DAILY CRESCENT.

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THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 24, 1848.

☞ See First and Fourth pages. ☜

Insurrection in Ireland.

In addition to the telegraphic dispatch from the Picayune, which we give in another column, the Mercury yesterday received the subjoined communication from Augusta. This, it will be seen, gives an entirely different complexion to the affair. We were at first—upon learning that the royalists had been victorious—inclined to despair of the success of the Irish in their efforts to free themselves from English tyranny; but we are now convinced that the unsuccessful revolt in Ballingarry was not a part of the general and concerted plan, but only a spontaneous rising of the people of that excitable district. That they were defeated is not surprising; that they should have been the victors in the contest would have astonished us more. This outbreak was a prelude to the bloody drama which is to follow. Heaven grant that its ending may be more happy than its beginning. Meagher and O'Brien, it is said, have fled to the mountains; before long they will issue thence at the head of a hundred thousand armed followers, each—we hope—determined to devote himself to his country. We are confident that the crisis cannot now be long delayed. The British Government has avowed to the world that it is prepared to meet it; we shall soon see whether Ireland is equally strong in her sense of justice and of right, as England in her determination to resist reform, and to maintain her despotic position. Here is the dispatch:

AUGUSTA, GA., August 21.—The Cambria has arrived. The Irish revolution broke out at Ballingarry. The people attacked the constabulary forces, who retreated into houses and fired from the windows upon the insurgents, routing them with great loss of life. Various skirmishes had taken place, in which the Government forces proved always victorious. The outbreak considered suppressed. Meagher and O'Brien fled and hid themselves in the mountains.

France all quiet. Emperor of Austria abdicated.

Sales of cotton for the week 32,000 bales. Market steady. Wheat advanced two shillings per bushel. Corn receded two shillings.

☞ We perceive that our respected cotemporary of the Orleanian, has doffed his neutrality, and wrapped himself up in the banner of Taylor and Fillmore. Success to our friend Prendergast.

SOCIAL DISTINCTION, OR HEARTS AND HOMES, *by Mrs. Ellis.*—This is another of Appleton's publications. Really these enterprising publishers are taking us quite by storm with the multitude of new and good books they are issuing from the press. Concerning this last work, we will only say—not yet having had time to bestow close attention upon it—that as Mrs. Ellis is so well and favorably known, it is only necessary to announce a book from her to insure it a favorable reception.

☞ We thank the polite officers of the steamboat Albatros for late papers.

GUARD MOBILE.—We advise those persons who are possessed of the spirit of martial enthusiasm, to attend a meeting to be held this evening, at the coffee-house on the corner of Common and Circus streets. The object for which the meeting is to be held, is the formation of a volunteer company of infantry, to be attached to the first brigade of Louisiana Militia.

ARREST OF THE FUGITIVE.—It will be recollected by many of our readers, that on or about the 13th of May last, a letter containing $2500, addressed to Messrs. Payne & Harrison, was stolen from a package of letters sent from the steamer *Gen. Lafayette* to the Post Office. The letters were in charge of a man named W. A. Vanderlip, to whom they were entrusted by Mr. Martin, the clerk of the boat. Vanderlip had for a long time been employed by the boat to deliver packages and letters, and immediately after the discovery that the letters had been stolen, he disappeared. The letter, we believe, was sent from Louisville, and through the Louisville papers we were first made acquainted with the transaction. Although it was a customary thing to send letters in this way, the loss of this one placed Mr. Martin, the clerk, in an unpleasant position, and he immediately took steps for the arrest of Vanderlip. After much search, he was heard from in the State of New-York, and Mr. Martin having obtained a requisition for him from Gov. Johnson, started in pursuit. His efforts have fortunately proved successful, and he lately arrived here with his prisoner. Vanderlip is in the Parish prison awaiting his trial.

CONFIRMATIONS BY THE SENATE.—The following additional officers for the Territory of Oregon, have been confirmed by the Senate: Kintzing Pritchet, of Pennsylvania, Secretary; William P. Bryant, of Indiana, Chief Justice Supreme Court; James Turney, of Illinois, Peter H. Burnett, of Oregon, Associate Judges District Court; Isaac W. R. Bromley, of New York, Attorney of the United States; Joseph L. Meek, of Oregon, Marshal.

☞ Another steamer intended to run in connection with the Crescent City, between New York, Havana and New Orleans, will be laid in a few days. She will be about 1600 tons burthen.

TROOPS AT NEW YORK.—Captain Magruder's company (artillery) arrived at New York on the 14th inst., from this port, under the command of Captain Coffee. Of one hundred men composing the company, seventy-six had been attacked by yellow fever, and eleven had died during the passage. The vessel is in quarantine.

