MEXICAN NEWS!

FROM THE GULF SQUADRON.

Position and strength of the Squardron—Expedition against Laguna—Court of Inquiry into the loss of the Somers—Arrival of Gen. La Vega and suite at Vera Cruz, &c.

We learn from the Pensacola Gazette of ~~2d ult. that the U. S.~~ frigate Potomac, Captain Aulick, arrived at that port on the 29th ultimo from Anton Lizardo. She comes in to replenished her supplies of water and provisions, having distributed among the other vessels of the squadron off Vera Cruz and Tampico those articles with which she sailed from this port but little more than two months ago. She comes in now with barely one week's water on board, and but little more of provisions.

The Potomac sailed from Anton Lizardo on the 23d ult. Left there flag ship Raritan, sloop [illegible] John Adams, store ship Relief, steamer Petrita, and several prizes taken at Tobasco and Tampico; also, the American barque John Barnes, from New Orleans, with stock and small stores for sale to the squadron. The Princeton was blockading off Vera Cruz. The British steamer had arrived on the 15th ult., from Havana, having on board Gen. Vega and suite.

A Court of Inquiry was convened on board the Potomac on the 16th to investigate the cause of the loss of the Brig Somers, recently ce apsized in a squall off Green Island. The result of the investigation, it was generally understood in the squadron, is an acquittal of the commander, Lieut. Semmes, of all blame for the loss of that vessel. The six or eight of the crew that drifted on shore after the loss of that unfortunate vessel, were still held as prisoners by the Mexicans.

On the 17th Com. Perry left in the Mississippi with the steamer Vixen and the two gun boats, Bonita and Petrel, for the purpose of taking possession of Laguna and more effectually blockading the coasts of Yucatan and Tobasco.

On the night of the 16th, one of the small schooners, captured at Tampico, being on her way to Anton Lizardo, from that place, under command of Lieut. Winslow, was wrecked on Green Island shoal during a norther—crew saved.

No news of importance had recently been received from Mexico, and but little authentic information could be obtained from the Mexican shore—and it has been an exceedingly difficult matter for the officers of the squadron to get sight of a Mexican newspaper, since the French midshipman was imprisoned for being found with a newspaper in his posession from Commodore Conner to some gentleman in Vera Cruz.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT FROM THE ARMY.

PROSPECT OF ANOTHER GRAND BATTLE.

Later from Tampico.

Approach of Santa Anna with twenty-thousand men—Saltillo Threatened—Concentration of Troops at Monterey—Great Excitement on the Rio Grande—Prediction of the Alcade of Matamoras—Action of the Mexican Congress, &c.

The steamer Virginia, Capt. Smith, arrived at New Orleans on the 1st instant from Tampico, via Brazos Santiago, having left the Brazos on the 27th ult. The brig Empressario, Capt. Collins, which sailed from Tampico on the 26th, also arrived the same night. By these vessels the Picayune received letters from Mr. Lumsden, at Tampico. They contain all the intelligence brought from Tampico, and clear up some points of the accounts previously received which appeared obscure.

We have conversed, says the Picayune, with a gentleman who came passenger in the Virginia from Brazos, and who is direct from Monterey. He has kindly furnished us with the following information, which is highly important, if there be no error in the accounts. They were fully credited at the Brazos, and are confirmed by Capt Blower, of the sch oner Robert Mills, who arrived last evening from that port.

An express from General Worth, at Saltillo, arrived at Monterey on Wednesday, the 16th of December. It brought the news that Gen. Worth had learned through his spies that Santa Anna was within three days' march of Saltillo, at the head of an army of twenty or thirty thousand men.—The express bore a call upon Gen. Taylor for reinforcements. Gen. Taylor and his staff had left Monterey on the 15th ult., the day before the express arrived, for Victoria, to join his command, which was two days' march in advance of him.

Gen. Butler, in command, at Monterey, immediately sent off despatches to Gen. Marshall, at Camargo, and to Gen. Patterson, at Matamoras, to send forward without delay all the troops they could spare from their commands.

Gen. Patterson had left Matamoras only the *day before* the news reached that place. It was at once forwarded to him, and upon learning its purport our informant states that he immediately started on his return with the view to proceed to Monterey.

It was reported at Tampico on the 25th, as will be seen from the postcript to Mr. Lumsden's last letter, that a *portion* of Gen. Patterson's command had entered Victoria, but it is not mentioned that the General himself had arrived, so that we cannot judge how far the news from the two sources may conflict.

