THE STAR.

EASTON, Md.

TUESDAY MORNING, DEC. 16, 1845

☞ Mr. V. B. Palmer is our authorized agent to receive subscriptions and advertisements for the "Easton Star," in the cities of Baltimore and Philadelphia.

☞ *Privileges of Post-Masters.*—When subscribers refuse to take Newspapers from the office, Postmasters are now, as heretofore, required to notify Editors, &c. and may frank letters containing such notice.

Advertisements.—Look at our advertising columns if you wish to know where you can purchase all kinds of articles suitable to the season, and at accommodating prices. Now's the time, say our advertising friends, for bargains. Give them a call.

Christmas Presents—*something to please every body.*—Our neighbor, Charles Robinson, as will be seen by his advertisement, offers to the public a new and splendid assortment of seasonable goods and fancy articles, including holiday presents, &c. He thinks he can please the taste and fancy of young and old; and as he appears determined to accommodate purchasers, we suppose, they will give him a call and test his former "declaration." Try him.

Reports of the Treasury, Navy, and War Departments.—The great length of these important documents compels us to content ourselves with publishing only a synopsis of each, to which we call the reader's attention. We will take occasion to say, that the reports are written with masterly pens—concise in argument, and irresistible in conclusions; and the dry details incident to State papers of this description are occasionally relieved by an eloquent and patriotic discrimination of language eminently worthy of the talented authors.

Next week we will publish a synopsis of the Postmaster General's very able and important report, and then our decks will be cleared for other matters of general interest.

The President's Message.—The crowded state of our columns last week prevented us expressing our high approbation of President Polk's message. We presume that our readers by this time have read it, and formed their opinion of its merits. For ourselves, we consider it a brilliant document, in thought and word—firm, well arranged, and worthy of the chief Magistrate of this great Republic. It reflects the broad rays of Republican light upon every topic on which it treats; and while it commands the admiration of the Democratic press, it also receives the merited commendation of the more liberal of the opposition.

We are happy to find that the existing difficulties between us and Mexico are in a fair way of amicable adjustment, and that diplomatic intercourse has been restored between the two governments. On the subject of the Oregon question, we think the message puts to flight the fears of those who anticipated a beligerent movement on the part of the Executive; and his calm and dignified review of the subject is well calculated to bind in a firmer bond of union than ever the American people in regard to our rights to that territory. The message throughout is just such an one as might be expected from a President who has been schooled in the good old principles of Republicanism, by which alone our Nation can prosper—our flag be respected, and our people grow in numbers and prosperity.

☞ The news brought by the steamer Cambria last week is unimportant in a political view. It had the effect to reduce the price of flour and wheat. The New York Courier says:—"We have seen a letter from a member of Parliament, in which he declares his intention—if not anticipated by the minister—to move the House of Commons for the *free* admission of Indian corn into England, and to press a division on the motion. The letter encourages the hope that Sir R. Peel, if he does not himself propose the measure, will not oppose it, if the Parliament shall show any disposition to adopt it."

The President's Message, says the Philadelphia Ledger, a neutral paper, seems to have been received with more than usual favor by the press both in favor and against the administration. The Whig papers speak of it with respect, and some of them praise it, especially that part of it in reference to Oregon. The conciliatory course of the President in proposing a compromise has quite disarmed those who were not disposed to go for the whole claim.

☞ The Ohio River on Saturday, the 6th inst. was closed with ice to the depth of six feet, at the Sisters, three miles above Wheeling, and the Monongahela is closed nearly from Pittsburg to Brownsville. Navigation above this point may be considered as closed for the season.

Governor of Virginia.—The Hon. Wm. Smith, of Farquier co., was on Wednesday elected Governor of Virginia, by the Legislature of that State, in place of Gov. McDowell, whose term expires on the 1st of January.

Mr. S. is a sterling Democrat, and his election is well deserved.

Indiana U. S. Senator.—On the 6th inst., the Hon. Jesse D. Bright, Lieutenant Governor of the State, was elected a Senator in Congress from Indiana, for six years from the 4th of last March. Mr. Bright is a Democrat.

