FOREFATHERS' DAY AT PLYMOUTH.

We have already published in full the masterly Oration pronounced by the Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD before the Pilgrim Society at Plymouth on Friday last. The services in the church were followed by a public dinner, of which we compile a brief account from the Boston journals.

The tables were occupied by more than three hundred ladies and gentlemen, who were indebted for whatever of inspiration they felt on the occasion to something better than wine. On each plate were placed five kernels of parched corn, reminding those present of the time when the Pilgrim Fathers were reduced to the severest extremity for lack of food.

RICHARD WARREN, esq., of New-York, President of the Plymouth Society, occupied the chair. The Divine blessing was invoked by the Rev. Dr. KENDALL of Plymouth. The President made an exceedingly pertinent introductory speech, closing with an appropriate sentiment. Then followed letters from the New-England Societies of Chicago, New York and Charleston, S. C.; from the Antiquarian Society at Worcester; from the Hon Geo. Bancroft, the Hon. Edward Everett, Prof. Huntington, the Hon. R. C. Winthrop, Gov. Gardner, and others. A toast in relation to Popular Education was responded to by Ex-Gov. Boutwell; another referring to Bradford's Journal, lately discovered, by the Rev. John A. S. Barry. The next toast was received with loud cheers:

The Orator of the Day—Eloquent in his tribute to the virtues of the Pilgrims; faithful in his life, to the lessons they taught.

The Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, the orator of the day, according to *The Atlas*, spoke in response substantially as follows:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN—The Puritans were Protestants, but they were not Protestants against everybody and everything, right or wrong. They did not protest indiscriminately against everything they found in England. On the other hand, as we have abundant indications in the works of genius and art which they left behind them, they had a reverence for all that is good and true; while they protested against everything that was false and vicious. They had a reverence for the good taste and the literature, science, eloquence and poetry of England, and so, I trust, it is with their successors in this once bleak and inhospitable, but now rich and prosperous land. They can appreciate poetry, as well as good sense and good taste, and so I call to your recollection the language of a poet, who had not loomed up at the time of the Puritans as he has since. It was addressed to his steed after an ill-starred journey from London to Islington town. The poet said:

"'Twas for your pleasure you came here,
You shall go back for mine" [laughter].

Being a candid and frank man, as one ought to be who addresses the descendants of the Puritans, I may say that it was not at all for your pleasure that I came here. Though I may go back to gratify you, yet I came here for my own purposes. The time has passed away when I could make a distant journey from a mild clime to a cold, though fair region, without inconvenience; but there was one wish—I might almost say there was only one wish of my heart—that I was anxious should be gratified. I had been favored with many occasions to see the seats of empire in this Western World, and had never omitted occasions to see where the seats of empire were planted, and how they prospered. I had visited the capital of my own and of many other American States. I had regarded with admiration the capital of this great Republic, in whose destinies, in common with you all, I feel an interest which can never die. I had seen the capitals of the British Empire, and of many foreign empires, and had endeavored to study for myself the principles, which have prevailed in the foundation of States and Empires. With that view I had beheld a city standing where a migration from the Netherlands planted an Empire on the Bay of New York, at Manhattan, or perhaps more properly at Fort Orange. They sought to plant a commercial Empire, and they did not fail, but in New-York now, although they celebrate the memories and virtues of fatherland, there is no day dedicated to the colonization of New-York, by its original settlers, the immigrants from Holland. I have visited Wilmington, on Christina Creek in Delaware, where a Colony was planted by the Swedes, about the time of the settlement of Plymouth, and though the old church built by the Colonists still stands there, I learned that there did not remain in the whole State a family capable of speaking the language, or conscious of bearing the name of one of the thirty-one original Colonists. I have stood on the spot where a treaty was made by William Penn with the Aborigines of Pennsylvania, where a seat of empire was established by him, and although the status of the good man stands in public place, and his memory remains in the minds of men, yet there is no day set apart for the recollection of the time and the occasion when civil and religious liberty were planted in that State. I went still further South, and descending the James River sought the first colony of Virginia at Jamestown. There remains nothing but the broken, ruined tower of a poor church built of brick, in which Pocahontas was married, and over the ruins of which the ivy now creeps. Not a human being, bond or free, is to be seen within the circumference of a mile from the spot, nor a town or city as numerously populated as Plymouth on the whole shores of the broad, beautiful, majestic river, between Richmond at the head and Norfolk where arms and the Government have established fortifications. Nowhere else in America, then, was there left a remembrance by the descendants of the founders of colonies, of the virtues, the sufferings, the bravery, the fidelity to truth and freedom of their ancestors; and more painful still, nowhere in Europe can be found an acknowledgment, or even a memory of these colonists. In Holland, in Spain, in Great Britain, in France, nowhere is there to be found any remembrance of the men they sent out to plant Liberty on his continent. So, on the way to the Mississippi, I saw where De Soto planted the standard of Spain, and, in imagination at least, I followed the march of Cortez in Mexico, and Pizarro in Peru; but their memory has gone out. Civil liberty perishes, and religious liberty was never known in South America, nor does Spain, any more than other lands, retain the memory of the apostles she sent out to convert the New World to a purer faith, and raise the hopes of mankind for the well-being of the future. But there was one only place where a company of outcasts, men despised, contemned, reproached as malcontents and fanatics, had planted a colony, and that colony had grown and flourished; and there had never been a day since it was planted that the very town, and shore and coast where it was planted, had not grown and spread in population, wealth, prosperity and happiness, richer and stronger continually. It had not only grown and flourished like a vigorous tree, rejoicing in its own strength, but it had sent out offshoots in all directions. Everywhere the descendants of these colonists were found engaged in the struggles for civil and religious liberty, and the rights of man. I had found them by my side, the champions of humanity, upon whose stalwart arms I might safely rely. I came here, then, because the occasion offered, and if I pretermitted this it might be the last, and I was unwilling that any friend or any foeman might lean upon me, who reckoned upon my counsel or advice, should know that I had been much a truant to the cause of religious liberty and humanity as never to have seen the Rock of Plymouth. [Cheers.] My mission being now accomplished, having stood years in the first Church of the Puritans, when the heartfelt benediction was pronounced over my unworthy head by that venerable pastor, I have only to ask that I be dismissed from further service with your kind wishes. I will hold the occasion ever dear to my remembrance, for it is here I have found the solution of the great political problem. Like Archimedes, I have found the fulcrum by whose aid I may move the world—the moral world—and that fulcrum is Plymouth Rock. [Loud applause.]

