Daily Appeal.

MEMPHIS.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1859.

Reading Matter on Every Page.

Largest Circulation in the City.

THE NORTHERN LIGHTS.

On Thursday night last, about 12 o'clock, the heavens were suddenly lit up as with a half dozen moons. The cry of fire was heard on every street, and the fire bells of the city were rung, arousing our whole population. When the truth revealed itself it appeared that Old Nature had only lit up its own chandelier, in order, as it might be, to reveal the wickedness going on at the dead hour of night. "Its an Aurora Borealis," said some, and Aurora Borealis it was—one of the most brilliant ever witnessed in this latitude, and one which will not be probably witnessed in an age or a life time hereafter.

The circumstance has awakened attention, and for the satisfaction of our readers, we transfer to our columns from the American Encyclopedia, its entire article on the Aurora Borealis:

Aurora Borealis, also called Northern Lights, streamers, luminous appearances, occasionally seen in the sky of the temperate latitudes during the absence of the sun, and more frequently and in greater brilliancy, in the polar regions. Instead of northern lights they should therefore be called polar lights. They appear in the northern hemisphere at irregular intervals, generally soon after sunset, and often like a twilight continued late the night, but changed in position more to the north; and again they appear in the form of a cloud, which is sometimes dark with its upper edge fringed with a flickering light. This extends along the northern horizon, parallel, it may be, with it, or arched like a rainbow. Its appearance is often like a bank of fog. As the night advances the light becomes brighter. From the edges of the cloud pencils of light, in diverging rays, begin to be sent upward, or to issue in groups from portions of the arch in the lines that would meet at its center. The northern sky gradually becomes overspread with streamers of light, the motions of which become more and more perceptible, as they shoot upward or appear here and there in unexpected places. Bodies of light, from which radiate flickering beams, appear and disappear in different parts of the heavens. The whole sky is alive with an unsteady motion, or undulates rapidly with a motion like that of grass waving in the wind. So swift is the movement, that it passes from the horizon half way to the zenith in half a second of time. In a still summer night upon one of our great northern lakes, and more especially upon Lake Superior, these phenomena may be observed in great perfection. Floating in a small boat remote from the shore one seems to be enveloped in the meteor as in a fog. Nothing is visible but the unearthly light strangely flickering, appearing here and there, filling the whole atmosphere, and keeping it all in tremulous movement. The effect is bewildering. One's ideas of space, distance, progress, and direction, are as confused as if floating among dense clouds in a balloon. Often this continues through the night, disappearing with the early dawn of day. But the appearances of the aurora are too varied for description to convey a clear idea of them. The lights at times assume various colors, as different shades of orange, green, gray, and red. When they meet at the zenith and form there a corona, this has been seen of green, blue, and purple colors. The red tinge has been known to overspread a large portion of the sky, giving to it the color of blood, and when the ground was covered with snow, imparting to this too, the same hue. Such appearances in ancient times were regarded with great horror; and, indeed, in our own country, so late as the great aurora of 1837, the strange light was very generally a source of terror to the ignorant. The streamers of light are conceived by the imagination into the form of familiar objects in motion. The inhabitants of the north of Scotland call them merry dancers. The ancient Greeks and Romans regarded their appearance as portentous of great events, and saw in their varying forms

> Jaut'ring spears, battles join'd, armies in the clouds,
> Armies in rank and file march on, and right form'd ranks of war.

