(Continued from the First Page.)

of a factory of their own, each subscribing a certain sum towards the joint stock which now amounts to $50,000. A capitalist of this city has just proposed to lease a factory to the Association for two years, and put in a boiler, engine and other machinery, he taking his payment in easy instalments. The movement is most encouraging so far, and from the sympathy shown on all sides, it is believed the new establishment will soon supercede the old. Meetings are being held nightly at Yonkers, and liberal subscriptions are flowing into the Treasury, so that in a few weeks it is believed the new establishment will be in full working order, and this first "combination" movement is expected to be a perfect success. This movement should be welcomed as a harbinger of good to the workingmen of this city, and it is to be hoped that the example will be extensively imitated, and thus labor and capital stand united in promoting peace and good will among men.

PRICES ON A "DOWN GRADE."—The heavy decline in prices of almost every article of domestic necessity within the past few days, must be cheering to those who, with small incomes, are continually planning to "make both ends meet." The fall in gold—about 9 per cent since the 1st instant—the fall in coal of about $2 a ton, and the reduction in the price of dry goods, &c., equalling a decline of from 25 to 100 per cent, in a month, are indications of better days ahead. There has also been a decline in the prices of meats within the same time, and everything has a tendency to favor the poor man, except rents. With such a general decline there is a partial stagnation of business, and a further tumbling down looked for. There has been a change also in the real estate market, and auction prices of houses and lots are not quoted as high as they were a month ago. More houses are offered for sale and to let, and it is quite probable that in a month hence prices will have receded still further. Many families are preparing to move altogether out of the city, on or before the advent of May, but notwithstanding this there will be probably a lack of tenements suited to persons of small incomes, though not such as to cause a rush, such as has been anticipated and hoped for by the landlords and house agents. Houses hitherto let to one family are being now let by floors, and while higher rents must of course be paid, tenants should make their arrangements with coolness, and not fear to spend a little time in looking about them. In other words, don't engage a house unsuited to both your needs and means, simply *for fear* of being obliged to do worse.

BOARD OF HEALTH—A VISIT TO WASHINGTON MARKET, ETC.—At an early hour yesterday morning, according to resolution, several members of the Board visited Washington Market, to ascertain the truth regarding complaints made of this great mart. It was too early for the crowd, and the Commissioners had a good chance to take a full survey of the premises, which they found in a very filthy condition. Their presence created considerable excitement and comment among the butchers and those present. At the section set apart for the sale of mutton, they found three officers of the Sanitary Police making seizures of "veal," which had arrived about an hour before. Notwithstanding the large seizures during the past three weeks, this kind of meat continues to be brought into the market for sale. Near the western end of the buildings, the Commissioners found about 20,000 loads of manure piled up, ready to be removed to the boats. This immense quantity had been collected within a few days from the vicinity of the market, and the only marvel is that some kind of pestilence had not broken out in that locality long ago. The report will be given at the meeting to-morrow. It may be interesting to the readers of the SUN to know that this market contains 197 beef stands; 4 stands for pork, 5 for smoked meats, 4 for tripe, 26 for general provisions, and 243 for provisions on commission. There are 31 stands for poultry, 42 for vegetables, 15 for potatoes, 55 for butter and cheese, 34 for fish, 25 for fish, 16 for oysters, 10 for pickles and preserves, and 5 for plants—making a total of 886 stands, from which a revenue to the city of $120,000 a year is received. With suitable buildings and proper management, the same space and number of stands might just as easily yield one million dollars as one tenth of that sum.

The report of the Butcher's Association Committee to the Board thinks that in time the slaughter houses must be removed from the city; but for the present the Board should control and regulate the business, forbidding the opening of any new slaughter places, and providing a standard up to which all should be brought. Several members of the Board are, however, in favor of the immediate removal of these places.

