THE NEW YORK HERALD.

WHOLE NO. 6714. MORNING EDITION----TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 1851. PRICE TWO CENTS.

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

Interesting from Washington.

CONFIRMATIONS AND NOMINATIONS—THE CASE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS—CONSTRUCTIVE MILEAGE, ETC.

WASHINGTON, March 10, 1851.

The Senate, to-day, confirmed Mr. Tilden as Marshal of New Mexico. Also, all the nominations; for Justices of the Peace for the District of Columbia.

The following are the confirmations officially announced to day: Ogden Hoffman jr. District Judge of the United States, for Northern California; Horace Mower, of Michigan, and John Watts of Indiana, Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, in New Mexico; Louis Lindner, Consul at Lunenberg, Germany; H. Jones Brooke, of Pennsylvania, Consul at Belfast, Ireland; Henry A. Homes, Assistant Dragoman, and Secretary of Legation in Turkey.

The brevet army nominations were all confirmed.

Robert C. Schenck was nominated, to-day, as minister to Brazil. The nomination was immediately referred to the committee, and reported upon favorably.

The nomination of Mr. Goodrich as consul at Paris, was under discussion. It will, doubtless, be confirmed to-morrow.

Mr. Easby, Commissioner of Public Buildings, will be confirmed, notwithstanding the outside opposition.

It appears that Mr. Curtis has not been nominated as Commissioner of Patents, nor is that office yet vacant. This mistake is remarkable, as three Senators last week, stated that the nomination had been made; and upon their authority the announcement was made.

Senators Houston and Rusk left this afternoon.

Senators claimed constructive mileage for extra session, but the Secretary of the Treasury refused to pay it, as there is no appropriation for the purpose. The matter was finally adjusted by their drawing upon Corcoran & Riggs, who have cashed their drafts.

A negro, named Noah C. Hanson, charged with harboring two runaway slaves last summer, the property of the Hon. Walter Colcock, was tried in the Criminal Court, on Saturday, and found guilty. He was fined $1,080, and to stand committed until the same was paid.

The first sale of Turk's Island salt, this season, took place at Alexandria, on Saturday, when 6,000 bushels were sold, averaging 25 cents per bushel.

THIRTY-SECOND CONGRESS.

BY MORSE'S MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

Senate.

EXECUTIVE SESSION.

WASHINGTON, March 10, 1851.

GEN. CASS ON RIVERS AND HARBORS.

Mr. Cass read the editorial in this morning's *Republic*, about his letter on rivers and harbors, addressed to Mr. Kellogg, and made an explanation. He stated that his allusion to the Chicago letter was entirely playful, and not serious, as implied by the *Republic*, nor was it correct in supposing that he, by that Kellogg letter, was pledged to support the River and Harbor bill. Even if it could be tortured into a pledge to support the River and Harbor bill, it was the bill which, on the 25th of January, was before the House, and not the bill which was before the Senate. The bill before the Senate was an entirely different bill, and contained appropriations which were never called for by the departments. He would have voted for a proper bill. He had no doubt but a truly national bill could have been passed. The *Republic* seemed to scoff at him because he entertained constitutional and religious scruples. He was not ashamed to declare that he had both constitutional and religious scruples. He was a believer in the divine institution of Sunday, and never, in time of peace, would he consent to desecrate the Lord's day, by holding a session of the Senate, and transacting business on that day. He also had constitutional doubts of the right of Congress to legislate after 12 P. M., on the 3d of March. General Jackson and Colonel Polk had similiar doubts. He did not believe that Congress had any power, after that hour, to legislate. He disclaimed any idea that this attack, or any former one, by the *Republic*, were approved by the administration, but he regarded the editor of that paper as deficient, either in moral or mental qualifications. He again denied, in most positive terms, that there was any truth in the statement that, at Cleveland, he avoided any expression of his sentiments, because of "noise and confusion."

GEN. HOUSTON AND GEN. HAMILTON—MR. RHETT'S DEFENCE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Mr. Rhett rose to defend South Carolina from certain false and erroneous statements, which he found contained in a letter written by Gen Houston to Gen. Hamilton, and published in yesterday's *Union*. The falsehoods were, that no man could vote in South Carolina who was not a freeholder; that no man but a freeholder was eligible to the Legislature; that all elections were confined to the Legislature; and that all officers, down to sheriff, were chosen by the Legislature. Also, the implied allegation that the constitution of South Carolina could be at any time changed by a majority of the Legislature for forty years. Mr. R. said there had always been universal suffrage in South Carolina—any man, owner of freehold property, or ten slaves, whether in or out of debt, was eligible to the Legislature; all county or parish officers were elected by the people and it required a two-third vote of each branch of the Legislature to amend the constitution. It was true that United States Senators were chosen by the Legislature, and this was most astonishing evidence of an oligarchy. It was also true that the Legislature chose electors for President; but every other State did so at one time, and it was thought, when the constitution was adopted, that such was the true and proper mode. He saw no evidence in this of any oligarchy in South Carolina. He thought it time that this wholesale villification of South Carolina and her institutions should be brought to an end. The Senator from Texas, since his Senatorial term, had had sufficient opportunities to have discovered the truth of this matter.