A song, written for a similar occasion a few years since, entitled "Two Hundred Years Ago," was sung by Mr. S. B. Ball, vocalist, of Boston.

WENDELL PHILLIPS, esq., was called to respond to a toast to the Pilgrim Fathers and was received with cheers. He said the line of thought of the orator—the deep resounding march with which the orator passed in review the centuries, and pointed out their signification—has full possession of all their minds, and he could not depart from it. The claim of the Pilgrims upon their age, was that they had acted while others speculated, and instead of letting "I dare not" wait upon "I would," launched boldly upon the Atlantic and trusted God. They can claim every free altar and free home as their work, for they taught men to be free. The Pilgrims, if they had lived in 1855, would not be in Plymouth, but in Kansas. If Elder Brewster were alive now, he would add to his creed the Maine Law, the Under Ground Railroad, and a thousand of Sharpe's rifles, addressed "Kansas," and labeled "Books." [Applause.] He would not acknowledge the right of Plymouth to the whole rock; it underlies the whole country, and only crops out here. It cropped out, too, when Putnam said, "Don't fire, boys, until you see the white of their eyes" [cheers]. It showed itself when Ingraham rescued Martin Koszta from Austrian despotism. Jefferson used it for his writing desk, and Lovejoy leveled his musket across it at Alton, Illinois. He recognized the oilak of it to-day when the great apostle of the higher law laid his beautiful garland upon the sacred altar. [Mr. Seward remarked that he was not a descendant of the Pilgrims of the Mayflower.] He says he is not descended from the Mayflower, said Mr. Phillips; it is a mistake. There is such a thing as pedigree of mind as well as of body, and he knows so much about the Mayflower that I am sure, as a Western man would say, he was "there" [cheers and laughter]. It was proposed to raise a monument to the Pilgrims, and he would suggest that one corner-stone be placed upon the rock and the other upon that spot where lie the fifty of that noble band who perished the first Winter. Every second man of them went down to the grave, but they only closed up their ranks, shoulder to shoulder. They stood between the tempest and the English sovereign, but they chose death rather than compromise. Who attack the strongest blows for Religious Liberty? Was it those reformers who stood nearest the English throne, or was it the uncompromising band whose strength was developed in America? Carver and Bradford did not stop to criticise; like Michael Angelo they criticised by creation. *The Edinburgh Review* calls them intolerant, but it gets its yardstick to measure their intolerance from the very institutions these men have given them. He would select as mottoes to be placed on the Pilgrim monument—over the rock, "The Right"—it is More than Our Country," and over the graves of the fifty, "Death Rather than Compromise." He distrusted that word "Compromise," and would kick it out of doors. He had no doubt our fathers talked for Buncombe sometimes, as, for instance, in their expressions of allegiance to Elizabeth and to King George; but underlying this language of courtesy was a deep earnestness of purpose. Governor Boutwell talked about taste, but he remembered that the Pilgrims voted that each man build his own house, and he hoped that each one of their descendants would continue to build his own mental house. The Pilgrims built institutions for men; not men for institutions. They planted wisely, and though we may have men so extremely conservative that they dread to sweep down the cobwebs lest the roof should fall, and oppose the new moon out of respect for that venerable institution the old moon, yet the seed will never be so deeply covered up but that it will bear the glorious fruit of Liberty. He was sometimes called a fanatic, and would acknowledge that he trained in that company; yet he was sure that this generation was far behind 1620. He yet saw far before him the venerable forms of the Pilgrims of the Mayflower. [Loud cheers.]

