BALTIMORE.

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 1858.

In describing the administration of criminal law in the city of Baltimore as "rotten and inefficient," we do not wish to be understood as confining our strictures solely to our own community; nor in speaking of the growth and prevalence of crime in our midst, do we mean to imply that in this respect Baltimore is guilty above all the cities of the land. Everywhere throughout the country, courts and juries, and the restraints of law appear wholly inadequate either for the prevention or punishment of crime. Apart from the cases of embezzlement and corruption, the frauds and cheats, the robberies and swindles which daily occur, indicating with fearful distinctness the gradual decay of private and public morality in the land, the deeds of blood and violence which fill the columns of the daily press, are unhappily not confined to any one State or city. Crimes against the person are, if possible, even more common than crimes against property. License and toleration have been given to the right and practice of private vengeance unparalleled perhaps in the history of the world. In certain cases of aggravated wrong, for which, perhaps, the law may have failed to provide an adequate remedy, public opinion and the verdicts of juries have confirmed the right and enforced the duty of assassination. To chronicle the progress of crime throughout the United States is not, however, our present purpose. Our business is with crime in Baltimore. To dwell upon the packing of juries in Philadelphia, or the manifest corruptions that have crept into the administration of the law in New York or New Orleans, would not reach the end which we have in view. Our object is to inquire into the condition of things at home, in our own city, and in our own courts, and to hold up to public view the sins of omission and commission of our own officials. To say that things are no better, or even worse, elsewhere, does not disprove the fact that they are bad enough here. If State's Attorneys and Magistrates and Judges fail to do their duty in other cities, that is no excuse for the men who hold those responsible positions in Baltimore. To them, and to an exposure of their delinquencies and short-comings, we mean to address ourselves in a spirit of justice, of fairness and of impartiality, but with a strict determination to ferret out and bring to light every act of guilty connivance at crime, or yet more guilty complicity with criminals on the part of those ministers of the law who are charged by virtue of their office, and of the popular trust confided in them, with the solemn and august responsibility of conservators of the public peace, and guardians of the lives and persons of their fellow-citizens. In alluding to the case of Imhoff on Wednesday, we were not influenced by any considerations peculiar to that case. It was of recent occurrence, and is but one example out of many. We simply wished to contrast the public interest manifested in regard to an attempt upon the life of a foreign despot three thousand miles away, and the public apathy in regard to a similar attempt upon the life of an American Citizen in the streets of Baltimore. The exalted position of LOUIS NAPOLEON upon the throne of France, and the humble position of GEORGE M. IMHOFF, as a citizen of Baltimore, is no reason why the journals of this city that dwelt so largely upon the crime of ORSINI and his confederates, should have preserved such an ominous silence in respect to the guilty imitators of those assassins in Baltimore. The practical question which we have in view, and in the satisfactory solution of which every citizen has a deep personal interest, is—how shall the recurrence of such crimes be prevented? The general answer is—that is the business of the police; and a vast deal of abuse and obloquy has been heaped upon the police because of the constant recurrence of such crimes. Now, we do not propose to take up the cudgels in behalf of the police, or to become their apologists or defenders. At the same time, we do not believe them to be any more culpable than any other partisan police is likely to be. A mere change of men, without a change of the system, would probably provide us with no better substitutes. Many unfit men—notoriously so—have undoubtedly been appointed policemen, and are still retained in place by Mayor SWANN, and for this the Mayor is greatly and justly censurable: but the constant removals and suspensions made every week, by Marshal HERRING, is evidence of *his* desire, at least, to purge the force under his command of its unworthy members, and to make the best of the material which the Mayor has placed at his disposal; and for this and for a very commendable degree of zeal and activity in the discharge of his own duties, we desire to accord to Marshal HERRING all due praise. But after all, the system is a bad one—radically and incurably bad. Never—until policemen are appointed, not as a reward for partizan services, but on account of their personal qualifications, and retained in the service, not during the brief administration of the civic functionary by whom they are appointed, but during good behavior—can we hope for any better police corps. But the evil of which we now complain is not attributable solely or even chiefly to the inefficiency of the police They are but part of the machinery of justice contrived for the prevention and punishment of crime. Their duty ordinarily begins and ends with the detection and arrest of offenders against the laws, and the number of arrests which are daily made, for all sorts of offences, and the personal risk and danger which the police not unfrequently encounter, in the discharge of their duties, extending sometimes even to loss of life or limb, is evidence of some degree of fidelity on their part, in the performance of their official functions. Take, for example, the very case of the man Imhoff, the particulars of which we published on Wednesday. After each successive attempt upon his life, we are assured upon the highest *official* authority, all the parties charged with, or suspected of complicity in those attempts were arrested. Since the last attempt, two policemen have been specially detailed to protect Imhoff from further molestation, and to guard him, not from the secret enmity of some unknown foe—against such, princes set their guards and spies—but from the threatened attack of known and notorious scoundrels, who were constantly and openly waiting for an opportunity to elude the vigilance of the police, and renew their infamous attempt at assassination, and whom yet the police were instructed by the legal functionary by whose advice they are guided in the performance of their duties, that they were powerless to arrest. These facts are a sufficient commentary in themselves upon the present state of affairs in our city. Only think of two policemen being required to guard the house of a Citizen within a few steps of the Mayor's Office, the City Hall, and the Police Station, and right over against the High School, where through the bounty and under the auspices of the Corporation, the youth of the city are trained up in the principles of good government and in the love and veneration of republican institutions! Should any curious reader ask who is this IMHOFF, who is the occasion of all this solicitude, we answer, that we do not know, and do not care. It is enough for us that he is a Man and a Citizen, and described by the *Sun*, from whose columns we obtained some of the facts which we published Wednesday, as "a quiet, orderly citizen." If the foregoing facts be true, and the assassins were actually arrested by the police, how happens it that the attempt was renewed, and twice repeated? A brief recapitulation of the facts will perhaps throw some light upon this mystery, and may partially aid in its elucidation. Imhoff, as we stated on Wednesday, on the 19th of February, shot Erasmus Levy. "The bullet unfortunately struck the forefinger of Levy's right hand"—says the *Sun* reporter in describing the affair—"raised to protect his face, and shattering it to pieces, entered the right nostril, ranged along the cheek, knocking out four teeth, and came out behind the jaw, producing a bloody wound."—(*Sun, Feb.* 20.) The Police appear, in this instance, to have done their duty. "Imhoff was taken into custody by officers Shaney and Rote, of the Middle District police. The house was closed immediately after the shooting, and Imhoff was found in a chamber of the second story by the officers named, who conducted him to the lock-up of the Middle Station. He was arraigned before Justice MEARIS upon the charge, and released on $2,000, to appear and answer before the Criminal Court. Subsequently, he was re-arrested on a bench warrant, and committed to jail by Sheriff CREAMER to await the action of the Grand Jury, and the result of the wounds inflicted upon Levy."—(*Sun, Feb.* 20.)