Mr. Butler—I set him right once before about it.

Mr. Rhett—The Senator has been corrected in his statement once before. Why was the erroneous allegation again made? It little becomes a State which, but the other day, became a State, to join in the villification of South Carolina. It was particularly ill becoming in a Senator, who represented a State for which South Carolina had fought so successfully. But for South Carolina, Texas would not now have been here.

Gen. Houston said he was ready to respond, at any time, to any matter brought against him. If he had erred, it was not intentional, but through an inadvertence in getting hold of a wrong copy of the constitution of that State.

Mr. Rhett—I have examined the copies of the South Carolina constitution in the library, and what I have stated appears in them all.

General Houston said it was obvious that no intentional misrepresentation could have been made. He had long been a target for every one in South Carolina to assail. For his vote on the Oregon bill he had been denounced, and even before that, during the Texan revolution, the Governor of that State had denounced him and his companions as outlaws, and unworthy of the sympathy of the people of the United States. In his letter to General Hamilton, if he made errors, they were unintentional; but he still believed that South Carolina was ruled by a few leaders. The paucity of the vote at the recent election showed how little interest the people took in elections. No citizen of that State ever voted for Governor or for Presidential electors. If he was to be taught concerning his course on public affairs, he claimed the right to select his own preceptors. Texans, and representatives of Texas, were not to be taught by South Carolina how to love and preserve liberty, they had learned its ineffable value by experience. Nor were they to be taught how to save this Union, and the importance of its preservation, by any South Carolina teachings. He had no desire to detract from the merits of South Carolina; but he could not admit that she stood foremost in everything great and good.

Mr. Butler had always avoided any eulogies upon South Carolina. He regarded such to be in bad taste; but he could never submit to hear her denounced in terms of detraction and abuse. On a former occasion, in the presence of Gen. Houston, he had denied the charge that there was a property qualification on the right to vote in South Carolina; and the Senator from Texas must choose between the alternatives of not having read that constitution, or of having read it without capacity to understand it. This might be so—for, to some minds, a well balanced and properly framed constitution was as difficult of comprehension as a Greek lexicon would be to a savage. The error might be one of inadvertence; but it was annoying to hear a public man persisting in a statement, the truth of which had been disproved to his face. The Governor, it was true, was not chosen by the people; but he had but little power—he had no veto. He was perfectly surprised that any public man would lend himself, for any cause, to the utter unjust and groundless prejudices against South Carolina or that he would take opportunities of making attacks upon that State which were untrue, and only calculated to increase that prejudice.

Mr. Houston disclaimed any desire to add to any existing prejudice against South Carolina, and admitted that he had entertained prejudice against South Carolina. He read from the constitution of South Carolina, and admitted that he had overlooked one provision which grants universal suffrage.

MR. HALE AND COUNTRY NEWSPAPERS.

Mr Hale—Mr President, I rise to a personal explanation. I have seen, repeatedly, in various papers, in all parts of the country—I have not the papers with me—but I wish to say that, in all that they have said or may say, charging me with impropriety, there is not a single word of truth. (Laughter)

THE DEBATES IN CONGRESS.

The Chair laid before the Senate a communication from Messrs. Sales & Seaton, declining after this special session, to publish daily debates of the Senate, on the ground that the expense is much greater than the compensation. Referred to the Committee on Printing.

THE MILEAGE OF CALIFORNIA SENATORS.

Mr. Cooper, from the Judiciary Committee, reported against allowing California Senators mileage by the Panama route.

After an executive session, the Senate adjourned.

NEW YORK LEGISLATURE.

Senate.

BY MORSE'S LINE, NO. 16 WALL STREET.

ALBANY, March 10, 1851.

PETITIONS PRESENTED.

Mr. Beekman presented a memorial from the Board of Education of the city of New York, praying for the consideration of all the educational laws of that city; of the Historical Society, for aid in building a library; of the Tenth Ward School Association, against the consolidation of the educational laws of New York city.

REGISTER OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

The bill providing for the appointment of Register-General of Births, Marriages and Deaths was advocated by Mr. Beekman. He stated that the official census returns show that in the northern district of this State the deaths are only in the proportion of one out of every eighty-two, while in the Southern district it is as high as one out of every thirty-two.

After further debate, Mr. Beekman said it was evident that the State of New York was not prepared for such a law.

Assembly.

ALBANY, March 10, 1851.

PETITIONS PRESENTED.

Ten, for the repeal of the Free School law; to compel the New York and Erie Railroad to adhere to their original charter.

REPORTS PRESENTED.

In favor of incorporating the Broadway Savings Bank, New York; incorporating the Methodist Episcopal Benevolent Society, New York; protecting the mechanics of the city of New York; amending the charter of the Female Guardian Society of New York; amending the lien law; amending assessment laws of New York.

