BALTIMORE.

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1858.

The Radical press seems to be greatly exercised on the subject of the proposed Convention to frame a New Constitution. On Tuesday, the *Sun* "having long entertained the opinion that it was competent for the people of the State, acting under the law, to change the constitution when they see proper so to do," was content to "offer no opposition to the means adopted to ascertain their will." It was willing to "await an explanation of the reasons which make the alteration in the instrument desirable at this time." On Wednesday, the *Sun* ceases to be open to conviction. It pronounces the present movement in favor of Reform, to be "simply a legislative caprice, dictated by party impulses." It calls it "a most dangerous and mischievous innovation." It says "*we* should be false to the great conservative principles of democratic republicanism, if we suffer this wrong to be matured in action, or if we connive at, or sanction it." It "insists upon the fact that whether the movement shall result in an amended or an impaired State constitution, or shall be arrested at the outset, it is directly in conflict with the fundamental principles of our system of government, arbitrary, and subversive of the popular sovereignty." After thus defining its position, it may safely be assumed that the *Sun* has ceased "to await an explanation of the reasons which make the alteration in the instrument desirable." The twenty-four hours within which, it appears, such "explanation" was required to be given, had elapsed, and "no good and sufficient cause to the contrary having been shown," the *Sun* proceeds to indulge in a wholesale denunciation of the Reform movement, in the words which we have quoted. That the *Sun* should have fallen into such grievous error, is probably owing to the very short time which it allowed itself for reflection upon the subject. One day could scarcely afford time enough to weigh carefully all "the reasons which make the alteration desirable." Otherwise, the *Sun* would scarcely have committed the further inconsistency of pronouncing "the movement" to be "directly in conflict with the fundamental principles of our system of government," in the face of its opinion "long entertained," that it is "competent for the people of the State, acting under the law, to change the constitution, when they see proper so to do." The *Sun* can scarcely mean to insist that the clause contained in the Bill of Rights, prohibiting any change or alteration in the constitution "except in the manner therein prescribed and directed," can constitute any limitation upon "the inalienable right of the people, at all times, to alter, reform or abolish their form of government," since, if we remember aright a similar prohibition in the old constitution was not thought by the *Sun* to be any obstacle in the way of its abolition in 1851. The truth is, the opposition of the Radicals to any change in the present organic law, arises from the fear that the change contemplated by the authors of the present movement, will not be favorable to their pet theory, that the "elective principle" should be applied "to all the relations which exist in a State," not only "to the case of a governor or of a member of the legislature," but "to the office of a judge and a clerk." In the face of the avowed belief of the Radicals in the truth of this principle, their appeal "to the great conservative principles of democratic republicanism," is simply absurd. Not that we understand ourselves what is meant by "the conservative principles of democratic republicanism," or that we suppose for one moment, that they who use this high-sounding phrase have any definite idea as to its meaning—for it is simply meaningless. Conservatism and democracy have hardly been in the history of Maryland politics, synonymous terms. Every radical measure of reform which has been carried through by fair means or foul, since the days of the "Glorious Nineteen" has owed its success to the party which claimed to be most democratic. Under the cover of that most specious and much-abused term, old landmarks have been removed, and old bulwarks thrown down, and a system of popular or rather mob-rule introduced, the effects of which the democratic party are now bitterly rueing. We speak thus frankly upon the subject, because our own principles by this time must be pretty well understood by our readers, and because we are not afraid to call things by their right names, and to say what we think. We are thoroughly opposed to the application of that "elective principle, upon which the present constitution is based," according to the *Sun*, "to all the relations which exist in a State." We are not ambitious of choosing our own constables, and have been sorely exercised in canvassing the merits of a poll-ticket which has grown almost to the dimensions of an Abolitionist Petition. We do not think that "the capacity for sound judgment and wise selection," in relation to "the offices of a judge and a clerk," exists in the blackguards and street bullies of a great city, and have had quite enough of the inestimable blessing secured to us by the Bill of Rights, "of free and frequent popular elections." We have found them altogether too "free" and too "frequent" for our taste, and would rather be spared if possible an unnecessary repetition of the scenes of last October and November. We are in favor of a reform of the present Constitution, with the view of getting rid of some of the provisions which the *Sun* thinks "prudent, honest and impartial." We are disposed to go a step farther than that journal, which concedes that "the present Constitution of Maryland is possibly defective," a concession, which, it sagely adds, may be made with regard to "any human device, and certainly any governmental institution." We hold that the present Constitution of Maryland is radically defective, and wish to see it "reformed altogether." We are not disposed to be very grateful to the late Legislature for anything but the measures which they did *not* pass, but we did and do applaud the passage of the Convention Bill. We do not see that thereby any "wise and wholesome provision of the new Constitution has been infringed," or that "the principle of popular sovereignty has been wrested from its legitimate construction by the party action of a legislative body." The Legislature have done nothing more than submit the question to the people, whether or not they will have a Convention "to frame a new Constitution and Form of Government for this State." It is for the people to vote "for" or "against" a Convention, and if their decision should be in favor of Reform, the act will be one not of "legislative caprice," but of that "popular sovereignty," for which the *Sun* professes such unbounded respect. To charge that the movement "had a party origin and support, and was sustained and carried by party votes," and to endeavor thereby to enlist the sympathies and prejudices of any particular political faction in opposition to Reform, is the sure way to defeat what the *Sun*, in common with ourselves, concedes to be desirable, viz.: "that the people, independent of all party dominancy, shall have an opportunity to declare their sentiments upon so important a measure."

