



Seditious Placards.

The recent riot in our city, resulting in the death of so many human beings, may, in a great measure, be attributed to inflammatory placards which were posted up in the streets, and which were calculated to excite the hostility of one portion of our citizens against another. The police should take charge of every person circulating or posting up such anti-republican missives, in order to ferret out the real plotters of mischief. On last Saturday morning, seditious placards were posted up in different parts of our city, the tendency of which was to array hostility against the present appointed Commissioner of Patents. "The trail of the serpent" was visible in every sentence of those placards, for it should surely be a matter of rejoicing to our citizens, that a practical mechanic has been appointed to an office in our Government, which none but a practical mechanic should fill, and which, since our government was established, was never filled by a mechanic before.—*Sun.*

We noticed the placards mentioned in the above. The man who got them up cannot be a good citizen, he is a dangerous man to the community and true liberty. He who would stab his neighbor's character by *pettifoggling* intrigue, is sure to be unmasked at last. The eye of omniscient justice is upon him. We were sorry to see the names of Prof. Renwick and Gen. Harvey on the placards. Those respectable gentlemen would loathe the very idea of having the remotest connexion with the author or authors of the placard. We hope that none of those gentlemen who met at the American Institute had any thing to do with the matter, although from the language of the placards, coarse, crude and blustering, there is ground for suspicion, as some facts were referred to in the handbills, which none could know but a person who attended or received word from one who attended the caucus of certain professed inventors. The information was quite new to us. We have said all that we mean to say in regard to the new Commissioner of Patents, only this, that his appointment meets the views embraced in the resolution of the National Convention of Inventors, which was held this Spring in the city of Baltimore. In conclusion, we speak the honest convictions of our heart, when we say, that no man is fit to be an American citizen, who attacks his neighbor's character either in placard or paper and has not the courage to subscribe his name to the same.

#### Boston Cultivator.

Our worthy contemporary, the Boston Cultivator, is not quite so careful in giving just credit to its cotemporaries as it should be, especially for known original articles. It does not sit well upon our stomach to see the N. Y. Farmer and Mechanic get credit in last week's Cultivator for an "Ingenious Key," and to see three of our original articles supporting the credit of the "Ingenious Key," (which is ours) on their shoulders. In the previous Cultivator, the Artisan got the same honor paid to it at our expense. We do not care whether the Cultivator gives us credit for such things or not, in the matter of a fair exchange, but we don't like others to get credit for our labors; and there is not a week lately, but some article is miscredited in the same way.

#### A Good Month's Work.

There was spun at the Cotton Mill of Charles Danforth, Paterson, N. Jersey, (Wm. Atherton, Superintendent,) as four week's work, ending Feb. 10th, 1849 on 20 Danforth or cap frames, numbering 2,616 spindles 514,620 skeins, all wavy, making a daily average of 8,197 skeins per spindle. Number of yarn 21.3. The machinery is of Charles Danforth's new and improved kind. Paterson time of working is 69 hours per week.

The above great months work, we re-insert to add "that it has been derived from an unquestionable source.

#### Afflicting Events.

The tolling of the funeral bell which woke its sad notes for the deceased who fell at the Opera House, bad scarcely died upon our ears, when the afflicting news reached the city informing us that the steamboat Empire was run into and sunk by a schooner. At the time of writing this the bodies of ten drowned persons have been recovered from the wreck, and the Coroner's Jury have given a verdict, the sum of which is, that this deplorable loss of life was occasioned by the recklessness of the pilot Levi Smith.

The steamboat Rip Van Winkle saved about 200 of the passengers, and had she not been near and her officers acted with heroic energy and promptness, it is probable that all this great number saved would have been lost.—The event took place on the North River near to Newburg, at 10 o'clock, on the evening of the 17th inst. The night was clear and starry. What a responsibility rests on our pilots and engineers, they should be men of undoubted integrity, capacity, coolness, and humanity. We hope that this case will be considered criminal negligence.

#### Fire at St. Louis.

On the same night and at the same hour the Steamboat Empire was sunk, a fire broke out on board the steamer White Cloud lying along the Levee at St. Louis, Mo. Twenty-three steamboats were burned down and a great part of the City. No less than \$5,000,000 worth of property has been destroyed and three persons killed. The fire was not stopped till next day, and houses had to be blown up for that purpose.