ASSESSMENTS.

The House, in Committee of the Whole, considered the general assessment law. No question taken, and progress reported

The Assembly then took a recess.

Probable Death of Lieut. Ridgely, &c.

BALTIMORE, March 10—9 P. M.

Lieut. James Ridgely, of the United States Navy, jumped out of a third story window of the Exchange Hotel half an hour since, and is said to be dying.

We have no mail south of Raleigh to-night.

Suicide.

BOSTON, March 10, 1851.

Robert Troupe Paine, of the senior class of Harvard College, committed suicide, on Saturday, at his room Holworth Hall, Cambridge, by taking thirty two grains of morphene. His body was not dissovered until late on Sunday evening. He is said to have been insane.

Maryland Reform Convention.

ANNAPOLIS, March 10, 1851.

The convention have decided that only five years residence in the United States, shall be a necessary qualification for a candidate for Governor.

The New Constitution of Ohio.

COLUMBUS, March 10, 1851.

At the Constitutional Convention, the question was taken, to night, on the adoption of the new constitution, and carried—Ayes, 75; nees, 14. Twenty three whigs voted in the affirmative.

Meteorological Observations, March 10.

BY MORSE'S LINE—OFFICE 16 WALL STREET.

BUFFALO, 9 A. M.—A beautiful morning; we had some snow during last night; wind north; thermometer 32; barometer 29 100; mercury in barometer 62. 8 P. M.—Fine, clear day and evening; wind southwest; thermometer 27; mercury 66; barometer 29 625

ROCHESTER, 9 A. M.—Cloudy, with indications of snow; yesterday was a fine day; wind northwest; thermometer 33. 8 P. M.—It has been an unpleasant day, cold and raw, with a northwest wind; but we have a fine, clear evening, and a west wind; thermometer 40.

SYRACUSE, 9 A. M—Dark, cloudy and unpleasant morning; snowed some last night; wind strong from northwest; thermometer 34. 8 P. M.—It has been rather unpleasant, but cold; wind northwest; thermometer 30.

OSWEGO, 8 P. M—Somewhat cloudy, but not unpleasant; light south wind; thermometer 32; barometer 30 18.

UTICA, 9 A. M.—Snowing moderately; wind east; thermometer 31½; barometer 29 560 8 P. M.—The weather has changed since morning, but it is still unpleasant and cloudy this evening, though not stormy; wind northwest; thermometer 30½; barometer 29 750.

ALBANY, 9 A. M.—Snowed most all night, but is now clearing; wind northeast; thermometer 30 05; mercury in barometer 63; thermometer 31. 8 P. M.—It has been rather unpleasant all day, but this evening it is clear and pleasant; wind west; thermometer 36; barometer 30.100; mercury 62.

TROY, 9 A. M.—Snow fell last night to the depth of an inch and a half, with a slight sprinkling this morning; wind west; thermometer 30 8 P. M—Clear and cold; thermometer 32; wind strong from northwest; rather a pleasant day.

BY RAIN'S LINE—OFFICE 29 WALL STREET.

AUBURN, 8 P. M.—Clear and cold; wind northwest.

FORT PLAIN, 8 P. M.—Cold, and good sleighing; thermometer 27.

KINGSTON, 8 P. M.—Weather moderate, but cloudy; the roads are drying up finely; wind northwest.

Our Philadelphia Correspondence.

PHILADELPHIA, March 10, 1851.

Progress of the Fugitive Slave Case—Probable Birth of a Freeman in Independence Hall—Sentence of a Burglar—A Petty Theft Heavily Punished.

The peculiar situation of the woman claimed, with her son, as fugitives from service, by Mr. John Perdu, of Baltimore, has created a good deal of sympathy in their behalf, and the United States District Court room has been crowded with sympathisers. A great proportion consisted of females, of various shades of color, and among the leading friends present was Lucretia Mott.

The first step taken by the counsel for the fugitives was an attempt to quash the warrant for the arrest, on the ground that the affidavits on which the original process, issued by Judge Heath, of Baltimore, was based, contained no description of the alleged fugitives. Judge Kane overruled the objections, and the evidence as to the identity of the mother and son was produced. They were positively sworn to by the father-in-law of the claimant, who gave the family to him shortly after his marriage, about seventeen years since. This was corroborated by other testimony, and there can be no doubt that they were the property of the claimant. The counsel for the fugitives deny the identity, and have brought witnesses to controvert the evidence of the other side; but, so far, they have failed, and the Judge can have no other recourse but to place the two in the custody of their former master. The great point of argument in the case will be the retaining of the mother until after her confinement.

In opening the case, Mr. Brown alluded to the situation of the woman, by saying that the necessity might arrise for a postponement, and gave notice at that early stage so that there could be no objection made. There is some danger that the accouchement of the poor woman will take place before the case is decided. She is, at present, lodged in the United States Marshall's office, over the room in which the declaration of independence was signed, and beneath the belfry, containing the old '76 bell, that proclaimed "liberty throughout the land." It would be a novel event for a slave to give birth to a freeman in such a locality, with deputy marshals for her attendants. The examination will be continued to-morrow, and it is not likely that the case will be closed for two or three days.

