THE TRIBUNE.

TUESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 31, 1843.

FOR PRESIDENT,

HENRY CLAY,

OF KENTUCKY.

☞ Persons wishing to send to their friends in the country the Pamphlet containing the full account of the Testimony and Proceedings in the case of the SOMERS TRAGEDY, with Views of the Vessel, Portrait of the Commander, &c. &c., may procure them at this office, in wrappers ready for mailing. Price 12½ cents. Twelve copies for *one dollar*.

☞ Copies of last week's Weekly Tribune, containing the splendid closing Lecture of Dr. HAWKS, may still be obtained at our desk in wrappers, ready for mailing. Price 6¼ cents.

☞ For No. II. of *Letters from Europe, Association and the Press, State Valuation*, &c. &c. see First Page.

☞ For *Speech of Hon.* WILLIS HALL, and a beautiful Poem from *The Dial*, see Last Page.

☞ We condense or forbear Editorials to-day to make room for one-half of the noble and statesmanlike Speech of WILLIS HALL, in our State Legislature, in review of Gov. Bouck's Message. We trust no reader who *votes* will deprive himself of the information and gratification to be derived from its perusal. The remainder will appear to-morrow.

☞ A. D. WILLIAMS has been removed from the office of Postmaster at Unadilla, Otsego Co. and *Geo. H. Noble* appointed in his stead. The crime of Mr. Williams is that of voting and exerting himself to make Mr. Tyler President, while Mr. Noble and his backers did their utmost to defeat him, and now openly revile and ridicule him at home while they fawn around and cheat him at Washington. Mr. Williams, by close personal attention, has increased the revenue of the office 30 to 40 per cent. within the eighteen months he has held it.

Important from Texas.

The Mobile Herald of Saturday, the 21st, contains important news from Texas, said to have been brought to New-Orleans by the steamer Neptune, arrived on Wednesday morning. The news was brought to Houston by a Mr. Needham, and is as follows:

After the capture of Laredo, the Texan forces, under Gen. Somerville, moved down on the east bank of the Rio Grande to the mouth of the Salado, and found Canales, the Mexican General, with 300 men, ready to dispute the passage; but the Texans crossed without difficulty, and he retired without firing a gun. The troops then proceeded to Guerrero and encamped near the town; the Alcalde came out and informed the General that the Mexican troops had fled, and that he would furnish any articles they required. The articles most needed were then furnished by the Alcalde at the requisition of Gen. Somerville, who then gave orders for the return of his troops to Bexar, alleging that his force was too weak to proceed farther. This caused a division among his men, and with about 200 men, who adhered to him, he returned to Bexar, where he arrived in safety.

The rest of his force—300 in number—refusing to obey orders, elected Col. W. S. Fisher their Commander, and went down the river to capture the small towns above Matamoras. On reaching Mier they attacked and captured it; but the Mexican army soon arrived, and a severe engagement ensued, in which, as the story goes, 400 Mexicans were killed, while only *four* Texans were killed; all the rest escaped, except two who concealed themselves in a cane-break—surrendering, upon what terms is not known. The Mexicans thus retook the town. The fight is said to have lasted from 12 M. of one day till 2 P. M. of the next.

The Houston Star and Galveston Times think the story improbable. The news would probably have been contained in the New-Orleans papers of Tuesday the 19th, of which date none have been received in this city, though those of the 18th and 20th have arrived.

ILLINOIS.—The Legislature has elected Hon. Richard M. Young, (late U. S. Senator,) Hon. J. M. Robinson, (present U. S. Senator, whose term expires March 4th,) and Gen. James Semple, (late Minister to Bogota,) Justices of the Supreme Court, in place of Judge Ford, chosen Governor, Judge Breese, elected U. S. Senator, and Judge Smith, resigned. James Shields has been re-elected Auditor, and Mr. Carpenter Treasurer.

☞ All the Counties in GEORGIA but two have been heard from, and the vote for Congress stands:

For George W. Crawford, (Whig)	24,545
" Alex. McDougald, (Loco)	19,672
Crawford's majority	4,871

Carroll and Dade Counties may reduce this to 4,500.

☞ Hon. R. GARDNER, Member of the Legislature of Alabama from Pickens County, died at his residence on the 13th inst., after an illness of two weeks.

MERCANTILE LIBRARY.—The Lecture before the Mercantile Library Association this evening is to be delivered by JOHN NEAL, Esq. at the Tabernacle. His subject is "General Reading," one, we should suppose, of general interest.

☞ Mr. MOONEY, the popular Lecturer on IRELAND, will deliver his Eleventh Lecture this evening, at Concert Hall, Broadway. Subject—England and Ireland in the 13th, 14th, and 15th centuries, with special reference to the REFORMATION.

☞ WILLIAM WALLACE of Ky. will lecture on "The Somers Mutiny," in review of the facts and in justification of Com. Mackenzie, before the Berean Institute, in the Church corner of Walker and Elizabeth-streets, this evening. He will doubtless discuss this important subject with eminent ability and eloquence.

