THE NEW YORK SUN.

FRIDAY MORNING, DEC. 16 1859.

Our City Government.

SEVERAL years ago, when the Legislature began to tinker with our city Charter, we advocated the passage of a law authorizing the holding of a Convention to consider and discuss the changes necessary in the Charter, to secure a more faithful and efficient administration of Municipal affairs. A bill providing for a Charter Convention was introduced in the Legislature, and was, we believe, reported upon favorably; but personal and party influence prevented its becoming a law. Since then, the Legislature has given us an Amended Charter, and several laws which seriously affect our Municipal rights.

And what has been the result? Has there been any improvement in the character of our City Government? Have the taxes been reduced, or has a better class of men been elected to office? Have the changes modifying and limiting the powers of the Mayor, creating new Aldermanic districts, and providing for the election of Councilmen from Senatorial districts upon a general ticket, conduced to the better government of the city, or to the elevation to power of a better class of men? Our citizens can answer these questions for themselves. They can compare the present with the past, and draw their own conclusions as to the merits of the changes which have been imposed upon them by the central power at Albany.

Is our city better governed now than it was when the old charter was in force? Has the Mayoralty been dignified by recent legislation, or has the Common Council been made less accessible to corrupt influences? No one will venture to answer in the affirmative. By taking, in a large measure, the management of our own affairs out of our own hands, the Albany junta and their allies in this city, have only caused a more wide-spread demoralization and have given a new impulse to the foul spirit of corruption.

By subverting the old order of things; infringing upon our ancient Municipal rights, and converting to political and party ends all the power and patronage which attach to office, they have done to the city an amount of mischief which cannot easily be repaired. There is, indeed, but one way in which the government of the City of New York can be restored to any degree of efficiency—and that is by the Legislature delegating to its own citizens the preparation of a comprehensive and well-digested plan of municipal reform.

Let the Legislature, in its approaching session, instead of attempting to tinker further with our city charter, to suit the views or interests of individuals, pass a law authorizing the holding of a Charter Convention, to be composed of intelligent, representative men of all parties; and we are satisfied that such a Convention will prepare an Amended Charter which will be satisfactory to all classes of citizens and protective of the city's rights.

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

Arrival of the Bremen.

Two Days Later Intelligence.

The steam ship Bremen, from Southampton on the 29th ult., arrived at this port last evening, bringing our files and correspondence of that date.

The America arrived at Liverpool, and the Bavaria at Cowes on the 28th Nov.

INSOLENT OUTRAGE TO THE LOSS OF THE ROYAL CHARTER.—The Board of Trade terminated on the 26th. The calumny, which some malignant persons are still circulating as to the insobriety of Captain Taylor, is repudiated.

The *Court Journal* says, that the Prince and Princess FREDERICK WILLIAM intend to prolong their visit to her Majesty until the end of next week.

The Malta correspondent to the *Times* announces numerous accidents to vessels laden with grain, in consequence of the late severe gales in the Mediterranean.

HENRY O'DONNELL, third mate of the American ship Flying Scud, has not been committed by the Coroner for Cardiff, for trial, for the wilful murder of ANTONI TAMBURINI, who her sailor, under circumstances of great severity.

The *Times* says, the French Government have received permission from Naples, to lay a submarine cable from Gaeta to Ischia. Transmission of messages to England with the greatest facility by this. The necessity of a line being laid from Malta to Alexandria is seriously urged.

The *Monitour du Caire*, says:—It is in contemplation to establish a direct series of steamers between Ireland and France. A French company would undertake the line. Cherbourg is talked of as the starting point.

REPORTED DEATH OF NANA SAHIB.

The *Times'* Calcutta correspondent says:—Reports, one of them official, have been received in Calcutta, from Kalinandoo, announcing the death of the NANA. They are not believed. According to the latest accounts, he was laying traps on our flanks, and threatening to annihilate Lucknow. He has about 6 000 men with him.

The Paris correspondent says:—A battery commanded some time ago at Honfleur, so as to command the entrance of the Seine, is completed.

The Bank of Barcelona has offered the Spanish Government an advance of 5,000,000 reals, without interest for all the time the war with Morocco might last.

A correspondent of the *Morning Post* says Austria still holds out against the terms proposed by France, and supported by England, for going into Congress

THE TREATY.

The Piedmont *Gazette* publishes the text of the treaty between France and Sardinia, and also of the general treaty between Austria, France and Sardinia, but they contain nothing more than is already known from circulars lately published.

A letter from Parma in the Milan *Gazette*, states that most of the assemblies of Central Italy will be dissolved. It adds that the people are loud in demanding the return of Gen. GARIBALDI.

PRUSSIA.

Berlin, Nov. 27.—BARON WILHINS HORSMAU, the Minister of Electoral Hesse at Berlin, has received orders to proceed to Dresden for the present.

