than that which enables some two or three privileged "impersonations of the high-born aristocrat" to seize on eighteen free Americans and hold them in bondage, from which what may be called a chance delivered them, we should like to have it adduced. The allusion to the marriage relations of the parties, which we have italicized above, is peculiarly fragrant.

We next add these extracts from the southern press: the following from a letter in a northern journal, *The Vermont Caledonian*, giving a description of a slave auction in Columbia, South Carolina:

"Being acquainted with men and women auctioneers only from reading, I determined, however painful it might be to the feelings or revolting to the moral sense, to be a witness at this one. Accordingly, about fifteen minutes before the appointed hour, I left my hotel, and while yet within some distance of the Court House, I already heard the loud, deep voice of the slave-auctioneer, as he appraised his chattels, and kept them out—'Six hundred and fifty—no more than six hundred and fifty for this likely negro fellow—fifty-six—six hundred and sixty,' &c. This was early on Monday morning. Scarcely had the echoes of the high anthem that peeled from the Episcopal organ loft and choir, a few hours before, yet died away. Hardly had the swell of the sweet tune that rose from Dr. Palmer's Presbyterian Church yet murmured to the stars. And the unartistic, but loud and clear psalm about that ascended from the throats of a thousand Baptist negroes the preceding Sabbath eve had as yet hardly had time (if time it takes) to mingle with the triumphal and eternal chorus of the harps of heaven. Having so lately heard all these, with what harsh and grating discord did the horrid voice of the Man-seller shake the heavens and strike upon my ear.

"Is it, O, man, with such discordant notes,
With such accursed instruments as these,
Thou drownest Nature's sweet and kindly voices
And jarrest the celestial harmonies?"

Of the auctioneer himself, I shall say nothing. As has been said of a kindred horror, so would I say of him, 'Forever undescribed let it remain.' The sale took place on the steps of the Court of Justice (ironically so called.) Of the seventy-five or one hundred persons that composed the bidders and on lookers, such a collection is seldom seen this side of Erebus. There were groups of the petty merchants of the town, hard, close fisted, money loving, mean-looking men. There were a number of the poor Clay-eaters, from the Sand Hills, who were easily distinguishable by their cadaverous, ashen-white and half-human appearance. There were the gross, vulgar and lecherous youths of the town. There were semi-nobled bog-trotters, whose brogue (anything but 'Irish') and countenance told the delight with which they saw the 'niggers' get what they deserved. There were two or three shrewd Jew speculators, with a broken foreign accent, who seemed to have more *mamish* to bid on *the image of God at auction* than they could afford to expend upon the poor synagogue they have here. And (must I tell it? or shall I go backward and hide the shame?) there was a professed minister of God, with the badge of his order round his throat, and who, but a sum previous, had offered salvation and Heaven to all. Bidding was tolerably swift, and competition keen. The first negro offered was a very dark middle-aged man, of, I should judge, about forty years of age, whose care worn, broken down and dispirited countenance and deeply-wrinkled brow, intimated that the toil and trouble of at least twice forty years had been compressed into his brief existence. He went off at a pretty fair price. By-and-by another was put on the block—went off still better. A middle-aged woman then mounted for her turn. She had a vacant, careless stupid look—and as the auctioneer praised up her high qualities a chaotic grin would now and then flit across her countenance. He declaimed about her, and continued repeating her praises, as 'This splendid seamstress and cutter, Lucretia.' She is a splendid seamstress and cutter, as a sewer and cutter I am told Lucretia has no equal—besides being valuable as a housekeeper, &c. (Think of that, ye poor but *free* sewing girls! and you, also, ye hard-working but noble and free maidens of Lowell!) She was knocked down to a man who I learned is going to keep a tavern. The next that came upon the steps was the last to be sold. She was a young woman, who (her owners and the auctioneer said) was just 18 years of age; she was of a dark olive color—not near so swarthy as the others had been. She had a very fine forehead, pleasing countenance and mild, lustrous eyes. The auctioneer took off her hood, to show her countenance, and, when she replaced it, again took it off, and, in appraising her, by word and action appealed to the lowest and basest passions of the assembled crowd. She clasped to her bosom a light-colored, blue-eyed, curly, silken-haired child, only ten weeks old, and who, young as it was, seemed to cast a terrified look on auctioneer and bidders.

"The next is the girl Adeline. Gentlemen, did you ever see such a face, and head, and form as that? (taking off her hood.) She is only 18 years old, and already has a child—a male child ten weeks old—will consequently make a valuable piece of property for some one. She is a splendid housekeeper and seamstress."

