what Aristotle says: "To the Greeks belongs dominion over the barbarians. The Greeks have the understanding requisite to rule; the barbarians the body only to obey." In all time, too, the doctrine of non-intervention has seemed to follow the peculiar institution. Wherever Slavery has existed, some masters have seen fit to consider it a private matter between them and their slaves—a mere personal right, as to which no third party should say anything. Others have looked upon it as a question touching the common weal, and therefore as open to free discussion, and subject to the popular judgment. There never was a time when Pro-Slavery men did not assume this institution to be right, and treat the discussion of it as an insult to them. This is the reason why the slave issue does not quiet down. I speak of this as a fact that I see and deplore. If there was nothing else in the subject but its irritability; if there was nothing but the doubts and objections which a portion of mankind have always urged, and always will urge against the institution, I should oppose its extension.

You will observe that in what I have said I have spoken of the policy of building new States upon the African foundation. I have not been marking out any policy touching the institution where it has been already established. The Republican party disclaims any authority on the part of Congress to interfere with Slavery in the States. The Republican party concedes the right of every State to regulate its own domestic affairs in its own way. They believe Slavery to be an evil; they regret its introduction into the old States, and they oppose its introduction into any present and future Territories, because they consider it an evil, and an injury to those Territories. Such was always the opinion of Henry Clay, saying "the Abolitionists were "not more opposed to Slavery going into new States "than he (Mr. Clay) was," and "no power on earth "could make him vote for Slavery in any place where "it does not already exist." Such, too, was Webster's opinion, and such was Benton's. Some of the reasons bearing forcibly on my own mind as to the *merits* of the peculiar institution itself, have been presented. But we must deal with it also as connected with the powers of the General Government. These Democrats, apparently not willing to trust the issue of Slavery extension with the people, have from time to time endeavored to entrench themselves behind supposed constitutional principles as favoring their views. Now, I have already said that men will sometimes make a merit of necessity, and assume to defend what they would not approve as matter of free choice. I have also charged that the Democratic party have used the whole Slavery subject as political capital wherewith to excite and concentrate the slaveholding communities for political effect. I shall rely upon the history of the Slavery agitation inside this party to make good the charge. If in point of fact there is no principle and no truth in their pretended constitutional teachings, they will be found full of shifts and quirks, marches and counter-marches, bold assertions, and bold and rapid retractions and contradictions. Let us then see what these Democrats have taught as matter of constitutional Pro-Slavery law within the last few years. Avoiding the issue whether extension be right or wrong, they have taught:

I. That Congress has power to restrict Slavery in the Territories by voting for the Texas and Oregon bills, and by their repeated attempts to extend the Missouri Compromise line to the Pacific Ocean.

II. They have since denied this power to Congress, and denounced all who continued to hold to it after they laid it down.

III. They have denied to a State, when forming a Constitution, the right to decide for herself whether she will have Slavery or not (California).

IV. They have since taught that Slavery cannot be excluded from a Territory, except when the people of the Territory are forming their State Constitution.

V. They have taught that the people of the Territories have the power to decide, while they are under a Territorial Government, whether they will have Slavery or not.

VI. And they have since denied that the people have any such power.

VII. They have set up the doctrine of non-intervention by Congress touching Slavery in the Territories, and boasted of it as the greatest achievement of the age.

VIII. And they have since repudiated the doctrine of non-intervention, and called upon Congress to intervene and protect—that is, establish Slavery by law in all our Territories, whether desired by the people or not, and positively against their will.

IX. They have taught that the Constitution of the United States does not extend into Territories, and have introduced in Congress measures in terms extending that Constitution to the Territories.

X. They have since denied this teaching, and claimed that the Constitution of the United States is part of the law of Territories *per se*. I propose to discuss none of these points.

Taken together they discuss themselves, and show up the motives of the propagandists.