On the 25th of February, about eight o'clock in the evening, "four persons entered the Adelphi House, and after being waited upon by the proprietor, Mr. George M. Imhoff, one of them remarked that 'he would settle for it;' and drawing a revolver, fired twice at Mr. Imhoff without effect."—(*Exchange, Feb.* 26.)

Here again the action of the police seems to have been sufficiently prompt. "Detectives STEVENS and BARNES, who were passing the house, entered and seized the party as he was about making his exit, and conveyed him to the Middle District Station House, where he was put back to await his examination."

The next day, however, as we find in *The Exchange*, of February 27th, "ALEXANDER LEVY, arrested by detectives Stevens and Barnes, upon the charge of shooting at George M. Imhoff, of the Adelphi House, with intent to kill, was bailed by Justice Mearis, at the direction of Deputy State's Attorney PINKNEY, in the sum of $2,000, to appear and answer the charge before the Criminal Court."

Here then we have ERASMUS LEVY, shot by GEORGE M. IMHOFF, and ALEXANDER LEVY shooting twice, "with intent to kill," at GEORGE M. IMHOFF. The offenders have been arrested, and released on bail. What next? The next step, naturally, is to try them, and if guilty, punish them. Have they been tried? No. Will they ever be tried? No. Why? For the simple reason, that both cases have been compromised, *settled*, dropped, hushed up, on payment of official fees and costs. This has been done by the agency and with the connivance of the State's Attorney, MILTON WHITNEY, who, therefore, is the man upon whom rests the responsibility of the renewed attempts at the commission of a crime, to the perpetration of which he has given official encouragement by the impunity which his action affords to the perpetrators.

This, then, is why crimes are of such frequent occurrence in Baltimore; because criminals go unpunished, turned loose again by the officers of the law to pursue their bloody trade, without fear of punishment, sure of the easy indulgence, if not positive protection of the State's Attorney.

With this plain statement of facts we leave the subject for the present, promising soon to return to it again; for the work of investigation and exposure which we have in hand, is but just commenced.

THE SPIRIT OF THE TIMES.—A new volume of this favorite and well known Sporting Chronicle has recently been published. The numbers now before us are filled with a choice variety of interesting matters, appertaining to the turf, to agriculture, to manly sports, and the drama. The original articles by the editor; a capital corps of genial correspondents, and racy selections from foreign sources, fully sustain the high reputation this periodical in its peculiar field has so deservedly won.

FOREIGN.

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL UPON HIS "PINS."—It is now quite a long time since we have heard anything of *l'enfant cheri de la France*, the hope of the future stability of a Napolenic dynasty. As this little imperial bud, if his life be spared, has an eventful career before him, the knowledge that he is alive and kicking and showing early promising symptoms of his blood, will be interesting.

