

No mail beyond Georgia, was received on Saturday last. We are compelled to make the best of our preceding mail, to issue any thing like a mid-dlingly decent sheet.

The set, for the more effective prevention of selling liquors to slaves, which passed the House of Representatives, has been made the subject of many tart and witty remarks in some of the French organs of the city. What though we do not, in fact, concur in their opinions; still we think that there is much to be ridiculed, if not blamed, in that enactment.

Time was when 't was thought, that the giving deemed that the sight of a drunken Hottentot in the presence of youth, was a perpetual stain; but times are so rapidly revolved, that one branch of the State Council has decreed that the Hottentots should be turned—that nilly, willy, our bodden shall be temperate, while our youths run into riotous excesses. This philanthropic concern for the morality of the former, can only be excused by the sympathetic indifference for the welfare of the latter. Had only would the law be so, but upon closer examination, it assumes a character of absurdity, which we, in the weakness of our comprehension, cannot reconcile with certain judicial customs—certain unalienable rights. Three words of explanation: Infractions of this law are to be tried by a special Jury of twelve citizens—May not a retailer of spirituous liquors be a citizen qualified to sit on a Jury? If qualified, may he not be called upon to act in the capacity of a Juror? If called upon in that capacity, will not private interest, as probable experience can prove, sway him on one side? If thus swayed, and interested in the question, can the verdict, in which he has concurred, be called an impartial award? To avoid this difficulty he must be excluded; but, if excluded, must not such an act be an unwarrantable innovation in the time-honored institution of trials by Jury? Can a special law of the legislature incapacitate a mass of citizens, whatever their calling may be, from enjoying certain distinct rights, which are secured to them by a paramount power? That law which cannot be generally applied—sola et toto—is no law, but a glaring mockery. Let the conscript fathers look to it; they have it in their power to prevent the provisions of the "abominable act" being thrown, as new additions, to the mass of undigested absurdities, which a venerable and learned member of this city has already consigned to the keeping of his pigeon-hole.

The discovery of several unknown islands in the Pacific Ocean, by our countryman Captain Morrell, has been the subject of a note addressed to the Scientific Academy of Paris, and communicated by Mr. Warden. Captain Morrell sailed from New York 1829, on board the American schooner the Antartic, for the South-sea; and subsequently proceeded to New Zealand, and thence directed his course towards Manilla. In the last transit, on the 23d of February, 1830—he made a cluster of six islands, which are not to be found in any of the charts. Several other islands he has also discovered.

Captain Morrell has addressed a memorial to the national congress, praying for assistance in further explorations. We publish the article, with the certainty that it will not be perused without interest. The subject has already attracted the speculations of our learned European society; & we hope, for the rising reputation of America, in the pursuit of sciences, that it will meet with commensurate attention in this country.

LOUISIANA STATE BANK. The Governor and Senate have appointed as Directors on the part of the State, Messrs B. Duchamp, D. F. Burthe, M. S. Cuccullu, H. Landouet Jr., J. E. Bernard, V. Allan Jr., J. B. Leprêtre, J. B. Labatut, A. Peychaud, J. P. Canonge, John Langre, J. Reyn's, C. J. Forstall, T. Mosby, J. B. Leprêtre, J. B. Labatut, A. Peychaud, J. P. Canonge, John Langre, L. de Ferriest.

We received a note this morning from the pilots at the outer bar, stating that on Wednesday last, a schooner boat, without a name, came ashore on what is called the Middle ground at Pass-a-Huron. Two men were seen on board but it was impossible to get to the boat until the next morning, when she was boarded by Messrs. Price, Sharp and Dunn. They found her full of water, and one man, a stranger, supposed to be a ship carpenter, found dead on the deck covered with ice, another recognized as Henry Pettinger, was also dead, and floating in the cabin. They both, doubtless, perished from cold.

Loss of the schr. Only Son.—We learn from Capt. Clark, of the Br. sloop Bob, from Nassau, that the schr. Only Son, from Boston, for which port, was lost 4th. date on long Bahama Banks, and that the crew and a part of the cargo were landed and taken into Nassau. Miss Farmer, a passenger, and a part of the crew of the Only Son, arrived here in the Bob last evening.

We learn from Capt. Clark, of the sloop Bob from Nassau, that shortly previous to his sailing a new number of boats were picked up off New Providence. The different marks were J. D., J. C., E. W., G. E.—Com. Reg.

Posting on Steam Boat Letters.—The following letter from the Post-Master-General to the honorable Wm. R. King, relates to the subject of postage on letters forwarded by steam boats.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, January 7th, 1832. Sir—In answer to your letter received yesterday, I have to say, that there is no regulation of the department, or legal provision that exempts letters conveyed by steam boats, from postage, because they are addressed to the consignees of the cargo, and that the regulations which letters are conveyed by steam boats to Mobile, reach, that the circumstance that a letter relates to the cargo does not exempt it from postage.

A different opinion from this is contained in a letter of mine, to the hon. Mr. King, and a correspondent at Mobile. The error into which I was led in that letter, by the 9th section of the 14th standing institution, has been in a subsequent letter to the same gentleman, corrected. I contemplate issuing special instructions on this subject.

In the meantime I require an assurance of the long standing regulations at the office situated on the water, in relation to the boats, which make no exception in favor of letters, because they relate to the cargo.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant, W. T. BARRY.

