NEW YORK HERALD.

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PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR.

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Volume XVII.....No. 31.

AMUSEMENTS TO-MORROW EVENING.

ASTOR PLACE OPERA HOUSE—MARIA DI ROHAN.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery—PAUL CLIFFORD—ADOPTED CHILD—RICHARD OF THE LION HEART.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—PAUL CLIFFORD—GUARDIAN ANGEL.

NIBLO'S OPERA—DON GIOVANNI.

BURTON'S THEATRE, Chambers street—ROAD TO RUIN—THE MUMMY.

NATIONAL THEATRE, Chatham street—OTHELLO—SWALLOWED A POLICEMAN.

AMERICAN MUSEUM—AMUSING PERFORMANCES IN THE AFTERNOON, AND THE BOTTLE THIS EVENING.

BOWERY AMPHITHEATRE, Bowery—EQUESTRIAN PERFORMANCES.

CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broadway—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELSY.

FELLOWS' MINSTRELS, Fellows' Musical Hall, No. 444 Broadway—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELSY.

METROPOLITAN HALL—PROF. ANDERSON'S EQUESTRIAN MYSTERIES.

New York, Sunday, February 1, 1852.

Notice to the Public.

Our paper has lately been served at a late hour in the morning in many parts of the city, in consequence of its large and increasing circulation, unavoidable accidents to our presses, and the necessity of effecting alterations and improvements in our machinery to enable us to meet the demand for the paper. The alterations will shortly be completed. The HERALD will then be placed in the hands of our readers long before breakfast. Meanwhile, we will do the best we can.

Summary of News.

One of our correspondents writes that rumors are current in Washington city of another extensive fraud on the government; that the money abstracted was under the immediate control of the State Department, and that Secretary Webster had made arrangements for the arrest of the guilty party, but was too late—the latter having left the capital. There is a screw loose somewhere. It is impossible for all these strange reports concerning the management of our national finances to spring up spontaneously;—there must be germs at their roots. Some members of the cabinet and clerks of departments are either unprecedentedly corrupt or unaccountably stupid;—else, they are most outrageously and villanously slandered. Time, perhaps, will tell.

The proceedings in the State Legislature yesterday, may be summed up in a few words In the Senate, a bill was reported for the relief of the New York Volunteers, and notice was given of another for an appropriation to aid negroes who will emigrate to Liberia. That many of those volunteers who contracted diseases while on the battle fields in Mexico, are in absolute want, there is no doubt; consequently, an appropriation for their benefit, would be very acceptable; but whether the colored people will avail themselves of an appropriation to carry them to Liberia, is another question. According to their recent demonstrations, a large portion of them are too well satisfied with their quarters here, to wish for a change. The Senate passed the bill amending the charter of the Brooklyn Gas Company. The Assembly was principally occupied in the discussion of a bill, the main object of which was to levy road toll on funeral processions in Kings county. Several members expressed their astonishment that a measure of this kind should be advocated by Christians; and, on motion of Mike Walsh, the enacting clause was stricken out.

We are, to-day, enabled to give the conclusion of the letter of the Roman Catholic Bishop at Pittsburg to Kossuth. Bishop O'Conner plainly informs the Magyar that the chief cause of his unpopularity with the Catholics is the fact of his having, while in England, enthusiastically eulogized that government as a model to be cherished and adored by all true lovers of liberty; while, at the same time, he was well aware that the Catholics had not only been recently persecuted and mobbed by large numbers of the people of that country, but that a law was enacted by the government which practically made it a penal offence to worship according to the Romish creed, and virtually placed the persons and property of those belonging to that particular church within the power, and at the mercy, of the officers of the crown. This policy was, at the time, pronounced unjust and abominable by the most eminent Protestant statesmen in the world. Notwithstanding all this persecution and intolerance, Kossuth lauded "free and happy England." The Bishop's grounds for opposing the Magyar appear to be founded on plain common sense, and will, probably, do more to injure his cause in the estimation of the Catholics, as well as liberal minded Protestants, than anything of a sectarian character that has hitherto made its appearance.

Kossuth has raised six thousand dollars in Pittsburg and its vicinity—principally from the small contributions of the working classes, numbers of whom he has personally visited in the foundries, factories, &c. We predicted that he would gain more real, substantial, unmistakable sympathy in the West, than he had hitherto received in the different cities east of the Alleghanies, where the people got up magnificent parades and luxurious banquets which, like bubbles, dazzled for a moment in the sunshine, then exploded and left nothing to indicate that they had ever existed. But, while he is making friends and money in the West, he is destined to meet with coldness and perhaps repulse from the South. The City Council of Louisville have unanimously rejected a resolution inviting the Magyar to that place, and, from what we can learn, nearly the same feeling of opposition to him is manifested throughout the Southern country.

