FROM JAPAN.

The Late Murders in the Tokaido—Great Mortality from the Cholera.

From Our Own Correspondent.

KANAGAWA, Oct. 24, 1862.

The full particulars of the recent attack upon a party of foreigners, while riding on a public highway, increase rather than diminish the atrocity of the affair.

From a Japanese woman, who kept a wayside inn or tea house not far from where the bloody scene was enacted, we have the following interesting account:

Richardson, after he was fatally wounded, rode his horse 200 yards, when he fell off. He managed to get upon his feet again and to reach this inn, where he sat down upon a bench at the front of the house and called for water. The woman brought him water and urged him to go to the rear of the house, where he would be safe out of sight. But Richardson, either too exhausted to comply, or, more probably, not understanding the language, remained sitting when the train again approached. The woman, fearful of what might happen, took her two children and went into the upper part of the house, from whence she could see and hear what was going on. She states that the soldiers of the train stopped and gathered around Richardson, and that when he was recognized by the chief, he ordered his followers to cut off his head. They made several attempts to seize Richardson's long beard, which he for a while parried with one hand, till that was cut off, when one seized his beard with one hand, and holding his head back, deliberately severed it with his sword in the other.

The foreign representatives, as usual, have addressed their severe letters to the Japanese Ministers, telling them how wicked it is to kill people in this way, and some day or other, if they keep on doing so, something may happen! The Gorogio, or Council of State, have very properly replied, saying that they feel very bad about it; it was naughty; but as the offenders belong to the Prince of Satzuma, they cannot punish them unless their liege lord shall choose to give them up to be punished. The vassal Princes take quite a novel and Japanese view of the affair. If, they say, the affair happened in a sudden, accidental, unpremeditated sort of way, the offenders should be punished; but if it was deliberately and by order done, they were bound to sustain the Prince of Satzuma!

It is now quite evident that if the foreigners had seized these miscreants on the day of the outrage, it not only could have been done without dangerous consequences, but the Government would have rejoiced at the act. As it is, we have the reputation of having been afraid to do our plain duty. And now, after several weeks' delay, the Japanese have produced a man who they say has been delivered up to them as the murderer of Richardson; but who is to say whether he is that man or some poor coolie or already-condemned malefactor, who is to suffer vicariously? The man the foreign Powers wish to deal with is Shimazu Saburo himself, the chief of that train, who was consenting to the assault, and who afterward ordered the dying man to be beheaded. If he be not surrendered, his master is readily accessible in his newly-purchased merchant steamers, in the fief of the Loo Choo Isles, or in his capital city of Kago-Sima itself, lying on the bay of the same name. A benefit would be done to the Japanese Government by curbing the power of these haughty princes, if the Government is indeed worth this help. Some steps must be taken by the foreign powers, or life becomes wholly unsafe in Japan.

While murder may thus continue to go on with impunity, no one is safe. In every instance we have been more willing to invent excuses for the crime than to punish it. In what unexpected shape, what new form, or old one repeated, the next assassination will occur, no one may foresee. So each one knows not but that he will be the next victim, for the next victim is sure not to be waited for long. We already have the disagreeable alternative offered to us of retaining prisoners within our own settlement, or to go abroad within the limits guaranteed by treaty at some peril of life.

The cholera, which has raged to an alarming extent, coincides with the approach of cool weather. In Yokohama, it is estimated that there have been 900 deaths in a population of 12,000. In Yedo, during a period of five or six weeks, ending with the 1st of October, according to reports made from the temples, the interments reached the enormous number of 121,000. One can hardly believe this amount has not been exaggerated, yet other circumstances go to show how great the mortality must have been. As, for instance, it is a custom to wash the famous bridge of "Nipon Bas" after the crossing of each hundred funerals. This washing or purification, for days together, was repeated five or six times daily. So great was the mortality that corpse lay unburned or unburied for days; funeral processions jostled each other in the street, and disputed precedence in the way; the priesthood were worn out with their extra labors at the burial; all distinctions of sect were forgotten, and the Government was compelled to provide for thousands of the poor. The cholera followed an epidemic of measles, which in a period of eight weeks swept off 70,000 souls—the mortality bearing a proportion to the sick of one to eight. Some of the Court physicians came to Yokohama during the blight of the cholera to propound some interrogatories to the physician of a French man-of-war. After the conference had been opened with due gravity and decorum, the first question put was, "What is the beginning, middle, and end of cholera?"—rather a tough question for a simple, direct answer, except the latter clause, which might all be summed up in that one formidable monosyllable, death. The mortality among the foreign residents was limited to a single case.

