NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR.

OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS

THE DAILY HERALD, 2 cents per copy—$7 per annum.
THE WEEKLY HERALD, every Saturday, at 6¼ cents per copy, or $3 per annum; the *European Edition*, $4 per annum to any part of Great Britain, and $5 to any part of the Continent, both to include the postage.
VOLUNTARY CORRESPONDENCE, containing important news, solicited from any quarter of the world; if used, will be liberally paid for. OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ARE PARTICULARLY REQUESTED TO SEAL ALL LETTERS AND PACKAGES SENT TO US.
NO NOTICE taken of anonymous communications. We do not return those rejected.
ALL LETTERS by mail, for Subscriptions, or with Advertisements, to be post paid, or the postage will be deducted from the money remitted.
JOB PRINTING executed with neatness, cheapness, and despatch.
ADVERTISEMENTS renewed every morning.
TERMS, cash in advance.

Volume XVII ..... No. 39.

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

ASTOR PLACE OPERA HOUSE—ROBERT LE DIABLE

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery—BREAKERS AHEAD—TWO BONNYCASTLES.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—DAMON AND PYTHIAS.

NIBLO'S OPERA—DON GIOVANNI.

BURTON'S THEATRE, Chambers street—CINDERELLA—FIRST NIGHT.

NATIONAL THEATRE, Chatham street—SWALLOWED A POLICEMAN—YANKEE JACK—MANIAC LOVER.

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 SOIRÉES HERMETIQUES.

New York, Monday, Feb. 9, 1852.

This Morning's Summary.

Although the telegraphs have furnished but few items, our columns, this morning, will be found well filled with very interesting and diversified intelligence from all quarters of the globe.

From Washington, we learn that the medal in honor of Henry Clay will be presented to the venerable statesman, by the New York committee, this afternoon. It is understood that Senator Borland, who recently had a dispute with, and broke the nose of Mr. Kennedy, has written an apologetic note to the latter. Happy to hear it. An appeal to pen, ink, and paper is a far more sensible way of settling personal difficulties than an appeal to powder and lead.

Caravajal and his followers are said to be in a very destitute condition, and there is no probability that they will again attempt to revolutionize Northern Mexico. At last accounts, the revolutionists were encamped on the borders of Texas, and Gen. Harney had rent a detachment of United States troops to arrest the whole squad.

A mass meeting of the temperance ladies was held in Philadelphia on Saturday evening, for the purpose of discussing the merits of the Maine law. New York, and one or two of the other Eastern States, having set the anti-liquor ball in motion, it is likely to be kept rolling in the West until it has crossed the Rocky Mountains, and buried itself in the waters of the Pacific.

The shippers on the Delaware and Potomac rivers are greatly rejoiced at the breaking up of the ice and the resumption of navigation. Many vessels arrived at, and sailed from, Philadelphia and Washington yesterday.

Via England, we learn that a party of Americans in Egypt, not to be insulted with impunity by the natives, had quite a fracas with them, during which shots were exchanged. There were no lives lost. The Americans were sustained by the authorities.

Our correspondent at St. Domingo states that the Haytians and Dominicans have not made a treaty of peace, as has been stated in the papers. Soulouque has humbugged the French and English agents, and affairs remain as they were. Our government should take the matter in hand.

During the present week it is probable that we shall have a superabundance of very important and entertaining information to spread before the public, viz:—the report of the Joint Legislative Committee to investigate the extraordinary canal contracts; the debate in the United States Senate on Mr. Clarke's non-intervention resolutions; perhaps the report of the Territorial Committee in the House of Representatives, on the transactions of the saints and sinners in the Mormon region, &c., &c.

The Collins' steamer Pacific, with four days later news from Europe, will probably be here to-day or to-morrow.

FRENCH POLITICS, AND ITS UPS AND DOWNS.—The ups and downs of French politics, the shifting of persons and characters, are almost as numerous as the changes in the machinery and management of the Parisian theatres. By the last accounts, we are informed that Thiers and some half a dozen African Generals have just arrived in London, having been expatriated under the new government of Louis Napoleon, sanctioned by eight millions of French votes. Thiers and his compatriots, who figured for the last three years in the National Assembly, will find themselves very queer in London, side by side with Ledru Rollin, Louis Blanc, and Chevallier, who were driven away, under similar circumstances, from Paris three years ago.