A Paris correspondent dishes up the little Prince in the following graphic style:

"I have never seen it stated in print," says the writer, "that the Imperial Prince had been seen to walk alone. Considering what pains is taken to show his little Imperial Highness to the public, his daily rides in the Champs Elysees, escorted by a cavalry, and his frequent promenades in his goat carriage in the reserved garden and on the terrace of the Tuilleries, it certainly seemed probable that, if he had been an accomplished pedestrian, opportunities would have been taken ere this to let the multitude see his perfomances. A notion had therefore, got abroad that he must be more backward in regard to walking than children of his age (nearly two years) usually are.—I, however, am now able to bear witness that he not only walks well, but is wonderful strong upon his pins. Happening to pass through the Carrousal, at guard mounting this morning, I saw his Imperial Highness come out of the centre door of the Pavillion de l'Holroge on foot, walking between two governesses and followed by a footman.—He was dressed in a skyblue tunic, with a black hat and feather and dark gaiters. He walked southward along the pavement under the windows of the Tuileries, as far as the little private door in the Pavilion de Flore, then turned and continued his promenade along the whole length of the palace, rounded the corner, went as far as the guardhouse near the gate leading to the Rue Rivoli, and afterwards went back to the centre of the Palace, where he was put upon the back of a remarkably fine donkey, which was waiting for him. During the whole of this long walk he frequently rejected the proffered assistance of the governesses' hands, and seemed to delight in getting a little before them, to show his consciousness that he was a great personage, and they his attendants. He walked remarkably quick, with a long even step, putting his little feet firmly on the ground, and every now and then ran a little, to leave the governesses behind him. I did not see him trip once. It was the finest thing in the world to see him return the salutes of the sentries, who presented arms to him. He raised his hand to his cap in true military style, just at the proper moment, with an air or modest assurance, in which there was nothing playful or childlike. He looked as serious as Tom Thumb used to do when dressed as General Bonaparte. There can be no doubt that this child, in whom so many and such vast hopes are contentered, has already, by the force of education, a precocious sense of his own importance. He carried in his hand a little flexible sword, which he brandished continually, with wonderful energy and determination, as if longing for something to strike. As far as the dynasty depends upon the health, strength and excellent conformation of the heir apparent, the Emperor and Empress have every ground for hope and confidence.

LATER FROM THE RIO DE LA PLATA.—By the ship Margaret and Eliza, from Buenos Ayres, we have papers to the 10th of January, about ten day later than advices previously received via England.

Business was dull. There were twenty-five American vessels in port, and very little promise of cargoes for them. The crisis, it was expected, would reach its height in Buenos Ayres about the 20th of January, on the arrival of the mail from England, as it was anticipated that a large amount of bills would be returned from Europe. One house alone had made shipments of between sixty and seventy thousand hides to England, on which they would lose $4.00 silver each. Several heavy failures were considered inevitable.

Political news is not of much interest. At Monte Video the revolution still continued. The town was in a state of siege, but the war was not prosecuted with any great vigor. It was a mere fight for power between two factions, no fundamental principle being involved. The party of *Blanquillos* occupied the city, and the *Colorados* besieged the town; the struggle was carried on *a la guerilla*, and the communication between the town and the country remained perfectly free and open to all except fighting men. All sorts of provisions were introduced into the city, the country people passing through the camp of the beseigers with perfect impunity. The besieged took matters so easily and considered their subsistence so certain, that they levied a small duty upon all fresh provisions brought through the gates. A filibuster expedition of fifty-two men had been organized in Buenos Ayres, and sailed in the schooner Maipu for Monte Video to assist the besiegers. The schooner belonged to the Buenos Ayrean Government, and an attempt was made in Monte Video, therefore, to identify that government with the movement. The schooner was captured by the Monte Videans after the filibusters had landed.

The United States frigate St. Lawrence was at Monte Video, and the American, French, English and Brazilians had landed large forces of marines to protect the property of foreign merchants.

From the interior provinces we have but little news. Everything was quiet in the Confederation. The paper war against Paraguay was waged with more bitterness than ever; and the preparations for fighting on the part of Brazil and Paraguay progressed slowly.

Rich mines of tin had been discovered in the province of Rioja.—*Mobile Advertiser.*

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM SONORA.—ANOTHER REVOLUTION.—ARIZONA.—We are permitted to make the following extract from letters just received by the overland mail from Arizona:

FEBRUARY 7, 1858.

Dear Sir: Sonora is in a state of revolution, the rebel party being commanded by Jesus Gandara. He has thus far carried everything before him, and has every prospect of success. He wages war upon an exterminating principle. So far all the prisoners he has taken he has despatched, (a la muerta) and they have not been a few, and the latest accounts we have say that he had surrounded Peschiera, the governor, in such a manner that it would be impossible for him to escape, and that he had declared his intention of hanging him as high as Haman so soon as he could get hands on him. To this I say "Amen!" There are, I believe, no Americans at all engaged in this affair, and I suppose will be none.

The portion of the El Paso and Fort Yuma Road companies working from the Pimos villages down the Gila are getting on well, and making an excellent road. How those are doing that have gone up the Gila I am not able to say, not having seen them.