The express reported at Matamoras that the road from Monterey to Camargo was lined with troops, regulars and volunteers, on their march to Monterey, having been previously ordered up. Our informant says there were four regiments upon the road. The route from Monterey is infested by predatory bands of *rancheros*, by which the traveling is rendered insecure.—One train had been attacked a few days before our informant passed over the road, as had also several small parties, and some few men had been killed and wounded.

We need not say that this news possesses the highest interest. As we write we have only verbal reports in regard to it, but hope to receive this morning our correspondence from the army. There is no intrinsic improbability in the news of Santa Anna's movements, and if he possesses the energy and skill claimed for him, nothing appears more likely than that he should fall like a thunderbolt upon some point in our extended line and hope to crush us.—But we have every confidence in the vigilance of Gen. Worth, and his ability to hold the enemy in check until Gen. Wool and Gen. Taylor arrive to his support. We await further intelligence with the utmost interest.

The New Orleans Evening Mercury contains a letter from Matamoras, communicating the same intelligence as that copied above from the Picayune, from which we extract the following:

"Despatches arrived here with this intelligence to Gen. Jesup, at 11 o'clock, A. M. and he immediately left for the mouth of the river.

Great excitement prevails along the valley of the Rio Grande. Most of our posts, particularly at Matamoras, Camargo and Monterey, where a number of American citizens are remaining, and have but few troops at present, are arming and preparing for the worst. Several persons have been cut off on the roads above, and traveling, is exceedingly hazardous, unless with large parties.

"On any reverse to our arms, every Mexican in the valley turns against us!

"The Alcalde at Matamoras, who predicted the day our battles have been fought on, says that Gen. Santa Anna will attack our forces on Christmas day. If the battle should not be fought before our forces can be thrown into Saltillo, or until Gen. Taylor forms junction with the forces at that point, we may expect one of the bloodiest conflicts that our flag has ever witnessed."

The New Orleans Delta has the following account of the movements at the seat of war, which appears to be somewhat later than the foregoing, and represents the American forces in a fair way of being fully concentrated in time to meet the approaching force under Santa Anna:—

Captain Brown, of the schooner, Robert, Mills, was informed by Captain Todd, of the U S. Army, that Santa Anna at the head of 15,000 troops, was on his way and within four days of Saltillo—and that Gen. Worth, unable to maintain his ground against such overwhelming numbers, was slowly falling back in the direction of Monterey; and that Gen. Taylor, in anticipation of an attack on that city, was fortifying it at every assailable point. It was also stated that Gen Patterson, who was on march from Camargo to Tampico, being made aware of the state of affairs, had countermarched the division under his command, and was rapidly advancing, by forced marches, for Monterey.

From Mr. Fowler, a gentleman of this city, who came passenger in the steam-propeller Virginia, and who left Saltillo on the 17th ult., we have subsequently learned, that previous to his leaving, Gen. Worth's spies had come into camp and reported that Santa Anna was within three or four day's march of Saltillo, and rapidly advancing, at the head of about 15,000 men. Gen. Worth immediately sent an express to Gen. Taylor which reached him at Victoria at 11 o'clock, P. M. on the 17th; and at 3 o'clock, A. M., the next day, Gen Taylor despatched two regiments, the Kentucky and Tennessee volunteers, to reinforce Gen. Worth at Saltillo, intending to follow himself, as soon as possible, with all his disposable force.—General Taylor felt confident of his being able to arrive at Saltillo before Santa Anna could reach there. The whole force of Gen. Taylor would then amount to about 10,000 men, which he considered sufficient to cope with any force that Santa Anna could bring against him.

To-day we shall be in receipt of our correspondence by the Virginia, which vessel had not come up to the city at a late hour last night, when we shall be enabled to lay before our readers the full details.

Latest from the Army.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT NEWS!!

Advance of Santa Anna upon Saltillo Confirmed—Probability of a Battle having been fought—Despatch of Troops to Saltillo and Monterey—Anticipated attack upon Camargo and Matamoras—Remains of Watson, Ridgely and Thomas.

The steamer Edith, which left Brazos on the 30th ult., arrived at New Orleans on the 2d inst., with confirmation of the reported advance of Santa Anna with a large force upon Saltillo. It was reported that the Mexican army was nearly 30,000 strong. The Picayune gives the subjoined intelligence.

