almost directly across the lake—toward a dangerous reef, from which escape would have been impossible. He went directly to the engineer and ordered on "more steam." The reply of the engineer was that there was already as much on as the boilers would safely bear.

Again did the captain seek the deck, to see if his laboring boat was making headway, and again returned to the engine room. He explained to the engineer their hazardous situation, and told him that all hopes were lost, if no more headway could be gained—but left the engineer to act at his discretion in the crisis. A moment of reflection, and his decision was made. Life or death hung on the issue. Certain destruction awaited the boat and her devoted crew, in a few and brief minutes, if she did not gain upon the driving storm. This might be averted, if the boilers —already crowded to a fearful pressure—could yet bear a heavier strain, and that he determined to try. True the awful horror of an explosion were vividly before him—the mangled limbs, the scorched and lifeless bodies, the death shrieks and groans of the hapless victims, were before his eyes and on his ear —the alternative was a fearful one, yet it must be resorted to.

He coolly directed the heads of two barrels of oil to be broken in, and the furnaces were rapidly fed with wood dipped in the highly inflammable liquids while two men with ladles dashed the oil into the flames. The intense heat which these combustibles created, generated steam with the rapidity of lightning, and soon the resistless vapor forced up the safety valve, and issued forth with tremendous violence, its sharp hissing was heard above the wild uproar of the water and the storm. With a desperate and determined courage, which equalled the most daring heroism that the page of history has recorded, the engineer sat down upon the lever of the safety valve, to confine and raise the steam to the necessary power required to propel the boat against the drifting waves! In this awful situation he calmly remained, until the prodigious effort of the engine had forced the Constitution sufficiently off shore to be beyond the threatened danger.

This intrepid act was not a rash and vainglorious attempt to gain the applause of a multitude by a fool hardy exposure of life, in some racing excursion,—it was not the deed of a vain and reckless man, wickedly heedless of the safety of those whose lives were perilled —but it was the self-possessed and determined courage of one whose firmness is worthy all admiration. We give it as it was told to us, as one of those frequent scenes of real life, whose actual realities are indeed "stranger than fiction."

From the New Orleans Bulletin Dec. 20.

IMPORTANT FROM TAMPICO.

By a late arrival from this port we are in receipt of a letter dated the 8th instant, in which we give the particulars of an assault upon Tampico: the writer says—

Our city has had one of those hair breadth escapes from carnage, pillage and death, surpassing any instance known in the annals of the history of this country—by an attack on the 30th ult., at 5 o'clock A. M., on one of the Forts. This attack was made by the infantry of Generals Canalizo and Cos, by their usual mode of intrigue, the advance guard entering the Fort and hallowing the usual cry of 'Viva La Federacion, Niva La General Urrea.' They were received by General Urreas' and Montinegro's party as friends, but scarcely had their lips gave utterance to those unwished for sentiments, on the part of those who gave the griso, when the balance of those infuriated soldiers, led on by the cheering cry of Cos, that the retail stores should be the fruits of their labor, as they should have an indiscriminate plunder of the same. This cry was reiterated from all the lines to inspire the troops to make successful charges, which they certainly did, and obtained the summit of their wishes, so far as to gain the principal Fort, which commanded the town, and held it for two hours. The Federal party knowing, if those of the opposite took the town, that they had no hope of life. Stimulated thus, they charged on them again and drove them from the Fort with immense slaughter, taking General Piedras and eighteen officers, and in all about four hundred prisoners, including killed and wounded The loss of the federal party did not exceed fifty, including the lamentatable loss of Colonel Montinegro, who fell in the early part of the battle.

So inveterate were those Generals, Canalizo, Piedras, and Cos, as to point out several of the most respectable American, and other foreign residents to their men, as victims of their wrath and vengeance; and it is beyond a doubt, that but few foreigners would have been left to have told the tale had they entered. It is impossible for imagination to picture our situation as foreigners, where the government party of this country were nothing more or less than a licensed band of robbers. Canalizo's party, he being the senior officer, had the promise of the plunder of all the wholesale stores, if they could place him and his companions in possession of the city. But the overruling hand, that does not always award the battle to the strong, snatched us from the impending danger.