SAD DEATH.—A stranger calling himself a journeymen Printer, being evidently insane, went into the barn of Capt. Hummel last week, in Penn-township, Union county, Pa., where men were engaged in threshing, and threatened to run himself through the machine. Before he could be arrested he seized a bundle of straw and threw himself in. He was drawn back instantly but not until his arm was torn off in shreds to the elbow. His arm was amputated—he manifesting no pain, but he died a few days after.

WRECK.—The brig Nabob of Salem, Capt. Neble, from Cadiz, with salt and wine for Montevideo, was wrecked on the 16th Nov. on the English Bank. The brig and cargo will both prove a total loss. The mate and part of the crew escaped in the long boat; the rest were taken off by the U. S. schooner Enterprise.

DISTURBANCES IN CANADA.—More disturbances have broken out among the workmen on the Lachine canal. Eleven hundred have struck for wages. They are most wretchedly paid; for the last three weeks they are reported to have received only a limited amount of State pay, and on the day of the excitement their wages declared to be, one shilling and three per day. [Post.

OUR CITY POLICE.

Report of Robert Taylor, Esq.

To the Honorable, the Board of Assistant Aldermen of the City of New-York:

GENTLEMEN: The resolution adopted by your Board on the 4th instant, in relation to the Police Department of our city, was probably intended to elicit a joint reply from the District Attorney, and the undersigned, but although I have frequently conversed with that gentleman on the necessity of a well regulated system of Police for the city, and have interchanged opinions with him as to the means of accomplishing the reform which all good citizens ardently desire and earnestly demand, we have not jointly committed our views to writing; and as it has been erroneously supposed that we had arranged a plan, and agreed on all the details necessary to put it in operation—and for other reason—we have concluded to respond to your resolution individually.

I have deferred submitting a communication on the subject, until the present time, with the hope of being able to present my views fully, but as the short intervals of time I have been relieved from active official duties have been devoted, under the direction of the officers of the State and City Governments, to the examination of the intricate accounts which extend through several years, I am under the necessity of giving a very brief and imperfect reply to your resolution. And as it is very generally admitted that our present Police system is almost wholly ineffectual for the prevention of crime, and is destitute of the important principles which should form the basis of a Police for a dense and heterogeneous population of 300,000. I shall not repeat the statements of others, nor advance my own views in relation to existing defects, except so far as may be necessary in considering "what improvement in the Police Department of the city is required by the wants and interests of the citizens;" on which subject I entertain the following opinions:

1st. The Police Department should be so organized as to be in operation without intermission, for the services of its members may be required at any time. At present the night watchmen are the only persons who are required to patrol the streets, except a few Sunday officers, and Day Police officers, in some of the wards, and it is notorious that most cases of shop-lifting, stealing from halls of houses, and the passing of counterfeit money, occur in the evening before the watchmen go on duty, and many burglaries and robberies are committed near the time they leave their posts in the morning; and this state of things will continue so long as the present system is permitted to exist, for while there are stated periods when neither watchmen nor police officers are on duty, opportunities are then afforded to avoid detection, and the commission of offences is a natural consequence. A case in point occurred recently, and, as it is a striking illustration, I take the liberty to mention it. Early on the morning of the 22d instant, two houses in Third-street, between the Second Avenue and the Bowery, were burglariously entered and valuable articles stolen therefrom, and in one of the houses some clothes in a closet were set on fire, but as the incendiaries fortunately closed the closet door, the fire smouldered and expired; all this was done by the offenders unobserved, and no trace of them, or the stolen property, has been discovered, and yet in that street, and adjoining the row of buildings where the burglaries and larcenies were committed, and arson attempted, there is a sub-watch-house, and also a police office.

It may be well to state, as a proof of the utter want of proper organization of the watch department, that the only ordinance which relates to the time watchmen shall be on duty, requires, merely, that they shall attend on "alternate nights," and the whole matter has been left with the captains of the watch, who may keep them on duty at such times, at night, as they may consider most necessary, or find to be most convenient; and although they have generally directed their men to go on duty at the same hour, on the several districts, no regard has been paid to uniformity in the time of the several companies leaving their posts in the morning.

2d. Members of the Police department should be constantly stationed in all parts of the city, that their services may be obtained wherever, as well as whenever, required for the arrest of offenders, or performance of other official duties. Many instances might be cited of felons being permitted to escape, because the police office was far distant, and private citizens supposed they had no right to make an arrest, or were unwilling to spend their time or hazard their lives in arresting offenders and conveying them to the police office. Besides, the presence of a police officer at the time and place disorderly conduct commenced, would often prevent the commission of acts that would, but for his presence, lead to most serious results; and police officers should, therefore, possess the means to make themselves known as such, at any time, but, with all due deference for the opinions of others, there should be nothing in their general appearance to indicate their employment, for transgressors would thereby have a decided advantage, and would assuredly exercise it; they could observe an officer, and would embrace the opportunity afforded by a temporary absence from a portion of his district, to commit depredations.