The changes in French political life have been ludicrously rapid during the last four years. The first batch that was banished was Louis Philippe, his family, and partisans—Louis Blanc, Ledru Rollin, and their colleagues, sent them adrift. In a few months afterwards, Ledru Rollin and his colleagues followed in their footsteps, and were banished, in their turn, by Cavaignac, Thiers, and others. Now Cavaignac and Thiers are banished by Louis Napoleon, and perhaps before many years are over, the present rulers will have to take their turn, and go beyond the frontiers—to London or the United States—in the same way, when some other new party gets the upper hand.

Political changes in France are as rapid as they are in the Opera Comique or the Theatre Française.

THE POLITICIANS IN CONGRESS.—While the free soil party of the North, the Union and the State rights party of the South, are tumbling to pieces, from having no longer their particular platforms to stand upon; and while their fragments are falling back into the whig or democratic ranks, it will be perceived that the outside politicians of Congress are beginning to define their positions. Like Mr. Webster, when left standing "solitary and alone" in the cabinet of John Tyler, the whig members of the late Union party of Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida, are inquiring where they are to go. Some of them have a hankering to get into the Baltimore Convention. On the other hand, the Southern rights democrats threaten to hold off, unless the convention washes its hands of any laudations of the compromise. The Union democrats of Alabama propose a separate independent convention, headed by Senator Clemens. All these varieties and contrarieties are beginning to enter into the daily staple of the Congressional debates. But from all the indications thus far, in Congress and out of Congress, it is plain that all the outside parties are in process of falling back again into their old party lines, upon the cohesive principles of the public plunder. From this time till the meeting of the Baltimore Convention, we may expect to see both houses of Congress largely occupied in the preliminary discussions and arrangements of the Presidential campaign on both sides. The end of it will be, that both parties will come together upon a platform of neutrality on the compromises or Fugitive Slave law, and of postponement to any learned etc armed occupation of Europe. So we go.

France and England—A Contrast Leading to a Contest.

The *coup d'état* of Napoleon in France, has effected a change in that country, from the government, through every avenue of society, down to the *salons*, of the most radical and remarkable kind, that ever was brought about in so short time in any civilised country. In government, in the press, in literature and society—France, formerly so free, so witty, so gay, now presents one of the most striking contrasts to England, where freedom to a great extent still exists in all the departments of government and society.

We have already published the new constitution of Napoleon, with his proclamation expounding it. These important documents, however, will require further elucidation from subsequent decrees, and, accordingly, we may expect some of the most singular restrictions on the freedom of the press, and the liberty of opinion, that were ever known in any intelligent country. As a curious specimen of an accidental coincidence between the French ruler and a New York Judge, we make the following parallel extracts, the one from a Parisian letter in a London journal, the other from the charge of Chief Justice Oakley in the Forrest case, exhibiting a similarity of opinions and views, which will attract attention and create surprise:—

Louis Napoleon's Opinions.

Of all the organic laws to be given to the country by the President of the republic, in virtue of the *plébiscite* of the 2d, and subsequently to the promulgation of the new constitution, there is one more urgent than all the rest, and which interests a numerous class of people. I allude to the laws on the press, to which I already had occasion to refer more than once, and which are awaited by the parties concerned with a degree of impatience easy to understand. The prevailing opinion still is, that the President looks on the press in France, as it existed from the revolution of February to the 2d of December, as an institution quite as dangerous as the parliamentary *régime*, or the more exciting rule of the clubs, and that his efforts will be directed to diminish as much as possible, if not to annihilate, the influence of journalism in France. With reference to the reports of the law courts, it is thought that a plan will be adopted to put an end to the practice among the journals of reproducing the offence for which one had been condemned by the republication of it in a report with comments tending to multiply consequences of the and to give circulation a sanction to the incriminated law officers and counsel of the tribunals. According to the present plan, the reports, if such they may be called, will be limited to a statement of the offence as specified in the indictment, and the sentence pronounced by the court on those convicted. The journals, however, may publish reports of civil and criminal causes, *unless when the president of the tribunal may judge it necessary to order the proceedings to be carried on with closed doors, out of regard for public morals or respect for religion*. The prohibitions above mentioned have reference only to political cases.