Despite the busy work of death, the lively Japanese would have their fun, and I saw a caricature published at Yedo entitled the "Measles War." Mackerey, a grim monarch with an emptive body, surrounded by his allies, all the ills that flesh is heir to, is besieging a fierce war with those people of Yedo whose complexions has been broken in upon by the spread of the disease. Fever is recognized by his ruddy face; Cholera by the ghastly countenance; Headache by the bound-up brows; Cough by the open mouth and throat, and so on. Ranged against these are the measures hostile to which medicine shape, the policeman wearing helmets of cask shell, while the jugglers, the actors, the courtesans and their friends, arranged under a huge watermelon for a banner, are busily engaged in summarily ejecting from their premises a whole tribe of nuisances, hard pears, shell fish, and prawns, as allies of King Measles, Cholera & Co. An apothecary, half buried amid his drugs, exhibits in his face the liveliest sympathy for the latter.

The first full cargo of tea direct for New-York left this port on the 19th inst., in the bark Benefactor. Another full cargo goes this week in the Storm Cloud to San Francisco. Trade is moderately active, though the dollar is reduced one-third of its value compared with the local currency. While the merchants suffer from this, the foreign representatives reap a rich harvest out of the exchange of ichibus allowed to them by the Japanese Government, but not to the trader. In this manner they are subsidized by the Japanese Government to an amount greater than the salaries paid them by their own Governments. Is this favorable to a betterment of the currency question, which now drags so heavily on trade?

H.

Reforms in the Empire—Intrigues Among the Nobility—Parties in Japan—Attempts to Restore the Mikado's Temporal Sovereignty—The Daimios urged to Retrench, and to Cultivate the Arts of War.

From Our Own Correspondent.

KANAGAWA, Nov. 20, 1862.

Nothing is so difficult to understand in Japan as the peculiar complex character of its political institutions. The knowledge of to-day seems contradicted by the events of to-morrow. To foretell what will be is impossible; to be sure of what has happened is not always attainable. That an extraordinary ferment is now at work in the country among its ruling classes we all know by what is occasionally thrown to the surface. A revolution, if not a reform of ideas, is going on, thus far peaceably, but at times threatening more serious results. When I speak of the governing classes, I include comprehensively all those known in Japan as the *nihon sazo sito*, "the two sword wearers," as the term literally implies, for all these belong to the aristocracy of Japan, whether petty chiefs in their own right, or the retainers of those chiefs, for the stability of the Tycoon's Government depends upon the fealty of these men. The ambitious nobility of the empire, ever full of intrigue, were never more full of it than at the present moment. There is first the progressive party, who, either coveting foreign intercourse or viewing it as an inevitable necessity, wisely seek to make the best of it. This party is happily represented by the reigning family, which we believe has grown strong by its position, by the revenue derived from foreign trade, by the knowledge gained in this intercourse of those arts of both peace and war which subserve for the better rule of the land, and by attaching to it a class of men in Japan by no means small, who, truly patriotic, are sincerely desirous to profit their country by whatsoever is to be gained by intercourse with more enlightened peoples. Then there is a class, always large in any country, which attaches itself to the party in power, and which in Japan is numerically large, consisting of the many small Daimios, who are singly too weak to have any pretensions of their own. Thus, fortunately for Japan and the countries with whom she has treaties, the Tycoon's Government is, single-handed, more powerful than any one of the nineteen great Daimios of the realm, or any two or three of them, and would, in case of any rebellion against its authority, be probably able to secure to its aid a share of these great chiefs. If the Government has thus far been slow to exercise any power over these independent chiefs, let us hope it is because it is confident of its strength to peacefully carry out its aims of a dominant Central Government.

Of the men who have been signal supporters of the present family and the foreign treaties, two have suddenly disappeared. One of these, Ee Kanon-no-Kami, the late Regent, was assassinated under the palace walls; the other, the Prime Minister, Ando-Tsusimo-no-Kami, has been removed and disgraced for malfeasation of office; but, though deprived of these able men, the Government moves unflinchingly on.

Opposed to the present reigning family are, 1st, rival aspirants to the throne, of whom Mito's family is most conspicuous; 2d, those Daimios who, through selfish interest or fear, are hostile to foreign intercourse. There is a third class, adherents of the Mikado or Spiritual Emperor, who are jealous of the growing centralizing power of the Tycoon's Court at Yedo, and in their zeal for the former, only show their fear of the latter. Indeed, of late much has been said of the resumption by the Mikado of his ancient rights lost under the grasp of Taiko-Sama, and there is no doubt of the formation of a considerable party who under this pretense seek to cover their own ambitious designs. The Prince of Satzuma has the credit of being the master spirit of this intrigue. Thus the country has been full of reports of the machinations of one or the other of these parties. One day Mito is dead and the next is heard of as an active plotter against the throne and foreigners. To-day the Emperor is poisoned and to-morrow the Mikado repudiates the treaties and demands that his faithful leaguers shall "wipe out as with a sponge every foreigner from the land."

Amid all these rumors, there have been events of no slight significance in the history of this people. Let us rehearse some of them.

Some months since the Tycoon issued a proclamation enjoining upon all Daimios throughout the Empire to lop off from their establishments all that idle horde of retainers who rendered them no service, and who, in obedience only to useless custom, had been so long a charge upon their bounty. They were further enjoined to introduce the practice and drill in firearms among their followers, and that for the furtherance of this object the old loose flowery garments should be discarded for close fitting ones, not exactly European ones, perhaps, but a compromise between those and their former ones.

