AN AWFUL DISASTER IN CHILI.

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ciety. Let us quench its firebrands with the sincerity and nobleness of our intentions."

THE OFFERING UP OF THE EVENING SACRIFICE.

A dreadful visitation has fallen upon us.

"Truly this is a day of trouble and rebuke and blasphemy. The voice of lamentation is heard all over the land, the bitter weeping of fathers, husbands and lovers, for those who were the joy and brightness of their life, that refuses to be comforted because they are not.

Hundreds of young girls—only yesterday radiant and beautiful in the luxuriant bloom of the fresh hopeful Spring of life—to-day calcined, hideous corpses, horrible, loathsome to the sight, impossible to be recognized.

The 8th of December was a great triumph for the clergy of the Church of the Jesuits in Santiago. An enthusiastic audience filled every nook. There were hardly any men there, but 2,000 women, comprising the flower of the beauty and fashion of the capital, were at the feet of the ecclesiastics, very many against the will of fathers and husbands; but that, of course, only showed forth the power and might of the Gospel.

Never had such pyrotechny been seen before—20,000 lights, mostly camphene, in long festoons of colored globes, blazed the church into a Hall of Fire.

But the performance had not yet begun when the crescent of fire at the foot of the gigantic image of the Virgin over the high altar, overthrowed and climbing up the muslin draperies and pasteboard devices to the wooden roof rolled a torrent of flame.

The suddenness of the fire was awful.

The dense mass of women frightened out of their senses—numbers fainting and all entangled by their long swelling dresses, rushed as those who knew that death was at their heels to the one door which soon became choked up. Fire was everywhere. Streaming along the wooden ceiling, it flung the paraffine lamps hung in rows there among the struggling women. In a moment the gorgeous church was a sea of flame. Michael Angelo's fearful picture of Hell was there, but exceeded.

Help was all but impossible. A Hercules might have strained his strength in vain to pull one from the serried mass of frenzied wretches who, piled one above another as they climbed over to reach the air, wildly fastened the gripe of death upon any one escaping, in order that they might be dragged out with them. Those who longed to save them were doomed to bear the most harrowing sight that ever scared human eyeballs.

To see mothers, sisters, tender and timid women dying that dreadful death that repels the stoutest heart of man, within one yard of salvation, within one yard of men who would have given their lives over and over again for them—it was maddening—the screaming and wringing of hands for help as the remorseless flames came on, and then, save when some already dead with fright, were burnt in ghastly indifference, their horrible agony, some in prayer, some tearing their hair and battering their faces.

Women seized in the embrace of the flames were seen to undergo a transformation as though by an optical delusion, first dazzlingly bright, then horribly lean and shrunk up, then black statues, rigidly fixed in a writhing attitude.

The fire, imprisoned by the immense thickness of the walls, had devoured everything combustible by 10 o'clock. Then, defying the sickening stench, people came to look for their lost ones.

Oh, what a sight the fair placid moon looked down upon! Close-packed crowds of calcined, distorted forms, wearing the fearful expression of the last pang, whose smile was once a Heaven, the ghastly phalanx of black statues twisted in every variety of agony, stretching out their arms as imploring mercy, and then of the heap that had choked up the door, multitudes with the lower parts perfectly untouched, and some all a shapeless mass, but with one arm or foot unscathed.

The silence, after those piercing screams were hushed in death, was horrible. It was the silence of the grave unbroken but by the bitter wail or fainting cry.

Two thousand souls had passed through that ordeal of fire to the judgment-seat of God.

Heroic acts of sublime daring have not been wanting. Enduring gratitude has been excited in every Chilian heart by the gallant efforts of Mr. Nelson, the Minister of the United States, his countryman, Mr. Meiggs, and several other foreigners. There were generous men who defied the fury of the flames to save lives, and some of these died martyrs to their noble hearts. An Englishman or American, it is unknown which, was seen to rush through the flames, to seize in his powerful arms a lady, stride with her a little way, and then, his hair in a blaze and choked with smoke, fall back into the volcano never to rise again. A young lady named Orella, having in vain implored some bystanders on her knees to save her mother, rushed in, and shortly afterward miraculously issued forth bearing her glorious load.

A young lady of the name of Solar, just before the smoke suffocated her, had the presence of mind to knot her handkerchief round her leg, so that her corpse might be recognized.

The population of Santiago so supine and so priest-ridden, is fired with indescribable indignation at the monstrous conduct of the priests. The public conscience holds them guilty of the death of all these victims—and particularly the mountebank Ugarte, the inventor of the *Virgin's Post-Office* imposture (vide *Fortnightly Review*), because by collecting together all the material most likely to produce a fire—a countless number of lights, pasteboard scenery and muslin hangings, admitting a vast crowd—and covering the one door open with a screen, they took every pains to bring about this tragedy. When the fire broke out and people were escaping by the sacristy, they blocked up this door to devote themselves the more undisturbedly to saving their gim-cracks. The list of things saved makes one's blood run cold. What the priests saved, what they have put away in cigar-shops and the houses in front are—a gilt image, some wooden saints, a sacred sopha or two, some books, chalices, silver candlesticks, and a great deal of sacred matting and carpet!