To the hon. W. R. King.

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES.

The memorial of Benjamin Morrell, Junior, of Washington, respectfully represents: That your memorialist, from the port of New York, in the month of September, 1829, upon a sealing and trading expedition in the South Sea, and North and South Pacific Oceans; that, during this voyage, he discovered a group, and two single islands, in the South Pacific, and two single islands, and two shoals in the North Pacific Ocean. He also discovered three groups of islands in the North Pacific Ocean, which were numerous islands of a copper colored face of rocks, which had been previously discovered, but not heretofore related for the purposes of trade. He also ascertained that the Alligator Banks, the Lacost Islands, the Island of Saxenberg, the Island of Grande, the Aurora Islands, and the Island of Gallego, do not exist. He also ascertained that the Emperor Islands, and the Antarctic circle, the South Seas, and the North Seas, contain a vast number of islands yet undiscovered.

The islands visited by him, besides furnishing beautiful pearls, pearls, and tortoise shells, the edible birgness, so much esteemed in China, birds of paradise, ambergris, musk, and other very valuable articles of commerce. Many of these islands are of considerable extent, and are situated in a most favorable position for the derivation of intercourse with our trading ships, the inhabitants were, in many instances, very hostile, and in one of those engagements, which your memorialist could not avoid, he had the misfortune to have thirteen of his crew killed, and four wounded. With a view of securing a more favorable intercourse hereafter between our vessels and two of the islands, he brought two of the crew to the country, and intends to bring back the next season, and hopes by having thus made them familiar with our countrymen, and in some degree acquainted with our language, they will be enabled to assist in any future intercourse with those islands. In supporting those two individuals, your memorialist has already incurred a sum of 300 dollars expense, which he prays may be reimbursed by the Government, together with such further sum as may be sufficient to pay for their support until next June.

Your memorialist would state, that he believes himself to be the first American who has ever visited the Antarctic circle, and he has sailed further east, and west, above the 60 degrees south latitude than any other; he is also the only one that has examined the islands of Sandwich Land, the western coast of South America, the roughly, from Terra del Fuego to Valdivia, and the eastern coast of the island of New Zealand, New Ireland, and East Indies, Bougainville, the Cham Seas, and East Indies, Bougainville, the Philippines Islands, and numerous others in the vicinity. Was also the first man that landed on New South Greenland, discovered in 1822 by Capt. Johnson, of New London; and in 1823 followed the coast thereof as far South as 67 degrees. Believing that a careful examination of the Antarctic Seas, and the Pacific Ocean, would result in the discovery of numerous islands, not at present known to exist, and the promise a more intimate acquaintance with the productions of these already known, thus giving a stimulus to our valuable but languishing trade with China and the East Indies. Your memorialist most respectfully prays that the Government would take the subject into their consideration, and render him such assistance, as fitting out a vessel with a view of making a particular examination of those seas, as it may deem expedient. The expense of such an expedition, including all the preparations requisite for a voyage of great importance to the commerce of our country, could not possibly amount to less than 50,000, while the advantage arising from it would be incalculable. To the command of such an expedition, your memorialist believes himself to be fully competent, from his long experience in voyages of such a nature, and intimate acquaintance with the peculiar navigation of those seas.

WASHINGTON, January 20. Amongst the visitors at the seat of government we observe the distinguished president of the American Philosophical Society, Mr. Duponceau, of Philadelphia. This venerable citizen has incurred the fatigue and discomfort of the journey from Philadelphia, during the recent rigorous weather, for the patriotic purpose of promoting, so far as he can, the adoption of the National Standard, during the last session of congress, but so finally acted on, for securing to our country a perfect and extended knowledge of the silk culture, an opportunity for acquiring which is now offered by the presence of Mr. D'Homergue, a native of France, practical, and perfectly acquainted with the art. Few persons, not well informed on the subject, can appreciate the value of this knowledge, and the usual difficulty of obtaining persons who can impart it, whence only they can be obtained from France, and it would be a national loss of irreparable magnitude, to allow the present opportunity of securing it, to escape us. The estimable citizen, Mr. Duponceau, has devoted much of his valuable time, and considerable expense for several years in disinterested efforts to avert this loss from his adopted country, by himself furnishing employment to Mr. D'Homergue, and preventing his departure from the United States, in the hope that the National Government would adopt some plan of securing the skill of the latter permanently available to the State; and we trust that we shall see the zeal of the venerable patriot triumphant, and his last days made happy by the complete success of his efforts.—Nat. Lit.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 16. Melancholy Shipwreck.—A lad about 18 years of age, named Alexander McDonald, came to the beach house late on Tuesday night, and solicited lodgings till morning, stating that he had been on board the schr. Triton, Capt. Jackson, of the New York Union Line of Packets, and was wrecked on the night of last Wednesday week near Cold Springs, at the mouth of the Delaware, and all aboard except himself, perished, being four in number—Capt. Jackson, James Smith, James Roberts, and Thomas Williams. The schooner was loaded with tin, molasses and soap. At the time she was wrecked the wind was blowing heavily and dead on shore. McDonald was at the helm, and others engaged in working the vessel, when she struck upon the east and went to pieces. When the mainmast fell low and aft; it flew McDonald several feet in the air. 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