THE LATEST NEWS,

RECEIVED BY

MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, June 12, 1855.

The statement of a paper at St. Catharines, C. W., which has been copied into sundry papers in the United States, that notice had been received to prepare rooms there for President Pierce and family in July, has not a syllable of truth in it.

The Post-Office Department having had its attention drawn to the fact that vessels are proposing to carry letters across the ocean at postal rates less than those established by law, it may be of interest to correspondents to learn that the subject is under investigation by the proper authorities of this Government. The principle with regard to the former land mail private express in this country, will probably be made to apply to independent ocean mail carriers, and letters thus sent be detained.

It may also be stated that, though the reduced postage proposed by the said vessels seems to be less, it will, in consideration of a charge on the other side of the ocean, amount to more than the rates established by our laws.

Mr. Crampton, the British Minister, has returned from his trip to Canada.

Land-warrants sold to-day at $1 08@$1 10 per acre.

Information has been received here of the sinking of the steamer Australia, loaded with Government stores for the Sioux Expedition, in the Missouri River.

The Star says intelligence has been received that a revenue-cutter took into Mobile a bark belonging to the Kinney Expedition, loaded with ammunition. It also asserts that if Col. Kinney succeeds in reaching Nicaragua the Government is prepared to take care of him there.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE LEGISLATURE.

CONCORD, N. H., Tuesday, June 12, 1855.

At a caucus last night the Senate reconsidered the vote assigning to-day for the election of United States Senators, thus allowing the House to take the initiative in the election. It is confidently stated that leading members of both branches have united on James Bell for the long term and John P. Hale for the short term.

9¼ *O'Clock P. M.*—The Americans in caucus are having a very exciting time. Paul R. George addressed the meeting, denouncing the grasping proclivities of the Free-Soilers, and remonstrating against the nomination of John P. Hale to the Senate. He made no objection to James Bell, but contended that the election of Hale would prove the destruction of the American party in New-Hampshire and in the nation. Six thousand Democrats were with them in the State, he said, in opposition to Hale and Abolitionism and in favor of Americanism.

Joel Eastman is now addressing the caucus.

There is no prospect of a vote being taken before midnight.

The Democrats in caucus to-night nominated John S. Wells and Harry Hibbard for United States Senators, and the candidates of last year for Secretary of State, Treasurer, and Printer.

LATER FROM MEXICO.

NEW-ORLEANS, Tuesday, June 12.

The steamer Orizaba has arrived at this port, and brings dates from Mexico to the 2d inst.

Santa Anna had taken possession of Zamora, the insurrectionists leaving on his approach. The fugitives were, however, pursued, routed, and 2,000 taken prisoners.

Santa Anna returned to Mexico on the 21st of May, and left on the 23d for Aris, where Comonfort was posted with 2,500 men.

Several smaller bands of the Revolutionists had also been routed by the Government troops.

LATER FROM HAVANA.

NEW-ORLEANS, Tuesday, June 12, 1855.

By the arrival to-day of the steamship Empire City we have dates from Havana to the 9th inst. The news brought by her, however, is unimportant.

RAILROAD CARS OFF THE TRACK.

CINCINNATI, Tuesday, June 12, 1855.

The passenger cars on the Cincinnati and Indianapolis Railroad ran off the track to-day near Lawrenceburgh. The locomotive and baggage-car were badly smashed, but fortunately nobody was seriously injured.

It is understood that the Grand Jury will find a new bill of indictment against Arrison.

The river continues to rise at this point, and is now 25 feet above low-water mark.

The weather is cool and showery, and the prospects of the crops continue fine.

STATEMENT OF MAYOR DOW.

BOSTON, Tuesday, June 12, 1855.

Neal Dow has made a long official statement to the City Council of Portland, giving a detailed history of the late riot. He asserts that but for the action of the military the liquor agency would have been set on fire and the City Hall destroyed. The Board of Aldermen indorses the Mayor's statement.

BOSTON WEEKLY BANK STATEMENT.

BOSTON, Tuesday, June 12, 1855.

The following are the footings of our Weekly Bank Statement:

Capital Stock	$32,710,000
Loans and Discounts	32,313,211
Specie in Bank	3,499,181
Due from other Banks	8,621,400
Due to other Banks	6,155,384
Deposits	15,004,125
Circulation	7,595,795

FIRE AT HILLSDALE, MICH.

CLEVELAND, O., Tuesday, June 12, 1855.

A destructive fire was raging at Hillsdale, Mich., last night. The whole town appeared to be burning up. The telegraph office was in danger there at one time, and it was feared that communication would be interrupted.

At 3 o'clock this morning off Black River the propeller Delaware ran into the schooner E. M. Lyon, laden with coal, and injured her to such an extent that she sunk in 20 minutes in 70 feet of water. The crew were saved. The propeller saw the vessel's light and mistook it for Cleveland. The schooner was insured for $2,200.

MARINE DISASTER.

PROVIDENCE, Tuesday, June 12, 1855.