After saving their trash, these specimens of the good shepards that give their life for their sheep flew away in company with the owls and bats that infested the ancient walls, except that one priest favored the agonizing victims with his absolution, and Ugarte requested them to die happy, because they went direct to Mary. They then forsook the scene, and in that awful night, when fainting women and desperate men strewed the streets and writhing forms that a few hours ago were graceful and beautiful maidens, moaned and died in chemists shops, not a priest was to be seen to whisper a word of Christ's comfort to the dying ear, or hold the precious crucifix before the glazing eye.

No, not so, for the priest of Nature was there, a ministering angel in the dark hour tended and soothed as usual, one young lady, God bless her! tore up all her underclothing to make bandages, and bound up the wounds as only woman can. All this awful night the only thing that reminded of the clergy was the incessant tolling of bells, about the only thing they could do to increase the horrors of the scene.

This being the third time that this church has filled our homes with weeping, all with one voice demand that it never should be rebuilt, but the priests foolishly defiant and despotic as ever, threaten to let off their miserable mediæval pop-guns, at those they term the sacrilegious alienators of holy ground.

Their audacity has even led them to attempt an appeal to violence.

On the 11th they appeared on the scene to take possession of the blackened ruins and insult public opinion, by drowning masses for the souls whose bodies they had destroyed, but the sentinels drove them off with the butt ends of their muskets.

The Government has shown no energy, and one minister is unhappily a creature of the clergy; but the people in whose hearts, as having wives and daughters, there dwells an idea of right—something from God, that priests have not yet succeeded in poisoning, have been in earnest, and the Government has had to follow and yield to pressure. The decree has gone forth, and not one stone of that accursed church shall be left on another.

The contempt and horror of these priests increases with their insolence and inhumanity.

They preach that the irreparable loss of so many of the fairest and most virtuous of Chili's virgins and matrons is a special mercy and miracle of Mary who wished to take them at once, without delay, to her bosom. One monster exults openly at that which has stamped eternal grief and horror on our hearts. "Because Chili wanted a supply of saints and martyrs."

O, as we write our eyes fill with tears—nothing can console us in this affliction—we can think of nothing else but our loss of those who will never come back to us, but still there will have caused some good, if the dark degrading dominion of the priests have melted away in the smoke of that awful burnt sacrifice, which, laden with the dying breath of 2,000 victims, rolled up to accuse Ugarte and his accomplices of murder before the throne of God.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE MINISTER OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF CHILI.

SANTIAGO, Chili, Dec. 11, 1863.

To his Excellency the Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chili.

SIR: I have the honor to address myself to your Excellency, to express, on behalf of the American citizens resident in Chili, and on my own, our profound and earnest sympathy in the terrible misfortune which, upon Tuesday last, befell this city, bringing desolation and grief into so many families, and mourning into the hearts of the entire community.

The Government and people whom I represent will be stricken with the deepest sorrow, when the sad intelligence reaches them.

A calamity so appalling and horrible has no parallel in the world's history. May He who "tempers the wind to the shorn lamb" in mercy console the bereaved and afflicted, and may this awful dispensation of His providence ever remind us of the uncertainty of life, and the necessity of constant preparation to obey His summons.

I have the honor to renew to your Excellency the assurance of the high estimation and respect with which I remain, your Excellency's obedient servant,

THOMAS H. NELSON.

SANTIAGO, Dec. 12, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to receive the note which your Excellency was pleased to address me yesterday, to signify to me the profound regret caused in the mind of Your Excellency and in that of your fellow-citizens residing in Chili, for the terrible misfortune occurring in this city on Tuesday, the 8th inst., which has carried grief into the midst of many families, and has covered the entire community with mourning.

Your Excellency likewise informs me that the Government and people represented by Your Excellency will feel the deepest sorrow upon receiving the news of this catastrophe; and Your Excellency concludes, expressing to me your trust that the Lord may grant consolation to the afflicted and unprotected, and cause us all, in view of the uncertainty of life, to be ever prepared to obey the decrees of Providence.

My Government has learned the foregoing with lively gratitude, and has discovered, in your Excellency's communication an alleviation of the grief with which it has been afflicted by this public calamity, as well as a new evidence of the fraternal sentiments which animate your Excellency and your worthy fellow-citizens, in favor of our Republic. The generous and active efforts which your Excellency and they displayed on Tuesday, to save the interesting victims from the frightful fire, had already won the gratitude of my Government, which has been revived by the present manifestation.

In communicating the foregoing to your Excellency, I comply with a special charge of his Excellency the President of the Republic, to assure the honorable representative and the citizens of the United States who have taken part in our public mourning, that the noble conduct observed by them upon this said occasion will be ever gratefully remembered by the Chilian people and Government.

