NEW YORK HERALD.

New York, Thursday, November 21, 1844.

Advices from Europe.

No tidings of the steamer at Boston yesterday morning at 7 o'clock. She was then nearly fifteen days at sea, having left Liverpool on the 5th inst.—not the 4th. We shall hear from her early this morning.

Prediction and Fulfillment—The Recent Election.

It will be recollected by our readers that immediately after some of the state elections last summer we examined with particular care and attention the state of the presidential question, and stated positively, in several instances, that it would be one of the closest contests which had ever taken place in this country since the time of Jefferson—that the State of New York would determine the election, either for Mr. Clay or Mr. Polk—and that State would be itself determined by the city of New York. It may appear singular to many, but it does not to us, that every idea put forth by this journal during the last summer on this question has been verified, almost to the very letter and figure of the original prediction. Let us come to particulars, so far as the returns now received furnish us with the means.

A few days ago we gave a table of the elections and the majorities, according to the best accounts, throughout the country. That table set down Tennessee for Mr. Polk, and had a few other errors, which were unavoidable, in consequence of the incompleteness of the data then before us. But we have now completely reviewed that table according to the returns now within our reach, and have estimated the majorities respectively for Polk and Clay, and also the aggregate abolition vote, as follows:—

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN 1844.

States.	Electors Polk.	Electors Clay.	Maj's. Polk.	Maj's. Clay.	Popular Vote. Birney
New Hampshire	6	..	9230		4116
Rhode Island	..	4	..	2475	5
Connecticut	..	6	..	3833	1920
New York	36	..	5200	..	15000
Pennsylvania	30	..	6392	..	3126
New Jersey	7	..	..	823	131
Maryland	8	..	..	3308	..
Virginia	17	..	7000	..	..
North Carolina	..	11	..	4237	..
South Carolina	9	..	17500	..	..
Georgia	10	..	2648	..	..
Ohio	..	23	..	6058	8050
Indiana	12	..	2000	..	2000
Michigan	5	..	4000	..	2500
Kentucky	..	12	..	10000	..
Delaware	..	3	..	212	..
Massachusetts	..	12	..	14372	10860
Maine	9	..	10000	..	4500
Vermont	..	6	..	10500	4500
Alabama	9	..	10000	..	..
Mississippi	6	..	4000	..	..
Louisiana	6	..	150	..	..
Arkansas	3	..	5000	..	..
Missouri	7	..	8000	..	..
Illinois	9	..	10000	..	..
Tennessee	..	13	..	150	..
Aggregate	170	105	101060	55561	56715
	105		55561		55561
Polk's maj. over Clay	65		45499		1122 8
Polk's majority					101060
Polk's minority—less Clay and Birney					11218

It will be seen from these returns, that had the vote of the State of New York, numbering thirty-six electors, been cast for Mr Clay, Mr. Clay would have been elected President of the United States by about seven majority. And again, it will be seen that the majority for Mr. Polk in the State of New York being only about 5,200, a change of 3,000 votes from one side to the other, from Polk to Clay, would have effected the election of Mr. Clay. Now it will be remembered, that previous to the election, and after the state election in Pennsylvania, when the "Natives" began to move in this city, and the whigs looking on with great anxiety, we stated positively that a perfect and complete union of the whigs and "natives" would carry the city of New York by four or five thousand for Mr. Clay, and give him the State and the Presidency; but if on the contrary such a union did not take place, and if Mr. Polk obtained the city, he would beyond all doubt get the State and be elected to the Presidency. The result has answered the prediction to the very letter; and we have every reason to believe that the movement in this city which determined the vote of the State and neutralized the combination between the "natives" and the whigs, was produced by the friends of Calhoun, Cass, and Tyler, united, and that Mr. Polk was not at all indebted for the fortunate result, to some of the friends of Mr. Van Buren and Silas Wright, who were inwardly rejoicing at the perilous complexion of affairs, and devoutly praying that Silas Wright would be elected Governor, whilst the vote of the State would be given to Mr. Clay.

But these are not all the singular phenomena of this most extraordinary election. Although the number of votes polled indicates of course a great increase on the aggregate vote of 1840, yet there is every reason to believe that from 100,000 to 150,000 voters staid away from the polls. In furtherance of this view, we annex the following table containing, from recent returns, a number of facts which are very interesting to the political arithmetician.

VOTE OF 1844, COMPARED WITH THAT OF 1840

State.	Decrease.	Increase.
Maine	7,000	—
New Hampshire	9,097	—
Maryland	—	6,368
Ohio	—	39,285
Rhode Island	—	3,597
Connecticut	—	3,414
Massachusetts	—	6,366
New Jersey	—	11,559
Pennsylvania	—	43,881
Tennessee	—	12,000
New York	—	50,000
Virginia	—	15,000
Twelve States	16,097	191,410
		16,097
Increase in twelve States		175,313
Estimated increase in all other States		175,000
Aggregate increase since 1840		350,313
Aggregate vote in 1840		2,402,506
Probable vote in 1844		2,752,819

DIFFERENCE OF VOTE IN ONE MONTH IN FOUR STATES.