The Prussian minister at Cassel has gone on leave to Berlin. A formal call of the two Ministers by their respective Governments had not taken place. According to inform stion received here, the difficulties between France and Austria, raised by the delegation of the regency of Central Italy to M. BONOMPAGNI, are not yet removed. A letter from Berlin says the effective force of the Prussian army has been again reduced.

Paris, Nov. 27.—A semi-official lithographic Parisian correspondence asserts that the letters of invitation to the Congress will be sent out on the 28th to the different Powers, and that the Congress will not likely assemble before the end of December.

Turin, Nov. 26.—The Count de PARIS and the Duke de CHARTRES will embark to-morrow on the Austrian Lloyds steamer for Alexandria, Egypt.

Madrid, Nov. 26.—Yesterday 4,000 Moors attacked for the third time a redoubt before Sebta, and were repulsed. Their defeat was complete. The Spanish troops showed great bravery during this engagement. The extraordinary corps d'armee is crossing the straits; fresh regiments have disembarked at Ceuta.

The Red Jacket from Melbourne, with £151,000, has now been 77 days at sea; and the Swiftsure, with £204,000, 74 days.

The following is from the money market of the *Times* of Nov. 29. The English funds opened steadily this morning, (Monday) and soon experienced an improvement of an eighth, which was well maintained to the close. The last bargains in consols were at 96½ ⅝ for both money and account. For the opening in January the quotation is 96¾ ⅞, or 96½ ⅝ ex div. India Loan advanced a quarter, the final price being 104¾ ⅞. The foreign stock market was dull. American Securities were firmer, especially the issues of the Michigan Central, and Pennsylvanian Central. Grand Trunk of Canada advanced to 37 ⅞. Great Southern shares 11½ ⅞.

There was a fair demand for money on Monday, and the general rate continues at 2½ per cent.

MARKETS.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET, Nov. 28.—A very moderate demand for cotton to-day, and the sales do not exceed 7,000 bales, 1,000 on speculation and for export. Prices unaltered since last Friday.

LIVERPOOL CORN MARKET, Nov. 28.—Market dull and very little doing, and the sales made were of less than the nominal rates of last Monday. Indian Corn—white, 31s. 32s.

LIVERPOOL PROVISION MARKET, Nov. 28. The market remains unaltered.

TALLOW MARKET, Nov. 28.—To-day the market is very flat, sales for all the year.

Latest Telegrams.

PARIS, Nov. 28.—It is asserted that the letters of convocation to the Congress will not be sent out before to-morrow. Count WALEWSKI and Prince RICHARD BONAPARTE had an interview to-day, at 2 o'clock.

5 P. M.—Parisian bourse buoyant. The Rente, The last price of Rentes is 70f. 20c., an advance of 1f. since Saturday.

TURIN, Nov. 26.—The Piedmontese Government has consented to make the modern Italian, in the opposition of Austria to the Congress, an honorary of the nomination of M. BONPOMPAGNI to the Regency of Central Italy. The difficulties made by Tuscany in the delegation of the Regency to M. BONCOMPAGNI, have subject been settled.

BERLIN, Nov. 26.—Prussian agents have left for England in order to inspect those places on the south coast which might be suitable for his Majesty, the King, to reside at during the winter months, and to make such preparations as are requisite therefor. Besides the Isle of Wight, Dorsetshire is also to be inspected.

The News by Telegraph.

Magnolia Telegraph Office, No. 42 Wall street, and Astor House, main entrance.

Arrival of the Nova Scotian.

TWO DAYS LATER.

Portland, Dec. 15.—The screw steamship Nova Scotian, which left Liverpool on the 20th ult., and Queenstown on the evening of the 1st inst., arrived this evening.

Her news is mainly anticipated by the arrival of the Bremen at New York, but the advices via Queenstown are one day later.

Paris, Nov. 30.—12½ P. M.—The funds continue very buoyant, and the *Rentes* are steadily improving in price, being now quoted at 70f. 65c.

5:30 P. M.—The rumors of the bombardment of Tangiers caused a decline; the *Rentes* closed at 70f. 20c., or one quarter per cent. below Saturday's prices.

Latest Markets.

By telegraph to Queenstown.

Liverpool, Dec. 1, *P. M.*—The sales of cotton yesterday were 7,000 bales, and of to-day 8,000, including 2,000 to speculators and exporters. Prices are unchanged, though inferior qualities are difficult of sale at former rates. Imports yesterday 7,663 bales; previously this week 15,671 bales.

BREADSTUFFS are quiet but steady.

PROVISIONS quiet but steady.

PRODUCE slow of sales, but rates unchanged.

Sugar market quiet. 5,400 bags of dates sold at 40s. 9d.; Rice steady; 2,400 tons of Rangoon sold (to arrive) at 9s. 6d. per cwt.

London, Dec. 1d, *P. M.*—The produce markets are generally unchanged. Sugar market quiet, but steady; common firm, at yesterday's prices. Tea quiet. Common Congou quoted at ½d. lower. Rice firm. Saltpeter steady.

Consols are quoted at 96⅝@96¾ for money, and 96 11-16@96 15-16 for account. New threes, 96⅝@96¾.