This branch of the subject is important in another point of view; for the certainty of police officers being on duty throughout the city, without being designated as such, would have a tendency to deter persons, particularly the young, from deviating from the path of rectitude, and would prevent the first commission of a petty offence, which, if perpetrated, and repeated, would lead to a career calculated eventually to transform the timid delinquent into a hardened villain.

According to the present arrangement, it is the duty of Police officers to attend daily at the Police offices, and, however great may be the emergency which requires their presence and service at Harlem or the Battery, at the Dry Dock or Greenwich, or in any other part of the city, application must be made at the "Halls of Justices," in Centre street, or the "Upper Police Office," on the corner of Third street and the Bowery, and even then there is no certainty of procuring the assistance sought for. When the officers have performed their duties for the day, by waiting at the Police office, or otherwise, they proceed to public exhibitions, to public balls or private parties to fulfil their engagements as officers, or they spend their time in any way their interests require, or inclinations lead them; they will not devote themselves to the service of the public without compensation, nor have we any right to expect them to do so.

3d. The members of the Police Department should not be permitted to engage in any other business than that allotted them in the department. There is no part of this whole subject more susceptible of demonstration than this, but want of time will not admit of elaborate argument, and the following reasons must suffice for the present: The knowledge necessary for a Police officer to possess, of particular classes of places and persons, and of the multifarious schemes for committing offences, and the stratagems resorted to for avoiding detection, can only be acquired by close and constant application to the business of the Police department; and the character and usefulness of the department, as well as the public good, require that Police officers should be continually under the direction of their superior officers, and not be permitted to mingle and associate with all classes of persons indiscriminately, nor to resort, at will, to all kinds of places. It is unnecessary, and would be extremely disagreeable, to mention particular cases which show the propriety and necessity of adopting the rule here recommended. Let it suffice that it is our duty to guard against what men may do.

As long as the watchmen for the night and the Police officers for the day constitute separate departments, both will be miserably deficient for all the purposes for which a Police is required. The pay received by watchmen is not sufficient for the maintenance of their families, and those of them who labor hard during the day, and thereby become much fatigued, are not the most suitable persons for watchmen; while those who lounge about in the daytime are very improper persons for the duty. But however suitable the persons may be who compose the watch, they must leave their posts at stated times in the morning to pursue their ordinary business, whatever benefit might result from their remaining on their posts; and all the information they may have received of threatened or anticipated depredations is rendered useless by their not having immediate successors to whom they may communicate the information.—If the whole time of the officers should be engaged in the public service, their entire remuneration ought to be derived from the public treasury.

4th. Police officers should receive their appointment from persons not elected to office by the people, nor candidates for their suffrages—for reasons so universally known that there can be no harm in making the suggestion here, and but little necessity for stating why it is made. To guard against the Police officers being all men of the same political party, and some of them not the best men in that party, and that no improper influence growing out of the manner of their appointment may be exercised over them, they should be appointed by Commissioners, to be selected with special reference to this object, and for their knowledge, integrity, persevering habits, and peculiar fitness for the performance of the duties which would devolve upon them; and that the responsibility might not be too much diffused, the number of Commissioners should be very limited.

5th. The city should be divided into districts, near the centre of each of which there should be a station-house, with a Magistrate in continual attendance. The men belonging on stations should be able to repair to, and return from, their respective posts in a short space of time, and the facility and promptness with which it would at times be necessary to assemble the Police force in particular sections of the city, would be impracticable without a division of the city into districts. Indeed, without this provision the foregoing suggestions could not be adopted; nor, if adopted, carried into operation.

The district system was introduced into the Watch Department from sheer necessity, and the number of districts has been increased with the increase of population, but this is the only consistent feature of the department, and an expose of the long continued practices at the watch-houses will not only illustrate the part of the subject now under consideration, but will confirm the general views herein contained.

It is the duty of the watchmen to "receive into their custody, and detain until the next morning, and until discharged or committed by the proper authority, every person apprehended and delivered to them for any offence whatsoever, after the watch is all be set." And it is the duty of each captain of the watch, "as early as conveniently may be after his tour of duty, to make a return into the office of the Justices of the Police of all persons arrested," and convey the prisoners therein named to one of the police offices.—Under these regulations, persons are confined during the night who would not be delivered into the custody of the watch, if the complaint against them was required to be made on oath; or, if taken into custody, would be released as soon as the witness was examined on oath; and all who know any thing of the subject, are aware that nightly, almost, persons are confined on the complaint of those who do not appear against them afterward, and who never intended to appear against them; and it is not a rare occurrence for the statement made by a complainant at the watch house, to differ materially from his sworn testimony at the police office—indeed, it is sometimes the case, that the witness at the watch house becomes the prisoner at the police office. In consequence of the captains of the watch not being authorised to administer oaths, the sportiveness of malignity of an accuser may consign our best citizens to the cells of a watch house, to be detained until the next morning, and until discharged "by the proper authority," unless they should be improperly discharged, as implied in the otation, during the night; but if Magistrates confined themselves to granting discharges in such cases, as it is here stated may occur, there would be no just ground of complaint. It is, however, proverbial that the reverse has been the general practice of some Aldermen, who seldom or never acted magisterially, except in discharging prisoners from watch houses, and the practice, with all the evils which have resulted from it, to the inconsistency and injustice of the present system.