"The big tear stood glittering in the poor girl's eye—and, at every licentious allusion, she cast a look of pity and of woe at the auctioneer, and at the crowd—which was responded to, only by a loud, unfeeling, and brutal laugh. She was knocked down to—I know not who, for my eyes were too dim to discern. She descended from the Court-House steps, looked at her new master, looked at the audience, looked fondly into her sweet child's face, pressed it warmly to her bosom—with the auctioneer's hard-hearted remark ringing in her ear, that '*that* child wouldn't trouble her purchaser long.' I made my way to my temporary home, overpowered with a chaos of horrors. And when I entered the hall of the house, the merry glee and loud laugh of the female inmates at their own trifling wit and silly jokes, too plainly announced to me the fact that the dark eyed and ebony daughters of the golden-rivered land of the plantain find but few on earth who will shed for their sorrows a sisterly tear. Surely, the sweet and blessed Virgins of the heavenly land will descend at times to comfort their woful hearts—while God himself will 'gather their tears in his bottle.' EGO ERRATOS.

"*P. S.*—I, soon after, picked up Longfellow's Poems, and read:

"There is a poor, blind Samson in this land,
Shorn of his strength, and bound in bonds of steel,
Who may, in some grim revel, raise his hand
And shake the pillars of this Commonweal."

"Do you blame me if at that moment I did *not* say 'God forbid it!'"

—This is the system of things which is to be extended over Kansas and Nebraska, and for whose perpetuation we are to acquire, either by purchase or robbery, Cuba, Hayti, and Central America.

THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL.

BURTON'S THEATER.—"The Reverend George Crely's elegant comedy, in five acts, of *Pride and Prejudice*," (as the playbill hath it,) was given last night before a large audience. This comedy made a sensation in London when it was first produced, being deemed a right line successor of the classic school. The plot has some, and not a few, affinities with *Claude Melnotte*, written subsequently to it, and as the work is on the shelf of every theatrical student, we need not rehearse the incidents. Mr. Burton made the most of the parvenue old Count, and kept marvelously well within the line of quiet acting. Mrs. Hughes, as the "Countess Vertoso," acted admirably. "Torrento," in the hands of Mr. Jordan, found a lively impersonation. The other characters—the hussars, &c.—were fairly set forth, Mr. Fisher doing very well. During the performance there was much applause—Mr. Burton carrying the palm in that way. The spirit of the piece was occasionally dashed, especially toward the close, by some imperfections in taking up the cues, which are more or less unavoidable from the customarily hasty way of rehearsing pieces. The denouement is hardly in keeping—the "Pride" has a fall in one sense: the Count and Countess are deprived of rank and fortune, but their two daughters are magnificently provided for—one marrying the son of a viceroy, and the other the wealthy son of a deceased banker; so, the depths of the fall in question did not appear evident. The fault committed by the pair was—first, in not informing of the real heir to the estate and title they possessed themselves of; and next, in scorning a hussar as a suitor for their daughter, as not being good enough. Falling, however, upon such soft cushions as an alliance with the best blood and wealth of all Scily, did not strike the audience as a tremendous change for the worse. The piece will be repeated to-night.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

PHILADELPHIA, Monday, Jan. 8, 1855.

The clipper bark Ocean Eagle, twenty-three days from Gibraltar and forty-one from Palermo, arrived here to-day. Spoke, Dec. 18, bark James Bryant, of Beverly, Massachusetts, from New-Orleans for Genoa, fifty days out.

THE LATEST NEWS,

RECEIVED BY

MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

FROM WASHINGTON.

(Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.)

WASHINGTON, Monday, Jan. 8, 1855.

At the parade of the Old Soldiers, to-day, the appearance of Thurlow Weed, with a cockade in his hat, created a great degree of interest. He served in the War of 1812 as Quartermaster's-Sergeant, and to-day he met with the very Quartermaster, after a separation of twenty-five years.

Gen. Leslie Coombs, of Kentucky, and Col. Harvey Baldwin, of Syracuse, both veterans of the war, made eloquent and affecting speeches.

Congress will reassemble to-morrow, and it is expected that they will go to work in earnest.

Much dissatisfaction exists among printers, in consequence of a new arrangement that has been made between the Printers to both Houses of Congress, by which the greater part of the composition is done but once, while Congress pays for it twice. A large number of compositors are thrown out of employment, and talk of memorializing Congress on the subject.

In the Supreme Court, on Saturday, in the case of C. H. McCormick's application for an injunction to restrain J. Manning & Co. from manufacturing reaping machines, Justice McLean refused to order the injunction asked for, and granted the formal application made by the defendants—they giving security for damages—for a final hearing at the Illinois Circuit Court in June next.

CONVENTION OF OLD SOLDIERS.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Jan. 8, 1855.

The Convention of the Soldiers and Indians engaged in the War of 1812 met at the Presbyterian Church, on Four and one-half st., at 11 o'clock this morning, and organized by the choice of Joel B. Sutherland, of Philadelphia, as President.

