CIRCULAR TO POST MASTERS.

Post Office Department, 27th May, 1826.

SIR: Complaints have been lately made of the delay and sometimes loss of Newspapers sent by mail. These may be attributed in some cases, to the careless manner in which papers are prepared for the mail, but, in others, they are believed to arise from the inattention or design of Post Masters. It is feared that some of them are so forgetful of their duty, as to consult the convenience of contractors on horse routes, by retaining a part of the packets when the mail is so large that the usual number of bags cannot contain it. Others, it is said, being more culpable, retain newspapers to read them.—A moment's reflection must convince every Post Master, guilty of these charges, that he trifles with the obligation imposed by his oath of office, and should be held responsible for such gross violation of duty.

Publishers of Newspapers and their Subscribers, as well as Post Masters, are requested to report to the Department, all irregularities in the reception of papers forwarded in the mail, and an assurance is given, that where the irregularity shall be proved to have been produced by the negligence or design of any contractor, Post Master, or clerk, the most effectual steps shall be taken to prevent its recurrence.

It is often of as much importance to the public, and always as essential to the reputation of the mail, that Newspapers should be as speedily and as safely transmitted as letters, and an individual who is inattentive to the former, is unworthy of being trusted with the latter. He is a stranger to that high incentive to duty, which arises from an ardent desire to elevate the character of the department, by giving the utmost efficiency to its operations.

In the post office law, it is provided, that, "if any person employed in any Department of the Post Office, shall improperly detain, delay, embezzle, or destroy, any Newspaper, or shall permit any other person to do the like, or shall open or permit any other person to open, any mail or packet of Newspapers, or shall embezzle or destroy the same, not being directed to such person, or not authorized to receive or open the same, such offender shall, on conviction thereof, pay a sum not exceeding twenty dollars for every such offence."

At all offices where Newspapers are mailed, Post Masters should see that they are properly put up and directed. None should be forwarded in the mail, except such as are secured by a substantial envelop, and have a legible superscription.

If this injunction were strictly observed, the number of failures would be greatly reduced.

Under no circumstances, should any part of the mail be left on a route short of its destination.—This may always be avoided, by Post Masters at the important offices, keeping one or more extra mail bags.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant, JOHN McLEAN.

☞Printers will confer a favor on the Department, and probably promote their own interest, by publishing this Circular.

From the New York Times.

Union Course Races—Monday, May 22d, two races were run; the first between Mr. Badger's Sir Solomon and Mr. Steven's Lalla Rookh; won by Sir Solomon—a good race. The second was between Mr. Cole's Bussorah Arabian Sportsman, and Mr. Stevens's Rattler—won by the Arabian. Both done in good time.

Tuesday 23d.—The regular races for the purses offered by the Association commenced, and the four mile heats for $500 were contended for by Count Piper, (a favorite among Northern sportsmen,) by Marshal Duroc, and Janette, full sister to Sir Charles, who encountered Eclipse over the Washington course. It was a beautiful race, well contested—they were repeatedly collared, and several times passed each other, and the heats were won by Count Piper, by about a length and a half each heat.

Time of the first heat 7 m. 56 seconds.
second heat 8 m. 16 seconds

The course was considered by the Judges as several seconds worse than at any of the former runnings.

Entries for the 24th—Three mile heats, purse $300.

Mr. Jackson's Eclipse colt, 4 years old.
Mr. Colden's colt Rattler do
Mr. Abbott's colt Halfmoon do by Duroc.
Mr. Laird's American Boy do by Seagull.

At the auction of the late Gen. Cole's stud, Sportmistress, the dam of the Arabian that won the match on Monday, was sold for $1,200. The Arabian colt out of Dove, which is to run a match a fortnight hence, brought $700. Sportmistress is the dam of Mr. Stevens's fine horse Trouble, by Duroc. Sportsman, we understand, having been matched after his race, was not sold.

From the New York Post.

Union Course Races—2d day.—The horses entered, were Jackson's Eclipse Colt, Colden's Rattler, Abbot's Half-Moon and Laird's American Boy—3 mile heats. The race was won with ease by American Boy, in two heats—1st heat, 6 minutes—the 2d heat in 6 minutes 30 seconds.—Rattler and Half-Moon distanced in the 2d heat. American Boy is half brother to Count Piper, that run the 4 miles yesterday, and won. We understand Jennette, with whom the Count contended, has been purchased by a gentleman in this city.

Races.—Yesterday was the last day of the spring races at the Union Course. Four horses started for the purse, $200, two mile heats, viz:—Mr. Jackson's Fox, Mr. Van Mater's Snap, Mr. Van Sickler's mare Matilda, and Mr. Laird's horse Flagellator. Matilda was distanced in the first heat. Flagellator took the purse in two heats. Time, first heat, 3 minutes 58½ seconds—second heat, 3 minutes 54 seconds.