Judge Oakley's Opinions.

We have found here, gentlemen, during this trial, that there has been created about this case, not only in this court room, but in the public atmosphere, a feeling and a prejudice which are most dangerous in their effects, upon the just and proper administration of the laws. To this the press has in a great degree contributed, by spreading all the details before the public. The consequence has been that in every tavern or bar-room, barber's shop—every place, in fact, where newspapers circulate—this matter has been made a subject of conversation and trial. People have taken sides upon it, and freely expressed their opinion, so that it would be singular indeed if you, who have been obliged to live in the midst of this discussion, for thirty days, were not, in some degree affected by it. Well, you are called upon to decide on this case in the midst of the greatest mass of perjury on one side or the other that I have ever before witnessed while on the bench or at the bar. Let me here say, that the evil which may necessarily grow out of the publication of the preliminary trials of this character is a very great one, and most injurious to the public morals. *I do hope the legislature of this State will regard it as their duty to pass an act prohibiting the publication of trials of this kind till they are fully tried and decided by the courts.* It has always a tendency to create, and often does create, an impression all ever the community favorable or unfavorable to either of the parties involved. As a proof of this you cannot but have seen, yourselves, gentlemen, during the progress of this trial, that a strong sensation has been felt through this whole assembly, of approbation or disapprobation, when any pointed or caustic remark has been made by the counsel on either side.

Without waiting to investigate the intellectual or moral causes which produce like opinions in great minds on either side of the Atlantic, we cannot forbear from viewing the present contrast between France and England, in respect to the liberty of the press and the parliamentary freedom of speech, as laying the foundation of a state of things which will ultimately lead to a serious ollision between these two great powers.

In France the political liberty of the press does not exist at all, and the publication of the proceedings in either civil or criminal suits in common courts of justice, it is now projected by Louis Napoleon to abolish entirely. Even conversation in the *salons* has also become an object of concern and coercion by the Police in the new state of things in France. On the contrary, across the Channel, in England, the freedom of the press, the liberty of speech, the freedom of conversation in social circles—all exist to an extraordinary and almost unlimited extent, controlled only by liberal laws, by good taste and propriety of discussion. The whole liberal press of England, accordingly, pours out its anathemas, day after day, on the conduct of the French President, his new policy of government, and the atrocious acts of despotism which he is every day committing. No portion of the English press, except two or three old Tory journals, with little circulation and influence, apologizes for the conduct of the French Dictator. The public opinion and public organs of the two countries, with the *London Times* at their head, never presented such a contrast, and that contrast must sooner or later lead to a contest of a physical character. Napoleon, by banishing all the liberal editors, *littérateurs*, and politicians from France, has effectually cut up all the political and social liberty of speech, that has existed in that country for forty years past. Some substitute for this deprivation of all political and social rights must be found, and that substitute will undoubtedly be active, energetic, and undying hostility to the course and politics of the English liberal press, which is daily engaged in exciting hatred and opposition to the Dictator of France.

No symptoms have yet been fully developed in existing French journalism, of the revival of the ancient hostility to English opinion and English purposes, but we do not doubt, from the continual assaults and bitter criminations made against Louis Napoleon and his policy by the English journals, that in a short time there will be a violent contest between the journalism of both countries, and that contest will gradually lay the foundation for some attempt on the part of France and its Dictator, to get up the old national feelings against England, with all the consequences to which they lead. Europe is on the first step of an inclined plane.

THE SUFFERERS BY THE LOSS OF THE AMAZON.—We published yesterday, a letter which we received from Mr. J. R. Croskey, the United States Consul at Southampton, relative to a subscription being got up in this country for the benefit of the sufferers by the loss of this ill-fated vessel. We fully concur with the sentiment expressed in that letter, and sympathise with its object, and feel no hesitation in recommending the matter to the generous benevolence of the public, knowing their willingness to respond in alleviating a case of extraordinary calamity.

INTERESTING FROM EGYPT—FRACAS BETWEEN AMERICANS AND NATIVES.—The correspondent of the London *Chronicle*, writing from Alexandria, under date of the 5th ult., says:—

On the 26th, the first passenger steamers for Assyrian and intermediate ports, left Cairo, taking a goodly number of tourists, of whom a great proportion were American gentlemen.

