Atlantic, where the information relating to it is most easily accessible. The Alabama claimants reside here; all who are interested in the fisheries are citizens either of our Eastern States or of Canada; and if personal testimony should be wanted, the witnesses are within easy reach. A consideration of greater importance is the fact that the American Senate will be in session at Washington during the progress of the negotiations. In this country all treaties come under the review of a body which has no hand in their negotiation, and fail unless supported by the large majority of two-thirds. It is well, therefore, that a treaty so important should be negotiated at a place where Senators can be sounded. * * * The Democratic party will offer no obstruction to the success of this negotiation, nor indulge in any captious criticism. We are willing that questions between this country and foreign countries, involving the national honor, shall be kept out of party politics. If the Alabama claims are left unsettled they are almost certain to be an exciting element in the next Presidential election, a contingency which we deprecate as dangerous and fatal to the peace of the country. The element in this country unfriendly to England acts with the Democratic party; and, of course, we shall not permit the Republicans to draw it away by overbidding us in a heated election. The fact that there is such an element will compel the Republicans to bid high to keep their party together, and the consequence will be that whichever party carries the election it will come into power pledged to enforce demands which would put the country at once on the brink of hostilities. Unless the question is settled now it will not be settled by judgment, but be delivered over to a conflict of passion. We would fain hope that all men of influence will favor an immediate settlement on fair and reasonable terms. * * * As the British Commissioners are coming here, let us choke down our resentments like hosts whom it becomes to support their character for hospitality.

The Commissioners appointed by the President are unobjectionable in point of character, and are confined with great prudence and judgment. The Democratic member is a most admirable selection. The firmness, moderation, patriotism, and sound judgment of Mr. Fish himself, and of his eminent New-York associate, justify the belief that the honor of the country and the interest of the claimants are in safe hands. Gen. Schenck's vigorous sense and thorough knowledge of American feeling makes him a valuable member of the Commission. The other two members (Hoar and Williams) are fitly selected to supplement the Commission. * * * The new Alabama negotiation is to be started in the line of sound precedent, and in conformity with the prudent maxim that in many counselors there is safety.

DIFFICULTIES VIRTUALLY ADJUSTED.

From The New-York Herald.

The members of the Joint Commission on the part of our Government are perfectly satisfactory. * * We are disposed to consider all the existing differences between the two countries, upon the various questions to be settled, as virtually adjusted in the appointment of this "Joint High Commission." England evidently resolved upon peace and the closest relations of friendship with the United States. * * * This commission at Washington on American affairs may be linked with a Conference of all the Great Powers on European affairs. Anticipating a complete settlement of the difficulties pending between the two countries in this Washington Conference, we may mark it as the opening of a new career to England and to the United States. In a generous rivalry they will only fight for the commercial supremacy of the seas. * * * The Anglo-rebel pirate Alabama thus comes in as a great peace-maker. And what does this hitherto ominous word "Alabama" signify? It means "here we rest."

A TRIUMPH OF CIVILIZATION.

From The Nation.

It would have been difficult to have hit upon a better mode of settling existing disputes, and impossible to have selected a better body of men on both sides to do the work. Important as the appointment of the Commission is, and as its success will be, as regards the relations of England and America, they will be still more important as regards the provision of a substitute for war in the settlement of international controversies. To be sure, international disputes have been settled by commissions before now, but none of such gravity, and none by which popular feeling had been so strongly roused. Should the Alabama case be peacefully adjusted in this way, it will greatly weaken the chance of any resort to war in future, and properly and inevitably foster the habits of mind which will eventually, we may hope, make the decision even of national quarrels by a court possible. In short, no greater triumph of civilization has occurred in our day; and, coming side by side with the savagery which has isolated France, it is all the more wonderful. We may mention now, for the benefit of all savages and blatherskites, however, that a good way of frustrating the labors of the Commission, and keeping up the good old plan of rocking people on the head when we differ with them, will be to shake their heads over the Commission, to express the hope that the dispute *may* be settled in this way, but to see "many difficulties;" to trust that the Englishmen are not going to allow the national honor to be trifled with, and that Fish and Schenck are not going to be seduced by the blandishments of the aristocracy into "surrendering our just rights," and so on, and to insinuate that we need be in no hurry to settle; "if England can afford to wait, we can;" and then go to a peace-meeting, and howl against Bismarck and King William, standing armies, etc. Judging from the tone of the press, however, on this side of the water at least, the scheme will have the hearty support of the public here, and meets with the greatest satisfaction.

SIMPLE AND SATISFACTORY.

From Harper's Weekly.