Each and every one of these propositions has had its brief and transient day, ruling the Democratic party with tyrannic power while it lasted. All have been denounced as traitors who would not turn as they turned, and bowed to the new tests they made. At each step of the process they have demanded the admission of their latest dogma as a right, and threatened dissolution of the Union unless the demand was acknowledged. By such means they have painfully distressed and agitated the whole country for a series of years. Never was there greater contradiction nor greater consistency. Slavery propagandism is the key that harmonizes all. They have asserted whatever they thought at the moment would aid the propagandism. They have abandoned every position they have taken the moment it offered a gleam of hope to freedom. The Constitution, in their hands, is anything, and everything, and nothing. At this moment the entire Southern Democracy—and there is no Democracy which is not Southern, and there has not been these fifteen years—and the nationality of the party in that time has been only another name for Northern subserviency—I say the entire Democracy are standing ready for treason and dissolution, unless they can have all our present and future Territories opened to these Africans. There is nothing worth so much in their eyes as the spread of Slavery! He who speaks against the Union commits a small offense, if any; but he who says aught against Slavery, is guilty of high treason. If they can propagate and extend it, it is well; if not, they are pleased that the Union and the peace and harmony of the States shall cease, and civil war begin! Now it will not do to call this ridiculous, though most ridiculous, and worse than ridiculous it ought to be. It is only not ridiculous, I say, because it is a great party movement, backed by passion and power and obstinately maintained! Is this Government now to be broken to pieces and destroyed because Pro-Slavery men cannot submit to the policy inaugurated by Washington and followed by the Government from its foundation in 1787 down to 1854? How is such a course to be justified to posterity, when our day and generation, its words and deeds, shall come before their calm and dispassionate judgment? Can it be shown that the men of the Revolution of 1776 passed through that baptism of fire and blood to form a Government whose leading feature should be slavery extension? How is such an idea to be reconciled with their universal expression against its very existence while engaged in making the Constitution? If they thought that the Constitution they had made extended Slavery into the Territories, why did they, acting under that Constitution in the very second year after it was made, pass an act confirming the ordinance of 1787 excluding Slavery? Now, it is in vain that Pro-Slavery men pretend to regard themselves as defeated in any constitutional right under such circumstances. If the people of the States shall see fit, in managing their own affairs, to retain Slavery, *that is their constitutional right*, and the principles of the Republican party concede it to them. But when Pro-Slavery men ask to fix their local institutions upon the national domain, that is another question. There never was a time during the existence of this Government when any such right was practically known or admitted. The Pro-Slavery men are not defending an old right; they are contending for a new *assumption* not sanctioned by the letter or spirit of the Constitution, by its history, or by the practice of the Government. It is the duty of Congress to legislate for the national domain, and "make all needful rules and regulations" concerning it. This they uniformly did, admitting or excluding Slavery, from 1789 to 1854. This the Republicans claim they shall continue to do, and nothing more. Why is it that the negro should be preferred to the white man in the occupation of our territory? There is no place, state, condition, or relation affecting the good of society in which the negro is not inferior to the white man. In labor, in battle, in knowledge, in council, in citizenship, in statesmanship, the white man prevails over the African.

If you introduce these people into a new community, as it appears to me, for every man whose place is filled by a negro, you injure the community in that degree. If these people mingle their blood with the white race, the progeny is debased and fallen from the white stains; if you hold them in Slavery, they are hurtful to the progress and prosperity of the community; if you set them free they are not desirable for citizens. *What is the policy, then, of opening our territory to this class of emigrants?* If it is said the negro is a divine institution, I agree to it, but I would barely suggest that the white man is an institution of some sort, and entitled to some consideration from white men. There is no disguising the fact, that if you legislate to give to the Africans place, position, and employment, which would otherwise belong to white men—you depreciate white men—you invidiously stigmatize their race.

I would be glad, fellow citizens, did time allow, to speak to you of two darling schemes of the Propagandists—the annexation of Cuba with her 263,000 free negroes, 581,000 slaves, and 700,000 whites, scarcely better for citizens of the United States than the slaves they own.

I would be glad to speak of the absorption of Mexico with her seven millions of mongrels sprung from crosses and intermixtures between negroes, Indians, and whites.

I would be glad to show you how big with evil to this country are these annexation measures; how they are pushed along by the Slavery propagandists, in utter disregard of the peace of the country and all its dearest interests. I would like to show you how the Republican party is compelled, by its principles and its organization, to cast itself as a solid rampart against these desperate schemes for holding political ascendancy, but the lateness of the hour forbids the examination of the subject. My friends, the times are full of excitement; but I hope not of danger to our institutions. We have seen such times before, and we have seen the sober sense of the people rising above party purposes and vindicating their capacity for self government. So, I trust, we shall see it again.