States.	Vote Oct '44.	Vote Nov. '44.	Decr.	Incr.
New Jersey	74,668	75,944	—	1,336
Ohio	302,610	312,231	—	9,614
Pennsylvania	320,196	331,574	—	11,378
Maryland	69,532	68,660	872	—

It will be seen from these tables that the aggregate vote of the whole country will be about 2,750,000. But it will be also seen from the comparison of the vote taken in the State and Presidential elections in Maryland, that in that State a decrease took place in the course of one month of 872, and the probability is, judging between the population and the ratio of votes to the population, that there are at least 220,000 persons entitled to vote, who have not yet come up to the polls. This corresponds exactly with our opinion which we expressed some time ago; and which we derived from the results in former years, and is verified in every election which takes place in this country. It is evident therefore, that in all the State elections, only about two-thirds of the voters take an interest in the matter; and although a deeper excitement prevails at a Presidential contest, yet even that does not bring out all the votes, showing that there is a vast proportion of the people of this country who may be ranged amongst the neutrals—lookers-on—perfectly indifferent which party succeeds.

Yet the election has been extraordinary in its closeness—in the elements which were at work in producing such a result—in the position in which it has placed both parties—and in the consequences which may grow out of the present state of affairs resulting from it. The principal cause of the defeat of Mr. Clay is undoubtedly to be attributed to the course of the abolition party in the free States, and particularly in the State of New York. Fifteen thousand votes have been abstracted principally from the whig camp, and added to this new party, which, if they had been cast for Mr. Clay, would have elected him even without the native vote of the city of New York. But unfortunately for Mr. Clay, his friends in Congress and out of doors, have been agitating this question for several years past, and have been the principal authors of his defeat. The efforts of such men as John Quincy Adams, Daniel Webster, Cassius M. Clay, Geddings, Slade, and others in various parts of the country, contributed immensely to the position of things that has produced the overwhelming defeat of their own candidate. But even this disastrous position of affairs might have been overcome if the whigs in the city of New York could have effected a complete combination between their party and the "Natives," and thus have given New York to Mr. Clay. In this city the whigs abandoned every thing to accomplish that purpose, and the "natives" cheated them out and out! It is possible, also, according to the opinion of Thurlow Weed, one of the most disastrous jobs in which the whigs ever engaged was the election and triumph of James Harper last spring, and the encouragement of a policy that has created vast accessions of the naturalized vote to the democracy in some of the western States.

Such is the extraordinary position of things.—The democracy of the country have gained the Presidency, by a plurality, not by a majority. Their chief magistrate has been elected by a minority of the popular vote, and they will be called on to encounter one of the strongest, most talented, and most powerful oppositions that ever stood in the way of any administration If the Whigs understand their position, and pursue moderate counsels, they certainly have the best chance of carrying the country, over abolitionism, locofocoism, and nativism, in 1848. But they wont, because of that fearful rock—reform, as it is so called, of the naturalization laws. If they go for any reform, let it be the total abolition of all such restrictions on the political rights of humanity. Let every man, from whatever land he comes, who sets his foot upon these shores, with the declared intention of adopting this country as his permanent home, and who swears allegiance to it, be at once acknowledged to be what he is—a freeman, and entitled to the full enjoyment of all the rights of those who were born so. This is in accordance with the first principles of American liberty, as declared in the Declaration of Independence. Let the whigs, also, take care how they again barter or bargain with the abolitionists. The true policy is to stand aloof from the administration, maintaining, all the time, a firm, united, but dignified opposition, but allowing the administration to carry all those measures which they regard as annunciated in the recent election by the people, and six months before the Presidential election in 1848, let them calmly call a convention, and nominate such a man as General Scott, or General Wool, or some other pure man unconnected with party politics. Or let them even take up some obscure man, but with an unsullied name and genuine patriotism—one who has never been defiled with the mire of mere party politics. If the Whigs do this, they may regain their ground which they lost in the last election, by the State of New York going against them, as we told them it would.

CHEVALIER WIKOFF, ALL ALIVE!—We have said very little of late of Chevalier Wikoff, with the exception of a passing reference to some of his reported movements in the theatrical line, which are now, it appears, rather under a cloud. But it seems he is still "all alive," "all alive," as cockles are cried in the streets of London. We have recently seen a statement that he had commenced an action for libel against us, modestly estimating his damages at $10,000, when he might as easily have made it $17,000, so as to cover all his recent losses. The cause was, it appears, first undertaken by David Graham, Jr., Esq., his private and confidential counsel, and who, Wikoff says (no great authority at best) was to have conducted one of his cases, free, gratis, for nothing. Be that as it may, however, we cannot for the life of us, make out what the foundation is of this threatened new libel suit. It is true we did state recently that having retired from the newspaper business, after sinking about $17,000 or $18,000 in the "Republic," he had turned his attention to his original occupation in the theatrical line, and had been quite successful in out-generalling John Povey, Esq., in making some engagements. Such was the rumor; whether it was true or not, was of little consequence, and, indeed, the remarks were rather complimentary to the taste, tact, and teachings of the Chevalier.

