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The New-Orleans Daily Bee

Thursday Morning, March 1, 1849.

Macaulay—The History of England.

The reputation of Mr. Thomas Babington Macaulay has called forth praise pane gyrical in its commencement and critical in its conclusion, and discriminating and just throughout. Its author has long since, by the universal sanction of the literary world, been placed foremost in the rank of British writers. His genius, his versatility, his incomparable brilliancy and vigor of style, have been the themes of a vast amount of vague and undiscerning praise. The appearance of his latest, most finished and most elaborate production was the signal for a renewal flow of that diluted stream of verbose eulogium in which the press of our country in both hemispheres seemed to indulge. He has been overwhelmed by praise—but for the most part it has been praise which Macaulay himself would disdain—praise lavish, prodigal, hackneyed and devoid of thought to the mind of the reader no distinct and specific idea of the precise merits of the writer whom it extols to the earth beneath, and appeals to the echo which shall applaud again. Indeed, people seem disposed to treat this remarkable writer with peculiar conclusion, and to speak of him as they speak of Milton, Shakspeare and Spenser—forgetting that the greatness of Milton, Shakspeare and Spencer has been acknowledged for centuries, and that every one who have never read Othello, Paradise Lost, or the Faerie Queene, may form a correct estimate of their conception and their merits, from the endless critics and commentators who have studied the works of the great masters. But Macaulay is of our own time. He is distinctly identified with the very form and pressure of the age. His claims to the admiration of the student, the scholar and the mere popular reader, demand inquiry and elucidation, and they will be better established by subjection to the rigid canons of criticism, than by whole reams of extravagant and undigested encomium.

We concur entirely with all who regard Macaulay as a writer of splendid genius, wonderful knowledge and accuracy of observation, vast comprehensiveness of intellect, enlarged and liberal principles. We look upon him as the most extraordinary writer of the age, and we are of opinion that he deserves something more definite than an editorial stuffed to of superlatives. His literary claims are of that sterling character which makes the test of the crucible, and he can come out from pure as refined gold from the fiery ordeal. Our readers, we are convinced need no eulogy for its exposition; a review upon the style, and patience, in a labor of love, enrichment of our own, in which we hope to explain to them why this great author is entitled to the most exalted rank in the literature of letters.

No reader at all familiar with models of composition can peruse half a dozen pages of Macaulay, without being at once struck with the style of his writings. It is peculiar, fraught with sense and solidity, and so marked, that it would be impossible to conceal it, even in an anonymous production. It is luminous to an extraordinary degree. No author with whom we are acquainted possesses a greater share of that power, which renders style a clear and vivid exponent of thought. It is elsewhere terse and epigrammatic—full of a strength not massive or lumbering—not ponderous and sonorous, nor that too long and compact, symmetrical and graceful. It is frequently sententious, rarely a common remark. Metaphor is sparingly employed—in some instances artificial conception. Macaulay soars upon a strong and steady pinion. To seek into brilliancies, to awe into admiration, are with him impossibilities. His object says no one can mistake, preserves him from the prevalence of a style that sometimes just verges sufficiently near to the veiled, to which experienced readers that a counterfeit would be even a crime.

Macaulay has the talent of imparting ideas in the most exquisite and forcible language—His style evinces no careful elaboration. It seems a part of the man. His short, sharp sentences seem thrown off by happy inspiration, raised upon no parade of effort, and yet not a word is out of place, nor a phrase meretricious, nor a sentence that transposition or modification could improve. The object of the writer is clear to the reader as if on Sheet the understanding, and it is sought to be accomplished by short and decisive sentences. The mind power is trained in pursuing the argument, for whether the reflection or thing appear incontrovertible, or not, it is presented in so lucid a form, and in so orderly and connected train of observations consider ations, that any intellect capable of comprehending the links of a logical sequence, follows him without deviation or perplexity. This is one of his greatest triumphs.