On the day following, an unfortunate *fracas* occurred between a party of six Americans, who had arrived near Cairo from this city, in one of the usual passenger boats of the country, and the native inhabitants of a suburban village, called Embarba, arising out of a dispute between the latter and the crew respecting some presumed trespass, which ended in a resort to fire arms. About a dozen shots were exchanged, and some of both parties were badly wounded, but no lives lost. It appears the American gentlemen had been grossly maltreated, because they interfered to protect their people, and their conduct has been borne out in the investigation which followed.

New York Superior Court.

SPECIAL TERM.

Before Hon. Judge Campbell.

Eve. T.—*Haley vs. Johnson, &c.*—Notice to dismiss the complaint for want of jurisdiction granted, but without costs.

Before Hon. Judge Sandford.

Lucius S. Comstock agt. J. Carlton Comstock, &c.—J. Carlton Comstock &c. agt. Lucius S. Comstock, &c.—Motion denied, without costs to either party.

GENERAL TERM.

Before Chief Justice Oakley and Hon. Judge Campbell.

The Sun Mutual Ins. Co. vs. John W. Latson, &c.—Motion to dismiss appeal. Appeal dismissed with costs.

The Hon. George Law and his Revolutionary Implements.

The present condition of Continental Europe has awakened and excited, to action, various interests and influences in this country. The fires of revolution are believed by many not to be extinguished, and that the flame will shortly burst forth with terribly increased intensity. The sagacious politicians of the United States are shaping their course to be on the popular side here, in reference to the struggles that it is believed are to take place there. The shrewd merchant is preparing for the crisis, with respect to the shipments he is to make and his returns. The Hungarian, or Kossuth Revolutionary Committee of this city, would, if they knew how, do something, but they are utterly inefficient, and should shut up shop. Their contrivance of issuing Hungarian, or Kossuth shin plasters, wont do. It is said, some originally placed on that committee have backed out, though no announciation of their resignation has been yet made by the survivors. It is said, also, that one member of the committee made the sale of forty thousand muskets, alluded to by Governor Kossuth in his speech that we heretofore quoted, and that the muskets sold were scarcely worth the two dollars each, agreed to be paid for them; but we cannot fully credit this report. Whatever is the fact, the Hungarian Committee should forthwith dissolve, and, unlike the Irish Revolutionary Committee, should make a public *exposé* of the funds received and the amount disbursed. The *pronunciamento*, or advertisement, of the Hon. George Law, in the form of a letter to the editor of the HERALD, given below, covers the whole ground of relief to the European revolutionists, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, German, and French. The *emigrés* in England, it is said, have command of a large amount of funds. Mr. Law is the man who can provide them with the needful implements and munitions of war, on a large scale. His letter is as follows:—

UNION PLACE, NEW YORK Feb 8th, 1852.