#### Watertown.

A fire took place at Watertown, N. Y., last week and \$250,000 worth of property destroyed, this is a vast amount considering the size of the place.

#### New Orleans.

The city of New Orleans has been almost deluged by the banks being swept away, and the Mississippi allowed to ride free through the streets. There is every appearance of New Orleans being swept away some day.

#### The Patent Office Building.

Proposals have been received for building two additional wings to the Patent Office, each wing building will extend from each end of the present building east and west, 70 feet, with an entire depth or length of 290 feet. The architectural order in the exterior of these buildings, will be the same with that in the present building, which is the Greek Doric, composed of a series of anæ (pilasters,) raised on a high basement, running the whole circuit of the exposed walls, and surmounted by their entablature, corresponding in its details with that of the celebrated Parthenon, in harmony with the whole building, the design of which was furnished by Mr. Elliott. The West wing is for the accommodation of the Patent Office, in all its details and departments, and made fire-proof.

In the upper story, a gallery will extend round the entire room, supported by columns, and the walls prepared for the reception of works of art, to be lighted from above. With both of these wings, on every floor, a communication will be opened with the present building, so as to constitute it one for the transaction of the business of the department which shall occupy it.

The facing of the exterior walls of these wings will be white marble, and the roof covered with copper, as in the present building.

#### Boston and Albany.

A correspondent of the Newark Advertiser, in speaking of Albany, says: The general outline of the city resembles in many respects that of Boston. The State Houses occupy similar positions. They are both vast business centres. They both sit upon hills; their merchants are princes; their institutions of learning are numerous and of a high order; there is an enterprise too in the population which seeks comparison.

We learn by Telegraph that Major General Worth of the U. S. A. died with the Cholera on the 7th inst., at Antonio de Bexar, Texas. His loss will throw the pall of sadness over the whole country.

#### An American Invention in England.

The London Patent Journal, Barlow and Payne's, mentions the American Invention of Henry F. Baker, of Boston, Mass., and says that it "is likely to prove very valuable and highly profitable to the Inventor"

The invention has been patented in England, and is a steam boiler furnace, which is not only capable of effecting a great saving of fuel but an almost total consumption of smoke, which is vastly important. The first furnace introduced was erected last year at the East London Water Works, when Mr. Wicksteed, the well-known engineer, made a most flattering report, showing that Baker's furnace saved 37 per cent. of fuel. Another furnace has recently been erected at the extensive works of Hoyle and Sons of Dukinfield, which gives much satisfaction. There is also one at Hargreaves, Brothens, Broad Oak print works at Accrington, and Colonel J. Amory, the agent in this country for these furnaces, has several orders to supply this valuable invention to other large establishments.

#### The Great Linguist.

At Rome has died Cardinal Mezzofanti—the celebrated Mezzofanti, known throughout Europe for his extraordinary power in the acquisition of languages, down even to the minutest differences of dialect and shades of patois, which procured for him from Byron the name of the "Polyglot." His power of assimilation in this respect was something like divination; and he is likened to those metal prodigies known as "calculating children," who, to the astonishment of consummate mathematicians, leap as it were at a bound; without education, to conclusions implying the intricate processes of their particular science.—At Rome, where the Propaganda entertains and trains missionaries for and from all parts of the world, and where all living languages are currently spoken, Cardinal Mezzofanti conversed with each man in his own tongue and idiom. Curious things are spoken of this remarkable yet seemingly mechanical gift of his. "If," it is said, "he were addressed for the first time in a language or dialect new to him, he listened with a wonderful power of attention, decomposed the sounds in his mind, searched for the analogies, and sought out the roots. In a short time all was clear to him:—he was master of the lexicon and the grammar of the hitherto unknown tongue."

#### Wonderful Escape.

The Philadelphia Gazette says:—"Mr. Foster, of Longley's Express, informs us that at Salmon Falls, on Monday, four workmen, building a chimney, (in connection with the mills,) which had reached to the height of sixty feet, by the giving way of the staging, the whole four fell through the interior of the chimney to the ground. They were laying the finishing stone, and that went through and they after it. No one was killed, and but one badly injured. One of them got up and walked off, as unconcerned as though nothing had happened. It was a most miraculous thing that they were not all killed."