They even imagined that sounds of trumpets and arms came from them. Nor is Pliny the only authority for the statement that sounds are emitted by aurora. So many at later times have described a noise of rumbling, hissing, murmuring, and crackling, as coming from the meteor, that it is not altogether improbable that sounds may be at times sent forth from it, though these have not been heard by the most distinguished arctic travelers who have treated upon the subject. Dr. Richardson, who gave particular attention to the aurora in the arctic land expedition of Captain Franklin, heard no sounds, but admits that the united testimony of the different native tribes, and of the oldest residents at the European posts, induced him to believe that its motions are sometimes audible. Henderson remarks that in Iceland, when the scintillations are particularly quick and vivid, a crackling noise is heard, like that of the sparks emitted from an electrical machine. Blagden and Gmelin, Nairne and Cavalle, all speak of sounds proceeding from the aurora. This point, however, is still considered an undetermined question. The times of appearance of the aurora, so far as they are recorded, appear to have been very irregular. The earliest accounts are those of Aristotle, who well describes the peculiar phenomena resembling flame mingled with smoke seen on calm nights, or like burning stubble seen afar off, and presenting purple, bright red, and blood-colored hues. In many of the ancient classics an occasional reference is made to it, and in the chronicles of the middle ages it is frequently recognized in the superstitious descriptions of the gleaming swords of the fighting aerial hosts. In 1461, according to authentic descriptions, it was seen in London in the form of burning spears. In 1574 it was seen by Stow on November 13. He states in his annals, "that strange impressions of fire and smoke were seen in the air to proceed forth from a black cloud in the north toward the south; that the next night the heavens from all parts did seem to burn marvellous ragingly, and over our heads the flames from the horizon round about rising did meet, and there double and roll one in another, as if it had been in a clear furnace." The next year (1575) it was twice seen in Holland, and the following description of its second appearance is given by Cornelius Gemma, a professor in the university of Louvain: "The form of the chasms of Sept. 28, following immediately after sunset, was indeed less dreadful, but still more confused and various, for in it were seen a great many bright arches, out of which suddenly issued spears, cities with towers, and men in battle array; after that there were excursions of rays every way, waves of clouds and battles, mutually pursued and fled, and wheeling round in a surprising manner." In 1754 a work was published by M. de Marian, entitled *Traité physique et historique de l'aurore boreale*, in which are collected the various recorded observations of the phenomenon from the year A. D. 360. From this it is seen that in the latter half of the 17th century its appearance suddenly increased in an extraordinary degree, and so continued very frequent to the year 1745, when it suddenly diminished for the next nine years. On the whole, however, it is probable that no period has furnished more brilliant displays of the aurora than the last hundred years, and the most interesting portion of this period in this country, was in the years 1835, 1836 and 1837. In northern Europe, Iceland, Sweden, and Norway, it is of very common occurrence, and as seen and described by Mr. Bayard Taylor in the winters of 1856 and 1857, of wonderful beauty; and it is said that prior to the year 1716 it was considered a great rarity by the inhabitants of Upsal; and Torfæus, the historian of Denmark, and an Icelander, writing in 1706, speaks of his recollection of the time when the meteor was an object of terror to his native island. In the eastern parts of Asia, on the contrary, it is said to have become less frequent and less brilliant in recent times. In the summer months, according to the treatise of M. de Marian, it is comparatively of rare occurrence, and the greatest number of recorded observations are in the months of October, March and September. Professor Olmstead, of New Haven, who has, in several of the volumes of the *American Journal of Science*, and in the fifth volume of the contributions of the Smithsonian Institution, furnished many important papers upon this subject, distinguishes the appearance of the aurora as occurring in secular periods, at intervals of sixty to sixty-five years, and continuing rather more than twenty years. For the first ten years the displays increase in intensity, and afterward decline, to the termination of the period. Such a period he regards as having commenced on August 27, 1827. But there have certainly been many fine displays of the phenomenon in recent years beyond the limit he has assigned to each period. The preceding period was from 1760 to 1781. Of the appearances in the southern hemisphere there are but few recorded observations. It was discovered by Mr. Foster, who made the voyage around the world with Captain Cook, and who witnessed it in February, 1773, in lat. 58° S. He and some other later observers agreed in its appearing there of a whitish color, and without the various tints which distinguished it in northern latitudes. This has since been described in the English works as distinguishing the aurora australis from the northern lights; but Commodore Wilkes, of the United States exploring expedition, makes frequent