FENIAN MOVEMENTS.—The sale of the bonds of the Irish Republic is said to be progressing favorably. Yesterday, Dr. Cowley, the head organizer of the Manhattan District, accompanied by Mr. Coffee, took out $2,500 of bonds, and in two hours he had only $100 worth left. The military movements—if any are contemplated—are, however, kept a profound secret, as are all transactions at Union Square, except the sale of the bonds. The "Council of Five," who have been sitting for several days, are still in session, but their movements are secret. The Parent Father Mathew T. A. B. Society on Tuesday donated $1,000 to the cause, through Col. O'Mahony, who, in a short speech to the Committee, received it and thanked the Temperance Societies generally for their generous response to the calls of fatherland. The Sisterhood held a meeting at their rooms (Moffat Building), on Tuesday night, and made their final arrangements for the coming fair. The lady officers of the fair have agreed to wear black dresses, with green sash and white rosette—intended to be emblematic of Ireland present and future. A meeting to form a new Sweeney and Roberts circle, was held Tuesday night, in the hall, corner of Centre and Duane streets, but the other party got possession of the meeting for a time, and a scene of confusion ensued. After several speeches had been made, and numerous subscriptions received, the meeting adjourned to some more propitious time for the formation of the new circle. A large and enthusiastic meeting was held last evening, at Tammany Hall, for the purpose of forming a new circle for the O'Mahony wing. Addresses were made by Messrs. Mulcahy, Hogan and others, and several young men signed the roll. It was rumored on the street and in Fenian circles that James Stephens had made his escape from Ireland, but the report was emphatically denied by Mr. Hogan, who stated that a bearer of dispatches from Stephens to O'Mahony who arrived here two days ago, was the supposed Chief Executive. The speaker declared that the enthusiasm of Fenians in the South was hardly surpassed by the North, and that there are 400,000 men in the United States ready to march at a moment's notice. There are it was declared over 300,000 in Ireland who propose to do the fighting if the Brotherhood here will give them moral and material aid. Besides this, there are over two millions of Irishmen in England, a large majority of whom are Fenians. Several other meetings were held also last evening, and much enthusiasm was manifested.

ARREST OF THE GUERRILLA QUANTRELL.—Among the Washington dispatches published in the SUN of Thursday last, the arrival of the supposed guerrilla Quantrell at the Capitol, from New York, was announced. The following are the particulars of his arrest in this city:—

Information was recently given to the police that the notorious Kansas guerrilla Quantrell was stopping at a house in 2d avenue, near the corner of 19th street, under the name of Hamilton. Superintendent Kennedy sent a dispatch to Washington asking if Quantrell was wanted there. An affirmative reply was returned. Captain Williamson, in company with several officers, went to the house and asked if Hamilton was at home, and was told that he was at dinner. On Quantrell making his appearance he was arrested and taken to Police Headquarters. His baggage was searched, and several important letters and other documents discovered, which were sent to Secretary Stanton. Superintendent Kennedy, in the meantime, received an order to send the prisoner to Kansas, but fearing that there might be a mistake in his identity, determined to send the man to Washington, that he might be positively identified. The alleged guerrilla was sent to Washington in charge of Detective Niven and Officer Simonson, of the 14th Precinct. He was heavily ironed. It is said there are twenty-seven indictments for murder against Quantrell at Lawrence, Kansas.

MR. THOMAS W. KNOX, the well-known journalist and author, sailed in the steamer New York yesterday for Aspinwall. Mr. K. will accompany the Overland Telegraph Expedition from San Francisco, through Siberia, China, and Russia, to Western Europe.

THE NEW YORK CUSTOM HOUSE.—Mr. Chandler's bill to amend the acts relating to officers employed in the examination of imported merchandise in the port of New York, which was passed by the Senate on Wednesday, provides for the appointment of ten assistant appraisers, who shall be duly qualified by a practical knowledge of their duties to inspect and appraise the goods submitted to them. Amendments were adopted fixing the appraisers' salary at four thousand dollars per year, and the assistants at three thousand dollars. The bill has gone to the House.

THE SEIZURE OF DISTILLERIES.—The revenue investigation relative to the manufacture of illicit whiskey is still proceeding at the Astor House. It is stated that sufficient evidence has been received to justify the confiscation of nearly all the distilleries which have been seized. The investigation will probably close next week.

BOARD OF EDUCATION — MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.—The Board met at five o'clock last evening, Mr. Vance, President, *pro tem.* in the chair.

A communication was received from the Trustees of the 8th Ward, asking for an appropriation of $50,000 to purchase a school site in that Ward.

A resolution was adopted appointing a committee of five, to meet a committee of the School Trustees of Boston, who are about to visit this city, to inquire into our educational system.

On motion of Mr. West it was agreed to donate to the Asylum of Orphans and Half Orphans of our city, all the school furniture on hand which is unfit for the use of our public Schools.