6th. The Police Department should be under the control of a chief officer; for although there would be districts and sections, there would be but one department, and uniformity of practice in the several districts; and harmonious and effective action when the main force of the Police should be necessary, could only be secured by the general superintendence devolving on a competent head. It may be said that the Mayor of the City is its Chief Magistrate and the head of the Police: be it so; and he is equally the head of every other department of the city: for it is his duty "to be vigilant and active in causing the laws and ordinances of the government of the city to be duly executed and enforced," and "to exercise a constant supervision and control over the conduct and acts of subordinate officers." Yet he cannot conduct the business of the departments, and we accordingly have a Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, and Superintendents for almost all purposes. No man who has any knowledge of the duties of the Mayor, or the business of the Police Department, will pretend that the Mayor can perform his daily duties in the Mayor's office, his duties as President of the Board of Health, as a Supervisor, and as a director of various institutions—no man will seriously contend that the Mayor can faithfully discharge all the official duties here alluded to—and also devote to the Police Department, and circumstances connected with it, that time, and attention which would enable him to discharge the important duties of Chief Officer of Police. The duties of the Mayor are already sufficiently nuberous, and what has been said above of Police Officers devoting all their time to the business of the department, for the purpose of being well informed, applies with full force to the chief officer.

All communications of great importance should be made to the head of the department, for the ends of justice have been defeated by magistrates and officers being engaged in the pursuit of the same object, without a concert of action; and that the chief officer may not be unjustly held responsible for the character and conduct of the subordinates, and that proper discipline may be maintained, he should be associated with the commissioners in the expelling of incompetent and improper members.

7th. All laws and regulations for the health and cleanliness of the city, as well as for the security of the citizens and their property, should be enforced by the Police Department, for the violation of the ordinances could not escape their notice, and the laws would be rigidly enforced. It is not intended to recommend any new organization of the Board of Health, but to suggest the propriety and necessity of their views and measures being carried into full effect by a police prepared for any emergency. The subject of properly lighting the city at night is entitled to much consideration here, as the security of the citizens from accident or design makes it important; and whether it be faithfully done, or shamefully neglected, may only be known to those persons who are on duty all night in the streets. The duty of lighting the city should therefore be performed under the direction of the police, especially as the city would sustain no loss by making the station houses the depositories of oil that remained after the lamps had been supplied. The suggestions here made in relation to the duties of the police are strongly recommended by motives of economy, as their adoption would render unnecessary the present arrangement, or any other, respecting street inspectors, inspectors of public places, of omnibuses, hacks and carts, and numerous other special officers. But as the duties of some of the police officers would require them to be continually in particular wards, they should not be subject to the orders of several aldermen at the same time; and the subdivisions of the districts should, for this and other reasons, be limited to the boundaries of the wards, and each district should comprise entire wards.

The most strict scrutiny should be exercised by the department, within legal rules of course, into the manner of conducting business by pawnbrokers, keepers of junk-shops and dealers in second-hand articles, for the facilities afforded for the disposal of stolen goods enter largely into the calculation when robbery is meditated. And to a police that will require the prompt and continual action of its members, in all parts of the city, must be confided the power, and the imperative duty assigned, to prevent street-begging, which leads to idleness and crime; and to such a police must we resort to exterminate the hawking of obscene and libidinous prints, the great source of venality and profligacy.

The population of the city has increased rapidly within the seven years last past, and there is certainly as much necessity for an efficient police now as there ever was, and the following remarks, made by Chancellor Kent in 1836, may now be repeated with increased force: "When we come to consider the actual wants of great numbers, and the incessant temptations to heedless and lawless purposes, to pilfering, to intemperance, to disorders of all sorts, in such a dense population as exists in this city, and who are always more or less under excitement, and the impulse of the collisions and the storms of the passions, we cannot but be deeply impressed with the importance to our peace and safety of an active and stern police."

I have here given a general outline of the improvement which is required, in my opinion, in the police department of the city by the wants and interests of the citizens, but it would demand more time to complete a plan than I could devote to the subject, and abilities far beyond my pretensions, to give it practical effect. A system of police might have all the characteristics herein contained, and fail to produce the necessary reform; but I believe the suggestions here made susceptible of detail that would constitute a system under which, with good and efficient officers and men, ruffianism would, to a very great extent, be subdued; evil-doers driven to places less dangerous for them to operate; temptation to crime removed from the rising generation; and the lives and property of our citizens secured. But the attempt should not be made to effect these changes suddenly or simultaneously; they must be produced carefully and gradually, but with a view to the ultimate object; the system should be put in operation not only without commotion, but imperceptibly, except by its results; it must be free from stool-pigeoning, and the use of secret service money, and must in all things fully accord with the institutions of our country.