This marvellous faculty, for which we can find no better term than "luminousness," renders him with a power which makes him the most fascinating of writers. It is alike developed in the simplest narrative of facts, and in the most abstruse reflections upon problems of metaphysics and political economy. The opulence of his genius enriches every subject which it touches. An historical anecdote is told so happily that it has the charm less in the grace, ease and quiet elegance with which it is narrated. A dissertation upon the polity of the British realm, or the causes of the reformation, is illuminated by the same affluence of thought and beauty of expression. Macaulay discerns at a glance the prominent points in his subject, seizes them with unerring grasp, strips them of all extraneous superfluities, analyses them with a remorseless scalpel and presents them in their naked merit for the praise or execration of his readers. His logic is severe, but impartial. The victim may writhe but he cannot complain that the punishment is undeserved.

It is the combination of these qualities of vigor, ease, elegance, polish, strength, richness of fancy, boldness of opinion, earnestness of conviction, indifference to long established notions, determination to crush error, and expose empiricism, reverence of an antiquity that can offer nothing else to recommend it, hatred of falsehood and hypocrisy, an intense and ever predominant love of the beautiful, the pure and the true—it is this combination which confers a potency upon the style of Macaulay which writers upon kindred topics have never attained—This only can we explain the fact that his productions enchant alike the learned and the ignorant. The man of letters, whose tutored intellect finds a refreshing stimulus in works which exact constant and close reflection, pores with delight over the pages of Macaulay. The merest novel reader, with a mind so feeble that its attention can only be forced by the unnatural and unhealthy excitement of highly wrought fiction, discovers in the pen of Macaulay a charm more wholesome, but not less potent than lurks in the hot-bed and fungus-like creations of romance.

The versatility of Macaulay must not be overlooked in the effort to establish a critical appreciation of this remarkable writer. There is scarcely a conceivable subject in the vast range of topics embraced in modern literature—unless we except the purely scientific—upon which he has not shed the light of his penetrating, thoughtful and comprehensive genius. From dispositions of refined subtlety and profound dialectics, his pen wanders with equal freedom and facility to the amenities of polite literature, the inspirations of poetry, or the fervid conceptions of eloquence. Does the reader seek an elaborate essay on complicated questions of high government polity, let him turn to Macaulay's argument on Church and State. The heaviest and least attractive of themes he has invested with the magic of his style and rendered intensely interesting by the splendor of his genius. If burning eloquence and rich imaginative power are sought for, they may be found profusely scattered around Macaulay's immortal essay on the History of Greece. Those who delight in the ruthless severity of unsparing criticism—a severity which pleases the suffering author on the rack of torment and irony, and tortures him into madness by the sting of keen satire and brilliant wit, may behold the dissection of the executioner performed with masterly self-command, in Macaulay's essay on the poems of Robert Montgomery. For bursts of honest indignation and withering contempt; for the complete exposure of a hypocrite; for the flagellation of a saintly scoundrel and the purification of history from the polluting influence of falsehood and error, there is nothing in the productions of any contemporaneous writer that approaches Macaulay's review of the Memoirs of Barrere. In fact, Macaulay appears at home at all points. Armed in the panoply of a style, whose magic is irresistible; gifted with the most capacious and well constructed memory; bringing to bear upon every topic, an intellect eminently acute, analytical powers of the highest order, vast erudition and a judgment, that if not always free from prejudice, is never distorted and crotchety; swayed usually by lofty and patriotic feeling; an open and bitter enemy of meanness and falsehood; a lover, nay a worshipper of liberty,—he is qualified for his position of the great reviewer of the age, and his opinions command a respect commensurate with the intellectual pre-eminence of their author.

We have barely touched upon the prominent features of Macaulay, and could, with pleasure to ourselves, extend this general examination much farther, but we are admonished by our space, of the necessity of a brief reference to the work which forms the title of this article. The History of England is a book written not for a day, nor a year, nor a century, but for all time. It is not a meagre chronicle of sieges and battles; far less a jejune and fruitless biography of kings and princes. It is rather a philosophical investigation of the great events which transpired during those memorable periods in the annals of Great Britain, which have impressed their influence enduringly upon succeeding generations; which have taught mankind the signification and value of enlightened freedom—and the effect of which is felt at the present day, not only in every feature of the English constitution, but in the stock which is ramping from British loins, now peoples our broad transatlantic republic. It is a history of the great struggle between the principle of tyranny and the principle of liberty—it shows how the one was gradually invaded and undermined by the other; how absolute power was forced to part with its prerogatives in favor of representative power; how oppression provoked resistance, and obstinacy created revolution—how every year added something precious to the accumulating mass of popular rights—how parties originated in those eternal distinctions which must exist, while opinions vary and while the art of government resists education to fixed mathematical rules. The History of England is moreover a history of the people. Nothing that is instructive or that may serve to correct erroneous notions, is deemed beneath the dignity of the historian. We are introduced to our common ancestors. We behold them at their studies, their professions, their pastimes. We are made familiar with their modes of thought, their literary pursuits, their habits of life, their social customs, their manners, their religion. This is history in its broadest and most comprehensive sense; and this, Macaulay has given us.