IRISH NEWS EXCITEMENT.—The news by the Acadia produced a strong sensation in both New York and Philadelphia. The Herald says, that in New York, it far exceeded even that of the reception of the news of the French revolution. There was a crowd of probably one thousand persons around that office; and the gathering at Vauxhall Garden, was larger and more enthusiastic than any of the previous Irish Union meetings.

☞ The longest dispatch ever sent from Boston to New-York, was that giving the Acadia's news. It commenced coming through at half-past 4 o'clock, and finished at half-past 9; the greatest telegraphic feat on record. Copy could not be furnished in the office in Boston rapidly enough to keep the wires actively employed.

☞ About thirty Irish volunteers mustered in front of the Sixth Ward Hotel, N. Y., on the 14th, with a goodly sized target, on one side of which was painted a caricature representation of "Lord Clarendon, the hang man," and on the reverse side, that of "Lord John Russell, the chief assassin," which the company intended taking pleasure in shooting at.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE FAIR.—Great preparations are making at New York, for the annual Fair of the American Institute, which, this year, commences on the 3d of October, at Castle Garden. Besides the usual premiums, there will, on this occasion, be some five hundred dollars awarded to apprentices and minors; a new and commendable feature, in the Institute, certainly.

☞ Nicholas, of Russia, it is stated, is visiting the hospitals and addressing the population of Petersburg. The autocrat is trying his hand at gaining the ears of the people.

Washington Correspondence of Crescent.

WASHINGTON, August 15, 1848.

The two Houses of Congress adjourned *sine die* at noon yesterday. The Senate met at 9 and the House at 10 o'clock. The Oregon Bill has passed both Houses, but could not be presented to the President without a suspension of the joint rule. From the fact that the ordinance of 1787 was incorporated in this bill, and a great struggle had been made upon it, some of the Southern members felt authorized to attempt the resistance of the act itself. There were but three hours of the session, and these could easily have been occupied upon points of order, and in debate. Mr. Turney, of Tennessee, commenced this attempt to stop all business rather than admit the presentation of this bill for the President's signature, and had spoken nearly an hour, when Mr. Webster called him to order for irrelevancy. It took as long, however, to debate this point of order as the resolution to suspend the rules. Some of the Southern members, however, were not willing to participate in this effort to defeat public business, and Mr. King, of Alabama, among others, remonstrated. The Army Bill, too, had not been signed, nor the Light-house Bill, nor others of great moment to the public welfare; some of the private bills were also to be presented to the President for his signature, if the rules were suspended—an extra session also depended upon this freak. If the bill was defeated now it would be more likely to pass at the next session of Congress, and in the meantime, would have created a great deal of popular feeling at the North, and proved one of the elements of opposition to the Administration and the success of Gen. Cass.

When the House met at 10 o'clock, the same attempt was made to prevent organization there. The "Previous Question," however, is among the allowable things of the House, and this cuts off debate. Mr. Bayly, of Virginia, and Mr. Rhett, of South Carolina, led off in this disorganization. There were not, however, men enough willing to operate with the few to defeat the majority, though every sort of possible motion was put and urged to accomplish this purpose. Points of order were raised, motions made to adjourn, (pronounced not in order by the Speaker because the joint resolution fixed the hour of adjournment at noon,) and other business urged.

The joint resolution, therefore, went to the Senate in the very midst of the resistance against the suspension of the rules. The responsibility, instead of being divided, now rested upon the Senate alone, and there were not many willing to take it, though Mr. Calhoun remarked for one, that he would resist the bill to doomsday, and Mr. Foote, on Monday, threatened to speak forty-eight hours to kill the bill. The Senate finally yielded, and with the Army Bill, the Light-house Bill, and several private bills, the Oregon Bill found its way to the President. While this was doing, the two Houses proceeded with other business. Soon the President informed the House in a message sent to the Speaker, that he had signed the Oregon Bill *with a Protest*. The reading of the President's reasons were called for, but there was no time to hear or heed them, and as the yeas and nays were called and the answers given, it was not in order to check the progress of business, except by universal consent. This was not given, and the reasons of the President it was thought would remain a sealed book. The President, however, sent them to the Speaker, and the Speaker having broken the seal, consents that the public shall see them, and the document will go to you by the present mail.

The following are the nominees for the offices in Oregon: Gen. Shields, Governor; Kinzing Pritchell, Secretary; Wm. P. Bryant of Indiana, Chief Justice; Samuel Turner, (brother of the U. S. Senator,) and Peter H. Burnett of Oregon, Associate Justices; Isaac W. R. Bromley of New York, Attorney; J. L. Meek, (relative of the President,) Marshal; John Adair, Collector of the port of Oregon. All these were confirmed upon the instant, and not a moment was left to canvass their qualifications.

Among the bills lost in the House, were the two for the establishment of commissions to run the boundary line between the United States and Mexico, and for the examination of claims against the Mexican Government. The Committee on Foreign Relations declined to act upon these bills, as they passed the Senate.

