A STEAMSHIP DETAINED.

ALEXANDRE & SON AND COLLECTOR MERRITT AT ISSUE.

The City of Washington Prevented from Sailing for Havana Because Fines of $213 Imposed Upon her Captain were not Paid.

The steamship City of Washington of the Alexandre line was to have sailed from this port for Havana at 3 P. M. yesterday. She was ready to sail at that hour, with a full cargo and thirty-five cabin passengers; but she did not sail, and the agents, Messrs. F. Alexandre & Sons, said that they did not know when she would leave port.

One of the firm said: "We are indignant, and we propose to make an issue upon this matter at once." The reason the steamship did not sail was because she could not get her clearance paper from the Custom House, except upon a condition with which the agents refused to comply. That condition was the payment of fines, aggregating $213, imposed upon Capt. Timmerman of the City of Washington, because, it is alleged by some of the customs inspectors, members of his crew had smuggled cigars. Formerly the penalty for this offence was imposed upon the vessel or the owners, but an amendment to the revenue laws, adopted last February, makes the Captain the responsible person. The agents said that they were not informed of the position their Captain was in until a few days ago, and not until yesterday did they realize there would be any difficulty about the steamship.

Mr. John E. Alexandre said that when Capt. Timmerman arrived in port on his return from his last trip, May 5, he found letters from the Custom House informing him that he had been fined $103 by the Collector of the Port because 1,500 cigars had been found on his steamship when she arrived in this port, March 30, which were not upon the ship's manifest. This letter was dated April 9, or two days after the City of Washington had left port, and it was not mailed until April 11. A few days ago other letters came to him from the Custom House announcing the imposition of a fine of $71 for 600 cigars, and another of $59 for a less number. It was alleged in each case that the cigars had been smuggled ashore by the crew. Mr. Alexandre claimed that the notices of the first-mentioned fines ought to have been served before the steamship left port April 7, so that they could investigate the charges, and discharge those of the crew who had violated the law. When application was made at the Custom House yesterday for the clearance papers of the steamship, Collector Merritt refused to issue them until the $213 was paid. The agents offered to give a bond for the amount for Capt. Timmerman, as had been done in several similar cases, pending the adjustment of the matter in the courts. This was refused. The agents then thought to get out of the difficulty by taking the command of the steamship from Capt. Timmerman, and putting the first officer in his place. Collector Merritt refused to recognize the substitution.

Shortly before the hour for sailing the agents renewed their offer to furnish a bond for the Captain. The Collector was immovable. It must be cash or no clearance papers. A despatch had been sent to Secretary Windom asking for relief, but no answer came. This was the situation at the close of business yesterday. The agents then tied up their boat at Pier 3, North River, and resolved to resist the payment of fines that they believed to have been unjustly imposed, and the Collector was firm for the $213 he had levied upon the Captain.

"We are going to fight this thing," said Mr. Alexandre, "until the allegations of these Custom House searchers are proved. We don't admit anything that we don't know, and the Custom House has presented no proof, and we know of no proof that the men of our crew have been guilty of smuggling."

The firm served notice on the Collector that they would hold him responsible for all damages that might result to the cargo by the delay.

Collector Merritt said that if there was to be a suit about the fines, he would rather appear as the defendant, which would be the case if the fines were paid, than as plaintiff, suing for them upon the bond.

After 3 o'clock many of the passengers of the City of Washington came to the office of the agents to learn why she did not sail. Some of them wished to connect at Havana with the steamship Nankin, for Mexico, which sailed from this port Wednesday. A portion of the cargo should also be transferred to the Nankin. The mails on the City of Washington will be returned to the Post Office to-day.

The Limore Suit.

H. S. Elmore, the produce merchant of 17 Moore street, against whom a complaint of abandonment was made by a woman who claimed to be his wife, went to the Jefferson Market Police Court yesterday and exhibited a letter written by United States Attorney S. J. Woodford to D. M. Porter, counsel for Mr. Elmore, announcing Mr. Woodford's intention of withdrawing from his professional connection with the case. The examination of the case, before Justice Patterson was adjourned on May 3, to allow Mr. Woodford to investigate the alleged Mrs. Elmore's history.

Mr. Elmore said that he had rent word to the woman, through Assistant United States Attorney Clark, that he would have her arrested for perjury if she did not withdraw her allegations that she had been married to him. This was on Friday. Since then Mr. Elmore said he had been the woman once, and by her appointment, and repeated the message, and, upon calling, he saw her again on his own motion, had discovered that she had quitted her residence without leaving an address, saying that she was going to nurse a sick friend.