The PRESIDENT then read the next regular toast, prefixing it with some remarks in regard to the first settlers of New-York, whose vessel was named the "Half Moon." The toast was—

The Half Moon of New-Amsterdam and the Mayflower of Plymouth—May the former never wane, and the latter never fade.

CLARENCE A. SEWARD, esq., son of the orator of the day, was introduced as "the son of his father." He said he should have been content to return to New-York without letting the audience know there was more than one of them in the family. He came to perform a filial duty—a duty which he believed every American owes to his patriotism—a pilgrimage to Plymouth Rock, the Mecca of America. He looked upon that rock for the first time, and was glad to find it no larger, as he could carry it all away in his memory. Let every American once visit Plymouth Rock, and all fears of disunion might be banished, for the principles of the Pilgrims would be universal. His brief and eloquent speech was warmly applauded.

A sentiment in honor of Old England was responded to by Rev. THOMAS D. WORNELL of London. He remarked that he was certainly not the first Englishman that ever came to Plymouth. Even in the nineteenth century, he said, men still leave England, like the Puritans, for the sake of religious liberty. The speaker commented upon the relations between England and the United States, condemning the recent course of *The London Times*, and deprecating a war between the two nations as suicidal to Freedom.

The Rev. GEO. W. BRIGGS of Salem next made a short speech, concluding with a sentiment in honor of the Pilgrim fathers. He was followed by the Hon. E. R. HOAR, who responded eloquently to this toast:

Liberty and Law—As law without liberty is despotism, so liberty without law is license.

At this point the reporters were compelled to take the cars. The festivities were to conclude with a grand ball in the evening.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

WORTH MONUMENT COMMITTEE.

The Special Committee of the Board of Councilmen, Mr. MATHER, Chairman, to whom was referred the Worth Monument matter, held an adjourned meeting yesterday afternoon in the City Library Room, City Hall. The following evidence was taken relative to the contracts offered: Frederick Mueller, being sworn, says he resides in Fifty-second street, between Eighth and Ninth avenues; he does not know John Joseph Rink; that he received this paper (subpena) to appear at this time before this Committee; that Alois Mueller of Fifty third street, between Eighth and Ninth avenues, brought it to him yesterday morning, and to deponent that it must be deponent's paper, and not his, and told deponent to come here or he would have something to pay if he did not; he knows no person in this city of his (deponent's) name of Frederick Mueller on the bid of Rink; deponent says it is not his, nor does he know whose it is; he knows of the house on northerly side of Fifty-third street, from house near Ninth avenue toward Eighth avenue; that is where Alois Mueller lives; no Frederick Rink has ever lived there; deponent knows no person named Joseph Mueller, nor John Bennett.

Michael Moser, being sworn, says he resides on westerly side of Seventh avenue, between Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth streets; his business is carrying a German newspaper; is acquainted with John J. Rink; has known him about a year; Rink's business, as far as he knows, is stone cutting; knows he once worked in Broadway, between Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth streets; cannot say how long; don't know of any other place; Rink is now engaged in that business, but can't say where; deponent filled no Rink's bid, at the place where deponent resides at Rink's request; he filled up no other bids; deponent saw no one sign it; knows Rink and Bennett; don't know their signatures, nor of any other names to it; don't know such a person as Kasper Smit; last saw Rink on Saturday; did not see him yesterday; he never told me about his being before this Committee nor about his bid; deponent was subpenaed to appear here; don't know by whom; was not at home at the time the subpena was left for him; he lives with his parents; his father's name is Alegius Moser; Bennett keeps a tavern or porter house; deponent wrote the outside address on Rink's bid; it is all deponent's writing except the signatures. (Being shown Frederick Fisher's bid)—deponent says he don't know any such men as are there written; never saw the paper before either inside or outside. (Being shown bid of Joseph Mueller)—don't know any such persons as are named except Joseph Mueller; Joseph resides in Thirty second street, between Seventh and Eighth avenues, but don't know that this is the one; don't know his signature, or his business; has known him about a year; never saw him in the avenues walking with Rink; don't know such a person as Frederick Mueller.

Baltis M. Fowler, being sworn, says he resides at No. 162 West Thirty sixth street; is a Commissioner of Deeds; knows a man named Rink; between his name is John Joseph, who resides in the rear of No. 25 West Thirty second street, on deponent's property; has been deponent's tenant for a year and a half; he is a marble cutter; Rink's bid was sworn to before deponent; don't know Frederick Mueller; knows Bennett.