U. S. Senator *from Virginia.*—Judge Isaac S. Pennybacker has been elected United States Senator by the Virginia Legislature. He is a democrat.

Congressional.—We shall hereafter give a regular weekly summary of the proceedings of Congress. The message, last week, so exclusively occupied our columns that we had no room left for other matter.

The following gentlemen have been elected in the Senate chairmen of the respective committees.

Foreign Affairs	Allen	26
Finance	Calhoun	27
Commerce	Haywood	26
Manufactures	Dickinson	26
Agriculture	Sturgeon	26
Military Affairs	Benton	27
Militia	Atchison	25
Naval Affairs	Fairfield	26
Public Lands	Breese	26
Private Land Claims	Levy	25
Indian Affairs	Sevier	26
Claims	Bagby	26
Revolutionary Claims	Semple	25
Judiciary	Ashley	26

Mr. Dickens, the late Secretary, was re-elected Secretary, and Mr. Beale, the late Door-keeper, Sergeant-at-Arms.

Upon the 4th ballot for Door-keeper, Mr. Holland was elected.

A message was received from the President enclosing a copy of the Constitution of Texas.

A bill for the admission of Texas into the union has been introduced into the Senate by Mr. Lewis.

The Senate adjourned on Thursday last over to Monday (yesterday.)

A number of petitions against the annexation of Texas has been presented in the House by J. Q. Adams and others. They were received and laid quietly on the table; or as the Union has it "inurned."

In the House on Friday no business whatever was transacted. The death of Mr. Dawson of La. was announced and the House adjourned till Monday.

Oregon War.—The New York News, in speaking on this subject, makes these truthful remarks:—It is a singular fact that nearly the whole Whig press is engaged pertinaciously in getting up a war panic.—What the particular object is we cannot see. But this we know, from daily intercourse with intelligent men of all parties, that they are in opposition to, and excite the disgust of ninety-nine out of every hundred. What is the state of this question? When England came out of a twenty years' war triumphant, and was governed by *martial law* and a fierce and determined oligarchy, the *rulers* of that country haughtily refused compromise with the *people* of the United States on the question of Oregon territory. Now the position of that government, however, has entirely changed. The Ministers can no longer make war and conquest at their will and pleasure. If they do not choose to settle the Oregon question on equitable terms, they will have to *resign*, and let another Ministry show more sense. The people of Ireland don't want rocks in Oregon; they want repeal and good government at home. The Anti-Corn Law League do not want the Columbia, they want cheap bread and will have it. The two millions of people of Lancanshire employed in spinning cotton don't want to cut our throats because we are settling the Western country without an Imperial Governor; they want to buy our cotton and will have it in despite of Sir Robert Peel, or any old chance made soldier that has not sense enough to know when he is well off. He has heretofore suffered under a strong expression of the voice of England. All those interests which were powerless thirty years since are now omnipotent, and must be consulted. Oregon in possession of the United States, is open to the free settlement of every citizen of Great Britain. Will they fight to put over Oregon that bad government which they wish to repeal at home? Will the people of England sustain their minister in sending an army here to cut the throats of one hundred thousand citizens of New York, natives of Great Britain, merely to gratify the personal vanity of an individual? The whole thing is an absurdity. The United States throw their territories open to the *people* of all countries, but they resist the *governments of all countries.*

[*Correspondence of the Baltimore Sun.*]

Washington, Dec. 11th, 1845.

It is now well ascertained that, upon the Oregon question, the democracy of the Senate is united. Had Mr. McDuffie been present when Mr. Allen was chosen chairman of the committee of foreign relations, he would have voted for him. Moreover, Mr. McDuffie has avowed his determination to support the views of the message, on the Oregon question. There will not, therefore, be a single democratic vote in the Senate, against the Oregon bill of last session, unless it be Mr. Calhoun's.