It was an oft-repeated wish of Franklin that he could be permitted to visit the earth at stated periods after death, to observe the improvements of science and the progress of moral principle, which he fondly believed were destined to go constantly forward. It is matter for curious reflection what Franklin would think could he raise his head from the grave to-day and behold the condition of his country, that instead of Slavery having passed away, as he supposed it would, it has greatly increased; that it is no longer regarded as an evil; that freedom, and Free States, and freemen have become odious, and Slavery popular; the tone and temper of the Government all perverted and changed; and while Freedom is left to shift for herself, the struggle is to strengthen and perpetuate the foundations of Slavery, by every cunning device of human skill, and every effort of human power. It is impossible to imagine what Dr. Franklin would think of these things; he was a believer in the perfectibility of man, and might doubt the evidence of his senses. But there was another father of the Republic, who, could he look out upon the scene, would see nothing astonishing in the pageant that sweeps along. No, if Mr. Jefferson were here to-day, and heard those who profess to be his followers, denouncing his principles, proclaiming him ignorant of the Government he had made; that his own great work, the ordinance of 1787, that for which he most honored himself and was most honored in his day, was a violation of the Constitution, a treasonable blow at Southern rights; if he should hear that he had robbed the vast territory of the North-West of its brightest jewel when he prohibited Slavery therein; that he had ruined those noble States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin, when he had made them free, self-supporting, and self depending; had degraded the untold millions who are to inhabit those majestic commonwealths, while the waters of the great lakes shall swell the thunders of Niagara he might mourn over these things, but would discover nothing in them at war with his opinions of mankind. No one knew better than Mr. Jefferson the force of party, the rage of passion, and thirst of power which sometimes control the conduct of men. But let no one suppose his patriotic ardor would fail, or his heroic spirit would bate or cower before this wild tornado which is howling through the land. Unmoved by these arrays and threats of dissolution, Jefferson would point his countrymen to the great principles of the Government; he would tell them that in the progress of free institutions nothing is ever positively fixed or certainly secure; that the elements of social order are always in motion; that parties and party conflicts are to rise and fall, and threaten and pursue each other, like the waves of ocean, forever. He would tell them to do their duty well, and not to fear. That power unwatched will "steal away from the "hands of the many to the few," that though "error "is harmless when truth is left free to combat it" yet "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." That such would be the spirit of Jefferson, if here to-day, none can doubt. My friends, we should direct our counsels in moderation, but in firmness. Let us deal with our Pro-Slavery friends in fraternal love; yield to them all their real rights, and meet their unjust demands with unshaken resolution. If we do this, we shall succeed—the wild and reckless storm of passion and prejudice and folly will sweep by—the sky will clear again, and the ill-constructed and unseemly fabric of propagandism will topple and fall, and its broken and scattered fragments will be borne off upon the returnless tide of a fair, just, dispassionate and intelligent public opinion.

The speech was listened to with marked attention and frequent demonstrations of applause. The meeting adjourned at a late hour, with cheers for the speaker, F. P. Blair, and the cause of Free Labor.

THE TERRIBLE DROUTH IN KANSAS.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

MOUND CITY, Kansas, July 7, 1860.

THE TRIBUNE comes to me regular every week, yet you do not say one word about this terrible drouth that we poor mortals are compelled to submit to. It is near or quite 12 months old. For the last four or five months we have not had rain enough to hardly wet the ground. The consequence is, there will be no crops of any kind in Southern Kansas. Our corn is near or quite dead; our grass for hay is entirely out of the question, for there is none—the hot sun has entirely destroyed it. What the people are going to do for something to eat, God only knows. We are almost as bad off as Capt Riley was in the midst of the great African desert, with the burning sun over his head and the hot earth beneath his feet, and no water, no food, and no hope in the future, at least for us, for our crops are past cure now. Our neighbors can be seen in conversation about what we are going to do. Why, they say, twelve months we have prayed for rain, yet none came; seven months for a Homestead Bill, yet none came; and three long years for better times, and yet no change only for the worse. Now, Mr Greeley, look at us, for it is you I am talking to, and you have seen us—you know how we looked one year ago, with all the bright prospect before us, with green fields of grain, and our rich prairies covered with its high, wavering grass, and every few days a shower. Oh! how bright the hopes of all then; but, alas, poor, hopeless now. Hark! hear me tell God's truth. As I write in my house, the wind flaps over me; the sun heats it so, that the wind almost *burns* me; my wife is now roasting eggs on the stone steps in front of my house; the stove and tin boiler are too hot to bear my hands on them, standing in the house where the sun cannot touch them—they are hot by the wind blowing on them through the open door. Why, every flap of the wind is like the heat of fire from a burning building.

I have just shut the door to keep the hot wind from blowing on me, so that I can write. To say that it has not rained for twelve months would not be telling the truth; but to say that not more than four or five inches of rain had fallen in that time, would be nearly or quite true. Now, for God's sake, what are the people to do? We can't stay here without food for ourselves and cattle. Many of us have not got money to pay for our land, or to get away with, to say nothing of buying food for our wives and children, either here or somewhere else. It is now time for all kinds of green sauce, yet none is here. Our last year's crop is all gone, or nearly so. Unless the great God of Heaven sends us manna from some place, some of us must starve. You remember the potato rot of Ireland. The kindness and liberality of the open-hearted Americans saved poor Ireland from starvation then; and may not the people of poor, down-trodden, long-suffering, and *now* forsaken Kansas, have a faint hope that some Eastern American will make the *more* to have provisions and clothing forwarded to the suffering poor of this Territory. Many of us live on milk and Indian bread—the latter almost gone—the former will soon dry up for want of grass. I am now 40 years old; was born in the State of New-York; have been in Linn County, K. T., three years, and never in all my life did I see such a hopeless time. Raised in the Empire State—in the land of plenty—then to have such a poor prospect before me, is really discouraging. I presume you will have more communications on this subject. I do wish you would let the world know the prospects of this ever-afflicted people. C. H. S.

THE PRINCE OF WALES AT HALIFAX.