A resolution was adopted abolishing the office of Professor of Mixed Mathematics in the Free Academy.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee the Comptroller was directed to place to the credit of the Board the sum of $250,000, subject to drafts signed by the President and Clerk.

The committee on By-Laws, Rules and Regulations rendered a report adverse to the appointment of absentee visiters in our public schools.

Mr. Landon from the Committee on Sites and New Schools, presented a report and resolution in favor of appropriating $8,000 for the purpose of purchasing a school site, situated on the southerly side of 110th street, one hundred feet west of 3d avenue, on which to erect a Grammar School House, in the 12th Ward. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

The Board then adjourned for a fortnight.

FIRES.—Between 4 and 5 o'clock, yesterday, a fire broke out in the basement of the tenement house, 198 Allen street, owned by Wm. Mullen. Damage, $500; insured for $8,000. Emil Pfeifer, fancy goods dealer, had his stock and furniture slightly damaged. Both insured for $1,100. John Black, having a milk depot on the premises, lost about $100, on which there was no insurance. Several other tenants lost small sums. The fire is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary.

PRINTERS' MEETING.—A General Meeting of the Printers of this city is called for Friday afternoon, at 4 o'clock, at the rooms of the N. Y. Typographical Society. Important subjects in which the trade is interested will be brought before the meeting for discussion. The circular calling the meeting says: "The time cannot be far distant when existing prices will be unsettled, and when we shall need, in a greater degree than ever, the advantages of mutual understanding and co-operation."

SUICIDE.—Yesterday Coroner Wildey held an inquest at No. 12 Willett street, on the body of Valentine Lynch, who committed suicide by taking a dose of laudanum. Deceased had been out of employment recently, and on several occasions threatened self-destruction. The jury rendered a verdict suicide while laboring under temporary aberration of mind. Lynch was a native of this city and aged 37 years of age.

A DEAF MUTE KILLED.—Norman Ambrose, Jr., a deaf mute, was instantly killed yesterday morning, at Fort Washington, by an express train on the Hudson River R. R. Deceased was an inmate of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum near Fort Washington. Coroner Wildey was notified to hold an inquest.

BALL.—The first annual ball (military and civic) of Company B, Hawkins' Zouaves, Captain Aug. Rassieu, will come off this evening at Harmonie Garten, 145 Essex street. This famous veteran Regiment is now organized as the Fourth Regiment, N. G., S. N. Y.

CAR ACCIDENT.—Mrs. Brady, wife of ex-Alderman Brady, was stepping on a Third Avenue car, on Tuesday afternoon, when the conductor started the car, and Mrs. Brady was thrown to the ground. Her left arm was seriously injured. She was taken to a drug store, and from there conveyed to her residence, 117 East 45th street.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.—The Committee of the Young Men's T. A. B. Society, No. 5, of this city, send a request to this office, that a transposition of names, in a report of the procession on the 17th, should be corrected. It was Miss Walsh who represented America—Miss Noonan appearing as Ireland.

THE COURTS.

COURT CALENDAR, THIS DAY.—Supreme Court Circuit—Part I.—Nos. 1317, 1063, 1245, 1327, 1329, 1341, 1343, 1345, 1347, 1349, 1351, 1355, 1357, 1361, 1363, 1365, 1367, 1369, 1371, 1373. Part II.—Nos. 728, 666, 1118, 409, 1068, 966, 972, 1428, 1432, 1436, 1438, 1444, 1448, 1454, 1484, 792, 793, 1456, 1458, 1469. Part III.—Nos. 472, 1103, 931, 606, 645, 1143, 1358, 966, 334, 461, 978, 715, 955, 959, 1350, 933, 1083, 1011, 65, 742, 1918. Special Term—Calendar unchanged.

Superior Court—Part I.—Nos. 1215, 2051, 1989, 2029, 6033, 1841, 1513, 980a, 1917, 1953, 2057, 2061, 2063, 2067, 2-69. Part II.—Nos. 2482, 2566, 2594, 2490, 2540, 2570, 2636, 2696, 2618, 2674, 2698, 2774, 5204, 1642.

Common Pleas—Part I.—Adjourned to Monday next. Part II.—Nos. 847, 891, 1573, 950, 1349, 1046, 1275, 1191, 1388, 1414, 1467, 1538, 1539, 1541, 1542.