J. G. BENNETT, Esq., EDITOR OF NEW YORK HERALD.

DEAR SIR:—Recently in your paper, and in some other prints, and in *one* not worthy of notice, my name has been mentioned, and reference made to transactions of mine with which neither newspaper editors nor the public have any more concern than the public have in your contracts with your paper makers or your news carriers. My purchase from the government of the United States of one hundred and fifty thousand muskets, and my owning several millions of ball cartridges, has been several times alluded to, and it has been stated the muskets are "worthless," and were "condemned," and "second hand," and that I have sold them to Governor Kossuth for $2 a piece, &c. There is not one word of truth in the statement that any of these muskets have been sold to Governor Kossuth, or any body else, for Hungary. The statements depreciating the worth of the arms, I denounce as a slander of my property calculated to injure its sale. The muskets cost the government, to make them, about $13, and they are worth that sum. They are new, not "second hand"—they are not "condemned and worthless arms." Nevertheless as they did not cost me and those interested with me so much, they will be disposed of for less than half that price; and we will also, in case of sale of a large number, give to the friends of liberty enough to arm a battalion of republican patriots to aid in extending the area of freedom in Europe. Governor Kossuth does not allude in his speech quoted by you to those muskets, or to any arrangement with respect to them, though we shall be happy to sell him all he may want on moderate terms. The contract he alludes to is with other parties, and for muskets which cannot be equal to ours. Ours are new and in good order, of the best manufacture, accompanied with full accoutrements boxed up and in store, ready to be shipped at a moment's notice, with several millions of rounds of ball cartridges. They were made by American freemen, and will not be sold for any price, to any but those who will use them in the cause of freedom in Europe. A large supply of infantry equipments of all kinds, and for artillery, dragoons, and for riflemen, and of ropes for trailers, can be furnished at the shortest notice; also cannon, &c., &c., &c., for sea service; and whilst I repel your attack on my property, I may as well make this note an advertisement for its sale. So you may separate what you regard as proper by way of defence, from that which may be considered as advertising, and send your bill to my office, West street, for payment. In addition to what I have enumerated above, you may state that I stand ready to furnish, on reasonable terms, at the shortest notice, the fastest steamships in the world, or the fastest sailing ships in the world fully armed and equipped, with cannon that will reach farther than any now in use, and manned by men that cannot be captured by any on earth. The ships shall carry 2,000 men each. An agreement will be made to deliver all the "*personnel* and *materiel*" of war above mentioned, at any given point, anywhere in the world I desire you to give this an insertion in your European edition, and send a copy to M. Mazzini, to Gen. Cavaignac, and to Gen. Garibaldi, and request the London *Times* and *Galignani* and *Moniteur*, of Paris, to copy it, and send one bill to the HERALD office for payment. I leave this city for Chagres to-morrow, to remain there a few weeks, on business relative to the Panama Railroad, but letters to me here will be attended to, by an agent authorised to act in my behalf on this subject. I take this occasion to notice sundry intimations that have been given of my having been busy in intrigues to promote the prospects of certain candidates for the next Presidency. Sometimes I have been charged with manœuvring for Gov. Dickinson, sometimes for Judge Douglass, sometimes for Gov. Marcy, sometimes for Gen. Cass, and sometimes for Gen. Houston. I am not hard to please, and if a good man is selected, I shall be satisfied; and I do not think there is much danger of the democratic party acting indiscreetly at the next election; and if it should, our country can flourish even under a weak President, for our institutions are self-working and self preserving. These intimations are made to injure me, by exciting hostility to me as being a violent political partisan. So, also, it is sought to assail the mail steamship line from this city to Chagres, in which I am interested. I have not had any concern in the so-called "Ebony Line," as has been charged. All these insidious and invidious efforts give me little annoyance, and fall in doing me harm. Conscious of my own rectitude, and of my ability, under Providence, to effect all that I undertake, I shall go ahead, without reference to assaults from any quarter, and do what I think is right, and all I think is right. What I own I have earned myself, and will do with it as I please, conforming to the constitution and laws of my country in all things. I shall expect the HERALD to defend me, during my absence, against any improper attacks, as it has been my assailant long enough to satisfy any reasonable Christian man.

Yours respectfully, GEORGE LAW.