mention of as beautiful colored displays of the aurora in the antarctic regions as have been witnessed in the arctic. At midnight of February 9, 1840, in lat. 65° 57' S., and long. 129° 19' E., was "a splendid display of the aurora australis, extending all around the northern horizon from W. by N. to E. N. E. Before its appearance a few clouds only were seen in the S. E., on which the setting sun cast a red tint that barely rendered them visible. The horizon, with this exception, appeared clear and well defined. The rays or bushes of light frequently reached the zenith, converging to a point near it. Although no clouds could be seen in the direction of the aurora before or after its appearance, yet when it was first seen there appeared clouds of the form of massive cumuli, tinged with pale yellow, and behind them arose brilliant red, purple, orange, and yellow tints, streaming upward in innumerable radiations, with all the shades that a combination of these colors could afford. In its most brilliant state it lasted about twenty minutes....." On March 17, in lat. 64° S. and long. 79° 37' E., the magnetic variation the day previous 56° 21' westerly, between eleven and twelve at night, was another exhibition of the same character. "It exceeded anything of the kind I had before witnessed; its activity was inconceivable, darting from the zenith to the horizon, in all directions, in the most brilliant coruscations; rays, proceeding as if from a point in the zenith, flashed in brilliant pencillings of light like sparks of electric fluid in course, and reappeared again to vanish; forming themselves into one body, like an umbrella or fan shut up; again emerging to dit across the sky with the rapidity of light, they showed all the prismatic colors at once, or in quick succession. So remarkable were the phenomena that even our sailors were constantly exclaiming in admiration of its brilliancy. The best position in which to view it was by lying flat upon the deck and looking up. The electrometer was tried, but no effect perceived. The star Canopus was in the zenith at the time, and, though visible through the aurora, was much diminished in brightness." Various estimates have been made of the hight of the aurora above the surface. It has been supposed from its not changing its position with the rotation of the earth, that it belongs to the atmosphere, and is carried along with it. But, from the great surface of the country over which it has been visible at the same time, with the same general appearances, Dr. Hally and others have been disposed to ascribe to it a prodigious hight. When the aurora assumes a distinct form, like that of a corona, or of an arch, as it sometimes does, and this is visible at different points upon the surface, its hight can be calculated from observations carefully made at these places. Such an arch was observed on March 29, 1826, in a line crossing the magnetic meridian at right angles; and from its position in relation to Whiteheaven and Warrington, two places in England, eighty-three miles distant from each other on this meridian, its hight was calculated by Mr. Dalton, of Manchester, to be nearly one hundred miles above the surface. Similar observations have been made in this country by Professor Olmstead, Professor Alexander C. Twining, and others, in 1835 and 1836. In August of the latter year the two gentlemen named, being at points twenty-two miles apart, observed peculiar forms of the aurora, which they regard as the same objects seen by both. The hight, calculated by the angles of elevation, was 144½ miles. The observations of Prof. Twining, made with others in December, 1835, indicate the hight to have been certainly not less, and probably much more, than forty-two and a half miles, and in May, 1836, to have exceeded one hundred miles, and probably to have amounted to the result obtained at the same time by Professor Olmstead, of one hundred and sixty miles. The conclusion at which Professor Olmstead arrives is that the auroral arches seldom, if ever, fall below an elevation of seventy miles, and do not often exceed one hundred miles. The arctic travelers, Dr. Richardson, Captains Franklin and Parry, and Lieut. Hood, regarded the position of the aurora as low in the atmosphere—below the hazy form of cloud which produces a fog bank in the horizon. Dr. Richardson also frequently observed the lower surface of the clouds illuminated by the polar lights, which could not be if these lights were at such an extremely high elevation as many have supposed. Captain Franklin, too, noticed the passage of a brilliant mass of light, variegated with the prismatic colors, between the earth and a cloud, concealing the latter until the coruscation had passed by. Ross, Parry, and others also saw a bright ray of the aurora shoot downward from a northern light they were admiring, till it intercepted the view of the land, which was less than two miles distant. This is an interesting feature connected with the aurora, and ought to receive the particular attention of any who are fortunate in being observers of its most remarkable displays. The direction and apparent hight of the object may easily be noted and recorded, the former as taken by the compass, or better, by its position in relation to particular stars, which will also determine the hight. An isolated observation of this kind will have no value; but, in connection with those made by other persons, in other places, may prove of great interest. When the aurora appears in the form of an arch, the position of its boundaries ought also to be noticed, as they appear among the stars. The