birth day was only tolerably celebrated. The banks in the city did not open their doors.

BALTIMORE, Monday, Feb. 22, 1858.

The MERCIS here celebrated the anniversary of Washington's birthday in an appropriate manner.

The Hon. Lawrence M. Keitt of South Carolina lectured here this evening.

The Kirkpatrick Case.

PHILADELPHIA, Monday, Feb. 22, 1858.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick was held to bail to-day. The testimony strongly implicates her in the late attempted poisoning of her brother-in-law and his family. Her servant girl recognizes the plate on which the poisoned pie was sent. She states that the prisoner broke up two similar plates after the charge against Robert P. Kirkpatrick.

Forenoon Weather Reports—FEB. 22.

[By the Eastern, Northern, Western and Southern Lines, received at No. 21 Wall street.]

ST. JOHNS, N. F., a. m.—Foggy like; wind N. W.; 23.
HALIFAX, N. S., a. m.—Fine; wind N. W.; 22.
SACKVILLE, P. E. I., a. m.—Clear; wind N. W.; 22.
CHARLOTTETOWN, a. m.—Cloudy; wind N. W.; 20.
ST. JOHN, N. B.—6 inches snow; wind N. W.; 19.
MALONE, m.—Clear and pleasant; wind W.; 4.
ROUSE'S POINT, m.—Clear and Cold; wind W.; 8.
MONTREAL, m.—Clear; wind S. W.; 2.
BURLINGTON, Vt, m.—Cool and clear; wind N. W.; 10.
WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, m,—Clear and cloudy; snow 4 inches deep; wind N. W.; 26.
HARTFORD, Conn., m.—Clear and pleasant; wind N. W.; 26.
SPRINGFIELD, Mass, m.—Clear and fine; wind W.
NEW-YORK, noon—Cloudy; wind N., bar. 29.170; 32.
CLEVELAND, Ohio, a. m.—Clear; wind N. W.; 6; barometer 29.13.
COLUMBUS, O.—Clear; wind W; 16.
DETROIT, Mich.—Cloudy; wind N. W.; 5.
BUFFALO, N. Y.—Cloudy; wind N. W.; 14.
LOUISVILLE, Ky.—5 inches of snow fell yesterday; 29.
INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—Clear; wind N.; 14.
LAFAYETTE, Ind.—Clear; wind N.; 1.
TOLEDO, Ohio—Clear; wind N.; 8.
PITTSBURGH, Penn.—Clear; wind N.; 15.
EVANSVILLE, Ind.—6 inches of snow; 10.
CHICAGO, Ill.—Clear; wind N.; 16.
GALENA, Ill.—Clear; wind N.; 10.
CINCINNATI, Ohio—5 inches of snow; 15.
PHILADELPHIA, Pa., noon.—Clear; wind N.; 28; barometer 29.94.
VINCENNES—6 inches snow; 8.
ROCK ISLAND—Clear; wind S.; 4 below.
ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Clear; wind S.; 6½.
FULTON, Ill.—Clear, W.; 6½ below.
DUBUQUE, Iowa—Clear; 1.
BURLINGTON, Iowa.—Clear; N. W.; zero.
SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—Clear; 10 below zero.
MILWAUKEE, Wis.—Clear; N. E.; 5.
PORTAGE CITY.—Clear; W.; 4.
FOND DU LAC, Wis.—Clear; W.; 5.
NASHVILLE, Tenn., a. m.—Cloudy; 18
TUSCUMBIA, Ala.—2 inches of snow; N. W.; 20; barometer 29.37.
NEW ORLEANS, La.—Appearance of snow-storm; W.; 55.
WASHINGTON, noon.—Cloudy, N. W.; 34.
OSWEGO, N. Y., a. m.—Clear; N.; 20.
BOSTON, Mass., 11 a. m.—Clear and calm; 25.
BRATTLEBORO, Vt.—Clear; N.; 10.
ST. JOHNSBURY, Vt.—Cloudy; W.; 12.
OGDENSBURGH.—Clear; N. W.; 5.

EVENING REPORTS—Feb. 22.

DUNKIRK, N. Y.—Clear and cold; wind N. W.
HORNELLSVILLE, N. Y.—Clear and cold; 20.
ELMIRA, N. Y.—Clear and moderate; 20.
GREAT BEND, N. Y.—Cloudy; wind N. W.; 20.
NEWBURGH, N. Y.—Clear wind N. W.; 20.
RONDOUT, N. Y.—Clear; wind N. W.; 17.
AUBURN, N. Y.—Moderate; excellent sleighing; wind W.; 16.
NEW-YORK, 9 p. m.—Clear; wind N.; 22.
BOSTON 3 p. m.—Clear; wind N. W.; 30.
ST. JOHN, N. B.—Wind N. N. W.; 18.
SACKVILLE, N. B.—Clear; wind W.; 7.
CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I.—Clear and cold; wind N. W.
HALIFAX, N. S.—Fine moonlight; N.
PORTLAND, Me.—Cloudy; wind N. W.; 18.
SPRINGFIELD, Mass.—Clear; 20.
NEW-HAVEN, Conn.—Clear; wind W.; 26.