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

Manager STEWART opens the Front Street Theatre to-night with the opera of Traviata, the principal characters being sustained by GAZZANIGGA and CARIOLI, both of whom make their first appearance before a Baltimore audience. The other personages of the opera will find fit representatives in Signors BRIGNOLI, AMODIO, GASPARONI, MULLER and QUINTO, while the orchestra will be under the masterly direction of MAX MARETZEK and TORRIANO. The occasion will call together, without doubt, a brilliant audience, as it will be the only one afforded our citizens of listening to the exquisite strains of the distinguished artistes composing the troupe.

At the Holliday Street Theatre the play of Second Love, to be succeeded by the musical drama the Child of the Regiment, is announced for representation. The principal role in each piece will be sustained by Miss AVONIA JONES, whose engagement is fast drawing to a close.

Will any one tell us why it is that comic actors are so frequently subject to fits of hypochondria? LISTON, the famous English comedian, was a melancholy man. LE KAIN, whose rich vein of humor delighted the Parisians, was constitutionally gloomy and depressed. The elder CHARLES MATTHEWS was one of the most irritable of mortals, and we regret to learn that BURTON, of New York—English by birth, but American by adoption—has recently shown symptoms of a similar malady.

"Extremes meet," says the old proverb, and over-much humor seems to have rendered BURTON splenetic. The latest evidence of this we find recorded in the New York papers, and has reference to what is stated to have been "a trifling difference between BURTON and his ex-Manager, Mr. JARRETT, formerly of this city, which resulted in BURTON's abruptly dissolving his engagement with the latter. Messrs. E. L. DAVENPORT, EDWIN BOOTH, and other friends of the ex-Manager, immediately tendered their professional services, and an impromptu benefit was gotten up at Wallack's Theatre, and a crowded house was the result. This evidence of appreciation was alike honorable to Mr. JARRETT and to those members of the profession who came so promptly forward in his behalf.

We learn that Mr. JARRETT has since rented the National Theatre, in Philadelphia, and proposes to open it on the first of May, for the summer season.

NOTICES OF NEW BOOKS.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON.

The first and second volumes of JOHN C. HAMILTON's "HISTORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNITED STATES, AS TRACED IN THE WRITINGS OF ALEXANDER HAMILTON," are now before us. They embody HAMILTON's connection with public affairs to the close of 1783. He had, at this period, quitted his confidential position in the military family of Washington, and at the age of 26 was directing his powerful intellect to an examination of the financial condition of the country—studies which six years later found expression in those measures of relief he so successfully advocated and enforced when placed by Washington at the head of the Treasury Department.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON has always been recognized as one of the ablest men of the Revolutionary era. His precocious talents were displayed at the early age of 17, when he boldly entered the field of controversy in opposition to Doctor MILES COOPER, President of King's College, New York, and SEABURY, subsequently Bishop of Connecticut. These masterly pamphlets, remarkable alike for grace of diction, closeness of argument, and vigor of thought, attracted general attention at the time of their appearance, and were, at first, attributed to JOHN JAY. When it became known that the author was a young West Indian, who had not yet completed his collegiate education, many ardent friends gathered around the youthful champion, and encouraged him to take a more prominent part in the political disputes with the mother country which were then rapidly ripening to a head. Ambitious of making a name for himself, and conscious of his intellectual ability, HAMILTON embraced the cause of independence with all the ardor of his tropical origin. He wrote for the public journals; he studied military tactics; became at the age of 18 a captain of artillery, and, two years later, was received into the family of WASHINGTON as one of his "aids," with the rank of Lieut. Colonel, and in the capacity of confidential secretary. Prompt, active, sagacious, fertile in expedients, and quick of apprehension; a genial companion, yet neglecting no studies that might prove either immediately or prospectively useful, it was natural that HAMILTON, really possessing great talents, and early accustomed to the applause of his contemporaries, should be elated by the distinction he had acquired, and disposed, occasionally, to undervalue in his own mind, the merits of the commander-in-chief, whose dispatches he had penned and who had very possibly acted more than once on the shrewd advice of his youthful subordinate.

In claiming for his father the honor of being the author of many of the letters signed by WASHINGTON and written under his instructions, Mr. JOHN C. HAMILTON appears to have been governed by his predilections rather than by his judgment. We have already pointed out in the columns of the *Exchange* the absurdity of this claim, and are not disposed to re-open the discussion. This much, however, we may say: Mr. HAMILTON's attempted vindication is lame and unsatisfactory.