When General Worth's express reached Monterey, Gen. Taylor had only gone six or eight miles on his march to Victoria, and the troops under Generals Twiggs and Quitman were but twelve miles in advance. Orders were immediately issued to this division to retrace its steps and proceed at once to Saltillo.

Gen. Butler, who was left in command of Monterey, had already marched with all the troops he could collect to join Gen. Worth at Saltillo.

Before the express reached Camargo, General Lane had started for Saltillo with his command—this was on the 20th.—General Marshall set out next morning, taking with him the remainder of the forces, with the exception of Capts. Hunter and Swartwout's commands, which were left to protect that point.

The troops from Camargo were on a forced march, to reach Saltillo in time for a battle, reports having prevailed for several days before positive advices were received of the movements of Santa Anna.

Gen. Wool was ninety miles from Saltillo at the last advices from him, and it was supposed he would join Gen. Worth in season to assist in repelling the enemy.

There was a rumor that Santa Anna had thrown a body of 17,000 men between Gen. Worth and Gen. Taylor, to prevent a junction of the American forces. This report was not credited, nor does it seem probable that it is true, as the main road to Monterey passes through Saltillo. There is a circuitous mountain road which avoids Saltillo, but is not favorable to the march of an army, and is impracticable for ordnance.

It was the impression of gentlemen who came passengers in the Edith, and with whom we have conversed, that a battle was fought about the 25th ult. It was thought, however, that Gen. Taylor had reached Saltillo before that time, and also Gen. Twiggs's, Gen. Quitman's, Gen. Butler's and Gen. Wool's commands. It was likewise hoped that the troops from Camargo would also arrive at Saltillo in good season. If these expectations were realized, Gen. Taylor had about seven thousand men to oppose to Santa Anna. Our informants thinks Anna's army was overated; but no positive knowledge was had of his exact numbers.

The whole valley of the Rio Grande was in a state of great ferment. Apprehensions of an attack were entertained at Camargo, Matamoras and other points, from *rancheros* under Canales. The withdrawal of so many troops from the river left the valley exposed to danger. At Matamoras, Col. Clark had called upon the citizens to enrol themselves for service, and at the Brazos Gen. Jessup had done the same thing. Both these points were sadly deficient in both men and arms. It was thought Canales had 2,000 men under him, and that the large supply of goods at Matamoras, and the exposed condition of that city, might quicken his courage.

Gen. Scott arrived at the Brazos on the 28th ult. The following day he proceeded to the mouth of the Rio Grande and was yet at that point when the Edith left, waiting the arrival of the horses belonging to the regiment of mounted riflemen, when it was understood he would proceed up the river to Camargo.

Capt. Wayne had been transferred from the staff of Maj. Gen. Jessup to that of Gen. Scott, and was to accompany him on his tour of observation.

The steamship Alabama was off the Brazos when the Edith sailed, and will probably bring us more definite intelligence in a few days—the Endora was also there, so that we may count upon an arrival very soon.

A large number of sick arrived at Matamoras from Camargo on the 22d, to go into hospital. Between thirty and forty sick were sent back from the two Illinois regiments forming a portion of Gen. Patterson's command, encamped at Moquete

CONGRESS.

[Reported for the Balt. Clipper.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6, 1847.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Sprole—reading of the Journal.

Mr Benton presented a memorial from St. Louis praying that the scene presented at the treaty with the North-western Indians in 1780 should be painted, to fill one of the vacant pannels in the Rotunda of the Capitol.

The mineral lands bill (providing for their sale) was made the special order of the day for Friday, and some amendments which were offered ordered to be printed.

The bill granting lands to Michigan for purposes of internal improvements was passed.

Several other bills were advanced in stage and

The Senate went into Executive Session.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

On motion of Mr. Hamlin, of Maine, the vote by which the report from the committe on Military Affairs asked to be discharged from the further consideration of the President's recommendation of a "General officer," was laid on the table, was reconsidered—yeas 85 nays 84.

The question again recurred on laying it on the table, and it was decided in the negative —yeas 29 nays 97.

The subject of the "General Officer" was then referred to the committee of the Whole on the State of the Union.

The resolution to terminate the debate on the bill for the increase of the regular army was rejected—yeas 93 nays 94.

The House went into committee on the bill to add ten additional regiments to the regular army.

Mr. G. B. Smith said some hard things against the administration. The President by intriguing with Santa Anna, had afforded aid and comfort to the enemy.

Mr. Haralson offered a resolution, to terminate the debate to-morrow, at half-past ten o'clock.