Yours, truly, GRANVILLE H. OURY.

SYLVESTER MOWRY, Esq.,
Delegate from Arizona.

Other letters from Mesilla, Las Cruces, and La Mesa speak of the great interest felt by the Rio Grande population in reference to the organization of Arizona, and the course of their delegate (Mr. Mowry) in contending for an east and west line, to include the Lower Rio Grande, is fully endorsed. The people of Mesilla, after much-annoyance from the so-called friendly Indians, had sallied out and, in a fight near Don Ana, had killed nine. The Indians were preparing to attack Mesilla in revenge. *Washington Union.*

The commission charged to estimate the damage done by the explosion of the powder magazine at Mayence, on the Rhine, last summer, have reported the sum of 600,000 florins. Add to this a sum of 400,000 florins of property not within the province of the investigating committee, and the total loss amounts to a million of florins.

SENTENCE OF TRANSPORTATION.—Dr. Monk, an alderman of Lancashire, England, has been convicted of forgery of a will, and sentenced to transportation. Ten months ago he dined with Baron Martin of Liverpool, before whom he was convicted.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS

RECEIVED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DAILY EXCHANGE.

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

WASHINGTON, March 25.

SENATE.

The business transacted during the morning hour was unimportant, except that on the presentation of the Anti-Slavery Resolutions from the State of Maine, Mr. Mason objected to them in strong terms, as disrespectful to Congress, the Judiciary, and to the President. Mr. Fessenden warmly defended them, saying that he endorsed them fully.

Mr. Seward presented a similar Anti-Slavery remonstrance, but couched in temperate language, from the Society of Friends assembled at New York.

Mr. Iverson made an ineffectual effort to take up the Army Bill, and the consideration of the Minnesota Bill was therefore resumed.

The question pending was Mr. Douglas' motion to strike out the second section of the bill, to the effect that the new State shall be entitled to one representative and such additional as the census may show. Mr. Douglas' object being to give the State three representatives, in accordance with the actual population, instead of with the incomplete census returns, which only give two and a moiety.

Mr. Toombs and others proposed technical amendments but without any vital difference of opinion, excepting Mr. Brown, who protested against appropriating the representation as guess work. He said he would vote for the admission of Minnesota because he wished to keep faith in the slavery question, but there were many portions of the Constitution of Minnesota which he objected to, especially the basis of the franchise, which allows unnaturalized foreigners to vote—also half-breeds and Indians who have adopted habits of civilization;—that is, who put on pants, spurs, shirt collar, get drunk, and thus fixed up, fulfill the constitutional essentials of the ballot box.

Mr. Mason agreed with the Senator from Mississippi; have only before us the legal evidence of 149,000 inhabitants, and said he did not see why she should have three representatives. The State of Vermont, with 300,000 inhabitants, has only three. He was in favor of giving one representative now, and more as the new census, hereafter to be taken, should show her to be entitled to—and he made a motion to that effect. This motion would admit her now, and she could make a new census and send the other additional members before this Congress adjourns.

Mr. Johnson, of Tenn., was in favor of the section as it stands. He denied that the Federal Government can go into a sovereign State and fix the qualifications of voters.

Mr. Mason opposed granting three, inasmuch as the constitutional proportion is one representative for 92,000 inhabitants, while Minnesota has only one official record of 149. Hence it is already forbidden by the Federal Constitution to give her an undue political weight.

Mr. Crittenden was for adhering strictly to the constitution and giving only one. Conjectural computations would be dangerous. Every Representative of the old States, now represents large surpluses, and it would not be fair to give a new State the apportionment for 1858, while the old ones retain the apportionment of the year 1850.

Finally, Mr. Toombs, moved that Minnesota, be permitted to have three representatives until the census was rectified, and thereafter such number as the census may show her to be entitled to.

The Senate then went into an Executive session, and subsequently adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTIVES.

Mr. Stephens, of Georgia, proposed an early day for the consideration of the Senate Kansas bill.—He thought it best to have an understanding in order that nobody may be taken by surprise. Mr. Campbell said the House had been debating the question involved in the bill for nine years and nearly all this session. This Kansas question blocks up public as well as private business. He was, therefore, ready to meet the question to-day or to-morrow, with or without further debate. He thought it due to the interests of the country that the House should come to a vote. He suggested that by common consent they agree to take up the bill to-morrow. Mr. Washburn, of Illinois, and others objected on the ground that the House was unusually thin, when there was a full attendance they could by common consent fix the day.

Mr. Stephens having been asked by several to indicate a day, named next Tuesday week.

Mr. Campbell suggested next Tuesday.

Mr. Stephens said he thought that too short a time.

Mr. Campbell said the House having agreed to the first Monday in June for a final adjournment, it would be impossible to get through the public business by that time, unless the earliest possible day be fixed for the vote on the Kansas bill.

Mr. Montgomery said he had no doubt that if the matter was not now pressed, an arrangement might be made satisfactory to all parties.