Prayer was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Sunderland, of this city, and brilliant speeches were made by Peter Wilson, Sachem of the Cayugas, and others. A very large procession, preceded by the Navy Yard band, and all the military of Washington, is now (1 o'clock) moving toward the Presidential mansion. The old Veterans appear quite rejuvenated. The weather is fine, and Pennsylvania avenue is filled with people, the windows being all occupied by ladies.

SECOND DISPATCH.

The Old Soldier' procession reached the White House about 2 o'clock P. M., and part of it entered the east room. Most of the Cabinet were present. Mr. Sutherland, the President of the Convention addressed the President of the United States, in substance as follows: I feel delighted to present such a vast body, all of whom were in the War of 1812. We have called because you, also, are a soldier of the revolutionary stock. You had two brothers in the same war. The day and cause prompt us to pay our respects to you. About forty years ago Packenham, with nine thousand men, came to our shores; his men well-disciplined and armed. Our forces four thousand, ill-provided, drove them back, with a loss of seven hundred killed and one thousand wounded, and with a loss to us of only seven killed and six wounded. Contrast this with the Allies before Sevastopol. It proves that it is not to military skill and discipline, but to men with rifles on their shoulders. The man who fought that battle knew you, and you know him well; all the country venerate him. The day should be commemorated henceforth for ever. Resolving this last year, we met in Independence Hall, Philadelphia. This year we gave forty days' notice in a single paper, and the result is before you.

The President, in reply, substantially spoke as follows:

I tender you my sincere thanks for the presentation of so many veterans of the War of 1812, and for the kind allusions to my family. No one could witness the noble countenances of these men without supposing them to be veterans of the War. I rejoice that you are here, and in company with the red men who have rendered our country service, and are entitled to our thanks. My earliest reading and associations are in reference to the War of 1812. When news of that War arrived, I was always at the country Post-Office, for the latest tidings—interested because of the members of my own family, and the soldiers from my neighborhood engaged, and of the immense importance of a favorable result to my country. As I consider it the duty of every body to make sacrifices for his country, I can only express the affectionate regard I have felt for the detachments which occasionally called at my father's on the way to northern frontiers—some of them never to return. It is a peculiar gratification to meet here so large a remnant of that War. How many camp and field incidents must have been revived by the meeting, and how many reminiscences have attended your reassembling. All these memories you will cherish. From different parts of the country, you come with one heart. You will recollect, it is the fundamental principle of our country that to our entire soldiers—not large standing armies—the interests of our country are committed. All our institutions promise peace; if that is disturbed, the patriotism which you exhibited forty years ago will give vigor to our arms and courage to your sons. You come actuated with a common purpose—love of your country and institutions, the Constitution of which must be maintained at all hazards. It is cheering to recollect that they who have fought our battles have never been the men to disseminate political heresies, to revile the Government, to deride our institutions, to sow political dissensions, or to set at defiance the laws of the land. Allow me to indorse a sentiment of one now before me—Gen. Cass—once a private in your ranks, now a statesman and sage to whom we look up when dark clouds hang over the political horizon—we should cling to the Constitution as the mariner clings to the last plank when waves threaten to engulf him. I heartily wish you everything your country can consistently give you, and I know you will ask no more. You are here in the consciousness of duties well performed, for which you now receive the approbation of your countrymen, compared with which leagues of land or anything known in trade are trifles. Your children have your acts as their legacies which they will prize more than any bequest which could be made. I know my heart beats more warmly on this day than on any other in the year, the Fourth of July excepted. You are welcome to this house, of which you are proprietors, and I but the tenant. May God, who has so signally blessed our country, preserve and protect those who have rendered such valuable aid. Six cheers were then given for the President, and there suggested by a banner for Free Trade and Sailors Rights. The representative of the Six Nations, Samuel George, War Chief of the Onondagas, through an interpreter then said: I have taken our Great Father by the hand and am happy. The President thinks those who have served this country should be remunerated. The pale faces have superceded our people, but I pray that the Great Spirit may prosper this country. The Six Nations desire that the people of the United States may be prosperous and happy. You are so numerous that we can't take each one by the hand, but we can say, we fought side by side with your fathers, and now live with you, and pray for your prosperity.

The vast concourse then took leave, exchanging congratulations with the President while passing out, the soldiers dispersing to their homes for dinner.

The meeting reassembled at 5 P. M. The Presbyterian Church was crowded; the lower floor exclusively filled by veterans.

Gen. Leslie Coombs, of Kentucky, offered a preamble declaring that, forty years from the battle of New-Orleans, and in the city named after the father of his country, it was a fitting time and place for the surviving soldiers to meet and take counsel. In lieu that forty years after the revolution a grateful Congress, when the Treasury was empty, and heavy war-debts hanging over them, passed a general Pension Law for the benefit of the surviving officers and soldiers of the revolution. Is it, then, asking too much to demand similar justice for the survivors of the war of 1812, and the widows and children of the deceased? when the public Treasury was overflowing with gold and comparatively no debts to pay; or that fair portions of the public domain, which we fought and bled for, should be allotted to us.