FROM WASHINGTON.

From Our Own Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Saturday, Feb. 20, 1858.

The extreme partisanship of Mr. Speaker Orr is exciting a good deal of feeling on the Opposition side of the House, and it may be well to call the attention of the country to it, as Mr. Orr has to some extent a national reputation, and is notoriously aiming at a national position. His predecessor, Mr. Banks, always let the Democrats have their fair share of the Chairmanship of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Orr, on the contrary, has not allowed an Anti-Lecompton member to be in the chair during a political debate. Whenever he has called one to the chair, it has been only when the House was in Committee of the Whole on the private calendar. The effect of this partiality is that no Anti-Lecompton Democrat is allowed to have the floor. This is evidently from design, in order to prevent them from defending their position, and from assailing the Administration. When the floor is given to Republicans, it is to men of extreme opinions, apparently in the hope that something may be said which will alienate the Anti-Lecompton Democrats from their new associates.

This manifest partiality of the Speaker savors of paltry trickery, and is totally unworthy of his character or position. Like the disgraceful unfairness which characterized the appointment of the Kansas Select Committee, it is doubtless done in obedience to the dictates of the leaders of Mr. Orr's party. But he alone can be held responsible for it, and the press of the country should make him feel that his national aspirations of the future are likely to be seriously damaged by the course he is pursuing. He is too shrewd and far-sighted not to see that nothing is gained, while much may be lost, by so flagrant a misuse of his official functions. No credit can ever attach to him or to any man for suppressing investigation and discussion, while on the other hand much deserved odium may be incurred by the attempt at suppression, which, after all, will prove ineffectual.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21, 1858.

The atmosphere is filled with rumors of wars, hostile meetings and belligerent bodings. Within forty-eight hours as many as four affairs have been on the tapis, two of which, from the public character of the parties, may be referred to without impropriety. The difficulty between Gen. Harney and Col. Sumner grew out of the court-martial of the latter, upon charges preferred by Major Deas. It is understood that a peremptory challenge passed, which Harney submitted to the Secretary of War, as an appropriate mode of terminating the difficulty. What action he may have finally determined to take can only be known after his return from Richmond, where he went yesterday to participate in the ceremonies of inaugurating the Washington Monument. The collision between Gen. Cullom and Mr. Clay, so far as the accounts of impartial relators may be trusted, grew out of an unpremeditated impulse, and was evidently the result of a misunderstanding, stimulated by keen sensibility to supposed wrong on one side and quickened resentment on the other. They had just met on convivial terms, and had never had any previous difference. After sifting the testimony, with all the coloring of opposing versions, it appears clearly to my mind that Gen. Cullom believed that Mr. Clay designed to affront him, in a remark that was construed by others to be jovial. Smarting, too, under an investigation which, under any circumstances, must be vexatious, he may have been quick to seize a suggestion bearing upon that point, or to have suspected it if half uttered. The impression of his friends is, that reference was made to that matter in terms which roused his indignation promptly and sternly, and on this fact his justification is claimed for striking Mr. Clay. The other side insist that Mr. Clay expressly disclaimed any intention of insult, and that, therefore, the aggression was unwarranted. At all events, a blow was struck and blood was spilt.

It is difficult for one who was not a spectator of the scene to express any deided opinion of the personal merits of this collision, as it is his duty to deal with strict justice, especially when the cause of quarrel may be fomented by partial or illiberal criticism. Every man who respects himself and the calling of Journalism should aim rather to subdue than to stimulate excitement on such an occasion. At least such is my purpose, and always shall be, while I acknowledge accountability for this correspondence. Those who think differently may indulge in irresponsible reflections. Mr. Clay has challenged Gen. Cullom, and the cartel was accepted with the condition of responding formally when a friend had been selected. It is known that Mr. Johnson of Arkansas acts in behalf of Mr. Clay, and it is presumed that some gentleman from Tennessee will represent Gen. Cullom. Efforts have been made during the day to effect an accommodation, but with the notions prevailing among those who recognize the "code of honor," there is no settlement but blood. Persons high in authority are said to be determined to prevent a meeting, and it is to be hoped on all accounts that their endeavors will be successful. Both parties are men of undoubted bravery, and cannot raise it in either public or private estimation by a resort to arms. They would exhibit a far higher moral courage by confronting each other with open hands and frank confession of mutual error.

