

## COL. KING'S LAST CHANCE.

GOV. BUCHANAN'S CLEMENCY ALL THAT CAN SAVE HIM.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., July 29.—It appears that unless the Governor interferes by pardon or commutation of sentence, Col. H. Clay King, the murderer of David H. Poston, has but thirteen and a half more days on earth. The decision of Judge Jackson of the United States Circuit Court, sitting in chambers at Nashville yesterday, practically destroys all hope of even a temporary escape from the gallows through the interference of the Federal authority. Judge Jackson not only denied the writ of habeas corpus prayed for, but also an appeal to the United States Supreme Court, and refused a stay of execution.

The judgment of the Supreme Court of the State, affirming the verdict in the lower court, was that King should be hanged at noon on the 12th day of next month, so the defense has scarcely sufficient time to get the case before the United States Supreme Court, even if it should make the effort. It is the opinion of the most prominent lawyers here that the attempt would be fruitless, anyway, in view of the decision of Judge Jackson and the unwillingness of the Federal Supreme Court to interfere with the process of the State courts in criminal cases.

In the noted case of Nagle the Federal Circuit Court interposed to the extent of preventing even a trial in the State court, but in that instance Nagle was a United States Deputy Marshal acting as a bodyguard to Justice Field in traveling from one court to another, and hence the Supreme Court ruled that the killing was strictly within Federal jurisdiction.

In cases where convictions have regularly been had in the State courts, there is scarcely an instance of Federal interference with the verdict.

In view of the situation King's family are redoubling their efforts to induce Gov. Buchanan to interfere and save his neck. The prisoner has broken down almost completely since the State Supreme Court refused him a new trial. Being himself an excellent lawyer, he has counted little upon the latest attempt of his counsel. As he says, he feels that he is in the shadow of death. Of late he has been drinking hard, and his nervous system is a wreck. He weeps bitterly when speaking of his terrible fate and imagines that he is being watched constantly by detectives.

The general belief here is that Gov. Buchanan will commute King's sentence to life imprisonment, and in case he refuses to interfere, that the wretched man will commit suicide rather than hang.

## ▲ AN EARTHQUAKE AT SEA. ▲

ACCOMPANIED BY A BRILLIANT ILLUMINATION OF THE SKY.

A curious phenomenon is reported by Pilot Sullivan, who brought the steamship Trinaoria into port yesterday. The pilot belongs to the Jesse Caril, Pilot Boat No. 10.

On Monday last the pilotboat was cruising for incoming ships in the vicinity of Georges Shoal. About 7 o'clock in the evening the crew were suddenly startled by a noise which seemed to come from directly underneath. First it had a grating sound, and then it seemed as if the metal sheathing of the hull was exposed to a submarine hailstorm. The sharp, rattling noise continued for about six seconds. The vibrations were steady, and, according to the pilot, were undoubtedly caused by an earthquake.

For a moment the crew thought the keel had grated on the bottom, but they were reassured a moment later by the lead, which showed plenty of water underneath the vessel.

Before the crew had time to cease wondering at the subaqueous disturbance their attention was demanded by a brilliant and startling display overhead. The heavens from zenith to horizon were suddenly streaked by a rift of light, serpentine in shape and clearly defined. The rippling coil of light was dazzlingly brilliant, and it was several minutes before there was any perceptible diminution to its lustre.

For nearly an hour the heavens were illuminated by the gigantic scroll, which looked like a tracing in phosphorus, and then it gradually faded away, and finally disappeared. Throughout the time, the sea remained perfectly calm.

On the same date and at the same hour the same phenomenon was observed from the steamship Trinaoria, which was then sixty miles distant from the pilot boat. Capt. Thompson of that vessel says the light glanced across the sky as swiftly as a streak of lightning. It looked to him like a huge serpent. The earthquake shock was not felt on board the Trinaoria, but heavy tide rips were observed.

A marked unsteadiness in the barometer was noted. At the beginning of the aerial display it fell from 29.39 to 29.29, rapidly rising again as the light faded from the skies.

## ANOTHER QUICK PASSAGE.

LA TOURAINE LOWERS THE RECORD

FROM HAVRE BY SIX HOURS.

This is undoubtedly a season for record-breaking. La Touraine, the vessel recently added to the French Line fleet, which was scheduled to arrive to-day, reached Quarantine at midnight after a passage of 6 days, 17 hours, and 30 minutes from Havre, actual time, and 6 days 12 hours and 30 minutes apparent time.

Taking departure from Havre at 10 o'clock on the morning of July 23, the vessel traversed the intervening distance at a speed that brought her abreast Sandy Hook at 10:30 last night.

She already held the record between this port and Havre by a record made last March in 6 days, 23 hours, and 30 minutes. On this run the vessel has reduced her own time by six hours, which, at the present stage of ocean transit, is a very large slice to be cut from a record.

The vessel arrived last night too late to ascertain the number of miles logged during the voyage, but if she traversed her usual course of 3,171 miles she did it at an average speed of 19.6 knots per hour. This does not equal the recent performance of the City of Paris nor the fast runs made by the White Star fliers, but it is a remarkably good showing, and if the ship continues to improve her speed as the other vessels have theirs, it is quite certain that she will soon be classed with the twenty-knot boats.

Her daily runs were 528, 490, 475, 491, 501, 485, and 201.

La Touraine is the newest and one of the finest vessels flying the French colors. She was launched last year from the company's yards at Penhouet, France, and measures 540 feet in length by 57 feet beam. Her burden is 11,675 tons.

On her trial trip she attained a speed of 19½ knots per hour, which rate was increased to 20½ knots when the forced draught was put in operation.

The vessel is fitted with engines of 11,000 horse power, which can be brought up to 13,000. Two independent triple-expansion engines revolve separate propellers. The vessel is commanded by Capt. E. Frangeul, the Commodore of the French-Line fleet.

## CHAIRMAN MURPHY'S CALL.

THE DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEE TO

MEET NEXT FRIDAY.

Chairman Murphy yesterday issued a call for a meeting of the Democratic State Committee to be held in the Hoffman House, Broadway and Twenty-fifth Street, next Friday evening.

The object of the meeting is to prepare for the coming campaign. Permanent headquarters will probably be established, and the machinery will be put in motion for vigorous work throughout the State.