I am not prepared to state what would be "the probable increase of expense, if any, attendant upon such improvement," as I have not ascertained the cost of the present system, or completed a list of officers and men, with their amount of pay, for the plan in contemplation; but as the annual cost of each watch post in the city is $912 50—two men at $1 25 per night, and as many of the present city and ward officers would be necessary if the change should be made, I think the required improvement would be accomplished without any increase of expense, and that after the construction of the necessary buildings, the reform system would be less expensive than the present.

A work-house, to which persons should be committed who are not fit subjects for the alms-house, and yet ought not to be committed to the penitentiary, may be classed with the improvements required, but the consideration of the subject must be omitted for the present.

A strict compliance with the resolution of your honorable Board would require that the little time I can appropriate to the subject should be employed in replying to the express terms of the resolution, but permission is requested to state that, in my opinion, the mingling of civil and criminal cases in the same courts, as has been recommended, would not be a salutary measure, for one or the other branches of business, and probably both, would be improperly disposed of. Nor would it be an improvement to increase the powers of the special justices so as to authorize them to issue search warrants, "on proof by affidavit that there is good reason to believe that offenders, or witnesses or legal evidences of crime are concealed in any building or place mentioned in the affidavit." The exercises of this power, without a precedent, would be too high-handed for this country and these times; and would not, with all its abuses, be tolerated. The jurisdiction of the police tribunal "has been successively, by various acts, extended to embrace a great variety of subjects, and by the act of January 23, 1833, powers are conferred upon it not possessed, we believe, by any similar tribunal in our country. [Note, p. 617, laws relative to the city of New-York.]

I do not pretend to have advanced any new ideas, although the subject is not exhausted, nor have I been confined to any plan as a model, but having been called on to express my opinion, I have done so without restraint, probably too freely on some points, and they are very respectfully submitted.

ROBERT TAYLOR.

New-York, Jan. 30, 1843.

New-York Legislature.

SATURDAY, Jan. 28.

The SENATE did not sit.

In ASSEMBLY a great number of petitions were presented for and against the repeal of the Exemption Law and for other purposes. Mr. WILLIS HALL presented memorials from masters of vessels trading between West Troy and Virginia for relief against the Virginia inspection law. He moved its reference to a Select Committee but it was sent to the Judiciary Committee by a vote of 57 to 38.

Mr. DALY presented a report of Ransom Cook, the agent appointed to visit the mining districts with a view to collect information concerning the labor of convicts there. The House decided to print ten times the usual number. Mr. Hall laid on the table a concurrent resolution authorizing the Attorney General at the expense of the State to conduct suits, on the complaint of any aggrieved citizen, to test the constitutionality of the Virginia inspection law. The Governor's Message was then debated until the adjournment.

LOWER POLICE OFFICE STATISTICS.—We have been favored by Mr. Osborne, one of the clerks, with the following statement of business transacted at the Lower Police Office, viz:—Number of complaints taken at the Lower Police Office for one year, from the 1st of January, 1842, to the 1st of January, 1843, 9,516. This does not include the complaints against persons for intoxication and disorderly conduct, who were discharged without being fined or held to bail. Number committed to the City Prison, during the same time, 9,530. Sentenced to the Penitentiary and House of Refuge, by the Justices of the same Police, 1,936. Number of recognizances taken, 2,482. Number of complaints for felony, sent to the Grand Jury, 465. Sentenced to the State Prison, from the Court of Sessions, 142; of which number 126 were from this Lower Office, and 22 from the Upper Office, in the Bowery.

FIRE AND LOSS OF LIFE.—We learn that the house of Luther Campbell, about half a mile South of the village of Rush, was consumed by fire on the morning of Wednesday, the 25th inst., about 2 o'clock. The fire was not discovered until the house was wrapt in flames, and the inmates had barely time to escape with their night clothes.—Mr. C. in attempting to rescue a child was considerably burned about the face and hands. His son, 15 years old, also went in about the same time, to get some furniture, as it is supposed, but was unable to make his way out, and became a sacrifice in the effort. His body was found in the corner of the cellar the next morning. Aside from the melancholy death of his son, Mr. C.'s loss is about $1200. [Roch. Dem. 27th.

☞ William W. Warner was killed near Montrose, Pa. on the 24th, by the falling of the limb of a tree in the woods where he was at work.

The Rival Dry Docks.

As we have, since our description of Gilbert's Balance Dry Dock, given an account of the Sectional Dock, showing the advantages claimed for it over the other, we now, by desire of the friends of the Balance Dock, set forth the points of superiority which they assert it has over the Sectional. They allege that the Sectional Dock is most apt to meet the approval of the superficial observer by reason of its superior *size* and *finish*; but that the Sectional Dock we have described, is the *fifth* of the kind, and cost $80,000, while Gilbert's, the first of that description ever constructed, cost less than $20,000. These facts should be considered in a comparison of the two plans by the Docks now in operation.