Before the question was taken, on motion, the House adjourned.

(Reported for the Balt. Sun.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9, 1847.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 10 o'clock.

Mr. McKay, from the committee of ways and means, reported the following bills which were read twice and referred to the committee of the whole on the State of the Union:

A bill making appropriations for the support of the army.

A bill making appropriations for the Indians, Indian annuities, &c.;

A bill making appropriations for the support of the navy.

All for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1848.

Mr. Long, of Maryland, concluded his remarks in favor of granting all necessary supplies to the administration, and in opposition to any introduction of the question of Slavery into the measures intended for the prosecution of the war.

Mr. Haralson, Chairman of the Military Committee, followed, in a general explanation and defence of the bill as reported.—The importance of an increase of the regular army was urged by the Secretary of War, and suggested by Gen. Taylor. Measures should be adopted to conquer the Mexican—not to "conquer a peace."—In the course of his remarks, he stated the number of privates and volunteers who had been discharged since the passage of the act of May last, at 5079, and of officers of volunteers at 94, resignations included.

Mr. Thompson of Mississippi, and Mr. Burt of South Carolina, followed, both in favor of the bill and in defence of the administration.

The first section was so amended, 97 to 76, as to prohibit the appointment of Congress to any office in the regiments to be raised, and then adopted.

The second section was amended; 91 to 49, so as to provide that the officers, musicians and privates, of the regiments to be raised, shall be discharged on the termination of hostilities with Mexico; and then adopted.

An amendment to the bill was also adopted, providing for the appointment of surgeons and assistant surgeon.

An amendment providing for the appointment of Lieut. General, was also adopted, 84 to 67.

Mr. Rathburn then offered his substitute for the whole bill changing the forces to be received, from regulars to volunteers and on this, it was proposed to engraft an amendment, providing for Lieutenant General. The amendment to the substitute adopted, 96 to 88!

The committee then rose and reported the substitute to the House. Mr. Thompson of Mississippi, moved to amend, by providing for the appointment of Lieutenant General, to take command of forces during the continuance of war, and demanded the previous question. A motion to adjourn was lost—89 to 119. The yeas and nays were then ordered on Mr. Thompson's amendment, and it was rejected—90 to 120. The question then recurring on the adoption of the substitute, it was also rejected—yeas 103, nays 101. Before the question was taken on the passage of the original bill, the House adjourned.

[Reported for the Balt. Clipper.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11, 1847.

SENATE.

The Clerk of the House of Representatives appeared with the bill to provide for a temporary increase of the army of the United States.

Mr Dix, from the committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill to provide for an additional military force and for other purposes, and also one to provide for the appointment of a Lt. General to command the military forces of the U. S. during the war with Mexico. He moved that they be printed and made the special order for to-morrow at one o'clock—but a motion was made that it should be Thursday and that was carried.

The Senate went into Executive Session.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

This morning the bill authorizing ten additional regiments to the regular army, was passed—yeas 165, nays 45.

The bill to organize a territorial government in Oregon was taken up in committee of the Whole.

The committee rose; when

Mr. McKay, from the committee of ways and means, reported a bill making appropriation for the civil and diplomatic expenses of the government, for the year ending June 30, 1847, and a bill authorizing an issue of twenty-three millions of treasury notes, of denominations not less than fifty dollars. In case the President shall think proper, he may negotiate a loan, to be paid after December, 1868.—No notes to bear more than 6 per cent. interest.

The bills were referred to the committee of the whole on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

And the House adjourned.

[Reported for the Balt. Clipper.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12, 1847.

SENATE.

Mr. Archer made the announcement of the death of the Hon. Isaac Pennybacker, at 4 o'clock, this morning, in a very brief and appropriate manner, concluding by offering the usual series of resolutions, which were adopted, and

The Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The bill to organize a territorial government for Oregon was taken up in committee of the Whole.

Mr. McDowell announced the death of the Hon. J. S. Pennybacker, a Senator from Virginia, and delivered an eulogy on the character of the deceased.

The resolutions of respect, to wear crape for thirty days, and to attend the funeral to-morrow, were agreed to, and

The House adjourned.

Maryland Legislature.

[Reported for the Baltimore Clipper.]

ANNAPOLIS, Jan. 6, 1847.

HOUSE.—Among the matters presented in the form of petitions &c, was one from a Mr. Hall, of Philadelphia, offering to sell for the use of the State, an "old portfolio," which was appropriately referred.

