Business Notices.

ESPENSCHIED solicits the attention of his customers, and the public, to a great improvement just perfected in hats manufactured upon an entirely new invention, an improvement of his own on the water-proof stiff, by which it retains its shape much longer and imparts to it a perpetual gloss. This invention, originating with him will be used exclusively in the manufacture of his hats, and will give them a preference over all others in this city. Call and judge for yourselves of the advantages offered by this establishment. N. ESPENSCHEID, hat manufacturer, No. 118 Nassau st., between Beekman and Ann-sts.

GENTLEMEN'S HATS—SPRING PATTERNS.—BIRD, No. 49 Nassau-st., will introduce the new styles on THURSDAY, March 1. SOFT FOR HATS of every variety of style and color, manufactured with express reference to the requirements of a first-class fashionable city trade.
BIRD, No. 49 Nassau-st.,
Between Liberty st. and Maiden-lane.

Spring Fashions are just now the topic of conversation among both ladies and gentlemen. Those who have not as yet seen KNOX's new style of HAT, for gentlemen's wear, are decidedly behind the age. Combining all the requisites which make up a really splendid HAT, it has already been universally adopted by gentlemen of taste and refinement. Drop in at No. 128 Fulton-st., (Sun Building) or No. 533 Broadway, (Prescott House,) and see KNOXED.

MEALIO is out with his spring style, and far surpasses any of his rivals in the quality, style, and finish of his HATS. Secure one without delay. MEALIO, corner of Broadway and Canal st.

GENIN'S SPRING STYLES OF GENTLEMEN'S Hats and Caps are now ready, at No. 214 Broadway, opposite St. Paul's Church.

SILKS FROM AUCTION.—Just received, a large stock of rich and cheap SPRING SILKS. Also Barages, Printed Muslins, Shawls, Bombazines, De Laines, &c., which we will sell at very low prices.
E. H. LEADBEATER & Co.,
No. 347 Broadway, corner Leonard-st.

PIANOS. — T. GILBERT & Co.'s celebrated ÆOLIAN PIANOS, HORACE WATERS'S modern improved PIANOS, and those of a large number of other makers, comprising the largest and most desirable assortment in the United States, will be sold at prices which defy competition, for cash or satisfactory paper. Persons in the city, receiving orders for Pianos or Musical Instruments of any kind, will find it to their advantage to call. HORACE WATERS, No. 333 Broadway.

GREAT SALE OF FANCY GOODS AT H. S. ROGERS'S FANCY BAZAAR, owing to the extensive repairs to be made in consequence of the recent fire on the premises. The remainder of this immense stock, embracing Work Boxes, Reticules, Papier Maché Work Fans, Opera Glasses, Toilet Boxes, Gentlemen's and Ladies' Dressing Cases, Dressing and Shell Combs, elegant Statuary, Parian, Porcelain and Marble Vases; Newman's celebrated Water Colors, together with the most choice selection of Perfumery and Soaps with an endless variety of Toys for the amusement and instruction of children; all will be sold without regard to cost, affording an opportunity to our citizens to supply themselves with everything unique and beautiful at less than half of the usual prices.
H. S. ROGERS'S FANCY BAZAAR, No. 449 Broadway.

PAPER HANGINGS,
Wholesale and Retail.
THOMAS FAYE & Co.,
Nos. 256 and 257 Broadway, New-York, (directly opposite the City Hall.)
Have constantly on hand a full stock of French and American Paper Hangings, Borders, Fireboard Prints, Curtain Papers, Bed Testers, Statues, Landscaps, &c., of every style known to the trade.
Merchants laying in their stocks can buy from first hands, as we manufacture largely, and import direct from French manufacturers, for whom we are sole agents in the United States.
Our Retail Department comprises the richest styles of Decorations. Special importations made, when desired, from our splendid collection of samples. Artistic Paper Hangers sent to any part of the United States.

CHERRY VALLEY FEMALE ACADEMY.—See Advertisement under the head of "Instruction."

CARPETINGS.—PETERSON & HUMPHREY, No. 379 Broadway, cor. White-st., have just received from the late large auction sales a large assortment of Carpeting, &c., which they will sell at the following low prices:
Rich Velvet Carpet, 11/ to 14/ per yard.
Rich Tapestry, 8/ to 10/ per yard.
Rich Brussels, 8/ per yard.
Three-ply, 8/ to 9/ per yard.
Ingrain, (Lowell make,) 6/.
And all other goods equally low.

GREAT BARGAINS IN CARPETINGS.—SMITH & LOUNSBERY, No. 456 Broadway, near Grand-st., are now prepared to exhibit one of the most beautiful stocks of CARPETS ever offered in this market, at a REDUCTION of 25 PER CENT. from last season's prices.
Rich VELVET, 16/ to 14/ per yard.
Rich TAPESTRY, 7/ to 10/ per yard.
Rich BRUSSELS, 7/ to 10/ per yard.
Rich THREE-PLY, 7/6 to 9/ per yard.
Best INGRAIN, 5/ to 6/ per yard.
And other goods equally low.