The propeller Caledonia, Capt. Scudder, from Portland for New-York with a cargo of molasses, sugar and heading, went ashore on Point Judith on Monday morning at high water, a thick fog prevailing at the time. The molasses on deck was stove and thrown overboard. At about 8 o'clock this morning she was lying in a very bad position with her head on among the rocks. It was thought if the weather continued favorable she might be got off, though she is in a very critical condition. The Caledonia is a first-class vessel of about 500 tuns burden.

SECOND DISPATCH.

We learn from Newport that 40 hhds. molasses, 100 bbls. sugar and 25,000 feet of heading were thrown overboard from the propeller, but she still remained ashore this afternoon. She is still tight, and hopes are entertained that she will be got off at next high water.

SUICIDE BY AN EXPRESS MESSENGER.

PAWTUCKET, R. I., Tuesday, May 12, 1855.

J. A. Baldwin, Messenger of Earle's Boston and Providence Express, shot himself dead this morning in a stable at this place.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMER PRINCETON.

BALTIMORE, Tuesday, June 12, 1855.

The United States steamer Princeton arrived in Hampton Roads yesterday. She left Havanna on the 6th instant, but brings no news of interest.

The Southern Mail as late as due has been received.

THE CROPS IN THE SOUTH.

NEW ORLEANS, Saturday, June 9, 1855.

We have been favored of late with much-needed rain-storms, from which the growing crops are deriving much benefit. The accounts generally in this region are very favorable, both for cotton and grain.

FIREMEN AND THE POLICE.—The following important order has just been issued by the Mayor to aid the Fire Department in the performance of their duties:

OFFICE CHIEF OF POLICE, NEW-YORK, June, 1855.

GENERAL ORDER.

CAPTAIN HALPIN, 1ST DISTRICT—*Sir:* You are hereby directed to cause to be made out lists of the names and residences of Engineers and Firemen, members of Hook and Ladder Companies and Hose Companies, living in your District, and furnish to each patrolman a list of the same within his posts for the time being.

You will direct each patrolman to promptly call at night such of them as may reside upon his beat whenever a fire occurs thereon.

A disregard of this order, either by yourself or the Policeman, shall be considered and treated as a dereliction of duty.

By order of FERNANDO WOOD, Mayor.

GEO. W. MATSELL, Chief of Police.

CORN IN TASSEL.—*The Georgian*, Savannah, June 8, says corn is backward—it has only just begun to tassel. Wheat harvest is over, and the crop is a good one.

THE K. N. NATIONAL CONVENTION.

SEVENTH DAY—TUESDAY.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

PHILADELPHIA, Tuesday, June 12, 1855.

The opening demonstration of Gov. Gardner of Massachusetts on the Slavery platform yesterday evening was quite effective. The slave party have quite calculated on the Governor and courted him with much assiduity. The story of the hotels is that they offered to run him for Vice-President if he would turn his back upon his colleagues and follow the slimy course of the New-Yorkers. They thought that because he resisted Anti-Slavery ultraism at home he would not stand up against Pro-Slavery ultraism at Philadelphia, and so plied their seductions upon him. When the New-York result was given to the minority, therefore, on the submission of the resolutions as to Slavery, and the Governor got the floor, much interest was manifested to hear him speak. Silence prevailed as he remarked that the question of the gentleman from New-York was a pertinent if not a polite one, and should be calmly looked in the face, and frankly, clearly and decidedly answered. It was asked whether any man of the Convention felt that he was not bound by the decision of a majority of its members? He would answer it for himself, for Massachusetts, for an all but unanimous North, and, turning to the New-York gentleman, he would it were an entirely unanimous North, for then the Council could not and would not dare deny its demands. His answer then was that they *would not* be bound by the action of that or any other body of men for a single moment to a declaration of principles that were false to the Constitution, to liberty and to the rights of the humblest citizen of this Republic. On the proposed platform they would not stand for a moment in a single village of New-England, and they ought not if they could. The New-York gentlemen deserved for out-Heroding the South to be swept away, as they were doomed to be, by an outraged and indignant people. The South itself was ashamed of New-York for their efforts here to reject just concessions to the North. New-England, the North, the West, asked the only boon of a just and honest platform, and that they would have or shake the dust off their feet as a testimony against them.

Gov. Gardner proceeded in this strain for some minutes amid profound silence, interrupted only by cheers from the Free States, and closed with an eloquent appeal to the magnanimity and chivalry of the South to concede the restoration of the Missouri Compromise.

Gov. Fletcher of Vermont handsomely responded to his Massachusetts brother, saying that he spoke the sentiment of the Free States nobly; that he thanked him for it and was proud of him for it. Gov. Fletcher plainly told the Convention that if the wishes of the North were not considered the popular indignation of the Free States would break down every relic of Slavery not restrained by the bulwark of the Constitution, and what was quite as desirable, extinguish the whole tribe of Northern doughfaces.