THE MORRIS INSURANCE COMPANY.—In the Supreme Court yesterday, the motion to punish Attorney General Martindale for alleged contempt in procuring the appointment of a Receiver of the Morris Insurance Co., after a Receiver had been already appointed by the Supreme Court, came up for argument. At the conclusion of the arguments Judge Ingraham took the papers and reserved his decision.

BOUNTY MONEY.—The case of O'Brien agst. Pierson came up for trial yesterday in the Supreme Court Circuit, before Justice James. The plaintiff enlisted in the Sixth Regiment Heavy Artillery, the defendant being Provost Marshall. The plaintiff says that the defendant promised him a bounty of $300, of which the defendant gave him $100, but kept at his request the other $200, to be paid to him on demand. The demand had been made, but no money paid. The defendant denied any such deposit.

The jury found for the defendant.

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS.—Yesterday, James Thomas, colored, was convicted of grand larceny, and sentenced to State Prison for five years..... Sarah Hamilton, servant girl, pleaded guilty to attempt at grand larceny. Penitentiary one year..... James Smith and Edward Hughes, convicted of burglary in the third degree, were sentenced to State Prison for five years each.....Charles Cunningham and Charles Stuart, pleaded guilty of grand larceny. Remanded.....Patrick Keeler pleaded guilty to an attempt at grand larceny. Remanded.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.—*Arrest for Reckless Driving.*—Miss Eliza Gray, 18 years of age, was knocked down and run over yesterday morning, at the intersection of Pearl and Chatham streets, by a horse and wagon driven at a rapid rate by John Schmidt. The driver was arrested and held for examination by Justice Hogan.

Burglary in Laurens Street.—The apartments of Henry Freiburg, No. 148 Laurens street, were robbed of twelve gold watches, three gold chains, six silver watches, three silver forks, two table spoons, nine tea spoons, six pickle forks, and $56 in greenbacks, on Tuesday night, with which the thieves escaped. No clue has been obtained to the thieves.

Brooklyn.

THE YATES MURDER TRIAL.—The evidence for the defence was opened yesterday. Several witnesses were sworn, upon which the Court adjourned. The case will probably be concluded to-day.

A Backward Bride and Groom.

The Freedmen's and other Courts in the South are the scenes of rich trials occasionally. The Mobile REGISTER, 21st of Feb., gives the following rich scene: A couple of old darkies who had been for many years living together as man and wife, but, as Dinah said, "without de circumference of law," brought a voluminous string of charges against each other, and taxed the Mayor's patience beyond endurance. The Court being unable to make head or tail of the affair, turned the case over to the Freedmen's Bureau. They shot out for "de Buro," and the trial was at once taken up. After hearing all the facts in the case, that tribunal decided that they should be lawfully married forthwith, and placing them under guard, sent the bride and bridegroom to the office of Justice Starr for that functionary to carry out the sentence of the Bureau. When they got to the Esquire's office, the guard simply stated to Justice Starr; "Here is a couple for you to marry." "All right," replied the humorous Justice, and the guard, not having an invitation to the wedding retired.

"Just step in the back room," said the Justice, "and I'll splice you in grammatical style and apple pie order."

The couple followed him to the room in the rear of the front office, and after explaining the duties and obligations, requested them to join hands.

Bride—"I is'nt gwine to do it. I doesn't wants to hab nuffin to do wid dat nigger."

Groom—"I isn't 'ticular 'bout marryin' wid de gal. I ubber lubbed de wench."

This protest opened the Esquire's eyes like "two full moons in the harvest." He asked what was the meaning of it, and just then a representative of the Bureau stepped in, and informed the Justice that they were ordered by the Freedmen's Court to be married, and he came up to see the sentence executed.

With this understanding, Justice Starr told the "happy couple" to join hands, which they did after much persuasion, and the following scene ensued:

Justice—"Do you take this man to be your wedded husband, to love, honor, obey," etc.

Bride—"No I doesn't—not much I doesn't—I wouldn't hab a four acre lot full ob sich trash."

Freedmen's Bureau—"Yes we do, Squire. We take him—go on with the ceremony."

Justice—"And do you take this woman to be your wedded wife, to love, cherish, etc.

Groom—"I tole ye dat I isn't 'ticular. I isn't hankerin arter de 'crow.' I kin lib widout de ole gal."

Freedmen's Bureau—"Certainly we take her—of course we do—suits us to a single allspice. Hurry up the cakes."