Will your Excellency be pleased to accept the sentiments of my most distinguished consideration and regard, with which I am your Excellency's most obedient servant, MANUEL A. TOCORNAL.

To the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States.

Banquet to the Irish Brigade.

On Saturday afternoon the non-commissioned officers and privates of the Irish Brigade, now on furlough, were entertained with a grand banquet at Irving Hall, given by the commissioned officers, headed by Brig.-Gen. Meagher, and a number of private citizens.

About noon the soldiers assembled in front of the City Hall, and, preceded by Dodworth's Band, were escorted thence to Irving Hall by a committee of officers, as follows: Maj. Cavanaugh, Capts. Maroney, Gleeson, Nagle, Tunney; Lieuts. Granger, Lee and Gosson.

The hall was beautifully decorated with American flags, badges, festoons of artificial flowers, and other adornments. In the center of the stage was a large ornamental structure, composed of the tattered and battle-stained flags of the Brigade, wreathed in flowers surmounted by the Irish sunburst, with the American eagle over all, and an ivy-crowned bust of Washington in front. On either side were small groups of flags and escutcheons, bearing the names of the battles in which the Brigade has taken part. In front of the gallery was another group of battle-torn flags, faced with a large shield, bearing transversely, the word

GETTYSBURG.

From the galleries on either side were suspended the National colors, with shields, each one containing the names of a battle, as follows:

ANTIETAM,	MALVERN HILL,
WHITE OAK SWAMP,	GAINES'S HILL,
GLENDALE,	CHANCELLORSVILLE,
FREDERICKSBURG,	SAVAGE STATION,
PEACH ORCHARD,	FAIR OAKS,
YORKTOWN,	BRISTOW STATION.

The galleries were occupied exclusively by ladies, and a band was stationed upon the stage.

The banquet arranged by Lafayette Harrison, was all that could be desired, and the soldiers after their long march amply testified their appreciation of the good things set before them. Upon the removal of the cloth the officers of the Brigade marched into the room and were received by the soldiers standing. Among those present were Gen. Meagher, Col. Nugent, Col. Bagley, Capt. Maroney, Capt. Maroney, Major Cavanaugh, Lieuts. Lee and Granger, Daniel Devlin, John O'Mahoney of the Fenian Brotherhood, and many others whose names have escaped us.

Sergeant-Major O'DRISCOLL occupied the chair, and in calling the company to order made a few remarks, introducing General MEAGHER, who was greeted with three cheers.

The General commenced by declaring to the reënlisted men and officers of the Irish Brigade present that he, with his brother officers, bid them a thousand welcomes to the festive board. Prohibited by the rules, as well as by the etiquette of military service, of testifying in the presence of the services and devotion of the men constituting our command, we avail ourselves of the first moment at our disposal to thank you, the rank and file, the bone and sinew, the stout heart and the iron arm of the armies of the Republic. [Cheers.] The fortune of the private soldier is, indeed, an humble, and, I might almost say, a penal one. Having to endure the sun-rays on the march—the blinding snows and chilling winds of Winter—to plunge into the swollen torrent, or traverse the arid plains, nothing can possibly sustain him, unless it be a high and holy sense of the rectitude of the purpose in which he has taken up arms, and with which he strikes. [Cheers.] No glowing vision of a monument erected by a nation, nor even by his comrades-in-arms can allure him to the dangerous path. The private soldier of any army, but above all the private soldiers of the army whose banners are consecrated to the laws which are the expressions to us of the safeguard of popular rights, and the cause, in an eminent degree of civilization and liberty, pervading the soldiers of the armies everywhere, but especially in the armies called together by such a cause, it may indeed be said of them, what an eloquent European said of those who fell on a historical battle field, that "The smile of the consciousness of doing right had left on their dead features the token that they were the nameless demagogues of liberty." [Applause.]

He continued still further, picturing the trials of the private soldier, the vicissitudes connected with camp life, and the great merit of the rank and file who, without anticipating any special monument to their gallantry, were foremost in the paths of peril and death. The success of the officers of the brigade was owing to the fidelity of the soldiers, for the trophies of the officer were earned by the private. He had declared before that no distinction could be given him, however high it might be, than that which he felt he had as commander of the Irish Brigade.