This has lately been followed by a more striking innovation in dress. Since the accession of the present dynasty, now three hundred years ago, the Court dress has been one of the most cumbrous and inconvenient imaginable. Trowsers half a yard too long, trailed behind the wearer, hampering his feet and giving him the appearance of slunking into Court on his knees; over these was a stiff starched upper robe, with projecting wings, which did for the arms what the trowsers did for the feet, impede their use, a custom which it is said originated not without its reason in troubled times when a royal interview might be converted into a royal assassination. An imperial decree has within the past month abolished this awkward dress, and allows ceremonious interviews between all ranks of officials, beginning with the Tycoon, in ordinary apparel. Not only this, but the long trains which have hitherto attended the visits of the imperial councilors to the Tycoon are done away with to a large extent, and the sight is now to be had any day in Yedo of a Governor riding through the streets on horseback unattended except by his grooms. Even royalty and its Ministers are no longer hedged about, but are accessible to the complaints of its humblest subjects.

Promotions to the Imperial service are no longer made exclusively from the "two sword wearers," but for merit also. I was gratified, a few days ago, in seeing on the street at the head of a body of armed attendants a young man whom I knew two years ago as only a zealous student of foreign arts and sciences.

A year ago the Imperial Council of Five, sitting in its own exclusive dignity, was accessible only to foreign ministers; the week past they have had familiar interviews with consuls and civilians, and on board the U. S. steamer Wyoming hob-nobbed indifferently with officers of any grade, or no officers at all. The Government has ordered, through the American Minister, Gen. R. H. Pruyn, to be contracted in America, two sloops-of-war of 21 guns each, and one gunboat; and in addition to these has ordered the latest improved cannon and small-arms, with a machine for rifling cannon and a teacher of the military art. The Emperor's summer gardens on the bay have been converted into a parade and practice ground.

Two or three days since the American Minister and Consul and the officers of the Wyoming were invited to a military review at Yedo of some of the Imperial troops. Eight companies of infantry and one of artillery were paraded, numbering a hundred to each. The evolutions and practice firing were spoken of as equal to any seen on similar occasions in other countries.

I have mentioned in previous letters the visit of a legate from the Mikado to the Tycoon's court, which was the cause of many rumors as to its object. It now appears to have been for the announcement of a vist by the Tycoon to the Mikado's court, in accordance with an ancient custom long since fallen into desuetude. After many envoys have passed each and forth between the two courts, it is at last noised that the young Emperor is to leave Yedo for Miaco in the second month of the new Japanese year, which will be early next Spring. A reluctant assent was given to this visit by the Court of Yedo, not their giving it but it is not clearly reconcilable with the Tycoon's supposed independence of the Court at Miaco. Monarchs of prudential policy may have controlled him, however, in the present disturbed state of affairs, not to create any unnecessary offense. The mass of the people in Japan believe in the temporal supremacy of the Mikado, and the time may not have come when it is thoroughly safe to irritate their prejudices.

From olden time the custom has been that when royalty travels the great highways of the empire, great expense must be undertaken to smooth the roads, repair the bridges, and prepare the way, which expense was at the cost of the different districts through which the road may run. The inns, too, had all to be refitted, new mats and screens purchased, to befit the distinguished guest. But already proclamation has gone forth that in the intended visit to Miaco, the Emperor will not burden the people with the cost of maintaining a large retinue, nor does he require roads or bridges to be repaired except in absolutely dangerous places, nor shall the inns be put to the expense of new furniture. He will travel unostentatiously, making the official residences in any town where he halts his resting places, and if these are wanting, he will go to the temples, so many of which owe their landed tenures to Imperial bounty, thus imitating what the humblest wayfarers often do.

If Yedo has not its Court Journal, like other Courts, the being and doings of the Imperial family are widely proclaimed. It is now formally announced that the young Empress is *enceinte*; that the Emperor has taken two concubines—young ladies of distinguished birth and beauty—and has adopted as his son a lad of ten years, belonging to one of the houses in the royal succession. This ancient custom, so that the King may never fail an heir to the throne, is said to have been observed in this instance to placate, in the person chosen, the hostile family of Prince Mito.

H.

Further Reforms in Japan—The Princes and Nobility Resident in Yedo Ordered to Retire to Their Provinces—Depopulation of the City—The City Governor Mobbed and the Order Countermanded.

From Our Special Correspondent.

KANAGAWA, Nov. 22, 1862.

Perhaps the most important of all those changes at work at this moment in Japan has been the breaking up of the residuary system of the Daimio chiefs at Yedo, which was the most remarkable and unique feature of this singular Government. Any one at all acquainted with the history of Japan remembers the curious system of control exercised over the vassal princes, by requiring their residence at the court of Yedo every alternate year, and that of their families all the time, hostages, as it were, for their keeping the peace of the realm. The expense of these continued removals from town to country and country to town, moving, as these princes always did, with numerous retinues, as well as the support of their town-houses in becoming state, was ever no small burden upon their revenues. Some of these chiefs were nearly impoverished by the cost of such pageantry on the road and the maintenance of their position at court, which was doubtless one of the results sought for by the founder of the system to deplete his rebellious liege to a state of incapacity for political disturbances.