As the military secretary of WASHINGTON, what ever ALEXANDER HAMILTON wrote was written at the dictation of his Chief, who furnished the "points" to be treated, leaving to HAMILTON the duty of clothing them with appropriate words.

Previous to HAMILTON's appointment, JOSEPH REED had occupied the same position, and fulfilled the same duties. After HAMILTON's retirement other secretaries succeeded him, who likewise wrote as WASHINGTON dictated; amplified whatever partook too much of Spartan brevity, and rounded and polished inaccurate sentences.

The key note to one phase of HAMILTON's character—an exaggerated sense of his personal dignity—may be found in the trifling cause which induced him to separate from the military family of WASHINGTON. It is clear, also, that WASHINGTON did not altogether regret the separation from his brilliant but, perhaps, occasionally somewhat too presuming "aid." The partial estrangement which then took place between them proved of service to both, as was evident, subsequently, in the increased respect with which they mutually regarded each other.

But if the reputation of so eminent a man as HAMILTON *could* suffer from over zeal on the part of his biographer, those who have been taught to reverence his memory would have great reason for regret. Happily, however, his real merits have long since been properly weighed and appreciated.

The work under notice, so far as it has been published, is singularly defective in unity. It is neither History nor Biography. As a History, it is fragmentary and unsatisfying; inasmuch as it treats only of those events in which HAMILTON was an actor; dilates upon minor incidents, and either slurs over, or leaves wholly unrecorded, many of the more important occurrences which marked the progress of the seven years' struggle for liberty. As a Biography, it is likewise faulty, because—so far as the tableau has been completed—HAMILTON's contemporaries have been unduly dwarfed, in the effort to give additional prominence to the central figure.

In point of style these volumes merit high commendation, and as a contribution to the history of the period, may be regarded of more than ordinary value. To the politician, therefore, and the man of letters, they cannot fail to prove acceptable; while some future biographer of HAMILTON, by making a judicious use of the mass of material here collected, and by the simple process of disengaging HAMILTON from the multitude of his surroundings, will be able to present to posterity a work more popular, and a more exact and life-like delineation of the great Federal leader.

NEW BOOKS RECEIVED.

LIFE THOUGHTS, Gathered from the Extemporaneous Discourses of HENRY WARD BEECHER, by One of his Congregation. Boston: Phillips, Sampson & Co. 1858.

ANDROMEDA AND OTHER POEMS: by Charles Kingsley. Boston: Ticknor & Fields. 1858.

NEW AMERICAN CYCLOPÆDIA, Vol. 2d, A. R. A.—B. E. A. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1858.

LIFE OF THOMAS JEFFERSON: by Henry S. Randall, LL. D. Vol. 2d. New York: Derby & Jackson, 1858.

We are indebted to Hon. A. Kennedy for Senator Green's report on the Kansas Constitution.

[WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.]

WASHINGTON, April 21, 1858.

EDS. EXCHANGE:—In the House yesterday the bill for the creation of an additional police force for this city, as you are already aware, was laid upon the table. This must be regarded by the lawless as a sort of extension of privilege to them to continue in their career of crime; our citizens are, however, determined to keep up the independent patrol system, and measures will no doubt be instituted for making that force as effective as possible.—There is, therefore, room to hope that we may be relieved from the terror which the prevalence of crime has heretofore inspired.

To-day Mr. Taylor, from the Select Committee on Printing, reported to the House of Representatives a plan for the creation of a Printing Bureau, to be attached to the Interior Department. There is no doubt but the proposed system will be advantageous, in many other respects besides insuring greater economy. The plan, or something similar thereto, will, no doubt, be adopted.

In the Senate Mr. Mason offered a resolution today providing for the adjustment of the difficulties between this government and that of Paraguay. You will remember that some two years ago, the authorities of Paraguay fired into the United States steamer Water Witch, as she was ascending the Paraguay river, killing one man and wounding three others. Efforts have subsequently been made to effect a settlement of the difficulties growing out of that affair, but these proved unsuccessful, and in his annual message the President referred to the subject, and asked power to compel the Paraguan authorities to give satisfaction. This resolution proposes that after pacific measures have been exhausted, then the President may dispatch an adequate force to reduce the belligerent South American principality to submission.

Several Senators, among whom was Mr. Pearce of your State, contended that the Paraguan Government does not now occupy an antagonistic position, but is ready to accede to any appropriate plan for the adjustment of this misunderstanding which may be proposed by our Government. The whole subject was postponed on account of the arrival of the hour for taking up the special order—the Deficiency bill.

Nothing has transpired to-day with reference to the Kansas measure, and it still lays in the lap of the Committee, a sleeping nursling, with a strong probability that it will die in their possession. The reports circulated by telegraph that they will possibly come to a satisfactory agreement is wholly unfounded. The Lecompontites will not abandon their principles, and the Anti-Lecompontites are obstinate in maintaining their theories.