The writer complains that no American vessel was at Tampico for the protection of American citizens, all of whom would have fallen a sacrifice to an infuriated soldiery, had the assault proved successful. He seems disposed to attach blame to the American naval commanders on the coast, and passes some severe censures on their conduct. The reputation for promptness and vigilence in the discharge of their duty, stands so high, that we feel reluctant to give publicity to the impeachment, and are inclined to the opinion that our correspondent is mistaken, when he charges our naval officers with culpable delinquency. We trust that government will despatch to that quarter, a force sufficient to guard our citizens from plunder and massacre. From the above details, it appears that the Revolution in Mexico, is going on bravely, and will esult in overturning the administration and reinstating the federal party.

The accounts represents the attack on Tampico as quite a desperate and bloody affair—The Government troops, under Gen's. Cos & Piedras, were entirely routed, with a loss of five hundred men killed. The Federalists, under the command of Gen. Urrea, defended the city with the obstinate bravery of men who have no choice between victory and butchery. They succeeded in capturing Gen. Piedras, the commander of the Government troops. He was condemned to be shot, and the sentence immediately executed. After the defeat, the Government troops retreated some distance from Tampico, and halted to recruit and wait for reinforcements.

From advices received by express, it seems highly probable that hostilities will be resumed, and regular war break out between France and Mexico. The Mexican Government has refused to ratify the articles of capitulation entered into before Vera Cruz, assigned by Admiral Baudin and Gen. Rincon, and state that the whole country shall be made a sepulchre before the demands of France are complied with. If this be a true report, we may anticipate the occurrence of important events in that quarter very shortly. We will make quick work of it, and count it no great task to enter upon the conquest of Mexico.

TEXAS AS SHE IS.

A correspondent of the New York Star has communicated some very interesting statistical information concerning the present condition of Texas.

The grand staple of the country, as of the Southern States, is Cotton, for which the soil in every part of the territory is admirably adapted. The cotton is of a superior quality, and usually commands a higher price in New Orleans than that of Louisiana. Since the recent difficulties, corn has proved a more lucrative crop, and has in some measure diverted the attention of planters from the cultivation of cotton.

The next important produce of Texas is the sugar cane. Little has as yet been done in the cultivation of the cane, but the experiments which have been made lead the writer to believe that, eventually, Texas will be no mean competitor of the West Indies in the production of this article.

All kinds of small grain yield bounteously, especially in the Northern part on what is called the rolling land. Tobacco may be grown in any part of the country, superior in quality and quantity to that of any of the States, and on the Gulf, it is not inferior to Havana or Principe. Indigo is indigenous, and its growth is exuberant in all directions. The soil is well adapted to the growth of hemp and flax, and the writer is of opinion that some of the most profitable returns will be in these crops.

Among the minerals are coal, iron, copper, lead and graphite; and it is the opinion of some that in the San Saba hills there are silver mines, formerly worked by the old Spaniards, and that the old fort for the protection of the workmen, still remains.—Salt and nitre from the evaporation of the springs and lakes, which are numerous, also add their quota.

From such an abundance of the raw material, the writer very naturally concludes that Texas will become both a commercial and a manufacturing nation.

To develope the resources of the country and give value to its products, the government has devised an extensive system of internal improvement. Among the companies organised for carrying out the system is the 'Texas Rail Road, Navigation and Banking company.' The company proposes to connect the waters of the Rio Grande and Sabine by means of internal navigation and rail roads, and has banking privileges with a capital of $5,000,000.—The *bonus* of $25,000, required to be paid into the Treasury of Texas in silver, it is said, has been already paid, and the Bank is in operation.

Another improvement is under the charge of the 'Brazos and Galveston Rail Road Company'—another under that of the 'Colorado Navigation Company,' and by act of the Legislature 'the rivers Attoyac and Neches' are to be made navigable. Other improvements are in progress.