Mr. Frazier submitted an order contemplating the erection of a light-boat at the mouth of Patapsco river; not acted on.

The Treasurer was directed to report the amount of taxes due by collectors from the year 1841.

Orders, directing appropriate committees to enquire into the practicability of regulating the salaries of registers and county clerks, &c., and reducing the number of magistrates, were offered and adopted.

A bill in favor of Mr. O. Colston, of Talbot county, was passed.

Also, a bill in reference to primary schools in Kent county.

SENATE.—An order was passed, among other matters, calling upon the Commissioners of Lotteries to report the amount of money paid the Consolidated Lottery Schemes, when said Schemes will expire, and the receipts from stamping tickets, under the law of the last session.

Correspondence of the American.

ANNAPOLIS, Jan. 8, 1847.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

A communication was received from the Governor, enclosing a letter from the Secretary War, in reference to the ceding Sollars's Point Flats to the General Government, for the purpose of establishing a fortification. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

A communication was also received from the President of the Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroad Company, asking an investigation into the affairs of that company by a committee of the House, &c. Referred to the Committee on Internal Improvements. Also, certain statements, &c. from said company.

Mr. Jones, of St. Mary's, obtained leave to report a bill explanatory of the law of evidence, and to remove all distinctions between religious creeds.

Mr. Duckett obtained leave to report a bill in reference to last wills and testaments.

On motion of Mr. Turner, of Fred., Alex. B. Hanson had leave to withdraw from the files of the House certain papers.

On motion of Mr. Donaldson, it was ordered that the Speaker address a letter to the President of the Susquehanna and Tide Water Canal, asking a report of its receipts, and general condition &c.

An order was passed, directing the Committee on Retrenchment to inquire into the expediency of reducing the number of Delegates.

Mr. Donaldson offered an order calling for information respecting the rates paid for collections in various parts of the State Adopted.

Mr. Martin submitted an order directing inquiry into fees of Clerks and Registers, &c.

Mr. Hawkins submitted an order directing inquiry into the propriety of refunding money paid for storage of tobacco, in cases where accommodations were not afforded. Adopted.

After some deliberation upon the new code of rules, they were adopted and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Done offered a resolution authorising the Librarian to purchase copies of the Congressional Manual.

IN SENATE.—Mr. McCullough reported a bill for the relief of Chas. Lee and other colored Persons of Cecil county.

A report was received from the Treasurer, in obedience to an order, showing the receipts from various collectors, of money and coupons.

Mr. Blackistone obtained leave to report a bill supplementary to an act incorporating the New York Mining Company.

[Reported for the Balt. Sun.]

ANNAPOLIS, Jan. 9, 1847.

In the House, the Speaker presented a report from the President of St. John's College; and Mr. Crrick presented a petition, numerously signed by citizens of Baltimore county, praying the suppression of the sale of ardent spirits on the Sabbath, and for permitting the grant of license to sell in such election districts in which objections may be made through the ballot box; accompanied by some remarks favorable to the views expressed by the petitioner. Referred to the select committee on that subject. Mr. Allnutt, of Montgomery presented a petition in favor of John Devier, to be refunded certain money.

A bill reported by Mr Patterson, for amending the charter of the Merchants' Mutual Insurance Company, of Baltimore was passed. And a bill to incorporate the White Lead and Chemical Manufacturing Company, was considered and sent to a committee.

A bill reported by Mr Ege, confirming an act to make a turnpike road from Westminster to Pennsylvania, was taken up—Some debate as to the moral and constitutional effects of such legislation, took place. Messrs. Ege, Shellman, and Turner, of Frederick, favored the bill; and Mr. Murray opposed it—but it was passed. The House then adjourned.

The Senate passed a bill from the House in favor of the Trustees of Chester Parish of Kent county.

[Reported for the Balt. Clipper.]

ANNAPOLIS, Jan. 11, 1847.

HOUSE. Orders were adopted, directing committees to inquire into the propriety of amending the Constitution with a view to grants of lotteries, after the cessation of existing schemes; and to do away with sending certain legislative matters to magistrates.

Mr. Shellman presented a petition for a reassessment of property in Carroll county, which was referred to the committee of ways and means.

The House adjourned at an early hour.

SENATE. The sitting was taken up in Executive Nominations.

[Reported for the Balt. Clipper.]

ANNAPOLIS, Jan. 12, 1847.