Resolved, That the Committee memorialize Congress to make each officer, soldier, sailor and Marine, who served, however so short a time, during the war of 1812, a gift of at least one hundred and fifty acres of land to the lowest grade, to extend to the widows and children of those who are since deceased.

Resolved, That similar provisions be made to those who were stationed in foreign nations during any part of the war; and also to prisoners in Tripoli, and to the widows and children of the deceased.

Resolved, That while we deplore the untimely deaths of brethren in arms, we pledge ourselves to aid and protect their widows and orphans.

Resolved, That Congress ought to extend the same pension system to the soldiers of 1812, their widows and children, that they did to those of the Revolution.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention are tendered to those members of both Houses who have had the nerve to move in this matter.

Resolved, That invalid pensions should commence from the time when wounds were received or disabilities incurred.

Resolved, That our grateful acknowledgements are tendered to Senator Brodhead and other Senators and Representatives who have cooperated with him in endeavoring to obtain justice for us; and also to the patriotic editors who have espoused our cause.

Resolved, That it is important to have in each State a complete organization of the soldiers of the war of 1812.

Resolved, That in view of the great benefits and results of the war of 1812, we cannot forget the debt of gratitude due to James Madison, who fearlessly recommended it; nor the immortal Clay, who led on the brave men in Congress who voted for it.

Resolved, That Congress, by granting our petitions, will entitle themselves to the grateful prayer of millions of human beings now scattered over our unbounded domain.

Resolved, That the Monument to Washington, in this national Metropolis, should be finished with all connectional speed.

Resolved, That each of the Old States we have not stated in relation to the proposed construction of a monument to the memory of the Declaration of Independence, in Independence square, in Philadelphia, be requested to take steps to carry that object into effect.

Resolved, That a copy of the proceedings be forwarded to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, with the request that they lay them before the respective Houses.

These resolutions were advocated in a brilliant speech by their author, General Coombs, who was followed by Col. Baldwin, formerly Mayor of Syracuse; ex-Secretary of War, Porter, General Houston, George Washington Parke Custis, Col. Judson, of Philadelphia; Gen. Miller and Major Tallaferro, of Pennsylvania; the Rev. John Robb, Major Johnson and Gen. McCalla, of the District of Columbia, Col. John Shaw, of Wisconsin, and the President of the Convention. The resolutions were then accepted by universal acclamation.

General Coombs read a letter from Gen. Winfield Scott, declining to take part in the Convention, on the fact of holding a commission and now receiving pay from the United States, but expressing his warmest wishes for the success of his compatriots-in-arms.

Col. Hamtrack, of Virginia, then moved that the members of the Convention send in their names for a muster roll, to contain their present residences, the post-offices, and the corps in which they served. Passed unanimously.

The meeting was very enthusiastic, and the countences of the veterans indicated that they believed the members of Congress would grant the prayer of their petition during the present session.

At 9 P. M., the Convention adjourned to 10 A. M. to-morrow.

MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE.

BOSTON, Monday, Jan. 8, 1855.

The Legislature to-day elected nine persons to constitute the Executive Council, the same as previously nominated in caucus, and also reelected the Hon. E. M. Wright Secretary of State. The election of the State Treasurer and Receiver-General was postponed until Wednesday.

Two important motions were made in the House to-day: one was to elect a Committee on Federal Relations, and the other to amend the Constitution so as to provide that no person shall have the elective franchise who cannot read and write the English language. These were ordered to lay over under the rules.

MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR OF MAINE.

BOSTON, Monday, Jan. 8, 1855.

Gov. Morrill, in his Message to the Maine Legislature, makes no allusion to Know-Nothing movements. In regard to the Liquor Law, he strongly recommends its stringent enforcement. Considerable space is devoted to the Slavery question, in which he says it is evident that the time has arrived when the question must be met and discussed in our National and State councils, and in primary meetings of the people, with the same freedom with which other grave questions are wont to be considered.

Gov. Morrill condemns the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill, and on its presumed extension of Slavery, says: "What renders this aggressive movement the more alarming, is the evident complicity of the Chief Magistrate of the country, in open disregard and direct violation of a voluntary assurance given to the people, who had elevated him to that high position, that no movement of that character should shock the repose of the country during his official term, if in his power to avert it."

GOV. WRIGHT ON FREE BANKS.

CINCINNATI, Monday, Jan. 8, 1855.

Gov. Wright, of Indiana, in his Message to the Legislature, takes strong ground against the free banks, and says the Legislature will be wanting in duty to an outraged people, if they fail to adopt prompt measures to suppress the unjust and disreputable practices of the banks—the circulation of the free banks having been reduced to the extent of $5,000,000, and of the State banks to $1,000,000, within the year—the contraction chiefly taking place within six months—being more than one-half of the paper circulation of the State.