John Bennett, being sworn, says he resides at No. 513 Seventh avenue, between Forty-first and Forty-second streets. (Being shown Rink's bid)—Says his name is surety thereto was not written by deponent; does not know who wrote it; never authorized any one to put it there; did not know it was there until now shown it; don't know any Frederick Mueller; knows a Kasper Smit; he lives in Thirty-third or Thirty second street, and is Mr. B. M. Fowler's agent or collector; has seen him write; saw his receipts; his name to bid as witness is written pretty close to his name; Kasper Smit never spoke to me, nor I to him, about my being a surety on Rink's bid; knows John Joseph Rink; has known him about eight or nine years; his first business was an architect, afterward marble cutter; in the early part of last Summer Rink spoke to deponent, and said he had put in a bid for a monument, and expected to get a job, and wanted deponent to go security; deponent told Rink he would see about it; Rink never after, though deponent often saw him, spoke about the matter; deponent never consented to go security, and never did go his security on anything; deponent never before now saw this paper (Rink's bid); never heard anything about the matter until he was subpenaed last Saturday; deponent is a mason, and owns some lots; is worth eight or ten thousand dollars, don't know Rink's circumstances. (Deponent being shown the bid of Joseph Mueller)—Says he knows no such persons as the names there are, excepting Seaglist and John Adam; don't know their signatures; Adam lives on Eighth avenue, and keeps a porter house. (Being shown bid of Frederick Fisher)—Says he don't know any such person as there named.

The Committee then adjourned, subject to the call of the Chairman.

THE COMMITTEE ON RAILROADS

Of the Board of Councilmen, Mr. Reed, Chairman, met yesterday afternoon. The matter of compelling the Hudson River Railroad to discontinue the running of locomotives below Fifty ninth street, and to run city or small cars from their lower depot to their upper depot, Mr. Garrett Stryker, on behalf of numerous petitioners, made a lengthy argument, in which he showed that the running of steam cars below Fifty-ninth street constantly endangered people's lives and limbs, and that many accidents had occurred on said road at the place mentioned. He also showed that the wants of the people demanded the running of small cars from that section to Chambers street. Thomas Norris, the Secretary of the road, opposed the matter, and asked for more time that the Company might prepare a remonstrance. The Committee adjourned subject to the call of the Chairman.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

MONDAY, Dec. 24—Ald. ISAAC O. BARKER, President, in the chair.

Communications.—From Wm. Kent in relation to the revised ordinances. In consequence of severe illness the work was delayed, but will be completed by the 1st of January. Filed. From the Chief Engineer with reports from the Fire Commissioners. Confirmed.

Up-town Post-Office.—Ald. VARIAN offered a resolution requesting the Mayor to report what action he had taken in relation to the subject of an Up-town Post-Office. Adopted.

Storage of Fireworks.—Ald. LORD offered an ordinance to prevent the storage of fireworks within the fire limits of the city, other than Chinese firecrackers, under penalty of their being seized and sold for the benefit of the Fire Department Fund. Adopted.

Additional Appropriation.—The report of the Finance Committee, making an additional appropriation of $1,529,596 for Assessment and Revenue Bonds, was concurred in.

Juvenile Delinquents.—The report to appropriate $4,100 to the Society for the Reformation of Juvenile Delinquents was concurred in.

Salaries.—The salaries of three clerks in the office of the Commissioner of Streets and Lamps were increased from $700 to $1,044 each.

Grooving the Pavement.—The report amending that of the Councilmen to groove the Russ pavement between Eighth street and Morris street, in Broadway, where not already grooved. The report is in favor of grooving parallel with each course of stone two inches in width and one inch depth, three feet from the curb, same as that in Broadway near Murray street. This report is to authorize the Commissioner of Repairs and Supplies to advertise for proposals to be submitted hereafter for confirmation. After much debate the paper was referred back.

Debates.—Ald. FOX rose to a question of privilege. In the debate on Thursday evening on the subject of Columbia College, Ald. Voorhis connected Ald. F. in some way with rum shops, and intimated that he could not see after 4 o'clock. He therefore wished to hear an explanation, as the assertion was calculated to do him an injury.

Ald. VOORHIS said he would with pleasure make an explanation. He believed there was no finer or more sober gentleman in the Board than Ald. Fox. What he said was a joke, and he thought the gentleman of the Seventh understood it so. He did not mean that the Alderman could not see from the effects of any stimulus. He did however think that some handsome widow had confused the Alderman's ideas, especially as he was generally in a hurry to leave the Board at so early an hour.

Ald. FOX expressed himself satisfied.

Question of Adjournment.—Ald. FOX moved that this Board meet on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Lost, after debate.

Later in the evening Ald. LORD moved that when this Board adjourns it adjourns *sine die*.

Ald. WILLIAMSON said he was not willing to adjourn *sine die*, but wished only that the usual number of meetings would be had. He desired to see but one more meeting, and that on Thursday.

Ald. FOX opposed the motion.

Ald. W. TUCKER gave a Bursby opinion on the subject.

Ald. LORD thought that the only way to avoid threatened mischief was to adjourn *sine die*. They would probably do what they ought not to do, and leave undone what they should do.

After much debate the motion was lost.