position of the arches at right angles to the magnetic meridian, crossing it as parallels of latitude round the magnetic axis, is a subject of especial interest, on which more data are very desirable. The line of this axis in any region is the north and south line indicated by the magnetic needle. Every marked change in the appearance should be noted, with the exact time of its occurrence, and as many particulars in relation to the clouds as may be. The British association has called the attention of observers to the recording of these phenomena, and published recommendations as to the points particularly important to be noticed, in volume four of its reports. It is observed that the magnetic needle is affected by the polar lights under some circumstances; it is violently agitated; it oscillates, and is deflected to the east or to the west, when the beams or fringes of light are in the same plane as the dip of the needle, and moreover, is directed toward that point where the rays from the horizon concentrate. This fact connects the phenomenon directly with magnetism, which is developed by the electrical action taking place in the atmosphere. While the northern lights continue brilliant the air appears to be highly charged with electricity. An experiment with the electrical machine shows, moreover, a singular resemblance in the phenomena developed to those we witness in the heavens, and still more the condition of the atmosphere as to density favorable for the development of the aurora. A glass tube three feet long, hermetically sealed, and partially exhausted of air, laid along the conductor of an electrical machine, becomes illuminated from end to end, and continues so for a considerable time after it is removed from the conductor. When, after this, it is drawn through the hand, the light becomes intense throughout its length, and will continue for some time to flash from it at intervals, if the tube be held steadily by one extremity. If grasped by the other hand, flashes of light will dart from one end to the other, and so continue for a considerable time. But the experiment will not succeed except the air be of the proper degree of density. Such phenomena, seeming to connect the aurora directly with electrical excitement in the atmosphere, and this requiring more density than that of its upper strata for such excitement to take place, the estimated hights of the northern lights [illegible] with incredulity. Professor Olmstead considers that he has removed the objection by assigning to the phenomenon an interstellar or cosmical origin, though the exhibitions take place in the upper regions of the atmosphere. The nebulous matter, like that which furnishes the material of the meteoric showers, or the zodiacal light, and is known to exist in the planetary spaces, probably the cause of the auroral displays. The periodical returns of the phenomena indicate such a position; so, too, its rapid motion, which exceeds that of light or electricity; and again, the extent of surface, covering many degrees in longitude, over which the phenomenon is seen at the same time. The light he regards as emitted by the friction of the earth plunging, with its atmosphere, through this vapor, the velocity being sufficient, notwithstanding the rarity of the materials, to develop this luminosity; and the magnetic phenomena he explains by supposing, with Biot and Dalton, that the vapor is metallic, probably ferruginous, a supposition to which the stones of iron precipitated upon the earth in the form of aerolites lend some plausibility; as also the fact that by the intense heat generated by the hydro-oxygen blow pipe, the metal is volatized into vapor of extreme rarity. It was suggested by Marian in his work, before referred to, that the zodiacal light might afford at once the material of the aurora and of meteoric showers. It has been observed by operators of the Cale or chemical telegraph, that very singular effects are produced by the aurora upon the telegraph wires. The atmospheric electricity generated during thunderstorms passes from the wire to the chemically prepared paper, emitting a bright spark, and a sound like the snapping of a pistol. It never remains long upon the wires, though it travels sometimes 40 to 50 miles before it discharges itself. But the electricity produced by the aurora passes along the wires in a continuous stream, with no sudden discharge—effecting the same result as that by the galvanic battery. A colored mark upon the paper is made by the positive current of the aurora as by the positive pole of the battery; the negative current, on the contrary, produces a bleaching effect. Preceding the appearance of the aurora, faint blue lines appear on the paper, which gradually become stronger and darker, so as to burn through several thicknesses of it. The effect then disappears, and is soon followed by the bleaching process, which entirely overcomes the artificial current of the batteries. When these effects have been observed, the aurora follows, and presents some of the most beautiful displays along the lines of these telegraphs; and so familiar have the operators become with the disturbances which the aurora causes, that they can predict its appearance with much certainty. They regard the electricity generated by it as precisely that of the electro-galvanic battery, which is distinguished by its voluminous current, without intensity of action, differing from atmospheric electricity, or the kind developed by friction, which may be dissipated by placing wire conductors, leading to the ground, in close proximity to the line of wires.