The style of the work, while but differing materially from that of his Essays, is some what subdued. It is still fresh, however, vigorous, racy and picturesque. Either time has pruned the author's imagination of its exuberance, or what is more probable, he has sedulously avoided an incompatible with the gravity and elaborateness of his theme, that affluence of language and brilliant and epigrammatic tendency, which are delightful in the brief essay, but would become monotonous and intolerable, if sustained throughout the compass of half a dozen volumes. The style of the work in question is made subservient to the important labor of the historian. The treasures of the imagination are sparingly scattered, but the careful eye discovers enough of the precious material to establish beyond dispute the richness of the mine.

But the style of the work is the least of its merits. The accuracy and clearness of the narrative, the originality of the plan upon which it is based, and its adaptation to the purpose contemplated; the liberal, honest tone of freeing which pervades it, the impartiality with which great and public events are judged, and the perspicuity which detects motives; the clearness with which full and complete pictures of English life are portrayed; the searching scrutiny into every circumstance that can throw light upon the obscurity of the past; the unwearied industry that has discovered, collected and collated facts which had hitherto escaped the most sagacious or laborious historiographers,—these are qualities that properly challenge our admiration and excite our wonder.

In the delineation of character, Macaulay is unsurpassed. A few strokes of his pen limn a personage, not in vague and feeble outlines, but in colors and details eminently true to nature. His pictures of Charles II, Jeffreys, James II, Cromwell, &c., are living and breathing realities. They stand before us in their individuality with almost startling distinctness. They are a manifestation of very high creative genius and of a subjective faculty that is rarely found in connection with a marked development of the reasoning powers.

The opinions of Macaulay upon many subjects embraced in his work sometimes differ widely from the popular judgment. Sometimes we are inclined to think that the very rapidity of his perceptions leads him astray, and that his passionate attachment to the liberal side of politics, induces him to condemn with harshness those errors which an indulgent examination would trace to ignorance. His boldness and independence occasionally dispose him towards paradox. While brushing away the cobwebs which have concealed a fact or a motive from the gaze of the previous historian, he is now and then led to attach undue importance to his own discoveries, and to impart to them a pregnant significancy to which they are unentitled. We venture this remark with deference. He is a courageous heretic who would dare question the infallibility of Macaulay.

We cannot close this paper without congratulating the lovers of all that is truly excellent and valuable in literature, that Mr. Macaulay has concluded to strengthen his claims to the admiration of posterity by something more solid and durable than the ephemeral essay or the review. If he lives to carry out his great design, he will leave to the world the legacy of a reputation which ages to come will cherish with ceaseless pride, and that will enrich the spacious treasury of Anglo-Saxon literature, with a monument of fame that must outlive the glory of Alexander and prove as indestructible as the Pyramids.

Congress.

In the Senate, on the 23d February, Mr. Webster submitted a project for the Government of California and New Mexico, until the end of the next session of Congress. This proposition invests in the President the power to employ the Army and Navy of the United States for the purpose of carrying out the measures that may be adopted, and gives to him the appointment of Judges. The project is proposed to be incorporated in the Civil List Bill. Mr. Dayton also submitted a project in reference to the newly acquired territories. The Bill for the admission of California and New Mexico as a State is considered dead. The Civil List Bill was not taken up. The Bill authorising the Secretary of War to furnish arms and equipments to emigrants to California was passed. Private Bills were then taken up and acted on.

In the House, the Minnesota Territorial Bill passed to a third reading. The Bill extending the U. S. Revenue Laws over California was passed.