The foreign legations here have received their private advices from Mexico, which furnish no more encouraging prospect than is to be found in the published intelligence. They represent the condition of things as gloomy in the extreme, with no immediate future which presents a safe or practical solution to the existing state of anarchy. The revolution which deposed Comonfort was as much social as political, and, while it was hastened by the power and hostility of the Church, the question of races played as important a part in the drama now as at any other of the many times which it has been mooted since the Spanish conquest. The pure blood and the mixed blood were in violent antagonism, ranging themselves under other standards to renew the ancient feud with increased rancor from a temporary truce. The substance and wealth of Mexico, too, had taken the alarm at Comonfort's innovations, which, considering the people with whom he had to deal, may have been pushed with reckless haste and indiscreet policy.

But the passing success of Zuloaga is no token of his permanent possession of power, for he has neither military skill nor civil capacity. Nor does it mean, as has been alleged, that the return of Santa Anna is thus foreshadowed. The Ministry by which he is surrounded is composed of some of the most leading men, who consented to take place only to restore a form of order and to prevent the effusion of blood. They are mainly open opponents of Santa Anna, and have been so regarded for years past. Cuevas, the Minister of Foreign Relations, has never concealed his opposition, while Heiguero and Laringar are equally confirmed against his recall. These indications are, therefore, rather adverse than favorable to the one-legged patriot, who is waiting anxiously near Carthagena, like Mr. Micawber, for "something to turn up."

Juarez, the Chief of the Supreme Court, is President under a provision of the Constitution, and at the last accounts efforts were in progress to bring about a compromise, to which he and the Governors of several of the States were to be parties, by which a Constitutional President might be chosen, with certain conditions attached. The result will be known by the next steamer. Until then speculation would be absurd.

There are, therefore, two Governments claiming to exist in Mexico—one "legal and orderly," as our President would say, and the other revolutionary. The statements representing that the foreign Ministers had recognized that of Zuloaga are erroneous. They recognized his as the existing authority in the capital, and no more. Their letter was diplomatic, and designed to be so, as a means of avoiding offense to the Constitutional President who might some bright morning slip into the shoes of Zuloaga, as he did unceremoniously into those of Comonfort. Mr. Forsyth was backward in coming forward.

No information has yet reached here as to whether Gen. Robles is to be continued in the position which he now fills so creditably to Mexico, and so acceptably to our Government and people. Being a man of mark at home, and one likely to play a conspicuous part in the important drama there, it may be considered desirable to prolong the political exile to which he has been consigned through diplomatic distinction. The ambitious leaders in that distant country think that there are competitors enough already for the high honors without recalling one who might be more formidable than any of them. Gen. Almonte has been transferred to France from England, leaving a vacancy open to some enterprising patriot who would like to put the ocean between him and the roar of revolution.

Poor Comonfort is cheated with the idea which affects some of our aspiring heroes in another way, that he is to be called back to take charge of a Government from which he found it convenient to escape in a hurry, after the fashion of Louis Philippe, though without an umbrella under his arm. He may have had as a substitute for that useful article a revolver, as a persuasive reasoner for some of his admiring countrymen. The next arrival will settle his delusive dreams, and send him hereabouts to be lionized as soon as the national menagerie is shut up.

INDEX.

THE REVENUE LAWS—CALHOUN.

Correspondence of The Evening Post.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21, 1858.

Mr. John Cochrane's bill for the codification of the revenue laws has been matured by the Committee on Commerce, and forwarded to the New-York Chamber of Commerce, to be examined and criticised by them. The Committee will review the bill, and will incorporate the views of the merchants in their report, with such changes as may be thought expedient, and submit it to the House as soon as possible. The bill has been prepared with great labor and care by Mr. Cochrane, and is one of very great practical importance. There are fourteen chapters. The existing division of the collection districts is retained. A coastwise district on the Pacific is added to the two great coastwise districts on the Atlantic. The Custom-House districts are classified according to the revenue received, and compensation is made to depend upon that classification. The rates of compensation generally remain unchanged, and are according to the standard established in 1799. The compensation of the marine revenue officers is increased. All the revenue laws, which are in a very confused and unintelligible condition from the repeated repeals, reenactments and amendments, are codified under appropriate heads, so that the collectors and merchants can readily learn and understand what is and what is not law. Laws directly repealed are excluded, and those repealed by implication are repealed. Such additions as are necessary to give efficiency to the remainder, are made. Very few changes are introduced, and those few are to conform the law to the prevailing commercial practice.

It seems to be decided by the Administration that Calhoun shall be directed to return the Free-State Legislature elected. They saw that a mere report to that effect would not answer, and no more credit is attached to Calhoun's word than there is faith in the professions of the Administration. The recent violation of the promises made by the majority of the Senate Territorial Committee upon their faith and honor, shows that no reliance can be placed upon any of those who are trying to force an abominable measure through Congress by all dishonorable means. When the certificates are given to the Free-State members, it will be believed that Kansas has a Free-State Legislature, and not before. This is the most insidious of all the efforts made to undermine the opposition strength. Of course Free-State Senators would be chosen, and all the State offices would be filled by Free-State men, so that this new resolution assails poor human nature in its weakest part—that of self-interest.

THE DUEL MANIA AT WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Post.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Feb. 22, 1858.