But it appears that the Chevalier has been very much annoyed of late in consequence of our inattention to him and his movements. Well, really we did not think him worthy of notice, although we had abundance of materials with which still further to elucidate him. But we did not consider the subject worth the trouble. However, as soon as he landed here, a few weeks ago, he went to one of the gentlemen of the firm that supplies us with paper, and in the most mysterious and confidential manner solicited him to state to us, that he was "desirous of settling all the difficulties with Bennett"—"that he had been badly advised—very"—"that he was really sorry—he was"—and "that upon his honor, he wanted to make every atonement in his power—he did." On being advised of his repentance, we told the gentlemen alluded to that we had no difficulty with the Chevalier and would have none, but that if he wished to settle all the affairs between us, he was bound to take the first step, like a man of honor, by retracting the false and calumnious statements regarding us of which he had been convicted. The gentleman whom he had selected as his confidential messenger to us was quite of our opinion; but the Chevalier was not willing to accept the terms, and immediately on the back of this attempted negociation, he commences this suit for $10,000, about something, we dont know what, and has it published in some of the newspapers that meanly lent themselves to his purposes. No doubt he wants $10,000 very much to replenish his pockets after the losses and bleedings by the *Republic* newspaper—but whether he gets it, is another question.

We suspect, however, the cause of all this. By the steamer before last, we received a package of very rich, private correspondence, written by this Wikoff, last summer, in New York, and addressed to "John Wilkes," of London, then his literary correspondent. Mr. Wilkes has communicated to us those letters—yea, the very originals—numbering about six or seven, and they contain the richest materials of the history of establishing a newspaper, which could possibly be presented to the public. In fact, this correspondence in point of piquancy, richness, and pungency, is far superior even to the famous Eissler correspondence with which we delighted the world last summer. We rather suspect it is the dread of the forthcoming of these letters that has stimulated poor Wikoff into the desperate dilemma of commencing a suit about something. But he mistakes his man. He may commence as many suits as he pleases. We are always ready to meet him. But this correspondence is so rich—so pungent—so remarkably illustrative of the attempt to establish a newspaper that fell through, despite of the many great men about town and country that made offers to him, and even in spite of the offers by the administration of Captain Tyler—that we shall at our leisure publish each and all of those letters with appropriate comments.—And as it is probable from appearances that the *Evening Mirror*, and Chevalier Wikoff are linked in the bands of fraternal intimacy, we trust that the letters will be copied into that sheet as containing the best instructions how a new paper is done for. We shall set our designers and engravers to work in order to illustrate these remarkable letters, which discuss politics—literature—the fine arts—women—fine actresses—*debutantes* in London—every thing. As to poor Wikoff himself, we would advise him as a friend to abandon theatrical pursuits as he has newspapers. He cannot compete with John Povey—but as an importer of tea from London *via* Hamburg, or nick-nacks from Paris, he may succeed. Let him think of this and return to Europe next month.

THE WALL STREET PANIC.—All over in New York. It whistles a little in Boston and Baltimore.

FINE ARTS.—A publisher is preparing magnificent prints of Mrs. Madison, Mrs. John Tyler, and Mrs Polk—the first an ex-President's lady—the second a live President's lady—the third a President-elect's lady. All charming and beautiful.

Fortieth Anniversary of the New York Historical Society.

The fortieth anniversary of that highly respectable association, the Historical Society, was celebrated yesterday. At 5 o'clock, P. M., the members and invited guests assembled at the University Library, and from thence proceeded to the church of the Messiah in Broadway, where the agent of the society was to deliver an address, narrating the result of his researches in the archives of Holland, France and England.

The church was tolerably well filled, and the audience was composed of many of the oldest and most respectable families, with almost every distinguished professional gentleman in the city. After a brief prayer by the Rev. Dr. De Witt—

Mr. BRODHEAD proceeded to deliver the

Oration.