Gen. Taylor at Wheeling.—The Correspondent of the Baltimore *Sun* speaks as follows of Gen. Taylor's reception at Wheeling:

The sleighs which went down this morning, (the 20th,) to bring Gen. Taylor, and the passengers of the steamer Telegraph, to our city, arrived at half-past three o'clock this afternoon. The general and his suite were in one sleigh, and the rest of the passengers in others. The distinguished visitant was received by a tremendous crowd. He stopped at the United States Hotel, and was welcomed in a neat and appropriate speech by W. Lamden, Esq., to which the general replied briefly.

The hotel and streets in front were completely thronged with persons, anxious to see the brave old hero. He looks well, and is enjoying excellent health. It is his purpose to leave tomorrow morning, for Washington, Pa., and will if possible, visit Pittsburg. On this, however, he has not fully determined.

City Intelligence.

First District Court.—*Judge McHenry.—The Sheriff in answer to the Rule of Jesse McHenry.*—The remark of Judge McHenry on Tuesday touching the "immense popularity" of the Sheriff, was fully borne out by the tremendous audience which had collected at an early hour yesterday morning to listen to the arguments in the rule taken out by Jesse McHenry against the Sheriff. At precisely 10 o'clock the Judge took his seat, and the court being called to order, he enquired whether there were any bonds, any arraignments, any trials, any rules. The clerk answered there was a rule. Mr. Upton got up and remarked that the case of the State *vs.* Werner for manslaughter was fixed for that day, to which the Judge replied that he believed rules had the preference—at all events the present one would not occupy the attention of the court for a long time, as he intended disposing of it in the briefest manner. He Honor then remarked "are the parties ready in that rule?" to which Mr. Jesse McHenry responded "yes we are ready."

John R. Grymes, Esq., counsel for the Sheriff, then rose and stated that the Sheriff had been called upon to answer to the rule, and although no time had been mentioned, he was ready to do so and felt disposed at all times to act in perfect conformity with the dignity and respect which he owed to the tribunals of the country. Mr. Grymes then proceeded to read the rule which we published at length yesterday, and after concluding, said "To this statement made by the Plaintiff and the causes assigned why the Sheriff should not be punished for a contempt of the authority of this court, I shall now proceed to read the Sheriff's answer."

This document sets forth that the Respondent expects to the manner and form of this proceeding against him for a contempt of Court, as contrary to a law and usage, and reserving to himself all benefit of exception thereto, he answers in substance as follows: After recapitulating the various attachments in the case of Jesse McHenry *vs.* Mclain & a., the Sheriff proceeds to state that the writs of a questration were levied upon a sum of money in the hands of Alfred Rousseau, Clerk of the Court, and further shews that on the 23d Feb. Mr. Rousseau paid over to Respondent, the sum to which we have frequently made allusion, and now holds the same subject to the rights of the several parties. The Respondent denies that he has ever refused to obey any lawful order and judgment of the Court, or that he ever refused to pay to the said Plaintiff the amount mentioned in said writ of *fi. fa.* because he had not received the money under the said writ, but he did state that the said money was paid over to him by virtue of, and under the various writs and process herein before recited, and all which will more fully appear from the Inventory of Schedule referred to. The Respondent however, did say and now shews to this Court, that as Sheriff, he cannot take upon himself to judge and decide upon the rights of the various parties claiming the whole or portions of the said sum of money. That he is entitled to the aid and advice and protection of the Court in the premises; that he is entitled to call all the said parties before this Court to prosecute their claims and to have the judgment of the Court upon the final distribution of the said monies among the said parties; that he is not guilty of any contempt of Court, and that he has actually prepared a petition of interpleader to that effect, and would have presented it to the Court on a few minutes, when the petition, demand, prayer or rule of the said plaintiff was exhibited against him, to which he is now answering. And the Sheriff prays that this may be taken as his petition of intervention or interpleader in all the said causes, and in this case in particular; that the said John Holmes, Jessee McHenry, Pinchback, Jose Nunez, W. C. Budd, and the Attorney General, as representing the State of Louisiana, may be cited and notified to answer this petition and to prosecute their claims to the said money, or any part thereof, and that His Honor would be pleased to render such judgment or decree for the payment and distribution thereof as the rights of the parties may require, and for the due protection of the respondent, and for all such other relief and protection as the nature of his case may require. And the respondent denies the correctness in law or fact of all the causes set forth by the said plaintiff why he should not be punished for a contempt of Court. And the respondent does especially and once express to deny, that he has ever intended to set an example of insubordination and disobedience, or to set himself in direct opposition to the Court for the purpose of annulling or destroying the effects of a judgment of the Court, or that he had aided directly or indirectly the clerk of this Court in evading any order of Court, nor has he on any occasion put himself up for the exercise of that legality of the orders of this Court, all of which is false, wrongly advised and misinformed by the said plaintiff, and he denies that he has ever been served with any order or judgment of this Court to pay any money to said plaintiff, or that any such order exists. The respondent also most expressly denies that he ever intended or designed by any act of his in the premises to commit a contempt of the authority of this Court, nor does he believe he has done so, and avers that he is in duty bound by virtue of his office to maintain the dignity and authority of this Court, and which duty he shall always endeavor to perform, and he further excepts to the proceeding because it he has a claimed money for the plaintiff, the law has provided a remedy by which alone he can be compelled to pay it.