You will see that General Cass has very wisely directed the attention of the Senate to the condition of our national defences. He is very apprehensive that Great Britain may find us unprepared, while she is armed in such a panoply as no nation ever presented before, in ancient or modern times.

It is not very many years ago—it is within the recollection of many who are still prominent in our public affairs—that Great Britain made a war against Spain for Oregon. She has had one Oregon war, and every circumstance combines to show that she may have another.

Since the publication of the Oregon correspondence, the impression has prevailed that arbitration may yet be resorted to, and with success. One reason given for the rejection of arbitration, when proposed to Mr. Calhoun, was that the resources of negotiation had not been exhausted. That objection does not now apply.

John Quincy Adams.—A Washington letter writer says that John Q. Adams, on the Oregon question is an out-and-outer—going for 54 d. and 40 m., not abating a minute. His health is very feeble, and he is fast failing.

Later from Mexico—*Important Propositions.*—The New Orleans papers have later intelligence from Mexico by way of Havana.—We learn from the Picayune that a Mexican paper of the 14th inst. gives the following rumors:

That persons well acquainted with the secrets of the Mexican Government, say that propositions to that government by our Consul at the city of Mexico, to settle the boundaries of the two countries (the annexation question being considered settled,) in the following manner. The U. States to pay an indemnification of 4 or $5,000,000; their boundary to be the Rio Bravo del Norte, including part of the States of Tamaulipas, Cohahuila, Chihuahua, and New Mexico, together with the city of Sante Fe.

The writer at Vera Cruz from whom this news is derived, says not but that the Mexican government will accede to such a proposition, at least for so small an indemnification as 3,000,000. It is stated by the authority that propositions have also been made for the acquisition of New California.

From Texas.—By the arrival of the steamship New York at New Orleans we have Galveston dates to the 1st inst. We learn that a public meeting of the citizens of Houston, Fort Bend, the Hon. James Fuller, of Fort Bend, was nominated for the office of Governer of the State of Texas, and the Hon. N. H. Darnell, of St. Augustine, for that of Lieutenant Governor. The same paper states that Galveston is literally overrun with strangers, both European and American.—The number of arrivals, thus far, has been greater than during the corresponding period of any previous season. Business of every kind is exceedingly brisk. The city and surrounding country very healthy.

SINGULAR.

A letter published by a cotemporary contains the following paragraph.

"I have just heard a strange story about the slaver Spitfire, sold at Boston, & since fitted up by Captain Taylor for submarine explorations. Experiments were being made upon the brig Canton, which was sunk in the Chesapeake a short time since by being run into by the steamboat Georgia. A man had gone down into the steerage and collected what things he thought he could bring up with him. As he turned round to get out, what was his astonishment to find that a dead man stood in the entrance, with arms spread out as if he would say, 'You must not come this way.'—The body was that of a man who had been lost in the wreck, and whose swollen corpse naturally rose when something which held it down had been removed by the explorer on entering. When the body got pushed out of the entrance to the steerage, it shot up a distance of some sixty feet from the wreck to the surface, astonishing those above almost as much as it did the poor fellow who first saw it."

The Mormon Prophet.—Mrs. Emma Smith, the widow of Joe Smith, the late Mormon Prophet, has written a letter to the New York Sun, in which she says:—"I never for a moment beleived in what my husband called his apparitions and revalations, as I thought him laboring under a diseased mind." The lady, it seems, understood the farce all the while. Such a declaration from her will no doubt, put an end to the delusion. Immediately on the death of the prophet the people began to disperse. A large body of them went up to the northern part of Wisconsin, and formed a settlement on Black river. Others went to different points in Illinois and Iowa.—It was evident that no one but Smith could keep together the elements of this strange fanaticism, into which the most serious dissensions had taken place before his death.

If, however, the faith should still continue to be professed, it will be wise, as the lady proposes, to mingle with the world and not to hold together in one community. While they do so, the whole body of Mormons, good and bad, have to answer for all the crimes committed by the bad among them, and the community suffers the discredit, and receives the stain which should properly attach to the individual only.