He began by the usual expression of unfitness for the task imposed upon him, and his determination to perform it to the utmost of his humble abilities. The gentleman appeared to be suffering from a cold, and his delivery was so exceedingly rapid that it was impossible to follow him with literal precision. He described at some length the difficulty with which he had to contend in obtaining access to the archives of foreign governments. In every case the permission was a favor granted, not a right enjoyed. At the Hague, he was received with the greatest courtesy by the officer in charge of the archives, and, on the presentation of the order permitting him to examine them, which had been granted by the King himself, every facility was afforded him. He described the documents, books and records shown him of immense importance and value to the historian Four hundred volumes and bundles of documents were examined by him at the Hague, the perverse and obscene character in which they were written rendering the work one of great difficulty. To his great surprise and mortification, he found that the collection of papers and documents formerly belonging to the "West India Company" anterior to the year 1700, had been publicly sold at auction by order of the government, in the year 1821, and had been used as waste paper, by the purchasers. Eighty thousand pounds weight of historical papers had thus been lost irrecoverably. Of all the documents and papers to which he had access in Holland, Mr. B had made sixteen large volumes of transcripts, which were deposited in the office of the Secretary of State, at Albany. In England, the chief repository in which documents relating to American history are contained, was the State Paper Office. The Board of Trade had, as was well known, for many years, the supervision of the American plantations, and the records contained much of great interest and value. Two thousand volumes had been lately removed by order of the government from he custody of the Board of Trade to the State Paper office, where the regulations were very precise and formal. It was in reality part of the sovereign's private library, and was an appendage to the department of the Secretary of State. By the enlightened statesmanship and liberality of the noble Foreign Secretary, Mr. B. got admission to the State Paper office much more readily than he could have hoped from the late Secretary. The order gave him permission to examine the papers relative to the history of New York, and was interpreted very strictly by the keeper, besides any transcript made had to be submitted to the review of an officer of State before it could be appropriated. Several hundreds of volumes were reviewed here, as also the libraries of the British Museum, and the Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth The result of his researches in England was comprised in fifty volumes of transcripts, containing the official correspondence of the governors of New York from 1644 till the end of the revolution, as well as private documents of great value, and important papers from 1614 to 1664. It would be gratifying to many to know that copies of all Sir William Johnson's papers are obtained, and although no traces were obtained of the Indian records supposed to be removed in the revolutionary war, yet without venturing to affirm that everything of importance had been obtained, yet Mr B. believed he could confidently assert that the greatest and most valuable portion of them were now in possession of the Society. The influence that France for so many years exercised over the Indian tribes was too important to allow the opportunity of examining her archives to be neglected. Canada must, also, always occupy a prominent place in any history of this State. Consequently he sought permission to examine the French archives, which was given with the utmost liberality. From those documents it appeared that the Department of Marine had the chief management of Canadian affairs until the breaking out of the revolutionary war, when it was transferred to the War Department—The archives of the former department are thus particularly rich in interesting records connected with the history of the French dependencies in North America. They consist chiefly of instructions to the agents of the government and the correspondence of the latter, with interesting details of battles and skirmishes and dealings with the Indians. The wild and reckless spirit of the *revolutionaurs* of 1793, had led to the destruction of many valuable portions of the contents of the French archives, but still great stores remained for the historian.—Mr. B. then briefly referred to the chief points of interest in his researches abroad. The chief new details of historic interest obtained in Holland, related to Hudson's ship and his voyage—that he sailed from Amsterdam in the "Half-Moon," of 60 tons, in 1608, and returned on the 16th of July, 1610, and was wrecked on a small island in the Pacific on the 6th of March, 1615. This entry was alluded to as corroborating the account of Hudson's sailing up the Hudson river as far as Waterford, or "Half-Moon" as it was for some time called, and also of his detention at Dartmouth, in England in the year 1609, for eight months. Then some interesting details were given of the manner in which the company of merchants who first explored the "New Netherlands" obtained a monopoly of trading thither from the Dutch government, and the *fac simile* of a map of the country, delineating with great accuracy the course of the Hudson, with which they had accompanied their memorial—was stated to have been procured and lodged in the office of the Secretary of State at Albany. The map was almost three feet long, and the fidelity of its details was no less remarkable than its high antiquity. Amongst details, it was also discovered that the first vessel that ever belonged to the port of New York was the "Restless," a yacht of sixteen tons burthen. What a prophetic name for the pioneer craft of this busy, bustling, restless metropolis whose enterprising commerce now pushes its vessels into every sea, blocks up its wide river with its sails and sends it ships—the pride of naval architecture—to every clime, outriding every tempest and invading every zone! He then went on briefly to describe the movements of the 400 families who, under Robinson of Leyden, sailed in the "Mayflower"—their fruitless memorializing of the Dutch government and their landing at Plymouth. Then the early difficulties and negotiations between England and Holland relative to the settlement on the Hudson river were glanced at—the encroachments of England—the feeble resistance of the Dutch government—the recall of Stuyvesant—his surrender—were briefly alluded to as having received additional light in the course of these researches. The Paris documents almost wholly consisted of details with reference to the colonial government of Canada; amongst them was an interesting statement of the project of the French to seize upon New Netherlands—and a private letter to the celebrated Madame de Maintenon descriptive of the attack and burning of Shenectady. It was stated by Mr B. in the course of remarks, that the *Island of Manhattan, estimated then at 22 000 acres, was purchased by the Dutch from the Indians for the sum of $24 lawful money*. The London documents were so important and voluminous that he could not even give a table of their contents They made 50 vols of transcripts. Mr. B. having given this sketch of his labors as agent of the Society, went on to say:

Gentlemen: on the 20th of November, 1804, a few of our citizens being assembled in the picture room of the old City Hall, agreed to form themselves into a society for whatever might relate to the history of the country of the State Mr. Benson, Dr. Milnor, and ——, were appointed a Committee to draft a constitution for the proposed society, and at a subsequent meeting this draft was presented and adopted. Two of the projectors of this Society, Dr. Milnor, and its late President, Mr. Stuyvesant, yet survive. But a few weeks ago we were called on to pay the last tribute of respect to Mr Pintard, one of our members, who was justly and felicitously called "that perfect chronicle of the olden time." The motives which led to the foundation of this society were such as address themselves at once to the best and noblest feelings of our nature—patriotism and philantrophy—a sense of which is due to ourselves, to the memory of our predecessors, and respect to posterity—We have the proud satisfaction of being able to say that the approval and liberal patronage of our fellow-citizens have followed the efforts of this society. From a small beginning has resulted a noble institution, whose beneficial influence has been felt and will continue to be felt as our State grows in years and in empire. Our objects are in progress of successful accomplishment. Many valuable MSS. have been entrusted to the State government and rescued from the dust and obscurity of private custody. Our noble library—one of the richest in the country in historical works—is a monument of the munificence of the State and liberality of individuals. The State Historical Agency is emphatically the offspring of the society. So long ago as 1814, Clinton suggested this; and if it had been adopted then the invaluable papers of the "West India Company" might have been in our possession Another important object is the publication of historical records connected with the early history of the State In the short history of our existence as a society we find much cause of gratification and abundant encouragement for future exertion. We have done much but much remains to be accomplished Happily situated in the metropolis of our country, our influence is as extended as the limits of our land. In this view, also, it is important to refer to the clause lately introduced into our constitution authorizing the election of corresponding members. Every intelligent citizen, in all parts of the country, has it in his power to communicate interesting and valuable information. One other point of importance demands a passing notice The archives of the State in the office of the Secretary of State, are not in a condition to be as generally useful as is necessary. A vast mass of papers are tied up in bundles and without order. To render our State Historical Records of great utility they should be carefully arranged, bound in volumes, catalogued, and the catalogues published. By means of this cataloguing every paper in the collection could be at once designated. Until this be done the public cannot know what we have or what is the value of our records, and it cannot be doubted that the influence of the Society will be exerted to procure the necessary attention to this essential matter such are our objects, and such are some of the results that have followed our exertions. It seems, indeed, almost superfluous to address to this audience any remarks on the necessity and propriety of collecting and preserving with pious care any document that can enlighten our history. Yet there may, possibly, be some who weigh dollars against documents, and utter a cold *cui bono?* Why this ransacking old cupboards for old documents? Why this resuscitation of rubbish? To such, if any there be, we have but one reply. We do this because we love our country—because we live in it—are part and parcel of it—rise and fall with it—are great or unimportant as our country is. What more effectual means of advancing our country's greatness than the acquirement of a perfect body of annals? Pride of virtuous ancestry, when not inordinate, is a noble feeling—a feeling which often preserves an honorable name unsullied, and excites to noble deeds of valor. The annals of a State are but the annals of a great family, and the more rich, full and illustrious these annals, the stronger the ties which bind us to the State. Every old document rescued—every document preserved—adds another link to the chain which binds us to our country.—This sentiment is not new. It does not originate with us. The jealous care with which the archives of the old world are preserved, is worthy of imitation by the republics of the new. A late distinguished historian—Mr. Alison—in his work on the history of Europe, takes occasion to say of us, "So wholly regardless are they of historical records or monuments, that in half a century their history will be found only in the archives of other States." This contemptuous sneer at our lukewarm patriotism is already partly answered by the action of our noble State. Be it ours to vindicate still farther our patriotism. Let us show the nations of the earth, that though in the days of her youth and feeblemess, when struggling for existence, the Republic may have postponed, to a more convenient season, the performance of a duty, she has not, in the hour of her greatness, been unfaithful to her honor or indifferent to her fame. Youth is proverbially a season of thoughtlessness. The child, careless of the future, often destroys what it in vain tries to replace in after years. The old fashioned building gives place to the newest model. Change—innovation—destruction, are rapidly effected By and by the past is regretted. What has been heedlessly done, would be gladly undone. Many look back upon the hallowed scenes of the past. The old house is sighed for, and the old arm chair, that gave place to the ottoman, would be gladly restored if it could. As with individuals so is it with nations. In the infancy of their existence communities seldom think of the future or of the past. The present fills the eye. Little heed is taken of posterity. But as the state advances she looks to futurity—she builds for all time. Need you examples? Let us point you to our noble artificial river which unites us with the Mediterranean of this Continent. Is that a work for this age alone? Look nearer home at that magnificent aqueduct that sends the sparkling waters gushing through our streets Will not those who follow us to our graves, and their own mourners after them, thank the men of this age for what they have done? Let us then go on hand in hand in enriching the historial treasury of our State. Scarcely one of our citizens but may contribute his mite. Let those who have not time to devote to historical research give countenance to those in the field. Let us seek out and preserve every record of the past—treasure the memorials of the days of old, that tell us of our fathers' habits and their lives, until every gap in our annals be filled—every deed of glory recorded—every virtuous name immortalized. And let there be no delay. Time and accident are daily doing their work on these documents, which, like the leaves of the Sybil, increase in value as they diminish in number. Let all the memorials of the past, in every form, be religiously preserved. Let the Indian names of river, hill, and valley, sweet and pleasant to the ear, be retained. Let us look with affection on the old-fashioned church, and love to trace our predecessor's footsteps on the sands of time. Thus shall we all assist in a great and patriotic work—in the performance of a duty—and, as good citizens and good patriots, preserve the foundations on which the fabric of our country rests—that, like the Pantheon, should stand simple, great, severe, sublime—the bright atmosphere of truth illuming its proportions, disfigured by no meritricious ornaments. We need no allusion to lineage from super-human beings, as do the nations of the old world. Our origin is within the range of well-attested history. The discovery of America was nearly cotemporaneous with the discovery of printing. In the words of one of our most brilliant writers, "the spirit of the age was present when the foundations of New York were laid." And what though we have no College of Arms to emblazon family honors—if the names of the great and good are not recorded there? They are in the hearts of their countrymen, though no crumbling memorials of old magnificence of feudal times are found upon our soil, yet we have written annals which, up to the earliest period of our existence, are faithful in the recital of brilliant actions and resplendent virtues. Though we boast no museum rich in the trappings of chivalry, we have the far prouder merits of the fathers of the republic.—There is perhaps no State in this great confederation whose early history is fraught with more romantic interest and instructive lesson than this. The story when wholly written, will tell of earnest effort and toil—of revolution following revolution—of conquest succeeding conquest—of the jurisprudence of one country substituted for that of another—the institutes of Justinian for those of Coke—of struggles with the savage tribes—of the resplendent virtues of the patriotic men who laid the foundation of our liberty. In truth, the State was for one hundred years one vast battle-field, exposed all the time to the ravages of the enemy, and all the time filled with men equal to the emergency. The soil is consecrated by the blood of heroes, and by great and holy deeds of peace. Ought not these considerations stimulate us to continued exertions in this great work, so that future generations may review our labors with gratitude, and as they look back on the early days of the State, whose annals we have preserved, the proud feeling of the Roman will rise in the breast of each as he exclaims, "I TOO AM A CITIZEN OF NEW YORK!"