A royal decree was promulgated a month since breaking up this long-established system, and the great body of the Daimios were ordered to break up their town establishments, send their families into their provinces, and to prepare to speedily follow themselves. Henceforth they would be required to appear at court only once in three years, some of them at yet longer intervals, and then for a period of a hundred days only at one time. Exception to this was made with some of the smaller chiefs, who were retained to assist in the administration of the affairs of the Tycoon's Government. They were again enjoined to dismiss from their service all superfluous servants, and to limit their hitherto enormous retinues, when in the street or on the road.

Since this edict affected directly the condition of a quarter of a million of people at least, it was an innovation of no small magnitude. As may be well imagined, the threatened removal of so large a body of the inhabitants of Yedo at once, spread consternation among property holders, craftsmen, and all the mass of people who lived so largely upon the supply of these princely establishments. Ruin stared half the population of Yedo in the face. The thriving trades people, the street and house laborers, artisans of every kind, the multitudinous fishermen of the bay, industrious and poor, were not only threatened with loss of employment, but many thousands of discharged retainers were likely to be cast adrift to seek a livelihood where the sources of living were so cut off. Nay, even those honest burghers whose daughters had found agreeable and lucrative employment in the now-to-be-abandoned palaces, whether as maids of honor to the ladies of the household, or mistresses to the lord or his chief vassals, found their families likely to be returned upon them, and while some came back not empty handed, the most brought back only their own diminished charms. Already the long trains were moving out in the tokaido, winding their course back into the country, as they carried away the ladies of the dismantled households, who, from their normon windows, looked back with regretful eyes upon the long familiar roofs of the city. Born and dwelling amid the luxuries of the town, they had the common lot of heart to look down with contempt upon the solitude and privations of the country life to which they were returning. The feudal castle of the prince was a poor exchange for the palace at court. Lost to them would be the city's thronging streets, the afternoon at the tea-grounds, the evening at the play-house, the rural visits to the suburbs, the boat excursions on the "great river" which rolls through the center of the city, bearing on its surface its daily crowd of pleasure-boats. No more of the picturesque sights of the mistress of the household, with her train of gayly-dressed maidens, visiting their favorite temples on a holiday, or going to the temple cemetery to strew flowers upon the household graves. To the city had gathered all the luxuries of the empire, all the curious productions of native art, the cunning work of the hand, the skillful fabrications of the loom—luxuries they would miss in the old castle, in the interior hills, or by the distant sea shore. Many were the long days the high-born ladies passed among their maids, skillfully embroidering on costly silks and satins the newest patterns the taste or fancy of the court had evoked; and as they worked merrily they discussed the story of yesterday's theater, or the gossip of the tea-gardens. So it was that, regretful as Eves, they were leaving their paradise.

But Hosokawa, the doughty chief from Kinsiu's isle, laughs to naught the imperial order, for Hosokawa boasts a long lineage and the best disciplined soldiery of the Empire. His family have lived at Court for centuries, and there they will continue to live, and wear their robes of silk and garments of ceremony, in accordance with old custom. He has been a faithful vassal of the crown, and pledges himself by all the valor of Nipon's ancient heroes that he will keep in quiet his end of the kingdom, to wit, Kinsiu's isle, though even Satzuma thereat should grow turbulent in his kingly city of Kagosima.

It was not a representative man of the extreme nobility that alone opposed the innovations, for the aristocracy and the populace here met on common grounds. The discontent of the Yedo people at the prospect of ruin to their houses and starvation for their families took decided action. In imperial Yedo, a city of palaces and armed soldiery such as no other city in the world has, there was a mob of the people. The city governor was besieged in his house, which was being rapidly reduced by the people's artillery, showers of paving stones, when he effected his escape in the disguise of a woman. The clamors daily grew greater, and threatened serious consequences to Emperor and nobility alike, when another royal edict thunders the walls of Yedo and lightens the hearts of the people. The order for the removal of the Daimios is countermanded, the trains no longer go thronging out of the city, barred gates and closed windows are thrown open to the sunlight, and the people give themselves up for a day and night to rejoicings, jestings, processions, and illuminations.