THIRTY-SIXTH CONGRESS—Senate.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The Vice President announced the committee on Mr. MASON's resolution adopted yesterday, which consists of Messrs. MASON, DAVIS, COLLAMER, FITCH, and DOOLITTLE.

Mr. POOL submitted a resolution, which lies over, instructing the committee on territories to inquire into the expediency of repealing so much of the act for the organization of the territorial governments of New Mexico and Utah, as requires all laws passed by these territories to be submitted to Congress for approval or rejection.

Mr. MALLORY gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill to regulate and increase the pay of the navy.

The Senate then proceeded to the election of a chaplain.

On the first ballot there was no choice, but on the second Rev. Dr. GURLEY was elected, receiving 35 votes out of 55.

Several petitions were presented, when the Senate adjourned till Monday.

House of Representatives.

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM remarked that the courtesy he extended to others at all times he was resolved to exact for himself at every hazard, and therefore last evening he had a right to expect the courtesy of an adjournment, as he then did not wish to address the House. He repeated what he then said, that the man who endorsed HELPER's book, containing as it did insurrectionary sentiments, and intended as it was to sow the seeds of discord, strife and civil war, was not fit to be a Speaker or member of this House. The gentleman from Virginia (MILLSON) the other day went further, and said that such a man was not fit to live. Yet the Republicans received the remark as mute as fishes and as gentle as lambs, and they must regard this observation from him not as a menace but as a sober truth. He had been served with a notice from the Republican side that they were determinated not to listen to any further remarks from him. For this he did not care. He would tell them, however, that the country holds its breath in suspense to see if the slightest word which is heard on the lips of gentlemen present here. This Union had been threatened. We occupied the position of armed neutrality. He was a Northern man. He had no sympathy, and very little good feeling for the North. He was bound to it by no ties whatever, except by the strongest of all ties—a common language and a common country.

Least of all was he a Northern man with Southern principles. He was a United States man with United States principles. He was for giving to the South all that belongs to it—the fugitive slave law, the right to slavery in the territories, and whatever rights the constitution confers. Our fathers made the compact, and he would yield to it not a grudging, but a ready obedience in all its parts (Applause.) He was not a pro-slavery or non-pro-slavery man, but had a serene indifference on the subject. He thought he occupied the constitutional ground of our fathers, in whose days the people were animated by patriotism, and had not, as we have now, an anti-slavery God, an anti-slavery Bible, and an anti-slavery Constitution.

He avowed himself a Westerman by birth, sentiment and education, while at the same time avowed himself a constitutional man. He said Mr. OSWALD had been detailed to lead the forlorn hope of the Republicans, and to be shot down at the Malakoff, he could not conquer.

The next census would show that the valley of the Mississippi has a majority of the people of the country, who would have to administer the Government for the benefit of all. The people had lent themselves too long to the North to make cause against slavery and begin the fight for their Northern masters, who, if successful with SEWARD or any other Republican, would divide the spoils among themselves. If they would not listen to the voice of patriotism, let them be governed by self respect; let them lay aside their fanaticism and be Western sectionalists. He despised as much the servility to the North as they could servility to the South. He came now to speak of a painful and difficult subject, disunion which had become as familiar as the most ordinary word of salutation. There was not a day but what they heard the cracking of the raven and the mournful-like wail. He would tell gentlemen that the crimes of SEWARD, HALE, CHASE, and the New York *Tribune* are those of a majority of the people of the north, and of a minority in the west. There was in one column of the Cincinnati *Commercial* more showing the Republican sentiment in Ohio, than in a thousand speeches of Mr. OGWIN, who, he said, with respect, does not only not represent the Republicans of that State, but was not a leader nor a respectable follower. (Laughter.) He proceeded to argue that there was a great and imminent danger of a disruption of this Union; but there are few men north or south who desire it; while others are reckless whether it comes or not. He would not concede that the leaders of the Republican party are actuated by honest and conscientious motives in their opposition to slavery. In the early days of abolition it might have been so, but not now. It was now for political mastery, and was used now as the political algebra of the day to make out disunion. He declared in the course of his remarks, that he was again at disunion now forever. He held to this Union, notwithstanding the declaration, which could not be fulfilled except as a united people, and by the immediate, total, unconstitutional destruction of the sectional and Anti-Slavery Republican party. (Applause.)

Mr. PENNINGTON offered a resolution that till a choice be made for Speaker, the House will proceed to vote at one o'clock, three times after which no further vote shall be taken. His object was that gentlemen should not be surprised by a vote in their absence, and that they could retire afterwards, satisfied that no further vote would be taken.

Mr. CRAWFORD who held the floor, said that friends around him objected.

Mr. CLEMENS said, unless they adopt some such resolution a vote might be sprung on them at any time to the detriment of the Democrats, some of whom might be absent. The advantages might be taken and would be justifiable by Parliamentary tactics.