The reference of all the disputed questions between the United States and England to a commission of citizens of the best character and ability from both countries is a proposition so simple and satisfactory that it will be heartily applauded by every honest American and Englishman. A pacific settlement by the Commission will be a most signal triumph for the Administration of Gen. Grant. * * * The gentlemen named by the President for the Commission, upon the part of the United States, are so well known and esteemed that the wisdom of the selection is manifest. They are men of spotless character, and of recognized capacity. The position of the United States will be asserted with the utmost independence and with the highest courtesy, and the British Commissioners will feel that they are in contact with men who represent both the general conviction and the best character of the American people. It is fortunate that the Commission is to sit in Washington, where the British members can acquaint themselves, as they could not in England, with the exact feeling with which they have to deal. They will learn that no sensible or representative body of Americans wishes or asks Great Britain to do what America would, under the same circumstances, scornfully refuse to do; and they will perceive how much it is possible even for diplomatists to effect in cementing the friendship of two great kindred nations.

A DOUBTFUL VOICE.

From The Springfield Republican.

The object of the new movement is not finally dispose of the causes or subjects of dispute themselves, but only to pave the way for another process of adjustment; that is, by arbitration, special treaty, or the like. The Queen's speech reveals two things which we think show that the Secretary of State, in arranging his scheme for the composition of the claims, was somewhat hasty in his action, if he has not, still worse, repeated the very error of diplomacy for which, more than anything else, the Reverdy Johnson Treaty was so unanimously repudiated by the Senate and the country; we mean in the particular of putting the Alabama claims on a par with the demands of Confederate bondholders and blockade-running Englishmen against the United States. If any one will read the speech together with Mr. Thornton's letter to Mr. Fish of February 1, he will see with what diplomatic dexterity Her Majesty's Ministers say, in the two documents (!), that they only proposed to the United States, at the initiative, to leave the fisheries and other colonial questions to the Commissioners; but that the United States thereupon proposed to bring the Alabama difficulties into the scope of the arrangement, which the Queen's Government agreed to; but only on the condition (2) that the Alabama claims should be treated on the same basis as all other claims which Englishmen might have to urge. * * * We feel sure that the American people will never consent to have the claims of our Government upon Great Britain, or even the claims of individual ship-owners for their losses by the depredations of British-built cruisers, put on the same level with the claims of English blockade-runners and the holders of Confederate bonds. And we trust the American press will abstain from any loud exultations over the new Commission until it can be seen whether it is likely to have power to settle the matters really at issue between two great nations.

"MEANS BUSINESS."

From The Alta California.

After five or six years of fruitless negotiation and mutual coldness and distrust, there is at last some prospect that the long-pending disputes between Great Britain and the United States are to be speedily settled. * * * All of the American Commissioners occupy distinguished places in the estimation of the country, and will command its entire confidence. From these, and the five gentlemen who will represent England, we may justly expect a fair and able discussion of the issues which have disturbed the amicable relations existing between the two great countries. Right-thinking men of all nationalities will rejoice that the vexed questions growing out of our complications with our testy neighbor on the north, as well as the graver one of the "Alabama Claims," are to be formally laid before a Joint High Commission, with a view to their ultimate settlement. Heretofore, there has been no real discussion of these affairs, although the Government of the United States has been persistent in its attempts to provoke such debate. The establishment of this Joint Commission evidently means business.

THE CINCINNATI SOCIETY.

A special meeting of the Cincinnati Society was held last evening, at Delmonico's, to celebrate in a social way the anniversary of the birth of Washington, and to listen to an address by the Rev. Dr. M. S. Hutton. This Society was formed by the officers of the Revolutionary army, on the 10th of May, 1773, with the object of taking care of those who should become disabled or needy, and to perpetuate the friendships which sprung up between them during the struggle for independence. It was also provided that it should be perpetuated by their descendants, according to the English law of descent, and it was these who met last evening. The Society numbers about 80 members, and by their Constitution their annual meeting is held on the Fourth of July, although up to within a few years it has been their custom to hold an extra or special meeting on Washington's Birthday. This custom they intend to revive, and the attendance last evening justified the change. Among those present were Gen. Alexander Hamilton, Marius Willet, John W. Greaton, Gen. John Cochrane, Col. Matchin, the oldest member of the Society; Gen. George Morell, Gen. A. S. Webb, Dr. Ellis, Prof. John Torry, H. H. Ward, Wm. Irving Grace, Major Wm. R. Popper, and Wm. Henry Crosby. In the absence of Hamilton Fish, President of the Society, Major Popper presided, and Wm. Henry Crosby acted as Secretary. After some routine business, the Rev. Dr. Hutton delivered a brief address, in which he endeavored to show that this nation was a Christian nation, notwithstanding the reverse was held in the treaty of Tripoli. Their Society, in its Constitution, recognized the Supreme Governor of the Universe. In conclusion, he urged that the freedom and sovereignty which the Christian religion gives is the highest and noblest freedom, and the only freedom which is permanent. The remainder of the evening was spent by the members in social conversation and in disposing of the supper.

John Courtney and Edward Gallagher called, last evening, at the residence of Andrew Lopis, at No. 420 West Thirty-second-st., and when the latter appeared at the door he was stabbed severely by Courtney in the left cheek with a knife. Both Courtney and Gallagher were locked up in the West Thirty-fifth-st. Police-Station.