The following is the address presented by the Mayor to the Prince of Wales after he landed at Halifax on Monday:

To his Royal Highness ALBERT EDWARD, *Prince of Wales.*

May it please your Royal Highness, we, the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Halifax, in Nova-Scotia in the name of our citizens, do most cordially welcome your Royal Highness. We rejoice that our city should be thus highly honored by the presence of the son of our revered and beloved Queen, the grandson of that illustrious Duke, whose memory is gratefully cherished as the warm and constant friend of Nova-Scotia, and the heir apparent to the powerful and glorious empire over which her Majesty has for many years so wisely and beneficently ruled. We venture to approach your Royal Highness with the expression of an earnest hope that your sojourn in our city, and on this side the Atlantic will be attended with much pleasure. We are fully persuaded that the reception which awaits your Royal Highness in every section of her Majesty's North American dominions, will only impress you with the conviction that devotion to the British throne, and attachment to British institutions, are abiding elements in the minds of the inhabitants; and that the luster which has been shed on the Crown by the Christian and domestic virtues of our most gracious sovereign is justly and gracefully appreciated by all her subjects. We earnestly implore the Giver of all good to guard and protect you, and restore you in safety to the parent land, and to that illustrious family circle of which we regard you as the ornament and the pride, and that He may be graciously pleased long to spare your Royal Highness to fulfill those distinguished destinies to which your high position points.

The Prince replied as follows:

GENTLEMEN: I have been led to expect that the loyalty and attachment to the British Crown which exists among the inhabitants of Halifax would insure to me a kind reception in your city, but the scene which I have witnessed this morning proves that my expectations are more than realized. For your welcome to myself, I feel, I assure you, sincere gratitude, but it is still more satisfactory to me as a son and as an Englishman, to witness your affectionate attachment to the Queen and the laws and institutions of our common country. Your allusion to my illustrious grandfather is also most grateful to my feelings, and I rejoice to find that his memory is cherished among you. In your noble harbor the navies of Great Britain can ride in safety, while you prosecute that commercial activity which, under their protection, would seem destined to make Halifax one of the most important cities of the Western World, and to raise her inhabitants to a high prosperity. That such may be the fate reserved for it by Providence is my very earnest hope. I request you to convey to the citizens of whom you are the representatives my cordial thanks for the greeting they have given me.

After these ceremonies, the Premier of the Council, Mr. Young, presented another address, and to this the Prince replied thus:

I am deeply touched with the warmth and cordiality with which I have been welcomed to this Colony, and thank you most heartily for your address. It will be my duty, and it certainly will be no less a pleasure to me, to inform her Majesty of the proof which you have given me of your feelings of loyalty and devotion to her throne, and of your gratitude when those blessings, which it is her happiness to reflect, have during her reign been bestowed upon you and so many others of her subjects in all parts of the world. Most heartily do I sympathize in the pride with which you regard the laurels won by sons of Nova-Scotia, and the affection with which you honor the memory of those who have fallen in the service of my country and yours. The monument you refer to will kindle the flame of patriotism in the breasts of those volunteers whom I have passed to-day, and who, in this and the Colony I have lately quitted, are emulating the zeal and gallant spirit which have been exhibited throughout the mother country. One hundred years have now elapsed since the international struggles which retarded the prosperity of this country were brought to a close. May peace and harmony among yourselves complete the good work which then commenced, and increase the happiness and contentment of a loyal and united people.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

The Board held a regular meeting yesterday afternoon, the PRESIDENT in the chair.

A communication was received from the Street Commissioner, in behalf of the Pilot Commissioners, asking an appropriation of $20,000 for the further excavation of Coenties Reef. Referred to Committee on Finance.

The semi-annual report of the Fire Marshal was received. During the last six months 239 fires have occurred, of which 67 were incendiary. Losses amounted to $1,546,211, on which there was insurance to the amount of $3,109,780. Fifty-two persons have lost their lives in consequence of the fires in question. The report was ordered on file.

The Committee on Ferries reported that the Pavonia Ferry Company have never taken any measures toward putting in operation the ferry which is to run from the foot of Chambers street, and advised the controller to notify the said Company to comply with the terms of the lease immediately, or expect it to be put up to the highest bidder.

Mr. BOOLE moved to take up from the table the resolution adopting the additional appropriations of the current year, and giving $105,000 for the Japanese expenses, in addition to the original appropriation.

The communication and resolution were read.

Mr. BOOLE moved the adoption of the latter.

Mr. DARRAGH opposed the adoption of the resolution. The gentleman had gone on making expenditures directly in opposition to the Charter, which forbids such a course without the previous authority of the Common Council.

Mr. BOOLE said that the Charter did not contain anything of the kind.

Mr. DARRAGH went on to say that if the additional appropriation should be made, it would be disgraceful to the government of this city. Why, too, did the resolution ask for $105,000 in addition to the first appropriation. What was to be done with the $30,000 already in hand? Did the committee need that also?

Mr. BOOLE—"No $105,000 will satisfy us." [Laughter.]