Grooving the Pavement.—In relation to grooving the Russ pavement there was considerable discussion. Ald. W. TUCKER sustained the report, Ald. VARIAN co.

Ald. BRIGGS said the great difficulty was not with the Russ pavement, but with the manner in which the horses were shod. If horses were properly shod there would be no danger in their traversing. The job he thought would cost the city over $100,000, and he would oppose any such expenditure.

Ald. VOORHIS thought the plan of grooving was a good one, and that it was high time that the pavement was attended to. He however wished to have but a short space experimented on, and then the cost would be correctly ascertained. The Report was finally recommitted.

Adjourned to Thursday.

BOARD OF COUNCILMEN.

MONDAY, Dec. 24, 1855.—D. D. CONOVER, esq., President in the chair.

Resolutions.—By Mr. PRENTIS—That piers Nos. 37 and 38, E. R. be repaired. Referred.

By Mr. BEDDER—Ordinance permitting the Constables of the city to wear a metallic badge of such form as shall be determined, to be procured at their own expense. Laid over.

By Mr. COLEMAN—Preamble with resolution, that the Committee on Ordinances consider and report as to the propriety of forming a "Bureau of Inspection" in the department of the Street Commissioner. Laid over.

Reports.—Of Committee on Fire Department to concur in confirming ordinances of Fire Commissioners as to badges, &c., of the New-York Fire Department. Laid over.

Of same, refer ing the communication relating to the seizure of Engine Company No. 38 to Fire Commissioners. Adopted.

Of same, to concur in the confirmation of the various decisions of the Fire Commissioners. Adopted.

Communications.—From the Commissioner of Streets and Lamps asking a concurrence in the ordinances passed by the Board of Aldermen rendering it penal to expose wax for sale, the face quarters of which do not weigh as much as 15 lbs. each and the hind quarters 18 lbs. To Committee on Ordinances.

The Board then went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. WANDELL in the chair, and took into consideration various papers which had been previously referred to it. The Committee rose.

The Board adjourned to Wednesday afternoon at 5 o'clock.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

MONDAY, Dec. 24—The MAYOR in the chair.

A number of papers were received for correction of tax, bills for advertising, &c., and referred.

Reports were received in favor of correcting tax in cases named, among them for the German Society in Fifth Ward, which were adopted.

Reports in favor of paying E. K. Kane, Fire Marshal, $200, and Charles Dingley, same, $400.

Some bills were ordered to be paid. Adjourned to Thursday next.

COLORED CONVENTION—FIFTH SESSION.

The Convention met again on Friday evening and passed the following resolutions:

Resolved, That we the disfranchised Colored citizens of the City and State of New York, do call upon the people of the State, as well for the good of the State as for our good, to place us upon the same political level with themselves in respect to the elective franchise.

Resolved, That the elective franchise being a source of power and a means of progress, we call upon all Colored citizens possessing the right, to go to the polls at every election of the people, and exercise it in voting for such men and measures, and only such as will tend to serve a free suffrage to the whole people regardless of color.

Whereas, The State Convention of Colored citizens that assembled at Troy on the 4th September, 1855, recommended the promoters of political associations, a league to secure and promote the political rights of the Colored people of this State, we therefore recommend the formation of an Association for this county, for the promotion of said object, to be governed by the following regulations:

I. This Association shall be called the New-York County League for political advancement.

II. Its objects shall be to secure equal political rights to Colored citizens.

III. The officers of the Society shall consist of President, Treasurer, Secretary, and a Central Committee of eighteen persons to be chosen as hereinafter provided. The officers of the Society shall be ex-officio members of the Central Committee.

IV. The duties of the officers shall be those which appertain usually to such offices.

V. In each district of the city, of which there shall be six, there shall be a District Committee of Management of nine to be chosen as hereinafter provided, who shall have charge under the direction of the Central Committee, of all matters appertaining to the objects of this association within the limits of their respective districts.

VI. The District Committees first to be chosen, shall be appointed by this convention immediately after the adoption of this constitution to serve for one year. They shall, one month prior to the expiration of their term of office, appoint and give notice of a public election, to be held at such place as they shall designate within each respective district, for the purpose of choosing nine persons from this district to fill their places for one year. Their successors, during the existence of this association, shall be chosen in the same way.

VII. The District Committees now to be appointed, and their successors ever thereafter, shall, within ten days from the time of their election, meet at such place as they shall designate, and choose by ballot three of their number as members of the General Committee, whose credentials shall be signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the meeting.

VIII. The Central Committee shall meet for business at least once in two months at such place, and on such Monday evening as shall be designated, or to which they may adjourn from time to time. The President of the Association shall be the President of the Central Committee. In his absence the Committee may choose a President *pro tem.* The District Committees shall also meet for business at least once in two months.