HARVARD ALUMNI DINNER.

REUNION AT DELMONICO'S—ADDRESSES BY PRESIDENT ELIOTT, WM. C. BRYANT, AND OTHERS.

The Alumni Association of Harvard College to the number of about 100 gathered at Delmonico's last evening, on the occasion of the annual dinner. Occupying the seats of prominence were President Eliott of the College; James C. Carter, President of the Club; the Hon. Wm. M. Evarts, President Barnard of Columbia College, the Rev. Edward E. Hale of Boston, F. B. Crowninshield of the Corporation of Harvard University; the Hon. Stephen H. Phillips, Attorney-General of the Sandwich Islands; Dr. Lusk of Bellevue Hospital, and the Rev. Dr. Bellows. The dinner itself was served in the usual style. The music, while good, was composed entirely of selections from opera bouffe, and did not contain a single college air, a feature of the evening which was quite generally condemned. At the termination of the dinner, President Carter, in a few witty remarks, announced the first toast of the evening, "Our Alma Mater," and introduced President Eliott, who responded as follows:

REMARKS OF PRESIDENT ELIOTT.

Since we last met here I have completed, for the first time, the annual round of my official duties, and I can assure you that the most impossible thing of all is this very function which should be the most grateful of all the functions, speaking, that is, of the University. If you could only see and feel, as I do, the emotions of our admirable young mother when her children rise up and call her blessed, you would realize how impossible it is to represent to you the dignity and ardor and tenderness with which she accepts your affectionate salutation made by the affection of the children who have left her studies, she girds herself to tell with fresh devotion for the children who are yet with her. Mr. President, I went with you heartily in everything you said about the University, but there were one or two insinuations in some of your remarks which I wish to guard against. A small College may suffer grievously from the loss of a single inspiring teacher, but our University has outgrown that state. [Applause]. It has become a powerful organization, this corporation, stable and independent. The President, Sir, is only one member in the untiring, self-extending organization. With a bad President, or no President, the strong organization works right on. It is this independence of persons, this screen of immortality, which makes up so blessed a thing to serve the University.

Every brick, well laid in its walls, stays there, doing its honest work for centuries. Every endowment, great or small, every little gift, keeps on bearing fruit generation after generation. John Glover's little annuity of £5, given in 1664, has been doing the good work John Glover set it at these 208 years ago. But, gentlemen, I know you all want to hear how we are going on at Cambridge, our gradual advance toward true University freedom in studies and discipline. We have made some comfortable progress this year. In the proportion as the University is free the schools must be thorough and rigorous. We see, therefore, with the utmost satisfaction a distinct improvement in the preparatory schools the country over. There are now public schools in Buffalo, Erie, Cleveland, Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, and Philadelphia which can and do prepare candidates to enter our admission examinations. [Applause.] The standard of admission to Harvard College is higher than the standard of admission to any other college in the country and we mean it shall remain so. The age of admission also has been rising till now it is 18 years, and every university must have students who are young men, not boys. They must be mature enough to have minds of their own. Then the elective system has gained steadily. Teachers who are afraid that it cannot live are rejoicing in its practical workings. Some of its very opponents have become, after a trial, its most indiscriminate advocates. The upshot of the elective study is freedom of study. Not freedom to do anything, but freedom to choose what to do. I know that there are some that cannot help treading in departure from old ways, who fear lest all the old things of Cambridge are being thoughtlessly ripped out with indecent haste. Let such be assured that a University which is naturally a conservative body will make no changes simply for the sake of change. The University has merely been pursuing with more vigor than heretofore an object which it has had in view these 20 years. You will be interested, gentlemen, to know how the representation of this district has increased in the College. Twenty years ago out of 293 under-graduates only 14 came from New-York City and Brooklyn. Now out of 405 under-graduates 59 come from New-York State, and 39 from New-York City and Brooklyn. [Applause.] The number of graduates has more than doubled in 20 years; but the number of graduates from New-York State has quadrupled, and the number from this city and Brooklyn is five times as large as it was 20 years ago. So I say the year 1900 will see 3,000 students in Harvard University, and will find the representation from New-York State ten times as large as now.

To the toast, "The Corporation," Mr. F. B. Crowninshield responded, referring with kindly expressions to those old graduates whom he had himself met, and who had borne the honorable name of the "oldest graduate."

The Rev. Edward E. Hale of Boston responded to the next toast—"The Overseers." He made a humorous allusion to the duties of an overseer, which, he said, according to the President's statement, were to keep up a series of prings and asking questions. We do that, said he, very thoroughly. And if these questions are not answered, we know it is for the good of the College that they are *not* answered, and we thank God and bless the old College. The President's view of the position of the Overseers is that they represent the College to the community; that they provide for the maintenance of kindly relationships between the government of the College proper and the public at large. They are mediators between them, without which the College cannot get its real rights from the public, nor the public obtain the advantages of the College. During the last five years these relationships have become closer and more confidential than ever before. I think the people of the United States know a thousand times better what Harvard College is, and what are the advantages of an education there, than they used to know. I will not tell all the means by which the country gained that information, but it has gained it partly by the struggles and sacrifices of the Harvard men through the war, shedding their blood for the country. [Applause.] The President has made use of sorry legitimate means to let the public know what are the treasures there at the University, and I am one of those who believe they have seen only the beginning of a great harvest which comes from the planting of 200 years ago.