PETERSON & HUMPHREY,
Nos. 377 and 379 Broadway,
CARPETINGS, OIL-CLOTHS, ETC., ETC.,
For sale on the most reasonable terms
FOR CASH.

HOLMAN & GRAY,
BOOK, JOB, NEWSPAPER, AND MUSIC PRINTERS,
corner of Centre and White-sts.
BILLHEADS, CIRCULARS, CARDS, HANDBILLS, &c., at low prices, and short notice.

SINGER'S SEWING MACHINES, IMPROVED—So as to run without noise, with very little power, and sewing the finest thread without ever breaking. The profit of using these Machines is $1,000 a year. References in abundance can be given to satisfy all who are interested, that these Machines are suited to do every kind of work perfectly.
I. M. SINGER & Co., No. 323 Broadway.

HERRING'S PATENT CHAMPION FIRE-PROOF SAFES, with Hall's patent powder-proof Locks, the same that were awarded seperate Medals at the World's Fair, London, 1851, and World's Fair, New-York, 1853, and '54, and this is the Lock, and the only powder proof Lock, that received a Medal at the London World's Fair, though others were on exhibition, and are now advertised as "World's Fair Locks." The subscriber and his agents are the only persons authorized to make and sell his patent Champion SAFE with Hall's patent powder-proof Locks. S. C. HERRING, Green Block,
Nos. 135, 137 and 139 Water st., New-York.

REMOVAL.—FAIRBANKS & CO. have removed to No. 189 Broadway, near Dey-st., where they offer a full assortment of their PLATFORM and COUNTER SCALES, and also the most extensive variety of Weighing Apparatus to be found in the United States.

MELODEONS.—S. D. & H. W. SMITH'S MELODEONS, tuned to equal temperament, can be found only at the Music and Piano Store of HORACE WATERS, No. 333 Broadway. The trade supplied on the most reasonable terms.

HERNIA.—Only Prize Medal awarded to MARSH & Co., No. 2½ Maiden-lane, N. Y., by the Industrial Exhibition of all Nations, for their new PATENT RADICAL CURE TRUSS. References as to its superiority: Profs. Valentine Mott, Willard Parker, and John M. Carnochan. An extensive list of names of mercantile and other gentlemen cured by this Truss, may be seen at their office. Open from 7 A. M. until 9 P. M.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS—Astonishingly efficacious in the cure of Salt Rheum, Scrofula, and all other Skin diseases; they will effect cures when all other means have failed. Sold at the manufactories, No. 80 Maiden-lane, New-York, and No. 244 Strand, London; and by all druggists, at 25c., 62½c, and $1 per pot or box.

NEW-YORK WEEKLY TRIBUNE for March 17.

THE NEW-YORK WEEKLY TRIBUNE for this week contains the following:

I..EDITORIALS: Our Best and Worst Society; The Farmers' Prospects; Russian Diplomatists; Removal of Judges in Massachusetts; Shipwreck in New-Hampshire; To Northern Know Nothings; The British Ministry; Toil and Trouble, &c.
II..THE POOLE TRAGEDY IN THIS CITY: Death and Burial of Poole; Sketches of the Ruffian Gangs.
III..LATEST NEWS FROM EUROPE: Arrival of the steamships Pacific at this port, and Africa at Halifax; Death of the Emperor of Russia; Prospects of Peace Considered More Favorable.
IV..THE STATE OF EUROPE: Letter from Our Own Correspondent, A. P. C.
V..THE CONDITION OF ENGLAND: Letter from Our Own Correspondent, Hugh Doherty.
VI..PICTURES OF SLAVERY.
VII..NEW PUBLICATIONS: Questions of the Soul, by I. T. Hecker.
VIII..REVIEW OF THE WEEK: Giving, in a condensed and most conspicuous form, the latest and most important events that have transpired in the City, United States, Mexico, South America, Sandwich Islands, and Europe.
IX..AGRICULTURAL: United States Agricultural Society; Pine Tree Planting in Massachusetts; Ruta-Baga or Swedes Turnips; The Culture of the Grape.
X..DOESTICKS GOES TO A CHARITABLE FAIR.
XI..PROGRESS OF OPINION IN ILLINOIS: Letter from Our Own Correspondent.
XII..APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT: By and with the advice and consent of the Senate.
XIII..THE PROTESTANTS OF ISLAM.
XIV..THE NEW POSTAGE LAW.
XV..MARRIAGE UNDER DIFFICULTIES.
XVI..GREAT FIRE AT BATH: The Business Part of the Village in Ruins.
XVII..POETRY: An Arab's Story; Scutari.
XVIII..THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.
XIX..MARRIAGES and DEATHS.
XX..REVIEW OF THE MARKETS: Reports of the Stock, Grain, Provision, and Cattle Markets; very fully and specially reported for The Tribune.