Late advices from the revolutionists in Northern Mexico state that Caravajal has been greatly reinforced, and will shortly make another, and, it is supposed, more successful attack on Matamoras. Avalos, the Mexican commander, is also said to have a large number of troops in readiness to repel and destroy the revolutionists. It matters but little which comes off conqueror. The opposing parties are about on a par, and it would, perhaps, be advantageous to that section of the country if they were to annihilate each other.

The Indians are still very troublesome and hostile in Texas. They recently attacked Mr. Yates and four others, in the western part of the State, and carried off their mules and three thousand dollars in gold. The War Department should send out a few more companies of dragoons to look after these savages. One company of dragoons is worth about ten of infantry, in a fight with the Camanches.

In another column the reader will find an account of the discovery of the remains of the missing young pedlar at Philadelphia. Jean Lehman, the deceased, had been missing since the 8th ult., and when last seen was known to have a considerable sum of money in his possession. He had evidently been brutally murdered, and when found, his body was cut in pieces and enclosed in three different sacks which were found imbedded in the ice on the banks of the Schuylkill. Suspicions are afloat that the brothers McBride, one of whom killed the other a few days since at Port Richmond, in connection with others, were concerned in the horrible murder of poor Lehman.

The steamships Humboldt and Niagara are overdue from Liverpool—the former with four days' and the latter with one week's later news, from all parts of Europe.

The Temperance Movement—Gen. Sam Houston and the Presidency.

The recent political movements of the Temperance Alliance of this city have startled the politicians of all parties, and commanded the public attention. Similar movements in the New England States indicate that this political action of the temperance societies will probably go on from State to State, till the scheme of organizing their forces into a powerful political party shall have extended itself all over the Union.

But the most formidable demonstration will be the grand temperance banquet at Metropolitan Hall, by the National Temperance Society, on the 18th of February, at six o'clock P. M.—tickets three dollars each. It is to be a grand affair—a national affair—and an enthusiastic affair, on purely temperance principles. Dodworth's celebrated band, and the Alleghanians, are engaged. A large number of letters of acceptance, from distinguished speakers, have been received, and the name of Gen. Sam Houston, of Texas, stands at the top of the list—the orator of the day—the chief and the champion of the National Temperance Society, and of the political Temperance Alliance recently organized in this great commercial and political centre.

Gen. Sam Houston, in this connection, becomes at once a formidable candidate for the Presidency. He stands, by appointment, at the head of the Central Alliance of this city. He has been chosen the orator of the day for the Great Temperance Festival at Metropolitan Hall, on the 18th of February. Nor could they have selected a more proper man. He has sounded all the depths, and shoals, and quicksands, snags and sandbars of the waters of destruction. He has been gathered up from the gutters "like a brand plucked from the burning," and has become a brilliant and shining light among the Sons of Temperance. His case is a living example of the power of an inflexible will in support of a good resolution. He has risen from the mud, to proclaim the glad tidings of salvation; and the manly fortitude with which he has stuck to the pledge, among all the temptations of Washington, commends him to the applause of all men, of all parties, throughout the Union, and, indeed, all over the civilized world.

Now, then, backed up by a National Temperance Alliance, capable of mustering a million of voters into the field, what is there to prevent the nomination of old San Jacinto by the Baltimore Convention! Who so proper to compete with Gen. Scott! Has not Houston his full share of military glory! If Scott ended the Mexican war, Houston commenced it; and he did what neither Scott, nor Taylor, nor Butler, nor Wool, nor all the American forces in Mexico, combined, ever did. He captured Santa Anna. True, the forces of Gen. Scott, at Cerro Gordo, captured the great Mexican's wooden leg; but Houston captured Santa Anna himself, made a treaty with him, face to face, and sent him on a pleasure excursion through the United States, after securing the independence and laying the ground work of the annexation of Texas.

So much for the military glory of Sam Houston. In addition to this, he is sound on the negro question—sound as a drum; but more than all, he is sound on the temperance question—a reformed drunkard—thoroughly reformed and regenerated. He is thus a thousand times more available than a man who has been sober all the days of his life. It stands to reason. Look at Gough. He rose, even from a second fall, a greater lion of temperance than ever before. Who, then, can stand against Gen. Houston, supported by the Temperance Alliance! Douglas cannot do it, for he is the treating candidate. Cass cannot, for he has not had the experience of Houston. Buchanan cannot, for he loves a glass of good old wine; Marcy, ditto; Wool, ditto. Gen. Twiggs could not, for he has not taken a glass of ardent spirits in forty years, and has none of the glory of a reformation. In fact, let this Temperance Alliance go to work actively, and organize all over the country, and they may say to the Baltimore Convention, Houston is our man; and he will be their man.