Mr. DARRAGH—The Charter also declares that any city officer who shall attempt to violate its provisions, may be prosecuted by the Grand Jury. The members of the Committee seem to me to have exposed themselves to lose their seats. At at events, if we pass this resolution, we shall deserve the execration of all good citizens.

Mr. BRADY said, that the whole responsibility lay with the Controller. Personally (though he was a member of the Japanese Committee) he knew nothing of its expenditures. The gentleman from the Ninth, had no business to lash the Committee for the acts he had been guilty of himself. He had been Chairman of the Committee to entertain the Dona Isabella officers, and had expended $620 on that occasion. Was this too small a matter for the newspapers to take hold of? The only real expense incurred, was for a boat to convey the Committee to the side of the ship. Where was then this champion of municipal rights? Mr. B. indignantly denied that he and his brother Committeemen were candidates for the State Prison. The Philadelphians had really expended a much larger sum than was reported. Now why did the press oppose this extra and proper appropriation? Was it because the reporters were angry that they were finally checked in their disgraceful conduct—detained from drinking themselves drunk with Metropolitan Hotel wine, eating dinners at the Leland's, sleeping off their intoxication there, and acting in a beastly manner generally. Who was it that shoved his glass in for champagne, before Capt. Dupont could get a glass?

AN ALDERMAN—"Boole!" [Great laughter.]

Mr. BRADY—No; it was a reporter. And it was a reporter who sat at Niblo's, after the ball, with a bloody towel around his head, so drunk that he couldn't move.

[Mr. Brady said he could name the offending reporter, and would do so, but did not when requested to fulfill his promise by the reporters present in the hall.]

Mr. DARRAGH said that it was wrong to malign a whole body of men, because some one had acted disgracefully. Why didn't Mr. Brady name him? There was a marked contrast between the $620 and the $105,000

Mr. STARR said the principle was the same in each case. He had steadily resisted paying the $620 bill. He did not care whether the Board should appropriate $105,000 or $500,000 for the Japanese expenses, as the Controller would never pay it without a minute investigation into the items. He would move to strike from the resolution the items of $55,000 for printing, and $20,000 for Mickle's fire-escape patent.

After debate, Mr. Starr's amendment was lost by a vote of 6 to 11.

Mr. CORNELL again called upon Mr. Brady for the name of the reporter to whom the latter gentleman had alluded.

Mr. BRADY said he had been requested not to give it. He would say he reported for neither THE TRIBUNE, *Herald*, nor *Times*, nor was he any of the reporters present.

Mr. CORNELL moved to amend the resolution, by adding the words, "in lieu of the $30,000 previously appropriated." Carried by a vote of 9 to 8.

Mr. FARLEY moved to amend by adding $15,000, for the payment of Health Wardens, to the various appropriations. Laid on the table.

Mr. BOOLE moved the previous question on the main ordinance. The previous question was decided in the affirmative, by a vote of 13 to 4.

The ordinance as amended was then passed by the following votes:

Yeas—Smith, Barry, Henry, Bagley, Brady, Mooney, Starr, Cornell, Peck, Boole, Platt, Owens, Genet; 13.

Nays—Darragh, Seagrist, Russell, Farley; 4.

Mr. SEAGRIST said the matter was a swindle, and he hoped it would go to the Grand Jury.

Adjourned till the 2d Tuesday in August.

THE FIRE IN NASSAU STREET.

As stated in yesterday's TRIBUNE, the firemen succeeded, after about two hours' indefatigable labor, in subduing the fire which occurred in Nassau street, between Ann and Fulton streets, on Monday night. As previously reported, the greater part of building No. 100 was destroyed, and the upper floors of Nos. 98 and 102 burned out. How or in what manner the fire originated is unknown; still, many speculations are rife concerning the cause. Some people assert that they first saw the fire issuing from an unoccupied room on the fourth floor of No. 100. This room was unoccupied, and hence the rumor that the fire was the work of an incendiary. Others are inclined to the opinion that it was caused by a caloric engine in one of the printing-offices on the premises. The upper portions of the three buildings were occupied as offices by different persons, and all below the sixth stories have sustained more or less damage by water.

The sixth floor of Strong's publishing establishment was completely burned out, and the remainder of the building deluged with water. The loss on his stock by fire and water is estimated at $20,000; insured in the following companies:

Gebhard	$2,500	Rutgers	$2,500
Brooklyn	2,500	Ætna	2,500
Fire and Marine	5,000	Empire City	2,000
Commonwealth	2,500	North-Western	2,000
Metropolitan	2,500		
Washington	2,500	Total	$35,000
Harmony	2,500		

The top floor was devoted to the valentine department, and about $8,000 worth of lace paper and valentine ornaments were destroyed.

The stationery stock of Memk Cohen, No. 100 Nassau street, was damaged to the amount of about $1,500. Insured for $3,000 in the St. Mark, St. Nicholas, and Commonwealth of Philadelphia.

Loss on stock of Mr. Noonan on the first floor of No. 100½, about $1,600. Insured for $3,750 in the Exchange, Franklin, and East River Insurance Companies.