Mr. Stephens withdrew his suggestion, for the present, in the belief that such an agreement could be made. When the day was fixed, he would announce it.

Mr. Glancey Jones made an ineffectual effort to report a bill from the Committee of Ways and Means, regulating the mode and manner of collecting and disbursing the public revenue.

The House then went into Committee on the deficiency appropriation bill.

Mr. Peyton made a speech on the Kansas question.

Mr. Grow, of Pennsylvania, spoke in earnest tones against the admission of Kansas under the Lecompton Constitution. He said there could be no peace in Kansas so long as an attempt to force on the people an odious despotism and to propagate human bondage.

Mr. Reilly, of Pennsylvania, maintained the legality of the proceedings attending the formation of the Lecompton Constitution. If Kansas shall be admitted into the Union, the Legislature can pass an act providing for altering or amending it, and then submitting it to the people, and no person outside the State can intefere.

Mr. Thayer, of Mass., made a speech in opposition to slavery and in favor of Emigration Aid Societies. Other speeches were made, when the House adjourned.

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—The Senate Committee on Territories will report at once a bill for a Judicial District in Arizona. They so decided this morning. Senator Gwin will move his territorial bill as a substitute, and support it by a strong speech.

During the proceedings in the House to-day, Mr. Stephens gave notice that he will take up the Senate Kansas Bill on Thursday next. This seemed to be acceptable to all parties, with the understanding that nothing shall be done with the question before that time.

The House Select Committee to investigate the circumstances attending the sale of the Bank of Pennsylvania building for the Philadelphia Post Office, had before them to-day witnesses that proved that John Miller, the then Postmaster of Philadelphia, received $2,300 from the Bank for his services in perfecting the sale. It was shown that no agreement for compensation was made previous to the payment for the property by the Government.

LATER FROM MEXICO.

NEW ORLEANS, March 25.—The Steamship Tennessee, from Vera Cruz, has arrived with dates to the 21st instant. Her dates from the Capital are to the 16th.

It is very difficult to get reliable information of the events transpiring. Several battles have been fought in which the Zuloago party claimed to have achieved victories, but they do not amount to much. General Parodi had retreated before Ozzolo.

Pronunciamentos were still the order of the day, but the new Government appears to be gaining ground.

The State of Vera Cruz was under marshal law and the Zuloago forces were on the march thither. A battle will no doubt shortly be fought between the contending parties on the road between Vera Cruz and the city of Mexico.

WESTERN TRADE.

WHEELING, March 25.—The agents at the terminal points of the Baltimore and Ohio line here and at Benwood and Parkersburg report that 889 cars of produce have been loaded by them for the East during the past nine days. The quantity of stuff forwarded in that time has been 7,556 tons, or on an average 840 tons per day. There is said to be an extraordinary business doing, but the capacity of the road has not been exhausted, for scores of fresh cars are now arriving from Baltimore. The river is still high, there being 13 feet of water in the channel to-night, and boats are plenty with their offers of low rates to all river points west of us. At Benwood Ferry, the Central Ohio Railroad has handed over some forty or fifty car loads per day for some two or three weeks past, and larger installments are reported as on the way from that quarter.

MARINE NEWS.

NEW YORK, March 25.—The bark Swann, of Baltimore, 45 days from Buenos Ayres, for this port, has arrived in Hampton Roads.

The schooner Mary Adelaide, from New York for Baltimore, with loss of boom, has put in for repairs.

NEW ORLEANS, March 25.—The ship Dictator from Liverpool is below.

Arrived, ships H. Spearsington and. Manchester from Boston.

FROM RIO.

NEW YORK, March 25.—Rio dates to the 18th of February have been received.

Coffee was 200 reis higher than on the third, and the supply of the market had almost ceased. Stock 120,000 bags.

Flour was dull.

SALE OF STEAMER QUAKER CITY.

NEW YORK, March 25.—The steamer Quaker City was sold at auction to day for $67,000.

VIRGINIA RAILROAD APPROPRIATION.

RICHMOND, March 25.—The Senate to-day passed all the House Railroad Appropriation bills.

THE EXPECTED STEAMER.

HALIFAX, March 25—11 o'clock, P. M.—Up to this hour we have no tidings of the expected steamer now due here from Liverpool.

MARKETS.

NEW YORK, March 25.—Cotton is buoyant—sales of 3,000 bales at an advance of ¼. Holders demand an advance of ¼. Flour is firm—sales of 7,500 bbls. at a decline of 5 cts on Ohio. Common to good State $4.20@$4.30; Ohio $4.80@$5. Wheat is firm—sales of 12,000 bushels at 115@120 cts. for Southern red. Corn is very dull and prices unsettled. Pork—Prime has advanced 15 cts. and Mess 10 cts. Mess $16.70@$16.85; prime $13.60@$13.75. Lard has advanced ⅛—sales at 9⅞@10¼ cts. Sugars are in good demand. Coffee is quiet. Turpentine is steady. Rosin is steady. Rice generally closed buoyant—sales of 1,000 tierces at 3⅝@4 cts.