Outside of Congress, nothing important has occurred, except what you will obtain through the evening papers. To-morrow I shall endeavor to give you a more interesting letter than it is in my power to frame to-day, partly because I have not noticed the passage of time, and the hour for closing the mail is closer upon me than I supposed.

I learn that among the items of expense to be provided for from the public treasury during the half year ending on the 31st December next, is the sum of $15,000, which the Attorney General estimates will be required to defray the expense of defending the United States in several law suits growing out of California land claims.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS

RECEIVED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DAILY EXCHANGE.

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

WASHINGTON, April 21.

SENATE.

Numerous memorials and resolutions were presented. Among others one by Mr. Cameron, from citizens of Philadelphia, for aid in the establishment of a line of steamers between Philadelphia and Southampton; and one by Mr. Durkee, from the Legislature of Wisconsin, against the admission of Kansas under the Lecompton constitution.

Mr. Mallory reported, without amendment, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, a bill appropriating $750, for defraying the repairs of the Norwegian bark Ellen, for the damages sustained in rescuing the passengers of the Central America. The bill was passed.

Mr. Milson on leave, introduced a joint resolution that the President be authorized and requested to suspend for one year, the sales of public lands advertised to be sold in the Territory of Kansas during the month of July, 1858.

Mr. Mason introduced a joint resolution, authorizing the President to take such measures against the Government of Paraguay, as the refusal of that Republic to make reparation for firing into the steamer Water Witch, may demand. Mr. Mason stated that Capt. Page, would soon sail in a small steamer for the locality, to co-operate with an force there required to attain reparation.

Messrs. Douglas and Allen fully concurred in the resolution.

Mr. Collamer said he could not vote for the resolution inasmuch as it was virtually authorizing a declaration of war against Paraguay.

Mr. Mallory said he spoke from good authority when he said that Paraguay was ready at any time to right the wrong committed; and the course was to send a representative tha: understands the theory of her government and speaks the language; and he did not doubt that friendly relations will be established with that young and rising Republic, whose commerce is so valuable and which is now on the eve of war with her more powerful neighbor Buenos Ayres, which circumstance would render it ungracious in us to send a hostile measure at the present juncture.

The special order of the day, the deficiency bill, here came up, thereby deferring the further consideration of the subject.

Mr. Fessenden's amendment to the deficiency bill was debated, but without coming to any conclusion the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. George Taylor, from the Select Committee on the subject, made a report, accompanied with a bill, for the establishment of a bureau for printing, binding, engraving, lithographing and electrotyping, which, together with the minority report proposing amendments to the present law, were referred to the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union.

Mr. Boyce called up the report of the Committee on Elections in the Nebraska case, concluding with a resolution that Mr. Ferguson the sitting delegate, and Mr. Chapman the contestant, have the further time of 60 days for taking and returning supplementary testimony.

The House passed the West Point Academy bill and shortly afterward adjourned.

INSTRUCTIONS TO COMMISSIONER REED. WASHINGTON, April 21.—The instructions to the Hon. W. B. Reed, our Commissioner to China, were to-day laid before the Senate, in compliance with a resolution of that body. They are dated Washington, May 30, 1857. The Secretary of State says that the objects which it is understood the English and French allies seek to accomplish by treaty stipulations with China are:—First, to procure from the Chinese government a recognition of the rights of other powers to have accredited Ministers at the Court of Pekin; to be received by the Emperor and to be in communication with the authorities charged with the foreign affairs of the Empire. Second, an extension of commercial intercourse with China, which is now restricted to five ports enumerated in the treaty; and third, a reduction of the tariff of duties levied upon domestic produce in its transit from the interior to the coast, as the amount now enforced is said to be a violation of the treaty.

On this subject the Secretary says Mr. Reed will be able to ascertain the true state of the alleged grievance, when he shall reach China, and act accordingly. Fourth, a stipulation for religious freedom to all foreign residents in China. Fifth, an arrangement for the suppression of piracy. Sixth, provision for extending the benefits of the proposed treaty to all the other civilized powers of the earth.

These objects the Secretary of State adds, are recognized by the President as just and expedient, and so far as he (Mr. Reed) can do so by peaceful co-operation, the President expects him to aid in their accomplishment. In conformity with this policy, he is to communicate frankly with the British and French Ministers upon all the poinis of common interest, so that it may be distinctly understood that the three nations are equally influenced by a determination to obtain justice, and by a desire to procure thereby arrangements for the extension and more adequate protection of their commercial intercourse with China. "But on your side," the Secretary says, "these efforts must be confined to firm representations appealing to the justice and policy of the Chinese authorities, and leaving your own government to determine upon the course to be adopted should your representations be fruitless. Special reference is made to your communication to the Ministers of Great Britain and France, not only from our common interests with these nations in the trade of China, and in the means suggested for its extension, but because they alone, among the great powers of the world, have diplomatic representatives at Canton."