The Government is moddled after our own. The President was first chosen for two years, but the succeeding terms have been extended to three years. He is ineligible during the next term. The members of the House of Representatives are elected annually.

The following extract shows the compensation of the officers of the 'Civit List.'

'President, with house furnished,	$10,000
Vice President,	3,000
Attorney General,	3,000
Post Master General,	2,000

Commissioner General of the Land Office $3,000; Treasure $2,500; Auditor $2,500; Secretaries of the Navy, Army, State and Treasury $3,500 each; Chief Justice $2,000; Associate Judges $3,000 each; Members of Congress $5 per dium; Speaker of the House $7 per dium; President pro tem, of the Senate, while acting as such, $7 per dium; milage for members of Congress, for every 25 miles going and coming, $5; Foreign Ministers, for outfit, $4,500; salary per annum $5,000; Consuls, perquisites.'

The trade of Texas employs several steam boats permanently on the Brazos, and two or three on the Trinity. Between her coast and New Orleans there are two steam ships, and her coasting trade and that to the United States employs about forty or fifty vessels, mostly schooners and brigs, of small draft.

Contrary to opinions generally entertained, the writer says the 'Society of Texas is made up of a great deal of good, and little radically bad.' There are in the country thirty ministers of the gospel;—five or six newspapers, and day and Sunday schools have been established.

From the Cor. of the Spirit of the Times.

HARRISBURG, Dec. 25.

GLORIOUS NEWS!!!

The Traitors Defeated—Democracy Triumphant.—In the senate this morning, after reading the journal of yesterday, a number of petitions, &c. were presented, among others one from the President and Directors of the Lancaster Bank praying for a renewal of their charter, and one from the merchants and men of business in the city of Pittsburg, praying for a modification of the auction law as relating to that place. The resolution offered yesterday by Mr. Fraley, (City) to recognise the Rump House, was taken up for consideration, and the yeas and nays being called for, the [illegible] yeas 16, nays 17. Mr. Michler, offered a resolution to appoint a committee to inform the House over which Mr. Hopkins presides, that the Senate was organized and ready to receive any communication from that body.

Mr. Fraley, (city,) offered an amendment to strike out all after the word resolved, and, insert "that the House was not legally organized on the 4th inst. but as soon as it was the Senate would be ready to receive any communication from them. Mr. Casset offered an amendment to the amendment, to strike out all after resolved and insert "that the senate recognize the house organized on the 4th inst. with Thos. S. Cunningham as speaker, and are ready to receive any communication from them. Negatived—yeas 13—nays 19.

Mr. Ewing offered an amendment to the amendment, to strike out all after resolved and insert "that in the opinion of the senate neither of the houses were regularly organized, and the senate will not recognize either of the bodies claiming to be the House of Representatives which was negatived—yeas 16—nays 17.

The vote on Mr. Fraley's amendment was then taken, and negatived by yeas 16, nays 17. Mr. F. then moved the senate adjourn lost by yeas 10, nays 23. Mr. Barclay then moved an amendment to the original resolution by adding, "and the resolution passed on the 4th inst. appointing a committee to wait on the house be rescinded and committee discharged—adopted,—The question then recurring on the resolution as amended, was agreed to, yeas 17, nays 16. Messrs. Michler and Miller (city) are the committee.

Mr. Barclay moved that the committee be directed not to communicate with the House until a new election for Speaker had taken place, and the members were qualified anew—negatived, yeas 16, nays 17. The Senate then adjourned, having been in session from 11 o'clock till 4 1-2 P. M. Notwithstanding all the efforts of the tories to break down the resolution, it carried, the Speaker, Penrose voting against it, and in favor of all the odious amendments. He and his sworn allies stood by their task, fought like desperadoes to the last, but were finally forced to bow to the majority. Thus our difficulty is at last settled, and whether Stevens will have the hardihood to take his seat on the floor of the House I know not. Our democratic Senators stood firm and undaunted—they deserve immortal honour; and the members of the opposition who so honorably sustained us in the course of justice, deserve richly our warmest thanks.