Single copies, in wrappers, can be obtained at the counter in the Publication Office this morning. Price 6¼ cents.
SUBSCRIPTION.—One copy for one year, $2; three copies $5; five copies, $8; ten copies, $12.

The Green Mountain State may justly be put down on the side of Temperance. County Commissioners were recently chosen in that State, and the Temperance candidates elected in every county, *nem. dis.* C. A. Seymour Esq., has been chosen in Chittenden County. In nine towns, from which returns have been received, the vote stood: For Seymour 584; all others, 0.

We are requested to state that the gentleman from Michigan who addressed the assembled Democrats at Tammany the other night was not Mr. Charles Edward Stuart, Senator from that State, but Mr. David Stuart, one of her Representatives in the other House.

The annual prize debate of the Sophomore Class in the Brothers' Society of Yale College, was held on the evening of the 7th inst. The prizes were awarded as follows: *First Prize*—John M. Holmes, Chicago, Ill. *Second Prize*—Cyrus Northrup, Ridgefield, Conn.

New-York Daily Tribune.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1855.

The members of the Legislature finished their visit yesterday by a tour among the eleemosynary institutions in the City proper. In the evening they were dined by the Ten Governors at the Astor House, where a number of fair speeches were made. The guests will leave in the 7 o'clock and 12 o'clock trains of the Hudson River Railroad to-day.

By the arrival of the Africa at Halifax, we have dates from Liverpool to the 3d inst. The news is very important, the great feature being the death of the Emperor of Russia which happened on the 2d inst. The Earl of Clarendon announced the news in the House of Lords on Friday night, stating that it occured between 12 and 1 o'clock of the morning of that day. The news came from the British Minister at the Hague, and also from Lord John Russell, at Berlin, and was considered authentic. It was surmised that the Emperor died by the hand of an assassin; but the cause assigned for his death, and generally believed, was pulmonic apoplexy. The effect of the news upon commercial affairs had not been developed, the time being too short. The advices from the Crimea are of the same tenor as by the last arrivals. Nothing important has transpired. The Russians made a sortie on the 13th February, but it did not amount to much. On the 14th there was another, whereby the French lost 35 men. The weather was growing warm and spring-like. Official accounts of the battle of Eupatoria are received. It consisted mainly of a heavy fire of artillery, under cover of which the Russians made two or three attempts to carry the town by storm. No new attempt has been made. It is reported that the Russians have captured Schamyl's strongest fort. Lord John Russell had arrived at Berlin, and had an audience with the King and Baron Manteuffel. Prussia is said to be trying to come to an understanding with the Western Powers. General Wedell, the Prussian Minister at Paris, has gone to Berlin to explain the points at issue. The draft of a general treaty is prepared at Vienna, securing the integrity of Turkey, preventing the future encroachments of individual Powers, and guaranteeing the rights of Christians. That document will be considered at the Conference. All the Plenipotentiaries, except Lord John Russell, have arrived at Vienna. Notwithstanding the Russian professions of peace, accounts state that warlike preparations were never more active than at present. Earl Carlisle is appointed Lord-Lieut. of Ireland; otherwise the Ministry is as announced by last arrivals. Parliament has done nothing important. In the House of Lords there had been a debate on acknowledging the loyalty of Canada and other Colonies, but no action. Mr. Roebuck's Committee is hard at work, and the Duke of Newcastle had been summoned to give evidence before them. The 21st inst. is appointed a National Fast for the success of the war. Meetings deprecating the war throughout the country are increasing in number. The French Emperor has been at the Camp at St. Omer. Nothing further is known with regard to his intended visit to the Crimea. There were rumors of important political arrests, but they were rumors only. The Sardinian Chambers have voted the suppression of monasteries. Nothing further is known of the adherence of Naples or Tuscany to the Allies. There is some important intelligence from China. The Insurgents hold Canton in a state of siege, and have command of the river. Their fleet has gained several victories over the Imperialists. Supplies are consequently cut off, and provisions are rising rapidly. There had been a fight at Whampoa anchorage in presence of several English and American ships of war, and considerable damage was done to the foreign commercial shipping. The English and American Commissioners protect the factories. At Shanghai there had been a difficulty between the insurgents and the French. Admiral Laquerre was bombarding the city, which, it is supposed, has before this been surrendered or stormed. The insurgents have met with reverses near Pekin.

THE GREAT EVENT IN RUSSIA.

The Africa brings news of the death of the Emperor Nicholas. He now belongs wholly to history—he stands before posterity. His accounts with the present are closed.