Justice—"Then I pronounce you all man and wife, and may the Lord have mercy on your souls."

THE death of a German veteran who served under the great Frederick in the seven years' war, is announced. He died at the respectable age of one hundred and twenty, at the hamlet of Slaude, in Upper Silesia. His name was Laurence Halacz.

A MAN was entering a train at the Victoria Station, Manchester, England, on the 24th, when a thief stole his watch. The man seized the thief, and, as the train was moving off, dragged him into a carriage, and kept him there until they arrived at Werneth Station, where the prisoner was given into custody.

THERE is a live oak tree growing upon land owned by Governor Crapo, in Genessee county, Michigan, of remarkable dimensions. Its circumference is twenty-nine feet. Its trunk is hollow, the diameter of the hollow being nine feet six inches. The wood choppers upon the land have boxed an aperture or doorway into the tree, built them a camp therein, and enjoy the comforts of a home in the most primitive fashion.

MARINE NEWS.

March 22, S. rises 6 01; S. sets, 6 14; High Water, 00 30

CLEARED.

STEAMSHIPS—New York, Aspinwall; Flambeau, Savannah; Albemarle, Richmond; Mitor, Derby, Ck; Patapsco, Baltimore; John Gibson, Alexandria; City of Port au Prince, Galveston; Alhambra, Charleston; Cumberland, Wilmington; Atalanta, London; Morro Castle, Havana.

SHIP—Energie, Schmidt, of and for Bremen.

BARKS—Wentworth, Bristol; S R Dudman, Cork; Jos Eneas, Galveston; Wild Gazelle, Lewis, Anjuer.

SCHOONERS—Frank Emily, Codier, Fernandina; Chas Shearer, Barbadoes; C A Farnsworth, do; M E Tobey, Savannah; Talard, Point au Petre; Clara, Norfolk; Robert Knapp, Stamford.

SLOOP—Mary Gray, Lucas, Uncasville.

ARRIVED.

STEAMSHIPS—Virgo, Savannah; Morning Star, N Orleans; Eagle, Havana.

BARKS—W W Brett, Cardenas; I C Jones, Cette; E Schultz, Apalachicola.

BRIGS—Aura, Zaza; Ceres, Cienfuegos; P Jones, Trinidad, Cuba; Belle, of Gibraltar, from Havana.

SCHOONERS—Isabel, P. au Prince; Jos W Webster, Galveston; Golden Eagle, New Bedford for Philadelphia; Francis M Loring, Chesapeake Bay; Golden Eagle, Providence for Philadelphia; Joseph Nickerson, Fall River; Adrian, Georgetown; S A Falconer, Fall River; Wm F Burden, Providence; Gen Howard, do; New Globe, N. Haven; Native Amer can, Newburyport; Amanda Powers, Prov.; Bay State, Rockland; E J Raynor, Brookhaven; Henrietta, Providence; Vermillion, Brookhaven; Cosmos, Rockland; Galena, Gloucester; R H Huntley, New Bedford for Philadelphia; Warrenton, Providence; Gen Peavy, Lubec; A Crandall, Westerly; Lizzie Raymond, Providence; Sallie Gay, Providence for Philadelphia; E G Sawyer, Machias; Willow, Lubec; Flora, Machias; Express, Provincetown; Samuel Gilman, Boston; D & E Kelly, do; A Clarence, Providence for Baltimore; Rockingham, Portland; Enterprize, Cornwallis; Isis, N. Haven for Elizabethport; Ontario, Providence; Helen, N. Bedford; Mary, Providence; Forrest, Cherryfield; Denmark, Providence; Express, St Andrews, N B; Hudson, Providence.

Too Late for Classification.

DEATHS.

EDWARDS—On March 21st, Thomas Edwards.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend funeral, on Friday, at 10 o'clock, from his late residence, 111 Hamilton ave, South Brooklyn. 382

McDERMOTT—On Wednesday, March 21st, after a severe illness, William McDermott, native of Ballon Sloe, Ireland, aged 27 years.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of his parents, 418 Cherry st, this (Thursday) afternoon, at 2 o'clock. 387

ANNA—YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER, and your brothers and sister Mary, are all grieved after you. Your uncle William, 20th st, can tell as I do. Come and get money, at least. P. 389

NO. 1—MOHAIR AND ROPE TWIST coils, only $1. Human hair coils only $5. Switches, $5 to $20, and everything cheap at PECKHAM'S hair bazaar, 251 Grand st, near Bowery, and at wholesale. Cut this out. 392

AMERICAN AND FOREIGN PATENT AGENCY—MESSRS. MUNN & CO, Publishers of the "Scientific American," continue to act as Attorneys for securing Patents for new Inventions in this and all foreign countries.