Strangely like a reform movement in Japan this all seems, yet there are grave Japanese heads which are shaken ominously, while their lips whisper this is all a delusion; that which is thus put forth as the act of the Government, is the act of those old lords and barons of the empire emancipating themselves from onerous subjection to the controlling power at Yedo. It is they who have resisted to keep up ceremonies observances for the exaltation of the Tycoon's Court; they who have refused to impoverish themselves with a burdensome tax for the support of idle servants and useless retainers, to make a show in the imperial city; they who have refused to spend all their lives and exhaust their incomes in traveling from town to city and city to town again, living half the years away from wives and children, and maintaining a double household; they, too, who have of late been throwing forth anew the pretensions of the Mikado as the true and only Emperor to whom allegiance was due, hoping to return to the old days when the Mikado was sovereign in Miaco, and they were each sovereigns in their own provinces and kept their own Court. Nay, some even dare to whisper that the intended visit of the Tycoon to the Mikado is a forced concession on the part of the former of the real sovereignty of the latter, and will result in his abdication of the throne; that such a result will not come about peacefully, and that before six moons have come and gone, we shall see the flames of civil war light up the empire.

But manger all these conjurings, if possibly true prophesy though they may be, let us regard them rather as the usual doubts and fears of old conservatism, and be hopeful that Japan is really moving forward by the act of a strong government in the march of empire.

Another show of enlightenment on the part of the Government is the degradation in the social scale of the whole class of courtesans, and those who live by the traffic in virtue, to the lowest grade. Formerly they stood third, now they are ranked below the play-actor, the wandering street performers, and placed on a level with the leather-workers and the lowest class of beggars. A sumptuary regulation of recent issue forbids them any longer to wear silks, satins, or woolens, and confines them to cotton. Hence the proprietor of one of the famous establishments at Simagawa, who boasts that in his houses alone are one hundred and fifty of these poor girls, was in the foreign settlement a few days since to buy two hundred pieces of gray muslin, to be dyed and made into dresses for the accustomed New-Year's gift of a new dress to each.

One feature of the change passing upon this people is too significant to be overlooked, and that is, the eagerness with which of late steamers and sailing vessels have been sought for. Beside those already mentioned as ordered by the Government, the Daimios have purchased several steamers heretofore employed in the China and Japan trade. Among those lately purchased are the St. Louis, French build but American owners, the Fiery Cross, Lancefield, and Tinkee, English build, and the Columbia, an American steamer, well known on the California coast. The prices realized have been from $90,000 to $150,000. Beside these, lately sold at $14,300, was the Gov. Wallace, formerly known as the revenue cutter Jeff. Davis. Its name and antecedents were no drawback to the sale, evidently, from the large price obtained. There seems to be a competitive desire among the great Daimios to be steamer owners, and nice pick-pockets some of these old craft will prove to them.

The steamer Scotland, flying the Prussian flag, is here taking in freight and passengers for San Francisco. She is the pioneer of steam communication between China, Japan and the Pacific Coast of America. Her enterprising charterers, who are Americans, waiting for no subsidy from the Government, have thus taken the initiative to establish regular steam communication with the two continents. We hope the success of the Scotland may justify them in carrying out their intention of adding other steamers at once to the route. The Scotland carries a general cargo of China and Japan goods, teas forming a large share. It is a little singular to know that the supplying the wants of the Chinese population of California forms a large feature in the inducements to establish a regular line, and this may account why the enterprize has begun on the Asiatic side. The schooner Storm Cloud sailed for San Francisco in October, wholly laden with Japan tea. The brig Josephine sailed a fortnight since laden partly with Japan teas, but mostly with re-exports of American cottons from China to America.

The Wyoming leaves this on the 23d inst. for Shanghae. Officers and crew all well.

H.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

Chamber of Commerce.

A stated meeting of this Chamber was held yesterday afternoon at 1 o'clock. Vice-President Low in the chair. After the reading of the minutes and the election of several new members, Messrs. S. B. Chittenden and Geo. Galliard were elected to fill vacancies in the Committee of Arbitration. A communication was read from the Association of Cotton Spinners, in Lancashire, reviewing an article which appeared some time ago *The N. Y. Journal of Commerce*, proposing to bring the unemployed operatives of Lancashire to this country, free of expense, and to support them here until employment could be obtained for them instead of sending provisions thither. The Committee in their communication say:

The sentiments expressed and the scheme propounded in the article has caused a great sensation among the spinners and winders of this town, and many hundreds of them have already expressed their willingness to emigrate to America if a free passage and support could be afforded to them until employment could be procured. In this town of Preston, Lancashire, there are 1,267 spinners and winders, and of that number nearly 800 are totally without employment, in consequence of a great many mills being closed. Many of them have been closed over 12 months; and those that are working, on account of a very inferior quality of cotton (chiefly Surat) being used, the operatives scarcely earn sufficient to keep body and soul together. Such being the state of affairs in Lancashire, the operative cotton-spinners of Preston deem it their duty to offer you their humble and sincere expressions of gratitude for the noble and philanthropic scheme, propounded to release us from our present impoverished condition, and we earnestly hope that the merchants and the cotton manufacturers of the Northern States of America will lend their powerful aid and support to carry out a wise and practical scheme of emigration, which, we are sure, will be beneficial to them and advantageous to the distressed operatives of Lancashire. If such a scheme of emigration could be carried out we have no doubt that the most sober, industrious, and intelligent, in fact the very flower of the Lancashire operatives, would avail themselves of the opportunity of making a home where they can claim kith and kindred with thousands who have emigrated to a country where labor is better paid and the laborer more respected. The Committee return thanks for the skill that has been rendered the suffering operatives, and indulge in the hope that the efforts to restore the Union may be crowned with success, and that the country may be hailed as the great Republic of the world.