Mr. Grymes read the deposition of the Sheriff, swearing to the correctness of the allegations set forth, and then remarked that, for the purpose of shortening the matter, he would simply refer to the law, in which he relied for an exception to these proceedings. He accordingly cited Art. 307 of the Code of Practice, as well as the act of 1813, going to prove that a civil remedy exists for the punishment of the Sheriff when he refuses to pay over money in the performance of his duties &c. "So as to punish," observed Mr. G., "and such are our remedies. It appears that the Legislature has enacted that the Sheriff should be punished in a peculiar manner, and I humbly conceive, therefore, that there can be no reason to proceed criminally when the law has provided a civil remedy." In regard to the fact that the Sheriff was to be considered cognizant of every order emanating from the Court, Mr. Grymes referred to a decision of the Supreme Court, in which that tribunal declares that a Sheriff is not bound to know, that is far from being obliged to be cognizant of such facts, he is not bound to take notice of writs, except in certain cases cited. No order whatever had been served on the Sheriff in this instance; the case stands, therefore, upon a simple fact, and he trusted in consequence, that the course asked for in the petition of the Sheriff would be sustained. Mr G. made a few other remarks, but we were too far distant to catch their precise meaning.

Mr. Jesse McHenry then rose, but spoke at the outset in such a very low voice that we were enabled only to obtain an occasional inkling of his language. He conceived that the learned gentleman (Mr. Grymes) had utterly failed in making good his case; the exception he had taken was a peculiar one, and his explanations were made apparently with the view of drawing off the attention of the people and of the Court by his eloquence and the power of his mind. His Honor here called the gentleman to order, and stated that he wished to hear the facts of the matter.

Jesse McHenry—I shall proceed to give the facts on which we base the rule, and first, I offer as evidence the confession of judgment in my favor by McLane, Stewart and Brown; secondly, the *fi. fa.* issued in this case—viz: McHenry *vs.* Stewart, *et. als*; thirdly, the receipt book of the Recorder of Municipality No. One, and the affidavit of Captain Youngs, showing the amount and description of the money taken from Stewart; fourthly, the order ordered up in my favor on the 19th ultimo; fifthly, the order and two *writsimmanes* issued from this Court for the imprisonment of its Clerk; and sixthly, I call upon Mr. Rousseau to be sworn, and to answer to certain interrogatories that I wish to propound. The Clerk was accordingly sent for and duly sworn by the Judge.

Jesse McHenry—Did you not state on the 24th inst., under your official oath, that you had paid over certain amounts to the Sheriff in accordance with the order of *fi. fa.*, and in satisfaction of the order of this Court?

Mr. Rousseau—I had no intention to commit a contempt of Court, and paid over the money in obedience to the order of the Court.

Judge McHenry—Mr. Sere, please reduce Mr. Rousseau's answer to writing. (Mr. Sere accordingly did so.) Now read it.

Mr. Grymes—I have no *objection* to commit a contempt of Court, &c. (Here the audience indulged in a pretty audible laugh, and Mr. Sere corrected himself by reading *intention*.)