Hon. Mr. BRODHEAD concluded, and a burst of applause followed.

The Rev. Dr MILNOR pronounced the apostolical benediction, and the assemblage dispersed.

The Dinner.

This was one of the most brilliant and agreeable affairs of the kind that has taken place for a long period. At eight o'clock precisely, about three hundred members of the Historical Society, guests and subscribers, sat down to the table in the spacious and superb dining saloon of the New York Hotel, corner of Waverly Place and Broadway.—There were few or no decorations, every thing being arranged on a scale of simplicity and uniformity, and the effect was more pleasing than the foreign aid of ornament, particularly when contrasted with the sumptuous piles of choice viands beneath which the tables groaned again. Notwithstanding that plates were laid for over 250, there were a good many who could not find accommodation at the first table, but we have to mention that the most courteous attention was exhibited to the gentlemen of the press by the polite and obliging stewards on the occasion.

Dodsworth's excellent band was in attendance, and contributed, as far as the resources of music could, to the delight of the company.

The Hon. A. GALLATIN was in the Chair. On his right we observed Hon. John Q. Adams, Dr Wainwright, Mr. Brodhead, Mr. Day, of Hartford, Col. Benkhead, Dr. De Witt and Chief Justice Jones, V. P. On the left of the chair, Gen. Almonte, Mexican Minister; Dr. Bethune and Mr. Reed, Philadelphia; Judge Oakley, Chancellor Frelinghuysen, Dr Moore, President of Columbia College; Philip Hone, Esq., &c.