HOUSE. Mr. Cox presented petitions for divorcing Jacob Birth from his wife, and for changing the name of Sarah E. S. Hopkins and children to that of Burke; which, with other petitions, were referred.

Mr. Wickes, from committee, submitted a series of resolutions, doing honor to the memory of Col. Cross, Major Ringgold, Capt. Ridgely, Col. Watson, of the army, and Lt. Hynson, of the navy, who have fallen in the war with Mexico; and offering the thanks of the Legislature to those who were still engaged in that service, as volunteers from Maryland.

After some appropriate remarks by Messrs. Wickes and Dirickson, they were adopted unanimously.

Mr. Murray offered resolutions providing for a committee to report a bill to allow a pension to disabled Volunteers, and to the widows and orphans of those who have been or may be killed, in the Mexican war.

A substitute, referring the subject to committee, to inquire into the propriety of allowing such persons pensions, until otherwise provided for by Congress, after further debate was adopted.

Mr. Dirickson, from the majority of the committee to whom the subject had been referred, reported favorably upon the memorial of James Pearson, claiming a seat as a delegate from Caroline county.

Mr. Ware from the minority of the committee, made a counter report. Laid over. The House adjourned.

SENATE. A petition from citizens of Baltimore adverse to lottery grants, was presented by Mr. Keyser, and referred. Adjourned.

EASTON GAZETTE.

EASTON, Md.

SATURDAY MORNING, JAN. 16.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

We are gratified to find that a bill has been submitted to the House of Delegates by Dr. Orrick, contemplating the substitution of life-incarceration for the present plan of capital punishment. The independent Democratic member from Baltimore County deserves great praise for this and kindred measures which have originated with him during the pending session.—Differing honestly as we do from the Doctor in political sentiments, it nevertheless gives us pleasure to commend his manly course on the floor of the Legislature, and cheerfully to unite with him in the support of the great measure which forms the subject of this article.

In regard to the present system of capital punishment our opinions have been long formed. We believe it to be a blot upon our penal code which no distant day will wipe away forever. Its agitation has become inevitable in our halls of legislation, and public sentiment is every where tending to its final and complete abandonment. It has no one feature to recommend it to public favor; but every thing to render it inexpedient and abhorent.

If tested by the object of all punishment (which is the prevention of crime) it will be found to have failed in subserving the desired end. Wherever the number and forms of this penalty have been increased, there, *pari passu*, according to approved statistics, have the vices multiplied against which the law is directed. This is doubtless partly owing to the uncertainty which attends the infliction of the penalty. However glaring the crime or depraved the victim there is something forbiddingly awful in the deliberate act of taking human life, even under the sanction of law.—Hence the prospect of immunity from the sentence becomes enhanced by the extreme character of the penalty, and the interference of the higher authority frequently reverses the verdict of the Court. The same principle too is often manifest before the case reaches this stage, in the controlling effect of the Juryman's sensibilities, or the modifying influence of a private sentiment at variance with the propriety of the punishment. The result, moreover, is frequently evaded by the popular plea of *insanity*, which is often nothing more than pretext furnished a Jury already too unwilling to convict, and anxiously awaiting some loop hole through which their consciences may escape the difficulties imposed by their oaths. Thus we contend that the present Law is inadequate. The criminal tried for murder must either be returned guilty or not guilty by the tribunal which judges him. If guilty, death is the penalty—if not, he is again let loose upon the community. We have shown that his chances of escape are multiplied by a variety of affecting circumstances, and consequently his opportunities and inducements of repeating the crime proportionably increased. It therefore follows that the Law inflicting death for capital offences should be abolished, or substituted for something which would more effectually prevent the vice which it is intended to diminish.

The *irreversable* condition of capital punishment is another strong objection to its use. The cord once adjusted, the platform once cut away, life once extinct, and all is irrecoverably fixed. There is then no redemption for the fallible judgment of man, which may have consigned an unoffending Brother to the ignominy of the scaffold's death—no remuneration to a broken-hearted wife and helpless offspring, for an unjust sentence based upon mere circumstantial evidence, which time has converted to the innocence of the executed. The bare possibility (leaving out of question the recorded fact) that circumstances deemed sufficient to convict may sometimes liberate the real criminal, and involve the innocent in the horrible doom of the assassin, should awaken the most vigilant interest in the discovery of some other remedy by the use of which time might be allowed for the development of new facts, and the institution of fresh enquiries. It is a golden axiom in justice, that it were better for ninety-nine guilty men to es-

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