Messrs. MUNN & CO, have had seventeen years' experience in soliciting patents, and have acted as Attorneys for more than 20,000 inventors.

Pamphlets containing the Patent Laws and other important information to inventors, furnished, free, on application.

Consultation and advice free. Address

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37 Park Row, New York, or cor. of F and 7th sts, Washington, D. C. 440

DYSPEPSIA—ASTONISHING CURES ARE daily made by the use of that excellent remedy Dr. Smith's

DYSPEPSIA ANNIHILATOR.

It has been before the Public for the last 20 years, and where it has been persevered with, and the directions followed, has never failed in a single case. It acts gently upon the bowels, giving renewed vigor to the stomach, and brace up the whole system—creating as it were new life. Every one of sedentary habits should try it, and all who are troubled with Dyspepsia should use it. Depot—46 South Second st, Williamsburgh. Price One Dollar per bottle. 441

ISAAC WOLF, AUCT'R, OFFICE 58 BOWERY, will sell on Friday, March 23d, at 11 o'clock, the stock and fixtures of the dry goods store, 84 Water st, consisting of muslins, calicoes, cloths, and a general assortment of a first class dry goods store. Sale positive. 388

L. BINNS OPENS MILLINERY THIS day, at 577 Broadway. Pattern bonnets, trimmed bonnets, straw bonnets and jockey hats. Bonnets by the dozen or thousand. Southern and Western trade can save 20 per cent. Great bargains. 385

OPERATORS WANTED ON SINGER'S and Howe's platform machines on fine shoe work; none but competent hands need apply. Also pasters and hands to prepare work for the machine. Call for one week 81 Eldridge st, cor. Grand. 383

PATENTS—PATENTS—PATENTS—MUNN & CO, continue to solicit Patents and obtain Government protection on new Inventions, 20 Years experience.

Office, 37 Park Row.

Pamphlets of information free. 441

THE MEMBERS OF THE COAL SHOVELLERS' Association held a special meeting at Jackson Hall, March 21st, 1866, to regulate prices for the ensuing year, for hoisting and shoveling coal:

Canal boats and Lehigh scows, 25 cents per ton.

For schooners, 30 cents per ton.

By order of

THOS. O'BRYAN, President.

PATRICK COMMONS, Secretary. 390

WANTED—A TINSMITH; ALSO A GAS fitter. Apply at ROBERT TAGGARTS, 593 Hudson st. 384

WANTED—A SMART GIRL TO DO general housework; good references required. Inquire at 384 Henry st, bet. 9 and 10 o'clock. 386

The Steamboat Race.

FROM A NOVEL ENTITLED "FOUR YEARS IN THE REBEL CAPITAL."

Well, we are aboard the Southern Republic, the last bell has sounded, the last belated trunk has been trundled over the plank, and we are off, the calliope screaming Dixie like ten thousand devils, and the crowds on the bank waving us bon voyage.

The main saloon of the boat was a spacious apartment, a hundred feet long by thirty in breath, gorgeously decorated with modern paint and brilliantly lighted. The galleries leading to the state-room, rising tier upon tier, ran entirely around it, while above them a sky light of tinted glass shed a soft, warm light.

There are offices, card rooms, bar rooms, barber shops, and even faro banks, aboard all these boats; and as the down trip occupies from forty-eight to seventy hours—according to the stage of the river, and the luck of running aground, a performance to be expected at least once in each trip—we become quite a mutual amusement community by the time it is over.

This trip the boat was very crowded, and at supper the effect of the line of small tables, filled with officers in uniform, ladies tastefully dressed, and a sprinkling of homespun coats—all reflected in the long mirror was very bright and gay. After meals there is generally a promenade on the upper decks (sans souci) where people talk, smoke, inspect each other and flirt. Then they adjourn to state rooms, saloon, or card room and lounge, or read to kill time; for the Alabama is anything but a picturesque stream, with its slow marshy banks, only varied by occasional "slides" and negro quarters.