Mr. CRAWFORD said he regarded Mr. SHERMAN as an exponent of the Republican and sectional party, and as such would hold him up to the country. The North look on Slavery as a wrong; as the South consider it in accordance with divine teachings, how can we compromise it? The question has been settled half a dozen times within the last forty years, and yet Anti Slavery sentiment gets better or as strong as they are to-day. On the other hand, Pro-Slavery sentiment South grows stronger instead of weaker. The struggle must be resolved itself into the question of Slavery and disunion, or no Slavery and union. His position and that of his constituents was taken. The position of the North was also taken, and there was no hiding it. It has been said that the South has constitutional rights and violated compromises. He denied that the South had violated the right of the North, from the foundation of the Government until now, either by tariffs or bounties upon fish, navigation, laws or on slavery. He proceeded to reply to Mr. HICKMAN who had said that the South had violated compromises after having received the benefits of them in their side of the bargain. This question Mr. CRAWFORD disputed. For the first thirty years of the organization of the Government, there was no aggression even upon the part of the North in regard to the territorial organization. There was no effort to extend the principles of the Wilmot proviso in the organization of the States of Tennessee, Alabama, and other new States, and exclude slavery. He called on HICKMAN to explain what he meant by the Missouri Compromise.

Mr. HICKMAN—I meant to say that in the compromise of eighteen hundred and twenty, slavery was excluded from all the territories north of thirty-six, thirty. It was meant to go there from there for ever, but that compromise having been entered into for the purpose of getting Missouri into the union as a state. The benefits arising from that compromise were destroyed by the subsequent legislation of 1850 and 1854.

Mr. CRAWFORD—I had expected as much from the gentleman, and knew he was wholly uninformed in reference to this question, and that his people were wholly uninformed. In 1820, for the first time in the history of the government, after thirty years of uninterrupted enjoyment of slave property in the territories, when Missouri came forward, asking to be permitted to form a constitution and come into the Union as a State what was proposed? That the restriction of slavery should be the condition of admission. This was the first aggression, and it came from the North, not the South. When Congress refused to admit Missouri under the compromise, although slavery had existed there sixteen years, and it was not admitted until afterwards. Mr. CRAWFORD proceeded to give a history of the events preceding the adoption of the Missouri restriction, showing that the North had been the aggressor. Under such circumstances he regarded the act of the Union cannot be preserved. He was proud of the Northern Democrats who had stood by the Constitution, but he would tell them they were powerless against the great Republican party. He alluded to Mr. FIRE as a Northern man, and a poor miserable wretch who was driven from the place of his nativity, to seek refuge among the secret observers of compacts in the North. The South had no cause for regarding slavery. It was an institution that could not be disturbed by such a book as that of HELPER's, even with SEWARD's recommendation. He said John Brown expected help from the North, but while they had the will they had not the courage. He quoted Senator WILSON's remarks in reference to the Union-saving sentiment, and read an extract from a speech of one of those meetings by CAPTAIN COUTHOUY, who spoke of the hate to the South manifested by the Republicans.

Mr. DAWES (Mass.) said that every other man, except the man who uttered that, knew it to be false.

Mr. CRAWFORD replied, that the remark was applauded by the meeting. He went on to state what were the objects of the Republican party, the exclusion of slavery from the new territories, its abolition in the District of Columbia, the prohibition of the interior State slave trade, and in their own language, "to put this government permanently on the side of free dom." They also propose to reorganize the judiciary. Mr. BARNES said he would preach the same doctrine in Virginia as in Massachusetts, but why did not he come there and do it?

Mr. MILLSON. Because liberty of speech is denied in the South.

Mr. CRAWFORD. We and only deny liberty of speech, but personal liberty to such men—he would be serving higher than HAMAN. It was the sentiment of every Democrat on this floor from Georgia, that they never would submit to the inauguration of a Black Republican President. (Applause and hisses.)

Mr. KILGORE. How do you propose to prevent it?

Mr. CRAWFORD. That will be for us to determine. We do not propose to give our enemies information what we will do. My people talk about equality,—for myself, I declare I am for independence now and forever.

Mr. BOHNAN obtained the floor.

Mr. CLEMENS asked him to give way to a vote for Speaker.

Mr. BOHNAN did so.

Mr. KEITT moved a call of the House, which was ordered.

The House then proceeded to ballot for Speaker, with the following result:

SHERMAN	110
BOCOCK	85
GILMER	22
Scattering	9

Necessary to a choice 114.

Mr. BOHNAN had the floor. He gave way to Mr. WINTERSMITH, who proposed another vote, and that the House then adjourn, saying that Mr. BOHNAN would have the floor to-morrow.

The question was agreed to, and the House proceeded to another vote, with the following result:

SHERMAN	110
BOCOCK	86
GILMER	18
Scattering	18

Necessary to a choice, 114. Adjourned.

Anti-Slavery in Philadelphia.

Intense Excitement.