It will be expected that the HERALD should say something of the writer of this epistle. The letter speaks for itself, and is characteristic of the author, and the people of this country and of Europe may be assured that he will stand up, without flinching, to every word he writes or says. George Law is the architect of his own fortunes. He is one of the celebrities of the age, and a character that does not appear in every generation. Of the Americans who have preceded him, the late Henry Eckford, perhaps, most resembled him; but he is in some respects superior to Eckford. His talents are more diversified. Mr. Law is a native of the town of Jackson, in Washington County, in this State. His father is a native of Scotland and a worthy and intelligent farmer, possessed of a comfortable property, and is still living. Whilst yet a boy, young Law, indisposed to the cultivation of corn and potatoes, and the grubbing of stumps, left his worthy father to seek his fortune on his own hook. A friend who saw him on his way, describes him as being a tall, athletic, and robust youth, noted for making the longest strides in walking, and having the most independent carriage of any boy he ever saw, and he then predicted, "that young fellow will make a noise in the world before he dies." George Law struggled at hard work in subordinate positions for a year or two, but soon embarked in enterprising undertakings, and became a large contractor on railroads and canals, from which his sound judgment, practical sense, and industry, and perseverance, enabled him in two or three years to accumulate a handsome fortune. But he was not satisfied with a competency, and was determined to be a *millionaire*. He became connected with extensive internal improvements in North Carolina, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, as well as in this State. There is no man in the United States whose name is more identified with such works in the States mentioned than his. After his removal to this city, some years since, he became engaged in the construction of the "Harlem High Bridge," one of the finest structures of the kind in the world. He also built the "Oregon," and other large steamboats, and became the chief owner of the "Dry Dock Bank." Subsequently he embarked in the establishment of the "United States Mail Steamship Company," between New York and Chagres, and New Orleans and Chagres, to which the federal government contributes two hundred and ninety thousand dollars per annum. In conjunction with this line, he established a line on the Pacific side, from Panama to San Francisco, in which he employed several superior steamships. Recently these vessels have been exchanged for those of Wm. H. Aspinwall & Co., on this side of the continent, and Mr. Law is now the principal owner of nine large steamships on this side, plying as regular mail packets between New York, Charleston, Savannah, New Orleans, Havana, Kingston (Jam.), and Chagres. In connection with J. S. Stevens, Esq., and others, he owns the railroad across the Isthmus of Panama, which, it is anticipated, will be completed and in full operation during this year.

The monuments of Mr. Law's enterprize, ability, and energy, in his own country, would satisfy any man of ordinary aspirations; but they seem to have merely whetted and aroused his ambition. The Panama passage has been talked of, and written about for more than two centuries, by the English, and French, and Spaniards. Canals have been projected at different times. Railroads have been contemplated for twenty years over the Isthmus, and surveys and estimates made; but Mr. Law's attention had not been devoted to it but a few months before the work was underway, and already upwards of twenty miles are finished. He saw that this work would be of immense importance, not merely to this country, but to Europe; for once in operation, and the English Mediterranean route to China and the East Indies, via the Isthmus of Suez, will be given up; for the entire Atlantic trade to China, to the East Indies, to Japan, to the Pacific Islands, West Coast of South America, and to Australia, must go over this road, rendering it, doubtless, the most profitable stock in the world. He now visits the Isthmus, we learn, to project and locate docks, and to direct other improvements connected with the railroad. No one doubts Mr. Law's pecuniary ability. It is estimated that he is worth *from five to seven millions*, and his fortune is daily and hourly augmenting by his activity and enterprise, regulated by great practical foresight. He has never yet failed in anything he undertook, except when he was beaten in 1849, by the Hon. Booby Brooks, for Congress, because the free soilers were leagued against him on account of his not "shelling out" the cash to pay them, for which he was very censurable. It is said he had a profound contempt for the contest, for the seat, and for his antagonist, and hence refused to open his purse strings. If Mr. Law would go into Wall street, which, since the discomfiture of all the great men there, is without any expanded intellect to control monetary operations, his genius would soon effect a revolution and reform, in the financial world. Things would be carried on upon a large and magnificent scale, and he would be worth more to the financial credit of New York, than a regiment of the small speculators that now have the sway. His letter above shows, that his genius is not cramped or limited to mere speculations of peace or ordinary matters; but compasses the drift of European events, and the requisite means of meeting them.

We regard Mr. Law's *pronunciamento*, above given, as the most important public document of the day. The republican patriots of Europe have in it a practical means pointed out to them of doing something. Talking and writing merely, will never effect any change there. The London *Times*, *Galignani*, and the *Moniteur* of Paris, will, of course, insert this notice, and if the revolutionists have any discretion, they will dispatch an agent to this city immediately, with the "wherewith" to make proper arrangements. George Law is their man. No one man, no ten men, in the United States can do what he can for them. He is yet young, being scarcely forty, and of large stature, standing, perhaps, six feet three inches high, and well proportioned. Though Mr. Law, in early life, was not favored with a classical education, he has cultivated and improved his mind by laborious application, and by extensive travel in this country and in Europe. He is of the same family as the famous banker, John Law, the author of the Mississippi and South Sea schemes in France and England, at the first part of the last century, and which would probably have succeeded, but that fools and knaves took their management out of his hands. His ancestors were nearly allied to those of Lord Ellenborough, late Chief Justice of England, and of Edmund Law, formerly of Washington City. Everything that George Law touches seems to turn into gold, the same as if touched by the wand of Midas. He is, in himself, a *placer*—a *quartz rock*, richer than Col. Fremont's Mariposa diggings. He will probably make out of his late canal contracts, in his State, amounting to several hundred thousand dollars, say fifty per cent clear profits, and still the State will be the gainer by his great experience and skill in such works. The practical means and measures adopted by George Law, in behalf of republicanism in Europe, are worth all the speeches and efforts of forty Kossuths in half a century, and the Revolutionary Committee to boot.