There was another manly speech on Monday evening. Mr. Clement of Delaware, who had signed the minority report in favor of the restoration of the Missouri Compromise, was denounced by his associate delegates for so doing and charged with misrepresenting them upon the Committee. He explained this to the Council, and assumed to himself the responsibility of his agreement with the minority. He had acted conscientiously after careful deliberation as to his duty, and he should stand by his act now and for ever. He believed what he demanded to be right, and he would be true to his belief whatever the opinions of others or the result in the Council.

The resolutions of the majority of the Committee were drawn by Mr. Burwell of Virginia, and submitted by Mr. Lyons of New-York. The Committee adopted them, 17 to 14—the Nays being those who signed the minority report. Previously another set of resolutions had been adopted by the Committee, which if anything were more objectionable still. They were the production of Vespasian Ellis of the American organ at Washington, and proposed in one of the series to forbid the discussion of the Slavery question, in or out of its Councils, in any of its forms by the American party. This was adopted by the Committee—Yeas, 15; Nays, 14. Another of this series proposed that the Constitution and Laws of the General Government should be rigidly obeyed and enforced, and was intended to apply particularly to the Fugitive Slave Law. A Free State member proposed an addition extending its application to the se laws which guaranteed "popular sovereignty" to the actual settlers in the Territories, and this was voted down by New-York and the South, 13 to 15! Thus you see the spirit and purpose that control here.

There has been a great debate all this forenoon on the Slavery question, in which Judge Hopkins of Alabama, John W. Foster of Massachusetts, S. Squires of New-York, Senator Wilson of Massachusetts, Mr. Morse of Alabama, Mr. Carey of Massachusetts, Mr. Cumback of Indiana, and Mr. Barber of New-York, have participated. Judge Hopkins made an elaborate, specious legal argument for Slavery on the Calhoun ground that the Constitution carried Slavery wherever it carried its own supreme authority.

The speeches of Messrs. Foster and Wilson of Massachusetts, were given with effect. They were directed largely against the Northern doughfaces, and embraced a withering exposition of the sham pretentions of the New-York delegates. Massachusetts comes here, said Gen. Wilson, with 80,000 men at her back; but these men of the Empire State have nothing at their backs but their clothes. William H. Seward has his heels upon their necks and will crush them out, so soon as the people get a chance at them. They are as impotent in influence as they are beggarly in character. New-York is thoroughly Anti-Nebraska, and has so exhibited herself in her elections of Congressmen, and in the unanimous declarations of her Legislature. Mr. Foster's speech embraced some passages of great beauty and effect. He spoke of Daniel Webster, of his concessions to the South, which then betrayed him and turned him off with not even the poor compliment of a nomination for the Presidency. Then it was that the iron entered his great soul, and he went home to die. If he, with his great talents, his commanding reverence, could overcome and turn back the Anti-Slavery feeling of Massachusetts, how can we expect to ignore her sentiments, now deepened by fresh Southern orgies, and stand up for a moment within her borders?

The speech of Mr. Morse in defense of the Southern view was a fine one, and that of Mr. Camback was very effective. He stood up boldly for the position of the North. Mr. C. is a young man (but 26 years old) formerly a Democrat, and is elected to the next Congress from Indiana on the Anti-Nebraska issue. He has been prominent and very effective here in concentrating a true Northern feeling, and stands fully upon the Massachusetts platform, as do all his colleagues.

Mr. Barker's speech was a bitter reply to the attacks upon him from the Massachusetts members. He undertook to carry the war into Africa.

The debate goes on this evening. It is believed the South will propose a milder Slavery platform as a compromise with the North. But it will not do. Nothing short of the substitution of the minority Massachusetts resolution will prevent an explosion. The North grows stiffer and stiffer on that as an ultimatum.

[By Telegraph.]

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

PHILADELPHIA, June 12, 1855—8 P. M.

The debate on Slavery has raged all day with great vehemence, On the part of the South it has been conducted with much fearlessness and power. Foster and Wilson of Massachusetts, and Ford of Ohio, have made magnificent speeches, showing the impossibility of union on the majority resolutions, denouncing the repeal of the Missouri Compromise and demanding its restoration. The New-York Delegates have been riddled fore and aft for their doughfaceism. The South is cowed completely, and the doughfaces are thinning out wonderfully. Men here are beginning to find out that the North are in earnest. Seymour of New-York, has deserted his associates and come on to the restoration platform. Pennsylvania has seen new light, and says she can be saved only on that platform. Foster's speech was admirable. Wilson came down with crushing force on the New-Yorkers, and Ford swept the field. Richmond of Massachusetts, Cumback of Indiana, Baker of New-York, and Cunningham of South Carolina, have been among the other speakers. Kenneth Rayner has felt stiffened up by a dispatch from a reliable friend in New-York, saying that not a single Free State can be carried on the majority platform. The South are on their knees asking for a compromise. It is impossible to describe the effect of the day's debate. The talk of the North has been of the plainest and most vigorous sort.

