

To show the very age and body of the times.

It is stated that the U. S. Supreme Court have come to a decision in the Dred Scott case, recently argued before them. All the judges but two hold that Congress has no power over the question of slavery in the Territories, and that the Missouri compromise is unconstitutional, consequently, null and void. Judges McLane and Curtis dissenting from the majority, hold that Congress has power to prohibit slavery in the Territories. The decision will be pronounced in a few days.

The winter in Europe has so far been very cold. Vast quantities of snow have fallen in Austria. On the first of December the roads east of Vienna were impassable on account of snow, and in Vienna such vast masses of it had accumulated in the streets, that all locomotion was greatly impeded. In England they had skating in the early part of December.

The fall of Herat, from Persian sources is confirmed. Accounts show the defence to have been bravely sustained. The city was only given up when all hopes of defending it successfully had disappeared. In England a strong feeling is getting up, inimical to the war with Persia, arising out of this siege.

The mansions of almost all the public men in Washington, and those of many noted citizens, were thrown open according to custom on New Year's Day. Very few persons spread the refreshments before their guests, which in former times tempted so many foolish persons to forget the amenities of polite society.

The Rochester Union, giving an account of a boy named George Shale falling over the Great Genessee Falls, in Rochester, says: "It appears that the boys went down the slope, towards the mill, perhaps to see how far they might venture; one of them, named George Shale, ventured too far, slipped upon the crust, and in an instant went over the great precipice, falling over one hundred feet, to the verge of the water, boiling up from the eddy under the Great Fall. All who heard the alarm concluded at once that the lad was dead, but he was so far from being dead, that his cries attracted the attention of skaters on the river, some forty rods distant, and they went to his relief. He was found standing partly upright in the snow, about six feet from the edge of the water.— One of his legs was badly shattered, and some of his ribs were broken. The precise extent of his injuries could not be at once ascertained. He fell feet foremost, and was terribly jarred, though striking in the soft snow may have, in some measure, lessened the shock."

Reah Frazer, esq., an eminent member of the bar of Lancaster, Pa., died in the insane asylum at Harrisburg, on Tuesday. The Philadelphia Bulletin says: "Excessive labor in his profession, it is thought, brought on the first symptoms of the mental malady that has at length reached such a calamitous termination; though it is probable the more immediate cause of the worst stages was anxiety about business affairs, and extraordinary excitement about politics during the late election canvass. He has always been a prominent democrat, and went into politics, as into every other pursuit, with the whole energy of a warm, impulsive nature. After the election of November last his excitement seemed to increase."

The "Young Ladies' Matrimonial Club of Frankfort," has, through the columns of the Romney Intelligencer, issued an address "to the gentlemen of Hampshire county, and its vicinity," in which they set forth their grievances in a very touching manner. But for their timidly expressed assertion to the contrary, we would, says the Richmond Whig, notwithstanding our immense regard for the sex, be inclined to suspect that the Hampshire ladies were not as captivating as the ladies are elsewhere. In no other way could we account for the alleged indifference of the chevaliers of Hampshire.

The Richmond Whig says that Col. Titus was quite a hero during the late disturbances in Kansas. He was overflowing with love for the South, and fought her battles with reckless gallantry. We presume, however, that his zeal in behalf of the rights and interests of the slave-holder was born of a—consideration in the shape of land or money; for it is stated by the Kansas correspondent of the Missouri Democrat, that Col. Titus, while in Kansas City, on his way to Nicaragua, drank to Kansas, "a free State!"

A correspondent of the Savannah Georgian, writing from Key West, under date of the 25th ult., states that although the flags of truce inviting a conference ordered by Gen. Harney, had been displayed from all the military posts and other public stations, the Florida Indians had taken no friendly notice of them, and those along the 'Indian track' had even been torn down by the savages.

Amongst the various business changes in Baltimore, incident to the new year, is the retirement of Messrs. W. F. Dalrymple and J. H. Carter, from the well-known banking house of Lee & Co., and the formation of a new firm, including Messrs. Gover & Brother, and Lee & Reese, who will, as heretofore, conduct business under the same name.

The Louisville Journal contains a long notice of another Abolition novel entitled "Autobiography of a Female Slave," which it speaks of as a work "of infinitely greater merit as a literary production and of vastly deeper infamy, as a total misrepresentation of African slavery in the South, than anything that has yet been published.

Operations at the Mint at Philadelphia for the month of December were very light. The deposits of gold from California and from all other sources were only \$138,950. The silver deposits and purchases were \$152,440—in the whole, gold and silver, \$291,390. The gold coinage for the month has been wholly in gold dollars, \$242,406.

The New York Post informs us that the omnibus drivers in the city of Gotham have raised the question of the right of four women, with their hoops, to occupy the whole side of an omnibus, to the exclusion of two passengers. This is certainly a deeply interesting and important question.

We learn from the Chicago Democratic Press of a rumor to the effect that arrangements are on foot to bring about a re-union of the Legislatures of Iowa, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Illinois, in Chicago, during the present winter.

The failure of Robert Johnson & Co., warehousemen, London, and George Ashworth & Co., manufacturers, Manchester, is announced. The liabilities of the latter are about £100,000.

The man Baker, who has been tried several times for the murder of Poole, in New York, some time since, has at length been released on bail, a Mr. McCrea becoming his bondsman.

We learn from the London Mirror, that Miss Shyrock, an old lady of that county, was burnt to death on Tuesday of last week, and her house entirely destroyed.

The Philadelphia Inquirer avers that the Alms House guardians in that city are in the habit of selling the dead bodies of paupers who die at the institution under their charge, for the sum of \$30 each, and scarcely an unrecognized body taken to the cemetery is interred, but sold at once to the brokers in anatomy.

Jas. W. Ryan has qualified as deputy sheriff of Clarke county, and E. V. Kercheval as jailor, to commence with the first of the year under the new sheriff, Jos. F. Ryan.

Hon. John Taylor Lomax has been elected President of the newly organized Young Men's Christian Association of Fredericksburg.

During the year 1856, there were 5,312 tons of copper transported over the Georgia State Railroad, being the produce of the Southern mines.