In the House this morning, no business of any import was transacted. Mr. Nesbitt submitted a resolution that the Senate and House of Representatives adjourn on the 26th instant till the 10th January. The House then adjourned.

Yours, &c. E. W. D.

A letter from the United States Consul at Mazatlan, states that a most violent hurricane occurred off that port on the 1st ultimo, in which the whole of the shipping was lost or driven ashore. The brig Griffin, of Boston, totally wrecked, with the loss of the Captain; brig Mary, of New York, wrecked, and second mate and steward lost; the brigs Splendid and Indus, of New York, were driven ashore; the former has been condemned and sold, but the latter has, been got off, and will be repaired. The consul has forty five destitute Americans thrown upon his hands, one half of whom are badly wounded, and without clothing or any of the necessaries of life.

CALENDAR

FOR THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1839.

Being the 63d. of the Independence of the United States.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January,			1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30	31		
February,						1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28		
March,						1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31						
April,		1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30				
May,				1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31	
June,							1
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30						
July,				1	2	3	4
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31			
August,					1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
September,	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30					
October,			1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30	31		
November,						1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
December,	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30	31				

From the Louisville Advertiser of Dec. 17.

BLOODY AFFAIR.

A startling tragedy occurred in this city on Saturday evening last, in which A. H. Meeks was instantly killed, John Rothwell mortally wounded, William Homes severely wounded, and Henry Oldham slightly, by the use of Bowie knives, by Judge E. C. Wilkingson and his brother B. R. Wilkingson, of Natchez, and J. Murdough, of Holly Springs, Mississippi. It seems that Judge Wilkinson had ordered a coat at the shop of Messrs. Varnum and Redding. The coat was made; the Judge, accompanied by his brother and Mr. Murdough, went to the shop of Vardum & Redding, tried on the coat, and was irritated because, as he believded, it did not fit him.

Redding undertook to convince him that he was in error, and ventured to assure the Judge that the coat was made well. The Judge instantly seized an iron poker, and commenced an attack on Redding. The blow was partially warded off—Redding grappled his assailsnt, when a companion of the Judge drew a Bowie knife, and but for the interposition and interference of the unfortunate Meek, a journeyman tailor, and a gentleman passing by at the moment, Redding might have been assassinated in his own shop. Shortly afterwards, Redding, Rothwell, Meek, and Holmes went to the Galt House. They sent up stairs Judge Wilkinson, and he came down into the bar room, when angry words passed. The Judge then went up stairs again, and in a short time returned with his companions, all armed with knives. Harsh language was again used. Redding was told that he lied, and he responded by saying he supposed he would have to take it, as he was uuarmed, but remarked that if they would lay aside their weapons he could whip all three of them Meek, in consequence of some remarks made, felt called on to state what he had seen of the conflict in the tailors shop, and did so, and Murdough gave him the d——d lie, for which Meek struck him with a riding whip which he had brought with him from Bardstown, from which place he had just travelled on horseback. On receiving the blow with the whip, Murdough instantly plunged his Bowie-knife into the abdomen of Meek, and killed him on the spot.

At the same instant B. R. Wilkinson attempting to get at Redding, and Holmes and Rothwell interfered or joined in the affray.—Holmes was wounded, probably by B. R. Wilkinson; and the Judge having left the room for an instant, returned, and finding Rothwell contending with his brother, or bending over him, he (the Judge) stabbed Rothwell in the back, and inflicted a mortal wound. It does not appear that Oldham was concerned in the conflict. He was probably wounded by mistake. In a few moments after the conflict took place, the City Marshal was on the spot to apprehend the offenders. Redding having sent for him with a view to have them arrested for the assault made on him in his shop.