The entire Know Nothing ticket was elected in Covington, (Ky.) at the Municipal election on Saturday, by a large majority.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF PHILADELPHIA.

PHILADELPHIA, Monday, Jan. 8, 1855.

The injunction asked for in the Supreme Court, against the Commercial Bank of this city, was granted this morning. It restrains the Directors of the Bank from discounting notes except at the regular meetings of the Board, and from charging more than the legal rates of interest for doing so.

THE RAILROAD TROUBLES.

ERIE, Monday, Jan. 8, 1855.

The track of the Lake Shore Railroad was torn up by order of the Commissioners of Highways, and the road-bed plowed over. The mob are now engaged in tearing down the bridge over State-st. Sheriff Vincent endeavored to make arrests, but was driven from the ground by the rioters, both he and Judge Miles being pelted with snow-balls and stones.

DESTRUCTION OF A MILL BY FIRE.

PROVIDENCE, Monday, Jan. 8, 1855.

The old mill belonging to the Peacedale Manufacturing Company, at Peacedale, was destroyed by fire this morning. It was valued at $13,000, and insured for $6,500 in this city, at the Atlantic and Washington Offices. This was the first mill in which power looms were used in this country.

THE SOUTHERN MAIL—LARGE FIRE.

BALTIMORE, Monday, Jan. 8, 1855.

We have received no mail here this evening south of Richmond.

A large fire occurred at Lynchburg, Va., on Saturday, by which fourteen houses were destroyed.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

(Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7, 1855.

The cohesive power of public plunder is not strong enough to unite imbecility and avarice in the support of the various magnificent schemes now before Congress; and hence you may witness much disappointment. The reduction of the tariff headed by Secretary Guthrie, must inevitably fail. The French Spoliation bill is threatened with the Executive veto in advance; while the Patent Extensions, specially recommended in the President's first Message, by the unfortunate exposures of the Letcher Committee, and by a too close combination with Western Railroads and the Collins line, is endangered, if not totally lost. The Collins line stood fair, and was regarded with much favor, but recent disclosures here have materially damaged, if not destroyed, our hopes in being able to defeat the six months notice passing the Senate. It seems that the Administration was propitiated, and brought to favor a continuance of the extra compensation. Mr. Collins came on here, and effected a reconciliation with the President through Col. Forney; and the Postmaster-General was induced to yield his position, and favor a continuance of the extra allowance. Everything was arranged, and looked favorable. Senators Rusk, James and Stuart had it in charge in the Senate, but, as ill-luck would have it, while one of the prominent advocates of the extension was in New-York, and should have been consulted, Mr. Collins foolishly made an arrangement for the support of *The Herald*. To be sure, Bennett needed the "material aid," in order to pay up the Fryjudgment, but then Collins must go further, and present Bennett with a massive service of silver. This has done much mischief, and now it is whispered that Senator Rusk's lady came on from Texas with her husband to Washington by the way of New-York, two years ago, for just such a service of silver from Ball, Black & Co. These presents, however, should not weigh a feather against the mail facilities afforded the commercial world by that noble line of Ocean steamers. If the President receives a coach and horses, Senators' wives and editors may reasonably receive cups and saucers. Collins has done much for the national honor, and has suffered too severely and recently for any trifling presents of these kind to turn public sympathy from him. He deserves the extra compensation, and I trust *The Herald's* advocacy and exposure of his generosity may not operate against his receiving it. R. W.

The Know-Nothings are going to elect a new officer in the United States. He is to be called the Grand Astrologer, and his duties will be to cast the nativities of all candidates for office. [Alb. Atlas.

NEW-YORK LEGISLATURE.

(Specially Reported for The N. Y. Tribune.)

SENATE.... ALBANY, Monday, Jan. 8, 1855.

FOREIGN BANKS.

Mr. PUTNAM reported a bill, the object of which is to prohibit the circulation, in this State, of bills of Banks not chartered by the State of New-York, under the denomination of $5.

Bills were also reported for the incorporation of the Church Erection Fund of the Presbyterian Church of the United States, and respecting the location of Light-Houses in the Hudson River.

RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. SPENCER called up for consideration the concurrent resolution relative to the reduction of duty on foreign coal.

At the request of Mr. BROOKS, the resolution was allowed to lie on the table.

ST. LOUIS CHURCH (CATHOLIC) BUFFALO.

Mr. PUTNAM presented the following petition, which, as he said, in view of its great importance, should be printed. He accordingly made a motion to that effect, which was adopted:

To the Senate and Assembly:

The undersigned, trustees and ex-trustees of the St. Louis Church situate in Buffalo, beg to lay before the Legislature the following statement of facts in the hope that some legislative action may be devised to remedy the evils of which they complain:

In the year 1829, an estimable citizen of Buffalo, the late Louis Le Couteulx, Esq., conveyed two valuable lots on Main and Delaware-sts., in that city, to the then Bishop in New-York, Dubois, in trust for the use of a Catholic Church to be thereafter organized. Subsequently, and about the year 1831, St. Louis Church was duly organized under the act of 1813, under seven trustees, and has continued from that time till the present, self-congregation from time to time electing their trustees according to the requirements of said statute. This organization was effected with the hearty concurrence of the worthy Bishop, and of the liberal donor of the land. A Church was erected by the Congregation, and dedicated by the Bishop, and the Society continued in harmony and prosperous until the death of Bishop Dubois, about 1840, and the death of Mr. Couteulx, in 1842.