Philadelphia, Dec. 15.—There is considerable excitement now existing here, with prospects of a riot to-night. An Anti-Slavery Fair is being held at Concert Hall, and an Anti-Slavery meeting at the Assembly Buildings.

During the session of the latter this morning, a request was received from the Mayor to remove a flag before Concert Hall, on account of its great length obstructing the passage of the street, and violating a city ordinance. An order was also sent in from the Sheriff, that the fair should be closed and the hall cleared before three o'clock this afternoon.

These proceedings produced much excitement, and the abolitionists in council resolved to proceed in a body to Concert Hall to protect their property.

The order of the Sheriff was demanded by the owner of the building, who objects to the action of the house in letting it for such purposes.

G. W. CURTIS, Esq., will lecture to-night on the "Aspect of the Slavery Question," at National Hall, and advertisements appear in the papers for a meeting outside to adopt such measures as the exigencies may require to prevent the dissemination of principles calculated and intended to arouse a spirit of most intense animosity in the community that will lead to fearful consequences, and so will check flourishing industries from making further inflammatory addresses in our loyal city.

The Mayor is taking every precaution to prevent a disturbance, which seems almost inevitable if both sides turn out in their strength.

SECOND DISPATCH.

Mr. CURTIS lectured to-night to an audience of about 200 persons, while about 10,000 attended the outside meeting. The latter were addressed by Gen. JOHN O. MILES, RICHARD PETERS and others.

Soon after Mr. CURTIS commenced his lecture, several of the mob threw stones at the building, breaking the window glasses. Five hundred policemen were stationed in the vicinity, and immediately made a rush upon the rioters, arresting several of them. This enthusiasm proceeding had a tendency to calm the excitement which at first threatened serious consequences.

Mayor HENRY and the sheriff were on the spot and directed the police.

During the lecture of Mr. CURTIS he was several times hissed by the inside audience, when the hissers were immediately ejected by the police.

The excitement is subsiding and possibly the trouble is ended.

From Charlestown.

The Approaching Execution.

Charlestown, Va., Dec. 15.—Hotels and private houses here are all crowded. Strict surveillance is kept on strangers, though those who come from curiosity and are well vouched for on the question of our peculiar institutions, are allowed to remain. Three Quaker friends, of Coppic, with whom he lived in Ohio during his boyhood, visited him yesterday. They speak of him as having been a quiet and uncomplaining youth. They will remain and take his body to his mother. Gov. WISLADE's interview with COOK last evening, when delivering a message to the prisoner from his sister, Mrs. WILLARD, was very affecting.

The Governor is strongly attached to the prisoner, and wept over him as if he were his own son. His lamentation could be heard throughout the building. The prisoners are all calm and resigned to-day, and engaged with seeming devotion in spiritual exercises under the direction of the Rev. N. G. NORTS, a Presbyterian clergyman. The gallows was re-erected this evening. The negroes will be hung between eleven and twelve o'clock, and the whites between twelve and one.

From Washington.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The Charleston *Courier* says it is reported that Senator HAMMOND has expressed the intention of resigning his seat at the close of the present session of Congress. He has been presented from attending Washington by indisposition.

The Democratic Senators held a caucus this morning, further to consider the arrangements of the standing committees.

Mr. TOOMBS is understood to have advocated the restoration of Mr. DOUGLAS as chairman of the committee on territories, but no vote was taken on that point, as Mr. TOOMBS stood alone in the caucus entertaining that desire.

Mr. GWIN will doubtless continue chairman of the committee. Messrs. PUGH and DOUGLAS were not in the caucus.

The Secretary of the Treasury has invited proposals till the 27th inst., for the issue of any portion or the whole of the three millions in treasury notes in exchange for gold, under the authority of the acts of December, 1857, and March 1859.

Minister YANCY, on his return from South America, was made the bearer of a magnificent gold snuff box studded with diamonds, worth $5,000, from Gen. URQUIZA, President of the Argentine Confederation, as a mark of his personal regard to Ex-Commissioner BOWLIN, of the Paraguay expedition, who is not yet aware of the present.

Senator HARLIN's chamber was entered at an early hour this morning, and two gold watches and some cash stolen, without his being awakened.

Mr. LOVERE, the Governor elect of Virginia, is among the recent arrivals here.

Sad Accident.

Providence, R. I., Dec. 15.—DAVA P. COLBURN, Principal of the State Normal School, was instantly killed to day, by being thrown from a carriage, in Bristol where the school is located.

Sad and Fatal Accident.

Troy, Dec. 15.—Mrs. EDMUND SCHRIVER, wife of the President of the Saratoga and Saratoga Railroad, and daughter of the late NATHAN WARREN, was killed this morning in Third street, while attempting to jump from a sleigh, the horses having taken fright. The sad event causes the most profound sensation in this city.

Later from Brownsville.

Charleston, Dec. 15.—The *Courier* of to day contains special advices from Brownsville, which state that Comanches had quartered the dead bodies of the Texan troopers killed in the late skirmish, and suspended them to the saddles of his own men. This had created the greatest excitement at San Antonio. The Mexicans were favoring COMINAS.