Such are the facts as detailed to us, but it is proper to say that we have heard other and conflicting statements. Judge Wilkinson, his brother and Murdough are in prison, and will probably be brought before the examining court to-day, when the affair will be better understood. The public mind is highly excited, but we trust every citizen will feel the necessity of a calm reliance upon the operation of the laws. Let strict justice be done. Let the laws be firmly, impartially and rigidly enforced. No good citizen can desire more. None will be content with less.

FASHION IN WASHINGTON.

Correspondence of the N. Y. Express.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.

The Russian Minister, (M. de Bodisco,) gave his promised entertainment last evening at his Mansion in Georgetown. All the world was there almost—and the *fete* was the grandest ever known in the district. Every thing in doors was done in the best style of the Court. Russian, French, and American servants, almost without number, and decked in costly livery. Introductions were formal, orderly, and conducted with as much style and manner as though you had been introduced to the Emperor instead of the Ambassador. Your names were given at the door, repeated audibly as you passed through the hall, announced again by one of the Embassys as you ascended the stairs, and re-announced as you entered the reception room, received your personal introduction, and took the Minister by the hand. All this was done with much ease, good taste and convenience, both to the visiter and the party visited. Introductions over, the whole house—a capacious and elegant establishment—was at your disposal. Below stairs a suit of rooms, with the floors tesselated and otherwise painted, were open for dancing, and a band of music in waiting. Above, rooms were set apart for card playing and other amusements. Ante chambers and conservatories were fitted up for the reception and entertainment of guests, and the whole building, in doors and out, tastefully and brilliantly illuminated. The ladies supper, lighted by means of splendid chandeliers and silver candlestick, well arranged, when the table was spread at one o'clock in the morning presented a most magnificent appearance. The addition of the ladies seated at the table, dressed for the most part with great good taste and elegance, gave the room an enchanting and fairy like appearance. Nothing could have been more beautiful and effective to the eyes of the beholder. The gentleman's supper room was in another part of the house, and this too was arranged with the same good taste of the ladies apartment. An epicure gazing upon the mountains of the good things of this life might have found excuse for exclaiming aloud

"Visions of glory share my aching sight!"

In the revel of feasting and of "wine and wassail"—the "dear delights of health and home" were forgotten—for a crowd was left at the tables at two in the morning.

The Foreign Ministers, Secretaries of Legation and suites all appeared in their Court uniforms—some of which were elegant, others gaudy and in bad taste, and still others worse than a militia captain's coat, after a year's wear.

The French, Austrian, Spanish, British, Dutch, Portuguese, and all the Foreign Ambassadors were present in full Court uniform, and some of our Republican officers appeared in the uniforms of the Army and Navy. The *tout ensemble* of men, women and things, was novel and elegant throughout. Two hours and more pass midnight, when I left the scene of gaiety, there were a hundred and more behind me, all, as Milton once said, 'on their mirth and dance intent,' and seemingly with

"No sorrow in their song—
No winter in their year."

The most brilliant collection of ladies I have ever seen at the Metropolis were present. A score of brides were in attendance and all the belles of "the ten miles square," and many of the fairest daughters of Maryland and the Old Dominion. Almost every State in the Union was represented by some fair sprite, adorned with beauty and all the glittering ornaments fashion and wealth could bestow. Here was an angel, a fallen one, appearing in the dance, with

——— "her fairy foot
That fell like snow on earth, as soft & mute'

there another in the crowd, crowned with flowers,—with

"Lillies such as maidens wear,
In the deep midnight of their hair."

a third, fresh from Paris, expressing—

"———The soft betraying air
That women loved & flattered, love to wear,"

a fourth, melancholy and out of place, with a cheek like

"The lady lily, paler than the moon,"

a fifth, in contrast like

"the red rose, fragrant with breath of June,"

and so on to the end of a very long chapter.

While I write in the midst of noise and confusion, a dozen hours after leaving the scene of the festivity, all around me I am hearing elegant and eloquent compliments bestowed upon the "Emperor of all the Russias." His Minister has given him a good name, and scores of guests and friends have drank the healths of both Emperor and Minister, wishing to each the comfortable age of a thousand years. St. Petersburg has eclipsed Paris, but the Frenchmen here, say it can't be done again—*nous verrons.*

PUBLIC LANDS—GRADUATION BILL.