It is understood this morning that, through the intervention of Vice-President Breckenridge, Senator Crittenden, and Messrs. Burnett, Polk, Watkins, Zollicoffer and others, the affair between Messrs. Cullom and Clay has been satisfactorily adjusted. Gen. Harney and Col. Sumner are not yet heard from. Another duel is arranged between Capts. Bell and Walker of the Army. Cause, a fight at Willard's yesterday. Warrants have been issued for their arrest, but neither can be found to-day.

1:25 p. m.—The Clay and Cullom affair is not adjusted, but the greatest efforts are making to settle it. An interview is now going on between Crittenden, Breckenridge, Polk and others. They fight to-morrow morning if the matter is not settled before.

THE LECOMPTON COMPROMISE—SHIP LETTERS—SUN'S PARALLAX.

Correspondence of The Philadelphia Press.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21, 1858.

There is an unexpected, and it may be insurmountable, difficulty to the speedy execution of the programme of Senator Green and the Lecomptonites. It was their intention, and is still, so far as I can learn, to press the Lecompton Constitution through the Senate without the least delay, and then, that it shall be as hurriedly rushed through the House. Unfortunately for them, however, there exists the widest difference of construction among the Lecomptonites in respect to the power of the people of Kansas to alter and amend their frame of State Government prior to 1864, the time which it prescribes. Some Northern Democrats, who have gone with them thus far, refuse to go one step further, unless the people there are empowered by law, in a manner admitting no contrariety of opinion, to throw off the incubus of a hateful Constitution, which nobody pretends to support as embodying the "consent of the governed."

To heal this division in the ranks at this critical moment was the moving cause for the call of a Democratic caucus which was postponed, and when it assembled at 7 o'clock, gave by its debates no hope of a compromise on this point. It was again called for Wednesday last, but no ground having been gained toward the object sought, it was postponed to the call of the Chairman.

There is an overwhelming majority, when the question comes squarely before the House, who will vote in a provision empowering the people of Kansas to change their Constitution whenever they please to do so, and when this shall be done, and the question will recur on Lecompton, as amended, there will be arrayed against its passage a large number of Southern members. Under the circumstances, no Northern member can refuse to vote for such a provision; least of all can they, when their constituents understand the position assumed by Toombs of Georgia and others in the House as well as in the Senate.

If Lecompton, say they undisguisedly, be the Constitution under which Kansas shall be admitted as a State into the Union, then slave institutions for the next six years are implanted there, to grow and fasten themselves upon all matters of domestic policy, regardless of and unaffected by the popular voice. They are there by supreme law, and to touch them is to inaugurate revolution and aggression upon the South, against which Southern States will do more than clamor.

It is rumored that one or two Louisiana members have joined the anti-Lecompton ranks.

It is announced by the Postmaster-General that the British rate of postage upon letters dispatched from or brought to any port in the United Kingdom by a private ship, whether steamer or sailing vessel, has been reduced to a uniform rate of 6 pence (12 cents) the half ounce.

All letters, therefore, mailed in the United States, and transmitted to Great Britain for conveyance thence by private ship to any British colony or foreign country beyond sea, must be prepaid 33 cents the single rate of half ounce or under.

Lieut. J. M. Gillis, who was in command of the United States Astronomical Expedition to Chili, has communicated to the Secretary of the Navy the chief result of his labors. He has ascertained the sun's equatorial horizontal parallax to be 8.4950 min., or .0762 min. less than the value commonly adopted; and he concludes that 8.5000 min. may be assumed, which will correspond to the distance of the sun from the earth of 96,160,000 statute miles. This is an important fact for astronomers.

THE ARMY IN KANSAS.

Correspondence of The Baltimore Sun.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21, 1858.

The telegraphic intelligence from the theater of the principal operations of our Army—that is, Kansas and Utah—does not encourage the belief that the United States troops can be withdrawn from the former, or that it will be unnecessary to send reenforcements to the latter. In addition to Gen. Lane's well-armed and organized force—men who, according to Senator Green's report, came to the Territory to do the fighting, not the voting, of the Abolitionists—it appears that the Topeka army is to be reenforced, in certain contingencies, by a requisition upon the Northern States. So, in regard to Utah, the United States officers still entertain the opinion that the Mormons will resist the United States authorities. Under these circumstances, the Administration will certainly persist in their recommendation for an increase of the Army by the addition of four or five regiments.

LOSS OF THE JOHN MILTON—EIGHT LIVES LOST.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

SOUTHAMPTON, Feb. 21, 1858.

The ship John Milton from San Francisco, of and bound to New-Bedford, is supposed to have gone to pieces about five miles west of Montauk Point during the storm yesterday afternoon, as eight bodies and pieces of the wreck have been driven ashore, also the ship's papers.

DEATH OF JUDGE KANE.

From The Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, 22d.