Speech from Mr. Gough.—The Boston Traveller says that on Friday evening, a large number gathered in Faneuil Hall to hear the able advocate of total abstinence, the Rev. T. Spencer. Unexpectedly to all, Mr. Gough, being in the gallery, was called out by most hearty cheers. He complied, and made a brief address. He remarked that he did not appear as a *criminal;* that it was his purpose to lay, again, at least for a time, that the intemperate cause was not and could not be affected by his fall; and alluded feelingly to his late sufferings. He was greeted with loud bands of applause.

Strange Phenomena.—A Galveston paper states that immediately after a heavy storm of thunder and lightning, the bay was seen covered with dead ducks and geese in all directions. There could not have been much short of three thousand slain in the vicinity. Others, though not killed, were so stunned or paralysed with the percussion, that they paddled about in utter bewilderment, as if intoxicated or affected with the vertigo. Some wild geese on the prairie were also killed by the same shocks, and have since been found.

The Steamer Great Britain.—This vessel sailed from New York for Liverpool on the 28th of October, and did not arrive until the 18th of November. She broke one of the arms of her propeller on the 30th of October, another on the 1st of November, and on the 6th the remaining arm of the propeller broke, leaving only the half arm and the shaft. She was about two feet from the centre. The steam was cut down as low as possible.—At twenty minutes past one on the 8th, the engines were stopped, and all sail set they could carry, in which condition she continued until her arrival.

News of the Week.

"With News the time's in labor,—
And throws forth each minute some."

High Prices for Chinese Shawls.—There was a sale at New York on Wednesday, of Chinese goods, which went off with great spirit. Amongst the goods was a lot of shawls, of which one bro't $455, one $425, 1 over $350, seven over $250, and nineteen over $150. These shawls were of great elegance, and the largest lot ever offered in the city. A large pair of vases sold for $310.

Political Nativism appears to be losing ground all over the country. The number of Native papers in Philadelphia, before the October election was four. Now there are but two. The "Rochester American" and the "Louisville Morning Courier," both ably conducted papers, have hauled down the flag of the "*one idea party,*" and have commenced the advancing of whig measures.

Mysterious Disappearance.—Much concern is felt at N. York on account of the mysterious absence of Mr. Arthur Morrell, of the firm of Morrell & Hammond, blank book manufactures, No. 60 John street.—He has been seen or heard of him since Thursday evening, when he left home with some $70 in his pocket.

The Mormons.—The Nauvoo Neighbor says that the Mormans have nearly two thousand five hundred wagons completed for the journey to the Pacific next spring.—Many strangers are visiting Hancock county and Nauvoo for the purpose of purchasing property, and they are invited to do it.

California.—It is stated, there are ten females to one male in California, and many of the ladies there possess large landed properties, all improved. These ladies are described as being beautiful, quite youthful, and exceeding virtuous, but anxious for good, kind and considerate husbands. We anticipate after these facts are generally known, that California will *be taken.*

Heavy Robbery.—Nineteen Thousand Dollars Stolen.—A trunk was stolen from the Waltham stage, at Boston, on Friday morning, containing between $18,000 and $19,000, in checks and money. There was $3,700 in bills, the rest in checks, all belonging to the Waltham Bank. No trace of the thieves has been found.

Indian Corn.—American Indian corn is now everywhere in demand; and bakers engaged in England, Germany, Holland and Belgium, to bake break out of it. Mr. Henry M. Meade, of New York, and Mr. Robertson, Consul of the United States in Bremen, deserve much credit for what they have done in this respect.—*N. York Sun.*

Important Difference.—In 1824, the price of Wheat in Illinois was 37½ cts per bushel—it is now one dollar. Corn was 12½ cents—it is now 50 cts. Cows were four dollars a head—they are now from fifteen to twenty dollars. Pork was one ct a pound—it is now from four to five cts.