These men knew the science of escaping from danger. We have known two or three instances of masons saving their lives in the same way. If a man is on a chimney and it commences to fall, let him slide down inside, for that is the only loop hole of escape. Brick builders all know this.

#### Lead Mines.

The S. W. and Arkansas Mining Company have a large number of teams running between the mines and the river bank opposite Little Rock, bringing in the ore for shipment. The company have raised a large quantity of mineral, a portion of which, in two lots, one of 400,000 pounds for Philadelphia, and another of 100,000 pounds for Liverpool, England, will be shipped in a few weeks. Preparations are being made by the company to erect within a month, extensive smelting and cupelling furnaces for reducing the ore and extracting the silver from the lead.

#### Explosions.

We have received by the Boston Traveller, the Report of the Boston Society of Civil Engineers on the explosion of the Locomotive Piscataqua. As it a singular case, we shall notice it next week.

#### Spirit of an Engineer.

The Philadelphia Sun says that the chief engineer of one of the Halifax Steamers lately purchased by the Prussian Government, was a fine stalwart Highlandman, six feet two in stature, and strong in proportion to his unusual height. One day, at Bremen, when our Highlander was on deck, the commander of the new steam-frigate brushed roughly and rudely past him. Resenting the offence, the Scot threatened to knock down his chief if the annoyance were repeated. The insult being again offered; the commander was felled to the deck accordingly. A crowd of men assembled immediately, and meditated the capture of our hero. He, however, armed himself with a double-barrelled gun, and until the consul had been apprised of the occurrence, in his engine-room, kept the whole dastardly crew at bay, threatening to shoot the man who attempted his capture. The affair then terminated peaceably; but the advice of the consul, to save himself from assassination, by a speedy flight, was wisely adopted in good time, by the gallant Highlandman. When questioned whether he would really have shot his opponent, he replied "well, no; but I would have just run the gun-barrel into the first who approached." While referring to this incident, we may mention a fact not yet generally known, namely, that the rescue of the Acadia, when stranded on Ter Schelling, was entirely secured by the exertions—the ability, indeed—of her chief engineer, a Scotchman.

#### Water Wheel for Mexico.

At the Union Water Works, Paterson, N. J., there is at present in process of construction a water wheel 66 feet indiameter, weighing 70 tons all iron.

It is building for Don Rubio, of Mexico, one of the largest and most wealthy manufacturers in that country, who has probably spent more money to advance the manufacturing interest there, than all others put together.—The wheel is to be finished and put together complete before leaving the Works, and all who are desirous of seeing it in a finished state swung upon its shaft ready to receive the water in its buckets, will have an opportunity of doing so the last week in this month, or the first week in June.

#### Vancouver's Island.

It is stated that the British Government has determined on forming an extensive depot and naval station at Vancouver's Island in the Pacific. The natural advantages of the position are said to be very great, and the island also abounds with coal. Its soil is also said to be well adapted to farming purposes. The only drawback is the rule of the Hudson's Bay Company which will prove an obstacle to any thing like successful colonization, and a drawback it will certainly prove, as all such aristocratic unrighteous grants have proven. Vancouver's Island will yet be an independent kingdom, but not for a number of years, and in that case it will rule the Pacific Ocean—it occupies the very position to do this.

#### The Cholera.

We see by several of our exchanges that there is some little excitement about the Cholera being in this city. It is true that a few cases have occurred, but these cases would have taken place under the same circumstances in any other city. Our city is in a very healthy state—and our citizens have far less fears of the disease than strangers. No inordinate apprehensions need be entertained about the cholera in New York.

#### American Sewing Silk.

Messrs. Amos Gleason, jr. & Co. of Newport, N. H. have favored us with a sample of sewing silk, which is not excelled by any foreign article we ever saw. Their *black* has the brilliancy of Italian and is equal in texture. Messrs. G. & Co. manufacture all colors and have shown us some of the most brilliant and beautiful shades we ever saw, of American manufacture.

#### A Literary Lion Coming.

On the evening of a certain day near the close of the year 1849, a solitary man, closely muffled in a large huge cloak, will be seen embarking on board a steamer bound for America. That man is G. P. R. James. So the paper's say.