A third session has just commenced and the debate goes on.

Ten O'Clock P. M.—The Council is still discussing the Slavery question. Many delegates yet desire to speak. Sperry of Connecticut spoke well to-night, denying the spinal complaint and demanding the restoration for Kansas as the least concession to Connecticut. Kenneth Rayner created a great storm among the Southern members to-day by declaring the repeal of the Missouri Compromise not only uncalled for but an outrage. The question will be reached to-morrow. The probability now is that both the majority and minority resolutions will be rejected and milk and water attempted. Let the North beware of it.

The reports which prevailed this afternoon that a portion of the members of the Convention had seceded, and that there was a prospect of the Convention breaking up in a row, are entirely false. The Slavery debate was not resumed, the Convention being engaged in discussing the naturalization laws—pending which the Platform Committee made their final report, which was laid upon the table, and it will not probably be taken up again until the naturalization question is settled.

AMERICA FOR AMERICANS.—We learn that the tickets used for the grand K. N. banquet at Philadelphia the other evening were bought, for the purpose, of a German importer in this City, and were made in Germany, lithographs and all. Considering this was a Native-American festival, one would suppose that American cards would have been good enough for the occasion.

THE SHAKESPEARE CLUB DUEL.

From The Commercial Advertiser.

"The Revised Statutes of this State make the following provisions respecting dueling:

"Any resident of the State who by previous appointment fights a duel out of the jurisdiction of the State, and inflicts a wound upon his antagonist or any other person, whereof the injured person shall die within the limits of the State, shall be deemed guilty of murder, and shall be indicted and tried for that offense.

"Every person who shall fight a duel with any deadly weapon, *although no death ensue*, shall upon conviction be sentenced to imprisonment in a State Prison for a term not exceeding ten years.

"Every person sending a challenge, or accepting one, or knowingly carrying or delivering one, or who shall be present at a duel, or be in any way accessory, shall be liable to imprisonment in a State Prison for a term not exceeding seven years.

"Every person convicted of fighting a duel with a deadly weapon shall be disqualified for any office or post of trust or emolument.

"Any inhabitant of the State leaving the same for the purpose of evading the laws of the State in respect to dueling, whether as principal or second, shall be deemed as guilty, and shall be subject to the like punishment as if the offense had been committed within the State.

"Posting a person for not fighting a duel, or for not sending or accepting a challenge, or using reproachful or contemptuous language to any one on such an account, shall be punished as a misdemeanor.

"It is made the duty of the Attorney-General to bring to trial all persons indicted for offenses against these laws."

These laws are sufficiently explicit and intelligible. He that runs may read and understand. Messrs. Leavenworth and Breckenridge, two young gentlemen, members of a club in this City, of such position in life as to know the law or to be utterly inexcusable if ignorant of it, deliberately violated its provisions, as did also their seconds and others of their youthful friends. A challenge was sent and accepted; the parties went beyond the limits of the State; each of the principals was wounded, one of them if not fatally, at least so as to be maimed and crippled for life. This was done in bold defiance of the laws of the State. The surgeon who accompanied them, the principals and their seconds, deliberately chose to expose themselves to imprisonment in a State prison for years, to cut themselves off from eligibility to any office of trust or emolument, and to entail upon their friends and themselves an irretrievable disgrace. Now it would be foolish to suppose that they would have fought this duel had they not supposed that the law could be *safely* defied—that they might violate it without incurring its penalty. *Can* they escape the consequences of their illegal conduct? If they can, then the law may as well be—nay, had better be—erased from the statute book, for it triumphantly defied in so bold a manner and so plain a case, it will be unjust and in vain to attempt to enforce it hereafter.

Waiving for the present any comments upon the circumstances in which the duel originated and the folly and criminality of dueling under any circumstances, let us look at its illegality alone and the effect of its passing unpunished in the present instance. In the first place it is to be noted that neither of these two foolish youths has done the State or the world such service as should exempt him from the equal operation of laws enacted for the government and restraint of the people. That both were favorably circumstanced pecuniarily is only an additional reason why they should have set an example of obedience to law since none have so much at stake as the wealthier classes in the supremacy of law. If with such temporal comforts as almost preclude discontent or temptation they set the example of outraging law, it can be no matter of surprise if the ignorant and poor set law at defiance even in excess of the example. And we can conceive no reason why these young men should not be punished for their offense as certainly, promptly and severely as if they had been modern editions of Snug the joiner and Bottom the weaver; but rather the reverse, for the reason already glanced at.