Mrs. Polk.—A correspondent of the N. Y. Mirror, residing at the seat of government, says "there is much gossip in the fashionable circles here respecting the fine conversational powers of Mrs. Polk, and the unaffected ease and dignity with which this accomplished lady dispenses the honors and hospitalities of the white house."

A whig member of Congress from New England writes to a friend in this city as follows: "My belief is, that Congress will, with great unanimity, support President Polk in a peremptory claim to the 49th parallel, however imminent may be the hazards of war."—*N. Y. Journal of Commerce.*

The Meetings of the British Cabinet, which it was supposed had reference to opening the ports of that country, are now said to be occasioned by the state of the Oregon question. The active preparations which the country is making for a demonstration of some kind still continue.

Texas Mails.—We learn from the New Orleans Picayune that an arrangement has been made by the Post-office Department for despatching a regular weekly mail from N. Orleans to Texas, by the steamships Galveston and New York.

Colleges in Oregon.—The Methodists have already located a Collegiate Institution in Oregon, for the accommodation of which a building 75 feet long and three stories high has been erected. The institution is said to be in a flourishing condition.

Death of the Hon. John C. Smith.—The venerable John Cotton Smith, President of the American Bible Society, is numbered with the dead. He died at his residence in Sharon, Litchfield county, Connecticut, on the 7th inst. in the 81st year of his age.

Death of Commodore Elliott.—We learn, with regret, that Commodore Jesse D. Elliott, commandant at the Navy Yard at Philadelphia, died on Wednesday evening, about 11 o'clk, at his boarding house, in that city.

Hon. Henry Clay.—A letter in the Albany Journal, from N. R. Child, Esq., states that Mr. Clay goes to Cuba this winter for his health.

"*The Man with the White Hat.*"—Captain Elliott, late British agent in Texas, is now living in Brooklyn.

We regret to learn that General James Thomas, formerly Governor of Maryland, is lying very dangerously ill at his residence in St. Mary's county.

FROM RIO JANEIRO.

The barque Emmemus, Mansfield, has arrived at N. York from Rio Janeiro, whence she sailed on the 22d of October, bringing advices nine days later. Capt. Mansfield says that when he sailed, most of the vessels in port were waiting freight, which was very scarce. No United States vessels in port. The Raritan, which had gone to accompany the Emperor to St. Catherine's, had not returned, but was expected daily. By this arrival, we have files of the "Journal de Commercio" to the 21st of October, inclusive.

The Emperor of Brazil arrived at St. Catherine on the 11th of October, after a prosperous voyage of five days. He landed the next day, and would proceed to Rio Grande on the 24th. Volumnious and ecstatic accounts are given of his reception, but for these we have no room.

The 'Jornal' had advices from Montevideo to the 7th of October, and from Buenos Ayres to the 4th. The Oriental squadron had surprised and taken the town of Gualeguaychu, capturing the garrison, commandant and munitions. Nothing of importance had occurred at Buenos Ayres.—The blockading squadron had seized a number of small vessels from Parana and the coast. Mr. Brent, the U. S. Charge d'Affairs, made his former protest against the blockade on the 23d of September, and his example was followed by the Charge of Portugal. It was said that the French and English charges, Monsieur Mareuil and Mr. Ball, were to leave Buenos Ayres immediately. The former would return to France, having been at issue from the first with Baron Deffaudis, and taken sides with Governor Rosas.

From the New Orleans Jeffersonian, Nov. 29.

UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.

It is stated now, and we presume correctly, that the Hon. John Slidell, of this city, at present one of the representatives from the State of Louisiana in the United States Congress, is the individual who left Pensacola several days since, in the Saint Mary's sloop-of-war, for Vera Cruz. In what precise capacity Mr. Slidell goes to Mexico—whether as special envoy or resident minister—does not seem yet to be fully known. We presume that it is the former, as Mr. Slidell has given no intimation as far as we can learn, of an intention to abandon his place in Congress; and he would not, of course, design to be absent any great length of time from his public duties at Washington without giving his constituents timely notice, so as to enable his place to be filled by a new election.—We suppose, in the absence of specific intelligence beyond the fact that Mr. Slidell has gone aboard, that he has been selected by the Executive to repair to Mexico, clothed with all proper powers to place our relations with that country on an honorable and friendly footing, and to be in Washington at an early day, with the diplomatic evidences that existing differences have been arranged, and the intercourse between the two nations re-established on a better and firmer basis than ever. We hope that such may be the result.