In our account of the race yesterday we made a mistake in saying that the second three mile heat was run in 6 minutes 30 seconds. It should have been *three minutes and half a second.*

CHARLESTON, May 20.

BOAT RACE.—Our citizens were much gratified yesterday with the trial of speed between the Philadelphia boat *General Jackson*, and the Charleston boat, *Razor*. The weather was very fine, and crowds were assembled to witness the spectacle. All the wharves were covered with spectators, numerous boats and packets were plying in the harbor, and the steam-boats Macon and Charleston were filled with ladies and gentlemen passengers. The whole harbor had a most lively and stirring appearance.

At a little after five, the boats started from off the end of the Battery, the *Razor* taking the lead, from the first stroke of the oars, which she kept with ease, gaining more and more upon her antagonist, and passed the judges' boat, stationed off Gadsden's wharf fully three minutes before her. The *Razor* then returned, keeping far ahead, and reached the point of starting, between five and six minutes before the *Gen. Jackson.*

The distance of rowing was computed at a little short of three miles; and the *Razor* covered that distance in little more than twenty six minutes.

It was so obvious from the beginning that the *Razor* would beat, that the interest in the race was a good deal diminished. The oarsmen of the *Razor* gave 42 strokes a minute, and those of the *Gen. Jackson* from 26 to 27 strokes at the top of their speed.

The *Razor* is a clinker built skiff, and the *Gen. Jackson* a ship's quarter boat of the usual build, but she is very swift. The knowing ones never doubted, from the different sort of boats, which would be the winner.

THE LOCUSTS.

RICHMOND, May 23.

The accounts we have received from various parts of the Commonwealth, describe the drought as particularly distressing. Some of the wells have dried up; and even some of the mills, which are situated upon the rivers, are arrested or reduced in their operations by the want of water. The growing crops of rye, oats, clover, &c. is much injured in the fields. We have not had rain, since we last mentioned the drought, except a slight shower on Sunday night. But the weather-wise prophets say, that as the moon is now full, we may look out for plentiful showers. So mote it be!

Another peculiarity of this spring is, the vast number of Locusts, which people many of the woods. The appearance of this noisy insect is said to be periodical; but observers occasionally differ as to the seasons of its return. Some say it is the 7th; others the 17th year. If it be either the one or the other, the phenomenon is strange enough; and its solution remains among "the things in heaven and earth," which are not "dreamed of in our philosophy."—They abound in the forests of oak; sometimes many of them swarming on one tree and scarcely one tree whose foliage escapes the devourer. We have heard of their swarming in many parts; south of the James River, on the Pamunkey, as high up as the vicinity of the Blue Ridge, &c. In this neighbourhood, the locusts have cast their old shells; and they are in the act of depositing their eggs. Plucking off the branch of the tree on which you see them, you will discover several longitudinal slits in the bark; almost in a line with each other; on opening which you find the rows of the eggs lying under the bark.—These eggs are white; and from their number promise a plentiful crop of the insect.—The present locust of the woods is different in several of its characters from the one, which regularly visits our houses and yards in the autumn. The former has a body of a deep brown colour, and the edges of its gauze wings are of a deep yellow—the other is larger, and all its colours are much lighter, being greenish, &c. The former has a murmuring, mournful note, something like that of the small frog; the latter utters the shrillest note known to us; so much so as apparently to make the interior of the ear to quiver with the agitation.

The Asiatic travellers tell us of the immense devastation which is occasioned by the swarms of locusts in those regions; eating up almost every species of herbage, shrub, and corn; and threatening man himself with a famine. We do not apprehend any such calamity from our present visitants. They have not yet attacked our fields; and will no doubt find leaves enough to subsist upon, until the heat of the summer or the drenching of the rains shall drive them away.

ANOTHER SLEEPING PREACHER.