Mr. Henry Y. Leavitts being here called upon for a song, sang two comic Irish and Scotch pieces, which were loudly applauded.

The next toast—"Our Sister Colleges"—was then announced and responded to by the Hon. Wm. M. Evarts, who said: I am sure there is no part of the education of Harvard at which a Yale graduate could learn more than at a meeting of this Club. If you go on as fast as you seem progressing in the regular course of your studies and your freedom from study at Harvard it soon will be no vain boast of a Yale scholar that he knows all the things that have been omitted at Harvard. [Laughter.] When I first came here from New-Haven there were scarcely Cambridge graduates enough in this city in my profession to fill up the Commissionerships for the State of Massachusetts. [Laughter.] Now, if I may judge from the number I see in my own office, there are lawyers enough to supply all the clients likely to show themselves for the next hundred years. [Laughter.] You surpass us now in numbers, as well as in many other particulars, but we are determined, so far as in us lies, to accomplish something for the credit of all.

President Barnard of Columbia College also made a brief response to the toast of "Our Sister Colleges." He said: Although I address you as President of another College, I feel as if I ought to have been a graduate of Harvard. [Applause.] In my early life Harvard was a great distance from my home, and this determined my education. Not long before the period at which I became a member of Yale there was a code of laws and discipline which was anything but agreeable to the student. A great many observances were required of young men in those days, and while I was a student in college the laws required that every student should uncover themselves in the presence of the professors whenever they happened to be. Now all these rules are altered for the better, for now the young men have learned better how to govern themselves. A vast change has taken place in the freedom and discipline of young men, but there has also been a change in the character of the teaching, and of our institutions, both in their moral and intellectual character. Harvard may be considered at the head of institutions of this kind. I do not hesitate to say that to Harvard belongs the term of "Queen of Universities." The number of her undergraduates has reached 400, and this growth has a peculiar character. I observe that other colleges have drawn great numbers from the United States, but Harvard has increased her numbers, not only from Massachusetts and the other States, but from places beyond the States. [Applause.] I think the progress the College has made in attaining a higher place in the public confidence is due to her systems of education and her modes of discipline. I think, with the President, that the encouragement of the idea that those who enter must have attained a higher age, and become more substantial in character and discipline, is going to stamp Harvard with the seal of victory. [Applause.]

To the toast of "The Press," William Cullen Bryant responded as follows:

SPEECH OF WILLIAM C. BRYANT.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN: I thank this company in the name of the journalists for the compliment just paid to their profession. I do not intend now to pronounce an eulogy on journalism. I can do that in my own journal at any time, but I wish to say a word or two by way of illustrating the convenience of a daily journal to some who are not journalists. You, Mr. President, and other gentlemen who have been heard and applauded this evening, have apparently spoken to a small company of guests in this dining-room. It is not so. Through the journals you have been speaking to thousands, perhaps to millions, and in a few hours those applauses will have been echoed over all the country. The busy agents of the press have taken down the utterances of your lips; while you are asleep the record will be on its way in a thousand different directions, and with early light will be laid at thousands of doors.

Let us go back to the time when there was no printing press, and, of course, no journals. When Cicero in ancient Rome launched his fiery invectives against Catiline and delivered his grand defense of the poet Archias, small indeed must have been the circle of those who had any conception of his eloquence. But let us suppose that by some inscrutable means a communication could have been established between the world of that day and the world of modern times, and that an accomplished reporter of our daily press and one of Hoe's steam printing presses could have been quietly smuggled into the Home of Cicero's time. We will suppose the stenographer silently to take down in his manuscript those noble examples of ancient eloquence as they were uttered; we will suppose the steam press to perform its office. We will suppose the reporter early the next morning to visit the orator with copies of his oration. He might say to him, "Mr. Cicero"—for your genuine journalist is ever courteous, as is shown by some notable examples—"Mr. Cicero, here is your yesterday's speech. You suppose that the manuscript in one of the pockets of your toga is the only copy of it in existence, but here you see are several others. Here are your exordium, your arguments, your illustrations, your peroration; and not only those, but here are all your figures of speech, your exclamations, your rounded sentences, your well-chosen words, every one as they fell from your eloquent lips, with notes of the applauses of the audience in their proper places. The boys are already hawking it in the streets, men are reading it in the wine-shops, the patricians are coming it at their breakfast-tables, groups of plebeians are assembled in the forum, where one reads it aloud for the benefit of the rest. To-morrow they will have it at Parthenope and Baiæ, and in the northern cities of Italy; and it will soon be read in our colonies in Gaul, in Spain, and in Africa. Read for yourself!" What would Cicero have said to such a phenomenon—or, rather, what would he have thought, for we may suppose amazement to take away the power of speech. What could he have thought save that here was the interposition of some divinity—Apollo or Minerva—working a miracle to astonish mankind and confound those who disbelieved in the gods.