The family of the fugitive all escaped at the same time, in November, 1849. The father, a daughter and another boy, are still at liberty, and are probably out of the reach of their master before this time.

The first boat from Reading, by the Schuylkill canal, arrived at Fairmount this morning.

John Hughes, the celebrated Jack Shepherd, of burglarious notoriety, who has for years gone unwhipped of justice, has at last been convicted, and was this morning sentenced to three years imprisonment.

The Grand Jury this morning ignored a bill charging a poor negro man with stealing four gingerbreads, valued at four cents, for which he was committed to prison in December last. Judge Parsons gave an awful scoring to the parties through whose neglect the poor man was so long kept in confinement.

Movements of Distinguished People.

G. Nicholas, Ky.; C. Patterson U S N.; Hon. F. Granger, Canandaigua; P. F. Gardiner, Baltimore; W. H. Delan, Boston; Capt. Johnson, Hartford; Hon. A. C. Green, Providence; W. D. Wheelock, California, were amongst the arrivals yesterday at the Astor.

Mr. and Mrs James G. Bennett, New York; Sig J. L. Alfonso, Washington; J. W. Davenn, Mexico, W. A. Bridge, Nicaragua; Henry Peck New Haven; J. W. Beebe, Virginia, were among the arrivals yesterday at the Union Place Hotel.

Hon. V. E. Howard, M C, Texas; Hon. J. Clemens, M. C., Alabama; Hon. S. U Downes, M. C, Louisiana; Hon Geo. W. Jones, M. C, Iowa; Hon. A G Penn, M C, Louisiana; Hon L. B. Peck, M C., Vermont; Col. Jennings, Louisiana; George Simmons, San Francisco; Senor Dr J. H. Galtan, Charge from Bogota, arrived at the Irving House yesterday.

A. Wallace, Arkansas; J. McLaughlin, Philadelphia; Ed. Adamson, Morristown; J. Barnes, Mass; M. Robins, Philadelphia; J. B. Morse, Boston, arrived yesterday at the American.

THE HENRY CLAY BALL.

Enthusiastic Reception of Mr. Clay by the Ladies and Gentlemen.

SPEECHES AT THE SUPPER, &c., &c., &c.

The Henry Clay Ball came off at Niblo's last evening, and was a grand affair, so far as numbers were concerned. The weather was propitious, and the committee, by dint of exertion in the after part of the day, had the dancing saloon decorated in a beautiful and appropriate manner. At the head of the room was the Thirteenth ward Henry Clay banner, which presents a portrait of the sage of Ashland, with the words—

"JUSTICE TO HENRY CLAY."

"PROTECTION TO AMERICAN INDUSTRY."

At the other end of the room was a large banner, on which was incribed, in golden letters, the following sentence:—

"I have wished the good opinion of the world, but I defy the most malignant of my enemies to show that I have attempted to gain it by any low or grovelling acts, by any mean or unworthy sacrifice, by the violation of any of the obligations of honor, or by a breach of any of the duties which I owed to my country.
H. CLAY."

On the wall directly opposite to the main entrance was a full length portrait of Mr. Clay, over which two American flags were tastefully put up. Garlands of roses and evergreens adorned the sides of the gilded frame. Over all was the inscription—

"I know no South, no East, no West—nothing but my country."

And beneath the portrait was—

"I would rather be right than be President."

Directly opposite to this tableau, was a banner waving from the orchestra. This banner purported to belong to the Hanover Association. There was upon it a painting of the "Mill Boy of the Slashes," seated on a quiet horse. Directly over the banner was placed the portrait of Washington. Numerous other decorations, in the shape of banners and inscriptions, were displayed from the walls. One read thus:—

"I have no commiseration for princes. My sympathies are reserved for all mankind."

Then came the "Second ward Clay banner," and the "Seventeenth ward banner," with others.

At about 9 o'clock Dodworth's band struck up an air, which signified that the ball was about to open. There were, however, as yet but very few persons present, and there was plenty of room in the big dancing saloon for the promenaders. But as time progressed, the company came by twos, threes, half dozens, so that at ten o'clock the floor was pretty well taken up by the dancers. It was at once apparent that the ladies had come out mere for the purpose of seeing Henry Clay, than for making a display in the ball room. Many of them were dressed in dark silks, and even stuffs of firmer fabric; but little jewelry was to be seen, and the dresses were for the most part worn high up about the neck, almost like travelling costume. The dancing proceeded, but the conversation of every one seemed to be about Mr Clay. "Is he really coming?" "Are you sure he is in town?" "Will he dance?" "I wonder if he'll kiss the ladies?" and scores of other questions of like character might be heard from the lips of misses and matrons at every turn.

