nished bibliographical library. A thousand volumes have been added to it during the past year, and its whole number is now above two thousand.

A summary of a few words will exhibit the exact present condition of that part of the affairs of the Library which is placed under my more immediate superintendence. The collection of books to constitute the Library, in its original formation, is now about half made, and the unexpended portion of the fund set apart by the will of the founder for this distinct purpose will probably increase its number of volumes so as to give it a hundred thousand when completed. In what remains to be done, a great service would be rendered to the Library if gentlemen conversant with books would send in lists of such as they desire to see added to it. In another way much may be done for its benefit. We want the public documents and state papers both of Congress and the individual States, and may we not hope that they will be furnished gratuitously by legislative acts. Our American library is already very respectable in point of numbers in the early histories and original authorities. The more recent works of every kind would be very acceptable to it.

Before closing this report, I beg to be permitted to say a word in relation to the library edifice. On examining it since my return from Europe, I find that although it may easily be completed in time to receive the books by the 1st of May, as was intended, the walls cannot be dry enough to make it safe to place them there. They will require the drying of a whole summer before the building can be occupied as a library.

A list of donations to the Library is subjoined. It will be seen that the number is increasing, but still far less, I presume, than may reasonably be expected when the library edifice shall be opened, and the influence of a fine array of books be felt upon the community. Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH G. COGSWELL,
Superintendent of the Astor Library.

New-York, Jan. 29, 1852.

CITY ITEMS.

THE WAY SOME PEOPLE EAT—AND HOW OTHERS PAY.—Late in January our Loco-Foco Reform Common Council unblushingly restored the Tea Room swindle, and in order to keep the people in ignorance of the riotous extravagance which they had resolved to indulge in, they ordered the Controller to pay the bills of the Keeper of the City Hall without the usual form of presentation to the Board of Aldermen or to the Supervisors. This was done in order to conceal the items of luxury the price of which they had resolved to steal from the public purse. Notwithstanding this precaution, we have obtained from the Keeper's bill the following schedule of articles purchased and used by the great Reform Loco-Foco Council during the last evening on which they were in session in January. Every item is sworn to by the Keeper, and he also swears that the City Fathers used up the whole supply. Read the items:

JANUARY, 1852.

2134 lbs. Beef, 1s. 3d	$ 46 80
41 Pair Chickens, 4s	20 50
6 Turkeys	8 00
Oysters for month	167 07
65 lbs. Venison, 1s. 3d	9 75
93 lbs. Ham, 1s.	11 65
50 lbs. Sausages, 1s.	6 25
36 Pair Quails	6 00
6 Pair Partridges	4 38
4 Pair Ducks	3 25
Vegetables	16 00
146 Loaves Bread	18 25
9 lbs. Tea	7 16
Cake for month	16 49
50 lbs. Coffee, 1s. 6d and Cond	9 00
30 lbs. Lard	2 50
Sugar	9 49
176 Eggs at 4 for a shilling	5 50
Fish for month	8 87
Milk for month	19 00
Jelly	3 40
2,250 Cigars at $32 ⅌ 1,000	72 00
1,750 Cigars at $30 ⅌ 1,000	52 50
Catsup	3 00
Sundries	2 88
1 Dozen pint bottles Porter	2 00
2 Bottles Mustard and 2 of Oil	2 00
95 lbs. Butter	22 18
7 Gallons Brandy at $3	21 00
Help for month, tea room and kitchen	53 50
Total	$581 27

The subscriber being duly sworn, doth depose and say, that the articles stated above, were paid for by said deponent, and that said articles were purchased for and were consumed by the members of the Common Council and others, by their authority. JAMES TAYLOR.

Sworn before me this 12th day of Feb., 1852.
W. M. TWEED, Alderman Seventh Ward.

It will be recollected that the Council held only the eight sessions for which they receive pay, adjourning the very minute that their treasury drafts were stopped, and the average length of each session was something less than two hours. The law to restore the tea table, it will be recollected, was passed on the very *last night* of the January sitting; and consequently the entire bill above printed must have been incurred on that night—nothing could have been used before that period, since such an act would have been unlawful, and the present remarkably conscientious Common Council never would do anything unlawful. Under the law, then, we are bound to believe that the Aldermen and Assistants ate but *one* supper at the public expense in January. Let us see what constitutes a supper for an Alderman. There are forty members in all. We divide the bill of fare by 40, and find that each Alderman ate or carried off the following:

Eight lbs. beef; a chicken and a half; one-seventh of a turkey; 225 oysters; 1¼ lbs. venison; 2½ lbs. ham; 1¼ lbs. sausages; 1 quail and a leg of another; one third of a partridge; a fifth of a duck; 40 cents worth of vegetables; 3½ loaves bread; nearly a quarter of a pound of tea; 40 cents worth of cake; 1½ lbs. coffee; ¼ lb. lard; 24 cents worth of sugar; 4½ eggs; 22 cents worth of fish; 50 cents worth of milk; 8½ cents worth of jelly; one hundred segars; 10 cents worth of catsup; 7 cents worth of sundries; a glass of porter; 5 cents worth of mustard and oil; 2½ lbs. of butter, and a pint and a-half of brandy, besides a dollar and a quarter per man for waiters.