Mexican News.

New Orleans, Dec. 15.—The Mexican correspondent of the *Picayune* says that Senor LERDO has returned to the Cabinet, and that he consents to the ratification of the MOLANE treaty without alteration. The Secretary of the Mexican Legation, Senor ROMERO, is a passenger by the steamship Tennessee. He left for Washington to-day.

Non-Arrival of the America.

Backville, N. B., Dec. 15—8 P. M.—The R. M. Steamship America has not been signalled at Halifax, at which place the weather is very thick.

CITY NEWS.

FIRE AT FOOT OF DUANE STREET.—On Wednesday evening, about 12 o'clock, a fire broke out on board of the barge "Atlantic," lying at pier 53 North River, foot of Duane street. The barge had just arrived from Rondout, with 800 barrels of lime, consigned to Mr. KOSLINE, and in consequence of the barge being too heavily loaded, the waves washed over the deck, and the lime commenced to slake, setting her on fire. The alarm was given, and the firemen, under direction of Assistant Engineer CROSSMAN, scuttled the boat and sunk her. The barge was owned by the Captain, FREDERICK MERRIMAN. The loss amounts to about $2,000, on which there is no insurance.

FIRE IN BROADWAY.—At 7 o'clock yesterday morning a fire broke out in the basement of the dwelling owned by Mr. AUERBACH, corner of Broadway and West street, and occupied by RICHARD BERNBOTHE. The fire was caused by the carelessness of a servant girl. Damage about $100, and insured.

FIRE IN THE FOURTH STREET.—Yesterday morning, about 1½ o'clock, a fire broke out on the third floor of the boarding house No. 183 Mercer street, kept by Mrs HOWSON. Before the flames were extinguished the roof of the building was nearly burnt off. The build[illegible] to the extent of about $600, and insured in the Market Insurance Co. The furniture was damaged about $1,000 by fire and water, and is not insured. The fire, it is supposed, originated from a stove in the room of a girl named SARAH, one of the boarders.

JOHN BROWN MEETING AT THE COOPER INSTITUTE.—About two thousand persons congregated in the great hall of the Cooper Institute last evening, for the purpose of establishing a fund for the benefit of JOHN BROWN's family. SHELTON's band was in attendance, and performed several fine airs.

Mr. HYATT called the meeting to order. Dr. FAIRBANKS was appointed chairman, and Rev. Mr. FASSON opened the meeting with prayer. He prayed for the progress of liberty, and referred to the Charlestown prisoners sentenced to die to day, praying that in the eyes of God they might not be considered felons, though they were such in the eye of the law and of men.

Rev. S. B. CHESTER was then introduced. He began with—"Two hundred years ago, MILTON after the time of CROMWELL, and the regicides proved that it is lawful and right to call to account a wicked king, and put him to death. So he would have justified John Brown's attempt to relieve this country from a cruel and wicked government. (Applause and hisses loud and long continued.) And this daring attempt would be a fit subject for the pen of the poet of Paradise Lost." (Applause and hisses, and attempts in the crowd to create disturbance.) The speaker proceeded to speak at length in the same strain, frequently interrupted by hisses and shouts from various parts of the room. Said the speaker, "under the constitution JOHN BROWN had a perfect right to proclaim liberty to the enslaved. (Applause and hisses)—one man taken out amid loud cries of "Put him out." A disturbance here ensued throughout the room, and lasted for several minutes. Gen. PILLSBURY appealed to the audience to keep quiet, and hear what the man had to say. Again the speaker commenced, and proceeded to consider JOHN BROWN as having been especially prepared by God for his great work, he only acted out what timid men theorise. He had acted, he said, more nobly than PATRICK HENRY; he laid down his life, not for himself but for others. (Applause and hisses; long disturbance.) The speaker again attempted to proceed, but was every moment interrupted. Two men were put out amid loud threats, cheers, etc., after a long struggle. Gen. PILLSBURY took his seat beside the speaker on the platform. After alluding to the active Christian character of JOHN BROWN, he noticed briefly BROWN's last act of kindness to the negro, his kissing the black child when on his way to the scaffold, (one woman cried "God bless him." Applause and hisses.) Another man was put out—by this time the house was crowded, and one unruly individual yelled "murder" as he was kicked out. Another violent disturbance here ensued, but Mr. CHESTER still retained the floor—groans were given for BROWN. General PILLSBURY endeavored unavailingly to quell the confusion, and cries rose on all sides of "give us more police, more police." Gen. P. stood on the front of the platform going through a pantomimic performance, when a man in the crowd shouted, "You stand there, giving orders and talking while a party of rowdies are breaking up the meeting. If the police are going to protect us, let them do it." Cries of "Good! Good!" loud applause and hisses. The speaker again commenced as Gen. PILLSBURY entered the crowd to quell in person the disturbance, which grew more violent, cheers and groans alternately drowning the speaker's voice. Mr. CHESTER, however, proceeded to say that the stock of JOHN BROWN was not exhausted. Two thousand signatures to a "Union saving" meeting would no more insure the South against another outbreak of their great volcano, than an additional screw in JOHN BROWN's coffin would prevent his resurrection. Cheers, hisses, howls and cat-calls here drowned the speaker's voice, and an additional file of police entered the room. One man proposed that if the meeting was adjourned, and the hall cleared, they would go home. This proposition not being acceded to, the disturbance rose louder than before; several were ejected, and Mr. CHESTER, finishing rapidly, took his seat, and WENDELL PHILLIPS took the floor.