In this important view of this immense subject, what is the mission of Kossuth and Kinkel, compared with the holy practical mission of Father Mathew! Mere gas—smoke—"sound and fury signifying nothing." What is intervention in the affairs of Europe, contrasted with this intervention of the Sons of Temperance for the salvation of the souls and bodies of men, women, and children! Nothing. And how easy, and practical, and consistent with the laws of nations, a war against that universal despot, King Alcohol, compared with a filibustering expedition against the despots of Russia and Austria! Therefore do we repeat, that Sam Houston, and the doctrine of intervention in the affairs of King Alcohol, are likely to supersede Kossuth and Kinkel, free soil, land reform, tariff, anti-tariff, State rights, nullification, secession, and all concerned, if the Temperance Alliance only go to work in the right way.

Let the politicians look to it. This thing of temperance is ripe for political action. It is getting tired of moral suasion, and is coming to the ballot boxes. The Union party in Georgia, and the State rights party, both propose to go to the Baltimore Convention, as the last chance for the South. The Union party of Alabama propose to hold a separate Union Convention at Washington; the Northern free soil, free farm and Kossuth intervention party propose another convention at Pittsburg. All these things indicate the extent to which the old parties have been cut up by the compromise measures of 1850. But they are still in process of re-organization; and whigs and democrats are falling again, North and South, into their old party associations. But let them look sharp. The Temperance Alliance is in the field; the doctrine of active intervention in the affairs of rum, gin, whiskey, brandy, and lager beer, has been proclaimed. Father Mathew has been sowing the pledge broad-cast over the land. The Sons of Temperance are a host, and Sam Houston is their champion. The approaching festival at Metropolitan Hall may turn out to be the most important affair of the campaign. Let them nominate Old San Jacinto for the Presidency, on the cold water platform, and the Sons of Temperance may eclipse the hard cider campaign of 1840, if they only secure the Baltimore Convention.

THE WHIG PLATFORM OF MAINE.—The whigs of the Legislature of Maine have recommended the 17th day of June, and the city of Philadelphia, as the time and place for holding the Whig National Convention. They also passed a string of resolutions, of which we select the following for the more general information of the politicians as to the probable whig platform for the approaching Presidential campaign:—

Resolved, That we present the names of Gen. Winfield Scott and James C. Jones, as our preferred candidates for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency, for the favorable consideration of the whigs of the whole Union subject to the decision of the national convention. We present them as whigs and patriots, whose past services and well established characters give us ample assurance that, if elected, they will discharge the duties of their respective offices in accordance with the provisions of the constitution of the United States, with reference to the common good of the whole country, regardless of all cliques and factions, and irrespective of all sectional divisions. We, therefore, do not desire from either of them any new pledges, and especially upon matters which are calculated to excite sectional prejudices without accomplishing any practical good purpose, either for the country or the whig party. Prudence and patriotism alike dictate a mutual forbearance and spirit of conciliation on all such topics and issues. It is in this spirit that we, as whigs of an extreme Northern State, would meet and co-operate with our political brethren of the South, having full confidence that it will be cordially reciprocated by them, and that the whigs of the whole Union will again become a united, enthusiastic, and triumphant party.

We apprehend that this is a distinct foreshadowing of the whig policy for the approaching canvass—strict neutrality on the compromise measures, and absolute silence upon everything of a sectional strife, except, perhaps, the tariff—or, in other words, the platform of General Taylor is to be the platform of General Scott, with some slight modifications. We suspect the whigs of the Maine Legislature have not spoken without authority in this business, and that the above resolution foreshadows the policy of the Whig National Convention, as well as the time and place for holding it. The time approaches, and the truth will soon be known.

EUROPEAN NOTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.—An intelligent and sagacious foreigner, who has travelled a great deal in the United States, was recently asked the questions always thrust by Americans upon foreigners who have visited this country, "What do you think of the United States!" "Ain't it a great country!" "What do you think of our government!" The traveller stroked his beard, and replied, "Do you wish my candid opinion!" "Certainly," said Brother Jonathan. "Well, then," said the foreign gentleman, "you are a very extensive country—nobody can deny that—but your people are very excitable and enthusiastic, and are apt to be misled by false sympathies. They seem to me to be always hunting for something that they never find—ever in a hurry, and never arrive at a resting place, like running round a circular pathway that has no end; and they think they are progressing because they are fleet, when the truth is, the faster they go the sooner they get to the place they started from. As to your government, it seems to me to be a perfect paradox. You all say that the primary object of your political institutions is to secure to the people, and for the people, and of the people, 'a government.' This machine is to secure, protect, maintain, and defend the rights of the people. And yet the machine you have invented and denominate 'a government,' fails of this object and purpose—for by its own construction it is forever employed in winding itself up. Every four years you elect a President, and so soon as he is installed you set about electing a successor. You choose a new Congress every two years, and in the middle of the Presidential term. The chief political business of your people, and of your government, seems to be the turning out, and putting in, of official functionaries. A President must be a very popular man to have governmental control more than two years. You must pardon me, therefore, for saying, that I regard your government a failure as to its professed objects and purposes."