Mr. Gallatin having left the chair at about 9 o'clock, W. B. Lawrence, Esq. took his place. In rising to call the attention of the meeting to the toasts, he said that the gentlemen, eminent and well known, who were present, did not think it necessary to prepare any set roasts—leaving it to the individuals of the company to do so; but there was one which could not be overlooked. The President here entered into a review of the Historical Society—alluded to the eminent divines and illustrious scholars who were concerned in its institution; then dwelt upon the character and public utility of the institution, which was the subject of the toast, and gave—

"The 20th of November, 1804—the birth day of the New York Historical Society." (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT.—The Secretary will now read letters of apology from several gentlemen who could not attend. They were as follows:—

From Dr. Miller of Princetown, one of the first founders of the Society; from Martin Van Buren, Esq., which was received with marked applause; from Chief Justice Taney; from Judge Story; Silas Wright, (marked cheers;) W. H Prescott; George Bancroft; Millard Filmore, (loud cheering;) Governor Seward; James Savage, Boston.

Mr. LAWRENCE having announced, previous to the reading of the letters of Silas Wright and M. Fillmore, that he would dispense with it, there were loud and most enthusiastic calls for the reading, which was complied with greatly to the satisfaction of the gay and cheerful audience.

Mr. BRADISH here said, that the presence of an individual whose history was strewed on the stream of time, honored the meeting; intimately identified with and comprising in his life so much of his country's history, it was no less encouraging and instructive to public and private virtue. No patriotism however disinterested; no integrity, however pure and unimpeachable; no wisdom, however exalted and unerring, had been sufficient to exonerate him from the persecution which was the lot of those who devote their lives to the service of their country. But time has vindicated the one and approved the other.—(Applause.) The bitter waters have subsided and justice has assumed her empire. Gentlemen, I detain you too long. I know you anticipate the name I propose to mention; I will, therefore, ask you to stand and drink with me to—

John Q. Adams—may the evening of his days be tranquil and happy, as the dawn has been honorable and useful. (Applause.)

Hon. J. Q. ADAMS then rose and said:—

GENTLEMEN—If I do not sink under the honor which has been conferred upon me by the observations of the gentleman who has just sat down, it is not because I do not feel the want of support They are observations upon which it would be excusable in me to make any reference to, on this occasion; it is that part in which the gentleman has referred to circumstances in my life—not by any means peculiar to me, but descriptive of the fate of all men, of every description and character—public and private—statesmen, philosophers, poets—all men who have acquired the notice of their country and their age; and that is the injustice which I have suffered under the tongue of slander. To speak, gentlemen, very briefly—for I perceive the necessity of being brief on this occasion—I will simply say, that I trust not only to the remarks of the gentleman, to the statements of my compatriots—but I appeal to this society, and to all similar societies throughout the United States. (Applause) What is the object of this society? It is to collect the materials of historical truth—truth is the great object of its existence, and of that of all societies like this; and they are the instruments and the agents—and it is thus usefulness and glory to be instrumental in procuring the triumph of truth over slander. The gentleman has enumerated a number of persons who were the original founders of this institution; they all deserve their reward; and I beg to take this opportunity to introduce the name of a man indirectly, perhaps, the founder of all similar societies in the United States. I mean the name of Jeremy ——. He was a man of whom the country may well be proud; he was author of a history of New Hampshire, so highly reputed at the time it was written, that it was denominated by a French traveller "the precious history of New Hampshire." He was author of the first volume of Biography in the U. S., and a volume of religious hymns, which is yet in use in Massachusetts, and which contributed much to cultivate the taste for poetry among that people. It is not many days since Massachusetts celebrated the anniversary of her Historical Society, and I believe most other States have societies of a similar kind—Pennsylvania, Maryland, Kentucky, and Georgia—and gentlemen, I recommend to you, if it ever be your fate to suffer from tongue the calumny to rely upon these societies for your vindication in future times. (Applause.) Gentlemen, I have not time here to enlarge upon the uses and advantages of historical societies; they appear to me to be among the greatest and most powerful instruments for the improvement of man upon earth, and, gentlemen, if we go back to the discovery of this land by Columbus, and track it down to the present, I believe that will be confirmed. I request of you, gentlemen, to excuse me making any further observations, and beg to respond to the sentiments you have so cordially offered, and give you in return the following sentiment:—

"American History—Of the past, comments of heroic enterprize; of the present, progressing hand in hand with human improvement; of the future, may it fulfil the prophecy of Barclay—"Time's noblest offspring is the last." (Prolonged applause.)

Mr. BUTLER then arose and said—That when he reflected upon the numerous interesting events in the history of Pennsylvania, he was at a loss to select from among them. The founder of that great Commonwealth stands without a rival among the founders of States—a man who, next to Washington, the father of his country, fills universal history. (Applause.)