But the Press, important as is its office, is but the servant of the human intellect, and its ministry is for good or for evil according to the character of those who direct it. The Press is a mill which grands all that is put into its hopper. Fill the hopper with poisoned grain and it will grind it to meal, but there is death in the bread. How shall we be sure to feed these massive and ever-humming mill-stones with only the product of wholesome harvests, the purest and finest wheat, unmingled with the seeds of any noxious weed? We must claim the aid of institutions of education like that whose glories we this evening celebrate, to diffuse among the community—both those who write for the Press and those who read—the exact knowledge, the habits of careful thought, the high aims, the generous motives, the principles of justice and benevolence, which alone can give dignity and usefulness to the newspaper Press, and make it a benefit and blessing to the world. So you perceive that, although I begin with journalism, I end, as befits the theme and the occasion, with Harvard.

Other toasts were briefly responded to, and the company separated at a very late hour.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

YESTERDAY'S CELEBRATION, PATRIOTIC AND RELIGIOUS.

The 139th anniversary of the birth of Washington was not marked by much civic or military display, although there was a general suspension of business throughout the city. Early in the morning the return of the anniversary was announced by a merry peal from the bells of Old Trinity, and the changes of eight bells was followed by a selection of patriotic airs. The Federal and City Departments were closed throughout the day, and none of the courts were in session. The Stock and Produce Exchanges, the Gold Board, banks, insurance offices, and many places of business were closed, and the Custom House and Post-Office were open only until 10 o'clock. There was a liberal display of bunting and national colors in all parts of the city.

The shipping in port was sparsely dressed in bunting, excepting the foreign steamers, which were covered, as usual on holidays, with ensigns and code signals. The contrast in the marine decorations of yesterday with those of 10 years ago was very marked indeed. At the Navy-Yard all the vessels in commission were decorated, man-of-war fashion, with the national ensign at each mast-head and the jack on the bowsprit cap. The men enjoyed a holiday, being exempt from work except the necessary duties of cleaning ship.

THE MILITARY.

Fifty-three Veterans of 1812 assembled at Military Hall, No. 93 Bowery, yesterday, at 3 p. m. They were from New-York and the adjoining States, and were quite happy over the passage of the Pension bill. They passed a resolution thanking Congress, Gen. Grant, and Prof. E. A. Greaux of Washington, for furthering the bill, and then sat down to a dinner at the Continental Hotel, given to them by two friends of their organization.

The 11th Regiment, Col. Funk, was reviewed in the afternoon by Mayor Hall at the "Blossom Club House." The balcony and windows were festooned with flags. At each end of the balcony there was a flag-pole with the Stars and Stripes floating from it. In the center were the arms of the city and the insignia of the Mayoralty. There were a large number of prominent politicians present, who filled the balcony, and returned the salutes of the passing soldiers.

The annual dinner of the Veteran Corps of the 22d Regiment, National Guard, took place at the Hotel Brunswick, on Fifth-ave., last night, Col. Romney, presiding. Speeches were made by Col. Parker, ex-Capt. Wingate, ex-Lieut. Gibson, D. E. Bussel, Capt. Bosson, D. M. Rogers, Capts. Tate, Chanramild, and others.

One of the most pleasant of the numerous balls given in the city last evening, was that of the Washington Greys' hop, at their new armory, No. 53 West Thirty-third-st.

The officers and members of the 71st Infantry, N. G. S. N. Y., had a ball at their armory in the evening.

The 6th Regiment (Washington Continentals) commemorated the day by a ball and reception at Irving Hall.

The rank and file of Post Sedgwick, G. A. R., held a pleasant reunion, in the evening, at De Garmo's Academy, on Fifth-ave.

The 5th Regiment N. Y. S. N. G. was presented with a stand of colors, from the State, last evening, at the Armory, corner of Thirty-fifth-st. and Seventh-ave. A large number of officers of the National Guard were present. The presentation speech was made by the Hon. Richard O'Gorman, and the colors were received by Col. Scott, with a neat address, in behalf of the regiment. A gold medal was presented to Wm. J. Hope of Company B, for recruiting the largest number of men during the last year. After a speech by Brig.-Gen. Varian, a "hop" was begun, which continued until far into the night.

At Cooper Institute the pupils of the Cooper Union engaged in the evening in exercises commemorative of the day. A large audience was in attendance, and, among others upon the platform were Peter Cooper, Wilson G. Hunt, John E. Parsons, Edward Cooper, David Dudley Field, Abram S. Hewitt, Prof. Fitzgerald Tisdall, jr., and Samuel B. Ruggles. After prayer by ex-Chancellor Ferris, Peter Cooper introduced D. E. Frohsiher, Professor of Elocution at the Institute, who read selections from Washington's Farewell Address. At the close of a speech by Mr. Duffy, Mr. Hewitt read the following letter from Mr. Cooper, giving $150,000 more to the Union:

NEW-YORK, Feb. 12, 1871.