Ten o'clock arrived, but not Mr. Clay. "He always comes early," said one of the young ladies, "I do hope he won't disappoint us; mamma and sisters, and I, all came to-night on purpose to see him." But he didn't come yet. Half past ten found the company on the floor dancing to the music, but many of them listlessly, while hundreds of sparkling eyes were turned towards the doors which opened into the passage ways and sitting rooms. At a quarter before eleven, a little crowd at one of the doors outside became violently agitated, and in an instant the word passed that Mr. C. had arrived. "He's come." "We shall see him." "Mr. Clay has arrived," and other like announcements of a similar nature, passed round the room, and presently all was in a buzz of agreeable confusion. Only a few of the initiated knew, as yet, exactly where the object of remark was. He had been quietly conducted into a small committee room, and remained there surrounded by a few friends, until arrangements could be made for his reception in the ball room. This was done in the following manner: The company were requested to form in a line around the room. Inside of this line was another, forming altogether a hollow square of two lines, the outer line faced inward and the inner line faced outward. An avenue was in this way formed, of greater length than could otherwise have been made in the room. All was now ready, and the committee of reception waited upon Mr. Clay and escorted him into the room. As soon as that well known head was seen towering above all around, it three cheers burst from the gentlemen in the room, while the ladies waived their handkerchiefs and threw flowers in the direction of the door. As Mr. Clay proceeded and got fairly into the avenue through which he was to pass, the shouts were increased, and every few seconds a regularly organized three cheers would rend the air. One of the ladies handed him a beautiful bouquet, and received in return a kiss. Beautiful little roses and other flowers were fairly showered upon him as he passed along, and every now and then a beautiful pair of pouting lips presented themselves, saying, as plainly as lips could say without aid of palate or lungs, "kiss me." The lips never appealed in vain, and at every kiss a shout and other demonstrations of applause would arise. The fun became exceedingly exciting, and the ladies seemed to enjoy it much. The committee kept them at bay as much as possible; but a determined little gipsey would every moment or two jump forward, and, in spite of the committee, have a kiss from the venerable statesman. After making the circuit of the dancing saloon, the committee conducted their distinguished guest into the ladies' sitting room, where informal presentations took place for half an hour or so, during which time the room was crowded to excess, and proved that the ladies were wise in choosing dresses of substantial material; light ball dresses in such a jam would inevitably have suffered much damage. Here again, as in the ball room, many of the ladies were not content with a mere introduction, but insisted upon a kiss. At length the ladies got so enthusiastic, that a young gentleman called for order, and proposed that the ladies give three cheers for "Henry Clay" without the aid of the gentlemen. This proposition did not meet with the favor necessary to carry it out; and the ladies did not give three cheers, but in lieu thereof offered many cheeks. Mr. Clay bore all with a good grace. He looked exceedingly well, and seemed, indeed, to enjoy the sport vastly. This scene in the ladies' ante-room continued some fifteen or twenty minutes, when Mr. C. withdrew, moving towards the door, inch by inch, and finally disappearing in the passageway.

Mr. Clay then retired into the committee room, where a number of politicians, who appeared to be anxious to see him, were introduced to him, also some lady friends of the committee, who had not a chance in the general rush in the ladies' saloon. Among the politicians were the Mayor and Sheriff Carnley. On being introduced to Mr. Carnley, the great Kentuckian said facetiously, "I recoil from a sheriff," amidst roars of laughter. During the time the select few were shaking hands and conversing with Henry Clay, there was a tremendous pressure at the door; and some of the outsiders fancying they were as well entitled to be with him as those who got in, passed sharp comments upon their own exclusion, and very broadly intimated that many of those who danced around him now were foremost in killing him politically in days gone by. Mr. Clay soon found this room rather hot, and prepared to leave. Some of the committee wanted him to go right down stairs in order to save him from any further excitement, while others resolved on bringing him back to the ladies. Old Harry's heart being in that direction, yielded to those who pulled him to the saloon, and once more he was among the ladies. Again there was a rush and considerable kissing, until at length Mr. Clay got into a corner, and a circle was formed around him by some of the committee, who began to tremble for the consequences of promiscuous embracing and shaking hands. The introductions then became formal, until at length Mr. Clay resolved to leave. He was then escorted by the committee down stairs and into the supper room, and bowing, noticed the tables, their contents, the flags and banners, and his own portrait at the head of the room, he finally left the scene with Mr. Phœnix, whose guest he is, to the great disappointment of all present, it being rather unreasonably expected that he would wait for supper and make a long speech. Mr. Clay acted wisely in retiring before supper, for as it was he was almost persecuted to death. One man, as he was leaving, shook his hand so violently that Mr. Clay rebuked him. The gallant Senator of Kentucky just remained an hour, having departed at a quarter of 12 o'clock.

At 12 o'clock exactly supper was announced, and so great were the numbers that it was difficult to find seats for all. The supper was excellent, and was got up under the direction of Mr. G. W. Vessy, on the part of Mr. Niblo. Justice having been done to the viands, the intellectual part of the proceedings commenced at a quarter to one o'clock.