He began by asserting that JOHN BROWN's invasion had not proved a failure; it had shown the Virginia could not exist except as a despotism. At the present time the telegraph, the mails, and the public highways, all northern Virginia were subject to the commands of Gen. TALLIAFERRO and his associates, and could not be used except by their consent. Seventeen men struck on the apparently full vessel of Virginia pride, and emptiness resounded. A slave State is a despotism in masquerade. (Hisses and cat-calls.) Gentlemen, are you the subjects of Virginia or citizens of the free State of New York, when you try to break up this free meeting not with hisses of disapprobation, but an organized system of voices, "(a voice—we are Union men.)" A disturbance ensued, but it was quickly quelled, and the speaker proceeded with a sketch of the Browns who entered the contest at Harper's Ferry, attributing their acts solely to philanthropy and love for the human species. According to Virginia herself, his motives were pure and disinterested. Mr. PHILLIPS then alluded to the brave acts of Miss FOWLE, in going with a man to recover the body of the Mayor, and afterwards endeavoring unavailingly to save young THOMPSON. Yet public sentiment there was of such a cast that the brave girl did not dare to avow her noble act, pleading that she only did it to save her sister's carpet from being soiled. Is it right for a slave to fight for his liberty over as many dead bodies as would lie from Virginia to Canada? (Cries of "No! no!) I was born in the shade of Bunker Hill, and I say it is right. (Cries of "Treason! Treason!") Was it right for Brown to help them to rise for their freedom? Ask Brown, who fell at Mistlength, in attempting to gain the liberty of Greece: let KOSCIUSKO answer from his grave on the banks of the Hudson! answer LAFAYETTE, why did you help us? (A voice—"We were white men.") LAFAYETTE said—"If I had known it was to be a slaveholding republic, I would never have drawn my sword in its defence." (Applause and hisses.) The speaker next spoke of the evils of Slavery, and characterized the South as a confederacy of pirates. (Cries of "Treason," "treason.")

He likened Northern doughfaces calling Brown insane, to COLERIDGE's companions calling him drunk, while he was perfectly sober and they tipsy, merely because he looked odd. At the Union saving meeting in Boston, it was opened by prayer, by a clergyman who prayed loudly for the Union, especially the Southern half, like the man who owned half of a negro, and he always prayed, "Lord bless Tom," especially my half." (Laughter, applause and hisses.) The speaker then mentioned, that a large donation for JOHN BROWN's family, had been received from a slaveholder in Baltimore, and many there prized him highly for his moral character and bravery. The chivalry of Virginia next received the speaker's attention, in a highly uncomplimentary manner. He said, that JOHN BROWN, with 78 men, would have marched to Richmond and seized the Governor WISE.

Frequent attempts were made at this point to break up the meeting, but without avail. Speaking of the secession cry, the speaker said, "If you ever find the town's poor separating from the town, the next act you will see will be South Carolina going out of the Union."

A man asked whether JOHN BROWN had a right to be a judge of the law and Constitution. Mr. PHILLIPS answered that, every human being is bound to judge of the rightousness of a law before he obeys it and, if his conscience tells him it is wrong, he should not obey it (Loud applause, long continued).

Rev. H. MATTISON then followed in a short speech, in which he said that JOHN BROWN was less guilty of treason than half the Southerners who are now talking of what they will do in case a Republican is elected President.

Rev. J. A. SLOAN was the last speaker. LUTHER, CALVIN, JOHN KNOX had faults, they were not perfect, but he thought that JOHN BROWN was equal to them, he had faults undoubtedly, but he was honest. South Carolina made a rope to hang JOHN BROWN and presented it to Virginia, but South Carolina had not cotton and material enough in her whole dominion to make a rope strong enough to hang the principle that actuated JOHN BROWN.

The meeting then adjourned, after the chairman returning thanks to the police for their efficiency.

MEETING OF THE PIANO FORTE MAKERS.—A meeting of Piano Forte Makers was held last evening at 281 Grand street, for the purpose of raising means and affording assistance to the sufferers by the late fire in Wooster street. Mr. GILMAN occupied the Chair. The sum of $379 95 was reported in cash, and checks to the amount of $400 more. Of the cash received, $60 had been paid out in gifts of $5 each, to those workmen who were in immediate want. In the list of contributors thus far, many of the principal piano forte manufacturers and of their workmen appear. In view of the large sum still necessary to enable the workmen to obtain even a small portion of their tools, the public are urged to come to their aid. Such citizens as are willing to contribute are desired to send their contributions to the office of this paper, the proprietor of which has consented to receive them for the benefit of the sufferers, or to the Treasurer, H. WELLES, 117 Centre st., or to the Committee, which is in session every evening at the Hall, 281 Grand st.