The River and Harbor Bill was also lost in the Senate, and some one hundred House bills, mostly private, owing to the protracted debate of Saturday and Sunday.

The closing days and hours of the session, were the most exciting I have known in a very long attendance upon the proceedings of Congress. It was a subject of deep regret to see the sectional feelings which had been aroused, and the prejudices which had been created by the anxiety growing out of the discussion of the territorial bills. May reflection, patience, and the more sober thoughts of private hours and social life, calm the troubled waters. ORLEANS.

Message from the President on the Wilmot Proviso.

We find in the Union of the 15th a copy of the Message sent to the House of Representatives by President Polk, accompanying his signature of the Oregon Bill. We regret that we are unable to give it entire. After alluding to the necessity of providing immediately a Government for Oregon, the President proceeds:

"In the progress of all Governments questions of such transcendent importance occasionally arise as to cast in the shade all those of a mere party character. But one such question can now be agitated in this country; and this may endanger our glorious Union, the source of our greatness and all our political blessings. This question is slavery. With the slaveholding States this does not embrace merely the rights of property, however valuable, but it ascends far higher, and involves the domestic peace and security of every family.

"The fathers of the constitution—the wise and patriotic men who laid the foundation of our institutions—foreseeing the danger from this quarter, acted in a spirit of compromise and mutual concession on this dangerous and delicate subject, and their wisdom ought to be the guide of their successors. Whilst they left to the States exclusively the question of domestic slavery within their respective limits, they provided that slaves who might escape into other States not recognizing the institution of slavery, shall be delivered up on the claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due.

"Upon this foundation the matter rested until the Missouri question arose.

"In December, 1819, application was made to Congress by the people of the Missouri Territory for admission into the Union as a State. This distinctly raised the subject in Congress involved the question of slavery, and was prosecuted with such violence as to produce excitements alarming to every patriot in the Union. But the good genius of conciliation which presided at the birth of our institutions finally prevailed, and the Missouri compromise was adopted. The eighth section of the act of Congress of the 6th of March, 1820, 'to authorize the people of the Missouri Territory to form a Constitution and State Government,' &c. provides: 'That in all that territory ceded by France to the United States, under the name of Louisiana, which lies north of 36° 30' north latitude, not included within the limits of the State contemplated by this act, slavery and involuntary servitude, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes, whereof the parties shall have been duly convicted, shall be and is hereby forever prohibited: *Provided, always*, That any person escaping into the same, from whom labor or service is lawfully claimed in any State or Territory of the United States, such fugitive may be lawfully reclaimed and conveyed to the person claiming his or her labor or service as aforesaid.'

"This compromise had the effect of calming the troubled waves and restoring peace and good will throughout the States of the Union.

"The Missouri question had excited intense agitation of the public mind, and threatened to divide the country into geographical parties, alienating the feelings of attachment which each portion of our Union should bear to every other. The compromise allayed the excitement, tranquilized the popular mind, and restored confidence and fraternal feelings. Its authors were hailed as public benefactors.

"I doubt not that a similar adjustment of the questions which now agitate the public mind would produce the same happy results. If the legislation of Congress on the subject of the other Territories shall not be adopted in a spirit of conciliation and compromise, it is impossible that the country can be satisfied, or that the most disastrous consequences shall fail to ensue.

"When Texas was admitted into the Union, the same spirit of concession which guided our predecessors in the admission of Missouri, a quarter of a century before, prevailed without any serious opposition. The joint resolution for annexing Texas to the United States, approved March 1, 1845, provides that 'such States as may be formed out of that portion of said territory lying South of 36° 30', North latitude, commonly known as the Missouri Compromise line, shall be admitted into the Union with or without slavery, as the people of each State asking admission may desire; and in such State or States as shall be formed out of said territory North of the Missouri Compromise line, slavery or involuntary servitude (except for crime) shall be prohibited.'

"The Territory of Oregon lies far North of 36° 30', the Missouri and Texas Compromise line. Its Southern boundary is the parallel of 42°, leaving the intermediate distance to be three hundred and thirty geographical miles.

"And it is because the provisions of this bill are not inconsistent with the terms of the Missouri Compromise, if extended from the Rio Grande to the Pacific Ocean, that I have not felt at liberty to withhold my sanction. Had it embraced territories South of that Compromise, the question presented for my consideration would have been of a far different character, and my action upon it must have corresponded with my convictions.

"Ought we now to disturb the Missouri and Texas Compromises? Ought we at this late day, in attempting to amend what has been so long established and acquiesced in, to excite sectional divisions and jealousies; to alienate the people of different portions of the Union from each other, and to endanger the existence of the Union itself?"

The Message then proceeds to recount the continued prosperity of the country under the spirit of compromise that has prevailed in the legislation on this and other important subjects, the President expressing an abiding confidence that the patriotism of the people will ultimately lead them to adopt the Missouri Compromise for the settlement of this distracting question. The President then adds:

"Holding as a sacred trust the Executive authority of the whole Union, and bound to guard the rights of all, I should be constrained, by a sense of duty, to withhold my official sanction from any measure which would conflict with these important objects."