The Hon. John K. Kane, Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, died about 9 o'clock last evening, at his residence, Fern Rock, on Green-lane, Twenty-second Ward. He had been suffering for some days from a severe attack of pneumonia, the fatal termination of which had been anticipated by all who attended him. John Kintzing Kane was born in Philadelphia about the year 1795. He was a son of John Kane, whose father emigrated from Ireland in the year 1756. His mother was a Miss Van Rennselaer of New-York. He was educated at Yale College, and then studied law in Philadelphia, in the office of the late Judge Hopkinson. On the 8th of April, 1817, he was admitted to the bar, and soon took rank among its members as one of the most promising of their number. He was originally a Federalist in politics, but in the Jackson times he gave in his adhesion to the Democratic party, and was elected by them several times to the State Legislature. He was also at one time their candidate for Mayor, and held, for a time, the office of City Solicitor. In 1815, he was appointed, by Gov. Shunk, Attorney-General of the State. This office he resigned in June, 1846, when, on the decease of Judge Randall, of the United States District Court, President Polk appointed him to fill the vacancy. This office he continued to hold up to the time of his death. Mrs. Kane, who survives him, was Miss Jane Leiper, a descendant of Thomas Leiper, of the Revolution. A daughter and three sons also survive. The latter are Col. Thomas L. Kane, who is now in California, R. Patterson Kane, esq., a member of the bar and of the Common Council of this city, and Dr. John K. Kane, who accompanied the searching expedition sent out in quest of the second Arctic expedition of the late Dr. Kane, and who is now in Paris.

Judge Kane was a gentleman of fine abilities, a good lawyer, and a learned judge. He was also an accomplished belles-lettres scholar, and an adept in the graceful accomplishments of society. Few men of our acquaintance were more courtly in manner, or better calculated to impress upon the observer the idea of a perfect gentleman. Whether at the bar, on the bench, in political life, or in society, he never for an instant lost his self-possession, or was betrayed into a rude word or a display of temper. He was a member of various artistic and scientific societies, such as the Musical Fund Society, the Academy of the Fine Arts, and the American Philosophical Society, and exercised high influence in all of them. However men may have differed from him on political questions, there are none that will deny him the possession of most winning social qualities, and of great firmness and tenacity of purpose in everything that he undertook.

THE PORTRAITS OF WASHINGTON.—Rembrandt Peale, the venerable painter, read a paper last evening before the Historical Society on the Portraits of Washington. He exhibited a copy of a portrait of Washington painted by his father when Washington was but 41 years old—the first portrait for which he ever sat. The old man subsequently painted three miniatures at different times, and several whole-lengths and busts. Washington was sitting for one of these miniatures when he received the news of the surrender of Burgoyne. He himself remembered seeing him often in Philadelphia, and oftentimes after he had met him once he would run around a square to meet him again. Washington would say to him sometimes, "How is your good father?" To Houdon's cast of his head, a projection of the chin and an elevation of the head gave a theatrical air. Mr. Peale exhibited a colossal monochrome of a profile which he had corrected from Houdon, and which certainly expressed something grander than the portraits. Of the portraits by his father he thought the eyes and nose were too small. In the portrait painted by Mr. Pine the head was evidently too small. Mr. Peale had the opportunity of watching Washington when sitting to his father in 1785. In 1795 Washington sat to him and his father at the same time. On the day that he sat to Stuart a set of clumsily-carved ivory teeth had been fitted into his mouth, which were ultimately rejected, and Stuart said he found him the most difficult man he had ever attempted to engage in conversation. Washington was sitting to him about the same time, but he sat with his old teeth—a set now in possession of Mr. Harris of Baltimore. While he was sitting some forged letters were published which were alleged to have been taken from a runaway slave of his. These had been going the rounds for two or three days, nobody daring to ask him about them. To Mr. Peale's consternation his uncle asked Washington about it while he was sitting to him, in this abrupt way:

"General, did you write those letters?"

For a few seconds Washington was silent, which Mr. Peale interpreted as a just rebuke to his uncle's rudeness. At last he said:

"I never lost any letters. No servant of mine ever ran away from me;" and then he changed the subject. In two hours this was known all over the city, and the story settled forever.

Mr. Peale then gave an account of the portrait which he subsequently painted, and which he thought approached more nearly to the original than any other,

concluding by exhibiting it. He was frequently interrupted by applauses, and was invited to re-read his paper, which he will do to-morrow evening.

WALLACK'S THEATER.

JESSIE BROWN, OR THE RELIEF OF LUCKNOW.

Mr. Stuart gave us Jessie last night—Jessie of the flower of Dumblane order. The good manager is he who, among other things, seizes hold of living incidents capable of being dramatized and has them worked into acceptable form for his theater. It is reduced to a fact that the "standard drama" cannot longer keep the theater alive, but that the stage must represent things as they are, and take advantage of strange and exciting events as stuff for new stock pieces. "The Poor of New-York" drew in virtue of its being a vital subject. "The Siege of Lucknow" may do so on like reason.