In the Insolvency Court, Boston, on Saturday, the claims of sixty-two persons, firms and corporations against Charles H. Mills & Co. were presented, amounting to about $540,000.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

FIRES.—A fire broke out at half past two o'clock yesterday morning, in the three-story brick building, situated on Light street near Hill, opposite the Vaux Hall Garden, owned by S. Owings Hoffman, Esq., and occupied as a tavern and dwelling by Mrs. Ann M. Sherer, which is supposed to have originated from accident. It was extinguished with a damage to the building of about $100. Insured in the Baltimore Fire Insurance Company, and about $50 on the stock and furniture which is insured in the Associated Firemen's Office.

Another general alarm was sounded which was found to proceed from the burning of the soap factory of Messrs. Cook & Johnson, a large three story brick building, on Frederick street, a short distance south of Baltimore street. The back buildings, used for the manufac uring departments, were entirely destroyed, and the front sustained considerable damage. The lower part was occupied as a room for storing away candles, and the upper portion as a dwelling by the families of Messrs. C. & J. They have an insurance on their stock, sufficient to cover, in the Firemen's Office—the furniture is insured in the Franklin of Philadelphia, and the buildings, which were owned by Mr. Wm. McCann, are insured in the office of the Equitable Society. The flames extended to the building adjoining on the south, known as Arbeiter Hall, the front of which was of frame work and the rear of brick. This was totally destroyed. It was owned by Dr. Huet, who has a policy of insurance in the office of the Equitable Society. The building was in the occupancy of the Arbeiter Hall Association, and the stock and furniture is covered by insurance in the Franklin Insurance Company of Philadelphia.

The roof of the three story brick building, No. 7, next adjoining, and also, that of the back building, owned and occupied by Dr. Johnson, were burned off. Insured in the Firemen's Office. No. 9, a three story brick dwelling occupied by the Harmony Club was damaged by the burning of the roof, no injury having been sustained in the interior. It belongs to Henry White, Esq., and is insured in the Equitable Society.

The rear of several buildings on Baltimore street and Marsh Market Space were slightly damaged, and were only saved from destruction by the noble exertions of the entire Fire Department. Of those on the Space, No. 6, a three story brick building, owned by Mr. Wm. McCann, and occupied as a shoe store and dwelling by Mr. L. Fried, was insured in the Equitable, and the Stock in the Baltimore Fire Insurance Company. No. 10, three story brick occupied by J. Goodman as a clothing store and dwelling. Stock insured in the Baltimore Fire and Firemen's Offices; house owned by Mr. Chas. Myers, and insured in the Equitable Society. No. 12, three story brick, occupied by Mr. A. Warnitz, as a clothing store and dwelling, owned by Mr. Simon Frank. Stock insured in the Firemen's Office, house in the Equitable Society. No. 14, three story brick, occupied by Mr. S. Myers as a store and dwelling, owned by Mr. Hirsch Priess. House insured in the Equitable Society, no insurance on stock and furniture. No 14½, three story brick, owned and occupied by Mr. M. Rosenthal; house, stock and furniture, insured in the Baltimore Fire Insurance Company. No. 16, three story brick, occupied by Mr. L. Sonnehill, owned by Mr. K. Hamberger. No damage to the stock; house insured in the Equitable Society.

The buildings on Baltimore street were: No. 27—three story brick, owned by Mr. Richard Colvin, and occupied as a dry goods store by Mr. Jos. Seliger. House insured in the Equitable. No. 29—three story brick, owned by Mrs. Ridgway, occupied by Mr. Henry Smith. House insured in the Equitable. No. 33—three story and attic brick, owned by M. I. Cohen, Esq., occupied by Mr. S. Lowman. House insured in the Baltimore Fire Insurance Company.

The total amount of loss is estimated by Fire Inspector Boyd at from $6,000 to $8,000; the latter figure it will hardly exceed.

The firemen are deserving of the highest credit for their perseverance in extinguishing the flames, as from the position of the buildings it is a matter of surprise that the loss had not been double.

The railing of the south end of the Maryland Institute was at one time on fire, but was fortunately discovered in time and extinguished.

The fire is supposed to have originated from sparks from a blacksmith shop beneath one of the back buildings of Messrs. Cook and Johnson, which communicating above smouldered to a late hour and finally ignited to some combustible material which was contained in the building. A lady residing in the neighborhood saw a light in the upper part of the house between one and two o'clock, but took no particular notice of it.

The alarm of fire about 12½ o'clock, P. M., yesterday, was false. A dense smoke was seen in the western part of the city, which caused the ringing of the bells, and attracted the fire department to that section.

About half past four o'clock yesterday afternoon, an alarm of fire was given, which was occasioned by the burning of some bed clothes, in the second story of a house on Sterling street, near Madison, occupied by colored persons. The fire was accidental, and was soon extinguished.