On motion, the communication was referred to the Executive Committee.

Mr. SINCLAIR TOUSEY offered the following, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Chamber most heartily deprecates the attempt of Secession sympathizers or others to injure the credit of the United States, by depreciating the notes issued by those of home-made Banks.

Upon a resolution that the Secretary be instructed not to allow the Chamber to be used except for the business of the Chamber of Commerce, a slight passage at arms occurred between Capt. MARSHALL and Mr. BROWN, the latter asking to have the letter of protest read upon which the resolution was predicated, which the Chair decided was before the house.

Mr. MARSHALL opposed the motion, and moved to lay it upon the table. He did not believe the Chamber had been used for any improper purpose, and believed that the resolution had been offered because a few gentlemen met there as a National War Committee.

Mr. BROWN was subsequently permitted to read the letter of protest, and in a few remarks alluded to matters which had appeared in the papers relative to a meeting which had been held there, to arrange for a reception to Gen. Butler. On a vote being taken, the resolution was disapproved of, by a large majority.

Mr. DEWITT BLOODGOOD introduced a resolution in favor of instructing the Committee on Harbor Defenses to co-operate with Gen. Wool in his official efforts to place the fortifications of New-York Bay in a proper state of defense. He remarked that Gen. Wool, a new commander, had been assigned to this department, and he understood that the General had been to Albany, and was in harmonious relation with Governor Seymour, contrary to general expectations. He hoped that the Committee of the Chamber would lose no time in consulting with Gen. Wool. The resolution was adopted.

The following resolutions were offered by Mr. Crisenden, who said that they were put into his hands some time ago by a gentleman whose name he was not at liberty to disclose. He would, however, himself take the responsibility upon himself.

Resolved, on the 15th day of April, 1861, the President of the United States issued a Proclamation, calling for Seventy-Five Thousand Volunteers, for the purpose of putting down the Rebellion against the Government of the United States—a rebellion characterized from the beginning by the most violent proceedings, in the seizure of unoccupied forts of the United States, as well as of mints, arsenals, and other public property, and by acts of secession on the part of several States, culminating in an attack upon Fort Sumter.

Resolved, That from time to time the President of the United States has made other calls for men, to the number of one million of volunteers, for the defense of the Government, for the maintenance of the Constitution and the laws and the suppression of the rebellion in the southern States of the Union, calling upon the American people to sustain by force of arms institutions established through the wisdom of our fathers, and cemented by our hallowed traditions, no more than a century ago yielded abundant prosperity—institutions which, if properly sustained by the valor and devotion of the American people, give promise of still greater results in years to come.

Resolved, That on two occasions—first on the 20th day of April, 1861, and again on the 14th day of July, 1862—the citizens of New-York, without distinction of party, met together in public meeting in Union square, and, with solemn vows, pledged themselves to maintain with their treasure and their blood the Constitution, ready for whatever arm of man was ever lifted for the breaking of the Union invoked.

Resolved, That the Government has plenary warrant, proving the indomitable courage of the soldiers of the North and the people the same, in the evidence of the ninety years which have brought prosperity to business in the states, but principally to the South and Society in the other—the unanimous voice of the country.

Resolved, That the Rebellion with like Pandemonium head in the Slave States that gave it birth, through divers means, may be traced—from Harper's Ferry and the whole line of the Potomac, to the mouth of Rappahannock, from the entire coast of Chesapeake bay, from Cape Henry, Yorktown, Norfolk, Acquia creek and Aquia Sounds, Roanoke Island, Newbern, Beaufort, Fort Macon, Port Royal, Fort Pulaski, Pensacola and various other towns and forts on the coast of Florida; coast of the coast of Texas; Forts Jackson and St. Philip on the Mississippi, and then New-Orleans; from Forts Henry and Donelson, from bowling Green, Columbus, and Island No. 10, from Memphis and Nashville—and, in a word, Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri, with considerable portions of Tennessee, Louisiana, and even Arkansas, are restored to the authority of the Union, and all the substantial results of the conflict, so disastrous to the cause of freedom and humanity, have inured to the Army of the Union;

And it Resolved, Notwithstanding all that has been done toward restoring to the Union the country of the Mississippi, together with important places on the sea coast, and this, comparatively, but remains to be accomplished in this direction, there is in the minds at the present time in certain quarters a feeling of impatience and despondency that is unworthy of a brave people, and which is unmerited by the existing conditions of public affairs.

Resolved, That, at this interesting juncture, it behooves loyal citizens of New-York to contemplate over the work which, in the Providence of God, it is given them to do; that it becomes wise men to look on, and brave men to look especially toward the issue of the existing struggle.