You are now returned to your homes for a short spell, to renew, in domestic happiness, that strength which, upon so many battle-fields, has been expended in the cause of the United States so cheerfully, so bountiously, so heroically. [Cheers.] Let me say, however, without disparagement to the patriotism and the loyalty of this great city, that you have come to a city in which the enemies of the Republic have attached a camp—a camp which is all the more dangerous because it is so obscure and intangible. You will have the enemies of the Government—all those who would see the Government humbled and the Stars and Stripes trailed in the dust, in order that they might gratify their vicious capacities, and rear upon the appalling ruins the supremacy of a nation. [Applause.] Beware of what has grown to be the most significant designation of Northern enemies of this country; beware of the reptiles who are known as Copperheads. [Applause and some hisses.] Have no parley with them; show no mercy to them; squelch them. [Applause and hisses.] Soldiers, we know what it is to meet Southern soldiers; we respect them for their bravery; we cannot but admire them almost with enthusiasm for the persistency and the desperate fortitude with which they have clung to their cause under so many adversities, and in such terrible privations. [Applause.] Nor can we, as soldiers, withhold our admiration for the women of the South, who have bade the loved ones of their household go forth and do battle for what they conceive to be the cause of their altars and firesides. We can extend our admiration, and, in many circumstances, almost our sympathy to our enemies, displaying as they do such fidelity to their cause, and having, perhaps, some apparent excuse, founded upon local associations and political views; but for the enemies of this country in the North, who have no excuse, who bid their friends go forth to do battle, and then cut down the bridges behind them, so that they may fall sacrifices to the enemy, as they did when Gen. Lee invaded Pennsylvania last Summer, raising a revolt when you were battling for the Stars and Stripes upon the Susquehanna; as for these men, we have nothing but detestation; and for the Irish portion of it, I deprecate, I loathe, I repudiate, I execrate them. [Applause.] Traitors to the Republic, they are still deeper traitors to the reputation of the ancient Irish nation. Soldiers, as you have been true under the deadliest fire to the flag of the Republic, be true to it in this city. Never let one word be uttered in your presence, wearing as you do the uniform of an American soldier, in disrespect, or against the Chief Magistrate, the President of the nation. Soldiers, when you are approached with the political cries of factions, say to them there is no Democratic party; say to them there is no Republican party; say to them that as to the Know Nothing party, it has received the final and irrevocable sentence of the damned; say to them this, as I say to you, with a clear perception of the political status of the moment, that there are but two parties in this country: one, the Federal Armies under Abraham Lincoln; and the other, the Rebel Armies under Jeff. Davis. [Applause.] Those are the only two parties in the country at the present day, and until the party, headed by Jeff. Davis, has been utterly routed and annihilated, stand by your party. It is the party of the country, of its history, and of its future. Gentlemen and soldiers, I shall give you the toast: "Abraham Lincoln, by the will of God, and the vote of the American people, President of the United States." [Cheers.]

Col. PATRICK KELLY of the 88th Regiment was next introduced, and made a short speech, concluding with this sentiment:

"Our dead comrades, officers and soldiers of the Irish Brigade: Their memories shall be as green in our souls as the flag under which they fought and fell for the United States, and the immortal shamrock of their native land."

Col. NUGENT was received with great enthusiasm, and concluded a short and facetious speech with this sentiment:

"No negotiation, no compromise, no peace, but war to the last dollar and the last man, until every Southern Rebel flag be struck between the St. Lawrence and the Gulf, and swept everywhere, the world over, from land and sea."

The following regular sentiments, with many volunteer toasts, were then given in order, and responded to by Col. Bentley of the old, Capt. Gregg, Col. Brewster, John O. Mahoney, Col. Halpine, Capt. Lines, Col. Hammell, Capt. Gosson, and others:

The Enemies of the Irish Brigade—They have been as brave to the honor and glory of America, as their noble family in another generation, was to the liberty of Ireland.

The Irish Soldiers in the National Armies, North, South, East and West.

The Memory of Gen. Michael Corcoran—May the laurels for his grave be planted by his splendid old legion, and the shamrocks over it be the tribute of the land of his birth which he so deeply loved, and to the liberation of which he had hoped one day to give his sword, as he had already given it his heart.

Private Miles O'Reilly—May success and glory ever attend "the bould soger boy" the world over.

The American Press—The army and the navy recognize in it their champion and historian.

Mr. Spaulding and Merchants of New-York, from whose hands the Irish Brigade received its new Colors—The Irish Brigade gratefully acknowledge their cordial friendship and splendid liberality; while the Government and the nation recognize them as the staunchest of pillars and defenses.

Our Friend L. F. Harrison, the Public-Spirited Proprietor of Irving Hall—To his patriotic concurrence in the object of the festival and his liberality, the officers of the Irish Brigade are indebted for the success of the day.

Capt. DALY of the 47th Regiment New-York Volunteers, one of the guests, being called upon for a song, said he would give them one which was very popular in the department he came from, and which he had done much to reconcile the soldiery of the command to the institution it referred to. It was Private O'Reilly of his regiment, who is in the habit of saying that he has seen such a plenty of white men killed in this war that he has no objection now to letting the "Sambos" take their fair share of death and wounds. Against any white monopoly in the trade of "being kilt," as he phrased it, Private Miles had entered, to the air of "The Low-Backed Car," the following lyrical protest. He called it:

MILES O'REILLY ON THE "NAYGURS."