We copy the following article from the Onandaga Register, of Wednesday last, the editor of which is personally known to us as a gentleman of character and veracity. We are thus particular, that the reader may rely upon the truth of what is stated.—*N. Y. Com. Adv.*

There is at present to be witnessed, in the town of Otisco, in this county, an instance of what Doctor Mitchell calls "*devotional somnium*," scarcely second to the celebrated case of Rachel Baker.—*Simeon Watson*, a hard laboring industrious man, aged about 30, of athletic habits, and sanguine temperament, about a month since commenced preaching in his sleep. The *fit* (as it is unquestionably a disease) commences immediately after lying down in the evening, and continues until the usual religious exercises of a meeting are concluded. Mr. Watson is a pious respectable member of the Baptist society, and during the past winter had been much engaged in the awakening which has existed in that vicinity. Soon after retiring to rest he apparently falls asleep. In a few moments he is seized with strong spasmodic contractions of the muscles of the chest and limbs—always groans, and sometimes as if in great distress: and when this paroxysm subsides, commences preaching, or rather praying. Our informant terms it preaching, because in his "somnium" he always terms it so himself, whereas Miss Baker when in that state always declined having her exhortations termed preaching, assigning the scriptural reason, that women ought not to teach. Mr. Watson commences with a prayer of ordinary length—then names some passage of scripture as a text, from which he discourses fluently, and quite connectedly, and closes with another prayer. He is totally insensible as to what is passing around, nor can he be awakened until the paroxysm leaves him. Some at first were sceptical; but trials were made sufficient to convince the most incredulous. During the existence of the paroxysm his hands are so firmly clenched together as deeply to indent them with his fingers, and cause the blood to stagnate under his nails. Miss Baker's hands used to be motionless by her side, yet she, like Mr. Watson, used to move her head on the pillow as if addressing an audience. In the midst of an exhortation, Rachel would pause to answer a question, and then correctly proceed; but Mr. Watson cannot be diverted from his subject. In short, this state of the human body, and mind, must be deemed one of great singularity and interest, and one which, as it has never been fully investigated and explained, opens a wide field for the religious and philosophical inquirer.

NOVEL OCCURRENCE.

On Wednesday a black and mulatto girl had a quarrel in this city, in which the latter struck the former with a sad iron. They were both taken before a magistrate, and a white girl as a witness. The mulatto girl, unperceived by any one but the black girl, unsheathed a long sharp pointed knife, and drove it directly at the black girl—she was, however, but slightly wounded. Another lounge was instantly made, and the black girl stepping aside the knife penetrated the upper part of the inside of the thigh of the white girl about 4 inches, making a most dangerous wound. The mulatto girl now threw the knife directly at the Magistrate, but, happily, did not hit him. She was now seized, tied, and committed to prison. We understand she declared that her intention was to have killed the black girl, and that she regretted she had not accomplished her object.

Demo. Press.

An old fashioned Marriage Portion.—Captain John Hull, who was one of the first founders of the Old South Church, capt. of the Anc. Hon. Artillery, a representative of the town, and in 1680 an assistant, was a man of wealth. A daughter of his was married to Major Saml. Sewall. As usual in those days, the father was expected to give his daughter a marriage portion. "So father Hull after his daughter was completely and richly too, dressed and prepared for the ceremony, caused her to be put into one side of a large pair of scales, in the presence of her friends, and then piled on dollars and crowns, silver money, until they weighed her down." Report says she was a plump hearty girl. This must have been a fat marriage portion in those days. *Boston News Letter.*

STEAM CARRIAGES.—The New York Evening Post says:—Mr Stevens has at length put his *steam carriage* in motion. It travelled round the circle at Hoboken Hotel yesterday, at the rate of about six miles an hour. The curve of this circle is very rank, much more so than can be possibly required in pursuing the route of a road. This great deviation from a straight line gives rise to enormous friction, the greater part of which, however, Mr. S. has contrived to obviate. His engine and carriage weigh less than a ton, whereas those now in use in England weigh from eight to ten tons. His original intention was to give the carriage a motion of sixteen or 20 miles an hour: but he has deemed it more prudent to move, in the first instance, with a moderate velocity, and has accordingly altered the gearing, which renders it impracticable to move faster.

SINGULAR DETECTION.

The excise on spirituous liquors in England is so high, that many speculators are tempted to distil and dispose of them secretly, in the hope of immense gains; and in order to do so, they are obliged to make use of every contrivance which human ingenuity can devise. Many distilleries unknown to the excise officers are no doubt now in operation; and one guarded by all imaginable caution, was recently discovered by the merest accident, in the county of Durham. Two men whilst employed in an adjoining plantation, observed a mysterious character wandering on the margin of a lonely rivulet. His peculiar demeanor forcibly concentrated their attention; but while gazing at him, the ground suddenly swallowed him up, as it were, and abstracted him from their sight. The same occurrence was observed at other times, and naturally excited attention; but for many days the two men were at a perfect loss to ascertain whither the stranger was so suddenly transported. At last they determined to watch; and concealed by a contiguous fence, they marked the precise spot of his disappearance, and upon removing the moss and sedges ingeniously adjusted on the surface, discovered a confined passage, in entering which, they beheld the object of their search, pale and motionless with terror, surrounded with a variety of implements and apparatus adapted for the use of a distillery; a speculation he and his accomplices had evidently practised for some time. He made a precipitate retreat. The interior of the excavated cavern, presented a most interesting appearance—a solid rock, overlaid with intersected timber and turf formed a spacious apartment, a narrow interstice allowed the smoke to escape, & two collateral channels admitted water from the contiguous stream, with every other requisite of their project. This exhumated cavern stands on the gentle acclivity of a retired vale, near Northallerton, peculiar for its romantic and picturesque scenery.