The Message closes with an extract from the Farewell Address of Washington, containing his almost prophetic appeal to his countrymen to avoid geographical divisions, as dangerous to the future existence of his country.

OREGON GOVERNMENT.—In connection with the appointment and confirmation of Gen. James A. Shields, as Governor of the Territory of Oregon, it is stated also that the nomination for Secretary and Judges of the territory were sent into the Senate and confirmed by that body. In reference to Gen. S. the Union says: "This appointment furnishes another refutation of the plot of the 'Buffalo hunt.' Shields, who was to have led a new revolution in Mexico, is now, it seems, destined to a very different theatre."

LITERATURE OF THE WAR.—Gen. Cushing, Major Henry, and other army officers, are said to be engaged in writing works upon Mexico. Colonel Albert C. Ramsey, of Pennsylvania, is also writing a book on the same subject.

More Foreign News by the Acadia.

IRELAND.

Willmer & Smith's Times, after announcing the passage of the bill suspending the habeas corpus, goes on as follows:

The news of the demonstration on the part of the Government, created an extraordinary sensation in Ireland; and at the moment the bill was actually in progress through the Commons, the felon journals of Dublin were vomiting forth the last concentrated venom of their anger and despair; and various articles appeared in the confederate journals, bearing the initials of the parties now in Newgate, and surpassing in violence anything which has hitherto appeared in either the Felon, Tribune, or Nation. Now, or never, is the watchword of the rebels; and little doubt can be entertained that the conflict will be what they have so long and so ardently wished—short and decisive. We think, however, that the 40,000 well trained brave fellows, the Queen's soldiers, who are to be captured and killed, will give a good account of themselves, and will not so readily yield to these empty brawlers, as we really believe they will turn out to be. After all, it is generally credited that warrants have been issued against Smith O'Brien, whose chance of becoming King of Munster, is marvellously diminished. He has left Dublin, and was occupied by the last accounts, in the town of Enniscorthy, on Saturday, in organizing the Club movement.

It is said that Wexford is peaceably inclined, but the counties of Tipperary, Kilkenny, Cork, and Limerick are all ripe for an outbreak.

The alarm seems hourly to increase, and no one entertains a hope that the excitement can pass away without some trifling effusion of blood.

A camp has been formed in Phœnix Park, Dublin. Several additional regiments, with an effective force of artillery, have been poured into Ireland; and our own town, where so many Irish are located, not having escaped the disaffection, has received a large accession of troops, ready to put down a spirit of rebellion, which was beginning to manifest itself. The ample civil and military movements adopted, must, however, suppress any mad attempt to disturb the peace of our town.

The Lord Lieutenant has issued a further proclamation, placing the city and county of Kilkenny, and the remaining portion of the counties, Cork and Waterford, under the provisions of the crime repression act.

Large quantities of arms are said to have been removed from Dublin. Hyland, the extensive pike maker, has quenched his fires, and removed the scene of his labors elsewhere. It now remains to be seen whether the provision of the arms act will be complied with. Parties not licensed, must, under the severe penalty of two years imprisonment, yield up their arms at the dates fixed by the respective proclamations, and it is most probable that the first struggle may arise in the compulsory enforcement of this law.

At the moment we are writing, no additional news has reached us from Dublin.

Mr. Smith O'Brien and Mr. Meagher were expected to be at Kilkenny on Wednesday. Of course every hour might bring forth some new incident which would alter the whole present appearance of affairs. At Waterford, the arrival of troops had given confidence, and the opportune return from abroad of considerable detachments has enabled the Government to increase the army in Ireland, without unduly weakening the strength of the forces distributed throughout England. The 90th regiment left London at noon on Wednesday, destined also for Ireland, and one or two battalions of the Guards will follow if required.

Sir Charles Napier, with the fleet under his command, consisting of five large ships of war, and many smaller vessels, has arrived at Cork.

The latest accounts from Ireland are of a meagre character. It cannot, however, be doubted that the news of the suspension of the *habeas corpus* act has struck a complete panic among the insurgent leaders, and the officers of the clubs. They are represented as flying in all directions. Some have decamped by the railway to the south, and many have come to Liverpool by the steamer.

The Government has put a stop to the abuse of the prison regulations, by which Lalor and Brenand, under pretence of communication with their legal advisers, contrived to send forth to the world their seditious compositions. All communication with the prisoners is strictly prohibited. At one of the largest clubs in Dublin, the Mercantile Assistants, only two members ventured to make their appearance on Tuesday night, and the owner of the house has wisely forbidden any future assemblies on his premises. Mr. Smith O'Brien was expected to arrive in Dublin hourly, in custody of the police. Vast military preparations are being made in Dublin, Waterford, Cork, Clonmel, Tipperary, and the most dangerous parts of the country, in order to suppress any attempt at an outbreak; but from the tone of our latest intelligence we are not altogether without hopes that, the leaders being silenced, the whole scheme of an insurrectionary movement will be abandoned, as altogether impracticable.