The important question of graduating the price of the public lands which have been long in market, is again before the Senate, and Mr. CLAY is again the antagonist of that measure, so loudly called for by the interest of the new States, and also by the present condition of the Treasury, which needs the money for which these refuse lands would readily sell. Mr. CLAY of Alabama brought in the bill, being the same which had passed the Senate last session, and Mr. WALKER, chairman of the Committee on the Public Lands, offered to put the bill on its passage without debate, when reached on the calendar on Wednesday last; but Mr. CLAY of Kentucky opposed this expeditious action, and claimed until Monday next to prepare himself for opposition to it. The time was granted, and in the mean while the bill, on the motion of Mr. BENTON, has been referred to the Committee on Finance, to consider it in a financial point of view, and to report their opinion of its operation in diminishing or increasing the revenue derived from the public lands. There can be no doubt but that the effect of the bill will be to increase the revenue, by bringing the old lands into the market at prices for which they will sell; and that, in this point of view, in the present state of the Treasury, the passage of the bill becomes *a revenue measure of the first importance.*

We congratulate the citizens of the new States and Territories upon the prompt manner in which this great bill has been taken up, the auspicious prospect which attends it, and the earnest recommendation in its favor which President VAN BUREN has *repeated* in his last message. Mr. CLAY of Kentucky is to be the great opponent of the bill, and it is to be hoped that Mr. WEBSTER, who declared himself for the bill in all his Western speeches, and even in his New York speech preparatory to his Western mission, will not be absent *again,* as he was at the last session, when the vote was taken upon it.

JOHN M. BUCHANAN.—The Democratic Republicans of Allegany celebrated the recent triumphs of Democracy, on the 15th ult. A sumptuous supper was partaken of at the tavern of Mr. John Black, in Cumberland. In the course of the evening Mr. John M. Buchanan (who it will be remembered denounced the stand taken by the 19 Democratic Electors in 1836, and who was then much lauded by the Whigs) made the following remarks:

'Mr. BUCHANAN, said he would offer a sentiment which he knew would be acceptable to every friend of Reform, present. Before he submitted it, Mr. B. said he had a short explanation to make. It was no doubt distinctly recollected by most of those present, that, he had been opposed to the Nineteen Republican Senatorial Electors of 1836. He then believed in his conscience that the course adopted by those gentlemen would prove injurious to the party of which we were all members. This was the impression made on his mind said Mr. B. at the time—but it was not long before he discovered his error—before he was convinced that he had done those men and their aiders and abettors great injustice. 'The sober second thought, which is never wrong and always efficient,' convinced him that had it not been for the measures adopted by the "glorious nineteen," we should never have obtained that reform in the old, rotten and aristocratic Constitution of Maryland, which we now celebrate. Gentlemen, said Mr. B. I congratulate you—in my soul I congratulate you, on the glorious prospect before us—we have introduced the pruning knife to the old jade, and have resolved never to quit her until we have lopped off all her offensive features—our colors are nailed to the mast-head of our beautiful ship called Democracy —Do you not see our motto inscribed upon them in large, shinning letters, "RADICAL REFORM." These colors, with this soul inspiring motto, you know, we have all sworn never to strike or surrender to the enemies of equal rights.

We are all fighting in a good, a glorious cause—our march is onward, and no Republican will hesitate to rally under our broad banner and take a bold and decisive stand in our ranks. Gentlemen I could and would say much more on this pleasing subject, but I will detain you no longer from the enjoyment of the good things set before you. Fill your glasses to the brim, and I will give you a toast.

The nineteen Democratic Senatorial Electors of 1836:—They stand as a tower of strength and a pillar of light to all Reformers —Maryland, like the mother of the Gracchi, when asked for her jewels, she will point to the glorious nineteen as her most worthy sons.