The alarm last night at 10 o'clock, arose from the burning of a pile of shingles on Block street, east of the drawbridge. Icendiarism the cause. Damage not ascertained.

SAD OCCURRENCE—FALLING OF A WALL—SIX CHILDREN CAUGHT IN THE RUINS.—Considerable excitement was occasioned about one o'clock yesterday by the announcement that a wall that had been left standing amid the ruins of the fire of the morning, had fallen and buried beneath it some dozen or more persons, several of whom had been killed.—As usual, rumor magnifies the affair largely, and after the bricks and mortar had been removed six boys, the eldest not over fourteen years of age, were taken from the pile. Five were taken to the Apothecary store of Mr. E. Laroque, corner of Baltimore and Harrison streets, where their injuries were dressed by Drs. Whitridge and Lynch assisted by Mr. Emile Laroque.

The one most seriously injured and who, it is thought, cannot possibly survive, was a little fellow named John Doyle, aged nine years, whose parents reside at No. 12 Swann street, near Marsh Market Space. He was completely buried under the heavy mass, and received a severe cut on the right temple, severing the temporal artery. His right ear was nearly cut off, a deep cut over the right eye, penetrating to the bone, a severe contusion on the back of the head, and otherwise internally injured.

Joseph Morgan, aged fourteen years, received severe scalp wounds upon the forehead and back of the head, besides being bruised upon the body. He was removed to the corner of Mercer and Grant streets, and subsequently to his parent's residence on Webb street.

Isaac Malheuse, aged eleven years, (parents reside at No. 25 Albemarle street,) received a severe wound in the centre of the forehead, between the eyes, appeared to have been done by some sharp instrument, fracturing the external table of the frontal bone.—His spine is seriously injured from which the physicians think paralysis is likely to ensue. He is otherwise bruised about the body.

Charles and Edward Bothwick, aged ten and twelve years, parents reside on Eager street near Bond. The elder brother received a cut on the upper lip, extending into the nostril; nose badly mashed and body bruised. The younger received only a few bruises, the most serious of which was on the left thigh.

The sixth is named James Bogue, aged ten years, he was conveyed from the place of accident immediately to his parent's residence, on Smith's alley, leading from Frederick street to Gay. He was attended by Dr. Dunbar. His injuries consisted of a serious cut over his left eye, from which it is thought he will lose the sight, back injured and badly bruised upon the limbs.

There appears to be a desire on the part of many to attach blame somewhere. The children had been driven from the spot at least a dozen times during the morning, and like children usually are in such matters, when the officers turned away, would go back. Among those prominent in seeking for the injured and conveying them to Mr. Laroque, were Mr. Robert Knight, President of the Friendship, Henry R. Eisenbrandt, John H. Council, Patrick Kavanaugh and Thomas Wiley, of the same company; Joseph McCann, Henry Claridge, Charles Dahle, John Fopless, W. H. Weigh and William H. Wolfe, of the Pioneer. They also, after the boys had their wounds dressed, carried them to their homes upon a comfortably arranged litter, for which act of humanity they have the thanks of the entire community.

ODD FELLOWSHIP IN MARYLAND.—From the annual reports of the subordinate Lodges to the R. W. Grand Lodge in January last, this truly benevolent institution appears to be in a highly prosperous condition, and now stands in the front rank of the charitable associations of the country. We are indebted to Jos. B. Escavaille, Esq., Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, for the following statistics, showing the condition of the Order up to January 1st, 1858: Number of Lodges in the State, 90; number of initiations during the year 1857, 1,000; admitted by card, 100; whole number of members, 13,152; annual receipts of Lodges, $90,000. During the year there was expended for relief as follows: Number of members relieved, 2,300; paid for relief of same, $29,700; number of widowed families relieved, 300; paid for relief of same, $17,500; number of members buried during the year, 135; amount paid for burying the dead, $9,900. There was expended for the education of the orphans of deceased members of the Order, the sum of $5,000; making a grand total expended for relief during the year, of $62,100. The above statement does not include the Patriarchal or Encampment Branch of the Order, which, we are informed, is also in a flourishing condition, and dispensing annually large amounts for the relief of its membership and to the widows and orphans of deceased members.

INTERESTING LECTURE.—The Rev. Dr. Moriarty, of Philadelphia, delivered an interesting lecture last evening at the Maryland Institute, for the benefit of the "Catholic Institute Library," his subject being the "Roman Pontificate." The theme being an interesting one, and the reputation of the lecturer of a high order, a large concourse of the friends of the library and others were in attendance; and the earnest attention with which they listened to the lecturer attested his ability in considering this subject, which has been a leading feature in the history of the world from the dawning of the Christian era down to the present day.

