents the appearance of a canal, and boats are plying on it incessantly, carrying relief to the unfortunate inhabitants who either would not or could not quit their houses. The Mail is like a torrent, and all sorts of things brought down by the Loire and the Cher are floating about it. The ornamental trees on it have been torn up. The Railway station, the centre of the commercial activity of the town, is still surrounded with water, as high as the windows. In the garden of the Prefecture opposite nothing is to be seen but the tops of the trees; the walls of the garden are thrown down. The Rues de Paris, de Bordeaux, and du Rempart, built on the old ramparts of the city, are under water. At every step we take we see the ravages of the waters, and from the Route de Grammont we perceive in all their horror the effects of the catastrophe in the adjacent country. As far as the eye can reach there is water. The inundations were not able to surmount the obstacle caused by the Route de Bordeaux, but they rose to a great height, and they were strewn with articles of furniture, clothing, and woodwork. The Pont de l'Archevoque threatens to fall in; the viaduct of the railway to Nantes, beaten with great fury by the waters, has been thrown down. Wherever the eye rests, it sees farms submerged, houses that cannot be inhabited for a long time to come, even if they can ever be inhabited again, and on the heights thousands of victims grouped together without shelter and without food. Even the dark and narrow streets of the old city, occupied by the lower classes, have not escaped. From the Rue Borgne to the commune of La Riche, from the Champ de Mars to the Mail, and from the Place d'Aumont to Saint Sauveur, is an immense lake, reaching in height to the first story of the houses. Such is the state of our city after five days of mortal anxiety and indescribable calamities!

The accounts from Saumur of the ravages committed by the Loire and the Authion are even more distressing than those previously received. The pupils of the cavalry school of that place gave a fine example of courage and devotedness. They plunged into the water with their horses, they saved many invalids and infirm persons from certain death, and compelled the inhabitants to leave their dwellings. The clergy likewise displayed considerable energy, and effected much in combating the strange determination of the people to remain in their houses. A young curate swam to a man who was clinging to a tree, and succeeded in landing him in safety.

From Lyons we learn that as the waters recede numerous bodies are discovered, all in a state of decomposition. Workmen are employed in building wooden huts on the Place St. Pothin for the reception of the persons who are without homes. The Directors of the Mediterranean Railway have placed a number of railway carriages at the disposal of the authorities for the temporary accommodation of the houseless. When the Emperor came to Lyons he gave 1,000fr. to be divided among the engine-drivers and other employees of the train. That sum has been generously given by those men to the subscription opened at Lyons for the sufferers. A letter from Arles states that the extent of the country inundated in that neighborhood is at least twenty leagues. Although the waters are going gradually down, guns are still frequently heard in different parts round, as signals of distress from the inhabitants of the inundated houses. Boats are moving about in all directions to render assistance.

The following additional details are taken from Galignani's Messenger:

The Lyons journals state that when the dyke of the Tete d'Or, near the Grand Camp, gave way, the water covered the East plains with great rapidity. The tocsin was sounded in all the surrounding villages, to give the alarm. Many persons were surprised in their sleep, and could only save themselves, half dressed, by wading through the water, leaving all their property at the mercy of the flood. Many were compelled to remain in their houses, and wait until assistance could be brought to them.

The embankment thrown up to the North of the Brotteaux protected the chemin de ronde in that direction, but a little further to the East the water broke furiously through a breach into that part called La Petit Californie, behind the Pre aux Clercs, and through the Rue Masena the water rushed like a cataract. The establishment of the Petire Soeurs des Pauvres was inundated, and it was found necessary to remove all its inmates to the Hotel Dieu in wagons. The directors of the Maison due Saint-Enfant Jesus brought out their children one by one on their backs, and the sick were laid on mattresses and placed on rafts hastily made for the purpose, and thus carried to a place of safety.

At every moment boats and omnibuses might be seen getting down their freights at the Hotel de Ville and in the Cours Morand, which remained clear of the water, and where an immense number of persons passed the remainder of the night. Some of them had been able to save a few clothes, but most of them had only what they stood in, and those were drenched with water. Cries and moans were heard in every direction, women seeking their husbands and their children, and the children calling for their mothers. Horses, cows and sheep were also seen prowling about and uttering cries of hunger and alarm.

It appears impossible to form any correct idea of what accidents have taken place, nor can it be correctly ascertained until the water shall have subsided and circulation be once

more free. At the Brotteaux several houses were washed down before the inhabitants could be got out. At the Charpenne a man, his wife, and their child, were buried beneath the ruins of their house. A boat, with several persons who had been saved from a house, upset, and all were drowned. The Rhone is constantly bringing down furniture, cattle and sheep. Many small houses, built of frame-work and brick, have been washed away bodily from their foundations at the Brotteaux, and are seen floating about with the current.