With the arrival of European newspapers and correspondence, details will throw light on this sudden event. At present only suppositions can be made. Already it is intimated that his death was due to a palace conspiracy. For the present, we have not the slightest reason to admit the probability of such a thing, albeit not uncommon in the domestic annals of the Romanoffs. Since the beginning of the war, the English press often suggested, that with the progress of the war, dissatisfied nobles, magnates, and courtiers would imitate the tragedy of his father, Paul. But as we have several times stated, in relation to the prosecution of the war, Nicholas was the most peaceably disposed man of the whole court. Those who stood nearest to him, Orloff, Adlerberg, Tchernicheff, Kiseleff, (brother of the diplomat,) Seniawine, Dolgoroucki, and many others, all belong, to use a comprehensive term, to the war party and policy of Prince Menchikoff. Besides, most of them are several years older than the deceased Czar; they were his friends and favorites; have all reached the limit of their respective ambitions, and they are well aware that a new reign brings forward new men, crowding out the old ones. They could have had no earthly interest in shortening the days of Nicholas, and until further explanations come, we shall not believe in a conspiracy. Nicholas, we doubt not, came to his end in a a natural way.

Of a strong and irascible temper, and a powerful, but inflammatory, physical constitution, Nicholas was subject to attacks of violent pleurisy and inflammations of the liver, which more than once threatened his life. Of late years, increasing flesh multiplied the chances of sudden and mortal attack. From the start, the Turkish question, with all its complications, with the mortifying and unrelenting abuse of his character attending it, had a tendency to destroy a man of such a constitution so situated. He who stood as a demi-god in the eye of Europe, before whom bowed sovereigns, to be at once assailed by them, and treated by some with what might be called ingratitude! Those who knew him cannot be astonished that his health should fail in the shock of such a change. During this period, however, he has uniformly mastered his hot temper. Reports from St. Petersburg, brought, recently, by Americans, stated that he bore all with calmness and dignity—seldom showing any irascibility. This suppression of feeling may have hastened his end. Besides, his mind was in a constant state of tension, and his daily labor must have been long and severe to face and direct the affairs of a great Empire at war.

In whatever way, however, Nicholas closed his career, the most interesting question which presents itself is how his successor, now Alexander II, will act. Long ago European newspapers intimated that a grave misunderstanding prevailed in the Imperial family, having its source in the complications into which Russia was precipitated by the war. It was severally represented that the present Emperor was opposed to the policy of his father, and to that of a party said to be headed by the Grand Duke Constantine, his younger brother, a young man of eminent capacities. Still, no positive facts ever confirmed these reports. On the contrary, as Commander-in-Chief of the Guards, the hereditary Grand Duke, now Emperor, marched into Lithuania and Poland, and was thus to command, offensively or defensively, the great army comprising the flower of the Russian forces. His headquarters have been at Wilna. This and many other reasons lead us to suppose that there will not be at once any departure from the policy pursued by his father.

The new Czar was born on the 29th of April, 1818, and accordingly is nearly thirty-seven. If not of extraordinary abilities, he possesses fair capacity and intellect. If not gifted with the iron will of his father, and if marked by a certain mildness of temper, he has exhibited more than once considerable energy. He has a poetical and chivalrous turn of mind, and is Russian to the core. Years ago, he urged the use of the Russian language at Court, instead of French. As Grand Duke, he was always kindly to any pure, genuine, Russian development in literature and policy. Some ten years ago, he insisted strongly on the propagation of the Russo-Greek creed among the Protestant Finns, Esthonians, and other tribes forming the peasantry in the Baltic provinces.

It is scarcely to be supposed that he will make any changes among the highest dignitaries of the empire. Such things will come by-and-by, as for some time past he has had a small court and a knot of favorites around him. Prominent among these is Prince Baryatynsky, who last year distinguished himself in Asia against the Turks and the Circassian Shamyl. This prince is a proud, haughty, ambitious Russian. He spent a great deal of his youth in Vienna, and it is possible he may be sent thither under some pretext—to control the action of the Russian Legation at the approaching conferences.

Could it be admitted that the war, at the start, had not the approval of the new Emperor, he will feel it necessary to prosecute it vigorously, unless a peace, acceptable to Russia, can be obtained. In honor of the memory of his father, whom he loved devotedly, and to whom he looked with deep deference, he will so act. He was always treated by the deceased Czar with the utmost fondness—always as the most confidential friend, and as his successor. For about eighteen years the Grand Duke has been habitually present at Cabinet meetings, giving his opinion and sharing with his father the thorny and heavy burdens of absolute power. It was the aim of the late Emperor to fit his son to sway the Imperial scepter, and not allow him to be taken unawares in his new position. Alexander II, therefore, ascends the throne not as a mere novice, but wholly aware of the great task before him. If so disposed, he could not at once change the policy of the Empire. The late Czar, idolized as he was, by the Russian people, will now be looked upon as a kind of martyr to the strong and wide coalition against him, and his sudden death will, in our view, lend fresh fuel to the warlike flame. In this point of view, the death of Nicholas creates no new probability of peace, nor renders it possible to count on any concession to the Allies which he would not have made.