If Messrs. Leavenworth, Breckenridge and their associates are allowed to pass without indictment and trial for an offense against the laws that is as palpable as an offense can be, for what crime shall a man be punished? Highway robbery is no more a felony in the eye of the law than dueling, even when the latter is unattended by fatal consequences. Neither is burglary, nor other crimes that might be named. The law that makes dueling a State-Prison offense—and a capital crime when death results—has the same origin and the same sanctions that appertain to the law that makes burglary and highway robbery penal; and how shall the magistrate or the people rightly visit the breach of the laws against robbery with penal consequences if breaches of the law against dueling are permitted to pass unrebuked and unpunished? Nay, there is a question of still greater import. How can it be expected that the masses of the people shall submit to the restraints and governments of law if those moving in a higher sphere may throw off that restraint with impunity whenever arrogance or folly tempts them to do so? And where shall be found security for life and property, when, the wealthy leading and the poor following, each sets at defiance that law the restraint of which he most sensibly feels? The one, the law that imposes restriction upon his temper; the other, the law that restrains his hand.

We have said nothing of the circumstances in which this piece of extravagant folly on the part of two hot-tempered youths originated, or of the practice of dueling in alleged vindication of a man's so-called honor. That we hold the practice in the utmost contempt and abhorrence our readers well know. When the parties meet without the intention of killing each other, it is a broad farce, a mean and contemptible pretence; when they meet with such intent, it is murder and nothing less. Whether these two young gentlemen met with murderous intent or only for a make-believe and to gain eclat, is immaterial at present, since they both live. Each has escaped the guilt of actual murder, and both have earned the fame of liability to imprisonment in the State Prison. But they have gained no honor. Far from it. The origin of the quarrel was too dishonorable—too discreditable to them as professed gentlemen—to bring them honor, whatever the result of the duel. The one knowingly violated a rule of the club, to observe which he had pledged his honor, by voluntarily becoming a member of it. The other retaliated by an act of rudeness of which the humblest tradesman or the most exasperated dun would scarcely have been guilty. Was there any thing gentlemanly, chivalrous, honorable or noble-minded in the conduct of either? Assuredly not; and nothing but a frank, mutual apology to each other and to the members of the club who were present, could make fitting atonement for such an obvious breach of good manners.

From The Albany Atlas.

Leavenworth had invited a stranger to the Club, which Breckenridge, impertinently assuming a duty belonging to the officers, told him he had no right to do, and that he had no right to be there at all, not having paid up his dues. Mr. Leavenworth, after interrogating the managers as to his continued membership, returned and accused Breckenridge of falsehood. The latter threw a glove in his face, and the challenge followed.

Under our own laws the act of passing a challenge is a felony, as is the going out of the State to fight a duel. The laws of Canada define the duel to be murder and make all the participants accessories; and the International Treaty requires us to surrender the criminals for trial wherever found in any State in the Union.

These gentlemen, their seconds and the surgeon who left New-York to attend them, are therefore subject to indictment and punishment of the severest nature here and in Canada, and can only escape by the apathy and inaction of the Courts in the Province and the State.

They evidently count on this here. The only example which the law has offered in the case is that of Col. Webb, and who, convicted of a violation of the law in this respect and sentenced to the State Prison, was pardoned by Gov. Seward, and whose example of impunity seems not to have been lost on these crude coxcombs and their foolish associates.

The law which makes dueling murder is a folly because it is a falsehood. The common sense of mankind recoils at such a perversion of terms as places one who exposes in open combat his life against another's on the level of the midnight assassin and the secret poisoner. The only effect of this legislation thus far has been to lessen the prejudice against murder and to give impunity to assassination for injuries against honor and family which were once resented in the duel.

The offense, however, is one that society should punish—and to punish effectually, should strike at the sense of honor of the parties, in which the usage has its origin by social and political disqualifications, by pecuniary liabilities, (such as making the survivor liable for the debts of his fallen adversary,) and by banishment—penalties that no gallant man could ask an antagonist to encounter.

This duel is an opprobrium to the Club in which it arose. Such bodies possess an organization which enables them to be Courts of Honor, to appease quarrels, and to give the sanction of honorable names to acts of reconciliation. It was the duty of honorable men, in the case of a mere boy thus forced into an almost fatal combat, to interfere and prevent the progress of the quarrel instead of listlessly looking on, or pleasing an idle vanity by their connection with this "affair of "honor."

AN HOUR IN THE TOMBS.

An hour in the Tombs! Not as a prisoner like glorious John Bunyan in Bedford Jail—not like our large-hearted friend C——r for writing a "Deacon "Gile's Distillery"—not as a clutched vagrant like some of the blear-eyed sots around us fresh from the havoc of the grog-shop—but only subpenaed to the Tombs as a witness in a "liquor-trial." Though probably intended as a mere annoyance to us for our Maine Law predilections, we accepted the summons. Punctual to the moment we arrived and learned that certain knights of the toddy-stick had been complained of for selling grog on the Sabbath; the trial was set down for 2 o'clock. When we reached the gloomy Egyptian Hall we found ourselves in excellent company: Dr. T—— (the noble champion of free speech) Judge H—— and several other steadfast friends of Prohibition being present on a similar errand.