This last production of Mr. Dion Bourcicault is based on the anecdote of the Scotch girl—Jessie Brown—who, when the garrison were starving and starved, and the enemy were upon them, heard, before any one else of her fellow sufferers, the pibroch playing in the distance, announcing the relief coming. This, and the attendant circumstances of the mutiny, worked up with some love business, constitute the material of a three-act piece, which was received with great applause. The characters are Nena Sahib (Bourcicault) and other East Indians; Randal McGregor and Geordie McGregor (Lester and Davenport); the Rev. David Blount (Blake); Swenie, a private (Johnson); Cassidy, a corporal (Sloan); Jessie Brown, a Scotch girl (Mrs. Bourcicault); Amy Campbell (Mrs. Hoey), etc. The scene is laid in Lucknow, Province of Oude, in the Summer of 1857.

Mr. Bourcicault is a great master of effective stage details. Even with slender materials he constructs a fabric which interests his audience. As the stage management of our theaters has indefinitely improved of late years, his sentiment of variety, action and bustle is not contravened by unskillful renderings. Indeed, we were constantly struck last night in observing how minute is the attention given at present to the by-play, and all the lesser and greater contributions to verisimilitude indispensable to a first-rate theatrical success. The scenery was sufficiently striking, and the costumes admirable. The grand tableau at the end, where the Highlanders come to the rescue and a fight ensues with the natives, was brilliantly effective, and the house rose with a storm of applause.

The principal character was very naively done by Mrs. Bourcicault; and the Scotch refrains which she introduces enhanced the national coloring. She was nicely dressed, and looked charmingly. The other personages had less to say and do, but were interesting to the audience. The Nena Sahib was dusky and terrible, and Corporal Cassidy very laughable. Mr. Lester looked splendidly, and was duly officer-like. A good point was the mental contest of the Rev. Mr. Blount as to whether he should continue his character of peacemaker or turn soldier and rush at the natives.

At the close of the piece, the audience kept up a long and loud cry for the author. The house was densely packed, and the signs are that the drama will have a brilliant run.

MEETING FOR THE RELIEF OF THE POOR IN BROOKLYN.

A meeting called for the purpose of taking necessary measures for the relief of the suffering poor in this city, was held in the Governor's Room of the City Hall last evening. There was a good attendance of wealthy citizens, and others who felt an interest in the matter.

On motion of Mayor POWELL, ex-Mayor George Hall was called to the chair, and Daniel P. Barnard, esq., was appointed Secretary.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the object of the meeting was to learn what had been done by the "Society "for Improving the Condition of the Poor," and what they were still doing for their relief, when he called upon the Secretary of the Society, Mr. Eames, to make his report.

Mr. EAMES stated that the distributions of the Society had this year commenced much earlier than in other years, owing to the financial condition of the country. Formerly the distributions commenced about January, but this year it was found necessary to commence about the 10th of October. The amount distributed already is $7,002 66. Receipts, $5,500 10. Leaving a balance of debt of $1,502 06. This amount has been expended chiefly in food and fuel. In addition to those relieved in this manner 71 families have been assisted in paying their rent. Many families have been assisted in removing to the country, where they could be made more comfortable. Most of those relieved are Americans. The estimated weekly expenses for the next five weeks will be, as far as can be estimated, about $750 per week. The average distribution for the past six years has been $6,942 per year. The Winter of 1854-55 was unusually severe, and the expenses of that year were such as to make it necessary to call a public meeting similar to the present, when $4,725 was subscribed, and also were further sums from other societies and churches. The estimate of $750 in the next five weeks is based upon the actual wants of the Society, as relates to the future, as also to pay off the debts. Beyond that will be required about $1,000 more to cover the expenses. The receipts of this year compare less favorably with those of previous years. A great proportion of the distribution in former months of the year was made to families who have heretofore been in moderate circumstances, who have been obliged to apply to the Society, by reason of being thrown out of employment. Among these are widows who, with their daughters, have had employment in New-York, and on account of the stagnation of business, or failure of their employers, had been thrown out of work.

The CHAIRMAN offered a few remarks, concluding with an earnest appeal for assistance, and read a number of letters from persons who had been assisted, to show their character.

MAYOR POWELL stated that there were, undoubtedly, a large number of persons in a suffering condition in the city, and among them there were persons who could not apply to the Superintendents of the Poor. What was most wanted was action instead of speeches. A letter was read from Moses S. Beach, esq., of *The New-York Sun*, inclosing a check for $100. Smith J. Eastman donated five barrels of provisions, and promised ten barrels in case anybody else would give a similar amount. The Rev. Mr. Lewis, from his congregation, presented the sum of $235; J. S. Wetmore, $50.

On motion of Judge GREENWOOD, the persons present were requested to signify the amount of their donation on slips of paper.

On motion of the Rev. Dr. STORRS, a Committe was appointed to call upon the pastors of different churches to solicit subscriptions among their congregations.