Another probability which merits consideration, is that the King of Prussia, the uncle of the new Czar, with the Prussian Court, and the officers of the army, and of course, what is called politically the Russian party at Berlin, moved by the sentiment of so-called chivalrous honor, will not desert the young Autocrat. Indeed, they will be likely to espouse his cause more decidedly. Nor should we be astonished to hear that Francis Joseph, moved by common courtesy, should mediate for an armistice, to give time to the new sovereign to assume his royal charge, to ascertain his position and decide on his policy. That such a demand, made by Austria, and backed by Prussia, would be acceded to by the English Cabinet at least, is probable. Out of this might arise an interruption in the fighting in the Crimea, as well as a delay in the negotiations for peace. It would, however, be premature to deduce from the death of Nicholas any considerable addition to the chances of a speedy termination of the war.

PROHIBITION AT ALBANY.

Shortly after the meeting of the Legislature, it was pretended by the enemies of Temperance and friends of slave-catching that the supporters of Mr. Seward had sold out the Temperance question and betrayed the people, in exchange for Legislative votes to reelect that distinguished gentleman as U. S. Senator. That calumny was utterly disposed of as soon as the Senatorial election was accomplished, and the Maine Law became the order of the day in the Legislature. Since then, Gov. Clark has been charged with having forgotten his former zeal in the Temperance cause, and with willingness to see the leading features of the bill passed by the House expunged in the Senate, to suit the particular interest of those concerned in the vending and consumption of liquor. To this calumny the Governor has replied in a letter which we this morning transfer to our columns, and after which, we fancy, the slander will not again be revived. He calmly but decidedly repels the accusation, and declares that he is heartily in favor of every one of the provisions of the Assembly bill, and would do his utmost to secure its passage were he a member of the Legislature.

This declaration from such a source, will, we hope, have another use beside that of silencing a false imputation. It should have an influence upon the votes of these gentlemen in the Senate—there are said to be several of them—who propose to disregard the will of their constituents, and make a law which shall be as nearly harmless as possible—for the liquor-sellers. We would fain hope that the indomitable honesty and uprightness of the Governor might shame every recreant into fidelity to his own pledges, and to the expectations the people entertained when their votes were cast. It is true that there is a vital difference between the sincere conviction and manly resolve of the Chief Magistrate, and the hypocritical pretensions, which many of them adopted merely as a means of deluding the friends of Prohibition and getting themselves elected; but they will do well to bear in mind that the People are not to be trifled with in this matter, and that in the reckoning they will shortly hold, every traitor may count on rigid and merciless justice.

The N. Y. Times of yesterday clearly indicates the course which the sham supporters of Prohibition desire to have the Senate pursue. According to that journal, the bill passed by the Assembly being just such a one as tried and earnest Temperance men desire, it does not comport with Senatorial independence to pass it in that form, and therefore it must be emasculated. The Senate is not, we are told, to be regarded as an instrument for registering the decrees of an outside and irresponsible body; and therefore they will strike out of the bill "some "provisions which, in their judgment, will only "make the law obnoxious to the common sense "of the community, array against it the senti-"ment of the *conservative and judicious friends of* "*Temperance*, and thus deprive it of that "strong hold upon public confidence and "favor which alone can make it efficient "and permanent." Who these conservative and judicious temperance men are, is not precisely stated; but the inference is natural that they comprise the large and respectable class of liquor-dealers, and the virtuous politicians who became temperance men for electioneering purposes, and who still desire to revel in the luxury of good or bad liquor at Legislative junketings, and other private and public entertainments. Nor does our cotemporary inform the world what are the provisions which must be stricken from the bill, but it seems evident that they are those referred to by Gov. Clark, as the search, seizure, and destruction principles—without which, we take leave to add, a Prohibitory Law must be a nullity. This is, of course, what *The N. Y. Times*, with the "conservative and judicious "friends of temperance," desires to have the bill made. Very possibly they may succeed in carrying their purpose with the present Senate, but we warn them that they will thus only respite the liquor traffic for a single year. The majority of the people are bent upon complete, downright, uncompromising Prohibition. They have won that battle twice against "the conservative "and judicious friends of temperance," such as Gov. Seymour and *The N. Y. Times*. They can win it a third time if necessary; but whether such a necessity will much profit the false friends whose treachery imposes it upon them, is a question whose solution will appear in due season.

One of the results anticipated by the Lieutenant Governor in this article of his journal, as likely to follow the passage of the emasculated bill, is that "the Temperance question will cease "to be an element of political discord, and to "furnish political capital for ambitious aspi-"rants." Considering that this proceeds from a person who figured before the Temperance Convention at Auburn in search of "political capi-"tal for an ambitious aspirant," it is at once sublimely impudent and sublimely laughable.