The premises of the foreign traveller may be conceded, and yet the conclusion therefrom is the reverse of that drawn by him, and is favorable to the institutions and government of the United States. This can be proved by logical reasoning. Government is an evil, except so far as it restrains vice and crime. Attempts by governmental action—affirmative action—to advance what the rulers may deem sound notions, are sure to lead to error and end in tyranny. Governments are, however, an evil that is necessary. The best government is that which governs least. The world is governed too much. If, therefore, the government of the United States is so continually employed "in winding itself up," it is the best and safest employment, so far as the people are concerned, that can be devised for it. The laws for the restraint of crime are pretty much the same in all civilized countries—they may be considered as fundamental and established rules. They continue to be administered, as also the laws for the maintenance and enforcement of private rights, while the government may be employed in the outdoor and incidental business. If the government was not employed "in winding itself up," as stated, it might be doing something worse. Harmless humbug is less injurious than dangerous practical action. Governmental tinkering is the apprentice shop of despotism, and the crude material is the vagaries and theories of those thus employed. "Too much legislation is the vice of republics," was an ancient monarchical maxim. It was so in ancient Rome, and Greece, and in France. If our traveller's notion be correct, it is not the vice of our federal government—and, on the contrary, the vice he imputes to it is inertness, non-action—that it is "no government," always "winding itself up" to get at work, and yet never getting at work. This, in our judgment, is one of its greatest merits, and as to which our federal government is superior to some of our State governments. The existence of the federal government has not been perilled, and never will be, except by attempts to legislate over matters it had better let alone—by acting over wisely, and exercising powers the possession of which would soon cause its dissolution. Our traveller, therefore, compliments rather than disparages our federal government by his objection. For ourselves, we are always best satisfied when Congress are engaged in any "innocent" amusement, debating trifling and unimportant fanciful topics, such as intervention, which nobody has any serious idea of; or flogging in the navy; or the structure of the addition to the Capitol; or even when we notice it is engaged in little else than intrigues, who shall dispose of and who shall fill the public offices—for in such case the public treasury is in comparatively less peril from Galphinism, and the people from unwise and ridiculous legislation on subjects of more importance. If the people will watch closely, and see that they are not "taxed" over much or by indirect means, nor debts incurred, for the payment of which they are bound, all is safe. They should reckon at least fifty per cent of all that is taken from them by taxation, directly and indirectly, is Galphinised out of the public coffers by claims, and jobs, and contracts, and schemes, and other peculations. They should thank Heaven if it is no more than fifty per cent. As to the prevention of members of Congress, and executive officers, and politicians generally, from bargaining about offices for themselves and their cronies, it is idle to attempt it. The people must make up their minds to regard these as venial peccadilloes. We think that it may be predicted that, at the proper time at least, seven democratic candidates, and their friends, and at least five whig candidates, and their friends, will be bought off by that rival who stands the best chance of being nominated, by promises of cabinet offices, foreign missions, &c.

Europeans, with but few exceptions, are totally ignorant of the distinction between our federal and State governments. We notice Mr Matthews, the British Consul at Charleston, S. C., has recently opened a diplomatic correspondence with the Governor of that State. We presume President Fillmore will recall his *exequatur* for this conduct. We cannot see how he can avoid it.

Equally ignorant are foreigners of our people. They seem to think Brother Jonathan never jokes. They are mistaken. He is a very great joker. He is fonder of fun and frolic, and has more of it, and on a grander and more sublime scale, than any other human being. It makes little difference to him whether it be Lola Montes, Kossuth or Kinkel; he will have his sport, and generally he makes it "pay." He loves, of all things, to excite, astonish, and plague Johnny Bull and Johnny Frog, and the Cossack and the Austrian, and if he can frighten them, so much the better; and yet he is a kind hearted and liberal fellow, but always "goes in" for his amusement. If Haynau was to visit us, we do not doubt he would make quite as much fuss as Lola Montes, Kinkel, or Kossuth, though the demonstrations might be in a different style and mode. There would be about as much real excitement and feeling as in the other cases. All that Brother Jonathan would look to, would be his own gratification, his own amusement, and his own interests. Our government allows all this; therefore, it is the best government in the world. The "peoples" here enjoy all sorts of "liberties and freedoms," and their "solidarity" cannot be trenched upon.

NEWSPAPER POSTAGES.—We have heretofore noticed that the House Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads have prepared a bill for the reduction and simplification of newspaper postages, which provides that newspapers, pamphlets, &c., not exceeding in weight two ounces and a half, shall be charged one cent for any distance under two thousand miles; and for newspapers under one ounce, one half cent, the same distances—postage to be prepaid, or charged double these rates. This is something of an improvement on the present incomprehensible law of the Postmaster-General, which no man pretends to understand. We trust that, before the expiration of the session, such a law will be framed and passed as will be at once cheap, just and impartial, and satisfactory to all parties, and simple as possible. The beauty of the letter postage is its simplicity.