The President, Mr. J. De Peyster Ogden, said:—The star of the evening has set, for Henry Clay has gone; but it is only set for the night, for that star shall rise again, and shine for ever, in the political firmament. (Great cheering) I wish you to remember the man who has ever shown himself ready to make self sacrifices for the country's peace and safety, and for the inviolate preservation of the union of these States. I need say no more. I ask you to drink,

"Prosperity and Happiness to Henry Clay."

The toast was drank with immense cheering.

Here there were loud cries for Carroll from all parts of the room. Mr. C. then rose and read the following correspondence:—

FROM GENERAL CASS.

WASHINGTON, March 6, 1851.

Gentlemen—It would afford me much pleasure to make one of the numerous assemblage who will attend the ball on Monday evening, to be given in honor of Mr. Clay, for well does he merit this distinction by a long life devoted to the service of his country, and which will place his name high among the patriots and statesmen who illustrate and adorn her history. In some of the severest trials we have experienced, when the firmest were appalled and the wisest were wavering, he neither doubted nor hesitated, but went forward in the good work of patriotism, looking only to the constitution and the Union, and in the recent and most perilous crisis we have ever seen, and through which, by the blessing of God, we have safely passed, he acted in the same spirit, and with all the energy and intellect which marked the efforts of his earlier life. I watched his course with equal pride and pleasure, and I shall never cease to do justice to his eminent qualities displayed under the most trying circumstances, and still the brighter as the danger became greater. May he find a reward in the affections of his countrymen.

I cannot be with you at this manifestation of public feeling, as my duties necessarily detain me here, but my best wishes attend you. I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant. LEWIS CASS.

Nicholas Carroll, Esq., and others, committee.

FROM GEN. J. E. WOOL.

HEAD QUARTERS, EASTERN DIVISION, TROY, March 4, 1851.

Gentlemen:—I have received your invitation to attend a ball, to be given in honor of Henry Clay, by the citizens of New York, on the 10th inst.

I regret that my official duties will not permit me on the day mentioned, to participate in doing honor to the great Statesman of the West. Now, that the political tempest has passed, and the flag of the Union is still waving over the capital, with every star in its place, it is, indeed, an appropriate season to do honor to whom honor is due—"Render unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's."

For the compliment extended to myself by the committee, I tender my grateful acknowledgements.

I have the honor to be, with considerations of the highest respect, your ob't serv't, JOHN E. WOOL.

To Nicholas Carroll, A. C. Kingsland, Esqs., and others, committee.

FROM GEN. JAMES HAMILTON.

DELMONICO'S HOTEL, March 10, 1851.

Gentlemen:—I have just this instant received your most flattering invitation to attend a ball, to be given to Mr. Clay this evening, in this city. I regret exceedingly that the necessity of my leaving at five o'clock for Boston, on business I cannot postpone, should prevent the gratification of its acceptance. You will permit me to remark, if my personal attendance could furnish any testimony of the profound respect and cordial esteem in which I hold this distinguished statesman, it would be most gratefully afforded; for I regard him as a man whose spirit gallantry, patriotism and honor, are on a level with the brilliancy of his lofty genius. Accept my thanks for your distinguished attention, and the assurances of the great respect with which I am your ob't serv't,

J. HAMILTON, of S. C.

N. Carroll, A. B. Draper, E. A. Buckingham, managers.

FROM GOVERNOR HUNT.

ALBANY, March 8, 1851.

Gentlemen:—I have had the honor to receive your letter invoking me to attend the ball to be given by the citizens of New York, on the 10th instant, in honor of Henry Clay. It is hardly necessary, I trust, for me to assure you how fully I participate in the sentiments of gratitude and admiration with which you contemplate the character and the public services of this illustrious whig Statesman. The period is not distant when the whole American people, rising above the influence of party prejudice, will deplore the injustice he has suffered at the hands of his country. His great name, so honorably identified with the greatness and glory of the Union, and so deeply impressed upon our national history, will be cherished with patriotic pride by all who desire the perpetuity of our free government. Regretting that my public duties do not permit me to accept your kind invitation,

I remain,
With great regard,
Your obed't servant,
WASHINGTON HUNT.

Messrs. Carroll, Kingsland, Ogden and others, Committee.

FROM HON. EDWARD EVERETT.

WASHINGTON, March 8, 1851.

Gentlemen—I have had the honor to receive your invitation to the ball proposed to be given on the 10th inst, in honor of Mr. Clay.

Cordially concurring with you in your estimate of the importance of the services rendered to the country, through his long and eventful career, by this distinguished patriot and statesman, I deeply regret that it is out of my power to be in New York on the 10th inst.

I remain, gentlemen, with the highest respect, very truly yours, EDWARD EVERETT.

Nicholas Carroll, Esq, and others, Committee of Invitation.

FROM HON. T. FRELINGHUYSEN.

NEW BRUNSWICK, March 7, 1851.