AN ARISTOCRATIC CULPRIT.

Few will forget the dark story of Handcock and De Burgh, which some ten days since we recounted in all its horrid details, and in which an unnatural mother was shown to have sacrificed by gradual starvation, or some still deadlier means, her own three beautiful girls, to consolidate their fortunes on her bastard son. This offspring of love or lust was, as may be remembered, decorated with the aristocratic name of De Burgh, the family name of the Marquis of Clanricarde, his reputed, and as far as we have seen undisputed, sire, whom the facts, as elicited on trial, represented, as at best a silent accessory to many of the foul means by which this fiendish mother attempted to compass her guilty end. The natural indignation which this cruel story roused in every generous and gentle heart, has drawn from the accused nobleman a defense, which we in justice subjoin, but which equally in justice we regret for the honor of humanity, and of England's nobles, to say is not only bald and incomplete, but in many respects aggravates the case which had already looked so dark against him. It appeared so strange, if we mistake not, as to draw an exclamation of surprise from the presiding Judge, that though, as his lordship states, "he was no party to the "case," he figured as the leading character in the trial, and several distinguished counsel appeared to have been engaged with the *exclusive object* of conducting his defense. But whatever deficiency obtained in this respect, Lord Clanricarde has now himself supplied. He has taken the field in person, and we presume has made the best defense the case could afford. Lord Clanricarde represents himself as being drawn to the bedside of the dying Handcock by some tender memories of field-sports enjoyed in common in early days. We should be sorry to mar a picture so fair, and which would present so soft a page in aristocratic annals, but the visits were too suspiciously frequent, being repeated once or twice a day, to be justified by a tie of friendship contracted at hunting carouses in youth between a nobleman of high lineage and position and a country squire of the low, degraded and debauched character which he represents this Mr. Handcock to have been. It is, too, singularly unfortunate that he should have perverted these visits of friendship, and made use of every avenue of approach to this dying man, to wrest the guardianship of three young and gentle girls from that relative to whom their father desired to commit the sacred charge, and hand them over to be starved away with slow agony by a fiendish woman, whose infamy of character was notorious, and who was at the time the mother of a bastard child, of which he himself was the reputed father. Equally unfortunate is it that, while this process of slow death was being carried out, to enable this reputed son to walk to wealth over the corpses of these unprotected girls, he should be shown to have been a constant visitor of the mother under the playful and affectionate abbreviation of "Clan.," and to have abused the sacred office of trustee in allocating to this woman large sums, which he knew were perverted to an unjust and shameful purpose.

For ourselves, we simply stated the facts as recounted on hearing before the Chancellor. We do not record such tales to gratify private malice, or indulge a prurient curiosity, but as a lesson and a warning of the effect of pampered privilege in rusting away the better feelings of the human heart. We should be glad to think this nobleman maligned, and his order saved from the stain which such crimes impose, but the strongest testimony that could be afforded to his guilt is furnished in the fact that his own personal friend, Lord Palmerston, whose banner he has followed with audacious zeal, has passed him over, and in the recent arrangements his name has not been even heard. Such unworthy allusions as those conveyed in the closing period of his letter too, can only wound those who are ungentle enough to use them. It appears that the daughter of the Irish Attorney-General, a lady of much worth, was married to a *gentleman* who, who in revenge for some small wound in the little conflicts of wedded life, was base enough, on dying, to leave a will in which were thrown out some aspersions more affecting the temper than the character of the mother of his child, which one of those hardened ruffians who sometimes infest the noble order of the press, of the name of Birch, subsequently attempted to use for the object of levying black mail. We doubt not the Irish counsel simply did, what there, as here, is often an unpleasant task, his duty, and it ill became a peer of England to catch from the lips of a low hireling a filthy whisper against an honest woman's name. The road to the heart of the people, ever generous and ready to forgive, is not won by flimsy excuse and foul insinuation, but by an honest confession of error in the past and a brave effort to redeem it in the future.

One of the most disastrous accidents of our long, black American list, has just occurred in Meredith, N. H., as we mentioned on Wednesday, by the giving way of the floor of the town hall, thus precipitating to a depth of eighteen feet, some three hundred people. About five of the wounded, we learn, have since died; others are expected to die, and about one hundred have broken bones.

In view of this fact, America, great, glorious and free, should remember that she is the greatest of slaves history records to ignorant men setting-up for builders or architects. The French manage these things better. People cannot build in French towns as they choose. A Board of Architects in civic pay and power, takes note of every house, public and private, large and small, which is to be erected; and the capabilities of the edifice for security to the ends proposed, as well as general immunity against fire, are canvassed, and put right if wanting. In this country, however, people build pretty much as they choose, and even the reckless practice extends to public edifices, as we perceive by the catastrophe of the Town Hall in question. The conflagrations in our cities, too, are all unnecessary. Build houses properly, and they will not burn. They do not burn in Paris, where humanity is corsetted into the narrowest space, houses being towers in hight, with families sweltering in forced proximity.