For a good hour they kept us in the foul tobacco-fumigated atmosphere of an uncleansed, unlighted and unventilated court-room, which demands another Howard to purify it and whose walls might preach Maine Law sermons that would make the blood to curdle. The room gradually filled up with the tatter-demalion throng who swarm about the Police Courts; some from curiosity, some from interest in relatives who are occupying *retired apartments* further in, and some from a morbid hunger for the nauseous revelations of crime. While we were waiting for the magistrate to achieve his dinner and assume the vacant bench several ready-made and completed *specimens* of the liquor-manufacture were brought in by the police for commitment. One was a raving wretch, around whom clung the tattered relics of a female dress, the last semblance of womanhood. She screamed and swore at the officers with ear-stunning profanity, and every new sally of her blackguardism was received with great gusto by the assembled élite of the Tombs. Just before me crouched a poor remnant of a woman; on one side of her a pair of children and on the other a sottish husband, whose rags she was endeavoring to hold together—the lingering instincts of decency not yet crushed out of her. As I watched her patient efforts to hide his shame I bethought me of many another wife and sister who have labored long at the same melancholy office and labored in vain.

Over in one corner of the room sat the most frightful caricature of humanity I have yet encountered in this City, full as New-York is of dismasted and rotting wrecks. He bore such a resemblance to Cruickshank's maniac-drunkard in his celebrated pictures of "The Bottle" that I was startled. That red, raw, livid face, out of which protruded two bloodshot eyes wide open but yet hardly *seeing*—that matted tangle of hair—that sensual mouth through which the tide of liquid damnation had been poured in—that whole crouching, trembling, poisoned, decaying form, wrapped up in the vestige of a seedy coat held by a single button, I never can forget. The idiotic figure haunts me yet. Hogarth never drew anything more hideous in his last scenes of the "Rake's Progress," I am certain that the poison-sellers of New-York never turned out a more finished specimen of their handiwork or one more worthy to be sent over to Paris to the "Exposition of Industry." As I looked at the *wares* collected inside of the bar and at the manufacturers of such specimens who were congregated outside of the railing, I thought—if these are the spectacles from which the Maine Law is to deliver us, then Heaven be praised for the thrice-blessed enactment! It is worthy the unflinching support of every pulpit, every parent, every patriot.

After a weary though not wasted hour, the Judge arrived and the Court opened. But lo! there was no complainant present and the complaints were dismissed! The dramsellers withdrew to their work of destroying men, and we to our work of trying to save them. We retired with a new horror for this merchandise in human groans and tears burning in our soul. At first we said to ourselves, Well, Messrs. Rumsellers! if you wish to *sit for your portraits* again or have your *wares* advertised in the public journals again, just subpena us to come down, and we will lay aside the study of scriptures and sermons to study in the Tombs native depravity. We said—these men are not the only transgressors. They sell poison for pence, but we owe them no ill will; it is their hell-kindling *traffic* we oppose. Others are in the fault as well as they. Those "Christian" professors who ignore the whole teachings of Bible temperance and who mock at prohibition are also in the fault. Those who flash the sparkling champagne-bottle before their guests at mahogony tables are deep in the condemnation. Those ministers of Christ who seal their lips in reference to this monster curse are not guiltless either. The dramseller has his ten thousand accomplices in drawing-rooms and political club-rooms, behind the press and even in the courts of justice. He grew up himself under evil influences and with no higher rule of life than "put money in thy "purse;" he found grog-drinking fashionable from the Fifth-av. to the Five-Points and grog-selling easy and profitable. So he fell to coining money out of life's blood, and sat dawn under the protection of license systems to carry on his remorseless traffic. But a better day dawns for him and for us; we are not his foes but his truest friends when we devoutly wish that the sharp thong of *prohibition* will drive every one of his fraternity into decent and honorable callings.

T. L. C.

MUSICAL INTELLIGENCE.

The concert of Mrs. Isidora Clark at the Metropolitan Theater last evening was the third this lady has lately given in the capacity of "American prima "donna." The term prima donna being technical and applying only to the "first lady" in the opera, is not due to concert singing pure and simple; but as it is in this instance assumed, we must treat of Mrs. Clark, solely from the highest point. Were the claims less, the criticism would be different.

Mrs. Clark has by nature a good sonorous voice, but up to this time it is inadequately trained. Some things she does well, some ill, and some hardly at all. Her voice is rendered sometimes insufficiently from the chest, and coming from the roof of the mouth is slightly nasal. At other times it is well delivered. Some difficult running passages are fairly rendered and others blurred. The first piece from Ernani was better given than the last of the first part, an air with variations. The execution of the bravura parts of the latter was very ambitious but wanted meaning, artistic finish and that thorough neatness which are indispensable to such styles. Of the two ballads the first was very nicely rendered. Every word was distinct, and the light and shade well preserved. This is saying a good deal, for women seldom sing ballads fit to be heard—a man's voice, temper and declamation being indispensable for the perfection of music of that kind. Indeed we can hardly recall a single eminent feminine singer appearing lately who on the whole has delivered a ballad so satisfactorily in regard to clear pronunciation and simplicity of style as did Mrs. Clark last night in her first ballad. The second was not remarkable, and had a cadenza out of place. In singing "Comin' thro' the Rye" the artist should not make any musical graces beyond those suited to a barefooted Scotch lassie, otherwise it becomes caricature. The contemplation of the great masters in all arts reveals as much as any thing else the simplicity of their means, when simplicity is required. It is the wonderful charm of Burns's poetry as well as Murillo's Madonna. In Music the greatest artists produce the greatest effects with the fewest notes. Duprez as *Arnold* never made a grace-note, and yet how sublime!