Some tell us 'tis a burning shame
To make the naygurs fight;
An' that the trade of bein' kilt
Belongs but to the white;
But as for me, upon my sowl!
So liberal are we here,
I'll let Sambo be murdered in place of myself
On every day in the year!
On every day in the year, boys,
And every hour in the day,
The right to be kilt I'll divide wid him,
An' divil a word I'll say.

In battle's wild commotion
I shouldn't at all object
If Sambo's body should stop a ball
That was comin' for me direct;
And the prod of a Southern bagnet,
So liberal are we here,
I'll resign and let Sambo take it
On every day in the year!
On every day in the year, boys,
An' wid none of your nasty pride,
All my right in a Southern bagnet prod
Wid Sambo I'll divide.

The men who object to Sambo,
Should take his place and fight;
And it's better to have a naygur's hue
Than a liver that's white as white;
Though Sambo's black as the ace of spades,
His finger a thrigger can pull,
And his eye runs straight on the barrel sights
From under his thatch of wool;
So hear me all, boys, darlings,
Don't think I'm tipsin' you chaff,
The right to be killed I'll divide wid him,
And give him the largest half!

A letter was read from Gen. Sickles regretting his inability to be present. Also, a letter from James T. Brady, and one from Henry F. Spaulding. During the entertainment an Irish song was sung by Barney Williams. Everything passed off pleasantly, and at 4 o'clock the company broke up.

A Special Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce.

A special meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, A. A. LOW in the chair, was held on Saturday to consider the removal of the Metropolitan Police Commissioners by Gov. Seymour. Mr. Secretary STEVENS read the call of the meeting. Capt. MARSHALL arose and said, he regretted so few persons were present, since business of such vast importance had to be transacted. He then read the following resolutions, which were adopted unanimously:

Whereas, The recent action of the Governor of this State in reference to the Metropolitan Police Commissioners threatens greatly to impair the efficiency of the Police as a department of the public service, by depriving it of the supervision of those who have been instrumental in bringing it to its present state of discipline and usefulness, and by subordinating to political and partisan ends a great public trust, upon which the security of life and property and the preservation of order in this city mainly depend; therefore,

Resolved, That, in the judgment of this Chamber, it is of the utmost importance to the commercial and social interests of this community, and to its permanent prosperity, that the existing organization and arrangements of the Metropolitan Police Department should be preserved. The great superiority of the present Police force over that existing before the passage of the Metropolitan Police Act is universally conceded, and the high standard of excellence attained under the operation of that act by the efforts of those charged with its execution has been fully tested by experience, not only in the ordinary routine of duty, but also in the greatest public exigency which ever threatened our city. The energy, fidelity, and bravery of the Police in resisting the riots of July last, and their successful cooperation in suppressing them, have deserved and received the unanimous thanks of all good citizens, and constantly demonstrate the wisdom and necessity of guarding with jealous care a system which, by long and severe trial, has been so thoroughly tested and approved.

Resolved, That the bill introduced into the Senate by Senator Lainbeer, providing for the permanent organization of this Department, under the Administration, so as to secure it from political interference or partialities, meets with our hearty approval and deserves the support of the representatives of the people in the State Legislature.

Resolved, That the foregoing resolutions be adopted, and that a Committee be appointed to visit Albany and urge upon the authorities the views of the Chamber.

The following gentlemen were appointed that Committee: G. W. Blunt, S. B. Chittenden, Jonathan Sturges, William Orton, C. R. Robert, L. B. Wyman, and J. A. Stevens.

Mr. BLUNT called for the reading of the following letter:

NAVY DEPARTMENT, Washington, Jan. 12, 1864.

G. W. BLUNT, esq.—*My Dear Sir*: The charges against the Navy Department for building slow steamers is best answered by a comparative trial of speed, and I am authorized by the Secretary to make arrangements to run one of our vessels against the fastest side-wheel steamer in the country, Foreign or American. The Adriatic, Illinois, Fulton, Eagle, and some of the Cunard line are, I believe, in New-York at this time. The Eutaw, one of the only class of side-wheel steamers constructed by the Department and known as a double-ender, is now at Washington Navy-Yard, and will be sent around to New-York if a race can be arranged. Her tonnage is 974 and her draft 8 feet 6 inches, and she will run against the same tonnage and draft in any weather; if her competitor is much larger, the race to take place in smooth water.

Very respectfully, G. V. FOX.

Objection was made by Mr. GRINNELL against receiving a letter addressed to a private individual, whereupon a lengthy discussion ensued upon the subject by Mr. GRINNELL and Mr. BLUNT, in the course of which the latter made a short speech in defense of the Navy.

Mr. LOW thought there was sufficient justification for reading the letter. It certainly came from a high source, and to exclude such a letter would be highly discourteous and improper. The matter was then dropped.

A Committee of Ten was appointed to cooperate with the Ladies' Sanitary Commission in efforts to inaugurate a Metropolitan Fair, to be held in March, after which the Chamber adjourned.