Accounts from Valence state that the quays and the lower parts of the town are completely inundated and in many streets leading to the quay, the water in the ground floors is six feet deep. All the Plain des Granges presents the appearance of an immense lake. The river is constantly seen bringing down trees, which have been torn up by the roots, cattle, furniture, and a quantity of other articles. Three large barges, laden with coal, which were moored to the quay at Valence, were washed away by the rapidity of the current, and all of them sank at some distance down the river. One man was drowned.

At La Pallaise the Veoure has broken over its bank, and caused considerable mischief. The towns of Tain and Tournon are completely under water from the overflowing of the Rhone, and Montemart is threatened with a similar fate. The small river Morgon, which passed through Villefranche, and afterwards falls into the Saone, has become a complete torrent, and having risen above the arches of the bridge, which still stands firm, has overflowed the banks, and many of the houses have their cellars and ground floors under water.

BARNs.—Those who build now, are pretty generally agreed upon one point; that it is more economical to build one building for the various farm purposes, rather than the great number which are seen so common about old establishments.

Let us look at a few figures which won't lie.—A building ten feet square contains one thousand cubic feet. Not to speak of the roof, the outside presents a surface to the weather of four hundred feet. We have, then, ten feet inside, to four feet outside.

Take another example. A building twenty feet square contains eight thousand cubic feet; the outside measures one thousand six hundred feet. Here we have five feet inside to one foot outside. We will now take a building forty feet square.—The inside to the outside is as ten to one.

I am aware that the larger structure requires a heavier frame, that is all. The boards and shingles are the same in either case. I know, too, that the wide roof is worn by rain. The objection, however, is not of great weight.

I hold that one part of a large barn accommodates another part. It is a saving of steps to have your horse near the vehicle in which you wish to attach him. Why go several rods to a tea-footer, and open another set of doors in the wind to "get out the chaise?" What comfort, in returning from market or town meeting on a stormy day, and driving into a snug floor-way, there to untackle and put away horse and wagon, with ease and expedition. There is no difficulty in dispensing with the carriage house; the barn is the place for all the vehicles, the cellar takes in all the carts and coarse wagons—a room at the side of the drive-way the lighter vehicles.

Then what need is there for a separate building for tools; what place so central as an ample room by the side of the floorway? You start from the barn, usually, to go to different parts of the farm, and you return thither after the work is done.

I have thought that portable bins for corn might be put up in this large tool room. In the busy season of the year, corn bins are apt to get pretty low, so they would not be in the way much when the tools were most used. I should prefer that the bins be where they could be seen to often.—One might stand a better chance then of keeping the rats from destroying the corn. I have little faith in these out-of-the-way places to keep corn, it is sure to waste and injure. —[New England Farmer.]

A LITTLE EMBARRASSED.—SCENE, STORE.—(Enter Stranger, and shakes Jenkins violently by the hand.)

"Ah, Jenkins, how d'ye do? How's all your family? How is Mrs. J. and the little ones?"

"Pretty well, I thank you," replied Jenkins.—

"How are all the folks at home?"

"All well when I left," said the person, who had addressed himself to Jenkins in such a friendly manner.

Now, Jenkins thought of course, this is an old acquaintance, but for the life of him he could not recollect who he was; but not wishing to appear forgetful of one who had made such friendly enquiries about his family, he continued in the conversation, and tried to turn it on such topics as would lead him to find out the 'unknown's' name, but it was 'no go.'

After conversing for some length of time on various subjects, our unknown got up from his chair, and astonished Jenkins by asking him if he had 'got his bill made out.'

Now this was a 'poser,' for Jenkins had fully made up his mind that he was certainly some old acquaintance. But without saying a word, he took down his ledger, and commenced turning over leaf after leaf, but alas! he could not get hold of the right name. So turning round again to our unknown, he observed, he had some very queer names in his book.

"Yes," said the stranger, "there are some very strange names we hear of."

"Now," said Jenkins, to himself, 'I'll find out.' So he went expatiating and enlarging, and talked of every strange name he had heard of, but it was all in vain.

"If you have got my bill ready, (says our tormentor) I believe I must be a-going."

Jenkins was now worked up to a frenzy. So at his ledger he went again, and looked at the

heading of every account. At last an idea struck him.

"By the by," says Jenkins, 'I believe I have got your name spelt wrong in my ledger, and I thought I would ask you when I saw you, how you did spell it!'

"O, you are joking," said the unknown, 'for you must certainly know how it is spelt.'