When the moral filth of this community, not to mention others, is cleared away by some machinery not yet in use, we shall feel the necessity of not only having laws, but of executing them; and among the most exigent so administered, will be found those on the social necessities of architecture, rendering it proof against so-called accidents, flames included.

The public thanks are due to Gov. CLARK for not having allowed himself to be tempted from his post of duty by the seductions of that public frolic which has drawn to this City so many members of the State Government. The Governor was invited with the rest, but very properly declined the honor. We could wish the members of the Legislature had done the same—not only for their own credit, but for the credit of the City. No valuable information can be gathered during a jovial excursion amid the dissipations of a metropolis like this, nor are such scenes as that of Tuesday, at Blackwell's Island, calculated to strengthen the Legislative mind for its arduous labors at Albany. We trust this may be the last of these annual Bacchanalian scrapes, and are very happy to record the fact, that even so much as by accompanying the boisterous party to New-York, Gov. Clark has not lent the sanction of his presence to the revels of these big boys out of school.

The Courier and Enquirer should mend his knowledge of history, and then support the Allies. He says—"If Prussia decides to brave "the hostility of Western Europe, it will be "lucky for her if she gets through the year with-"out something worse than Leipsic." We were always under the impression that Leipsic was the memorable field of triumph for the Allies, and defeat for the French, and that Jena was where Prussia was defeated.

But the military savant of *The Courier* has changed all that. Leipsic, henceforth, is to be the Waterloo of the Prussians—that is, if Waterloo was a place of defeat for one of the parties, as usually believed. Perhaps, however, Waterloo was a French triumph, on the same principle that Leipsic was.

GOV. CLARK ON THE TEMPERANCE BILL.

To the Editors of The Albany Argus.

GENTLEMEN: My attention has been directed to an editorial in this morning's *Argus*, under the caption of "Governor Clark's Position," which is calculated to do me injustice; and, although I pay very little regard to newspaper misrepresentations and abuse of myself, I have deemed it proper to notice the reiterated erroneous statements you have made, relative to my views of the prohibitory liquor bill now before the Senate.

I am not only in favor of those sections of the Assembly bill which contain the "search," "seizure," and "destruction" principles, but consider them of vital importance; and, if in a position to do so, should most certainly give my vote in favor of retaining them. And I take occasion to say that my views and opinions as to the importance, propriety, and necessity of a prohibitory liquor law, have in no wise changed since I had the honor of voting for one in the Senate last session. Respectfully yours,

Albany, March 14, 1855. MYRON H. CLARK.

GOVERNMENT STEAMER SUPPOSED TO BE BLOWN UP.

We learn from *The Tampa Peninsular* of the 3d inst. that the Government steamer Texas Ranger has been expected at that port for more than two weeks past, transporting munitions of war for Fort Myers, in Florida. Her non-arrival has created much uneasiness and conjecture that she has met with serious accident somewhere between Tampa and New-Orleans. The painful apprehension intrudes itself upon the minds of some that her inflammable cargo of powder, &c., has ignited, and that the shock experienced on the 27th inst., and generally accredited to an earthquake, was none other than the report of the explosion of the supposed ill-fated steamer. The strange noise came from the channel entrance from the Gulf into Tampa Bay.

THE LATEST NEWS,

RECEIVED BY

MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

FOUR DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE AFRICA.

Death of Emperor Nicholas

NO MORE FIGHTING.

IMPORTANT FROM CHINA.

CANTON BESEIGED---SHANGHAI BOMBARDED.

The Africa arrived at Halifax at 10 o'clock yesterday morning, bringing dates from Liverpool to the 3d inst. The news is of the greatest importance, the chief item being *the death of the Emperor of Russia*, which took place on the 2d, and had been officially announced in the English Parliament. The following summary was received by telegraph last night:

HALIFAX, Thursday, March 15, 1855.

The Royal Mail Steamship Africa, Capt. Harrison, from Liverpool, at 10 o'clock, on the morning of Saturday, the 3d inst., arrived at her dock in this city at 1 o'clock this afternoon.

The Africa left here at 4¼ P. M., for Boston, where she will be due about midnight on Friday.

The steamship Hermann sailed from Southampton, for New-York, on the evening of the 28th February, with 65 passengers.

The screw steamship Sarah Sands, from Portland, arrived at Liverpool on the 28th ult.

The news is of an interesting and highly important character.

MOST IMPORTANT—LATEST.

SUDDEN DEATH OF THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA.

LONDON, Friday night, March 2, 1855.