In conclusion, we think Mrs. Clark would best please those whose good opinion she seems to value by emitting in public the inferior part of singing—the running, leaping, and vaulting—until she has thoroughly mastered it, and confining herself chiefly or entirely to the declamatory and adagio styles. Her voice when she properly forms it has body enough for a slow or moderate movement, and her intelligence in interpretation need not then be balked by mechanical difficulties.

Of the other singers we only heard Signor Bernardi, who it seemed to us never appeared to such advantage either as to voice or style. Mr. Appy's execution on the violin of the *Sleep* air in Massaniello was large, and the most satisfactory bit of the solo.

AFRICAN DISCOVERY.

From The London Athenæum.

On the first of December, 1854, it fell to the share of Dr. Barth—he who had already been believed dead—to meet in "very good health and spirits" Dr. Vogel—to see once more the face of a European, and grasp the hand of a countryman who had been sent to join him. As only a few preliminary hasty lines from Dr. Vogel, written in pencil, have come to hand, the particulars of this event have not yet transpired; but it may easily be conceived what it must have been to Dr. Barth. It was exactly six years since he left Europe in company with Mr. Richardson and Dr. Overweg; and, since the decease of the latter on the 27th of September, 1852, not only had his communications with Europe been all but entirely cut off, but he had indeed been isolated from the civilized world and left to battle with manifold hardships and dangers.

Dr. Vogel writes he intended to proceed as speedily as possible to Yakoba and Adamaua, in which plan he seems to have been encouraged by some acceptable and important passports, in the shape of letters of recommendation, from the powerful Fellata Chief at Sokoto, which Dr. Barth had brought with him and handed to his countryman. Dr. Vogel had not received any communication from Tripoli or Murzuk since the 27th of February, 1854, in consequence of the state of the Saharan countries, which seem again involved in general war and bloodshed.

Letters from Dr. Barth himself have come to my hands, which, though written before his meeting with Dr. Vogel, are of great interest, as they contain the first news respecting his journey from Timbuktu back to Sudan, and the first positive information ever received from a European traveler of the River Kowara between that place and its lower course.

It appears that Dr. Barth had been detained at or near Timbuktu several months beyond the date of his last letters dispatched from that region, namely the 23d of March, 1854, between which date and the time of his arrival at Kano, which took place on the 17th of October last, nearly seven months intervene. Dr. Barth himself says: "After a protracted stay of "*nearly a year* at Timbuktu—the "Queen of the Des-"ert," as it is justly called by the natives—I retraced "my steps eastward along the shores of that magnifi-"cent river which the undaunted Scotchman (Mungo "Park) descended about fifty years since, fighting his "way through numerous fleets manned by Tuaricks "and Sudans—lost labor to science, his journal having "perished with him;—while I went along reconciling "and befriending these very people, and obtaining "full security from their chiefs for any English visit-"ing their territories, whether by land or water." Thus Dr. Barth has been able to realize his great wish, namely to trace this river between Timbuktu and Say; which latter place is situated in about 13° 10′ north lat., and 3° east long. Greenwich. This its middle course seems everywhere navigable and enlivened with large fleets—its shores densely inhabited by people who received and treated Dr. Barth most kindly, and implored him to stay with them altogether or to return soon in an English ship. They learned from him with astonishment as to whence the river which forms the basis of their existence and wealth comes, and where it terminates.

Dr. Barth alludes to a large map of the river drawn by him, which he had sent to the Foreign Office. He has also transmitted with the present letters some of a former date, which had been dispatched by him while on his way to Timbuktu, but which, as he found on his return to Sudan, had not been forwarded, probably because their envelopes and addresses had been lost. These letters are dated "Dore, in Libtako, 16th "July, 1853," which place is about midway between Sokoto and Timbuktu (see map in my "Geographi-"sche Mittheilungen," part I.), or in lat. 14° 30′ north, and close upon the meridian of Greenwich; and they contain a full account respecting that region, which was entirely unknown before.

Libtako forms a portion of the very extensive Fellata dominions, and is a very important commercial point. The principal article of trade is the salt of Taodenni, which is brought thither by the Arabs of Timbuktu, while the Tuaricks bring corn and butter, the people of Mosi their celebrated donkeys and their famous cotton manufactures, cheap black shirts and a large, peculiar kind of guro-nuts. The inhabitants of the country supply sweet and sour milk; and their manufactures consist chiefly of very handsome and cheap shawls made of cotton and wool and of various colors. The market at Dore, the chief place of Libtako, is held every day. Cowries are almost the sole medium of interchange.