A pretty liberal feed, we should say, even for an Alderman. Let us see the aggregate cost:

1852, Jan. 21. THE PEOPLE,	Dr.
To my services 1 hour as Alderman	$4 00
To cash paid for my supper	14 53
Total	$18 53
Received payment, O. GOBBLE.	

We shall keep an eye on this matter, and the people shall know, whether the Aldermen like it or not, what little "extras" they are called upon to pay over and above $4 per day to their representatives. Perhaps we may show up the "items" of the county contingencies charged by these same Aldermen as Excise Commissioners, Coroners, Judges, Special Magistrates, Superintendents of Night Scavengers, &c. &c. We have not fairly begun yet.

—Since the Common Council placed upon the shoulders of the Street Commissioner the work of keeping the gutters clear of ice, there has been very general and just complaint of ice-covered side-walks and flooded basements. The idea of sending out men to excavate more than eight hundred miles of gutters every time a cold night and a snow storm have filled them, is a fit specimen of tearoom wisdom. The only motive in doing so was to have the chance of saying to four or five hundred laborers just before election—"We are the party that gave you work last winter, and here's the regular Dimmycratic ticket, boys." The people may not be unwilling to pay for having gutters cleaned, but the idea of having it done by the Street Department is all nonsense. The very moment the ground is covered with snow, the men expected to be so anxious to work for the city, turn up their noses at the ten shillings, and tell the Inspector that they can make three times that sum by cleaning side-walks on private account. So no work is done; the gutters are full of ice, the people are growling, and the Common Council is sipping brandy and cramming their pockets with cigars.

—We have the authority of the organ of the Rumocracy for stating that the Charles S. Francis vice-presidented at the Anti-Temperance meeting meant Alderman Charles Francis of the Tenth Ward. So we supposed at the time, but the name was Charles S. Alderman F. was only paying off old scores, having been elected by the undivided support of the 217 groggeries in his Ward, of which 101 are stigmatized by the Chief of Police as of that peculiar class of "nurseries of Democracy" which keeps open on Sunday in spite of law, gospel, or decency. But why did the Alderman keep in the background? We are almost certain that he was not on the stage where a Vice-President is supposed to be.

—The Superintendent of the Industrial Temperance Home, L. M. Pease, at the Five Points, acknowledges the receipt of one hundred and thirty-five dollars from the "Rag Tag Society" of New-York. Also, of several parcels of valuable clothing from the same source. In this connection he thinks proper to state, for the information of those who are unacquainted with the work in this vicinity, that there are three distinct moral enterprises in progress for the reformation and elevation of this neighborhood. First—The Ladies' Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. This Society sustains a Missionary (Rev. Mr. Luckey) who conducts religious worship on the Sabbath, and a Sabbath School where the children receive religious instructions, and are provided with clothing sufficient to enable them to appear decently in the congregation. The second instrumentality is a Day School which has been in operation a year and a half and has averaged one hundred scholars; the expense of the school has been mostly met by members of the Protestant Episcopal Church, through the agency of a Presbyterian gentleman; the children have been almost entirely clothed, by donations from the same sources and from other benevolent friends. The Incustrial Temperance Home, which furnishes rooms for the school, and a chapel for the mission, is a place of shelter for those homeless ones who wish to reform their lives and maintain themselves by honest industry. Men and women who have no means or friends, and those who have deprived themselves of both by yielding to the appetite for strong drink, are here employed—brought under moral and religious influences—shielded from temptation, and provided with situations when proper ones can be obtained; its average number for fifteen months has been sixty five, and since its commencement in August, 1850, over 600 persons of the class above described have found a home for a longer or shorter time, within its walls, as it is the opinion of those who conduct this enterprise that the best charity is to help people to help themselves. The Institution is sustained, as far as possible, by the labor of its inmates; but as many of those are unaccustomed to productive industry and require a long period of instruction, it is found to be impossible, with the present low prices, to make their work defray the whole expense of the establishment. Its operations are at present embarrassed for want of means; so much so that its discontinuance has been a subject of consideration. But those who best know its workings and know that its existence alone keeps the neighborhood free from its former occupants, and gives encouragement to honest and virtuous inhabitants, resolve that it shall not be given up. As it is founded on Bible principles, and is free from all sectarian bias, we confidently appeal, on its behalf, to all who love their fellow men. It is thought proper to further state that though the Ladies' Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church are gratuitously accommodated with the chapel of the Institution, and its inmates constitute the greater part of their congregation, it is in no other way connected with that Society; and the purchase of the "Old Brewery," as contemplated by them, is for denominational purposes, and in no respect for the furtherance of this enterprise. Donations to the Home or Day School may be sent to L. M. Pease, No 2 Little Water-st, where he will be happy to receive the calls of those interested in the reformation of the Five Points.