This evening, in the House of Lords, the Earl of Clarendon rose and said: "I think it my duty to "communicate to your lordships the contents of a "telegraphic dispatch which I received half an hour "since from Her Majesty's Minister at the Hague, "that the Emperor Nicholas died this morning at "one o'clock of pulmonary appoplexy, after an attack "of influenza. I have also received a dispatch from "Her Majesty's Minister at Berlin, stating that the "Emperor of Russia died at 12 o'clock this morning. "An hour before this dispatch arrived I received ac-"counts from Lord John Russell, at Berlin, stating "that the Emperor was on the point of death, and "had already taken leave of his family. Although "this event occurred so short a time ago, as between "twelve and one o'clock this morning, there can be "no doubt, under these circumstances, of its authen-"ticity."

In the House of Commons Lord Palmerston made a similar statement.

It was surmised that the Emperor died by the hand of the assassin, but the cause assigned above was generally credited. The effect of this startling announcement in political and monetary matters has not been developed, and it is impossible to say what it may produce. It created great excitement.

THE WAR.

The advices from the Crimea are of the same tenor as by the last few arrivals—nothing of moment having transpired.

On the 13th February, the Russians made a sortie during the night, but it was not formidable; only five of the French were killed.

FEBRUARY 14.—Another night sortie, in which the French lost thirty-five men. Weather quite warm and spring-like.

FEBRUARY 15.—The condition of the French army is reported to be excellent. There is also a rumor that the north side of Sevastopol would be invested.

FEBRUARY 16.—Nothing has occurred of any importance.

FEBRUARY 17.—Official details of the battle of Eupatoria.

Admiral Bruat telegraphs the following:

"On board the Montebello, Kamiesch Bay, Feb. 20.—On the 17th the town of Eupatoria was attacked on the eastern side by eighty pieces of artillery, six regiments of cavalry under the command of General Korff, and twelve regiments of infantry, consisting of about 25,000 men, under the orders of Gen. Osten-Sacken. The combat lasted from 5½ o'clock until 10 o'clock in the morning.

"The Russians were vigorously repulsed. Their loss is estimated at 500 killed, and the wounded in proportion. The Turks had 88 killed, 250 wounded, and lost 70 horses. Selim Pasha, General of the Egyptian Division, and Col. Rustem Bey, were killed. Eighteen French were killed or wounded on shipboard. The attack has not been renewed by the Russians.

"The steamers at anchor in the Roadstead contributed energetically to the defense of the town. Admirals Lyon and Bruat have sent six steamers to Eupatoria. (Signed) BRUAT."

SECOND DISPATCH.

"EUPATORIA, Feb., 21.—Since the affair of the 17th, the Russians have not made any new attempt upon Eupatoria. To-day, columns of infantry and trains of wagons were seen leaving the vicinity of the town, and taking the direction of Simpheropol. Many villages are still in flames in the vicinity of Eupatoria. More guns have been landed, and additional forces thrown up. The town is in a good state of defense." (Signed) "DEMONT LOUIS, "Commanding steamer Velocе."

A letter states that the battle consisted mainly of a heavy fire of artillery, under cover of which the Russians made two or three attempts to carry the town by storm. The night after the battle the Russians bivouacked on the field without tents or fires. The weather was intensely cold. The next day they commenced retiring on Simpheropol.

VIENNA CONFERENCE.

Lord John Russell arrived at Berlin, and immediately had an audience of the King and Baron Manteuffel. Prussia seems, at length, to be making attempts to come to an understanding with the Western Powers. General Wedell, the Minister at Paris, has personally gone to Berlin to explain the points at issue, and Lord John Russell's mission is expected to conclude the desired arrangements.

An official editorial article in the *Correspondenz of Vienna* says, that the draft of a general treaty is prepared, securing the integrity of Turkey, preventing the future encroachments of individual powers, and guaranteeing the rights of Christians. This document will be considered at the Conference. All the Plenipotentiaries, with the exception of Lord John Russell, have arrived at Vienna. The Conference meets on the 5th of March, and hopes of peace are strongly entertained. Notwithstanding the Russian professions af peace, accounts state that warlike preparations were never more active in Russia.

A report reached England viâ Berlin, that the Czar was dangerously ill and given up by his physicians; and, although it wanted confirmation, the Funds advanced.

The order prohibiting the export of wheat from Poland into Russia, came into effect on the 21st.

The German papers mention the capture by the Russians of Schoualbkaran, Schamyl's strongest fortress.

Tefik Pasha, the son-in-law of Omer Pasha, has died of fever at Eupatoria.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Earl of Carlisle is appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. Otherwise the Ministry remains as announced per Pacific. In Parliament the proceedings were unimportant. The chief business was the debate on Lord Goodrich's motion to increase the chances of military promotion from the ranks. The motion was negatived.

In the House of Lords a debate occurred on the