Col. Adams Denies His Reported Decease.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: I would not trespass on your space or time to ask a correction of so slight an error as that in your issue of the 8th inst., wherein you notice my death as having taken place some time since—a matter of no kind of consequence to the public in one way or another, but in more ways than one it occurs to me, a matter of considerable importance to myself. And as one disposed to do the fair thing, I ask redress at your hands, rather than the source from whence I learn you derived your information—and for this reason: that I think you more open to conviction, or to the fact of my existence in the flesh, than the Brooklyn papers from which it seems you copied the statement.

As I resided, in my early youth, in Brooklyn, and for many years past have resided there with my family, and from my professional connection with the public works of that city, my almost daily intercourse with its officials, the frequent exhibition of myself in the daily papers published there—by my known connection with the regiment whose late return from the front gives occasion for some glorification in the local papers, as the first in the State to offer itself for the war, and indeed, whose return on furlough is the subject of the article wherein occasion is taken to lay me out—having marched at the head of the regiment on its arrival in the city a day or two since; having also made myself somewhat active in securing for it a public reception—stood at the right hand of his Honor the Mayor, on the steps of the City Hall, when he officially welcomed the regiment home, &c.—might I not ask, in view of all this, what would be considered in Brooklyn as evidence that I am alive?

Read as your paper is throughout the country such a notice as you have been pleased to give of me might be extremely damaging to my business, as "error will travel ten leagues while truth is putting on its boots," and I have to request that you will allow me to state, through your columns, that I am alive! and engaged in the practice of my profession at No. 4 Pine street in this city, and if this method of stating the fact should, in your judgment, savor somewhat of an attempt to swindle you out of an advertisement under false pretenses, you can drop the address, and publish so much of the remainder as will in your opinion be an equivalent for the mischief which you may have done. J. W. ADAMS, Civil Engineer,

No. 4 Pine street.

The Weather and the Ice.

The wind on Saturday morning was from the north-west. For the past few days large quantities of drift ice, very thick and hard, have been floating about our bays and rivers, doing more or less damage to the shipping and piers. On Saturday morning on the flood tide immense fields of it swept up the East River, doing considerable damage to vessels lying at the ends of piers. The ship Daniel Webster, lying at the upper end of Pier No. 1, East River, had her quarter stove in and rudder carried away.

The ship Compromise, lying at the lower side of the same pier, was badly chafed, and by careening had her mainyard carried away. The Belle Wood, loaded for Liverpool, at pier 27 East River, was so badly injured that she was compelled to tow to Brooklyn to discharge, and her damage is estimated at $10,000. The brig Lucretia, arrived on Friday from Jamaica, lying at the lower side of Wall street, was badly chafed and had her foreyard broken [illegible] by careening.

The steamship Sidon, that arrived from Liverpool on Friday morning with 250 steerage passengers, had not discharged her passengers up to noon on Saturday, in consequence of the difficulty in getting to her from the ice. The ship Elizabeth Hamilton, lying at Wall street, parted her moorings, and she was driven against the Daniel Webster, damaging her rudder and doing other injury.

Upon the flood tide on Saturday afternoon a very extensive and heavy floating field of ice passed into the East River, which delayed the Staten Island and South Ferry boats that were in the slips at the time nearly half an hour, and in its progress up the river materially damaged the ends of many of the piers, some being nearly demolished. The North River on Saturday night was one vast field of ice, reaching from shore to shore, and very hard and thick.

Yesterday both the North and East Rivers were full of ice—the Brooklyn and Staten Island ferry-boats made their regular trips with much difficulty in consequence. We have heard of no damage being done by it.

CITY ITEMS.

MEETING OF ENGINEERS AND FIREMEN.—Notice is given of a meeting of the Board of Engineers and Firemen at Firemen's Hall, this evening, to make arrangements to attend the funeral of Mr. Burridge, killed on Saturday evening in the discharge of his duty.

DE CORDOVA.—The third of Mr. De Cordova's lectures on "Mr. Perkins's Thanksgiving Dinner, a Tale of Shoddy," will be given this evening at Niblo's Saloon.

TREATMENT OF COLORED SOLDIERS.—Last night, 35 colored recruits from Oswego, N. Y., arrived in this city, too late to proceed to Riker's Island, owing to a break down on the railway. Having no shelter or provision made for them, they were marched to the State Soldiers' Home in Howard street, where, as we are informed, they were refused admission on account of their color. They then went to the Park Barracks, where they were also not allowed to enter, and for the same reason. Ultimately Sergeant De Voursney, of the 26th Precinct Station House, City Hall, gave them a room, and they will start for their destination this morning, doubtless with no great respect for the hospitalities of New-York city.

THE GREAT EUROPEAN COMPLICATIONS.—THE TRIBUNE ALMANAC for 1864 contains a very carefully prepared article on the European Powers, their positions, names of Sovereigns, population, &c.