—Mr. James Narine presented to the New-York Typographical Society, on Saturday evening last, a newspaper entitled *The New-York Gazette; or, The Weekly Post-Boy*, dated May 12, 1755, being the 641st number. Also other ancient works, as follows: An Almanack for the year of our Lord 1754. Job Shepherd was the author, and it was printed at Newport, R. I. "Poor Job, 1754," appears as the head-line on the cover.—An Astronomical Diary, or Almanack for the year of our Lord Christ 1767. By Nathaniel Ames. Printed at Boston.—The Gentlemen and Ladies' Town and Country Magazine, for April, 1789. It was printed at Boston, by Nathaniel Coverly. It contains 56 pages of miscellaneous reading.—The New-England Almanack; or, Lady's and Gentlemen's Diary, for the year of our Lord Christ 1780. By Benjamin West, A. M. Printed at Providence, R. I.—*The Newport Herald*, Saturday, March 5, 1791. Vol. 5, No. 210. Published by Peter Edes, at Providence, R. I. This newspaper is of four columns, and was published weekly. It is filled with Congressional proceedings, and correspondence from Charleston, Baltimore, Albany, Middletown, Boston, &c. The fourth page contains advertisements.—These interesting works, together with some others more than one hundred years old, recently presented by Mr. Geo. Bruce, can be examined by the public, free of charge at the Printers' Free Library and Reading Room, No. 300 Broadway, every evening, from 6 to 10.

—James McKeen, Esq., whose death was announced on the 1st inst., was a lineal descendant of the fourth generation from the patriarchal James McKeen, who was one of the principal founders of the original settlement of Londonderry, N. H., in the year 1719. Mr. McKeen was born in Londonderry in the year 1776, and came to the City of New-York in 1805, and has been a resident of the City of New-York nearly 47 years. He came into the profession of law after he was 30 years of age, and has never been eminently distinguished in the profession, but for a long series of years he sustained the reputation of a safe and honest counsellor. During the first 20 years of his *practice* he accumulated a competency, but in the years '35 and '36 he went into the real estate speculation, and lost in the end what he had made by a long course of persevering industry.

—A meeting was called at Mackay's factory in Fiftieth-st. on Monday night, to take into consideration the necessity of an immediate extension of the Thirty-fourth-st. South Ferry line of stages to Fiftieth-st. or thereabouts, for the further and necessary accommodation of the people in that vicinity.—They desire to secure such increased facilities and accommodations, without encumbering the avenue or the lower streets of the City with an additional number of new stages or new lines, thus increasing the great inconveniences already felt in the lower parts of the City. Perhaps they will succeed in inducing the stage owners to go up that distance, but five miles for sixpence is a long ride.

—Columbian Engine Co. No. 14, one of our A No. 1 arrangements, will make a visit to Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington and Mount Vernon in May, leaving here on the 2d of that month, under the direction of their efficient foreman, Henry B. Venn. We understand that they will parade in Philadelphia and other cities. Wherever they go they will be cordially received as among the best representatives of the New-York Fire Department.

—There were 388 deaths in the City last week; men, 81; women, 71; boys, 133; girls, 103. Apoplexy, 18; consumption, 44; convulsions, 32; croup, 11; debility, 13; dropsy in the head, 23; scarlet fever, 13; typhus fever, 21; inflammation of brain, 11; inflammation of bowels, 11; inflammation of lungs, 32; small pox, 16. Under 1, 105; 1 to 2, 52; 2 to 5, 43; under 10, 227.

—Another candidate for the Presidency (in embryo) was offered hospitality by the City on Monday night as follows, by Ald. Barr:

Whereas, Hon. Howell Cobb, now Governor of Georgia, for his eminent and patriotic services in the Congress of the United States, his dignified, able and impartial bearing as Speaker of the House of Representatives, and his prominent and important agency in securing the adoption of the late Compromise measures, has acquired a national reputation as one of the most eloquent and able statesmen of the country, and is entitled to the grateful attention and respect of the citizens of this metropolis; and whereas, as this distinguished gentleman is at present in this City; therefore be it

Resolved, (if the Board of Assistants concur,) That a Joint Committee of three from each Board be appointed to wait on him and to tender him the use of the Governor's Room in the City Hall for the purpose of meeting the citizens of New-York.

The Committee appointed were Ald. Barr, Startevant and Haley.