Having this day completed my 80th year, I am admonished of the uncertainty of life, and of the propriety of doing what I can while I have health to promote the substantial welfare of this institution. To accomplish this purpose, I have set apart, and hereby give to the Trustees of the Cooper Union, $150,000. The Trustees are hereby requested to keep safe and fast securely invested, and to use one-half the interest arising therefrom for the formation of a reference and lending library for the use of all classes of workingmen and mechanics of the city. The other half of the interest arising from this fund may be used for any purpose which the Trustees believe will more effectually promote the highest good of this institution. I hereby further authorize the Trustees of the Cooper Union to draw on me or, in the event of my death, upon my legal representatives, for the further sum of $50,000—as soon as they can wisely use this amount in the formation and arrangement of this Library.

PETER COOPER.

IN BROOKLYN.

The day was very generally observed in Brooklyn, and the streets wore a holiday appearance. The National and State colors were displayed from all the public and from many private buildings, and salutes of 100 guns were fired at noon from the Navy-Yard, Washington Park, and at the foot of Stagg-st., in the Eastern District. The State courts were closed, as were also many of the principal stores. The public schools were also closed, and the children availed themselves of the opportunity to enjoy skating and other out-door amusements.

THE DAY ELSEWHERE.

In New-Orleans, the banks and public offices were closed yesterday, but general business was transacted as usual.

In Wilmington, N. C., the anniversary was not generally observed. The colored people, however, celebrated the day by a procession.

In Albany the day was generally observed. A portion of the militia paraded. In the evening, Erastus Brooks delivered an oration in Tweddle Hall.

In Baltimore, the anniversary was duly celebrated, the banks and public offices being closed. The 7th Regiment paraded and held a military ball last evening.

Washington's Birthday was celebrated in Cincinnati by the closing of public offices, a display of flags, and a military parade, detachments of United States troops from Newport (Ky.) barracks participating.

In Philadelphia there was only a partial suspension of business yesterday. There were street parades by the Cadets of Temperance and the Washington Greys. Last evening a large audience listened to a lecture on "Prison Life in England" by O'Donovan Rossa.

In Washington, the Society of "The Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia," held their annual meeting, and listened to the reading of Washington's Farewell Address. The various Temperance organizations also held day and evening meetings, speeches being delivered by prominent Senators and Representatives. The public departments were closed, and but little business was done.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY ABROAD.

THE AMERICANS IN VIENNA ENTERTAINED BY MINISTER JAY.

VIENNA, Wednesday, Feb. 22, 1871.

Minister Jay entertained the Americans here at a supper in honor of Washington's Birthday. Speeches were made, in which reference was made to the approaching centenary of American Independence. Mr. Jay announced that, through the courtesy of the Emperor, new materials for American history had been brought to light in the imperial archives. Several volumes, containing the correspondence of Baron Relien, who was sent to America by the Emperor Joseph II. of Germany, had been discovered. The letters are dated at New-York and Philadelphia, from 1784 to 1787. Mr. Jay stated that permission had been given him to copy these letters, and he hoped soon to lay these valuable records before the American people.

A petition is in circulation in New-Jersey asking for one through mail each way, daily, from New-York to Philadelphia, along the line of the Southern New-Jersey Railroad, which is said to be very poorly supplied with post office facilities. It is stated that all mail matter beyond Pemberton for New-York, or any point north, now goes to Philadelphia, thence by the New-Jersey Railroad to New-York, and then south again; so that mail matter between two offices on the route, not more than five miles apart, must perform the entire circuit to New-York, via Philadelphia, and back.

A fire in John Bach's tailoring establishment, on the second floor of No. 204 Grand-st., damaged the stock last evening, $250. Isaac Hermanez's stock of fancy goods on the first floor was damaged $200, and the building was damaged the same amount. All insured.

Christina Stein, a young German woman, was arrested and secured up in the Delancey-st. Police-Station, charged by her father with robbery. Her father, Conforce, a tailor, gave as a reason for charging it that she was unable to support her child.

POLITICAL.

ARKANSAS.

NO QUORUM YET—LIEUTENANT-GOV. JOHNSON IN COURT.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Feb. 22.—*The Avalanche* (Little Rock) special to-night says: On the meeting of the Senate this morning the sergeant-at-arms reported that he had brought in the three skulking members, viz.: Askew, Lawson, and Thomas. The roll was called, and 10 were found present, lacking four of a quorum. After instructing the sergeant at-arms and assistants to bring in the other absentees, the Senate adjourned out of respect to the day. The House adjourned over for the same reason.