SANITARY COMMISSION.—Madame D'Angri, Sig. Abella and Profs. Colburn, Nash and Curtis, have kindly volunteered their valuable services; and a rare treat may be anticipated on Thursday evening, Jan. 21, at the Cooper Institute, on the repetition of Mr. Belden's lecture on the "Rise and Fall of Republics."

THE PARK BARRACKS.—Since Friday night portions of the 23d, 25th, 32d, and 27th Massachusetts Regiments have arrived in this city on their way home from the field; also, a New-Jersey regiment (the 9th), and a New-York regiment, both likewise en route home. A Vermont battery on its way to the field has also arrived during the same time. The men of these different regiments refused to quarter in the Park Barracks, in consequence of the filthy condition of the buildings, and were quartered in various parts of the city, the New-England Rooms, and the New-York Soldiers' Home taking their proportion of them. Some of the down-town hotels very kindly quartered squads of them. Capt. Frank E. Howe of Major-Gen. Dix's staff addressed a letter to the General, stating the condition of the barracks, whereupon Gen. Dix ordered that officer to take immediate possession of and put them in a proper condition for the reception of troops. In two hours over sixty men were at work, and continued during all Saturday night, Sunday and Sunday night, and by Monday morning the entire barracks will be cleansed, inside and out, whitewashed, windows restored, etc., and the whole place put, and kept hereafter, in a healthy condition. Gen. Dix has ordered the 25 prisoners remaining in the "pen" removed, and a supply of needful clothing furnished them.

DEATH OF A FIREMAN.—Mr. George W. Burridge, the Fireman who was killed on Saturday night at the fire in Duane street, was an honorary member of Engine Co. No. 42, and had been for many years shipping clerk in the employ of Ward, Close & Co., wholesale druggists, No. 130 William street. He was universally respected both by his employers and associates. He was 31 years of age, and resided at No. 164 Wooster street. Coroner Wilder, on Sunday, held an inquest on the remains. The funeral service will be held at the Church of the Rev. E. H. Chapin, in Broadway, on Monday afternoon, after which the remains will be conveyed to White Plains for interment, under a Committee of the officers of the Fire Department. A large number of the officers and members of the Department will attend the Church, and escort the remains to the 27th street depot.

DEPARTURE OF EMIGRANTS FOR LIBERIA.—On Saturday noon the bark Thomas Pope, Capt. Alexander, sent out on a trading voyage by Messrs. Yates & Porterfield, sailed for Liberia. Among her passengers are Mr. Haine, United States Commissioner and Consul-General for Liberia, and the Rev. Mr. Melville, a Liberian Presbyterian missionary, returning to his field of labor, and four families of emigrants to Liberia, sent out by the American Colonization Society. These families consist of eighteen persons, four of whom are preachers of the Methodist denomination. One family is from Illinois, one from Philadelphia, one from Boston, and one from this city.

ATALANTA BOAT CLUB.—The seventeenth annual meeting of the Atalanta Boat Club was held on Tuesday evening, Jan. 12, when the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Henry H. Dyer; Vice-President, Alden S. Swan; Secretary, William C. Mainland; Treasurer, Washington Haddock.

A SOLDIER MURDERED FOR HIS MONEY.—An inquest was held, on Sunday, at the Sixth Precinct Station-House, by Coroner Ranney, on the body of Peter Myers, lately a private in Capt. Wilson's company, 3d New-York Cavalry. The deceased, on Saturday afternoon, left the Park Barracks on a furlough, with $224 in his possession, and on Sunday morning was found by the Sixth Precinct Police lying dead on the threshold of No. 139 Worth street, with but $40 remaining of the sum with which he started on the day previous. Dr. John Beach made a post-mortem examination, and found bruises on the cheek and nose, but they might have been caused by a fall. The jury rendered a verdict that death was the result of violence, but by what means received was to them unknown. Deceased was a native of Rochester, where he leaves a wife and two children. His remains will be taken home by his connexions. In common with his regiment, he had reënlisted, and had come home on furlough. He was cautioned by his officers about carrying so much money around with him. There is but little doubt that the man was murdered and robbed, for his officers give him the reputation of a sober, well-conducted man.

CONSTITUTIONAL UNIONISTS.—"The Constitutional Union General Committee" met on Friday night, and the following officers wree elected (mainly by themselves) for the ensuing year: President, John L. Noyes; 1st Vice President, J. R. Voorhees; 2d do., Ellison Hurd; Treasurer, Stephen Roberts; Secretaries, Wm. S. Baaker and W. C. Hurd; Sergeant-at-Arms, Oliver Sloan Holden. Gov. McClellan was nominated for the Presidency, and Gov. Wm. B. Campbell of Tennessee for the Vice Presidency. This machine is the same that was run at Troy, a year ago last Fall, the day previous to the assembling of the Mozart and Tammany Conventions, by Erastus Brooks, on the occasion of the nomination of Governor Seymour.