—On Sunday night a disturbance occurred in Third-av., near Forty-fifth-st., and resulted in a man named Wm. Kilter being shot in the shoulder, and in all probability fatally wounded. It appears that about 11 o'clock on that night one Jacob Roten observed three men in the act of stealing boards from the fence of his employer, a varnish maker, and requested them to leave. They refused, and used insulting language to him, whereupon he declared he would shoot them if they did not go off. Kilter, who was one of the men, then drew a knife and threatened to use it on Roten, who answered by putting several slugs into his shoulder. The wounded man was taken into a house near by, and medical aid was procured. In the morning the Coroner was made acquainted with the occurrence, and ordered the arrest of Roten, who was taken to the bedside of Kilter, and identified by him as the man who shot him. The two persons who were with him at the time he was shot, however, were unable to recognize him as the man who fired the gun.—The friends of Roten propose to prove an alibi, and state that they have positive evidence to show that he was in bed at the time Kilter was shot. If such should prove to be the case, he will be set at liberty and search will be made for the real perpetrator of the deed. Last evening the Coroner, accompanied by the District Attorney, proceeded to the residence of Kilter for the purpose of taking his deposition, as it is feared he will not recover. The affair will be investigated fully.

—At a late hour on Sunday night, Coroner Ives held an inquest on the body of the unknown female who was found on Sunday afternoon, in the premises No. 87½ King-st. She was ascertained to be a German woman, named Charlotte Wheimeir, 20 years of age, who was a vestmaker, and had a room in King-st. She had not been seen or heard of for 11 days previous to her body being discovered. A ladder was procured by the Eighth Ward Police, who ascended to the window of her room and found her dead in bed. The room door was then broken open, and a paper labeled arsenic was lying on the table. The name of Dr. Knapp, No. 562 Hudson-st., was written on the table. The deceased was formerly a servant in the employ of Mr. Bernard Luber, No. 144½ Canal-st., with whom she had lived for 22 months. No reason is assigned for the commission of the act. The Jury rendered a verdict of death by suicide.

—Wm. Dinan, who, on Sunday last, was adjudged guilty by the Coroner's Jury in causing the death of James McCarty, by striking him on the head with a club on the evening of the 8th of September last, yesterday surrendered himself to the Coroner, and was admitted to bail in the sum of $1,000, to await trial. It is alleged by the friends of Dinan, that the deceased was not confined to the house in consequence of the injuries he received at the hands of Dinan, but was shortly after engaged in his usual avocation, and further that the attending physician gave a certificate for burial, to the effect that he died of scarlet fever. This statement conflicts with that sworn to by the wife of the deceased, when giving evidence before the Coroner's Jury. She there stated that her husband never left the house after receiving the injuries, and up to the time of his decease he was in a deranged state of mind.

—About 2 o'clock on Monday morning a fire broke out in the fourth story of the brick building, No. 32 Dey-st., occupied as a manufactory for envelops. The firemen were early on the ground, but, despite their efforts, the flames spread with great rapidity, and destroyed the fourth and fifth stories. The contents of the second story, occupied by Knobue & Shoening, importers of dry goods, and the contents of the first story, by John W. Corlies, India-rubber goods, were damaged by water to the amount of several thousand dollars. The police were promptly on the ground, and rendered material aid to the firemen.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS—*Monday.*—A bill of L. Hoffman, $70.50, as Crier of Superior Court in 1848. Referred.

Resolutions—That the Counsel to the Corporation report as to the legality of charges made by Police Justices in holding inquests, &c.; also as to the payment of physicians holding post mortem examinations. Adopted.

That the Committee report whether there are not more Assistants in County Clerk's office than necessary, and if the compensation cannot with propriety be reduced. Adopted.

That the Committee on Annual Taxes inquire if there has been any error in the apportionment of the State School tax for the present year, and in the amount paid by the City Controller, &c. Adopted.

SALES OF REAL ESTATE.—The following sales were made by Cole & Chilton on Monday, March 8.

1 lot south-west corner of 1st-av. and 5th-st., 25.4 by 100	$600
1 do. adjoining on 1st-av.	430
2 do. do. $405 each	810
2 do. south-east corner 67th st. and Avenue A, with water privilege	2,800
1 do. on 33d st between 6th and 7th-avs, with 2 frame houses thereon	3,500
1 do. on 3d-av. between 90th and 91st sts. with 2 houses thereon	2,400

SUPREME COURT.—Special Term.—*Peter W. Longley* against *Mary A. Longley*.—Divorce granted.

MARINE COURT.—Before Judge Cowles.—*John Brown and others* against *S. Fitch*.—By the owner of the sloop Joseph Hammond, against the owners of the steamboat Santa Claus, for damages, caused by the steamboat in steaming into Rondout Creek, where the sloop was fastened to the wharf, at an unusual rate of speed, causing a swell, and the fasts of the sloop to break, &c. The suit was principally to test the right of the steamboat so to enter the Creek. The Court thought the sloop entitled to recover, and gave judgment for $15, the amount of injury assessed.

Before Judge Lynch.