Judge GREENWOOD suggested that those agents who had failed to send in their subscriptions be requested to do so immediately.

The Rev. Mr. KENNEDY inquired whether among those cases spoken of as relieved were members of any church, as he believed no church would allow its members to suffer if in its power to assist them.

The CHAIRMAN stated that most of these were members of churches.

Several gentlemen addressed the meeting, offering suggestions as to the best mode of raising money for the relief of the Society.

A Committee was appointed to examine into the affairs of the Society and report.

The Committee appointed to collect subscriptions of those present reported that over $3,100 had been subscribed.

The amount was handed over to Thomas H. Sanford, Treasurer, and the meeting soon after adjourned.

MILITARY.—There was no regular parade or turnout of the military yesterday, in celebration of the anniversary of Washington's birthday, as on former occasions, though the Seventh Regiment, Col. Duryea, the Seventy-first Regiment, Col. Vosburgh, and a company of Continentals, commanded by Capt. Helm, made their appearance and paraded through Broadway and other streets. The Veterans of 1812, preceded by a fife and drum, also turned out in honor of the day and trudged through the snow and slush, attracting considerable attention. Notwithstanding the condition of the streets, hundreds of people were abroad in holiday attire, expecting to see the usual military display. The Seventh and Seventy-first Regiments were reviewed in the Park by his Honor Mayor Tiemann and the members composing the Common Council. The ranks of both these Regiments were unusually full, considering the weather, and the display was in no wise discreditable, and the people seemed about as well satisfied as if the entire Division had paraded.

DISEMBARKATION OF ELEPHANTS AT CALCUTTA FROM BURMAH.

Correspondence of The London Daily News.

CALCUTTA, Dec. 21, 1857.

Two cargoes of elephants from Burmah have been landed at Calcutta since the last mail left. One arrived in the ship Tubal Cain, consisting of twenty elephants; the other in the Belgravia, and numbered fifty elephants. The process of hoisting these most gigantic of existing quadrupeds from their berths on board ship, and getting them on shore, was a novel and curious sight. The arrival of the elephants was mentioned in the newspapers, and many persons were attracted to witness their disembarkation. It took place at the Government dock-yard, about half a mile below Fort William. Strange to say, there is no wharf at this dock-yard alongside of which the vessels could be brought, so that they had to be moored about fifty yards off from the shore. They were, however, brought near a jetty at the extremity of which is a large crane, and by means of this crane, and the tackle on board ship, all the elephants were safely landed. The first party in the Tubal Cain were landed in a somewhat different manner from the other in the Belgravia. When the animals were hoisted up from between decks, the hoisting tackle was connected with the crane chains, and the crane being then turned slowly round, each elephant in succession was lowered and deposited on the bank of the river. This plan gave too much liberty to the elephants after reaching terra firma; for, as some of them chose to indulge in a roll and bath in the shallow water after their voyage, time was lost before the drivers could manage to lead them away. It was therefore found more convenient and expeditious to lower each elephant into a barge alongside the ship, and to land him afterward by drawing the boat the short distance to the shore.

The fifty elephants in the Belgravia were all brought between decks, part on the main deck, and the remainder in the orlop deck below. Not many vessels would have the necessary hight between decks—from eight to ten feet; and there was only just space enough in the Belgravia for the larger animals to stand upright without touching the timbers of the deck above. The elephants were ranged on each side of the ship, strong beams being placed so as to confine them from rolling toward the center while the ship was in motion. Everything was left as open as possible for the purposes of ventilation, but yet the congregation of so many large animals caused the atmosphere to be very hot and oppressive. Some of the more mischievous were tethered by a chain attached to one or two of their legs, to prevent them from annoying their neighbors. When about to be removed from the ship, each animal was brought under the main hatchway, the opening of which had of course been lengthened and widened so as to admit of their descent when they were embarked at Moulmein. Each elephant on board had a mahout, or driver, and a coolie, or servant, for feeding and cleaning him. To these men they had become accustomed, and were greatly subjected to their influence. The elephant's mahout, assisted by the sailors, arranged a strong canvas sling, or girth, edged with strong rope, round the animal's carcass, and, the tackle being adjusted, the huge fellow was slowly raised off his feet, and the ascent was commenced. One of the largest was said to weigh 3 tuns 2½ cwt. There was no opposition to the process of hoisting on the part of the animals, with one or two exceptions; indeed, for the most part they appeared anxious each to have his turn as soon as possible, for they had sagacity enough to understand it was the means of quitting the ship, as it had been the means of bringing them into it. There was great excitement among the crowd on shore when the boatswain's whistle was heard directing the sailors at the capstan to hoist away, and as the falls or hoisting ropes, which were connected with the main and mizen masts of the ship, became strained and tightened, presently the rough, inert-looking mass of the animal's spine and back was seen above the deck: then part of the head, with which the animal from time to time prevented himself from being struck against the sides of the hatchway as he swung round on either side; the small, sluggish eye, which seemed to be calmly surveying the surrounding scene; the active proboscis, forming by its constant movements a remarkable contrast with the rest of the passive frame; and, finally, after the crane tackle had been connected, the whole creature came into view, dangling in the air, and suspended by a couple of ropes which seemed like mere threads compared with the size of the animal which depended from them. He was then swung over the bulwarks, and lowered into the barge alongside. It was amusing to observe the quiet way in which the animal avoided the blow when his feet or legs were likely to strike against the side of the ship, and the way in which he assisted in taking off the strain of the ropes and raising himself when being passed over the bulwarks to make his descent into the lighter. One is hardly led to anticipate much adroitness from such a bulky creature, not merely on account of its size, but also because its dull-looking loose hide conceals, in a great degree, that evidence of life and passion which in the horse, and most other animals, is so strongly marked by starting veins and the rapid muscular movements of its whole body. As soon as the elephant was in the lighter, the mahout, who had got down before him, at once jumped on his neck, and the animal immediately yielded himself to the direction of his accustomed master. Sometimes he would appear a little nervous, putting his trunk into the water to try its depth, with a view, perhaps, to ascertaining if it were possible to walk ashore; but generally he began turning over some of the fresh grass placed in the bottom of the boat to divert his attention, and remained quiet until the boat was brought as near the ground of the dock-yard as possible. Then, at a signal from the mahout, after again leaning over and carefully testing the depth of water with his proboscis, he slowly raised one huge foot over the boat's side, then the other, and in a few minutes he was on his way to the place where the rest of his companions were picketed.