Jesse McHenry—I want that question answered yes or no.

Mr. Grymes—It strikes me that Mr. Rousseau cannot well answer in the negative what he has already answered in the affirmative.

Judge McHenry—I anticipated this objection. I understood at the time that the clerk had stated under his official oath—that he had paid over the money in satisfaction of the *fi. fa.* I know that different accounts have been given of the matter, but so I understood it at the time. Have you any other questions to propound?

Jesse McHenry—Was the money paid over to the sheriff to satisfy the *fi. fa*, that was issued from this court in the case of McHenry *vs.* Stewart *et. als.*

Mr. Rousseau—No, but I paid it over in obedience to the order of the court of the 19th instant.

Mr. Grymes—Mr. Rousseau, show me the receipt you gave to the Sheriff. (The receipt was exhibited.)

Judge McHenry—The court did not act upon that receipt, but on the declaration of the clerk.

Mr. Grymes—The clerk is in possession of the receipt, and he declares distinctly states that he paid over the money in obedience to the order of the court.

Jesse—Have you any further evidence?

Jesse McHenry—I wish to exhibit for the above statements made in the *Delta*. Is there any objection?

Jesse—I do not that any statements of the press be exhibited, unless it can be proved that the Sheriff had anything to do with the writings therein.

Important from Santa Fe.

St. Louis, Monday, Feb. 19.

We have dates from Santa Fe, of the 16th Dec. Major Beale was soon to take the field against a large party of Indians in the vicinity of Red River with the view of compelling them to make a treaty of peace. The Indians were constantly committing depredations on the inhabitants of Chihuahua.

Kit Carson was at Santa Fé on the 1st of November. A Judicial Envoy from Texas had arrived at Santa Fé with the intention of entering upon the duties of his office. The *Republican* ridicules the pretensions of Texas to sovereignty over any portion of New Mexico. H. M. Smith, District Attorney, had reached Santa Fé.

The Home Department.—The National *Intelligencer* publishes the following passages from President Madison's last annual message, to show that even more than thirty years ago, the establishment of an additional Executive Department was needed, and was pressed upon the consideration of Congress:

"To these recommendations, I add, for the consideration of Congress, the expediency of a re-modification of the judiciary establishment, and of an additional department in the executive branch of the department.

"The first is called for by the accruing business which necessarily swells the duties of the federal courts," &c.

"The extent and variety of executive business, also accumulating with the progress of our country and its growing population, call for an additional department, to be charged with duties now overburdening other departments, and with such as have not been annexed to any department."

Fire and Robbery in Opelousas.—We find the following in the Opelousas *Gazette* of the 21st ult:

On Saturday evening last, between eight and nine o'clock, a large building, used as a stable, cribs and carriage house, belonging to the property of Hon George King, in our town, and at present occupied by Mrs. Valentine King, was set on fire, and in a few moments it became impossible to save any thing of its contents, with the exception of two horses that were turned out in time. A large quantity of corn and fodder, and a splendid four wheel carriage, as also another four wheel carriage of less value, were reduced to ashes with the building.

During the fire, and a short distance from it, some rogues were robbing Mr Hilaire's store of about $4500 in bank notes gold and silver. A large trunk containing this amount was taken from under his bed, while he was at the fire, carried in the prairie and broken open and the money taken out.

A young mulatto belonging to Joseph A Andrus has been taken up on suspicion of having committed the robbery.

As for the fire, it is as evident as the act of an incendiary—perhaps it was set for the express purpose of succeeding the better in the robbery of Mr. Fayole.

The River and Weather.—The Bayou Sara *Ledger* of the 24th has the following:

A few days past we were in the midst of one of the coldest spells of weather I ever remember to have experienced in this latitude. It blowed, snowed rained and sleeted, in real northern winter style. The earth, we beg pardon, we have no earth here, we reside on the water—the house tops, we mean, were covered full two inches with snow. On Wednesday the wind changed, and the weather commenced moderating, and we have since had delightful spring weather. The river continues rising.

The Point Coupée *Tribune* of the same date says:

The river continues to rise slowly; within the past two days it has not risen more than one inch, it seems to be nearly on a stand. The weather since Wednesday has been very pleasant.