Shortly after these events Bishop Hughes attempted to compel the trustees to convey the title of this church property to him. The trustees resisted firmly. With a view to coerce compliance with his demands the Bishop withdrew the priest and suspended the ordinances in St. Louis Church. The trustees declined to yield, and want one of their number, Wm. B. Le Couteulx, Esq., to Europe, for the purpose of preventing this arbitrary act, as was claimed, this threat action of the Bishop, through the intervention of Cardinal Wiseman, the Pope's Nuncio at Paris. Mr. Dubois succeeded in his mission. No further efforts were made at the time by Bishop Hughes to divert the title to the Church, and the trustees vainly hoped that peace was permanently restored. Subsequently the diocese was divided, and those of Albany and Buffalo were erected. Bishop Timon became the head of the latter. He was installed into his holy office in this Church of St. Louis, the title of which then vested in said Trustees. In process of time Bishop Timon renewed the effort to compel the Trustees to surrender to him the title of said Church. They again resisted resolutely. This procured various annoyances to the congregation, among which was the withdrawal of all Priests from that Church. Deprived of all spiritual guides, the congregation were constrained to meet at their church on the Sabbath and make their prayers in common. The case was at length presented to the Holy Father, and the College of Propaganda, at Rome, the result of which was that in 1852, a special Envoy, Father Hecaut, was sent to the United States to correct those abuses. The Prelate, yielding to the unfortunate influences which surrounded, early took sides against us, and our remonstrances were totally disregarded.

High handed measures were then taken against us. For refusing to comply with what we regarded as the illegal and unjust demands of the Bishop, to surrender property thus committed to our charge, as the legally constituted trustees of said church, the Bishop was induced to issue against us a decree of excommunication. During the last three years the church has been under the effect, closed against the admission of her clergymen, and the ordinances and sacraments of the Catholic religion were withheld from the members of that Society.

Such are the unvarnished facts, to which we earnestly solicit your attention. The embarrassments and inconveniences resulting from this action of the Bishop, have been to us painful and oppressive. . . . For no higher offence than simply refusing to violate the Trust Law of our State, we have been subjected to the pains of excommunication, and our names held up to infamy and reproach. For this cause, too, have the entire congregation been placed under ban. To our members the holy writes of baptism and of burial have been denied. The merciful sacrament is refused. The priest is forbidden to minister at our altars. In sickness, and at the hour of death, the holy consolations of religion are withheld. To the Catholic churchman it is scarcely possible to exaggerate the magnitude of such deprivations.

We yield to none in attachment to our religion, and cheerfully render to our Bishop that obedience in spiritual matters, which the just interpretation of our faith may require; but, in respect to its temporalities of our church, we claim the right of obeying the laws of the State whose protection we enjoy.

We would respectfully suggest that we are not unmindful of the fact that the American policy, which has been generally adopted, requiring church property to be vested in Trustees, who shall be elected by the members of their respective congregations, was instituted for the purpose of retaining those extensive ecclesiastical estates in the hands of those whose interests are linked to and identified with the principles and fortunes of our beloved country. And with regret and mortification have we observed that the recent attempts to change these salutary laws respecting the tenure of church property, have excited jealousies and have brought odium and reproach upon the church to which we belong. Could, however, the unprejudiced judgment of reflecting and intelligent Catholics, on this subject, be ascertained, we feel assured that their voice would be decidedly in opposition to the effort of the Bishop to monopolize the temporalities of the church.

Until within the last twelve or fifteen years those temporalities have been held by trustees, according to existing statutes, and during that ensuing period the American Catholic Church was blessed with eminent prosperity and success. While many churches throughout the State have, for the sake of peace, reluctantly submitted to the demands of the Bishops in this respect, a large portion of the several congregations in every locality have regarded this project as alike unjust and impolitic.

We feel confident that, by proper legislation, an end can be put to these controversies and difficulties. We, therefore, ask for the passage of a law enforcing, under sufficient penalties, a ready compliance with existing statutes, respecting the tenure of Church property. To the true Catholic it is painful to be brought in antagonism with his Bishop and spiritual guide. Such a law will prevent this unpleasant condition of things, by so portioning out our community with the right exercise of such a statute, be made to work with greater satisfaction than by intelligent and faithful Catholics.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

(Signed) GEORGE FISHER, MICHAEL HESMER, W. B. LE CONTEULX, GEORGE LONDRACK and Seventeen others.