Mr. George S. Tuttle, publisher, occupying second story, back room, of No. 100, sustained $2,500 loss on stock by water. Insured for $1,000 in the Home Insurance Company.

Thompson & Moseley, brokers, occupying several rooms in No. 102, sustained between $3,000 and $5,000 damage. No insurance.

Mr. Noyes, broker, sustained $50 loss on office furniture. Insured for $100 in the Brooklyn Insurance Company.

Loss on stock of Mr. McDonald, advertising agent, $100. Insured in the Homestead Insurance Company.

The stock in E. Ayres's Masonic depot was damaged by water to the amount of $200. No insurance.

Damage to stock of J. H. Kirk, engraver, $25. Insured in the Metropolitan Insurance Co.

Between robbery, breakage, and water, the stock of A. H. Rogers, silver-plater, was diminished to the amount of $500. Insured for $1 000 in the Citizens and $1,000 in the New-York Fire and Marine Insurance Cos.

Mr. Rogers's stock was much exposed, the only protection being a large glass case. On a table in his office were several dozen forks and spoons, which found their way into the capacious pockets in the clothing of engine runners and other thieves who frequent fires for the sake of plundering the already unfortunate.

Damage to stock and tools of J. U. Gerow, pencil-case manufacturer, $500. Insured in the Montauk Insurance Co.

B. D. Beiderchase, silver-chaser, lost about $500. Insured in the Jersey City Insurance Co.

The water-coloring establishment of Mr. Schnapauf was damaged to the amount of $2,000. No insurance.

Spaulding, the prepared glue manufacturer, sustained $100 loss; no insurance. Loss of W. W. Brit engraver, $250; insured. Loss of J. T. Welch, engraver, $150. J. O. Connor, the janitor of the three buildings, who occupied the upper floor of No. 102, lost all of his furniture and clothing. Loss about $500; fully insured.

Mr. Charles Vinten's job-printing office, in No. 100, is a complete wreck. Loss estimated at $5,000. Insured for $1,000 in the St. Mark's Insurance Company.

The Irish News office, in the same building, was slightly damaged by water. The three buildings are owned by Mr. J. O. Fowler, and damaged to the amount of $6,000. Insured in Atlantic, Eagle, Beekman, Astor, and other companies, for $17,000.

The Programme office, on Ann street, was damaged about $50. Insured for $400 in the Rutgers Insurance Company.

The Daily Transcript printing office and editorial rooms, on the third floor, were damaged by water to the amount of $500. Stout & Brother, proprietors, are insured for $750 in the Ætna of Hartford, $500 in the Ætna of New-York, and $500 in the Commercial of New-York. No other trouble was experienced, however, than the delay of a few hours in getting out the paper yesterday morning.

CITY ITEMS.

BULL'S HEAD.—*New-York Cattle Market, July 31.*—The market is again overstocked, and bullocks are selling at lower rates than last week. There were over 4,100 head of bullocks reported at Forty-fourth street this morning, either in the sale pens, or within reach, to be brought in to-day or to-morrow, as the demand would warrant. For the opening day of the market, this is decidedly the hardest of the season for drovers, particularly for the owners of the lower grades of stock, some of which will sell as low as six cents net a pound. The top price is 9 cents, though a few of the very best bullocks will sell at 9¼c., but it is said at very light estimate of weight. The depression, however, is more upon inferior grades than the best, because the supply of good bullocks is less in proportion to the whole number than it has been for some months. The supply of such bullocks as are wanted by good city retail butchers, say good fair 7 cwt. steers, is very plenty, and can be bought at 8 cents net a pound. And should the same degree of dullness continue through both days of the market that prevails to-day, we do not see how all the cattle can be sold at any price that owners will accept, though they should be willing to take half a cent a pound lower than a week ago. If the same condition of things that prevails here to-day should continue through to-morrow, we expect our weekly report of the state of the market will have a very bad look for drovers and Western owners of fat bullocks, and still worse for the half fat ones, such as are in a large majority here to-day.

Wilkes's Spirit says that the trot between Flora Temple and Patchen to-morrow is not a genuine race, and that people should be careful how they venture money upon it.

LAURA KEENE'S THEATER—THE AMERICAN COUSIN.—Mr. Jefferson has lately reopened an old mine, which at one time yielded more extensive profits than any other dramatic entertainment has done for many years, and which promises again to be a wonderful pecuniary success. Mr. Tom Taylor's comedy of the American Cousin was, when first produced here, the greatest theatrical success, with perhaps a single exception, ever known in America. In spite of very many inconsistencies and exaggerations, the play was, is, and will continue to be a great success. With our critical eyes wide open to its demerits, we cannot deny that it must have intrinsic merit, for what pleases the mass of intelligence must have good in it; and those self-sufficient writers who dismiss this play with the broad assertion that it is all trash, are surely paying a very poor compliment to the taste and intelligence of the 150 000 people whom, in this city alone, it has interested and delighted.