Resolved, That when tried by the events of the two past years, Rebellion is not less a crime than it was, because of the devastation it has spread over the South, the families it has separated and broken up, the sons, women and children it has condemned to an exile of poverty, and the unmerited horrors perpetrated in its behalf; nor is it less a duty than it was for all true men to unite in putting the Rebellion down; that the cause of good Government is not less dear because of the blessings it has continued to pour on the free people of the North, or less holy because of the patriot blood so freely used for its sake, nor is the duty to maintain and defend it less binding than it was two years ago.

Resolved, That these great ends may be successfully attained by a fulfillment of the pledges twice publicly made—by a continued surrender of person and property in aid of the Government, by patience, courage, and fortitude in the field, by fidelity and constancy in our homes, in the street, in the exchange, and in every depository of corporate and private wealth.

Resolved, That as it is a Christian duty to respect and obey, so it is the patriot's duty to honor and uphold "the powers that be"—to lighten the burdens that devolve on the Executive and Heads of Departments, disproportioned as they are to human strength, and it is not a loyal part to aggravate these burdens by the voice of unnecessary and injurious complaint.

Resolved, That to pre-existing causes for maintaining the Union in its integrity two years have added a vast pecuniary obligation; that, while the Rebellion rendered valueless two hundred millions of private debt, it now puts in jeopardy One Thousand Millions of more of public debt, if that of the United States Government is alone considered—a debt held by individuals and corporations, but very largely by our Life, Marine, and Fire Insurance Companies, by Banks, Institutions for savings and other corporate bodies, through these touching directly or indirectly every man, woman, and child in the country, and making it the interest of all to protect and preserve the Union.

Resolved, That the creation of this great debt, every day enlarging, affords a subject of painful yet proud contemplation, proving indisputably the capacity of the American people to carry on a war of unparalleled magnitude; to export of the surplus produce of the interior all that its inland canals and railroads can take to the seaboard, and still through contributions of men and the stores of the people's industry establish claims upon the public Treasury that exceed $1,000,000 per day.

Resolved, That it is in the power of the people of the United States to hold what they have the ability to acquire, and that the whole people can easily pay in taxes the interest upon a debt the principal of which is held by a part.

Resolved, That inasmuch as the creation of this large debt has led to a suspension of specie payments, to the collection of the public revenue in gold, to a consequent advance in the precious metals and the rates of foreign exchange, all questions as to the necessity of a protective tariff are henceforth put at rest; and it is not too soon to anticipate, as an early effect of the war, a rapid increase in many branches of domestic manufacture, that will be stimulated by the high cost of foreign goods.

Resolved, further, That the spirit of party which stifles love of country is too manifest at the present time, and, through the divisions it creates and the animosities it awakens, is to be feared and deprecated as the ally of rebellion, and it should be rebuked, discouraged, and banished from our midst.

Resolved finally, That while these views are justly held by all lovers of our country, it cannot, nevertheless, be disguised that there is wanting at this time that unanimity of sentiment which existed a year ago, that, on the contrary, public confidence in the Administration has been impaired and a feeling has obtained and, whether rightly or not, still obtains, that the war has been conducted on partisan principles to the injury of the public service—that this feeling has been shown by the result of recent elections—which prove, if they prove anything, that the people have at heart the preservation of the Union under all the sanctions and guarantees of the *Constitution*.

Upon the question being called there was almost a unanimous vote in the affirmative, some few members in the back part of the room angrily shouting "no."

A motion was adopted to give greater publicity to the meetings by advertising the time when they were to take place in three of the daily papers.

The Chamber then adjourned.

Board of Supervisors.

At a stated meeting of this Board yesterday afternoon, President LITTLE in the chair, after the reading of the minutes, the special order—the reports of the Committee on Annual Taxes, with an ordinance making the annual appropriations for the support of the government of the County of New-York for the year 1863—was taken up. The majority and minority reports were discussed at considerable length, the principal point of difference being as to the manner of providing an item of $6,033 74 to pay claims for clerks' services incurred under the direction of the Record Commission. Mr. BLUNT favored the addition to the item of "County Contingencies," so as to be able to withhold payment in case the decision of the Court of Appeals should be against the said Record Commission, instead of raising money directly for the claimants. After considerable sharp-shooting, the Board yielded the point to Mr. Blunt, when the minority report was withdrawn, and the proper transposition made in the levy.

On motion of Mr. PURDY, the report was considered item by item:

For advertising the publication in the newspapers designated by the Board of Supervisors, the usual abstract of the official proceedings of the Board, annual report of the Clerk, veto messages of the Mayor, &c. Mr. STEWART moved to increase the amount raised by the Committee from $20,000 to $40,000. Mr. COMAN moved to amend by striking the amount $20,000, which was agreed to by Mr. STEWART, but the question was lost by a vote of 6 to 6. A motion by Mr. BRADLEY to make the amount $30,000, was adopted by a vote of 9 to 3.

Armories and Drill-rooms, $20,000.

Asylum for idiots, $250.