This night was splendidly clear, the moon bright as day; and Styles and I, after seeing "the Colonel" well tucked in, staid on deck to scrape up a acquaintance with the pilot, and the small seedy Frenchman who officiated the calliope. He was an original in his way—"the Professor"—with his head like a bullet, garnished with hair of the most wiry blackness, cut as close as the scissors could hold it, looking like the most uncompromising porcupine. Of course, he was a political refugee.

"Dixie! Aire, nationale! pas bon chose!" he exclaimed, seating himself at his instrument, and twirling a huge mustache. "Voila le Marseillaise! Zat make national hymn for you!" and he made the whistle roar and shriek in a way to have sent the red caps into the air, a hundred miles away.

"Gran!" splendid!" roared Styles above the steam. "Why, Professor, you're a genius. Come and take some brandy."

The Professor banged down his instrument, led the way instanter down to our state room, and once there did take something, and then something else, and finally some more, till he got very thick-tongued and enthusiastic.

"Grand arte of ze Liberte!" he cried at last, mounting again to his perch by the smoke-stack. "Song composed by me for one grand man—ze Van Dorn. I make this and dedicate to him;" and he banged away at the keys till he tortured the steam into the "Liberty ductio" from Puritani.

"How you find zat, eh? Zat makes ze hymn for souse. Me, I am republican! Voila! I wear ze mustache of ze revolutionaire—my hairs are cut en mecontent! Were zere colere more red as re', I would be zat!" and the Professor was so struck with the brilliance of his idea, that he played the air again and again, till it rang like a phantom chorus over the still plantations. At last he was overcome by emotion and brandy, slid from the stool and sank at the foot of the smoke-stack muttering: "Zat is ze hymn—hic—dedicate to ze General and ze—hic—country!"—and then he slept the sleep of the just conscience.

"Thar's the Senator, and she's gainin' on we," sa'd the pilot, and we walked forward, pointing to the thin column of smoke rising out of the trees just abreast of us.

"How far astern?"

"A matter of about two miles around that point."

"Splendid night for a race," muttered Styles.

"Will she overtake us, Captain?"

"Well, mabee!" replied the old river dog, while the most professional grin shot over his hard, wooden features—"Specially if I ease up this 'ar old gal."

"Ha, Jones? Now we'll have it. We won't turn it now," chuckled Styles, banging me in the back.

Almost imperceptibly our speed slackened, and the thin, dark column crept nearer and nearer round the trees on the point in our wake, till at last the steamer bursts into sight, not a pistol-shot astern.

There is a sharp click of the pilot's bell, a gasping throb, as if our boat took deep, long breath, and just as the "Senator" makes our wheel, we dash on again, with every stroke of the piston threatening to rack our fabric into shreds.

The river here is pretty wide and the channel deep and clear. The "Senator" pulls ahead in gallant style now gaining our quarter, now a boat's length astern—both engines roaring and snorting like angry hippopotami, and both vessels rocking and straining till they seem to paw their way through the churned water. Talk of horse racing and rouge et noir! But, except the wild delirium of a cavalry charge—as described by those who have been in one—there is no excitement that can approach boat racing on the Southern rivers. One by one the people pop up ladders and throng the rails. First, the unemployed deck hands; then a stray gentleman or two, and finally ladies and children, till the rail is full and every eye is anxiously strained to the opposite boat.

She holds her own wonderfully well, considering the reputation of ours; and at each burst, when she seemed to gain upon us, the whole crowd hold their breath, and as she drops off again, there is a deep drawn, gasping sigh of relief, like winds in the pines. Even "the Colonel" has aroused himself from the dreams of turtle at the St. Charles, and red fish at Pensacola, and has come on deck in a shooting jacket and gingery cap, that makes him look like jaunty Fosco. He leans over the stern rail, puffing his cabana in long easy whiffs as we gain a length, or sending out short, angry puffs at the "Senator" as she creeps up on us.

Foot by foot we gain steadily until the gap is widened to three or four boat lengths, though the "Senator" piles her fires till the embers behind her, on each side, glow from their reflection, and her decks, now black with anxious lookers-on, send up cheer after cheer, as she snorts defiantly after us.

Suddenly the bank seem to loom up right under our larboard bow.

"We have got out it too close!"