IX. The several Districts of the city shall be as follows: Dist. No. I, shall be made up of the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Wards; Dist. No. II, of the Fifth, Eighth and Ninth Wards; Dist. No. III, of the Fifteenth, Sixteenth, and Twentieth Wards; Dist. No. IV, of the Sixth, Seventh, Fourteenth and Tenth Wards; Dist. No. V, of the Thirteenth, Eleventh, Seventeenth, and Eighteenth Wards; Dist. No. VI, of the Nineteenth, Twenty-first, Twenty-second, and Twelfth Wards, or all the city above Fortieth street.

X. Each member of this Association shall pay annually as the condition of membership, the sum of fifty cents, which shall entitle him to all the privileges of membership. This shall equally apply to District members. The said funds shall be deposited with the Treasurer of the Association. The District Committees shall be allowed to draw from the treasury for their use, in the proportion to the amount they shall have paid into it.

XI. The annual meeting of this Association shall take place on the second Tuesday of January in each year, at which time the officers for the ensuing year shall be elected.

XII. This constitution may be altered or amended at annual meetings, due notice of which alteration or amendment having been given to the District Committee at least two months prior to such annual meeting.

It was moved by the Rev. C. B. Ray that the Convention adjourn, to meet again on the first Wednesday evening in January, 1856, to transact unfinished business.

THE GREAT GAINES CASE.

From The N. O. Delta, Dec. 17

The Supreme Court this morning rendered their decision in the matter of Myra Clark Gaines, on the application to allow the olographic will of her father, Daniel Clarke, made in 1813, to be probated, which will constitute Mrs. Gaines the universal legatee of her father—and Delachaise and Delacroix his executors. The decision of the Supreme Court is a reversal of the decision of the Second District Court, and decrees that the will of 1813 shall be probated, and that Mrs. Gaines shall be put in possession of the property bequeathed to her by her father. The question of jurisdiction in the matter was promptly decided by the Court, which holds that it has full jurisdiction. The decision of the Court was rendered by Chief-Justice Merrick, with the concurrence of Justices Spofford and Voorhies. Justice Buchanan declined taking any part, and Justice Lea read a long dissenting opinion.

The olographic will of Mrs. Gaines's father, made in 1813, two years after the will under which the other heirs hold possession of the property was made, will now be probated, and the lawful heiress will be placed in possession of her property. Other heirs will however have the right to contest her title.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

MEISTER KARL'S SKETCH-BOOK. By CHARLES G. LELAND. 12mo., pp. 308. Philadelphia: Parry & McMillan. New York: E. P. Rand.

If the genial author of Meister Karl has any enemies who rejoice that he has written a book, they will describe it in the words of the pedagogue in Love's Labor Lost: as "too spruce, too affected, too odd, as it were too peregrinate," and add, with the worthy Moth, that the author "has been at a great feast of languages and stolen the scraps." More friendly readers will say that he has attempted to concoct a hodge-podge in the style of Rabelais, though free from his indecency, with a decided infusion of Burton, and Southey's Doctor, an occasional spice of Sterne and a squeeze of lemon from Jean Paul and Heine, and the whole served up with the savory unction of Meister Karl himself. He need not have informed us that it is the work of a young man, written between his sixteenth and twenty-fifth year; for every page shows the effervescence of the first runnings of the wine-press and the gayety and peculance and recklessness of foaming juvenility. Not many lads, however, just emerging from academic shades could father such a production. Its learning would not disgrace a polyglott professor; it is alive with an ever-fresh vivacity, and shows a knowledge of the world rare at any age, and still more rare, with no touch of license or heartlessness. We might apply to it, without essential change, the description of "The Anatomy of Melancholy" by Warton. "The author's variety of learning, his quotations from scarce and curious books, his pedantry, sparkling with rude wit and shapeless elegance, miscellaneous matter, intermixture of agreeable tales and illustrations, and perhaps above all, the singularities of his feelings, clothed in an uncommon quaintness of style, make it a valuable repository of amusement and information." But we must let Meister Karl speak a few words for himself, and they shall be those in which he takes a merry leave of his readers:

And yet a few last words. Reader, have I performed the promises so profusely proffered in my introduction? Alas! I have left undone much that I ought to have done, though, *en revanche*, I have done still more that I never intended to do. So rest content. Perfect writers are as rare as perfect readers; and if Nature ever made a perfect specimen of either, depend upon it that she made but one impression and then broke the mold!

And here, methinks, you cry, "A plagiarism—a most manifest and shallow plagiarism!" True; and yet I stole it not from Byron nor from Ariosto, but from the story of the she bear in the Pentamerone of Giambattista Basile, where a bereaved husband cries "Where shall I find a woman equal in beauty to my wife? Nature made Nardella, and then broke the mold!"