All the elephants were of large size, and landed in excellent condition. It is expected that they will all suffer somewhat from fever after the confinement and close atmosphere they were subjected to during the voyage, but a little medicine will soon remove this. While on board ship they were fed on rations of rice, with an allowance of green fodder, a large proportion of which consisted of the stems and leaves of an immense species of pineapple found wild at Burmah. After landing, the flies in the dockyard annoyed them greatly. Looking at their tough hides, it was not easy to understand how such a surface could be so sensitive. The plan they adopted to rid themselves of the annoyance consisted in gathering up in the hollow extremity of the proboscis a quantity of dust and small gravel, which was either thrown over the head so as to fall in a shower along the back, or projected with force between the fore legs, so as to sweep away the intruders from the skin beneath. The Captain of the Belgravia brought a young elephant, between four and five years old, and about the size of a pony, as a private speculation. It lived on the upper deck, near the Captain's cabin, and was remarkably tame. Four hundred rupees, or forty pounds sterling, was the price of this animal.

The Government elephants were marched up to Barrackpore at night, leaving Calcutta at 10 p. m., after the traffic of the day was over. It is strange that not only is the horse afraid of the elephant, a fear which is easily comprehended, but the elephant is equally timid with regard to the horse, and considerable training is required to get rid of this mutual distrust and alarm when the animals have been unaccustomed to each other's society. The use for which the elephants just landed are especially wanted is carrying commissariat stores. They can carry an enormous weight, and can go in places where a cart cannot move. One elephant takes with ease on his back two large soldiers' tents complete, each made of double cloth, and capable of accommodating sixteen men, and can march at the rate of four miles an hour with his load. The driver, sitting on his neck, guides and urges him on by means of a short iron instrument, pointed at the end, with which he pricks him about the head, and having a small sickle-like projection at the side, which is inserted into the pendulous flap of the ear, and serves to turn him to either side as occasion requires. Many of the elephants are much disfigured by having their ear lobes torn in various directions by this instrument. The ear, and certain parts of the head, are alone sensitive to the goad of the mahout; musket bullets glance off the thick hide of the body, and even the conical rifle bullet frequently fails to penetrate its substance.

SINGULAR SPORT.—Capt. Foster of the steamship Marion was proceeding with a friend in a sleigh, at an early hour Sunday evening, through Fulton street. While slowly passing Fulton street, the vehicle was stopped by two men, one of whom seized the horse by the head while the other attempted to drag the Captain into the street. Officer Philips of the Second Precinct, who was near by, ran up and arrested the assailants, one of whom only appeared to be under the influence of liquor. The prisoners gave their names as Thomas Riley and Charles Foster, and said that they intended nothing but a "bit of sport." They were detained in the Station-House all night, and were yesterday committed to the Tombs for examination.

A TEMPERANCE MEETING.—Caledonian Division No. 31 of S. of T., held a public temperance meeting last evening at their hall, No. 413 Broadway. There was a fair attendance. Mr. Miller presided. Addresses were made by "Sober John," Messrs. Beale, Dunn, DeCamp and others, and several songs were sung by the Messrs. Barrington.

THE LATE ATTEMPT ON LOUIS NAPOLEON.

By Whom and Why it was Designed.

ITS REPETITION CERTAIN.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: Since the late attempt upon the life of the Emperor Nap