In presenting the play again to the public, Mr. Jefferson has naturally and wisely chosen to comprehend in the distribution of characters as many as possible of those artists whose efforts insured its first success. Fortunately, all, with but a single important exception, of the original cast were available, and special engagements were made with those who were not already included in Mr. Jefferson's excellent company. The cast of the piece now is as follows:

Asa Trenchard	Joseph Jefferson
Lord Dundreary	E. Sothern
Abel Murcott	C. W. Couldock
Coyle	J. G. Burnett
Binney	G. Peters
Sir Edward Trenchard	Mr. Stoddardt
Florence Trenchard	*Mrs. John Wood*
Mary Meredith	Miss Sara Stevens
Augusta	*Miss Jefferson*
Eugenia	*Mrs. Chanfrau*
Mrs. Mountchessington	*Mrs. Vining*

This, with the exception of the names in Italics, is the original cast, a circumstance which of itself would go far to secure a second brilliant success for the play.

The principal change is the personation of Florence Trenchard by Mrs. Wood, the part having been originally acted by Miss Laura Keene. The embodiment of the comedy fine ladies of the drama is by no means the forte of Mrs. Wood, but when she is so unapproachably excellent in her own peculiar burlesque acting, we can readily excuse any shortcomings when, by force of circumstances, she undertakes a part out of her legitimate line. It is always a thankless, and not unfrequently a hazardous, task, to act a part which has been a specialty with some favorite artist. In this instance, however, Mrs. Wood has nothing to regret; Florence Trenchard, though important to the story, is not a person of strong individuality, and no amount of genius in the actress could ever make her appear otherwise than as a good-hearted and rather commonplace young lady. Mrs. Wood does all that the requirements of the case demand, and her efforts contribute to the success the play a second time obtained. Mr. Jefferson acts with all the quaint humor that originally marked his personation of Asa, and is now, as then, entitled to the thanks of the public for never overstepping the bounds of naturalness, and making the part a caricature and a monstrosity. The conventional "Stage Yankee" (may his shadow continually grow less) is ignored by Mr. Jefferson, and he presents us a Yankee, not only possible, but recognizable; a Yankee with strong local characteristics of speech and manner, but who is neither a boor nor a buffoon.

Mr. Sothern, whose creation of the nondescript Lord Dundreary won him considerable fame and no inconsiderable fortune, plays the part with numerous new aggravations of its original absurdity. We apprehend that no person in the world would be more astonished at Mr. Sothern's Dundreary than Tom Taylor, who wrote the play in which he figures. In fact, Taylor could have had no idea what could be done with the part of a dozen unimportant lines that he threw in to fill up a scene or two. The Dundreary, as acted, is Mr. Sothern's; and to this comedian must be given the praise of having created a character that is unhuman and impossible, but at the same time irresistibly funny—which outrages sense, reason, and intelligence, while it carries the audience away in a perfect tornado of laughter, which refuses to be checked, even by attempted sage reflections on the utter preposterousness of the whole proceeding. The wonderful combination of those three graces of speech, the lisp, the stutter, and the drawl, could be accomplished by the vocal apparatus of no other person; that sneeze is not to be achieved by the nose of ordinary man, nor are other legs equal to the required hopping gracefulness of gait. Sothern is the sole sneezer; Sothern the only hopper.

Mr. Burnett as Coyle, and Mr. Peters as Binney, were both excellent—these two admirable actors are never seen to disadvantage. Mr. Couldock's Abel Murcott is a delineation, powerful and masterly, and is one of the most impressive bits of acting we have ever seen this gentleman do. Repeated rounds of applause nightly crown his efforts, and show that though an audience may go to the theater to laugh at a comedy, they seldom fail to recognize and reward any deserving attempts in a more serious vein.

Miss Sara Stevens plays Mary Meredith, with the same modest naturalness that has ever marked her artistic efforts, from the day she first appeared on the stage. She is thoroughly good. The other characters are minor in importance, but are rendered with a carefulness consistent with the excellence of the rest of the cast. The piece is well put on the stage, and deserves a fine success.

WALLACK'S THEATER.—*Mr. Florence as Cap'n Cuttle.*—In congratulating Mr. Florence upon the well-deserved success which has attended his incursions into a different line of characters from those which have been supposed to be peculiarly his own, we may also congratulate ourselves and the public at large, for we have, we hope, got forever rid of a most objectionable class of dramas, and at the same time have won to the ranks of legitimate actors two clever and talented performers, who have shown by their late efforts in a new direction that they are capable of speedily placing themselves in the list of artists of true and acknowledged excellence. We are glad to hear that Mr. and Mrs. Florence have abjured forever the Irish and Yankee plays, have forsworn alike the rich brogue of the Patlander and the drawling whine of the Down East gal, and are determined to pursue their studies henceforth in the direction of eccentric comedy and broad burlesque, for which they are so well fitted.