Care and maintenance of Harlem Bridge, $750.

Common Schools for State, $417,215 23.

On motion, the sum of $6,033 74 for the Commissioners of Record was stricken out.

Contingencies, Comptroller's office, $3,000.

Coroners' fees, $21,000—an increase of $2,000 over the report of the Committee.

County Contingencies were increased from $55,000, as reported, to $71,033 74.

Deaf and Dumb Asylum, $1,700.

Election Expenses, $72,000.

Construction of Harlem Bridge, $133,250, as reported by the Committee was increased to $250,000.

Removal of Incumbrances in the Harbor, $4,000.

Repairs for the Blind, $3,000.

Lighting and Cleaning and Supplies for County offices, $23,000.

Metropolitan Police—Salary of Keeper and Repairs to Bridewell, &c., $1,250.

Military Fines, $30,000.

New-York Juvenile Asylum, $50,000.

New-York State Lunatic Asylum, $1,500.

New-York Law Institute, $5,525 34.

Officers and Witnesses' Fees, $90,000.

Printing and Stationery, $30,000.

Redemption of Harlem River Free Bridge Bonds, $20,000.

Repairs to County Buildings, was increased from $6,000 to $11,000.

Rents of premises used for County purposes, $11,000.

Salaries of Legislative Department, $5,000.

Salaries of Executive Department, $6,000.

Salaries of Judiciary $26,400, as reported by the Committee, was increased to $500.

For payment of salary to the widow of Ed. C. West, deceased, late Surrogate, $3,000.

For payment of State Taxes, $2,198,467 22.

Support of Prisoners in County Jail, $5,000.

Support of detained witnesses, $4,000.

To it, $3,654,052 34.

After the adoption of some reports of an important nature, and the transaction of a large amount of routine business, the Board adjourned until next Tuesday afternoon.

CITY ITEMS.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—To-night Mozart's grand opera of Don Giovanni will be performed—Lorini as Donna Anna, Strakosch as Donna Elvira, Brignoli as Ottavio, Asmodio as Don Giovanni, and Susini as Leporello.

—The season closes to-morrow with a matinée, on which occasion Lorini appears as Norina, and Cordier in Les Noces de Jeanette.

WINTER GARDEN THEATER—BENEFIT OF CUBAS.—This evening the charming Cubas takes her first and farewell benefit, presenting the following brilliant programme: The French dance "La Folle," first time; Celeste's thrilling drama of Narahmattah; the French Spy, and the Spanish dance La Medilena. Mr. C. W. Coulduck will appear in the beautiful domestic drama of "One Touch of Nature."

CONCERT IN AID OF A CHURCH.—The ladies of Grace Church, sections of sitting the Fourteenth street Free Episcopal Church, which has so far grown up under the patronage of the former and the administrations of the Rev. Mr. Dickson, are to give a concert next week for that object. It will be conducted entirely by amateurs. Tickets at $2 each, are to be had of the lady managers only. Mr. Dickson is a zealous laborer, and has drawn about him a large congregation. We would state that the rate in this church which is proposed to abolish, and that the pastor and church are supported entirely by the voluntary contributions of the congregation.

Frederick Douglass speaks to-night, at the Cooper Institute, on the President's Emancipation Proclamation.

A NEW PICTURE BY DARLEY.—Mr. Felix O. C. Darley has given us a new and beautiful sketch from his pencil, illustrative of St. Valentine's Day. The picture occupies a whole page of *The New-York Mercury*, in which it will be published shortly.

THE CONTROLLER REFUSES TO PURCHASE THE GANSEVOORT PROPERTY.—James E. Taylor, with his counsel, has applied to Controller Brennan to conclude the purchase of the Fort Gansevoort property. The Controller politely refused to pay the money or any part thereof, unless compelled to do so by process of law. Mr. Taylor intimated that he should institute legal proceedings to enforce the payment of the money, and so the matter stands.

There is now fine skating at the Central Park.

Capt. James Lee, formerly a Deputy in U. S. Marshal Murray's office, which position he resigned to take the command of Company E, of the 3d Metropolitan Regiment, now in the Gulf Department, has been detailed by Gen. Banks to the post of Deputy Provost-Marshal of New-Orleans, under Marshal Isaac C. Coame. Capt. Lee is a worthy officer, and his appointment is a compliment which he deserves.

RUNNING THE GUARD.—Michael Ryan, one of the 3d Ira Harris Guard, cavalry, while attempting to run the guard, at Staten Island, after he had been ordered to halt, was shot by his sergeant. An inquest was held on Tuesday, when the jury found a verdict in accordance with the facts.

EXPRESS TO HOOKER'S ARMY.—The Adams Express Company have resumed their trips to the Army of the Potomac. See advertisement.

FIREMAN'S FUNERAL.—The funeral of John Slowey, the exempt member of Lafayette Engine Company No. 13, who was killed at the Cherry street fire on Tuesday night, will take place from St. Stephen's Church to-day at 1 o'clock. Mr.