Mr. Reed is also authorized to communicate with the Russian Minister as far as practicable upon all the subjects of mutual concern; and should his disposition prove favorable, as it is believed it will, his co-operation may be highly advantageous in promoting the objects of Mr. Reed's mission.

Mr. Reed is instructed constantly to bear in mind that the United States is not at war with the government of China, nor does this country seek to enter that empire for any other purposes than those of lawful commerce, and for the protection of the lives and property of its citizens. The whole nature and policy of our government must necessarily confine our action within these limits, and deprive us of all motives either for lawful aggrandizement or the acquisition of political power in that distant region.

Mr. Reed is further instructed to let it be known to the Chinese authorities that we are no party to the existing hostilities.

THE NEW HAMBURG STEAMER SAXONIA.

FATAL COLLISION OF THE SAXONIA WITH THE PILOT BOAT JACOB A. WESTERVELT—ONE OF THE PILOTS DROWNED, AND TOTAL LOSS OF THE WESTERVELT—DESCRIPTION OF THE SAXONIA, ETC.

The new Hamburg steamer Saxonia arrived at this port yesterday morning, from Hamburg via Southampton, being her first passage across the Atlantic. While entering the harbor, when about twenty-two miles off Sandy Hook, she came in collision with the pilot boat J. A. Westervelt, which sunk in a few minutes, drowning one of the pilots, named J. O'Keefe. The captain of the Saxonia states that the Westervelt hove in sight, beating up for the steamer, steering north, and in attempting to cross the steamer's bow run foul of her on the port bow, sinking in a few minutes. The pilots and crew were saved, with the exception of one pilot, named John O'Keefe, who probably fell overboard when the boat struck, as a boat was sent after him and he could not be found. The captain says all possible efforts were made by the pilot in charge of the steamer to keep clear of the Westervelt.

The Saxonia is of the Hamburg and American mail steamship mail line, of which there are three other vessels—the Hammonia, the Borussia and the Austria. The Saxonia is an iron bark rigged propeller, of yacht model, and was built at Greenock. She is of 2,500 tons burthen, 340 feet long, 40 feet beam and 25 feet deep, and is propelled by two direct acting engines of 400 horse power. She can carry 408 steerage passengers, 118 in the second cabin and 56 in the first cabin, and is provided with every convenience to ensure all the comfort possible during a sea voyage.

THE LITTLES MURDER CASE.

ROCHESTER, April 20.—Mrs. Eli Stout, sister-in-law of Stout, the prisoner, was on the witness stand ten hours to-day, and while giving her evidence the prisoner was discovered communicating by signs with her. She testified that Stout and Mrs. Littles had occupied the same bed, but with an evident inclination to evade the question or answer under compulsion. The prisoner's mother was then placed on the stand, and testified that he and Mrs. Littles came home on the night of the murder covered with blood; arms broken and bodies bruised; and that she and Littles' son went to the river, saw Littles' mangled body, and found Mrs. Littles' cameo pin, Stout's cap, and took them home. Her testimony created intense excitement in the court room. It is thought that the lad's testimony will be still stronger against the prisoner.

FROM CARACCAS.

NEW YORK, April 21.—Dates from Caraccas to the 31st ult., have been received. The overthrow of Monagas is complete, and his banishment or execution is clamored for; placards have been posted giving a list of robberies perpetrated under Monagas' rule, amounting to over $17,000,000. It was reported that the American Minister had advised Monagas to declare Caraccas in a state of seige and himself dictator. The new diplomatic corps would probably receive courage from the provisional government.

THE EXPECTED STEAMER.

HALIFAX, April 21—1 o'clock, A. M.—A strong south-east wind, with a thick snow storm, is prevailing here, and we have no signs of the steamer Canada.

SECOND DISPATCH.

HALIFAX, April 21—8 P. M.—A strong East wind is still blowing, and there is little chance of the Canada arriving to-night.

ARREST OF AN ALLEGED FORGER.

WORCESTER, MASS., April 20.—H. D. Stone, who was arrested in Springfield on Saturday for forgeries in this city, was held to bail to-day in the sum of $2,000. He was also arrested for debts amounting to $70,000, and in default of bail to the amount of $14,000, was committed to jail. The case is one of much interest.

THE BALTIMORE BUILT ENGINE.

PHILADELPHIA, April 21.—There is a grand torch-light procession here to-night by the firemen in honor of the reception of the new fire-engine built at Baltimore for the Washington company. There are about 40 companies in line.

OPERA OF WILLIAM TELL.

PHILADELPHIA, April 21.—The opera of William Tell is producing a great sensation at the Academy of Music to-night. There is a crowded and brilliant audience.

THE KANSAS CONFERENCE.

WASHINGTON, April 21.—The Senate's Committee of Conference on the Kansas bill have still Mr. English's substitute under consideration. It is supposed they will arrive at some conclusion to-day.