The advantages claimed for the Balance over the Sectional Dock are these:

1. *Accessibility.*—The Sectional Dock now in use, which will support a ship of 1,000 tons, is fourteen feet in depth. It is estimated that a Dock sufficiently large and strong to take up a ship of the line would be thirty feet in depth. A ship of the line, with her armanent on board, draws about twenty-six feet of water, and as the tanks have to be sunk below the keel, it is plain that, allowing a safe surplus of depth, sixty feet of water would be necessary to dock a vessel of that size, with her armament and stores on board. A Balance Dock large enough to take in a ship of the line would draw only eight feet of water, and, with a vessel of that size in it, five feet additional in the whole thirteen feet, just half of what the vessel itself would draw when afloat. To dock a ship of the line by it would require a depth of less than forty feet; and if the water at the station was not so deep, the Dock could be towed into the stream, the vessel taken in, and towed to any spot where there was a depth of fifteen feet. The use of Gilbert's Dock in the stream has been tried, with complete success.

2. *Safety of the Vessel docked.*—The Balance Dock being one firm and substantial body, floats in its element, an inflexible mass, simply rising and falling with the tide. It is stoutly affirmed that the influence of a swell of the water must cause the several tanks of a sectional dock to rise and fall in succession, subjecting the vessel to a series of strains in different parts. In the Balance Dock, if the bottom of the vessel be *hogged* or strained out of its perfect shape, it can be ascertained and extra support given to the weak part; but in a Sectional Dock, the part sprung up will have to bear the greatest strain. The upward tendency of the tanks will press them snugly against the keel of the vessel; and if that has been bent in, the tank at the weak spot, will lose its perpendicular position in order to fit the keel, the consequence will be to throw the greater force of its buoyancy on its highest side, thereby causing a strain on the weak part of the ship's bottom.

3. *Durability and Repairs.*—The outside structure of the Balance Dock being solid and of a massive thickness, will, especially if placed in a galvanized iron tank as proposed, prove to be of great durability. As only the inside structure of a Balance Dock can possible get out of order, it can easily be repaired, without any necessity of lifting the dock out of the water. This can be said of no other floating dock.

4. *Size.*—The width of a Balance Dock, of the capacity required by the Government, will be only 35 feet, that of a Section Dock 140 feet. The Balance Dock can be made large enough to take in as many vessels as may be desired; not only one behind the other to the extent of its length, which is all that is claimed for any other dock, but also side by side.

5. *Convenience for workmen.* The Balance Dock presents the vessel in Dock on a continuous floor, rendering every part of her easily accessible to the workmen. When we visited the Balance Dock, it was after 4 o'clock on a cloudy afternoon, and yet there was no lack of light, in our judgement. Mr. Gilbert's proposal for a Naval Dry Dock contemplates large port-holes in the sides, which would obviate any objection that the most captious can urge to his Dock with reference to light and air.

GREAT CONFLAGRATION.—The Directors of the Farmers Bank, at Amherst, one of the best in New Hampshire, having been compelled by the destructive policy of the State Government to close up their business have committed to the flames over $30,000 in good bank bills.

☞ Mrs. Eliza Morrison, residing in Brooklyn, was so severely burned by her clothes taking fire from coming in contact with a stove on Saturday last, that she died on Sunday. A Coroner's jury rendered a verdict of death from accidental burning.

☞ The Pensacola Gazette states that the U. S. steam frigate Missouri has received orders to sail for the North.

Court Calendar This Day.

CIRCUIT COURT.—Nos. 31, 94, 96, 97, 98, 80, 39, 51, 91, 105, 106, 37, 48, 63, 33, 50, 14, 89, 40, 59, 95, 27, 85, 66, 69.

COMMON PLEAS.—Nos. 45, 1, 3, 9, 10, 14, 26, 43, 49, 33, 109.

☞ This is the last week of Tom Thumb at the American Museum, and no mistake. See the General now if ever. The grand spectacles of Napoleon crossing the Alps and the Burning of Moscow, went off last night with splendid effect, as does every thing at this establishment.

☞ Peale's Museum opens to-night with a variety of entertainments exceeding in gorgeous magnificence any thing ever seen in this country, and worthy of that establishment in its palmiest days. The Norwood Gypsey woman is consulted in a private apartment, face to face, during the whole day and evening.

☞ JOHN C. CALHOUN, in 1816, was an ardent supporter of the first avowedly Protective Tariff ever offered this nation. On the 12th of March, Mr. Lowndes of South Carolina made a report strongly recommending a Tariff of Protection. This measure was violently opposed by the New-England members, (and since abandoned) on the mistaken ground that it injured their commerce. By the aid John C. Calhoun, Mr. Clay was enabled to pass this first Protective Tariff bill, which being followed by those of 1824 and 1828, firmly established the manufacture of many useful articles in America, giving constant employment to millions of her citizens; wonderful inventions and great improvements have followed as a consequence, and among them, the one likely to be longest remembered by a truly grateful people, is the Magic Razor Strop made by L. Chapman, 162 William-st., an article of acknowledged superiority, with which every person may keep his razor in order wherever he may be, either at sea or on land.