ALIEN PASSENGERS.

Mr. WHITNEY introduced his bill amending the Passenger Acts of 1849. It provides for the bonding of alien passengers in the sum of $300, and strikes out the commutation clause. The bonds to be used by the Commissioners of Emigration, in case the passengers become chargeable upon the City, to defray the expense of such charge, or for their removal. All who are found to be paupers within one year, or who are known to have been criminals at home, to be sent back. One dollar is to be deposited for every alien passenger with the Health Commissioner, and by him paid daily to the City Chamberlain, to pay any deficiency that may occur in the cost of relieving, maintaining or removing those who become a charge; and the balance of the fund so created, if any, is to be given to the purposes of public instruction. Similar provisions are made for passengers arriving at any of the ports of entry or landings in this State.

EXCAVATIONS IN NEW-YORK.

Mr. SPENCER'S bill relative to excavations in New-York is similar to the one which failed of a passage through the Legislature last winter. It provides that whenever excavations hereafter commenced, for building or other purposes, on any lot or piece of land in the City and County of New-York, shall be intended to be carried to the depth of more than ten feet below the curb, and there shall be any party or other wall, wholly or partly on adjoining land, and standing upon or within a foot of the boundary lines of such lot, the person causing such excavations to be made, if afforded the necessary license to enter on the adjoining land, and not otherwise, shall, from the commencement until the completion of such excavations, at his own expense, "shore up" the adjoining buildings, &c.

THE PANAMA RAILROAD.

Mr. BROOKS introduced the following act amendatory of the Charter of the Panama Railroad Co.:

It shall be lawful for said Company to borrow, in addition to the amount limited by the act of incorporation, such sums of money as may be necessary to complete their road, and to dispose of their bonds for the reimbursement of any amount so borrowed, or which may have been borrowed by them, and to mortgage any part of their corporate property or privileges to secure the payment of said bonds. And they may confer upon the holder of any bond which they may so issue, the right to convert their principal represented thereby into the stock of said Corporation, at any time not exceeding five years from the date of said bond, under such regulations as the Directors may see fit to adopt, whenever any person or persons holding any such bond shall elect to convert the same into stock. For this purpose the Corporation are authorized to increase their capital stock so that the whole shall not exceed $7,000,000.

BEACON LIGHTS IN THE HUDSON RIVER.

Mr. BROOKS handed in a communication from the Attorney-General of the United States, respecting the titles to lands proposed to be ceded by this State to the National Government for light-house purposes. The Attorney-General arrives at the conclusion that the tenants under whom a conveyance to the United States is proposed, hold by possession only, and that, for aught that appears to the contrary, they are subject to be evicted at any time at the suit of the State of New-York; and that, in such a state of facts, it is impossible for him to certify that those deeds will convey a valid title to the United States.

ASSEMBLY.

The Treasurer's Annual Report was received, and Mr. WEED moved the printing of 2,000 copies. Referred.

The Treasurer's report shows that:

Balance in Treasury Oct. 1, 1853, was	$1,240,697 75
Received up to Sept. 30, '54	9,483,825 27
Total	$10,714,521 02
Payments to same time	7,170,395 83
Balance in Treasury Sept. 30, '54	$3,544,126 19
It also appears that since Oct. 1, 1854, there has been received	1,648,311 15
Total	5,192,437 32
Amount of payments since same time	1,724,212 78
Leaving in Treasury on the 31st Dec.	$3,468,224 54

NOTICES AND BILLS.

Mr. RHODES—To establish the limits, and more effectual prevention of fires, in Brooklyn.

Mr. ODELL—To complete the Canvass of Votes in the XXXth Senatorial District at an earlier day than now provided by law.

Mr. STUYVESANT—To amend the New-York Vagrant law, providing for a record of all commitments for vagrancy in New-York City, to be filed with the Clerk of the Court of Sessions of that City.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN—To increase the capital of the New-York Fire Department.

Mr. LEIGH introduced the following:

AN ACT to amend an act entitled "An Act respecting Elections other than for Militia and Town Officers," passed April 5, 1852.

The People of the State of New-York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Mayor and Recorder of the City of New-York, one of the Judges of the Supreme Court, the Judge of the District Court of the Superior Court, and Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, shall, in the City of New-York, constitute the Board of Canvassers instead of the Supervisors, a majority of whom shall be competent to act, and they shall receive no compensation for their service.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the Judges of the respective Courts named in the first section of this act, within one week prior to the time of the meeting of the County Canvassers each year, to designate one of their number to serve as a member of the Board of County Canvassers, and it shall be the duty of the Judges thus designated to attend at the time and place, and serve in the manner now prescribed by law.

SEC. 3. The original statements required to be delivered to the Supervisors by the 6th section of title 4, article 4, of the above act, shall in the City of New-York be delivered to the Mayor, instead of the Supervisors.