JOHN O'CONNELL'S POSITION.—John O'Connell, instead of appearing in his place in the House of Commons and adducing moral force arguments against his political antagonists, is now at Cork. He has issued a letter thence, addressed to the people of Ireland, in which he describes the ruin and total overthrow of the cause to the Government and the Young Irelanders. He says the association Daniel O'Connell founded, is not dead; and he advises his countrymen not to join the Irish League. The Repealers, during the last three months, have, however, been too much delighted with the excitement of pikes and physical force, to have any relish for dull abuse of the Saxon Government. However, the hon. gentleman, in an odd attempt at a joke, advises his countrymen to dismiss all thoughts of scaring England by physical-force demonstration, as he says that the purpose of frightening England by the collection of a few fowling pieces, rusty muskets and unwieldy pikes, is about as hopeful as the exhibition of ugly faces painted on war shields, which was an expedient resorted to for the same purpose by the Chinese in the late war, and one very easy of adoption by the earnest men here at home.

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.—From all the information which has reached us up to the moment we are writing, it is plain that Ireland is on the brink of a great convulsion.

In Dublin it is true that the Clubs have dissolved. The registries have been confided to the most trustworthy, to be placed beyond the reach of discovery. The arms which some have determined not to surrender, are to be destroyed or concealed until more promising days, but it is in the South where the struggle will commence.

From Clonmel, Waterford and Tipperary, there appears to exist a spirit of resistance to the Government, which cannot be quelled unless by a frightful effusion of blood.

In London, Manchester, Liverpool and Edinburgh, meetings have been held with a view to excite the people to violence.

In Liverpool, several arrests have taken place of parties engaged in a clandestine manufacture and sale of pikes.

In Edinburgh, Mr. Henry Rankine, Mr. Archibald Walker and J. Cummings have been arrested on a charge of sedition and committed to jail.

The precautions taken both in Liverpool, where a camp is forming, and at Manchester, will, we trust, keep in check the lawless.

It is now said, that Messrs. O'Brien, Meagher, Dillon, O'Gorman and Lane, are beyond Carrick-on-Suir, in the county of Tipperary, surrounded by the armed peasantry and determined to fight for their liberty.

FRANCE.

Parties.—The club of the moderate party, consisting of 450 to 460 members, on the *Rue de Poitiers*, seems daily to increase in strength. It embraces all the legitimists, the late dynasties, and indeed almost all the men distinguished for practical talent and experience. The club *Palais National*, the organ of which is the *Reforme*, guided by Ledru Rollin, forms the second party, and numbers 450 to 460 members. Lamartine, Flocon, Trelat, and the other personages who ruled France from the 24th of February to the end of June, are the members of this party. With a view to attack them, M. Leon Faucher says that Caussidiere is the real *prefect* of Police, from whom Duchaux takes all his instructions. Lamartine is alleged to be the real Minister of Foreign Affairs, who moved his own puppit Bastide, and Ledru Rollin rules Lamartine. The club comprises from 80 to 100 members. The club at the Institute number about 100, embracing all those who hold the opinions of Marie, Garnier Pages, and Arago. The difference between these two clubs is almost too slight for them to continue long separated.

The Red Republicans meet in the Rue Castiglione, and the active leaders, Caussidiere, Prudhomme, Pierre Leroux, Lagrange, Louis Blanc, Etienne and Emanuel Arago, are the most active members in the Assembly.

Affairs in Paris.—M. Marrast has taken his seat as President, and this appears to have been generally acceptable. It is stated that his Presidency will be only temporary, and that he will be sent to London as Minister Plenipotentiary of the French Republic.

The preliminary proceedings for the formation of the Constitution are going on, but under existing circumstances are of a subordinate interest. The state of siege still continues, and no time is now fixed for its discontinuance.

The military tribunals are still occupied with the trials of the insurgents, but we have no satisfactory official statement to enable us to form a correct judgment of the guilt or innocence of any of the parties.

The conspirators of May 16, Barbès, Sobrier and their accomplices, seem to be forgotton. They are still lingering in prison, and their future fate is altogether unknown. The seals, however, have been removed from the printing offices and *bureaux* of the *Presse*, but the prohibition against its reappearance has not been removed.