☞ THE SCRIPTURE SAYS "BE NOT DECEIVED," and so say we. Care should be taken by the invalid that he does not take mere catch-penny trash for obstinate diseases. We offer Dr. Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry to the public as the best medicine ever known to man for the cure of Asthma, Colds, Coughs, Croup, Consumption in all its first stages, inflammation of the Lungs, Liver Complaint, &c., and we *will prove* it to be so.

☞ Ask A. Williams, Esq. Counsellor at Law, No. 58 William-street, whom it cured of Asthma of twenty-four years standing, and that too after our best physicians could do him no good. He says "one bottle has effected a radical and perfect cure." Let those who doubt call at his office, for we wish all to satisfy themselves.

☞ Ask John Brown, builder, No. 61 Ann-street, whom the Balsam cured of an inveterate cough and pain in the chest. One bottle cured him also. Let the public refer to the different individuals whom we name and they will admit there is no remedy like the Wild Cherry Balsam. It is "Nature's own prescription"—the handmaid of health. Certificates in the hand-writing of the certifiers may be seen at the office. $1 00 per bottle. Sold only by Isaac Butts, 125 Fulton-street, corner Nassau; Mrs. Hayes, Brooklyn; Badger, Newark; Dexter, Albany.

☞ **Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine.**—Price $2 a year—18¾ cents single.—The January number of this old and most celebrated of the Foreign Magazines, received by the steamer Caledonia, has been republished in a

DOUBLE EXTRA NEW WORLD,

at 18¾ cents per copy, and is for sale at the office, 30 Ann-street, and by all the Agents throughout the country.

To subscribers by mail, $2 a year; three copies for $5; five copies for $8, or ten copies for $15. To Agents, $12 a hundred. j30 3t (2) J. WINCHESTER, Publisher,

BY THIS MORNING'S MAIL.

From our Special Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29, 1843.

It is pretty well understood by this time that Mr. CALHOUN's division of the "democracy" has but little reason to hope for further favor from the Administration. So long as Mr. Calhoun could be safely used by the President as a convenience for showing his resentment towards the Van Buren division, he was always spoken of and treated as the favored one on whose shoulders the mantle with the President's aid might descend. But that delusion is now about to end. Mr. Calhoun is no longer the favorite, but is to be looked upon hereafter as a rival, and treated accordingly, and his place as stool-pigeon is to be occupied by whoever can be pitched upon as likely to do the same good service of dividing the Whig party that has been already performed by means of Mr. Calhoun with the "Democracy."

Who will be selected to fill this honorable and desirable position, it may not be easy now to say with certainty, but some appearances seem to indicate Judge McLean of Ohio, as the very heifer who is to be harnessed to the Captain's plough. For some time past certain individuals have been striving to create an idea of the vast popularity of this gentleman in Ohio, and at the same time to create the belief that Mr. CLAY's strength in that State is but mere weakness when compared with his. All this is very cunning, and very safe too, and the only difficulty about it will be, that it *won't work* among men who use their eyes. It is *safe* for the President, inasmuch as Judge McLean can never grow into a dangerous rival, as Mr. Calhoun has become—and it *must be* cunning and profound, because Mr. Webster had a hand in its contrivance.

You have observed the vote of Friday upon the Report of the Committee of Ways and Means against the "Exchequer plan."

That vote, however, is not to be taken as an expression by the House against doing any thing upon that subject at this session. When either of the several currency measures—Barnard's, Everett's, Tallmadge's, &c., come up you will find a very large Whig vote in favor of whichever seems least objectionable, though I have never believed that either would be passed. Were even a moderate number of the Locos to vote favorably upon either of those measures there would be votes enough to carry it. There is, however, no probability of such a result. The Locos will have nothing but a full blooded sub-treasury, and they count with confidence upon having it sooner or later.

There is something said in the papers, and there is some talk here, of an Extra Session, to be called soon after the termination of this Congress. There seem to be some reasons against the probability of such an event, and none that I can discover in its favor, except that some benefit would accrue to a portion of the inhabitants of this city, and to some of the members themselves. It happens that a large number of the States have not yet elected members to the next Congress, and moreover were Congress to assemble, it would be be very difficult to determine what benefit the Government would derive from that fact. The President's Exchequer certainly would find no favor, though it may be that a Sub-Treasury bill would be signed. As to the matter of supplies, they will be as fully provided by the present Congress as the means of the country may warrant. The present Congress has always taken good care in that particular. The talk of an Extra Session may be looked upon as idle.