Louis Bazele agt. *N. Pinkham and S. C. Williams*, master and mate of the bark Thales.—Suit for assault and battery by one of the crew.—The man was struck by the mate, in presence of the captain, several blows on the top of the head, and left senseless. The captain did not interfere. The Court held that where a captain witnesses an occurrence of the kind and does not interfere, he renders himself liable. Under the whole of the circumstances the Court thought it a case of great cruelty. Judgment for plaintiff—$250 against the captain, and $20 against the mate, and costs.

By Telegraph to the New-York Tribune.

Nomination of New-York Harbor-Masters.

Special Dispatch to The New-York Tribune.

ALBANY, Tuesday, March 9, 1852.

The Governor has to-day nominated all the old Harbor-Masters for reappointment, with one exception. That is PORTER G. SHERMAN in the place of JOHN HYER.

Later from Havana, by the Falcon at New-Orleans—Appointment of a new Captain-General.

NEW-ORLEANS, Monday, March 8, 1852.

The steamship Falcon arrived here to-day from Havana, bringing dates to the 5th inst. inclusive.

She reports that the Conde Mirladores has been appointed Captain-General of Cuba in the place of General Concha.

The Defeat of Caravajal, &c.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, March 9, 1852.

The Washington Intelligencer has a private dispatch confirming the defeat of Caravajal in his attack upon Camargo. He had only 522 men, 84 of whom were Mexicans, and the balance "Filibustiers." Most of them escaped to the American side of the river.

The Intelligencer also learns that the reports of difficulties beetween the American and French Governments are entirely unfounded.

Steamers at New-Orleans.

NEW-ORLEANS, Monday, March 8, 1852.

The steamship Falcon is reported below. The Crescent City has not come up yet, being detained by a dense fog.

THE LATE ETHAN ALLEN BROWN, OF INDIANA.—Our Indiana exchanges furnish us with sketches of the life of Ex-Gov. Brown, of Ohio Co., who died at Indianapolis on the 24th inst., while in attendance at the Opposition State Convention of which he was one of the Vice-Presidents.

"Gov. Brown was in 1818 elected Governor of Ohio, over the late Gen. Harrison, by a large majority, which office he held for two years. He had also held the offices of Judge of the Supreme Court of Ohio, Senator in Congress, Commissioner of the General Land Office, Minister to Brazil, and, we believe, other stations in the gift of the people and Government. In 1805 Gov. Brown purchased the farm near Rising Sun, on which he resided at the period of his death. Soon after purchasing this property, Gov. B. planted an orchard and made other improvements on it, but circumstances rendered it necessary for him to return to Ohio. After a long public service in Ohio, he returned to his early home, there to end his days.

"In the year 1842, he was elected as one of the Representatives of Dearborn County in the Indiana Legislature, and we believe acted as President of the 'Democratic' State Convention in the same year. In 1844 he was appointed one of the delegates to the Democratic National Convention, and, believing that he represented the wishes of the democracy of Indiana in so doing, he voted for Mr. Van Buren till the last hope of his receiving the nomination was abandoned. He was again placed by the late Democratic State Convention, only a few hours before he breathed his last, at the head of the list of delegates from Indiana to the Baltimore Convention. We believe his personal predilections were for Gen. Cass.

List of Patents

Issued from the United States Patent Office for the week ending March 2, 1852.

[Carefully Prepared for the N. Y. Tribune.]

Stephen Albro, of Buffalo, N. Y., for Improvements in Life Preservers. Dated March 2, 1852.

William Barnhill, of Pittsburgh, Pa., for Improved Arrangement of Steamboiler. Dated March 2, 1852.

Henry J. Bulkley, of Kalamazoo, Mich., for Improvement in Grain Dryers. Dated March 2, 1852.

F. O. Deschamps, of Philadelphia, Pa., for Improvement in Omnibus Registers. Dated March 2, 1852.

George O. Donnell, of New-London, N. Y., for Improvement in Chairs. Dated March 2, 1852.

Orson Moulton, of Blackstone, Mass., for Improvement in Cast Iron Car Wheels. Dated March 2, 1852.

William Henson, of Newark, N. J., for Improvements in Knitting Looms. Dated March 2, 1852.

Lewis Lewis, of Vicksburgh, Miss., for Improvements in Cotton Presses. Dated March 2, 1852.

Conrad Liebrich, of Philadelphia, Pa., for Improvements in the Plates of Trunk Locks. Dated March 2, 1852.

Benjamin Maillefert, of New-York, for Improvement in Blasting Rocks Under Water. Dated March 2, 1852.

Hiram W. Moore, of Bridgeport, Conn., for Improvements in Cast Iron Car Wheels. Dated March 2, 1852.

Simeon Savage, of Lowell, Mass., for Improvement in Machines for Printing Floor Cloths. Dated March 2, 1852.

Theodore Sharp, of Albany, N. Y., for Improvement in Endless Chair Horse Powers. Dated March 2, 1852.

Samuel L. Speissegger, of Savannah, Ga., for Improvement in Brick Machines. Dated March 2, 1852.