Speech of M. Thiers.—The Paris journals of Wednesday have now reached us. M. Thiers on that day made his first appearance in the tribune of the National Assembly. He judiciously selected the opportunity of presenting a report from the Committee of Finances, upon the proposition of M. Prudhomme, to confiscate the one-third of the income of all proprietors. The speech was received with every demonstration of satisfaction from all parts of the assembly, with the exception of the "mountain." M. Prudhomme protested against it as being an accusation, rather than a report, and complained that his idea had been misrepresented and his principles distorted. Some little difference took place upon a particular expression, and among the objectors was Gen. Cavaignac, who is represented as having been not a little excited against M. Thiers by the observations of the party of the *extreme gauche*. So long as the capital is under military regulations, all the passions of the various parties seem to be curbed and held in check.

SICILY.

Invasion of the King of Naples.—The King of Naples was made cognizant of the election of the Duke of Genoa to the throne of Sicily, and commenced preparations on an extensive scale for the invasion of that Island. It was calculated that the forces available for the invasion would be about 20,000 troops in Calabra, about 5000 in the fortress of Messina, and 6 or 8000 in Naples. It was expected that the embarkation would take place about the 20th, and would land at Syracuse.

Arrival of the Steamer Cambria—Seven Days Later from Europe—Rebellion in Ireland.

We extract the following highly important news from the Picayune of yesterday:

The steamship Cambria has arrived at New York. She sailed from Liverpool on Saturday, the 5th inst. The day of her arrival is not mentioned. The Irish rebellion has commenced. There has been great bloodshed. The Royalists have been victorious. This is all we have of the Cambria's news, and it but inflames curiosity for further details. We have not one word of commercial news.

AWFUL FIRE IN ALBANY.—A fire broke out in Albany, New York, on the 13th instant, which destroyed five hundred houses and several vessels. The loss by the fire is set down at two millions. No further particulars are given.

THE BLACK SEA.—Not only will a squadron of French and English vessels of war navigate the Black Sea, in order to watch the movements of Russia, but the commerce of that sea is becoming of great value. The Oriental steamer Euxine, arrived in England on the 8th of July, from the Black Sea, having left Trebizond, June 12; Constantinople, June 19; Smyrna, June 24; Malta, June 26; and Gibraltar, July 2; having forty-three passengers, and bringing one million of dollars and upwards of specie, four cases of opium, thirty-six cases of silks, ninety-seven bales of goat hair, sixty-seven tubs of leeches, eighty bales of carpets, sixty-four bags yellow berries, and one hundred and twenty-five packages of general merchandize. The value of the commerce of the Black Sea may be estimated by this one voyage. Most of the articles would be saleable in this country.

MINISTERIAL CHANGE IN CANADA.—There are rumors of certain ministerial arrangements, consequent upon the death of Judge Jones, of Toronto. Mr. Secretary Sullivan, it is said, will succeed to the judgeship, and Mr. Price will take Mr. Sullivan's place, as Secretary. Mr. Cameron, it is further rumored, will be appointed the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Mr. Killaly taking his place in the Board of Public Works.—*Quebec Chronicle, Aug. 8.*

☞ Rufus Choate delivers an oration before the Literary Societies at Amherst College commencement, and had the degree of LL. D. conferred upon him.

CASHIER OF THE CANAL BANK.—At the opening of the Court of Oyer and Terminer yesterday afternoon, Theodore Olcott, cashier of the late Canal Bank, was arraigned for embezzlement in the affairs of that institution. He demanded trial on the indictment, and gave bail for his appearance from day to day to stand trial. Samuel Stevens and Thomas W. Olcott became his bail, and entered the required amount of $2,000 each.—*Albany Atlas.*

☞ The grand fancy ball at Saratoga on Friday night, the 11th instant, is glorified as usual to several columns' length in the New York papers. Representatives from nearly every state in the Union are as indelicately initiated as ever. The costuming, however, is described as beautiful, varied and interesting. Two thousand and over of variegated colored lamps were hung on the trees around the lawn, and over the main avenue floated flags of every description.

ACQUITTED.—We see in the Berks (Pa.) Journal, a report of the trial of David J. Hoover, for an assault and battery upon John C. Morgan, with intent to kill. This is the case that was mentioned some months back. Morgan is from Philadelphia; he is a married man, and was accused of having seduced Hoover's sister, a girl 17 years old. Hoover, as soon as he discovered the fact, in a great state of excitement, shot him. The jury acquitted him.

THE FREE SOIL TEAM.—Most of our readers know something of the personal appearance of Martin Van Buren, but we presume few know anything of his companion in the Free Soil crusade, Chas. F. Adams. The Buffalo Courier says: "Mr. Adams is a middle-aged man, rather under the medium size, has a very gentlemanly and prepossessing appearance, and is not unpleasing as a speaker. His language is well chosen and scholarly, and his delivery measured, though easy. He bears a striking resemblance to his father, John Quincy Adams."

A BUFFALO CAUGHT.—During the sitting of the Buffalo Convention, the pocket of the Rev. James Heath, a clergyman of the Methodist Protestant Church at Chagrin Falls, Cayahoga county, Ohio, was picked and his pocket-book taken, containing $8 in money, two notes for $192, and his certificate of ordination as a deacon and elder.