Yesterday Senators WRIGHT and BENTON came into the Supreme Court, and after requesting the lawyer who happened to be speaking to give way, made a statement to the Court in regard to some cases which had, as it was understood, been brought there from Missouri or Kentucky, growing out of the Bankrupt Law, and in which one of them desired to be permitted to appear in behalf of some New-York merchants who were interested, though they were not parties, and no appearance had been entered in their behalf. The precise circumstances were not understood, but it appears that Mr. Benton feels quite as much interest in procuring a decision against the constitutionality of the law as he did in opposing its passage in the Senate, and as he does in pushing its repeal. The case or cases were deferred, at their request, to a late period of the term.

I observe that Chief Justice Taney has resumed his seat on the Bench.

It is supposed just now that Mr. Calhoun's friends in Congress will be successful in procuring a postponement of the Convention to a late day, as they have long desired. They say that Mr. Van Buren is losing ground by every day's delay. But let them beware. Yours, MANHATTAN.

Indiana U. S. Senator—No Election yet.

Correspondence of The Tribune.

BALTIMORE, Tuesday, 8 A. M.

I have the Indianapolis papers of the 24th inst. No election of U. S. Senator was had on the 23d, as was expected. The House not having agreed to the terms of the resolution to go into the election, the Senate refused, by a vote of 22 to 22, to hold no election on the 23d.

Subsequently, and after a long session, running to late in the evening, the Senate agreed with the House, 32 Ayes to 15 Nays, to go into the election on the 24th, (Tuesday last.) If the mail comes through to-morrow, I shall send you the result.

Things of Philadelphia.

Correspondence of The New York Tribune.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 30—P. M.

Not a single dollar's worth of stock of any description was disposed of today at the Board of Brokers. There was a slim attendance, and "the scarcity of money" was the doleful cry among the members of the Board during its session.

It has been stated to me, upon undoubted authority, that David R. Porter, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, has mortgaged the whole of his real and personal property, the record of which is to be seen recorded in the clerk's office of Dauphin County, in order to secure the sureties of his son, Wm. A. Porter, High Sheriff of Philadelphia County. This looks ominous and there may be squalls ahead.

An old man named James Hart, committed suicide a few days since by thrusting his head in a cask of rain-water.—A day or two previous to his death he was seen to exhibit over $2000 in specie.

Our retail markets are pretty well supplied with the usual amount of country produce. Second-street, on Tuesday and Friday afternoons, presents one of the most pleasing sights that the eye of man can behold. Our 'up country' Dutch girls, with their eggs, poultry, butter, sourkraut, &c., look the very picture of health and happiness. Butter sells at from 17 to 20 cents per pound; eggs 17 cents per dozen; chickens 37½ to 50 cents per pair; ducks 37½ to 50 cents per pair; sourkrout 6¼ cents per quart, &c. &c.

An elderly man, named Ezekiel Coal, committed suicide this afternoon, about half past 3 o'clock, at the residence of a relative in Christian-street, Moyamensing. Cause—"hard times."

David Paul Brown, Esq., made a most eloquent speech this morning, in the libel case of Col. Alexander against the publishers of the Ledger, in the Court of Sessions, which riveted the attention of a crowded auditory. He spoke just three hours. To-morrow, the Attorney General replies, after which the case goes to the jury.

Capt. Gwinn, a member of the General Court Martial, left this morning for New-York, on business connected with the proceedings. BRUTUS.

SUPREME COURT....SATURDAY, January 28, 1843.

No. 9. Strout et al, &c. vs. Foster et al., claimants and owners of the ship Louisville. On appeal from the Circuit Court of the United States for East Louisiana. Decree of the Circuit Court affirmed with costs.

No. 25. Lloyd, pl. in error, vs. Hough. Mr. Semmes for pl.; Mr. Taylor for def.

Bankrupts—Jan. 30.

Charles Cooper, inspector	New-York.
Herman Cortez Lincoln, merchant tailor	do
Creditor of S. Cain, (compulsory) merchant	do
Edwin R. Tremain, merchant	do

City Intelligence.

MONDAY, January 30, 1843.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.—The President in the Chair. The Minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

PETITIONS PRESENTED AND REFERRED.—Petition of Thomas Munday, for leave to remove the remains of John Clark, of Dr. D. E. Stearns, for compensation for medical services rendered at the 4th District Watch-house; of Jas. Maguire, for remission of fine; of P. S. Magennis, for lease of lot corner of Centre and Chamber-streets; of officers of the Fourth District Watch, for increase of posts; of farmers of Long Island, respecting horse manure, asking a appointment of inspectors, &c.; of Hose Co. No. 3, for addition to their building; of licensed butchers in Washington Market, asking redress of grievances; of J. Q. Aymar and others, to fill lot between 30th and 34th streets and 7th and 8th avenues; of James O. Smith, for compensation for medical services in 3d District Watch-house; of sundry persons, to be relieved from tax; of James McGuire, for remission of fine and imprisonment for a violation of a city ordinance; remonstrance of sundry persons in the 17th Ward, against the appointment of a day Police officer.

A message was received from his Honor the Mayor, enclosing the Annual Reports of the Bowery and Seamen's Savings