THE FIVE MILLION LOAN BILL IN MINNESOTA.

CHICAGO, April 20.—The majority for the five million loan bill in Minnesota, will probably exceed twenty thousand.

Staub, who murdered Lanerman in December last, was executed to-day.

RAILROAD STRIKE.

PHILADELAHIA, April 21.—The Reading Railroad workmen at Richmond struck to-day, on account of the non-payment of their wages. Some of them, it is reported, have received no pay since the 1st of January.

FOR EUROPE.

BOSTON, April 21.—The steamer America sailed to-day at 1 o'clock for Liverpool, with 90 passengers and $23,000 in specie.

The steamer City of Washington takes out the mails for Europe on Saturday.

MARKETS.

NEW YORK, April 21.—Cotton is firm—sales of 3,000 bales. Flour is heavy—sales of 10,000 bbls. at $4.15@$4.30 for State, and $4.55@$4.75 for Ohio. Wheat is firm—sales of 24,000 bushels at 115@122 cts. for red Southern, and 120 and 142 cts. for white. Corn is heavy—sales of 28,000 bushels at 76 cts. for yellow. Pork—Prime has advanced 15 cts.—sales at $14.62@$14.80. Lard generally closed buoyant at 11¼@11¼ cts. Whiskey is dull. Coffee firm—sales of 17,000 bags at 9¾@11 cts. Sugar is unsettled—New Orleans 5¾@6¼; Muscovado 5⅞@6¼. Molasses is steady—Porto Rico 30@31 cts. Turpentine is dull at 51@52 cts. Rosin is firm at $1.51 to arrive. Rice is dull.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

MARYLAND INSTITUTE—ELECTION OF OFFICERS.—The eleventh annual election of officers of this far-famed and most excellent organization for the promotion of the Mechanic Arts, took place last evening at the Institute Hall. The Hon. Joshua Vansant, who for nine successive years has filled, in an able and satisfactory manner, the position of president, declined a re-election. The nominees for that position were Messrs. James Murray and Samuel Sands. The nomination of the first named gentleman was withdrawn, and Mr. Sands chosen as president for the ensuing year.

The nominations for Vice Presidents were Messrs. Thos. J. Hand, James M. Anderson, Wm. Bayley and Thomas Swann. The name of Mr. Hand was withdrawn, and a ballot had for two vice presidents from the remaining nominees, with the following result:

Anderson, 43; Swann, 34; Bayley, 21.

For Recording Secretary Mr. G. H. Hunt was chosen without opposition.

The nominations for Corresponding Secretary were Messrs. A. Townsend Waugh, Laurence Sangston, Samuel S. Mills, S. Morris Cochrane, and Jno. Dukehart.

The name of Mr. Dukehart was withdrawn and a ballot had with the following result: Sangston, 28; Mills, 20; Cochrane, 14; Waugh, 9.

There being 71 votes cast and 36 being necessary to a choice, a second ballot was had, as follows: A motion of Col. J. M. Anderson being first adopted that, after this ballot, the lowest candidate be dropped upon each succeeding one: Sangston, 47; Mills, 19; Cochrane, 14; Waugh, 5.

There being 86 votes cast and 47 being necessary to a choice, Mr. Sangston was declared elected.

Hugh Bolton, Esq., was elected Treasurer without opposition.

For the Board of Managers there were fifty-two nominations, from which twenty-four were to be chosen.

Upon the first ballot there were 105 votes cast, and twenty selections made.

A second ballot was had without any of the remaining candidates receiving a majority of the votes cast, which amounted to 78.

A third ballot resulted in the selection of but one of the remaining number.

The fourth ballot resulted in the same manner.

Upon the fifth ballot the remaining two members of the Board were elected. The officers of the Institute for the ensuing year are therefore as follows: President, Samuel Sands; Vice Presidents, James M. Anderson, Thomas Swann; Recording Secretary, G. H. Hunt; Corresponding Secretary, Lawrence Sangston; Treasurer, Hugh Bolton; Board of Managers, John F. Meredith, Adam Denmead, Thomas J. Lovegrove, W. Henry Johnson, C. W. Bentley, William Keyser, Thomas Trimble, W. W. Maughlin, S. S. Mills, Thomas J. Hand, D. L. Bartlett, A. H. Jenkins, William Bayley, J. Crawford Neilson, J. Mowton Saunders, Samuel Hindes, James McNabb, John Jones, Ezra Whitman, Charles Webb, Hugh Sisson, Charles Reeder, John W. Randolph, Henry W. Slicer.

A committee having waited upon Mr. Sands, the president elect, and conducted him to the hall, he was introducted by Mr. Vansant, the retiring president, and honored with warm applause. In assuming the chair, he expressed his gratitude to the membership for the great honor they had conferred upon him by selecting him as the presiding officer of this, the first institution of its kind in the country, and pledged himself to an earnest and energetic endeavor to prove equal to the trust; and in conclusion, he paid a high tribute to the retiring president, and expressed a hope that he might prove as useful to the Institute as that gentleman had.