THE FORREST CASE ON THE STAGE.—The contest between Mr. and Mrs. Forrest is about to be transferred from the courts to the stage. Mr. Forrest, we learn, is to play at the Broadway simultaneously with Mrs. Forrest at Brougham's Lyceum, the smallest and meanest theatre in the city. As we have already announced, she will make her *début* there to-morrow evening; and it was stated that Forrest was to make his appearance on the same evening, but for some reason or other, perhaps in order to see whether Mrs. Forrest will succeed or fail, he has deferred action, and maintaining, for the present, a sort of "masterly inactivity," will allow her to make the first move on the chessboard, with the full expectation that it will be a false one, and that he will checkmate her in the end. His move, no doubt, will soon follow hers. Mrs. Forrest appropriately plays, as her first piece, in the "School for Scandal." The play in which Forrest is to first appear has not, as yet, been announced; we would suggest one, which we think equally appropriate—"Othello, the Moor." This would be an excellent piece to play off against the "School for Scandal."

It seems that Mrs. Forrest is to appropriate the $3,000 a year she has been awarded from Forrest's estate, to charitable purposes, and that she will rely upon her new profession for support. At least so it appears from the telegraphic despatches sent to the country papers. When Jenny Lind commenced her career in this country, Barnum announced that she would devote the entire proceeds of her engagement to the cause of education in Sweden. We have never heard, since the engagement was completed, that the money was appropriated to that charitable object; but Barnum's angel will, no doubt, make good all he promised for her in this world and the world to come; and Brougham's angel will, we are equally confident, walk in the footsteps of so bright an example. As a counter move to this, would it not be a good idea for Forrest, after paying the lawyers out of his estate, and cutting off that fat slice for Mrs. Catherine Sinclair, to devote the remnant of the property, be the same more or less, to some glorious charity—say the Hungarian loan fund, for which Barnum, the great commanding intellect of the Revolutionary Committee, would amply reward him with puffs in this world, to say nothing of a future state? By adopting this course, and relying exclusively upon the future fruits of his genius for another fortune, he would stand upon a par with his late wife for popularity. This, however, is a mere suggestion; and whether it be adopted or not, will not affect the real merits of the theatrical contest.

The rivalry will be warm, and the friends and adherents of the two litigants will also probably, the friends and adherents of the two historic rivals, and will carry their feelings and prejudices into the different houses in which these stars will appear. The supporters of Mrs. Forrest will consist chiefly of the fashionables and Fourieritos, and all those whose social system is founded on the plan of enjoyment, which the evidence in the late trial has disclosed as having prevailed in Twenty-second street. The supporters of Forrest will be the Bowery boys, the hurra boys, and various other frequenters of the theatres. The public are looking forward to this theatrical contest and the result, almost with as much interest as to the great operatic contest which is to commence on the same evening.

PROGRESS OF MATERIALISM IN PHILOSOPHY—ANTISELL'S LECTURES ON GEOLOGY.—The leading organs of all the "isms" of the day—the *Tribune* and the *Times*—publish a notice, announcing the commencement of a series of lectures on geology, by Dr. Antisell, the first one to be given next Wednesday evening, at Clinton Hall. These lectures will number four in all, and will develope the new philosophy of the creation, which has grown to such lengths during the last thirty years, both in the Old and New Worlds, and which is so well calculated to subvert all our old notions of religion, springing from the Bible and Christianity.

These lectures will comprise the philosophical description of the condition of the globe, during the primary and early secondary periods, its vegetation, and the formation of coal beds, volcanoes and their forces, reptilian and tertiary periods, and modern agencies. These are curious, remarkable, and wonderful developements The enthusiasts in geological science believe and declare that the discoveries recently made in geology entirely upset the history of the creation, as furnished to us in the Books of Moses, and lead the mind conclusively to a mingled philosophy of materialism and spiritualism, utterly hostile to all the principles and views put forth by the Mosaic or Christian dispensations. Dr. Antisell is, we believe, a distinguished philosopher in the new science, and his lectures will undoubtedly create a prodigious sensation among all the professors of Christianity, as represented in the religious press of this city, as well as the advocates of materialism, Fourierism, socialism, spiritualism, and all the other "isms" of the day, as represented by the *Tribune* and *Times*.

The inferences drawn from the facts and philosophy of these lectures will be levelled against the truth of Christianity, as now taught and believed in the hundred and fifty churches of this city, and will create great curiosity, and much excitement, during their progress. We shall report them with fullness and accuracy, beyond that of any other journal.

☞ MR. WESTERN would feel obliged by being furnished with the name of the reporter who is the author of the very able temperance articles in Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday's papers. Mr. Western's object is to thank him personally, and to explain some misapprehensions as to one of the temperance speakers.

293 Broadway, Jan. 31st.

ANSWER.—Mr Western is informed that it is none of his business who is the author of the temperance articles in the HERALD.—ED. HERALD.

The Irish Exiles—The President.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

LOVEJOY'S HOTEL, Friday Evening.