Libtako occupies an elevated, dreary plain, devoid of trees and shrubs, and suffering from the want of rain. Granite protrudes in many places out of the soil. Dr. Barth made many inquiries respecting the town of Adafudia, reached by Mr. Duncan, and which, according to the position assigned to it by that traveler, ought to be within one hundred geographical miles from Libtako—but in vain; he could hear nothing whatever of it. Though the country was in a state of anarchy when Dr. Barth passed through it, he did not suffer on that account, but rather from the too exalted manner in which he was received everywhere—the inhabitants flocking from all quarters to receive his blessing. The Arabs looked upon him as no common Christian—owing to the information he possessed of topics specially interesting to themselves, and to the fact of his coming from the East. The Tillahas had christened him "Modibo," by which name he was universally known in those countries.

It was near Libtako where Barth was so fortunate as to make the acquaintance of one of the followers of the Sheikh el Bakay—the Pope of Timbuktu—who subsequently became his best friend and greatest benefactor. This person exercises an influence over a very extensive region, nearly as far as Sokoto in the east; and he may be said to have created of Timbuktu a kind of African Rome—the center of the power of Islam.

The region between Libtako in the west and the River Kowara (here called Tsa, Say or Mayo) in the east is occupied by territories belonging to the large country of Gurma, only the northern part of which belongs to the Fellatas. The language of Gurma has a few words in common with that of Benin. Within Gurma are various rivers, all tributaries of the Kowara—the largest being the Sirba, which Barth found twelve feet deep in the beginning of July, and which he had to cross by means of immense bundles of reeds fastened together, as boats are entirely wanting. The valley of the Sirba is very ill-famed as being most destructive to all kinds of cattle and horses. The soil along the course of the river swarms with black worms.

Dr. Barth's letters contain interesting extracts from the "Tarikh el Sudan," an important work on the history of Sudan, hitherto unknown.

On his arrival at Kano in October last, Dr. Barth, instead of finding letters and supplies from home, received information of the rumor of his death having been spread in Sudan, and even reached Europe, concerning which—not knowing exactly the origin and circumstances connected with it—he felt very sore and indignant, while the absence of all needful supplies put him to great straits and inconvenience. Happily those, as we know, he subsequently got over. His longing to reach Europe knew no bounds; as he declares that the being exposed to another rainy season (the sixth), or to remain much longer without the refreshing influence of European atmosphere and proper food would be his certain death. Yet in the same sentence he speaks of ultimately returning to the field of his labors, and trying to penetrate into the interior of Africa from the coast of Zanzibar, after having strengthened his health!

The only cause of joy which awaited him in Kano was the news of the success of the Chadda Expedition, of which he seemed to have learnt all the particulars from the natives. Among others he met an old acquaintance, the Governor of Hamarrua—a country situated on the shores of the upper course of the Chadda. This person told him that the exploring steamer Pleiad had also reached his country, that he had received the Expedition very friendly, and had made the commander a present of six oxen.

AUGUSTUS PETERMANN.

LORD DUNDONALD'S DEVASTATOR.

[Copy of part of a letter from an officer engaged in Lord Cochrane's daring enterprise and victory, Basque Roads, 1809.

Our fire ships were sent in, each conducted by a lieutenant and five men. The ships were sixteen in number, and some very heavy. When they got in the French ships cut and slipped and nine sail of the line got on shore on the Isle of Aix, and the next morning we discovered them. The fire-ships having done little good the small craft and fitty-ates were ordered in to attempt to destroy them. The place where they lay was like Portsmouth harbor, under the fire of two batteries, each of which had three tier of guns of twenty-nine each, all heavy metal. The navigation to get at them was very difficult, in some places there being only four fathom water. Just as we were were sitting down to dinner on board the Revenge our signal was made to go in assist the gun and mortar vessels. Our ship was clear for action in fifteen minutes, and in half an hour we were alongside of three sail of the line, when we opened a dreadful canonade on them which continued for an hour and a quarter when the Warsaw, a fine eighty-gun ship, and the Aquilon, struck to us. We were now in a very critical state ourselves, being in only five fathom water, which was ebbing very fast. The batteries on shore, having got our length, struck us almost every shot for the last quarter of an hour. Luckily, a breeze springing up, we got off into deeper water and out of reach of their guns, when we anchored again and sent our boats to take out the prisoners, and set them on fire about 7 P. M. At 9 they were all in flames, and at 2 in the morning they blew up with a tremendous explosion. The French set fire to the Tonnerre and the Imperieuse to the Calcutta. Three other ships of the line are on shore very much mauled by the frigates and bomb-ships. Some of them are on their beam-ends, and but little chance of their getting off again. The captain of the Warsaw is on board our ship. He says they were bound out to relieve Martinique with troops and provisions. I went on board his ship after she struck, and the decks were strewed with dead and wounded—a