Immediately after the Supreme Court convened the counsel for Lieut.-Gov. Johnson suggested to the Court that this day was usually kept sacred by the Departments of the Government, the Judiciary especially regarding it as a holiday, and he hoped that the Court would adjourn over until to-morrow. Without heeding the suggestion the Chief Justice directed the Clerk to read the record, which being done, Lieut.-Gov. Johnson presented in person a protest, against Chief-Justice McClure sitting in the case because of his impeachment by the House of Representatives. The Chief-Justice, without regarding the protest, announced that the trial should be proceeded with. Defendant's counsel then submitted a motion to dismiss the case on the ground that the Court having decided that no jury can be had, because the Legislature had never enacted any statute providing for trials by jury in that Court, the Court is not competent to try the case, because facts and not law were involved. The Court took a recess for 10 minutes, and, on returning, the Chief-Justice announced that the motion was dismissed. Justices Harrison and Gregg dissented, saying that they did not believe that the Court had jurisdiction or any right to issue *quo warranto* against the Lieutenant-Governor or the Governor. If the Court had no right to order a jury, it had no right to try the case. Juries determine facts and Judges determine law. The Attorney for the State submitted a new replication to answer the defendant's, excepting to only one plea, viz.: The Lieutenant-Governor did not enter on the discharge of his duties within 15 days after being officially notified of his election. The Attorney announced this as the only point of issue. Witnesses were then called. Mr. Hodges, President of the Board of Commissioners, was first placed on the stand. He testified that he had positively delivered an official certificate of election to the Lieutenant-Governor on the 1st of May, 1868. Mr. Brooks, also a member of the Board, testified that he had signed the certificate of election some time during the month of April; the exact day he did not remember. He was certain, however, that the Lieutenant-Governor was qualified within the time specified by the Constitution. The Court then adjourned until to-morrow on account of the illness of Justice Gregg.

NEW-JERSEY LEGISLATURE.

ERIE'S PLAN OF ACTION—ANTI-ERIE LEGISLATION—THE PEQUEST AND WALKILL VALLEY RAILROAD—THE PUNISHMENT OF BRIBERY—THE LEASE OF THE MORRIS CANAL.

TRENTON, Feb. 22.—Erie, and perhaps the other monopolists, have decided upon letting the bills in their interest "hang fire" until the closing hours of the session, and then rushing them through altogether, as was done last year. They thus expect to flank all opposition, and for another year rule the people of New-Jersey. Their lobbyists are silent, but have a knowing air, and one which seems to carry with it the affirmation that they "have things fixed." The opponents of Erie need no longer console themselves with the idea that as long as Fisk is silent they may be; their energy and activity, if needed at all, will be necessary from this time forward to the end of the session, else they will be swamped completely by the unexpected passage, at the closing hours, of the bills which they are desirous of defeating.

In the Senate to-day, two anti-Erie bills were—on motion of Senator Williams, who desires to speak in their advocacy—made the special order for Tuesday next. One of them is for the repeal of a law passed last Winter, which itself repeals a previous law whereby a penalty of $100 is fixed for railroad overcharges. The other is for the repeal of the law, also one of last year's hasty acts, which authorizes Erie to make charges for freight transportation as high as legally charged by any railroad company in Passaic, Bergen, Hudson, or Morris. Having obtained that bill, the Erie managers searched out a little road in Morris County called the Pierremont, which had authority to charge 30 cents per ton for each mile, and up went Erie's charges to the same schedule, or $1 50 per ton between Paterson and New-York. The people of Paterson are well represented here, and the repealers will receive earnest support, while Erie will make strenuous efforts to defeat them.

The Senate passed the supplement to the charter of the Pequest and Walkill Valley Railroad Company, authorizing the building of branch roads, one from Independence Township, in Warren County, to the Delaware, Lackawana and Western Railroad, at or near Port Overn, in Morris County, another to extend from the main line in Vernon Township, Sussex County, to Glenwood on the New-York State line. The main line, which is not yet constructed, is to extend from Belvidere, N. J., to Warwick, N. Y.

Senator Little's bill for the punishment of bribery by the forfeiture of the right of suffrage came up, after repeated delays on the part of the public printer. The Senator advocated its passage, saying that it goes further in that direction than any law at present on the statute book. The section which takes away suffrage from officers of corporations which lend money for bribery was especially indorsed by the Senator, who affirmed that even corporations outside of the State are induced to give their money for the furtherance of frauds at election. He did not know of any point at which penalties should stop to prevent this great and growing evil. Senator J. W. Taylor thought that hanging was hardly too severe a penalty for the crime, but he asked that the bill be laid over, which was agreed to, in order that one of the sections might be made more specific in its language.

Senator Hopkins introduced a supplement to the act concerning taxes, providing the assessment of a poll-tax upon all men of 21 years, except such as have served in the army or navy. The Chair decided that the bill should originate in the House, it being for the raising of the revenue, and it was accordingly withdrawn. It is intended to reach the colored men of the State.

Senator J. W. Taylor introduced a bill providing that the promote of the will of any person resident in the State at the time of decease, as to any real estate devised by the will, shall be conclusive evidence of the formal execution of the will, so far as the same appears by the probate, in any suit not begun within seven years after the time of probate.