SIR:—You will oblige the friends of the exiles who went to Washington, if you state in the HERALD that we did not understand the President to refuse our request, but only to distinguish as to the mode in which he could comply with it.

His last words at our interview were, that he would "consult those he usually advised with on important occasions," in this case, and that he "would do all he could do" for the patriots in Australia.

I may add, that it is the earnest desire of the friends of the exiles, in Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, that their case should be left in the hands of the government, believing, as they do, that both the President and the distinguished Secretary of State, (to whose courtesy we are also much indebted,) will leave no proper means unemployed to gratify the wishes of so many American citizens as are now interested in this matter.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
THOMAS D'ARCY McGEE,
Delegate from Massachusetts.

VERY LATE FROM BERMUDA.—The steamer Merlin, Capt. Sampson, arrived yesterday from St. Thomas, via Bermuda, with advices from the former to the 21st, and the latter port to the 26th ult. The *Bermudian*, of the 21st, contains the following items:—

The storm that was felt here so violently from the westward on Tuesday night, the 13th inst., raged, as we anticipated, with terrific power on the ocean. Captain Dee, of the Princess Royal, which arrived from New York on Friday last, reports having encountered a tremendous gale on the 13th, from W. S. W., by which his vessel was thrown down; lost part of her deck load, bulwarks and some sails. Capt. Bramhall, of the bark Eliza Barrs, also from New York, informs us that he experienced the same gale, through which he scudded the ship; the wind blew with extreme force, accompanied by one of the severest snow storms he has ever experienced at sea. She was one day out from New York when the gale commenced. The bark's whole passage of six days was extremely boisterous; but she lost only two out of her large deck load of cattle.

We learn by the arrival of the Favorite, from Inagua, that there is a large supply of salt on hand; four vessels were loading when the F. left. We are pleased to hear of the prosperity of that place; it will give an impetus to those of our countrymen whose enterprise has led them to leave their homes, and endure many privations, to bring into use the superior salinas of this fine, but long neglected portion of the Bahama group. We understand that more of our countrymen intend to proceed thither.

THE NAPOLEON OF MUSIC IN THE FIELD, AT LAST—GRAND COUP D'ÉTAT AGAINST THE ARISTOCRACY—THE WHOLE OF THE CODFISH TURNED OUT OF ASTOR PLACE—REDUCTION OF THE PRICE TO FIFTY CENTS—THE REAL CONTEST NOW BEGINS.—Maretzek, the Louis Napoleon of Opera management, has just performed a magnificent *coup d'état*. At a single blow, he has cut the Gordian knot that bound his destinies—extricating himself from every difficulty, breaking up his engagement with the Opera subscribers, turning the whole of the codfish aristocracy out of his splendid Opera House, and opening it wide to the enthusiastic, generous people, at fifty cents a ticket.

We understand this movement has produced a tremendous excitement in the Fifth avenue, almost as great as was caused in the faubourgs of St. Germain when Charles the Tenth was turned out of Paris, or among the Orleanists and legitimists when Louis Napoleon expelled the Assembly, and sent the politicians to Ham and Vincennes. The whole of the heads in "Putnam's Book of Beauty" have been put together in this extremity, and the collected wisdom of such an array of brilliant talent has been devising ways and means to effect their restoration to Astor Place. But Maretzek is inexorable, and his splendid artists back him in his resolve. The generous Salvi has given him a receipt in full for his salary up to the first of March, and the magnificent Steffanone will sing for nothing and give him a benefit, and a buss into the bargain, rather than yield the palm to the rival *troupe*.

The real contest begins on Monday evening next. The codfish Bourbons and Orleanists are banished from Astor Place, and its doors are thrown open to the gay, the brilliant, and the beautiful wives and daughters and sisters of the citizens of New York, who, without pretension or assumption, will appear in elegant, and even splendid dress, though not in the precise formal style and fashion of "the upper ten." Without the expense, the trouble, or the stiffness, of the opera cut that was heretofore fashionable among the audience that monopolized Astor Place, but would not support it, the new audience will appreciate the artists, and enjoy the performances and themselves, as the *parvenues* never had souls to do, and never will, to the end of time. A large class will now attend the Opera that never attended it before, being repelled partly by the exclusiveness of the high price, and partly by the disagreeable atmosphere of the building. A revolution in opera has, therefore, commenced, and will very soon be an accomplished fact.