The selection for this duty is, we think, a judicious one on the part of the President. Mr. Slidell is a man of talents, of great prudence and discretion; and he will be apt to do well and thoroughly what he does do. At any rate there will be no blundering or mistakes nor any imprudences committed, which, in diplomatic intercourse, are always humiliating and mortifying, and oftentimes extremely hurtful.

[We suspect that Mr. Slidell will send in his resignation of his seat in the House of Representatives from Mexico. His doing so before he left the United States, might have betrayed his *incognito.*—*Union.*]

Very Late from California.—The New York Sun has private advices from Monterey, (Upper California,) to the middle of October last, received on Monday. The intelligence is important. A British fleet destined for Oregon was passing up the west-coast, of which the correspondent of the Sun at Monterey says:—

The pioneer of this fleet, the British ship of war "America" touched here some time ago, and the movements of her commander, Capt. Gordon, aroused our suspicions at the time. He refused to give any news, saying, "men of war do not carry news." He also refused to carry a circular letter to the United States Indian Agent at Oregon City, remarking that he was not *sure* of going to Columbia River. I have ascertained that Lord Aberdeen, the British Secretary for Foreign Affairs, had a brother on board the America, and one of Sir Robert Peel's sons was also an officer or a passenger. We were all glad that these distinguished visitors had every facility extended to them for collecting facts in this vicinity. They can give their illustrious relatives an interesting account of California. At San Francisco, they found every well built house owned by "Yankee." "D—n it," said one of the officers, "is there nothing but Yankees here?"—They had the satisfaction of hearing direct from several over the mountain travellers, of the many hundred wagons on the road for Oregon and California, as well as of the excellent facilities for travelling between the States and this coast."

The Governor had the militia called out to resist an expected invasion from the U. States squadron, and the soldiers, ready to run at the first shot, were gratified with the frolic. Foreigners of all nations are respected. Americans are pouring into the country from Oregon and the States. The British merchant schooner "Star of the West," from Liverpool, with a cargo valued at £30,000 sterling, was lost near the entrance to the harbor of Monterey on the 27th July. The goods saved and sold fetched only $3,000 at auction. The tax of $30 on whale ships has been taken off by the authorities of California.

☞ A dividend of 42 per cent. was recently declared by a Cotton factory, at Concord, N. H.—What farmer has realized one-third that amount?

THE BALANCE OF POWER.

We shall soon know the opinion of Europe upon the President's explicit declarations upon Mr. Guizot's doctrine of "a balance of power" on the American continent,—if it shall publicly express any. Our own belief is that it will say nothing on the subject, and endeavor, by silence, to repair Mr. Guizot's awkward error. What continental government will say a word in opposition to the President's declarations on this subject? Russia, whose policy is peace & commerce with the United States, which gives itself no trouble about American democracy, while the American government do not interfere with Russian autocracy, which seeks the freedom of the ocean for the benefit of its own commerce and regards the United States as the most formidable opponent of British maritime tyranny, and which, moreover, is sufficiently occupied with the Circassians, will not espouse any quarrel into which Mr. Guizot may blunder, to establish a balance of power on another continent. Prussia has full hands with its own subjects, quarrelling about religion, and clamorous for the constitution so often promised and so long denied. Austria is too much afraid of another "United States" in Italy, to think of interfering with the United States of America. Who then are left to talk about this "balance of power?" France and Britain. In France, owning not a foot of soil on this continent, and dependent on the United States for the most valuable portion of its trade, and unable to enforce any balance of power, such pretension is not only supremely ridiculous, but inordinately insolent. How will France enforce such doctrine. A hundred thousand troops, if it *could* land them upon our coast, would soon leave their bones on our soil. And the French Government, afraid of *revolutions*, and European aggressions, and with its lands full of the Arabs, could not very conveniently spare a hundred thousand soldiers, even if it could find the means of sending them across the Atlantic. The British Government avow and will contend for no such doctrine. If it should our conquest of its Northern colonies with their own good-will, would sadly disturb the *existing* balance, and transfer a large amount of *credit* to our side of the sheet. We therefore believe that European governments will be silent on this subject. If they are, they will proclaim that France was rather premature in the declaration.—If they are not, all that they can say will proclaim their inability to accomplish any such project. In either case, the message will be a bitter pill, and the attitude of our country will command the respect of all enlightened Europeans.