It has already been observed, that one of the most interesting periods of the display of the aurora was during the years 1835, 1836, and 1837. The most brilliant exhibitions in this period were on November 17, 1835, April 22, 1836, January 25 and November 14, 1837. Prof. Olmstead observes of the first, that "it was distinguished for exhibiting on a grand scale nearly all the varieties of the aurora ever observed in our climate, including the bank of auroral vapor in the north—the streamers—the arches—the corona, formed around the magnetic pole of the dipping needle—and the undulations of merry dancers; while the whole were set off by that peculiar display of crimson light, which usually attends the most remarkable displays of the aurora. The second, that of April 22, was distinguished above all others which I have witnessed for the auroral waves. They began to be observed before the end of twilight, and continued nearly all night, following each other with astonishing celerity.

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The aurora of January 25 was the most magnificent of all. (This was published previously to the occurrence of November 14, 1837.) It resembled that of November 17, 1835, in many particulars, but its colors were brighter and more diversified, and its columns arranged with more symmetry around the magnetic pole, supporting a canopy of unrivaled grandeur." On February 18, of the same year, the northern lights appeared in great beauty in London, Belfast, Paris, Gettingen, and other places in Europe, and the same evening was noticed also from New Haven, illuminating a portion of the heavens toward the N. N. E. with a beautiful rose red light. In Europe, as at New Haven, the magnetic needle was observed to be sensibly deflected and agitated during the continuance of the phenomenon. On the morning of November 13, occurred one of the periodic returns of the meteoric showers, such as had been annually witnessed for the six preceding years. The next day a fall of snow at the north covered the surface of the country, as observed by the same writer, quoted above, with a mantle of the purest white. In the evening, "about six o'clock, while the sky was yet thick with falling snow, all things suddenly appeared as if dyed in blood. The entire atmosphere, the surface of the earth, the trees, the tops of the houses, and, in short, the whole face of nature, were tinged with the same scarlet hue. The alarm of fire was given, and our vigilant firemen were seen parading the streets in their ghostly uniform, which, assuming the general tint, seemed in excellent keeping with the phenomenon." Such was the appearance exhibited over a large portion of the country, where the clouds were not so dense as to obscure the auroral display. The false alarm of fire was not confined to New Haven, and superstitious fears of some impending awful conflagration generally prevailed among the ignorant throughout the country. It is remarkable of this grand exhibition, that it was observed over the whole eastern portion of the United States, as far south as Culloden, in Georgia, in lat. 32° 45' N., and also in Ohio and St. Louis, Mo. At the North, as observed particularly in New York, the exhibition ceased after having been seen for an hour, and returned a little before 9 in innumerable bright arches, shooting up from the northern horizon, of the most brilliant scarlet above, and below intensely white. They soon appeared also at the south, and extending upward to the zenith, the whole firmament above presented the appearance of a canopy of moving brilliantly colored light, resting around the horizon upon an obscure bank—all the more dark and mysterious for the vivid display above. At half-past 10, all this had disappeared; but at half-past 1, there was another return of the phenomena, lasting for more than an hour. At Staten Island, in New York harbor, the spectacle is described as the most magnificent ever beheld. The illumination was so great, that objects outside of Sandy Hook were seen as clearly as at midday, and the city of New York appeared to be only a mile or two distant. The influence of the aurora upon the magnetic needle was observed to be quite irregular as to the direction of the infection. The needle was violently agitated, often moving 30 minutes in 3 seconds of time, and ranging in its vibrations over nearly 6 degrees.