"No I don't," said J. 'I am in earnest, and it's rather a curious name that of yours to spell. I have heard many persons try to spell it, but no two spell it the same. . . . And I should really like to know how you do spell it.'

"J-O-H-N S-M-I-T-H," said the unknown.

N. B. Jenkins fainted.—[Ex.]

STATISTICS OF WRECKs.—The following is the awful summary of 1851-52:—

The wrecks of British and foreign vessels on the coasts and seas of the United Kingdom were 684. Of these 277 were total wrecks; sunk by leaks or collision, 84; stranded and damaged so as to require the discharge of cargo, 304; abandoned, 16; total wrecks, 581; total lives lost, 784. In the year 1851, the wrecks on our coast were 701.—Of these 753 were total wrecks, or sunk and abandoned, and 348 stranded or damaged so as to require the discharge of cargo. The number of lives lost—as far as could be ascertained—was 750. The most disastrous portion was the month of September, and in the heavy storm of the 25th and 26th of that month, 117 vessels were stranded, while during the month, the whole number amounted to 153, or more than five a day; thus affording additional proof of the necessity of making the utmost efforts to avert so much calamity. But the past year, 1852, has far exceeded in respect to shipwrecks, the two former periods, in amount and fatality, no less than 1100 vessels having been wrecked on the shores of the British Isles, and the number of lives lost as far as could be ascertained, being about 900. The greatest havoc took place about the latter end of last October, and beginning of November. In this interval no less than 600 ships sought refuge in the Humber. Many more, however, could reach no shelter; and thus, in the course of a few days, the unprecedented number of 300 vessels were lost or damaged, with the fearful loss of 217 lives. The greater part of this terrible work of destruction took place on the east coast of England, off Flamborough Head.—[Ex.]

SLEEP.—There is no fact more clearly established in the physiology of man than this, that the brain expends its energies and itself during the hours of wakefulness, and that these are recuperated during sleep; if the recuperation does not equal the expenditure, the brain withers—this is insanity. Thus it is, that in early English history, persons who were condemned to death, by being prevented from sleeping, always died raving maniacs; thus it is also that those who are starved become insane; the brain is not nourished, and they cannot sleep. The practical inferences are three:

1st. Those who think most, who do most brain work, require most sleep.

2nd. That time "saved" from necessary sleep is infallibly destructive to mind, body, and estate.

3rd. Give yourself, you children, your servants, give all that are under you, the fullest amount of sleep they will take by compelling them to go to bed at some regular, early hour, and to rise in the morning the moment they awake of themselves, and within a fortnight, nature, with almost the regularity of the rising sun, will unloose the bonds of sleep the moment enough repose has been secured for the wants of the system. This is the only safe and sufficient rule; and as to the question how much sleep any one requires, each must be a rule for himself; great Nature will never fail to write it out to the observer, under the regulations just given.—[N. Y. Despatch.]

IRID OSMIUM.—Irid osmium is a natural compound of two metals—iridium and osmium, which is found in considerable quantities in a pure state in some of the mines of California and Oregon.

Irid-osmium is usually found in very small pieces, round and flat, about as large as the circle at the end of a 'g' in our smallest type.

Its specific gravity is greater than that of gold, and the color and luster are like those of bright steel. On account of its weight, it cannot be separated from gold by washing or blowing.

It is one of the hardest metals known, and can be employed like rhodium, to point gold pen.—[Ex.]

EXPANSIVE PROPERTY OF OXYGEN.—The expansive property of this gas is a remarkable phenomenon in physics. There are no means of ascertaining its limits; but it is known that if from any room the whole air were exhausted, a single cubic inch of oxygen would, if admitted into so large a vacuum, instantly occupy every part of it, and still press, though with diminished force, against the walls for further expansion. The repulsive force which exists among the atoms, tho' greatly weakened, would not be exhausted. And yet, curious as it may seem, one-half of this solid globe is oxygen! —[N. Y. Despatch.]

A MEDAL OF TITUS CÆSAR.—There has been lately found at Calw (Wurtemberg) a gold medal commemorative of the taking of Jerusalem, in the year 70, after the birth of Christ. This medal which is about the size of a two franc piece, bears the effigy of Vespasian, with this inscription: "Vespasianus Rome, Imp. Aug." Beneath the effigy are two letters, S. C. On the reverse is a palm tree, with two figures,—one seated, and the other standing,—and the motto, "Judea capta."—A similar medal, but not in gold, was discovered two years ago at Liebenzel.

A little girl, observing a goose with a yoke on, exclaimed, 'Why ma, there is a goose got corsets on. It walks like sister Sally.'