Shipwreck of the French Barque Emilie.—We find in the Norfolk Beacon a detailed account of the loss of this vessel and a portion of her crew, from which we gather the following facts:

The barque belonged to Bordeaux, was in ballast, and was consigned to Messrs. Robertson and Brands, of Norfolk. On Tuesday, the 2d instant, the captain was unable to obtain an observation, but made Cape Henry; whilst sounding, the vessel struck, and so violently as to tear off the rudder, sternpost and part of the stern frame; she immediately sunk in two and a half fathoms water, the sea making a complete breach over her, from stem to stern.—The launch was got out, but was stove and sunk along side. As the deck was under water and every sea washing over them, the captain and crew took refuge in the tops, and remained all night in this situation, expecting every moment to be washed overboard with the masts; they were all wet and with no shelter from the wind and cold. The next day, (Wednesday) the weather was still so thick that they could not see the land, nor could they be seen from the shore until late in the afternoon, altho' the vessel is so near the beach.

The crew with much difficulty succeeded in sending down the fore and foretopsail yard, and constructed a raft for the purpose of reaching the shore. Previous to launching the raft, one of the crew in attempting to swim ashore was drowned; the remainder now attempted to embark on the raft, ten of them succeeded in reaching it, but the line that attached it to the wreck was parted by the violence of the sea, leaving the captain, mate, and one of the crew still on board. The raft was soon after driven on shore and four of the ten persons who embarked on it were saved; the other six perished from the cold and exhaustion after reaching the beach; one other person was drowned alongside of the ship before shoving off, but his body came on shore soon afterwards.

Throughout the day the weather continuing very bad, and the surf being too high to launch a boat, no assistance could be rendered from the shore to the three survivors yet on the wreck and who were plainly to be seen in the foretop making signs for help; they remained there all night exposed to the bleak N. wind. The next morning (Thursday,) Mr. John R. Whitous, Alfred Bonney, Mr. Moore and Cason, launched a boat and put off to the wreck and rescued the sufferers from their perilous situation, but nearly insensible from cold and hunger. Every attention was rendered them.

Remedy for Lock-Jaw.—Having seen in the Argus of the 21st an account of the death of the son of Mr. Andrew Watson, from Lock-Jaw, from a nail accidentally run into his foot, I would state for the benefit of those afflicted with similar causes, that a common cent or piece of copper bound firmly upon the wounded part, and in actual contact with it, will cause almost immediate and *entire relief*, and cause the wound to speedily heal, whether it be made by rusty nail, steel instrument, splinter or any other cause either in foot, hand or any other part of the body.—N. B. Rusty or tarnished copper is prefarable to bright copper, though either will answer.—*Albany Argus.* J. H. H.