Yes, there is much that I could have done. I could have told you how Wolf Snort fraternized with the Hospodar of Moldavia, and took tea with Keying in Canton; how he smuggled bibles into Bohemia, and "made a pile" at playing poker and monte in California; how von Schwartz fought in Hungary and Circassia, and with the Turks and Tartars, and how he at length became a perfect amateur Dugald Dalgetty; how the Chevalier married Coralie, and what Louis Napoleon said of the match; how young C—— sowed all his wild oats, and, returning to New-York, built unto himself a big broker business in Wall street and a mansion in Fifth Avenue; and how Uncle Bill continues to visit him every Sunday evening, and how the latter seems to be in a fair way to marry Mrs. C——. And there are many mirific tales yet unwritten of Adrien the artist and the Count and Countess, all of which may yet see light, should Meister Karl ever chance this way again. And there is much more, in nowise referring to each or any of these, which may yet be said or sung, should my indulgent audience greet me with an encore.

And blame not the Meister that he is over-quaint and extra-peculiar in his style, shooting to use his favorite stile) at times trancendentally upward like a rocket and then falling descendentally downward like its stick, into that rhetoric which the learned call rigmarole. Extraordinary subjects are to be illustrated in an extraordinary manner, as the professor remarked when he drew the angles and curves of the soul upon a green board with yellow chalk. It may be, O reader, that you and I, or perhaps both of us, may, like the singed cat of antique fable, be better than we look. "A tattered cloak," saith Baxter in his Saint's Rest, "may cover a good drinker." And it will be, I doubt not, a consolation and a comfort to you to reflect that, though the previous chapters may not in every particular have exactly squared with your views, tastes, or interests, they have not been, *per contra*, one whit better adapted to the tastes of your enemies or rivals, as the case may be.

Fare thee well, Reanault my reader—fare thee well. If I have in aught offended thee, I am sorry; and if thou hast ever thought hardly of me, I trust that we may both receive for punishment a beautiful girl and a game-bag full of guineas.

"Detur pro pœna, scriptori pulchra puella."

This is my valediction, friend of mine!

1. MAN-OF-WAR LIFE. 12mo., pp. 286. Cincinnati: Moore, Wilstach & Co. New-York: Miller, Orton & Mulligan.
2. THE MERCHANT VESSEL. By the author of "Man-of-War Life." 12mo., pp. 268. The Same.

Since Dana's "Two Years Before the Mast" we do not call to mind any more admirable descriptions of a sailor's life at sea than are contained in these graphic volumes. Herman Melville's nautical narratives are more highly spiced with piquant descriptive scenes, it is true, but for quiet, absorbing, and as far as a landsman can judge, faithful accounts of life on shipboard, commend us to this anonymous author. He somewhat resembles Capt. Basil Hall in his lively pictures of the routine of sea-service, but he is not so rambling, nor so flippant, as that celebrated old salt. In the two volumes before us we have a series of very agreeable narratives, relating the manners and customs of the forecastle and the quarter-deck with great vividness of illustration and variety of detail. Connected with the main subjects of the volumes are many interesting accounts of scenes and incidents in foreign ports, such as are not usually found in the path of the most enterprising traveler. The moral which the writer enforces, perhaps against his will, is that of old Gonzalo in the Tempest, that "an acre of barren ground is worth a thousand furlongs of sea."

LECTURES ON ENGLISH HISTORY AND TRAGIC POETRY. By HENRY REED. 12mo., pp. 468. Philadelphia: Parry & McMillan.

Another posthumous volume from the remains of the late accomplished Professor Reed. It consists of two courses of lectures, one on the Historical Plays of Shakespeare, and the other on Tragic Poetry as illustrated by King Lear, Macbeth, Hamlet, and Othello. The mind of the author was in true sympathy with the spirit of Shakespeare. He engages in the discussion of his plays, not in a tone of scholastic pedantry, but with a warm and vital and loving appreciation. Without bearing the stamp of startling originality or inaccessible profoundness, his remarks are genial and catholic in their spirit, and expressed with great propriety and chastenessof diction. The student of Shakespeare will find many admirable suggestions in the critical analyses of the volume, nor will he ever fail to be gratified with the elevation of taste and beauty of language with which they are put forth. The notes by the editor of the volume, Mr. William B. Reed, betray a familiar acquaintance with literature, and are informing in character, though few in number.

A NEW FLOWER FOR CHILDREN: By L. MARIA CHILD. 12mo. pp. 311. C. S. Francis & Co.

To commend a juvenile work from the pen of Mrs. Child would be indeed to "gild refined gold and paint the lily." What writer can be named who possesses a more delicate intuition into the heart of childhood, or commands more apt and impressive words to touch its finest springs? It is a long time, as no one needs to be reminded, since "she has offered a flower to children," and for this new and fragrant offering she will be rewarded with the thanks of many young, loving hearts. The stories of which it consists are mostly founded on incidents from real life, and possess the old fascination without change which has made Mrs. Child such a universal favorite with juvenile readers.

HOME COMFORTS; OR, ECONOMY ILLUSTRATED. By LILLIE SAVERY. 12mo., pp. 278. Bunce & Brother.