Mr. Vansant was then called upon, and in a feeling manner briefly adverted to the gratification he had experienced for nine years past in his official association with the Institute, and reviewed the good results which had emanated from this institution and its branches—the schools of design. He assured the membership that his association with them officially would ever be regarded as a high honor, and that he would ever cherish it as the bright period of his life. Although compelled, from other business demands, to decline their invitation to continue in this capacity, still he could assure them that his heart and feelings would ever be with them, and that he would continue to use his best exertions in furtherance of the objects of the Institute. In conclusion he paid a eulogistic tribute to his successor, assuring the membership that they had selected one fully equal to the responsibilities of the position.

The following named gentlemen, who had previously served, officially, declined a re-election: Mr. N. H. Thayer, as Corresponding Secretary; Messrs. Woodward, Abrahams, John Dukehart and Wm. Prescott Smith, of the Board of Managers.

MEETING OF THE LIQUOR DEALERS.—This body met last night at Metropolitan Hall, pursuant to adjournment. At 8 o'clock, the meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. M. Gidelman. The proceedings of the last meeting were read by the Secretary, Mr. William Hebdon, and, on motion, approved.

The President remarked that if there were any persons present who did not intend to become members of this association, they would please retire; or, if they wished to become members, they could step up to the Secretary's desk, pay their dollar, and get a certificate of membership.

The next business in order was the report of the Judiciary Committee, who, through their chairman, Mr. Joseph H. Amey, reported that they had obtained the opinion of Wm. Schley, Esq., in regard to the constitutionality of the act now under consideration, but were not prepared to report on the appointment of a clerk for the Association.

The opinion of Mr. Schley was then read by Mr. Jacob Miller, assistant secretary.

Mr. Schley says, after reviewing the law at length, "Therefore, I am led to the conclusion that the whole act, (so far, at least, as concerns the sale of spiritous and fermented liquors, in quantities less than a pint,) should be pronounced inoperative and void, as being in violation of the Constitution of the State."

The chairman then stated that by a resolution passed at the last meeting, the opinions of Messrs. Schley and Preston were to have been printed both in the English and German languages, but owing to the late hour at which Mr. Schley's opinion was obtained, it was impossible to have copies ready for the German members in time for this meeting, but that the opinions would be published as a supplement to the *German Correspondent* newspaper on Friday morning. This explanation was unanimously considered satisfactory.

The ward collecting committees were then called on for their reports. After all the wards had been called upon, printed copies of Mr. Schley's opinion were then handed to the members.

After which the following resolution was offered and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the liquor dealers throughout the city be requested not to pay any attention to the license law, but throw themselves upon the protection of this society, and to come up and become members of this association, who will protect them.

After the transaction of some business relating to the finances of the association, the meeting adjourned to meet at the same place on Friday evening.

HIGH-HANDED OUTRAGE.—A gang of ruffians who infest the North-western section of the city, during five months past, have levied black mail upon Mr. Carroll, No. 114 Franklin street, in the sum of $250, and at least concluded to drive him from the place he occupied. On Monday morning they entered his establishment, and called for oysters, liquors and cigars, with the promise to pay on the morrow.—In gangs of from five to twelve, they thus continued up to eight o'clock in the evening, when forty of them made their appearance, and having called for, and got all they wanted, boasted of being armed each with a pair of U. S. horse-pistols, as of not being afraid to encounter any body of men in the city. After dashing several tumblers about the room and destroying property, they walked out, and whilst passing away fired several pistol balls into the house and cast a number of tumblers through the windows. In a couple of hours they returned, (Mr. Carroll in the meantime having closed,) and continued upon the pavement in front of the house up to five o'clock the next morning, firing pistols, using disgusting language, and uttering threats such as "we'll put his light out yet." "If he's not out of the house in forty-eight hours we'll burn it over his head." Feeling that his life was not safe in the building he occupied, he left there with his family on Tuesday for other quarters.

THE NEW JAIL.—The Committee on Police and Jail, of the City Councils, yesterday reported to the First Branch an ordinance providing for the completion of the new jail. It authorizes and directs the City Commissioner to advertise at once for proposals for completing the building, and also for the erecting of an entrance gateway, lodge and office, and residence for the warden's family, according to the revised plans and specifications submitted by Thos. J. and Jas. M. Dixon, architects, in obedience to an appointment from the Mayor, by authority of a resolution adopted by the last council, providing the same shall not cost more than $180,000. It also requires that the architects and City Commissioner shall make monthly statements of the work actually done, and the materials furnished, and that the payments to the contractors shall be made in monthly installments at the rate of 80 per cent. on the amount so estimated by the architects and Commissioner, and the balance upon the completion of the work. Also, that the Register shall, from time to time, issue and sell so much of the new jail stock as may be needed to meet such payments, and when the City Comptroller shall certify that the work has been completed, he shall sell so much as may be necessary to liquidate all authenticated claims against the city in this connecion.