SEC. 4. Section 1, of title 5, article 4, of said act shall apply to the Board of County Canvassers in the City of New-York. The Canvasser so dissenting or protesting, shall deliver his dissent or protest, signed with his proper name, to the Clerk of said City and County, who shall file the same in his office.

SEC. 5. All acts or parts of acts conflicting with this act, are repealed.

Mr. RHODES—To amend the Charter of the Firemen of Brooklyn.

Mr. WARD—To erect the County of Canastee.

RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. G. TOMPKINS called up the resolution requesting Representatives in Congress to procure pensions to the surviving soldiers, and widows of soldiers, serving in the Indian War of 1791-92. Adopted.

Mr. MAY moved the printing of 2,000 copies of the Inspector General's Report.

Mr. RHODES moved the following:

Resolved, That the People of the State of New-York, represented in Senate and Assembly, a majority of the members elected to each House concurring, that the following amendment to the first section of article second of the Constitution of the State of New-York be proposed, by striking out the first sentence of said section, comprising the following words: "Every male citizen of the age of 21 years," and inserting as follows in place thereof: "Every male of the age of 21 years, who shall have been born a citizen of the United States of America, or who shall have been a citizen of the United States at the adoption of the Constitution of this State, and who shall have been a resident of the State of New-York for the full term of 2½ years." Laid over under the rule.

Mr. STUYVESANT called up the resolution providing for supplying the members each with a copy of the Revised Statutes.

Mr. JIMMERSON moved to lay the resolution on the table. Carried—38 to 32.

Mr. LEIGH called up the resolution granting the use of the Chamber to the New-York State Temperance Society for the evening of the 17th inst.

Mr. BOYNTON moved the previous question. Ordered, and the resolution was adopted. Ayes, 76; Nays 15.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

The House went into Committee, Mr. HULL in the Chair, and took up the Annual Message of the Governor, but, without taking any action, rose and reported progress.

The SPEAKER announced the following appointments:

Postmaster—Geo. W. Bodell, Orleans.

Assistant-Postmaster—G. F. Parsons, Jefferson.

Assistant-Sergeant-at-Arms—Norman Ottman, Schoharie.

Doorkeeper, Ladies' Gallery—James W. Van Evck, of Montgomery.

Doorkeeper, Gentlemen's Gallery—Oliver E. Wheat, of Otsego.

Janitor—Gilbert B. Thorne, of Rensselaer.

Adjourned to 11 o'clock to-morrow morning.

MARINE AFFAIRS.

ARRIVAL OF THE MISCHIEF.—The clipper-ship Mischief arrived at this port, yesterday, from China. Capt. Lawrence says that he passed through the China Sea during the typhoon season, with very heavy weather. Oct. 18, entered the north end of Gaspar Straits, and at 9 A. M. saw a Dutch bark on shore, surrounded by Malay proas, and signals of distress flying. Also, near her, a ship sank, with only her topgallant masts above water; came to in company with clipper-ship Aurora, and sent an armed boat, as did the other two ships, to the bark's assistance. She proved to be the Henri Wester, from Whampoa, bound to Antwerp; vessel and cargo a total loss, both being in possession of the Malays, who were clearing her of everything. Gave the crew every assistance, and proceeded on. Oct. 19, at south end of Gaspar Straits, exchanged signals with clipper-ship Wizard, bound north. Oct. 20, was detained five hours, while at anchor in the Straits of Sunda, by a revolt of the crew.

A WRECK AT SEA.—Captain Fabens of the ship Golden Eagle, from Callao, reports that on the 18th of November, in latitude 30 south, longitude 73 west, he passed different parts of a wreck, large pieces of the deck still holding together, yards lately broken, clean, without barnacles or grass, with parts of sails attached, and the roof points still knotted around the yards.

VIOLENT GALES AT SEA—VESSEL IN DISTRESS—CREW DISMASTED.—The schr. W. L. Scranton, of New-Orleans, bound to Boston from Manatilan, Mexico came into this port yesterday in distress.

LOSS OF THE BARK CALDERA.—A letter from Canton, under date of Oct. 24, 1854, to the Secretary of the New-York Board of Underwriters, announces the loss of the Chilian bark Caldera, off the Coast of China, on the 7th of October. The Caldera, after being stranded, was captured by pirates, who plundered her, and then set her on fire. The affair is said to have caused much excitement among the merchants at Canton.

COLLISION.—A violent collision between two ferry-boats, one belonging to the Bridge st. ferry and the other to the Catharine-st. ferry, occurred about 7 o'clock yesterday morning on the East River. The Catharine st. ferry boat was much injured.

NAVAL.—The U. S. steamer Massachusetts, Capt. Meade, from Norfolk, bound to San Francisco, and the U. S. brig Bainbridge, Capt. Hunter, from Montevideo for Bahia, were at Rio Jane