Benjamin F. Lee, of New-York, N. Y., for Improvement in Bridging Navigable Streams. Dated March 2, 1852.

Gerard Stickels, of Brooklyn, N. Y., for Improvement in Friction Clutches. Dated March 2, 1852.

Harris H. Tinker, of New-London, Conn., for Improved Encircling Suspender for Garments. Dated March 2, 1852. Ante-dated Dec. 3, 1851.

Isaac Van Bunschoten, of New-York, N. Y., for Improvement in Camphene Lamps. Dated March 2, 1852.

John R. St John, of New-York, N. Y., assignor to the St John's Compass and Log Company, for Improvement in Compasses for Determining Variation from Local Causes. Dated March 2, 1852. Patented in England, Dec. 27, 1851.

Mail Gleanings, &c.

☞ *The Salem Register* records another fluid-lamp explosion. The lamp was nearly full of fluid, and the top was screwed on tight, with apparently no aperture for the flame to communicate with the fluid. The lamp was of very thick glass. The top was blown off, the fluid scattered in all directions, and the room fired in several places. The person who held the lamp fortunately escaped.

☞ A mechanic of Cincinnati has built a fire engine to which he attaches steam. The machine was tested a few days ago, and although not in perfect order, steam was raised and water thrown with great rapidity in nine minutes. Five minutes is all the time claimed as essential by the patentee. The experiment was exceedingly satisfactory.

☞ *The Panama Echo* of the 13th contains the following paragraph: "Senor Louis Durand, of this city, late resident on Santa Anna Plaza, outside the city walls, died last night, aged 90 years. He had a family of over one hundred children. They are actually his own children, of the first generation." The old Mormon!

☞ *The Lowell American* says that at a recent examination of a young law student, preparatory to his admission to the bar, Judge Merrick asked the applicant if he had read the new Code. "Yes." "Do you understand it?" "No." The Judge said he was very glad to hear it, for if he had said he understood it, he should not have admitted him.

☞ The steamboat Magnolia, during the late season, made twenty-four weekly trips between New-Orleans and Vicksburg, commencing on the 9th of last September, during which time she brought 67,274 bales of cotton to New-Orleans, without the slightest accident or detention.

☞ Dr. Isaac Thompson, who was celebrated ten or twenty years ago as the proprietor of "Thompson's Eye Water," and also made a fortune in that business, died in New-London last week. He was a native of Stratford, and is said to have been a very good man.

☞ A correspondent of *The Taunton Daily Gazette*, in writing from Seekonk, Mass., says that a live panther has been repeatedly seen in the town, during the last four or five weeks. It is supposed that the animal must have made his escape from some menagerie.

☞ Miss Kimberly, the actress, is following the example of Mrs. Fanny Kemble, in reading the *Midsummer Night's Dream*, with the accompanying music of Mendelsshon. The musical reading took place in Boston on Saturday at the Concert of the Germanians, and was very successful.

☞ The Committee appointed in Roxbury and Charlestown, Mass., to investigate the several school-houses with reference to the safety of their construction in cases of sudden alarm, have severally reported that the means of egress from all the school-houses in each city are safe and sufficient.

☞ Mr. Rives's census contract for 1840 cost the people $132,000. He cleared $100,000 exactly! Enough to erect a splendid building and neatly fit it up. The lowest bid for the present census job is $900,000! The highest $1,300,000!!

☞ The American Colonization Society will send out on the 1st of May, a ship from Baltimore or Norfolk, with emigrants to Liberia. Quite a number are making arrangements to go in her.

☞ A correspondent at Cape Ann, Mass., says that the harbor is completely closed by drift ice, which has become one solid body, extending more than a mile into the bay. This has not occurred before for twenty years.

☞ A large whale, with her "calf," was seen in Sandwich Bay last week, but before the whalemen could get near enough to harpoon her, she concluded to go down where they did not seem inclined to follow.

☞ *The Pontiac Jacksonian* nominates John H. Harmon, the new Mayor of Detroit, for Governor, and Robert McClelland (the present Governor) for United States Senator, vice Alpheus Felch.

☞ It was *The Galena* (Ill.) *Advertiser* which had expressed a preference for Edward Bates for President, and Robert C. Winthrop for Vice-President, and not *The Milwaukee Sentinel*, which advocates the nomination of Scott and Jones.

☞ The New-England papers are still discussing the melancholy case of the young woman of Salem, killed by the explosion of burning fluid.

☞ It is calculated, says *The Boston Mail*, that over 3,000 persons have left Boston and vicinity during the last two years for California and hundreds are now waiting for a voyage to E Dorado.

☞ Mr. Cyrus Wilson, conductor of the freight train on the Boston and Providence Railroad, had one of his legs very badly jammed between the cars while uncoupling them at the dépôt in Boston.