Mr. Florence lately appeared for the first time in New-York as Capt. Ed'ard Cuttle, in Mr. John Brougham's version of Dombey & Son. The part was for many years a favorite one with Mr. Burton, and was one of the most admirable and artistic of that comedian's creations. The character is one to try severely the powers of the actor, by reason of the variety of emotions excited by the contradictory scenes through which the "Mariner of England" is made to pass. By turns broadly funny, pathetic, patronizing, humble, sorrowing and gleeful—now, weeping with Old Gills, then dancing a frantic horn pipe in crazy joy—now leading the burial service with bare head and tearful eyes, and then ripping out a sharp oath or two by way of emphasis, there is little monotony in the doings of the Captain, and the succeeding shades of feeling are so constant and withal so contradictory, that the actor who can effectively impersonate the character must be possessed of more than ordinary powers. But Mr. Florence succeeds, to the astonishment of those whose eyes have not yet been opened to the fact, that here is a young man of much more talent than he has ever evinced in the Irish dramas upon which he has wasted so many precious years. The personation is necessarily, to a certain extent, an imitation of Mr. Burton's, and we recognize in the Cuttle of Mr. Florence the same bluff heartiness, the same quaintness of speech, the same sailor-like peculiarities of gait and manner with which our favorite captain was invested by Mr. Burton. The pathetic moments of the old sailor, wherein are developed his noble unselfishness, and his ever-present consideration for others, are perhaps the most impressive of Mr. Florence's delineations. The scene with Florence Dombey, where the captain relates to her the story of the supposititious shipwreck and going down of all on board, is particularly good. The pet phrase of the scene, "Poor Wally, drowned, ain't he?" was made specially effective. But Mr. Florence can do even better with the character than he has yet done—he has grasped the salient points only of the part—the minute details are yet to be completed. There are often times when a moment of forgetfulness, and a relapse from Cuttle into Florence, mars the scene. At times, too, it becomes apparent that he has given more attention to a close mimicry of his model, than to a careful study of the book. If Mr. Florence will trust less to his memory and more to his invention; will recollect less, and think more; and will make his earnest study rather the descriptions of Mr. Dickens, than the mannerisms of Mr. Burton, he will doubtless make his Captain Cuttle a much more harmonious and consistent performance than it is at present. And he has every incentive to hard work to confirm and strengthen the fast-growing conviction among those interested in the stage and its disciples that he is abundantly capable of achieving far better things than he has yet done. MRS. Florence as Susan Nipper is sprightly and clever, though a nervousness arising from her short acquaintance with the part, and from her recent severe illness, prevented her playing with all her accustomed spirit. It will be repeated at intervals during the week.

STREET-CLEANING.—The whole number of laborers at present employed in cleaning the streets is 266, distributed as follows: First Ward, 15; Second, 9; Third, 13; Fourth, 11; Fifth, 13; Sixth, 13; Seventh, 12; Eighth, 12; Ninth, 12; Tenth, 11; Eleventh, 18; Thirteenth, 10; Fourteenth, 12; Fifteenth, 11; Sixteenth, 12; Seventeenth, 20; Eighteenth, 15; Nineteenth, 7; Twentieth, 16; Twenty-first, 12; Twenty-second, 12. The streets of the Twelfth Ward are not graded, which accounts for the fact of no force being there detailed. The men are now working on "three-quarters" time, with a corresponding reduction of pay, each receiving $1 12½ a day. The expense for this actual working force per week is at present $1,795 50.

FATAL JOKING.—On Monday evening, two young men, named John Sprigings and William Sheehan, were sky-larking together at Jones's Woods, when Sprigings drew a pen-knife, and by way of a joke, cut a gash in his friend's coat. When Sheehan discovered the trick that had been played upon him, he took out his knife, and thought to serve his friend in the same manner. An unlucky movement on the part of Sprigings, however, brought him in violent contact with the knife, by which a severe wound in his abdomen was inflicted, through which his intestines protruded. The injured man was conveyed to Bellevue Hospital, where he died the following morning. Sheehan, immediately on discovering that he had wounded his friend, surrendered himself to a policeman. *Coroner* Jackman was unable to procure the attendance of witnesses, and postponed the inquest until to-day.

CROTON WATER RENTS.—Yesterday being the last day for receiving water rents without the addition of five per cent, the office of the department was crowded by rent-payers throughout the day, many paying dearly for their procrastination, being compelled to wait two or three hours before their time came.

MORE MILITARY VISITORS.—The Emmet Guards of New-Haven, Conn., under the command of Capt. Thos. W. Cahill, arrived in this city yesterday morning by the steamer Elm City, and upon landing, were received by Company A of the 69th Regiment, Capt. Flood. As the boat came into her berth at Peck slip, a salute of nine guns was fired from the pier by Company F, 4th Regiment Artillery, Capt. McMahon, and the strangers were greeted with loud cheers. After the usual interchange of military courtesies, the Emmet Guards were escorted up Pearl street, and through the Bowery, Prince street, Broadway, and Bro