Two sharp, vicious clicks of the bell. Our helm goes hard down, and the engines stop with a sudden jar, as I catch a hissing curse break through the set teeth of the pilot.

A yell of wild triumph rises from the "Senator's" deck! On she comes in a gallant style, shutting the gap and passing us like a race horse, before we can swing into the channel and recover headway. It is a splendid sight as the noble boat passes us, her black hulk standing out, in the clear moonlight, against the dim, gray banks like a living monster, and her great chimneys snorting out volumes of massive, black smoke, that trails out flat behind her from her great sweep. Her side towards us is crowded with men, women and children; and hats, handkerchiefs and hands are swung madly about, to aid the effort of the hundred voices.

Close down to the water's edge—scarce above the line of foam she cuts—her lower deck lies black and undefined in the shadow of the great mass above it.

Suddenly it lights up with a lurid flash as the furnace doors are thrown wide open, and in the hot glare the negro stokers—their stalwart forms jetty black, naked to the waist and streaming with the exertion, that makes the muscle strain out like the distorted imps of some pictured inferno. They, too, have imbibed the excitement, and with every gesture of anxious haste, and eyeballs starting from their dusky heads, some plunge the long rakes into the red mouths of the furnace, twisting and turning the crackling mass with terrific strength while others hurl in the huge logs of resinous pine, already heated by contact, till they burn like pitch. Then the great doors bang too, the yellow of the negroes dies away and the whole hull is blacker from the contrast, while the Senator, puffing denser clouds than ever, swings round the point a hundred yards ahead!

There is a dead silence in our boat, so deep that the rough whisper of the pilot to the knot around him is heard the whole length of the deck: "Damnation! but I'll overstep her yit, or bust!"

"Good, old fellow!" responded Styles—"let her out, and I'll stand the wine!"

Then the "old Colonel" walks to the wheel, with his face purple, his glengary pushed far back on his head, and his cigar glowing like the "red eye of battle," as he puffs angry wheezes of smoke through his nostrils. "Damned hard, sir—hard! hard! Egad! I'd burn the last ham in the locker to overtake her," and he whirled the glowing stump after the "Senator," as the spartan youth hurled the shields into the thick of battle, before rushing to reclaim them. On we speed, until the trees on the bank seem to fly back past us, and round the point to see the "Senator" just turning another curve!

On still, faster than ever, with every glass on board jingling in its frame, and every joint and timber trembling, as with a congestive chill!

Still the black demons below ply their fires with the fattest logs—and even a few barrels of pitch are slyly slipped in—the smoke behind us stretched straight and flat from the smoke-stack.

Now we enter a straight, narrow reach, with the "Senator" just before us. Faster and faster we go, till the boat fairly rocks and swings from side to side, half lifted with every throb of the engine. Closer and closer we creep—harder and harder thump the cylinders—until at last we close, our bow just lapping her stern!

So we run a few yards. Little by little—so little that we test it by counting her windows—we reach her wheel—pass by it—lock her bow and run neck to neck for a hundred yards.

The stillness of death is upon both boats; not a sound but the creak and shudder as they struggle on. Suddenly the hard voice of our pilot crashes through it like a broadaxe.

"Good bye, Sen'tor! I'll send yer a tug!" and he gives his bell a merry click.

Our huge boat gives one shuddering throb that rocks her from end to end; one plunge, and then she settles into a steady rush, and forges rapidly and evenly ahead. Wider and wider grows the gap; and we wind out of sight with the beaten boat five hundred yards behind us.

The cigar I took from my mouth to make way for the deep, but long sigh, is chewed to a perfect pulp. A wild, pent up yell of half savage triumph goes up from the crowded deck, such as is heard nowhere else but where the captured work rewards the bloody and oft repeated charge. Cheer after cheer follows; and, as we approach the thin column of smoke, curling over the trees between us, Styles beatrices the prostrate form of the still sleeping Professor, and makes the calliope yell and shriek that classic ditty, "Old Gray Horse come out of the Wilderness!" at the invisible rival.

I doubt if a heartier toast was ever drunk than the "Colonel" gave the group around the wheel-house when Styles "stood" the wine plighted the pilot. The "Colonel" was beaming, the glengary set jaunty on one side, and his voice actually gurgled as he said:

"Egad!" I'd miss my dinner for a week for this. Gentlemen, a toast! Here's to the old boat! God bless her soul!"

THE END.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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