The supplement to the Essex Road Board law, authorizing the construction of five new avenues, was indefinitely postponed on the motion of Senator Taylor, who stated that the opposition to it was so great that he was convinced it ought not to pass.

The Senate, in Executive session, confirmed the following appointments: F. S. Lathrop, Judge of the Court of Errors; John McLean, trustee of the Norman School; Jonathan Ingham, 1st District, James Bishop, IIth District, Henry C. Pitney, IVth District, and William M. Force, Vth District, Visitors to Rutgers College.

A bill is before the Senate for the incorporation of the New-Jersey Real Estate Loan Company, with a capital of $1,000,000, one-half of which shall be invested in New-Jersey, New-York, or United States bonds, the Company to have authority to make loans on bond and mortgage. The bill to enable National Banking Associations to become State banks has been indefinitely postponed. Senator Torrey offered a resolution that the Senate in honor of the day hold no afternoon session, which was at first lost, and afterward adopted. The Senators in the afternoon paid a visit to the Soldier's Childrens' Home.

In the Assembly, the bill introduced in the Senate and withdrawn, providing for the assessment of a poll-tax, was introduced. It does not interfere with the poll-tax required by special law. Mr. Niles introduced a bill making an appropriation for the Soldiers' Childrens' Home, but it names no amount. A number of minor bills were passed, including that for the protection of ice-dealers in gathering their ice; allowing Newark to issue water bonds; and increasing the capital stock of the Hoboken Land Improvement Company to $6,000,000. Bills have been introduced providing for the appointment, on application of any canal company, of a harbor-master, to be located where the company may designate; requiring all persons before whom marriages are solemnized, and physicians and undertakers in the City of Newark, to report marriages, births, and deaths to the City Clerk on or before April 1 of each year.

The bill authorizing the lease of the Morris Canal has passed both Houses, with an amendment that the Canal be not diverted from the purposes of navigation, and in that shape is now in the hands of the Governor.

Wilder D. Foster has been nominated for Congress by the Republicans of the IVth District of Michigan.

ASH WEDNESDAY.

Yesterday, being the first of the forty days of Lent, was celebrated in all the Roman Catholic and Episcopal Churches with more than usual devotion. The Catholic Churches were divested of ornaments and the altars draped with purple. In the majority of the churches, three Low Masses were celebrated, and ashes were sprinkled on the foreheads of the faithful. The priests were clad in purple, and preached no sermons. Music was not used, and the character of the services was solemn and impressive.

Trinity Church services began at 10½ o'clock by the chiming of "The Evening Hymn," "Old Hundred," "Stellian Mariners' Hymn," "Adeata Fidelis," "Vesper Hymn," and several other pieces of sacred music. The services in the church were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Ogilby, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Francis Vinton and Deacon Denniston.

At the Church of St. Mary the Virgin the services were very ritualistic. The robes of the clergyman were in strict accordance with the laws of the P. E. Church, and consisted of suton and surplice. The altar was covered with a crimson cloth, trimmed with black and having a cross of similar hue in its center, emblematic of the day. The chalice and missal were covered. A feature of the service was the presence of a number of the *religieuse* known as "the Sisters of Saint Mary." They wore the dark robes, veil and coils of the nun, and, accompanied by many of their pupils, occupied the first two rows of seats from the chancel.

At St. Alban's Church the services were termed "plain song," and consisted of matins, Litany, and Celebration, with sermon, at 10 a. m., and Even-Song, with sermon, at 8 p. m. The sermon in the morning was preached by the Rev. Dr. Morrill, and in the evening by the Rev. Dr. Noyes. Both were appropriate to the season, the latter urging abstinence from flesh meat on Wednesdays and Fridays, and, if possible, on Saturdays.

At St. Thomas's Church, on the Fifth-ave., there were large and fashionable congregations. The morning service was read by the Rev. Dr. Osgood, assisted by the Rev. H. J. Williams and the Rev. J. B. Morgan. The choir chanted the "Venite," and sang the Lenten Hymn. The sermon was preached by the Rector, the Rev. Dr. Morgan.

At St. Ann's Free Church, on Eighteenth-st., yesterday, Dr. Gallaudet preached the morning service. The evening service was conducted by the Rev. S. F. Holmes.

The day was observed by the Catholics and Episcopalians of Brooklyn as a solemn fast, and at the churches of both denominations the congregations were large and devout.

JEWISH VIEWS OF THE APOSTLES.

A LECTURE BY RABBI WISE.

Rabbi Wise of Cincinnati delivered his second lecture on the history of Jesus and the development of Christianity, at Steinway Hall, last evening, before a good audience, composed principally of Jewish families, with a sprinkling of Christians. Peter, James, John, and Barnabas, said he, are noticed in history; the others have never become known to fame, so that the Gospels differ in regard to the Apostolic table; and the Talmud only mentions six of them. They were undoubtedly