THE QUARANTINE CONVENTION.—A preliminary meeting was held yesterday afternoon, at the Office of the Board of Health, consisting of a member from each of the city delegation, viz: Dr. John Fonerden, of the Pathological Society; Prof. E. W. Miltenberger, of the Med. and Sur. Society; J. B. Seidenstricker, Esq, of the Board of Trade, and Dr. Judson Gilman, of the Board of Health, for the purpose of suggesting business for a meeting of the entire Baltimore delegation, to take place on Saturday afternoon next, at 4 o'clock, at the same place.

ARRESTS.—John Martin was arrested by officer Graham, of the Eastern District, on the charge of assaulting and beating James Day. The parties got into a quarrel over a card table, and when the officer made his appearance, Day showed signs of having been very roughly handled. Martin was taken before Justice Griffin, who committed him for court, to take his trial.

Frederick Scotty was arrested by officers Glenn and Taylor, of the Eastern District, on the charge of fighting and rioting in the street, and for resisting the officers in the discharge of their duty. Justice Welch committed the accused to jail for trial before the criminal court.

THE NEW JAIL.—In accordance with an act of the late Legislature, the First Branch of the Council, yesterday, passed an ordinance, providing for the issuing of $250,000 in city bonds of $100 each, payable in fifteen years, bearing six per cent. interest, payable semi-annually, for the purpose of completing the new jail. The ordinance also provides that an annual extra tax of two cents on each $100 worth of real estate in the city shall be levied for the ensuing fifteen years, and allowed to accumulate for the purpose of meeting these bonds at maturity.

SELF-ACTING RAILROAD CAR COUPLING.—Mr. Henry E. Loane of our city, has recently patented what he styles a self-acting car-coupling, which has met with the approval of many of the railroad men of our city, and promises to be of considerable utility. It is very simple in its construction, and there being no springs about it, it is not liable to get out of order. It is styled self-acting because the coupling bolt being placed in its proper position in one car, the instant it comes in contact with another it couples them firmly together. It will also couple readily on a curve. Should any car of a train run off or overturn, the coupling immediately detaches it from the rest, so that it does not drag the rest of the train off the track, as is often the case with the present mode of coupling, thus insuring greater safety to passengers, and saving a vast amount of property.

DEATH.—Col. Samuel McClelland, a well known citizen, died yesterday morning at his residence on Madison street, after a few days illness. The deceased has had several attacks of apoplexy within the last few years. At one time he held the office of Navy Agent at this port. He was 70 years of age.

SALE OF PROPERTY.—Messrs. Adreon & Co. yesterday afternoon sold on the premises two lots of ground, with improvements, situated on the south side of Pratt street, near Monroe, each fronting 15 feet with a depth of 270 to McHenry. One lot purchased by Mr. Charles H. Pembrandt for $435—the other by Mr. Noah Cullison for $210.

RESIGNATION.—Wm. Crighton, Esq., appointed by the President of the Board of Trade a delegate to the Quarantine Convention, has sent in his resignation, stating that pressing business engagements will prevent him from serving.

MILITARY ELECTION.—Pursuant to orders the companies attached to the First Rifle Regiment, M. V., met at Wilkinson's Hotel last night, and elected Col. Jesse Peters, Colonel of said Regiment in place of Col. George P. Kane, resigned.

MR. VANDENHOFF'S farewell Reading to-night is the *chef d'oeuvre* of Sheridan—"The School for Scandal." This brilliant comedy will tax and bring out Mr. Vandenhoff's powers to the utmost. Every body is curious to see and hear his reading of Sir Peter, Mrs. Candour, Backbite, Charles, and Lady Teazle. It will be the great test of his versatility; and if he acquit himself as he did in the "Rivals," all will be delighted. We anticipate a crowded hall.

HOLLIDAY STREET THEATRE.—The benefit of Miss Maggie Mitchell, the favorite young actress, takes place this evening, when she will present for the entertainment of her friends the military drama of The French Spy, the new comedy of My Son Diana, and the interesting play of Margot, the Market Girl, three pieces of great attraction, which with the merit of the beneficiary, should fill the house to repletion. Miss Mitchell has many friends here who will be glad of the opportunity of testifying their appreciation of her talent.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

REGULAR SESSION.

THURSDAY, March 25, 1858.

FIRST BRANCH.—Branch met. Present John T. Ford, Esq., President, and all the members, except Mr. Hynes.

Mr. Staylor presented a petition from Jas. Fox, asking indemnity to the amount of $104.37 for damage done his property on the corner of Forrest and Douglass streets, by a mob, and injuries to himself by the same parties. Referred to the Committee on Claims.

The President submitted a communication from the Mayor relative to the McDonogh bequest, which was referred to the committee having that matter in charge.

Mr. Cunningham submitted a resolution directing the doorkeeper to purchase one of the new maps of Baltimore county for the use of the Branch. Adopted.

Mr. Harvey called up the resolution directing the placing of a walk at Cross street, Market Space. Adopted.

Mr. Addison, from the Committee on the Accounts of the Health Commissioner, reported that they found everything in proper form. Report adopted and the Committee discharged.

Mr. Glanville called up the ordinance to open and condemn an alley situate between Eutaw street