DISCHARGED.—Capt. James Williams, of the British brig Sally Ann, upon a further hearing on the 12th inst., at Philadelphia, was released from the charge of enticing away a son of Chas. Vigner. The boy had been absent two days before going on board the vessel for Demarara.

ALARMING MALADY.—A correspondent of the Albany Evening Journal, writing from Greece, Chenango county, New York, states that in two weeks, 24 deaths occurred in that little village from some strange disease, which baffles the skill of all the physicians in Binghampton, Oxford and Norwich. He adds: "It is very gloomy times here. The bells do not toll, as the effect upon the sick is bad. Several families have fled to the mountains."

CITY MORTALITY.—Deaths in New York, week before last, 338, of which only 261 were natives of the United States. There were 120 deaths in Boston during the same time; of disease of the bowels 42; consumption 12; drinking cold water 2.

CITY MORTALITY.—Deaths in Philadelphia week before last, 174; adults 69; minors 114. By cholera infantum 21; consumption 12; dysentery 20; still-born 7. Under 1 year of age 48.

NAVAL.—The U. S. bomb brig Hecla, Lieut. Com'g. N. W. Wade, 26 days from Laguna, arrived at Norfolk, on the 15th inst. The following is a list of her officers: Lieut. Com'g., N. W. Duke; Act'g. Master, A. F. Monroe; Ass't. Surgeon, J. F. Harrison; Passed Midshipman, J. H. Lyne; Midshipman, J. Stillman; Captain's Clerk, B. Duffield.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT—*Custom-house Officers.*—John D. Elliott, Collector, Natchez, Mississippi—reappointed; Nathaniel Jackson, Surveyor, Newburyport, Mass.—reappointed.

A DUEL TALKED OF.—A well known actor and an editor of New York city are about, it is said, leaving town for the purpose of settling a little difficulty between them, by exchanging shots in Canada.

FINANCES OF THIRD MUNICIPALITY.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Your Committee recommended, in April last, an increase of taxes; the Council adopted this recommendation. Every day proves the wisdom and the necessity of the measure. But high taxes and increased revenues, unless judiciously managed, will not restore the credit, nor retrieve the character of the Municipality. A thorough system in the collection and disbursement of funds is indispensable. The officers entrusted with financial matters, should keep regular accounts, and be brought to frequent, regular and accurate settlements. To secure these a radical reform in our financial system is imperatively demanded, as the following facts clearly demonstrate. The debt of the Municipality has been made to assume a different amount by different statements, with singular and unaccountable inconsistency. In his Message to the Council, May 12, 1847, the Mayor says: "By a statement furnished me by the Treasurer I am informed that the total liabilities of the Third Municipality amount to $848,898. A report of the Finance Committee, submitted to the Council on the 15th of December following, states the debt at $700,613! From this it would appear that the debt of the Municipality was reduced the sum of $148,000 in about eight months, when, in fact, it had been increased in that time at least $50,000! as will be evident upon referring to accompanying statement of receipts and expenditures during last year. Again, by another statement, as complete as your Committee is able to make it, the liabilities now amount to $875,373 30!

The accounts of the Captain of the Workhouse are not brought to an audit during a whole year, though purchases and sales to a large amount are made by him, and considerable sums received for work done by prisoners.

The collectors have never made full and regular settlements; they make weekly payments of the amounts said to have been collected by them, but there has been no examination of their accounts! Some of them never kept accounts, but did business simply by payments to the Treasurer and taking his receipts.

By the failure of the proper records the municipality is liable for a claim amounting to $9,000, brought by the Second Municipality for Levee dues; and, although it is generally agreed that, if regular accounts had been kept, this municipality would have a counter claim equally as large, if not larger, against the other municipalities.

The attorneys have kept no accounts; and at this time there is no officer of the municipality who can tell how many or what suits for taxes are in court, or what judgments remain there unsatisfied. The present attorney says it is impossible for him to know, as the collectors were authorized to institute suits when they pleased; that numerous suits were instituted without his being notified thereof; and that, owing to the informal manner in which some suits were brought, and the absence of requisite evidence in others, the Municipality was non-suited very frequently, and of course, rendered liable for all costs! Suits instituted in 1846 have only been set for trial within a few weeks! Judgments are on record in Judge Canonge's court for taxes, declared in 1844, '45, and '46, amounting in the aggregate to not less than twelve thousand dollars! The attorney explains this by stating that after bringing suits, he would receive instructions to stop proceedings; and when judgments were obtained, he would be told to stay all legal measures, until further instructed by the Finance Committee. The Treasurer having no knowledge of those judgments and suits, has, in many cases, received from parties sued, the amount of their taxes, thus creating more difficulties in the settlement of costs incurred.