Emigration to California.—The N. York *Herald* publishes a list of the whole number of gold seekers that have left for California, since the breaking out of the gold fever, and the vessels that have sailed. It sums up as follows:

Recapitulation		
Total in 145 vessels, via Cape Horn,		8,394
" 24 "	Chagres,	1,760
" 6 "	the Brazos,	406
" 5 "	Vera Cruz,	440
" 1 "	Tampico,	50
	San Juan Rister,	2
Total in 178 vessels,		11,102

The *Herald* adds. "If the gold excitement does not abate, we think it very probable that twenty-five thousand more adventurers will be on their way to California and the gold diggings before the first of May next. There are many companies being formed in the Western and Southwestern States, the members of which intend proceeding overland through our own territory, and are only waiting for the season to be a little more advanced to take up the line of march for the shores of the Pacific. The probability is that there will be fifty thousand gold diggers at work in the mines before the first of January, 1850, and perhaps one hundred thousand.

The Weather at Louisville.—The *Journal* of the 20th says: "The weather has been and is still intensely cold, and unless it moderates within a day or two, navigation, which is already partially suspended, must entirely cease. The river is filled with heavy masses of floating ice. The canal was frozen over yesterday afternoon. The steamers Taglioni and William Noble have arrived at Shippingport, but they cannot come through. The Buckeye had much difficulty yesterday in making a landing at the wharf on account of the ice. The river at Pittsburg is no doubt are this closed.

☞ Cases of hydrophobia continue to occur in New England. Mrs. John Alden, of Lobelow, was bitten on the wrist by a dog belonging to the family. In a short time she went into convulsions and exhibited symptoms of hydrophobia. It was believed she would die, but she partially recovered, only, however, to have a subsequent attack, though less severe. Hopes of her ultimate recovery are now entertained. The dog exhibited no signs of madness, nor has he since.

☞ The satire of the following, from a correspondent of the Philadelphia Times, is keen enough:

Why was the late prize fight the most *Democratic* movement ever made?

Answer.—Because it encouraged and allowed the very lowest classes to mix in the Hyer circle.

The same correspondent also furnishes the "good 'un"—

What sort of a drum is that which is best when it cannot be beaten?

Answer.—Why a *conundrum*, to be sure.

A Gentle Hint.—The Cincinnati *Chronicle* says: A gentleman, who came up with Gen. Taylor as far as Smithland, informed us yesterday that Gen. Taylor stated in conversation that if he was an office holder when a new administration came into power, against which he had taken an active part, he would *resign* his office.

Another Monster of the Deep.—Captain Carr, lately arrived at Boston, (!) (says the Montreal *Courier*,) from Havre, states that on the 27th ult., long. 47, he saw something on his larboard bow very like a whale. He bore down for it, and upon approaching it thought it was a large ship bottom upwards, but on coming alongside he discovered it to be a gigantic turtle or tortoise, armed with enormous pouch bladder, which glistered in the air and served for the defence of the creature like the quills of a porcupine. The shell was black, and from out therefrom issued a horrid pouch like enormous head, which the captain says was the most terrific sight he ever beheld.

An Incident of Undeserved Suffering.—We give place to the following from the New York Commercial, in the hope that the lesson it inculcates may not be lost:

A few weeks since a poor and apparently respectable woman went into a store in the Sixth avenue, where children's clothes are made and sold, to ask for work. Her dress did not well comport with the intense cold without, and she was found to be almost entirely destitute of under clothes. The young woman employed in the store furnished her with some, and raised among themselves three shillings for her. She went away "clothed" and grateful. A day or two since she called again, pale and seemingly miserable. In a few minutes she tottered and fell, and some time elapsed before she rallied. She exhibited so much weakness that she was asked "how long is it since you have eaten anything." "Nothing since yesterday morning," was her reply. "A lady" (she said) "has kindly given her some work, which came to fifty cents, and she had come from Cherry street (more than a mile) five times to get the pay; once the lady had no change, and four times she was out!"

Did that lady know that the withholding of that pittance from the poor woman was sending an arrow to her famishing heart, and that by such means, with other causes, she was fast hurrying to the grave!