Gentlemen—I duly received your kind invitation to the social occasion of the 10th instant, in honor of Mr. Clay. And while it will not be in my power to attend the meeting, I cannot withhold my heartfelt sympathy with the sentiments and feelings you express for the character and services of this distinguished statesman, and long tried and faithful friend of his country. In many severe and fearful trials of the strength of our political institutions, Mr. Clay was the honored patriot in the counsels of a gracious Providence, to breast the storms of an inflamed and threatening agitation—to pacify the tumulte of passion, and restore tranquillity, confidence, and concord. In the true spirit of our constitution, the chastened fruit of compromise, he devoted the energies of his great mind and pure American heart, to heal dissensions by fraternal concessions and patriotic forbearance. History will give him a bright chapter in her faithful memorials.

Very respectfully, gentlemen, your obedient servant, THEO. FRELINGHUYSEN.

Nicholas Carroll, A. C. Kingsland, James Depeyster Ogden, and others, gentlemen of the Committee of Invitation.

FROM CHARLES T. JAMES.

Gentlemen:—I have received your polite invitation to attend the ball to be given in New York, on the 10th of March, in honor of Henry Clay. I assure you, gentlemen, I very much regret my inability to do myself the pleasure and the honor of being present on that interesting occasion, resulting from very pressing business engagements. Then myself, no one can be more heartily attached to the American constitution, and the Union of the States, which make up our common country. No one can more heartily rejoice in the great compromise which will, I trust and believe, preserve both. No one more truly venerates the name of the great man who led in this glorious measure, and, of those statesmen and patriots who stood shoulder to shoulder with him, and triumphantly breasted the storm. Long may they live to enjoy the fruits of their labors in their noble efforts for their country's good, and to participate with their fellow citizens in the blessings thus conferred, through them, by a merciful Providence, on this great and prosperous nation. As long as those blessings shall remain the patriot will delight to honor the name of Henry Clay.

Very respectfully yours,
CHAS. T. JAMES.

Providence, March 4, 1851.

Messrs. A. C. Kingsland, Nicholas Dean, Benedict Lewis, Jr., James Depeyster Ogden, Chs. McDougall, James Kelly, Nicholas Carroll, N. Blunt, S. C. Herring, David Graham, D. L. Pettee, John M Trimble, Committee of Invitation.

FROM HON. G. S. BRYAN.

CHARLESTON, March 7, 1851.

To Nicholas Carroll, A. C. Kingsland, James De Peyster Ogden, Nicholas Dean, David Graham, N. B. Blunt, Chas. McDougall and others, committee.

Gentlemen:—I am greatly honored, by your recent kind invitation, to attend the ball to be given by the citizens of New York, on Monday evening, March 10, in honor of Mr. Clay. Permit me to add, that I sympathize most truly with you, in the expression of gratitude to the all-wise Ruler of Nations, and can adopt your language, when you say:—

"We have rejoiced, in common with our fellow-citizens in every State, that a merciful Providence has extended to us the priceless boon of preserving unimpaired the physical health and the matchless qualities of the mind and heart of Henry Clay."

I concur with you, gentlemen, in the estimate which you have put upon the adjustment. I have, from the beginning, been among those who have regarded it as a great and good work. We can only measure its value, by contemplating the ruin from which it has saved us. The country could not long have stood the dreadful collision of sectional bigotry and fury from which it rescued it. Why, even now, the echoes of that dismal strife fill the bosom of the patriot with alarm, and we can scarcely deem ourselves entirely secure. But how different now from then! How much to speak encouragement and hope, where there was despondency but little short of despair!—How much to assure us that the Union everywhere, North and South, East and West, is still properly valued—that the spirit of compromise which gave it birth still reigns, and that the conservative spirit of our fathers and the constitution, which from many made us one people, still guide and govern and will prevail. How delightful to every lover of the Union, the marked change in the temper of the country—the spirit of forbearance, of conciliation, the anxious solicitude to bury the past and be friends once more, instead of the angry defiance, the furious passion which so universally possessed and influenced the hearts and minds of our countrymen. To the adjustment, or rather, as you more aptly express it, "The great settlement," you properly refer, this most happy and grateful change in the national sentiment.

The part which Mr. Clay took in originating, in advancing this most auspicious work, is known to every citizen of the republic. Panegyric upon such services would, I feel, be vain—we can only point to them, and be grateful.

But I am sure, gentlemen, that you will concur with me in the sentiment, which feelings too warm and too strong forbid me to repress—that we cannot properly appreciate Mr. Clay or his labors, or fitly prize and celebrate him or them, without remembering, on this occasion, with kindred homage and gratitude, those, his patriotic compeers and coadjutors, who, filled with the same spirit, did their part, too, in this great work. The lofty column which we would rear, to the honor of our illustrious and venerable countryman, would, I am sure, not do him or his feelings justice, unless the names of Fillmore and Webster, Cass and Dickenson, were united with that of Clay, in the inscription, which would record a nation's gratitude.