NEW-YORK OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL.—At the annual meeting of the directors of this hospital, held on Tuesday morning, Drs. Mark Stephenson, John P. Garrish, and Marcus P. Stephenson reported that they had during the year 1863 attended nearly 1,000 new patients with great success. The annual election of officers resulted as follows: For President, Solomon Jenner; Vice-President, W. S. Davison; Treasurer, C. C. Corson; Secretary, J. R. Cuming. This charitable institution is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 1 to 3 p. m. for the gratuitous treatment of all diseases of the eye. The hospital is located at the corner of Fourth avenue and Twenty-eighth street, in the homestead occupied for a quarter of a century by Peter Cooper.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN DUANE STREET—LOSS OVER $750,000.—Shortly after 10 p. m. on Saturday flames were discovered issuing from the windows of the second floor of the splendid five-story (marble-front) building, No. 136 Duane street. The alarm was promptly given, but, owing to the headway the flames attained before being discovered, and the hight of the building, the firemen could do no more than attempt to confine the ravages of the flames to the building in which the fire originated. The fire soon spread throughout the entire building, and in a short time the interior was completely consumed. The first floor and basement was occupied by Messrs. Fairchild & Faushaw, importers and wholesale dealers in dry goods and silks. They estimate their loss at $300,000; fully insured in various city companies. The upper floors were occupied by Messrs. Auffmordt, Hessenberg & Co., dealers in dry goods. Their loss is about $400,000; insured for that amount in various city and English companies.

One of the side walls of the burning building fell, crushing in No. 148, occupied on the upper floors as a lager-beer depot of the Lion Brewery, and in the basement by William Schmeder as a restaurant. Loss, about $700; insured in the New-Amsterdam Co. for its full value. The building was owned by Mrs. Lozier; fully insured. Benkard & Anthon, dealers in dry goods, who occupied No. 144, had their stock damaged to the amount of $2,500 by water. The building, also owned by the above firm, was valued at $30,000; damage trifling, and fully covered by insurance. No. 104 Read street is occupied by Burroughs & Allen, dealers in fancy goods; their stock is damaged to the amount of $8,000 by water; insured for $25,000 in the Park, Brooklyn, East River, Massasoit, Mechanics and Traders, American Exchange and Corn Exchange Companies; the building is owned by Mr. Cooley, and is damaged about $1,000; insured. No. 23 West Broadway, occupied by a number of poor families, was damaged about $1,000; the tenants' loss considerable—their household goods being damaged by water. A young man named George W. Burridge, a member of Engine Co. No. 42, while standing on a skylight on the roof of No. 146, fell through, the glass being cracked by the intense heat, and was almost instantly killed. Two others named Thomas Morant, a member of the Insurance Patrol, and Daniel Burns, a member of Engine Co. No. 50, were also seriously injured by falling from the burning building. They were all conveyed to the New-York Hospital. Assistant Engineer Long had his arm crushed by a piece of marble falling on it. A number of other firemen and citizens were injured by the falling bricks and heavy masses of fire which were scattered thickly in all directions.

FATAL TERMINATION OF A PORTER-HOUSE ROW.—The investigation in the case of Patrick O'Brien, who was stabbed in a porter-house at the corner of Fortieth street and First avenue, by James Harvey and others, on the 14th of November last, and so dangerously injured that he died two days afterward in Bellevue Hospital, was concluded on Saturday afternoon by Coroner Ranney. The testimony elicited during the inquest held on the deceased, a few days after the occurrence, implicated Harvey and two others, but at that time the assailants had fled. A short time since, however, Harvey was arrested by officer Kearns of the Twenty-first Precinct, and the investigation was concluded on Saturday. The jury rendered a verdict that deceased met his death from a stab-wound inflicted by James Harvey, and that Henry Fessman and Hugh Hawkins were confederates in the crime. The latter are still at large. On the rendition of this verdict, the accused was committed to the Tombs by the Coroner to await the action of the Grand Jury. The deceased was 45 years of age, and a native of Ireland.

SUPREME COURT—SPECIAL TERM—JAN. 16.—Before Justice JAMES.

DECISION.

Halstead, et al. agt. Black. Judgment for plaintiff on demurrer. (See opinion.)

COURT CALENDAR—THIS DAY.

SUPREME COURT—SPECIAL TERM.—Demurrers, Nos. 73, 18. Issues at law, &c., Nos. 157, 159, 149, 169, 187, 195, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217.

SUPREME COURT—CIRCUIT.—Part I.—Over and Terminer. Part II.—Nos. 959, 1211, 1202, 1216, 707, 960, 1074, 651, 970, 182, 530, 541.

SUPERIOR COURT.—Part I.—Nos. 3133, 3205, 3147, 1183, 1711, 1247, 3186, 3129, 3221, 3223, 3225, 3227, 3229, 3231, 3233, 547, 1672, 3179, 2615, 359.

COURT OF COMMON P