THE Tammany Hall General Committee met last evening under the call of the Chairman, ISAAC V. FOWLER, Esq. At the hour of meeting, the Chairman being detained on other business, Hon. JOHN KELLY was called to the chair, and the roll called. There was a very full attendance of members, and the bar-room was filled with outsiders. The first business transacted was to receive the reports of the standing Committees, and these being all satisfactory were unanimously approved, and a vote of thanks passed to the Treasurer and Committee upon Finance.

The Committee on Organization then presented a Call for the election of a new General Committee for the year 1860; of a Young Men's General Committee, and of Ward Committees, to consist of five members from each election District—the General and Young Men's Committees to consist of five members from each Ward. The Call was unanimously adopted, as was the resolution accompanying it, that the delegates from the several Wards, or a majority thereof, appoint the Inspectors of Primary elections and the places of holding the polls.

The Primary elections are called for Saturday evening, between the hours of six and eight o'clock. Before the returns of inspectors were made, it was moved and carried that the Wards be called, and that all the members who were unfaithful to the Organization in the Charter election, be expelled from the Committee. The result was the expulsion from the Committee of three or four members, who had worked against the election of Messrs. HAWKINS, TILDEN and MCELROY. The only Wards contested as to the appointment of Inspectors, were the 7th and 22d. In the former Ward the names presented by Messrs. TWEED, REYNOLDS and SMALL, were adopted.

The 22d Ward case led to a long and excited debate, in which Mr. SEAGRIM, Mr. MATTERSON, Judge CONNOLLY, Mr. MCSPEDON, Mr. FOWLER, made a most eloquent and touching address to the Committee, which was most loudly applauded, urging upon them the necessity of union, conciliation and effort for the sake of the interests of the Democratic party in the State and throughout the Union. At its close a compromise was agreed to between Judge CONNOLLY and Mr. MATTERSON. A resolution was then adopted recommending the Democracy to attend the Union meeting to be held on Monday evening next. A long Address, prepared by a sub-committee, in relation to the Municipal contest, was read and unanimously adopted, after which the committee adjourned. The meeting was one of the most interesting held in Tammany Hall this year.

LECTURES.—The celebrated LOLA MONTEZ, Countess of *Landsfeld*, delivered her lecture on "John Bull at Home," at Mozart Hall, last evening. The Hall was filled, and the fair lecturer, by her many happy hits at the manners and customs of our English cousins, kept the audience in good humor.

"How to Save the Union," was the subject of a lecture by Rev. HENRY WARD BEECHER, at the Broadway Tabernacle. A large crowd was in attendance, anxious to hear how that desirable object could be accomplished.

WM. H. FOX lectured before the Mercantile Association, last evening, on the "City of New York."

SINGULAR LOSS OF MONEY.—A lady living up town, went some evenings since to see the "Octoroon." She took the precaution, before leaving home, to secure some bank notes, to the amount of one hundred dollars, in a chamber of the kitchen range, where she shrewdly supposed no burglar or thievish servant would think of looking for such booty. The fascinations of the play dissipated every remembrance of the matter; she retired immediately after her return home, and did not make her appearance in the morning till late. Upon repairing to the place of concealment she found that the fire had done its work—a pile of ashes was all that met her view.

FORCE OF HABIT.—There passed our office yesterday morning, a lank specimen of the Bloomer tribe, holding high in air her short skirts as though to keep them from the dirty side walk. Evidently she is a new beginner and needs to practice in private until she gets better accustomed to short "togs." It is well enough for a lady to show an ankle in picking her way through foul streets, but the joint above the ankle may be concealed by outer garments quite advantageously.

FAIRS AND ANNIVERSARIES.—The members of the Church of the Incarnation, continue their fair, commenced yesterday, through to day and this evening, in the chapel of the House for the Friendless, No. 29 East 29th street. The fair ones in charge state their object to be the raising of funds to complete the church chapel.

The Sabbath school connected with the First Colored Congregationalist church held its 22d Anniversary at the Smyrna Institute.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE POLYTECHNIC ASSOCIATION.—This Association met in fair numbers at Cooper Institute last evening, for the purpose of affording the members present to consider and express their opinion in relation to the subject of "Head covering and clothing."

THE U. S. Revenue Cutter McClelland, has been assigned to do duty in the district by the Secretary of the Treasury. She is commanded by Capt. HUDGINS.

Communications, &c.

CORRECTION.—New York, Dec. 15th, 1859.—*To Editor of the Sun:*—Will you please correct the statement made in your paper of yesterday, in regard to the goods in my factory, No. 5 Spruce street, being damaged at the late fire. I moved from there to No.