FOREIGN.

The following extract we find in the New York American, of Monday. It seems to corroborate the opinions contained in the article we on Wednesday published from the London Traveller, of the probability of an immediate commencement of hostilities, on the part of Russia. The new reign in Russia commences under circumstances of a very portentous aspect:

Extract of a Letter from London, dated April 13th.

"Matters are going on smoothly here.—Even the monied affairs are returning to their accustomed regularity. Ministers are strong and popular; and not a little elated at the success of their new principles of free trade. The return of the Duke of Wellington is anxiously expected. It is supposed he left St. Petersburg immediately after the funeral of Alexander: if so, he is now on his way. His experience and sagacity will have enabled him to judge of the condition of Russia, which is here thought to be one of great difficulty. I heard, from the best authority, that more than fourteen thousand persons were under arrest—some of them of the noblest and best families in Russia. No executions have yet taken place; a fact that evinces most strongly the difficulty of the conjuncture.—This hesitation proves, though it is attempted to be concealed, the extent of the defection; and the alarm caused by the high character of the persons connected with it. To pardon or to punish might, under these circumstances, be alike fatal. Notwithstanding the pacific disposition of Nicholas, a war seems to be the only remedy for the fire that surrounds him. When the Pretorian bands are masters, the law they prescribe must be obeyed: with Turkey, therefore, must war, in all probability, be made. Constantinople may be pillaged, and Greece relieved from the Ottoman power. This will give vent to the rebellious spirit which seems to have infected all classes; extend the limits of the empire; and preserve, for the present, the imperial throne. The Holy Alliance, and, above all, England, will not see this, without apprehension and jealousy; but, in what way they can avert or successfully oppose the war, it is not easy to perceive. The king has been lately severely attacked with fever and some inflammatory symptoms, but is again convalescent. He has kept himself much in retirement at Windsor, but is expected in London towards the end of the month, to remain till the dissolution of Parliament, which is looked for about the first of June."

The Boston Courier gives the following particulars in addition to the extract we made from that paper on Wednesday:

"RUSSIA.—The intelligence from Europe, by the arrival here of the British ship Arcadia, on Thursday night, and which was briefly noticed in our paper of yesterday, is of an interesting character. The opinion at London evidently is, that war is approaching. All the accounts from the north are said to be of a warlike aspect. Admiral Greigh, the commander-in-chief of the Russian naval forces, had been recalled to St Petersburg, to report the actual condition of the forces under him, and to make the necessary preparations for putting to sea. The movements of the two grand Russian armies were said to be of a remarkable nature, having for their ultimate object the concentration of the troops, for the purpose of approaching with advantage the provinces of Bessarabia.—Different corps of cavalry had been reinforced, and were to be joined by the Hetman of the Cossacks, and be ready to commence the campaign at the first intimation. The Duke of Wellington and the Austrian minister had urged every possible argument to avert the storm. The Duke had concluded his mission; and it had been announced in Paris that he had left St. Petersburgh, and was every moment expected at Calias. The St. Petersburgh Gazette, of March 28, gives an account of the closing funeral ceremonies of Alexander, in that city. The crowd in the streets, as well as in the cathedral, was immense. The balconies and windows of most of the houses were hung with black, and even the roofs of some were covered in like manner. The Emperor followed the hearse on foot, attended by the Grand Duke Michael, the Prince of Oraneg, Prince William of Prussia, &c. The inhabitants heard, (says the Gazette,) with a sensation which it is impossible to describe, the discharge of the artillery, and the three volleys fired by the troops, announcing that the earth had received into her bosom the remains of him, who, when living, was the noblest of her sons."

From the Baltimore American, May 30.