There are at this time, 620,000 girls receiving their education in French convents

REPORT,

OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

We copy from the Union the following synopsis, presenting the leading features of the Report of the Secretary of War, one of the documents accompanying the President's Message:

It exhibits, in the first instance, the organization, strength and constitution of the regular army. The rank and file, embracing every arm of the service doss not exceed 6,500 men. At this time, there is stationed but a single regiment on the whole northern frontier, from Maine to Lake Superior, an extent of 2000 miles; and on the whole line from the Falls of St. Anthony to N. Orleans, (fifteen hundred miles,) only one regiment of dragoons and two of infantry. The artillery regiments, reduced by detachments of four companies from each, now garrison the fortifications of the seaboard, from Newport to New Orleans. The remaining and larger proportion of the army is now stationed in Texas. The report gives an interesting account of the political reasons which have induced the government to give them this destination.—The Secretary does not think it prudent to remove the troops from this position until our relations with Mexico have assumed a more decided aspect. He proposes to increase the army, he proposes to build on the basis of the regiments, by adding to the rank and file of each company, instead of creating new regiments. This necessity may be found in the course of Mexico, or in the conduct of the Cumanches, or of the Indians that are found in Oregon, or that may interrupt the increasing current of emigration to the Rocky Mountains.—By the proposed arrangements of filling up the infantry companies to 68 men, and the dragoons to 60, the privates are increased, without a corresponding augmentation of the officers.

The report suggests that, besides this increase of the number of privates in the two existing regiments of dragoons, another regiment of dragoons or of mounted riflemen may be necessary, in the event of extending our posts to the Rocky mountains.

It states that, though the concentration of so large a proportion of the army on the frontier of Texas may have, in some measure, enlarged the expenditures, (certainly in the article of transportation,) yet it has, in some degree, been compensated by the improvement which has taken place in the discipline of the troops. It renews the recommendation for establishing a corps of sappers, miners, and pontoniers, to assist, among other things in constructing bridges, in consequence of the military occupation of Texas. One hundred men will be sufficient for the purpose.

The report gives a rapid but interesting account of Col. Kearney's expedition, during the last summer, to the South Pass of the Rocky mountains; the impressions it produced among the Indians; the number of emigrants whom it met on their way to Oregon, to the number of 2,325 men, women and children, with 7,000 head of cattle, 400 horses and mules, and 460 wagons. This report of Col. Kearney accompanies the communication of the commanding general, and will furnish; no doubt, an interesting store of extracts, at a season of greater leisure. It also refers to the adventures of another detachment of the dragoons under the command of Capt. Sumner, nearly to the northern line of the United States, between Lake Superior and the Lake of the Woods. Among the Indians whom they met with on their route, and upon whom they made a due impression with their military array, was a numerous band of the half-breeds of the Red river of the north, who had come from the region of the Hudson Bay Company into our limits to hunt buffalo. They had even solicited permission to reside in the United States.

The Secretary refers to the considerations which had prompted Gen. Gaines to despatch the volunteers of Louisiana to the camp of General Taylor. Ample justice is done to their gallantry, and Congress is invited to make appropriation for the compensation. Gen. Taylor had also accepted the services of four Texan companies of mounted men for three months.

The estimates for the ensuing year do not greatly vary from those of former years. The item for arming the fortifications is increased $100,000.

It calls the attention of Congress to the 48 forts in process of construction, and to the propriety of erecting new forts at other points. Among these, as suggested in the reports of the engineers, are fortifications of the narrows at Staten Island and Sandy Hook, and the condition of the half suspended fortress at the Pea Patch; and additional work at Sollers' Point, for the protection of Baltimore; and projected fortification on the Florida reefs.

The Secretary speaks with great confidence of the school at West Point, and proposes some improvements.

The Secretary speaks with enthusiasm of the expeditions under Captain Fremont and his valued services. He refers to the reports of the pension office, which show now registered upon its books 28,921 pensioners—2,371 added during the last year, and 1,438 known to have died. He devoted a considerable space to the Indian policy and the Indians—the Pottawotomies, the Choctaws, and particularly the Cherokees. He lays before the President the highly interesting communications of our Indian sub-agent in the territory of Oregon.

He dedicates the conclusion of his comprehensive and very interesting report to a subject which is of so profound an importance in a free government, viz: the organization of the militia. He suggests various alterations; and, among the rest, submits the question whether it might not be advisable to reduce the period of 18 years of age to 21, upon the ground that, all the citizens of 18 years of age are not too young to bear arms, they are not generally in a situation to equip themselves with arms as the law requires.

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