STEALING.—William Lankfort was arrested yesterday by officer Herbert, of the Eastern District, on the charge of having stolen one double barrel gun, being the property of Mathias Hickle. He was committed to jail in default of security, for a further hearing, by Justice Griffin.

ARRESTS.—Zachariah Gorsuch was arrested on Tuesday, by officer Hoover of the Eastern District, on the charge of maliciously destroying the trees and shrubbery of Mr. George Rost, on his premises near the Baltimore Cemetery. He was released on bail for a further hearing by Justice Welch.

H. Wagner was arrested by officer White of the Eastern District, on the charge of working on the Sabbath day. He was fined $3 and costs by Justice Welch.

George Bookheimer was arrested yesterday by officer Graham, of the Eastern District, on the charge of violently assaulting and beating his wife, and also for assaulting Charles Glicker, who interfered to protect the woman. Justice Griffin committed him to jail in default of security to answer the charge before the Criminal Court.

Hannah Brethauer was arrested yesterday afternoon by officer Meads, of the Eastern District, on the charge of assaulting the daughter of Mrs. Hilderbrant. She was held on security for a further hearing, this morning, by Justice Griffin.

MECHANICS' MEETING.—Pursuant to a call in the morning papers, a large number of unemployed journeyman mechanics met yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock, at Eastern Hall, corner of Broadway and Eastern avenue. The meeting was organized by calling Mr. Gallagher to the chair, and appointing Mr. William Murray secretary. The President stated the object of the meeting, which was simply, as expressed in the advertisement of the call for the meeting, "to take into consideration some mode of making a livelihood." After considerable conversation, and the expression of various opinions, it was resolved to appoint a committee of twenty, one from each ward of the city, for the purpose of drafting certain resolutions, and for reporting a constitution for the government of a Mechanics' Union Association, which it is proposed to organize—after which the meeting adjourned, to be called again when the committee was prepared to report.

SALES OF PROPERTY.—Mr. Saml. H. Gover, auctioneer, sold yesterday, the following property:—Lot of ground and improvements on Wolf street, near Eastern avenue, fronting 17 feet on Wolf street, with a depth of 60 feet, to Captain Jas. Pullen for $575.

Lot and improvements on corner of Little Paca and Perry streets, fronting on Paca street, 18 feet by 53 feet on Perry street, (subject to a ground rent of $31.50,) to Mr. D. M'Coy for $1,050.

Also, on Tuesday afternoon, lot and improvements on corner of Pearl and Fayette streets, fronting 15 feet on Pearl street, by a depth of 58 feet on Fayette street, (ground rent $41.25,) to Mr. Hoffman for $1,050.

DEPARTURE OF THE PHILADELPHIA FIREMEN.—The Committee of Firemen of the Washington Engine Company of Philadelphia, who were delegated to receive their new apparatus from Messrs. John Rogers & Son, of this city, left the President street depot with their engine in the 11 o'clock train yesterday, accompanied by a delegation of twelve members of the Independent Company, under the Marshalship of Mr. James W. Cozine.

HEAVY VERDICT.—In the Circuit Court of the United States yesterday, John S. Wright, Esq., obtained a verdict against the Sun and Orient Mutual Insurance Companies of New York, for the sum of $34,730.26, for damages sustained by the loss of a cargo of coffee in the ship Mary W. which was lost off the Island of Cuba, during a voyage from Rio de Janeiro to New Orleans.

ARREST OF PICKPOCKETS.—Two men, well known to the police as expert thieves and pickpockets, named John Hogg and George Stevens, were arrested on Tuesday afternoon at the Camden station, where they were endeavoring to practice their profession. They were taken before Justice Snowacre, who committed them for a further hearing.

DELEGATES.—A letter from the Secretary of the Boston Society for Medical Improvement to the Chairman of the Executive Committee brings information of the appointment by that body of Drs. Jacob Bigelow, Ezra Palmer, Henry G. Clark, Geo. C. Shattuck and Wm. E. Coale, to the Quarantine and Sanitary Convention which is soon to meet in this city.

RAISING A FALSE ALARM.—Sergeant Crouch, of the S. D. P., on Tuesday night arrested John Davis and Henry Kennedy on the charge of raising an alarm of fire, two several times, by ringing the bell of the Watchman fire company, and running the reel through the streets. Justice Boyd fined them $5 and cost in each case.

FOR COURT.—Thos. Gray, colored, was yesterday arrested by officer Biggs, on the charge of beating and cutting the head of Robt. Smith, colored, with a sounding lead. Committed for court by Justice Mearis.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

REGULAR SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, April 21, 1858.

FIRST BRANCH.—The branch met. Present Jno. T. Ford, Esq., president, in the chair, and all the members except Mr. Hynes