

Splitting Slate.—The idea of separating slate by the congelation of water in the quarries, is very curious. The rain water being let into the crevices of the blocks, when it freezes, its expansion suddenly separates the layer.

Sir Humphry Davy has discovered a means to procure permanent light without flame: he has taught, that a platina wire of sufficient fineness, and an inch, or an inch and a half long, which has been heated red-hot, may be long preserved in that state over a vessel in which there is sulphuric ether or alcohol, in a state of evaporation. Thus this incandescent wire may be employed as a cheap night lamp, or instead of a steel to light tinder.

Poetry.

The Female Convict to her Infant.

O sleep not, my babe, for the morn of to-morrow
 Shall sopthe me to slumber more tranquil
 than thine;
 The dark grave shall shield me from shame
 and from sorrow,
 Though the deeds and the doom of the
 guilty are mine.
 Not long shall the arm of affection enfold
 thee,
 Not long shalt thou hang on thy mother's
 fond breast;
 And who with the eye of delight shall behold
 thee,
 , And watch thee, and guard thee, when I
 am at rest!
 And yet it doth grieve me to wake thee, my
 dearest,
 The pangs of thy desolate mother to see;
 Thou wilt weep when the clank of my cold
 chain thou hearest,
 And none but the guilty should mourn over
 me.
 And yet I must wake thee—for while thou
 art weeping,
 To calm thee I stifle my tears for a while;
 But thou smil'st in thy dreams while thus
 placidly sleeping,
 And oh! how it wounds me to gaze on thy
 smile!
 Alas! my sweet babe, with what pride had
 I press'd thee
 To the bosom that now throbs with terror
 and shame,
 If the pure tie of virtuous affection had blest
 thee,
 And hail'd thee the heir of thy father's
 high name?
 But now—with remorse that avails not—I
 mourn thee,
 Forsaken and friendless, as soon thou wilt
 be

In a world, if it cannot betray, that will scorn
 thee—

Avenging the guilt of thy mother on thee.

And when the dark thought of my fate shall
 awaken

The deep blush of shame on thy innocent
 cheek,

When by all, but the God of the orphan, for-
 saken,

A home and a father in vain thou shalt
 seek:

I know that the base world will seek to de-
 ceive thee,

With falsehood like that which thy mother
 beguiled;

Deserted and helpless—to whom can I leave
 thee?

Oh! God of the fatherless! pity my child!
Liverpool Mercury.]

Record.

CONGRESS.

The sixth instant being the time appointed for the meeting of Congress, both houses met for the first time in the apartments prepared for them in the Capitol. Some difficulty of hearing was experienced from the great size of these splendid chambers. It is believed that this defect can be remedied by the disposition of drapery.

The SENATE adopted the usual rules respecting furnishing members with newspapers and appointing a chaplain. Committees were appointed on *Enrolled Bills*, *Accounts*, *Engrossed Bills*, and the *constitution of Alabama*.

The HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES elected Henry Clay speaker, and the members were severally sworn to support the constitution of the United States. The clerk and other officers were appointed. The rules and orders of the last house were temporarily established for the government of this house. The usual rule respecting newspapers was adopted, and the constitution of Alabama was referred to a select committee.

Perhaps at no peaceful period have the national representatives met under circumstances of deeper responsibility, or under the necessity of deliberating on matters more vitally affecting the interests of the republic, than at this time; and seldom, it may be added, have the eyes of the people been fixed upon them with a more intense attention. To attempt an enumeration here of the subjects which will claim the consideration of the national legislature, would be useless, if not officious; they are, those of a domestic nature especially, impressed upon the mind of every one.

Supposing, even, that nothing in the present state of our foreign relations shall require the interposition of Congress, yet the results of their deliberations on the great