Michael Hackett, Wife Murderer.

Michael Hackett, who shot and killed his wife in a 6th street on Wednesday evening, was arraigned before Coroner Brady yesterday. He claimed the shooting was an accident. He was remanded to the custody of the police pending the inquest, which will be held to-day.

Mrs. Hackett's little daughter, Florence, 11 years old, was sitting beside her mother on the stoop when her drunken father reeled up and began to abuse his wife. Florence saw that her father shot her another three times. The Rev. Dr. C. S. Adams of St. Mark's Protestant Episcopal Church has taken charge of the children. "The three boys," said he, "will be well taken care of in the Sheltering Arms. The eldest daughter, Lillian, will return to the family in Harlem for the present, and Florence will be provided with a suitable home. There is one other girl, Daisy, aged 14 years, who is in Ireland with her grandfather, Capt. Alfred Evans. Capt. Evans is the father of Mrs. Hackett and is 80 years old. He is well to do, and it is probable that he will send for the children.

The Charge Weigher Seemann Denies.

George Seemann of 227 Stanton street, an assistant weigher in the Custom House, was arraigned in the Jefferson Market Police Court yesterday on a complaint of forgery made by John Hawlowetz, a dealer in feathers, of 135 Prince street. Mr. Seemann, when off duty, took charge of Mr. Hawlowetz's books, and made deposits of cash in the German Exchange Bank for him. On March 17 the bank officers sent for Mr. Hawlowetz, and, showing him a check for $100, asked him if he had signed it. He said he had not, and the bank officers said they had lost paid the money to Seemann, who had gone to Seemann and got the money back. In looking over the vouchers he discovered, as he says, four more forged checks, amounting to $160. In court Seemann said the checks were all right, and that Hawlowetz had signed them himself. He gave $500 bail to answer.

A Prize Fight Interrupted.

A great crowd gathered on Wednesday evening in a vacant lot at Madison avenue and Fifty-ninth street. Policeman Bennett looked over the fence and saw that a prize fight was in progress. A ring was formed about two half nude young men, who were pounding each other. Bennett swung himself over the fence and made a rush for them. The alarm was given before he reached them, and in a moment the crowd scattered in every direction. Bennett captured one of the fighters after a long chase. He was William Simms of 325 East Eighteenth street, the other fighter, John Connors, escaped. They are cast side men, between whom much rivalry existed. The fight was fixed by appointment, and the training had lasted a week. Simms was arraigned in the Yorkville Police Court yesterday, and fined $5.

To State Prison for Life.

William O'Donnell's trial in the General Sessions upon the charge of beating his wife Bridget to death in their home at 206 East Eighty-fifth street in February, ended yesterday. The jury convicted O'Donnell, after a few minutes of consultation, of murder in the second degree, the highest count in the indictment. Recorder Smyth, having withdrawn from their consideration the higher count, charging murder in the first degree, on the ground that the evidence did not show sufficient premeditation to justify a conviction under that count. Recorder Smyth said that he approved the jury's verdict. No more cruel killing had ever been done. The law left him no option as to the sentence upon the conviction. He sentenced O'Donnell to prison for life.

Think They Won't Get Out of the Way.

The New York Elevated Railroad Company has brought a suit in the Supreme Court to restrain the trustees of the New York and Brooklyn Bridge Company from taking any steps for the removal of the Chatham street station. Judge Donohoe yesterday granted a temporary injunction, and argument upon a motion to continue it will be heard next week. The plaintiffs claim that, as they selected the site for the station under the law under which they were incorporated, and the selection was approved by the court and the Rapid Transit Commission, they cannot now be required to remove it.

Court Calendars This Day.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.—Nos. 3, 7, 39, 44, 52, 56, 59, 60, 72, 75, 93, 104, 105, 106, 108, 189, 201, 202, 203, 204, 206, 216, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226. GENERAL TERM.—Nos. 52, 54, 57, 8, 9, 17, 8, 18, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 36, 37, 42, 43, 44, 45, 53, 54, 56, 61, 64. CALENDAR TRIAL.—Case on No. 1, 2, 3, day calendar. PART I.—Case unfinished. Nos. 3239, 2511, 2902, 2018, 2168, 2931, 2043, 1773, 694, 4529, 4628, 3000, 4637, 2587, 2628, 5218, 1942, 2, 2635, 2636, 3719, 2966, 3000. Part II.—Same case. Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11. Short causes, Nos. 4894, 4634, 2893, 4691, 4440, 4810, 4836, 4744, 4472, 4232, 4350, 4481, 4723, 4774, 4616, 4786, 4589, 4541, 4, 4, 4