The war between "the two roses," for the domination, will be one of most momentous consequence in relation to the final establishment of the Italian Opera in this city, and the progress and full development of musical taste among the best classes of society. It will be a contest for supremacy and popularity—a contest of science and skill, and beauty, and musical powers, between the two *troupes*. During the last few days, the Bosio *troupe*, at Niblo's, has carried everything before it, arising from the cheapness of the admission, from the popularity of the movement, and the awakening enthusiasm in the middle classes for the highest musical compositions. Astor Place, on the contrary, has been kept out of the field, and reduced to "a beggarly account of empty boxes," by those who have been guided by Putnam's "Book of Beauty." But Maretzek, by his *coup d'état*, has now brought the two houses to the same level; and henceforth, with equality of prices, there will be a fair field, a clear stage, and no favor; and the victory will be decided upon the merits of the combatants. Backed by the unapproachable Steffanone, the highly finished Salvi, the rich contralto notes of Parodi, and the deep toned music of Marini, he goes into the contest on Monday next, and will not give it up till the Fourth of July, if necessary—till he sees which of the two *troupes* have the greatest wind and muscle, and "bottom," in this musical campaign. The Bosio *troupe* will be put to their mettle.

THE GALWAY AND NEW YORK STEAM-PACKET BUBBLES.—We recently adverted to one of the New York and Galway steam-packet schemes. We showed that it is hardly feasible, and has not met with the support of the public. The application to Congress is itself the most conclusive proof that the project would not pay, or that the money cannot be raised among our merchants to set it afloat. This, however, is but one scheme. There is another. Wagstaff & Co., by way of taking time by the forelock, started a rival concern, and Wagstaff, jr., went over to gull the simple Galwegians with his blarney. If our recollection is right, he told them in one of his speeches that, before the close of the year 1851, his ship, that was then being built, would make the passage from New York to Galway in six days! So the papers reported. This was so very like a whale that we called the attention of our readers to it at the time. The bubble has burst, and vanished into thin air. The United States, which was at first called the Fonneville, is sold, and has gone to California. In order to show the reader the delusion that was practised, we copy the following from a Galway paper, the heading being in large type:—

THE GALWAY PACKET STATION—MR. WAGSTAFF'S STEAMER.—It will afford great satisfaction to the people of Galway to learn, from the subjoined letter from Mr. Wagstaff, that the United States steamer is at this moment on her voyage to Galway, having probably left New York ere this, and may be expected here on Thursday next. This is glorious news, and a sufficient answer to the enemies of our port and of Ireland, who would fain insinuate that Mr Wagstaff had changed his determination, and violated his promise to Galway:—

"NEW YORK, Dec. 20, 1851.

"GENTLEMEN—I am still in New York; we have not sailed for Galway, as yet, on account of the ship not being as yet finished. We are hurrying the finishing as fast as we can. The ship is going on the dry dock to-day, to be coppered; she is otherwise very nearly finished, and we hope to have her ready for sea in about a week. The ship not being ready for sea on the 20th of November has been a source of great annoyance to me, for my contract binds the builders to have her finished on that day. I was afraid the people in Ireland might think that this was another humbug, so I have got Dr. Hughes, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York, to certify that the ship is being finished as fast as possible, and will sail for Galway in about two weeks. I have got also the Mayor of the City of New York to certify to the same effect. Both of these letters I will send you. I am fast making a contract for another ship, to leave this city in two weeks after the 'United States,' so that I shall have two or three of the first class steam-ships in all, early in the next year. I will write you further particulars by the next steamer. I have just returned from Washington, where I have been putting in my claim for the mail contract, and I am satisfied I shall get it.

"Yours, truly, JOHN C. WAGSTAFF.

"To John Kelly and Henry Stephenson, Esqrs."

He was afraid the people of Ireland might think this was another humbug; so he got the certificate of Dr. Hughes, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York, and of Mayor Kingsland, to prove that all was right! Have these distinguished personages lent their names to this concern? If not, it is only due to them to come out and say so. So much for bubble No. 2.

But there is another still, which is now being fast inflated. The *Morning Chronicle* says:—"The English government has just granted a charter for a steam company to run vessels between Galway and Halifax." What shall become of bubble the third we will inform our readers when it bursts. Meantime, they had better keep their weather eye open for squalls.

LATE FROM PORTO CABELLO.—The schooner Euphemia, Captain Guide, arrived yesterday morning, from Porto Cabello, with dates to the 23d ult. She brings no political news. At the time of Capt. G.'s departure, very little of the new crop of coffee had come to market; and what little there was, sold at from 9½c. a 9¾c. Hides were selling at 9½c. a 9¾c., and fustic at $11 a $17 per ton. There was a good supply of American produce in the market.

Marine Affairs.

DEPARTURE OF STEAMERS.—Four steamers left our port yesterday, viz:—The Washington, for Bremen via Southampton; the Florida, for Savannah; the Union, for Charleston; and the Roanoke, for Richmond. Although the day was very unpleasant, their departure, as usual, caused a large number of persons to assemble at the lower wharves on the North river, some brought there on business, and others to gratify their desire for sight-seeing.

The Politico-Temperance Movement.