Rather a savory book this in substance as well as in author. In a simple colloquial form, it lays down an abundance of useful directions about keeping a good table at a small expense, about making "auld clothes look amaist as weel as new," about making the pot boil in every family, about saving money, about getting married, in short about nearly every-thing that relates to the comfort and economy of home in a quiet and modest way. If every family in moderate circumstances would give this little volume a perusal, and take advantage of its friendly hints, we think it would do as much good as some hundred dollars added to their annual income.

THE RHINE AND ITS PICTURESQUE SCENERY. Illustrated by BIRKET FOSTER. Described by HENRY MAYHEW. 4to., pp. 256. London: David Bogue. New-York: Bangs, Brother & Co.

The soft and exquisite engravings of Birket Foster's illustrations of the Rhine scenery make this volume one of the most attractive gift-books of the season. It presents a succession of interesting views from Rotterdam to Mayence, including many of the most celebrated and beautiful scenes on the Rhine. The letter-press descriptions are lively and readable, and filled with valuable information both for the tourist and the stay-at-home traveler. In its mechanical execution and finish, the volume is a model of typographical excellence.

HENRIETTA ROBINSON. By D. WILSON. 12mo. Miller, Orton & Mulligan.

A strange chapter of human nature is opened in this volume, which will be read with interest by those who have a taste for out-of-the-way and unique developments of character. Her career was marked by a series of extraordinary incidents which are here related in a flowing narrative. We have noticed no exceptionable features in the moral bearing of the book, and think that its perusal cannot fail to suggest much useful instruction.

THE ONYX RING. By JOHN STERLING. 12mo., pp. 283. Boston: Whittemore, Niles & Co.

This impressive story is one of the most characteristic productions of its gifted author. It was originally published in Blackwood, and now for the first time, we think, appears in a volume. Several of its characters are supposed to have been taken from his circle of personal friends. It is a work of singular power and beauty and will be welcomed by a large number of readers in this country. The volume is introduced by an appropriate biographical sketch from the pen of Mr. Charles Hale of Boston.

PHŒNIXIANA; OR, SKETCHES AND BURLESQUES. By JOHN PHŒNIX. 12mo., pp. 289. D. Appleton & Co.

Fun and frolic get the better of the pungent satire—and there is not a little of that—in this mirth-provoking volume. The author is a true humorist of nature's school. He is constitutionally funny, and his fun is irresistibly contagious. Without vulgarity or slang, he gently insinuates a laugh amid the wrinkles of the sourest visage.

THE WIDOW BEDOTT PAPERS. By FRANCIS M. WHICHER. 12mo., pp. 404. J. C. Derby.

The humor of this book consists in its application of the pure Yankee vernacular to an endless variety of scenes and situations. The writer evidently possessed as great an insight into the freaks and oddities of human character, as a happy talent in hitting them off in the most comic dialect which was ever spoken since the catastrophe of Babel. The book should be taken in homeopathic doses, in order to avoid too much risibility at once.

THE INDIAN FAIRY BOOK. 12mo., pp. 338. Mason Brothers.

A selection from the mass of Indian legends gathered by Mr. Schoolcraft, comprising a number of fairy and magical stories in the style of the Arabian Nights Entertainments and other wonderful stories of the East. Without being entirely deprived of their wild primeval Indian features, they are presented in a comparatively modern dress, forming a sort of Hiawatha in prose.

LUCY BOSTON; OR, WOMAN'S RIGHTS AND SPIRITUALISM. By FRED. FOLIO. 12mo., pp. 406. Auburn: Alden & Beardsley. Sold by Bunce & Brother.

This book undertakes to satirize the movements named in the title. But it is only a satire on the writer, whoever he may be that rejoices in the alliterative name of Fred. Folio. With neither grace, nor vivacity, nor sarcastic verjuice, it is often coarse and always absurd.

The Blue Ribbons by ANNA HARRIET DRURY is the style of a fairy story of the last century by ANNA HARRIET DRURY with several pictorial illustrations, published by Whittemore, Niles & Hall. The same house have issued a neat edition of *Saint Gildas* by JULIA KAVANAGH, a tale of French country life during the Revolution.

English History is the subject of the last number of "Harper's Story Books," by JACOB ABBOTT. It presents the complete Annals of England in an agreeable narrative, and, like the other volumes of the series, is illustrated by choice engravings.

The second number of HEWETT'S *Illuminated Household Stories* is the wonderful history of "Jack the Giant Killer," with equally wonderful pictorial embellishments. This edition is certain to prove a favorite of the very highest order in every juvenile circle. (D. Appleton & Co.)

The Wonderful Phials and other Stories, translated from the French, is the title of a collection of juvenile narratives of a miscellaneous character, published by M. W. Dodd.

The Morning Star, or Stories about the Childhood of Jesus, is a neat illustrated volume for young readers, published by the American Tract Society.

NEW WORKS IN PRESS.

BAYARD TAYLOR is engaged in the preparation of a "Cyclopædia of Modern Travel," to comprise the results of the researches made by eminent travelers from the time of Humboldt to D