Mr. BELLAMY, on steam, said—When we considered the wonders now made in that department of science which distinguished America, and again it was on the soil of Philadelphia that Washington first showed that profound wisdom and unerring judgment which marked him most to be the leader of his people. There too, was promulgated the declaration of '76, and the individual who has just addressed you, being one of the number (cheers;) and thereto was brought forth the declaration of 92; how forget that Robert Fulton who brought two worlds together, was a native of that State?—(Applause.) But I have not done yet. I wish to call to your notice still another name—that of Thomas Godfrey, the inventor of that quadrant which goes by the name of Hadley's. I name to you John Fitch, and without detracting from the merits of Fulton, it is right that we in America should do justice. I name to you Oliver Evans, whose steam wagon, although very imperfect, gave ground for the prediction that the day would come when people would travel, in a carriage, in 9 hours to this city from Philadelphia. This has been verified, and more, for the delegation who will reply to me and entertain you, has arrived in this city in little over five hours, from Philadelphia. I give you—

"The memory of those sons of Pennsylvania, honorably identified with the progress of art and improvement, Let history see that their memory be not forgotten."

Hon. WM B. REED, of Philadelphia, said—He was happy to express his sense of honor for inviting him today. These are times when Pennsylvania men should be cautious, when merited compliments are now in circulation, and very grateful when they receive a compliment at all. (Applause) There was a chapter in Pennsylvania not yet concluded—and he would manfully refer to it, and that was the chapter which records their failure to pay their debts. He hoped that that chapter was not yet closed; he would not speak as a prophet, but sincerely hoped as an honest man, that the dishonor of Pennsylvania would in a short time be gone bye. (Applause.) Yesterday he saw a letter dated in 1791, in which a citizen of Pennsylvania wrote to a citizen on the banks of the Hudson, that there was not enough money in the treasury to pay a £10 warrant; and I mention it here as a matter perhaps not unknown to you, that to none did Pennsylvania owe so much as to a stranger—I mean Albert Gallatin; (loud applause) for a resolution of his is the basis of the credit of Pennsylvania. It has not been many years since we were the metropolis and you the country town, (laughter) when New York was a collection of huts, and Philadelphia a noted town But the hut-man, whose work is in your library, predicted that the historian never could be united "They can never be friends," said he; "they must always be rivals for the trade of New Jersey." But, sir, a common cause and danger united New York and Pennsylvania. There is not a spot of your State but will attest the gallantry of Pennsylvania soldiers, fighting to defend New York—(Cheers and cries of bravo.) There is comfort in these days of the disgrace of my native State to think of the days of her honor and renown—(Cheers.) It was in the State House yard of Philadelphia that John Adams suggested the name of George Washington as Commander-in-Chief—(Loud cheers)—But there is still another act Sir—it was the same John Adams that appointed Judge Marshall Chief Justice of the United States—(Applause.) Gentlemen I will give you:

"The history of the good old times and its conservative influence; it will keep us one nation when every other link is broken."—(Applause.)

PHILLIP HONE, Esq. responded; alluded in a flattering manner to the Massachusetts Antquarian Society which was incorporated by an act of legislature in 1812, and continued from that till the present in successful operation. It was founded by Isaiah Thomas of Boston, who was a printer, as early as 6 years of age. One of the objects of this society seem to be to cherish the old spirit which illumed the souls of her sons, and confidently may it be hoped that the flame will not expire while in the hands of Everritt, Storey and such men. Gentlemen, I call upon you to join with me in drinking—

"The Antiquarian Society of Massachusetts, and the revered memory of Isaiah Thomas, its founder." (Applause)

Mr. BURNSIDE, of Worcester, responded.

Chief Justice JONES followed, and pronounced a handsome eulogium on the sister State of Connecticut, and gave—

"The Historical Society of Connecticutt."

Mr. DAY responded, and gave—

"Ethmological knowledge—its course is onward and upward—let us give it a push and a lift."

Hon. J. Q. ADAMS made a short communication in presenting a donation of a curious coin, which a gentleman had deputed him to give. Having hoped its acceptance, he proceeded to make a few remarks which had entirely escaped him before. He appeared here under a strong sense of the honor done him, in answer to individual invitation, and also as one of the Massachusetts delegation. The expressed wish of the venerable President that he should once more shake hands with him in this world, he could not withstand. He had held high and confidential situations in the nation, and he knew of no man with whom he differed more occasionally; yet at the present time he knew of no difference on any point between them; but this he could add, that in all their relations, in all circumstances, in all situations, he knew him as an honorable and honest man. (Loud applause.)

Mr. FOLSOMM, after a few handsome and complimentary allusions to Gen. Almonte, gave a toast which we could not hear, but which related to Mexico and her representative present.

Gen. ALMONTE then rose and said, that unable as he was to express his sentiments in a strange tongue, he hoped the Historical Society would excuse him; he would propose a sentiment, which was—

"The success of the Historical Society of New York—may its benefits extend not only to the U. States, but to the whole continent of America." (Loud cheers)

Several other toasts and speeches followed, but as the night had worn round to half past eleven we could not stop longer to report the remainder of the proceedings, which, doubtless, were most interesting, judging from the conviviality and high spirits which prevailed when our reporter left. The following is a list of the committee of reception and stewards who officiated:—

COMMITTEE OF RECEPTION.

Dr. C