The Surveyor's books are never examined; this officer has charge of all workmen employed; makes out their monthly pay-rolls; orders all the materials for the public works, and approves the bills presented therefor—and it has been customary with the Surveyor to give certificates to property holders for reimbursements of banquets, etc. The existence of those claims are unknown at the Treasurer's office until presented with the Mayor's warrant asking for payment.

As to the amount of the floating debt, warrants, bonds, &c., no correct estimate can be formed by the Treasurer, as the only evidence he has as to the existence of a person thereof, is when demands are made upon him for settlement. There are no records of contracts made with or by the Municipality, or any inventory of Municipal property!

Your committee deem it incumbent on them to lay before the public a brief statement in answer to the frequent inquiry, as to, "Why so little has been done by the present Council?" Or, why this council cannot do as much as the Council of last year?"

When the present Council entered into office, they found every source of revenue pledged or exhausted, and a floating debt accumulated, nearly sufficient to absorb the entire revenue for the year. This debt is continually clamoring at the Treasury in every form, from a five dollar bond to a one hundred dollar warrant.

The last Legislature passed an act forbidding Municipal Councils to expend more than their annual revenues. Instead of preparing the Municipality for the operation of the law by contracting expenses, and obtaining time on the debts necessarily incurred, the late Council incurred a debt of $57,195 44 over and above the revenue received, and throwing the payment thereof into this year.

In compliance to law, the revenues arising from the Port and Market *must be* deposited, to pay, annually, the interest and one-thirteenth of the funded debt. The Council, therefore, has not the use of the moneys collected and thus *specifically appropriated*.

The tax on drays, carts, &c., for the year 1848, amounting to $12,167 00, was collected in the month of January, and all expended, though the 1st Municipality was entitled by law to a reimbursement of $4,724 00, the payment of which is now demanded.

Of the tax on Coffee-houses, Cabarets, Merchants, etc., for the year 1848, one quarter was *collected in January and expended*. Fifteen thousand dollars we e borrowed last year on a pledge of the capital of the ground rents, which has, heretofore yielded the Municipality about twelve hundred dollars annually. This mortgage expired on the 15th day of the present month, and the probability is that the ground rents are forever lost to the Municipality. The sole reliance to meet current expenses (until the tax on real estate and taxes for 1848 can be collected) has been and still is the tax on Coffee-houses, etc., for the three quarters of the year, and the arrearage of tax on real estate and slaves. The tax on Coffee-houses, etc. for the second quarter, due on the 1st of April was paid into the Treasury almost wholly in Municipal paper. The third quarter, due on the 1st of July, has been little more fruitful of current money, and it is believed that this fourth quarter, collectable on the 1st of October next, is already forestalled by Municipal obligations.

The arrearage of taxes on real estate and slaves, though large in the aggregate, affords but a trifling income. The tax bills unpaid, are mostly for small amounts, or against persons who, having long escaped the payment of taxes, must be forced to a settlement by suit. The fact is undeniable, that many property-holders, some of them persons of wealth, have not paid taxes for six or seven years to the Municipality; and some now, from long impunity, are inclined to look for entire exemption; and it is generally found that those who declaim most against taxation, are those who have not paid taxes at all. The bills against these are now in the hands of the Collectors, and some already entered in suit. Of the arrearages that are paid, a large portion is with due bills, warrants, etc., so that the amount of current money received into the Treasury, notwithstanding the most strenuous exertions and efforts have been made to force collections, has not exceeded $1000 per month, while the monthly expenses are more than $6000.

The public schools were in a miserable condition, the teachers unpaid for months, and the pupils nearly destitute of books. The late report of the Board of Education places this matter in so clear a light, that little need be said on the subject. The Board, by a perseverance above all praise, has secured provision for the regular payment of the teachers, supplied the pupils with books and stationery, and adopted a system for the organization of the schools from which the happiest results may be anticipated. They (the Board,) recommend that suitable school-houses should be erected, which you Committee, as a matter of economy and necessity, think ought to be done.

The draining machine, for want of timely repairs, was in a ruinous condition, and the buildings connected therewith in a wretched state of dilapidation and decay. A heavy outlay is required to prevent the entire stoppage of the machine, and a consequent incalculable injury to the property situated in the back part of the Municipality.

The wharves and levee require a considerable expenditure for their immediate repair.

Many of the streets have been long neglected, and all of them, with the exception of a few of those paved, have been brought, by nearly four months continuance of rain, to an almost impassable condition. Fifteen thousand dollars, at least, will be required to put them in order, when the weather becomes settled.

It must be evident, when so much is required to be done, and the means to be so limited—when its action is embarrassed by such numerous demands and obstacles—by so many difficulties—the position of the council is far from being an enviable one.

As will be seen by statement A, the debt of the Municipality (which has increased with accumulated velocity since the division of the city) has reached the enormous amount of $875,373 30; and by statement B, that a due share of it was