Most interesting details of this phenomenon may be found in the observations recorded by several scientific writers in the *American Journal of Science*; the 5th vol. of the Contributions of the Smithsonian Institution; in Halley's papers in the "Philosophical Transactions," 1716 and 1719; the treatise of M. de Marian, already referred to; Cavello's papers in the "Philosophical Transactions," 1781; and papers of several other distinguished men in 1791; Dalton's "Meteorological Observations," 1793; the papers of the Rev. James Farquharson, in the same, 1820. In the 10th Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution are full directions for observing the aurora. Maps of the heavens are furnished by the Institution for the use of observers, to be filled and returned by them.

THE AURORA BOREALIS.

We were asked yesterday the meaning of the words "Aurora Borealis." We asked the gentleman who propounded the question if he had ever studied heathen mythology. He said "No." We then, in the absence of any mythological dictionary, and from memory, answered his question thus:

Aurora is (by heathen mythology) the goddess of the morning. She is the fountain of light to the world, and rides in a chariot drawn by winged horses. Where she shows her face the imps of darkness vanish and disappear. But Aurora only travels from East to West. She never goes North or South; but there was an old gentleman who lived in the Northern cave, and his name was Boreas. By heathen mythology, Boreas was god of the north wind, and although Boreas never married Miss Aurora, still their names have become associated, and whenever we see a light in the North, we think of Aurora, for the reflection it gives, and at the same time we think of Boreas, because he lives at the North. Hereafter the term Aurora Borealis will not be misunderstood by an intelligent reader of the APPEAL.

MISSISSIPPI NEWS.

RANKIN COURT—THE BIBB TRIAL.—The trial of W. D. Bibb, for the killing of Thos. Ford, the venue having been changed from Hinds, says the Jackson *Eagle*, was commenced in the Circuit Court of Rankin county, now in session at Brandon. Many of our citizens are in attendance as witnesses. The jury was empanneled, and the examination of witnesses will commence to-day. The trial will probably last a week or ten days.

MR. LEFLORE, OF ATTALA.—Mr. Lefore, a Democratic candidate for State Senator from Attala county, in a speech at Carthage, on Tuesday of last week, defined his position on the slave trade question. He was in favor of the repeal of the federal laws on the subject, but opposed to reopening the trade.

THE CANVASS.—Messrs. Singleton and Smith are making a decidedly quiet canvass; indeed, it has been our fortune not to know the distinctive issue; at all events, the charges brought against Mr. Singleton are not so patent to any one else as they are to Capt. Smith, and consequently our people seem content to keep him in, and take no interest in an endeavor to overthrow him.—*Canton Commonwealth.*

ELECTED PRESIDENT.—A. T. Bledsoe, LL. D., Professor of Mathematics in the University of Virginia, has been elected President of the University of Missouri. Prof. Bledsoe was for a series of years connected with the Mississippi University, and is the author of several mathematical works of great worth.

The *Canton Commonwealth* has the following:

The cars on the Mississippi Central Road went up to West depot on Thursday. This is, we believe, eight miles beyond Durant and forty-five above Canton; which reduces the gap between the northern and southern divisions of this road about fifty miles.

The weather for the past week has been very pleasant, the latter parts of the nights and the mornings having been cool, but the days warm and altogether favorable for out-door operations. Our planters are improving the favorable season to the best advantage. The business of picking cotton is fairly commenced in this county.

[illegible] justify the statement we made in our last issue, that is, that the cotton crop of Tallahatchie county will be larger than it has ever been. Those best informed in such matters, say that the prospects throughout the county are much better than they ever were, and besides the amount of land planted is vastly more than on any preceding year. Merchants of New Orleans and Memphis may look out for a large crop of cotton from Tallahatchie.—*Tallahatchie, Aug. 27.*

NEW PAPER.—A new paper, to be styled the *Stadium*, is to be commenced on the 10th of next month in the town of Brookhaven, Mississippi—a thriving village, situated on the line of the Jackson railroad. It will be edited and published by Col. Baker, now of the Fayette (Miss.) *Journal.*

THE LEVEE LAW.—Judge E. G. Henry has lately delivered an opinion in the Chancery Court of this county, declaring the Levee Law unconstitutional, and in other respects void. We have applied for permission to publish the decision at length, and will probably do so in the next issue of this paper.

