OBITUARY.

THE REV. J. SELLA MARTIN.

The Rev. J. Sella Martin, one of the most eloquent colored speakers of this country, died at New Orleans last Friday from an overdose of laudanum. He was born in North Carolina, but first became prominent in Illinois and Michigan in 1856, where he took an active part in politics. While there he studied for the ministry, and in 1860 he became the pastor of the Joy Street Baptist Church in Boston. He was soon after sent to England as a missionary by the Freeman's Aid Society of Ohio, and remained there several years, making anti-slavery speeches. In 1866 he went South, speaking in Alabama and Mississippi. He succeeded Fred. Douglass as editor of the New National Era in Washington, and has since held a position as postmaster in Louisiana. He was also a lyceum lecturer, and corresponded with several newspapers. He was about forty-three years old at the time of his death.

COLONEL THOMAS ASPINWALL.

Colonel Thomas Aspinwall, the oldest living officer of the War of 1812, died in Boston last Friday, aged ninety years, having been born in Brookline, Mass., on the 33d of May, 1790. He was graduated from Harvard College in 1814, and was one of its three senior graduates. He studied law, and at the outbreak of the War of 1812 was appointed Major of the Ninth United States Infantry, which became known as the "bloody Ninth." At Back Bay's Harbor, in 1813, he, with Captain Crooker and Lieutenant Browning, saved the fortunes of the day, and for his gallant conduct received a brevet of lieutenant colonel. He commanded Scott's brigade, in the absence of that General, at the attack of the British upon Fort Erie, and his conduct was mentioned with due distinction in the despatches. In the memorable sortie from Fort Erie he lost his left arm, and was otherwise severely wounded. He led General Miller's column in storming the enemy's batteries, and was the next man to the forlorn hope.

At the close of the war President Monroe appointed him consul at London in 1816. His removal by President Pierce in 1854, after he had been several times reappointed, caused considerable discussion, and on his departure from London the leading bankers and merchants of the city presented him with a service of plate, and a letter commending his services, which was signed by Baring Brothers & Co., George Peabody, C. M. Lampsen, N. M. Rothschild & Sons and many others. Since that time he has lived in Boston. He leaves a son and a daughter.