Another of the great temperance meetings of those in favor of procuring the passage of a bill in this State, similar to the Maine liquor law, was held last evening in this city, pursuant to the following notice:—

CONTINUATION OF THE GOOD TIME.—The Alleghanians, P. T. Barnum, and John Hawkins, at the great Mass Temperance Meeting, on Saturday Evening, January 31, at 7½ o'clock, in the Twelfth street Baptist Church, near Fourth avenue. Seats free. A liberal collection expected. Doors open at 7 o'clock.

C. C. LEIGH,
ISAAC J. OLIVER,
W. W. STRICKLAND.

The attendance was pretty considerable, consisting for the most part, however, of women and children, who were probably drawn thither more on account of the gratuitous opportunity to hear the Alleghanians sing, and of seeing the great material and moral would be fire annihilator, P. T. Barnum, than through any particular enthusiasm in favor of the temperance movement. The proceedings were opened by prayer; then followed, "There's a good time coming boys," by the Alleghanians; then the reading and exposition of the objects contemplated by the New York City Temperance Alliance; after which, Barnum was introduced and addressed the audience. He said, that to carry out their designs in establishing a law in this State similar to that of Maine, voters should, if necessary, sacrifice their political prejudices for the time being. It is a great thing to ask political voters to abandon their party. In Connecticut, all the friends of the Maine law agree to come forward and sign a pledge in the State Convention, binding themselves to vote for no man for executive or legislative office who was not known to be in favor of the Maine law. The consequence naturally is, that the politicians will stop for their votes, and both political parties will put forward men in favor of the Maine law, and then, in such cases, every voter goes for his own political party, knowing, of course, that they will put up the right kind of men. It was, perhaps, necessary for him to explain the leading principles of the Maine law. He would not insult the intelligence of his audience by descanting on the curses which intemperance is sure to carry in its train. They did not come to-night to be enlightened on that subject though some may have been induced to come for the sake of hearing the Alleghanians, and some may have come also to see the wonderful man that owned the mermaid and found Tom Thumb. (Laughter.) The inmates of Blackwell's Island have all been sent there by intemperance. It would be a perfect curiosity, worth exhibiting in the Museum; to see a man sent up to that prison island for any crime which had not its origin in intemperance. Neither can there be found a man in the State of New York who is not in favor of temperance. If you can find such a phenomenon, fetch him to me and I will give him good wages and exhibit him in the Museum. They had now tried one law after another to put down intemperance, but they all had failed. In Massachusetts they had enacted a law which they thought would have produced the desired result, by prohibiting the sale of spirituous liquors in less quantities than fifteen gallons; but the rumsellers, crafty in device, soon found a plan to evade this law. They all turned showmen—Barnums on a small scale—and got painted on their signs representations of some wonderful natural curiosities which they had on exhibition. Most of them went on the dodge of the "striped pig," and the showmen were so liberal as to give a glass of brandy, rum, or other liquor gratis to each of the spectators; it was wonderful to see how often the same person would go in on one day, and pay his six cents to see the "striped pig," and then appeared to have sprung up, all at once, a taste for the study of natural philosophy. They went the whole hog, and made hogs of themselves into the bargain. So by this scheme the law failed to operate. There is no remedy for the gigantic evil except in the Maine law, which we are sure to obtain if we are faithful to ourselves.

During and at the conclusion of Mr. Barnum's address, there was some applause and laughter, which, not being character with the sanctity of the house, called for condemnation from Mr. Hawkins and other members of the committee, and then it was announced that a collection would be made, which was accordingly done, but the result did not seem to be at all satisfactory, and called forth some grumbling observation, that a collection of pennies such as that would go a very little way in defraying the expenses of the meeting—that Brother Hawkins was engaged to speak for thirty nights, and must of course be paid—that they had to pay the trustees of the church for the hire of it on this occasion—they had to pay singers—in fact, that the pure-minded, self-denying, philanthropic laborers in the good cause, had all to be handsomely remunerated, except the Alleghanians, who thus appeared to be the only unselfish actors in the comedy. In this state of things, it was proposed to raise $50, by ten contributions of $5 each; but notwithstanding all the auctioneering phrases of "Come forward, gentlemen—come forward—now is your time—bid up quick—don't be afraid—let not too many speak at once," &c., they failed to raise the wind in this way, only three coming down with the dust. As a last forlorn hope, the hat was sent round again, but with no better success; but still, on the *nil desperandum* principle, it was announced that gentlemen should be stationed at the doors as they were leaving, and receive the donations of the faithful. The whole exhibition and the artful dodges resorted to to make it tell—the scheme of attracting an audience by profane psalmody—the theatrical outbursts of applause or disapprobation, made that text very applicable: "It is written, my house shall be a house of prayer, but ye have made it ——"

Colonel E. L. Snow was next introduced to the audience, and favored it with some choice specimens of oratory on the subject of the temperance petitions to the Legislature, and the last week's doings at Albany. It surprised him a little time ago when he saw the fruitless efforts made here to raise a collection of $50. What! not $50 when men could go and subscribe $1,000 to louis Kossuth, to help him out in his plans for liberty and