An admonition of furnish work for the poor, in the same vicinity, of whose operations for the last few years, I have known something, will furnish evidences as singular. I have myself seen three money to pay their good evening's labor, the price of their hard earned labor was withheld by those who would not refuse the assistance every reason to be satisfied with their work, but who refused to purchase the luxury of doing good to the poor. Is the unenlightenment to make investment? Even then it is very heartless—it is more.

Sr. Joseph's College, Bardstown, Ky.—This institution was re-opened on the 4th September last, under the direction of the Fathers of the Society of Jesus. It is rapidly increasing in favor and popularity. There are now 150 students in daily attendance. Rev. J. B. Druyer, agent and Vice President of the College, is now in our city on business for the institution; he will leave New Orleans on the 7th March, in company with some youths who intend to enter the College. Parents wishing to send their sons should leave their address for him at No. 14 Camp street.

New Work.—Our thanks are due to Appleton & Co., through J. B. Steel, No. 14 Camp street, for the following new publications:

Democracy in France, by M. Guizot. This is a brief treatise on the present aspect and the future prospects of the French Republic. It is imbued with that philosophic and analytic spirit of research which marked the writings of the late Minister of Louis Philippe.

The California Guide Book.—This is a compendium of much valuable information touching California—just now the "Cynosure of neighboring eyes." It contains Col. Fremont's geographical account of Upper California; Major Emory's Overland Journey, and Captain Frement's narrative of the Exploring Expedition. Accompanied with a map of the various routes, and a map of the gold regions.

Naval.—The U. S. frigate *United States*, flag ship of Commodore G. C. Read, from the Mediterranean, and last Porto Praya, arrived in Hampton Roads on the 16th. The Norfolk *Herald* publishes the following particulars, furnished by an officer on board:

The U. S. frigate United States arrived in Hampton Roads, at 8 P. M., yesterday, after an absence of nearly three years from the U. States. She was ordered to the Mediterranean, to Cadiz, by the U S ship Jamestown, Com. Bolton, and sailed from that port on the 4th of January, for home, via Porto Praya, where she touched on the 16th inst., to procure the ship. At Porto Praya we found the flag ship Portsmouth, Commodore Cooper, and brig Bainbridge, lying at anchor, the only American vessels in port.

Sailed from Porto Praya on the 19th January, and carried the "trades" nearly ender to the latitude of Bermuda. For the last 10 or 12 days the winds have been variable and adverse.

The American vessel Potomac sailed for South America on the 3d January, as did the ship Ozark for Portland, [arrived] about the same date.

The number of miles sailed by this vessel is something over forty thousand. Deaths about twenty, principally occasioned by the Coast fever.

The steamer Alleghany and store ship Erie arrived at Gibraltar a few days prior to Christmas.

List of Interments in the city of New Orleans for the week ending the 24th inst:

Abscess,	1	Fever, Typhoid,	2
Accouchement,	1	Fever, Typhus,	1
Ague,	2	Fever, Yellow,	2
Brain, compression of	1	Fever, Cerebral,	1
Brain, congestion of	1	Gastritis,	1
Bronchitis,	1	Leg, fracture of	1
Bronchitis, chronic,	1	Lung, disease of	1
Consumption,	6	Meningitis,	1
Cholera,	4	Old Age,	2
Cholera Infantum,	2	Pneumonia,	4
Croup,	2	Rheumatism,	1
Dropsy,	1	Still Born,	2
Convulsions,	2	Strangulation,	1
Cyanosis,	1	Suddenly,	1
Debility,	2	Scald,	1
Delirium,	1	Tremens Nascentium,	2
Dentition,	1	Tetanus,	1
Debility,	2	Varioloid,	1
Diarrhœa,	1	Whooping Cough,	2
Exposure,	1	Unknown,	3
		Total,	74

Of which, were born in New Orleans, 10; Ireland, 10; Africa, 1; Spain, 1; Germany, 1; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 1; Unknown, 1. Under 10 years of age, 27; white 53 and colored 21.

☞ Owing to the unaccountable, and indeed, almost criminal neglect of duty, on the part of the Cypress Grove and Protestant Cemeteries, we have been compelled to make the above report from the returns of the Coroner's Office. We hope in future to receive the returns from the Sexton of the Cypress Grove and Protestant Cemeteries, and after much delay,