☞ Commodore Downes, now in command of the Charlestown Navy Yard, has been appointed to the Bureau of Navy Yards and Docks, at Washington.

☞ In the Lunatic Asylum at Worcester there are no less than six women who have become insane on account of the departure of their husbands to California.

☞ The value of the real estate of the city of Cleveland has been doubled since 1847. Such has been the effect of the railroads radiating from that city.

☞ The U. S. District Court for Texas has adjourned. A number of indictments have been found for violation of the Neutrality Laws, but the trials were postponed.

☞ A Gold Medal has been awarded by the Government of Wirtemberg to Prof. Morse, as an acknowledgment of the merits of his system of telegraphing.

☞ *The Woodstock* (Va.) *Tenth Legion* says that Mr. Lorenzo Sibert, of that place, has invented a machine that will turn out from 50,000 to 100,000 bricks per day.

☞ A freight car, loaded with cotton waste, took fire from a spark from the engine, on the Taunton Branch Railroad, on Saturday, and was entirely destroyed.

☞ A few days since a fishing schooner arrived at Gloucester from George's Banks, after an absence of only two weeks from home, with a full freight of halibut, the value of which is over $900.

☞ The town of Springfield (Mass.) has taken a vote by an overwhelming majority to apply for a city charter.

☞ The meteorological tables of Georgetown College, D. C., indicate a lower temperature during the present winter than any year since 1840.

☞ It is rumored that E. P. Whipple, Esq., "the American Macaulay," as a friend foolishly called him, is writing a five-act comedy for Mrs. Mowatt.

☞ Mr. Glidden has unswathed a female mummy in New-Orleans, which did not prove to be a man, as was the case in Boston, some eighteen months since.

☞ *The Norfolk Herald* states that there is not a bookbindery in that commercial city of 19,000 inhabitants.

☞ Ten thousand dollars have been found in the Dead-letter Office at Washington, during the present quarter.

☞ A service of plate, appropriately inscribed, has been presented to Marshal Tukey, by the Police department of Boston.

☞ Parodi has been singing with success at the South. Catherine Hayes is also most favorably noticed.

☞ *The Albany Knickerbocker* urges the formation in that city of a "Young Men's Whig Council of Two Hundred."

☞ The Carpenters of Albany have organized for the protection of their interests.

☞ *The St. Louis Republican* says: It is computed that about 1,500 persons, mostly clerks and merchants, will leave that city this season for California.

☞ Col. Thomas Hossack was burned to death in his own house at Coolspring, Pa., on the 4th inst. A son of Col. H. saved his life by jumping from a third-story window.

NORTH CAROLINA.—District Conventions for the election of Delegates to the Whig National Convention come off on the 17th of May.

OHIO.—Edward Wade declines the "Free Democratic" nomination for Supreme Judge.

COMMERCIAL.

In relation to the Albany and Susquehannah Railroad, *The Albany Atlas* says:

The people of the villages and towns on the line of the proposed road are alive with interest in it.—They have come forward in the most cordial spirit, and the right of way on the whole line, from Binghamton to the borders of Albany County, has been given at a low rate of price, and in all cases stock has been taken in pay. No Railroad in the State has had so many facilities offered it along the line, and when completed with a double track, it is believed the transportation of coal alone will pay.—The road will make Albany the great Coal Dépôt for northern New-York and New-England and the price at which it can be afforded here, (less than $3 per ton,) will give a new impulse to our manufactories.

On Monday and Wednesday of last week, meetings were held at Laurens, New-Lisbon and Hartwick, which, although off the line of the road route, gave $50,000. On Thursday, a meeting was held at the Court House, Cooperstown, Wm. H. Averill, Esq., presiding. The meeting was earnestly and eloquently addressed by Gen. Pruyn of Albany, one of the Directors, Judge Lawyer, of Schoharie, J. A. McFarland, Esq., of Washington County, and S. M. Shaw, Esq., editor of *The Freeman's Journal*.

On Friday, the same gentleman addressed a meeting at Morris, and $15,000 was subscribed in a few minutes, to be raised to $25,000.

The National Intelligencer contains the following, in a long letter from its London correspondent, under date of February 12:

"The export of Corn is not only forbid in Russia, but a *maximum* price is fixed, above which it must not be sold at home. In all the Polish towns the price of Rye has been fixed by best of drum. Whoever demands a higher price is liable to have his Corn confiscated."

The following correspondence between Messrs. Peabody and the Bank of England, is on a subject of considerable interest to the shippers of gold from this country to Great Britain:

No. 6 WARNFORD-COURT, Thursday, Feb. 19, 1852.

SIR: We have received and sent to your institution, subject to our further orders, a parcel of gold bullion, melted from $250,000, American eagles, and by next steamer expect another large shipment. By your circular of the 4th instant it appears that you decline to receive it unless we bear the expense of its refining for coinage, or it be made intrinsically fit for coinage without refining.