The opinion is said by competent judges to be an able one.—*Ferry Democrat.*

COMPLIMENTARY BANQUET.—The personal friends of the Hon. J. F. Cushman, have tendered him a complimentary supper on the 9th inst., on the eve of his departure for South America. This well-deserved tribute of respect from his immediate neighbors and friends, takes place at Oxford. The editor of this paper acknowledge the compliment of an invitation to be present on the occasion.

We clip the annexed item from the Oxford *Mercury*, of the 1st inst.:

SERIOUS ACCIDENT.—On last Monday, Mr. A. J. Buford, a planter living five or six miles west of town, met with a considerable misfortune. Sometime during the forenoon, he rode out to where some of his negroes were cutting out a new road, and while seated on his horse, a falling tree frightened the animal, which threw him violently against another tree, breaking three ribs and otherwise injuring him. It was thought for some time that he was fatally injured, but the doctors pronounced a contrary opinion. The accident will confine Mr. Buford to his room for some time.

THE CROPS.—In this county the planters universally report their crops in fine condition. The corn crop is an extraordinary one; while the cotton promises an abundant yield. But little rust or boll worm have made their appearance. Our exchanges from all portions of Mississippi, and from all directions in the United States, bring the same encouraging news. Flush times are certainly ahead.

Murder and Suicide at Galveston.

Thomas Chamberlain killed his wife in a house of ill-fame, kept by one Dorna Adeler, at Galveston, on Sunday, the 14th ult., and then destroyed himself. The murderer, some years since, became acquainted with the deceased at a house of ill-fame in New Orleans, of which she was an inmate and, becoming infatuated with her, married her, in 1857. They lived happily together till very recently, when she left him, went to Galveston, and entered the house of ill-fame where she was killed. About a week before the fatal affair, Chamberlain followed, and found her at the house of ill-fame. He entreated her to return home with him, but this she utterly refused to do, saying that she was "done with him forever." The conversation between them lasted for about half an hour, when a woman's shriek was heard in the room in which they were, whereupon two or three of the inmates of the house rushed into the room, when they found her upon the bed, he standing by her with a bowie-knife in his hand, whilst the blood flowed from her neck.

One of them immediately wrested the knife from him, cutting her hand badly in the effort. Mrs. C. then jumped out of the window, ran around to the front of the house, crying out, "save me! save me!" Chamberlain then followed his wife, who had re-entered the house, into the back room, when almost immediately three shots were heard. The alarm was quickly given in the street, and when the police entered, which was in three minutes, the man and woman lay stretched upon the floor, yet warm, but already dead.

Mrs. Chamberlain was a French Canadian, about twenty-seven years old, and rather pretty. Previous to her marriage, she had for some years led an abandoned life in New York, Mobile and New Orleans.

Chamberlain was a native of Maryland, and rather gentlemanly in appearance. He had resided for the last fifteen years in New Orleans, where he followed the occupation of a stevedore. He belonged to the Odd-Fellows, Sons of Temperance, Screwmen and Fire Department. Upon his body were found $174 95 in gold and silver, with a valuable gold watch.

☞ Tradition insists that corsets were first invented by a brutal butcher of the thirteenth century as a punishment for his wife. She was very loquacious, and, finding nothing would cure her, he put a pair of stays on her in order to take away her breath, and so prevent her, as he thought, from talking. This cruel punishment was inflicted by other heartless husbands, till at last there was scarcely a wife in all London who was not condemned to the like affliction. The punishment became so universal at last that the ladies, in their defiance, made a fashion of it, and so it has continued to the present day.

A PATRIOTIC PEOPLE.—At the New York City Post Office, two Washington Monument boxes are put up at the points where pass the greatest number of persons daily; and the gross amount dropped into these boxes during the past three weeks, in that city of nearly a million of inhabitants, is only *eleven dollars.*