The rumour (noticed below) that France has sent deputies to the Panama Congress, is not destitute of plausibility, and if she is, as the rumour goes on to state, prepared to form a treaty with Colombia, she is also prepared to acknowledge the independence of that government, as well as all the rest of the South American Republics. Spain will then be left destitute of her right arm, and there can be but little doubt that if those republics would stipulate not to interfere with Cuba, that she, after France had acknowledged, would recognize the independence of South America also. The French court might at any moment compel Ferdinand to do this; it would only require a threat on their part to withdraw the French garrisons from the Peninsula; for the Spanish monarch is no longer a king, when these men take up their line of march. He has had experience on this subject already, the evidence of fact, which teaches wisdom to kings as well as to other men. The French ministry will be probably pushed along to this recognition, by the prospect of commercial advantages. The party in opposition, both in and out of the legislature, are perpetually driving the French ministry to this point. M. Villele and his coadjutors in office have hitherto held back; but a perseverance in such conduct furnishes the opposition with too powerful a weapon. England acknowledges—France will acknowledge, and then Spain *must* acknowledge.

SPAIN—FRANCE—SOUTH AMERICA.

The editors of the New York Mercantile say that they have been favored with the perusal of a letter from Carthagena, of April 13th, (received by way of Mobile,) which states that a French frigate had arrived from Brest with Commissioners from the Government of France, to the Congress of Panama, and with, as was supposed, authority to form a treaty with Colombia.—The letter adds:—*There were very great expectations that Spain will very soon follow the example of France.*"

The above information corresponds with a statement made by a member of Congress who passed through this city on Wednesday. He said there was a fair prospect that the negotiations for a reconciliation between Spain and the South American states would shortly be brought to a successful issue; and, added, as we understand, that the governments of the latter countries had signified their readiness to stipulate that Cuba shall not be molested, on condition that Spain ceases her warfare and acknowledges their independence.

In relation to the Island of Cuba itself, a letter from an American gentleman resident there says:—"The Spaniards are trying to counteract the plans of the South Americans—troops are distributed all over the Island—two hundred arrived at Barracoa the day before the Margaret sailed; and men of war are stationed at every port of any consequence. A few days ago the Governor received some private information from St. Jago—what it is, it is not known: but upon the strength of it he ordered the militia to hold themselves in readiness for marching down the coast. I fortunately started for Moa before this news arrived: still I apprehend no danger of invasion—at least not at this place. If this Island is attacked at all, the whole force will be divided between Havana, and St. Jago, and the instant they surrender, the Island is conquered."

STEAM—A MIRACLE.—Sir Ralph Woodford told us that when this steamer was first started, (in Trinidad,) he and a large party, as a mode of patronizing the undertaking, took a trip of pleasure in her, through some of the Bocas of the main ocean. Almost every one got sick outside, and as they returned through the Boca Grande, there was no one on deck but the man at the helm and himself. When they were in the middle of the passage, a small privateer, such as commonly infested the gulf during the troubles in Colombia, was seen making all sail for the shore of Trinidad. Her course seemed unaccountable; but what was the surprise, when they observed, that on nearing the coast, the privateer never tacked, and finally, that she ran herself directly on shore, the crew at the same time leaping out over the bows and sides of the vessel, and scampering off, as if they were mad, some up the mountains, and others into the thickets. This was so strange a sight, that Sir Ralph Woodford ordered the helmsman to steer for the privateer, that he might discover the cause of it. When they came close, the vessel appeared deserted: Sir Ralph went on board of her and after searching various parts without finding any one, he at length opened a little side cabin, and saw a man lying on a mat, evidently with some broken limb. The man made an effort to put himself in a posture of supplication, he was pale as ashes, his teeth chattered, and his hair stood on an end. "Misericordia! misericordia! Ave Maria!" faltered forth the Colombian. Sir Ralph asked the man what was the cause of the strange conduct of the crew, "Misericordia!" was the only reply.

"*Subeis quien soy,*" [Do you know who I am?]

"*El—El—O Senor! misericordia! Ave Maria!*" answered the smuggler.

It was a considerable time before the fellow could be brought back to his senses, when he gave this account of the matter: that they saw a vessel apparently following them, with only two persons on board, and steering without a single sail, directly in the teeth of the wind, current, and tide:

Against the breeze, against the tide,
She steadied with upwright keel.

That they knew no ship could move in such a course by human means; that they heard a deep roaring noise, and saw an unusual agitation of water, which their fears magnified; finally, that they concluded it to be a supernatural appearance, accordingly drove their own vessel ashore in an agony of terror, and escaped as they could; that he himself was not able to move, and that when he heard Sir Ralph's footsteps, he verily and indeed believed that he was fallen into the hands of the Evil Spirit.

Coleridge's West Indies.

PRICES CURRENT....BALTIMORE, May 29.

FLOUR—Sup. Howard st. per bbl.	$4 12½	
" City Mills, superior qual. "	4	
WHEAT, per bushel	78 a	81
Indian Corn, "	66 a	70
Rye, "	68 a	
Oats, "	56 a	

[*Pat.*

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