We respectfully submit that the position which you thus take is not tenable. The 4th clause of the 7th and 8th Victoria, chapter 32, runs thus:

"*And be it enacted*, That, from and after the thirty first day of August, one-thousand eight hundred and forty four, all persons shall be entitled to demand, from the issue department of the Bank of England, Bank of England notes in exchange for gold bullion, at the rate of three pounds seventeen shillings and nimepence per ounce of standard gold: Provided always, that the said Governor and Company shall in all cases be entitled to require such gold bullion to be melted and assayed by persons approved by the said Governor and Company, at the expense of the parties tendering such gold bullion."

The precise degree of fineness called "standard" is a made degree, not a natural one, for in a majority of cases the bullion which arrives in this country is not of a fineness throughout equal to "standard," and at the time of framing the act it was not believed that such could be found in quantity. It could not be intended that you were only to be bound to receive what is intrinsically and throughout standard, for the Legislature must then be supposed to mean that the Bank was only to receive what was then believed could not be found in quantity. But, on the contrary, the act compels the Bank to issue notes against gold melted standard," which has hitherto been rightly arrived at by the outer world, from the assumption "only." This alone could be contemplated by Parliament, for they knew of no other means of arriving at it. The act says, in express terms, that the Bank shall require the holder to melt and assay, at his own expense, but does not authorize the Bank to require him to refine it for coinage at his own expense. The omission in the act of the obligation to refine it for coinage at the expense of the seller is conclusive that it was not intended he should bear it.

Whether the expense of refining for coinage should be borne by your institution or the mint is a question which we submit cannot be entertained, as between the bank and the seller, to them of bullion.

The determination of this point is of great importance to the commercial world, and we take the liberty of bringing it before you. We shall feel obliged by an early decision, and have the honor to be, &c.

GEORGE PEABODY & CO.

To the Governor of the Bank of England, &c.

BANK OF ENGLAND, Feb. 21, 1852.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th inst. in which you insist that the Bank are bound to purchase of you a parcel of American gold, not of standard fineness, at a price calculated after the rate of £3 17s. 9d. ⅌ oz. for gold of standard fineness, and in support of your demand you refer to the act 7th and 8th Victoria, chap. 32, sec. 4.

In reply I beg to state that the Bank are advised that the true construction of that act is, that the Bank should purchase gold bullion of standard fineness at the rate of £3 17s. 9d. ⅌ oz. of such gold, and the Bank cannot hold themselves under obligation to purchase gold of any other fineness.

In reference to your further observations, I must add that you are mistaken in the intent you ascribe to the Legislature in the act referred to. Prior to the passing of that act the Bank had established the practice of buying bullion at the rate of £3 17s. 9d ⅌ oz. of standard gold, the difference of 1½ ⅌ oz. between this and the mint price being the equivalent for the benefit to the purchaser of receiving his money without the loss of interest during the process of coinage at the Mint. This practice and the subsequent law had reference to bullion of the standard used at the Mint.

The Bank have not at any time considered themselves bound to buy any other than standard gold, but so long as the Mint received gold of various assys, the Bank, for public convenience, conformed in their practice. Now that the Mint refuses to receive any gold not of standard fineness, the Bank are compelled to require the sellers of gold to bear the expense of bringing their bullion to that fineness. I am Sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS HANKEY, Jr., Governor.

George Peabody, Esq.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Passengers Sailed

In steamship Empire City for Chagres—H. Hawley and lady, Mr. Janes and lady, M. Hall, Mrs. Waterman, D. B. Conklin, J. M. Freeman, W. McMasty, J. H. Johnson, L. Duck, lady and child, Mr. Russell, Berford & Co's. messenger, J. C. Maynard, M. F. Sainben, Mr. Pinto and lady, J. M. Pinto and lady, J. M. Huntington, W. H. Thezil, S. B. Goodman, Rev. J. Butts, J. P. Flint, H. Fay, S. A. Chapin, R. S. King, J. C. Morrison, J. B. Tallman, B. W. Sterling, J. Morley, Jr., C. Lorney, E. B. Mistleck, S. Cowles, S. P. Webb, T. Ganett, J. W. Rainey, E. G. Nimns, J. O. Watkins, J. V. A. Lansing, J. F. Winese, J. Brewster, M. Vedder, J. Spear, R. H. Ewins, G. Alger, E. B. Dunham, J. May, D. Luther, E. Baraum, G. Landon, J. Adams, C. Pike, W. Pike, W. David, B. Tompson, C. Peasley, A. Johnson, L. Johnson, R. Denton, M. McCormick, W. Switzer, W. F. Stein, S. S. Wade, J. Shoemaker, B. F. Pease, J. J. Jacobstem, C. Brutes, A. Driesbach, J. McFarland, G. Lippett, A. Dodge, J. McQuade, J. Wrigley, J. Walsh, G. Morey, A. Morris, E. Bruce, H. F. Waison, O. H. Smith, G. W. Jane, H