Regretting exceedingly that I shall be denied the privilege and the pleasure of sharing festivities so congenial to my feelings, I am, gentlemen, very respectfully, your friend and fellow citizen,

GEO. S. BRYAN.

Mr. Blunt, District Attorney, being then loudly called for, briefly addressed the company. He said amidst the pressure of his arduous duties, he came to do honor to a man whom he had politically worshipped for the last twenty years of his life. He felt to night as if his youth had come back again, when he saw the old man eloquent. During a period of twenty years he had never found aught in the career of Henry Clay to find fault with. That veteran patriot had met them to-night under peculiar circumstances. It had always been the pride and boast of Mr. Clay, that in this great emporium, which was spreading itself from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean, he had always found honest and sincere friends. Following him through Congress, and commencing with 1812, they found him throwing himself in the gap, and the eloquence of his voice reechoing from the halls of the national legislature throughout the country, and inducing Congress and the Government to beard the lion of England; and to conquer an honorable peace. From that day to this his life has been one of self sacrifice, till on a late ever memorable occasion the thunders hurled back faction and disunion, and he trusted, crushed them forever. He stood upon the floor of Congress, as upon a common centre; He knew no east, no west, no north, no south, but a common country. What his ultimate destiny on this earth might be none could tell. But he would stand before his country, and his name would go down to posterity as the man who had "rather be right than be President." No honor can exalt Henry Clay. The Presidential chair cannot add to his renown—it would rather receive than impart honor by his elevation to that dignity. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. Tomlinson, Mr Muir, and others, then addressed the company, when a number left for home, and the remainder returned to the ball room, and kept up dancing till an advanced hour.

City Intelligence.

DEPARTURE OF MR. CLAY.

Henry Clay, and a number of other members of Congress, sail to-day in the Georgia for Cuba.

Serious Accident on the New Jersey Railroad.—An unknown man was run over about seven o'clock, yesterday evening, in the cut of the New Jersey railroad, near Bergen Hill. He was walking on the track, and was not discovered by the engineer until within a few feet of him, when it was impossible to stop the train. When first seen by the engineer, he was on his hands and knees on the track, and the trucks of the whole train passed over his left leg and right arm, both of which were horribly crushed. He was immediately taken to Jersey City, where the leg and arm were amputated. On his person were found a pawn ticket to the name of Mr. Turner, several memorandums for soap received from No. 3 Eldridge street, and a letter written by a lady, supposed to be his wife, and dated at Fairfield, probably in Connecticut. He is said to be an Englishman, with florid complexion, dark hair, and dark brown whiskers. He was dressed in black cloth coat and pants, black silk vest, and black stock, and overcoat of heavy mixed cloth. He was entirely unknown, but it is supposed he has friends in New York.

Special Session of the Common Council.—A special session of the Common Council is called for to-morrow evening by the Mayor. The following are the subjects for the action of the Council as stated in the circular according to law:—The leasing of piers and slips, the extension of the City Hall, regulation of streets, and sale of market property. There is not a word about the gas contract. That is to come on next time.

Post Office Robbery.—A letter containing Reading Railroad bonds amounting to $6,000, was stolen in the New York post office in the early part of January last, and the bonds were thrown into the market. But they had changed so many hands before the robbery was discovered, that it became exceeding difficult to trace them to the guilty party. A special agent of the Post Office Department went to work, and finally traced the theft to one of the clerks in the post office, who, it is stated, has confessed his guilt.

The Weekly Bill of Mortality.—The general average of the weekly bill of mortality is not indicative of an unhealthy condition of the city—389 deaths out of a population of half a million. But there are some items in the report of the City Inspector calculated to alarm. There are 66 deaths from consumption, and 27 from inflammation of the lungs, making 93 fatal cases of lung disease in one week, or nearly one-fourth of the whole mortality. This is a serious matter, and ought to lead to reflection on the cause of such an excess in the disease of a single organ. We observe that there are 27 cases of small pox. The disease, however, is chiefly on Ward's Island, and the emigrants are the victims. Last week there were 23 cases.

Trade Sale of Books.—The half yearly trade sale of books, by James G. Cooley, commenced yesterday morning, at half past eight o'clock, at his auction rooms in Broadway. The sale opened with the sale of stationery. The sale of books commences to-morrow. There is a vast collection of contributions on hand for this sale.

An Italian Patriot Insane.—An Italian patriot, named Papieri, was taken into custody yesterday, by officer Hamilton, of the First ward police, as being insane and dangerous to be left at large. He is an artist, from Rome, and sailed from Spezzia, in the frigate Constitution, to this country. He was wounded in several places while engaged in fighting during the revolutionary struggle.

The Extreme of Stupidity.—A young woman, named Hester Sherry, who arrived at this port by the ship New World, about two weeks ago, was found in the street, on Saturday afternoon, having lost her way. She was at service, and was sent out on an errand; but could not recollect where she lived. She was brought to the station house, and food given to her. If she should not have been sent for in the