THE ITALIAN OPERA TROUPES—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE.—To-night two grand operas will be produced at the rival houses—both of the same character—the heroes being two terrible fellows for breaking ladies' hearts, but, some how or other, very popular with the sex, especially the greater devil of the two. Full houses may therefore be expected at the representation, this evening, of Don Juan, at Niblo's, and Robert the Devil, at Astor Place.

During the last week, the contest between the two *troupes*, for fame and supremacy, has been spirited and well fought. Both *troupes* have been attended by "troops of friends;" but on the whole, Niblo's has been the most crowded. Both in money and numbers it has had the superiority. But the contest is not over as yet, and the race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong. There is many a slip between the cup and the lip, and it is only the *troupe* that perseveres to the end, that shall be crowned with victory.

This contest is one of endurance and pluck, as well as of musical skill and science, and superior quality of voice. Self-denial is necessary, and receipts for the present must be disregarded, and the goal kept steadily in view. Whichever *troupe* first quits the field will undoubtedly be regarded as the beaten *troupe*, and the other *troupe* will crow loud and long over it. If "the upper ten" want the old house to hold out, they must attend it, not only on fashionable nights, but every night it is open, and the Bosio *troupe* must look to its laurels in the selection of as good operas as Maretzek.

Whatever may be the final issue of the struggle between the two *troupes*, there is no doubt that the permanent establishment of the opera at fifty cents will result from it, and we shall have that highest of enjoyments in future as cheap as theatres, or any other amusement. A conceited pseudo-aristocracy can never again monopolize this refining art to themselves. It always belonged of right as much to the people as to them; it now belongs to the people in point of fact, and a taste for the lofty and sublime compositions of Rossini, Meyerbeer, Donizetti, Mozart, and Bellini will be strengthened, extended, and become a characteristic of the whole people of New York. A revolution has been accomplished in music—and a complete victory achieved over the pompous parvenues by the *bourgeoisie*, the shopkeepers, the mechanics, and other unpretending citizens of Gotham. "White kids" will henceforth be at a discount.

It is true that the salaries of the artists will be reduced in consequence of the reduction of the price, at least until a grand Opera House is established, capable of seating 5,000 persons; but they must not complain when they reflect upon the philosophy of the thing—"partial evil is universal good." Their former incomes were too great to last long in this republican country. But after all, it is a question whether more moderate, and, at the same time, more stable salaries are not better for body and soul, than the enormous terms they were in the habit of receiving "by fits and starts," followed by nothing to do. The possession of much money, with idleness, leads to many evils, from which artists are no more exempt than other flesh and blood. By the musical revolution, therefore, they will be at least as happy in this world as before, and they will stand a far better chance of bliss in the world to come.

Naval Intelligence.

The U. S. Steamship Susquehannah put into Mauritius Nov. 16, for coal and water. All well on board.

The Commissioners of Emigration—The Report of the Committee of the Legislature at last.

The long-expected report of the secret committee of the Legislature appointed to inquire into "the condition, business accounts, and management of the Commissioners of Emigration," is before the readers of the HERALD at last, and probably before them exclusively. It was the publication (also exclusive) in this journal of a report of the minority of the Commissioners of Emigration, in reference to the doings at Ward's Island, that led to the long and tedious investigation, the result of which is embodied in the document now before us. We regret to say it is not such as the public had a right to expect. It verifies the adage of a mountain in labor, and a ridiculous mouse being brought forth. It is a whitewashing report, and is not likely to give satisfaction to the people. But it has not disappointed us. It is just what we expected, and long since predicted it would be. We knew that the holding of a secret investigation, with closed doors, in some back room in Wall street, was not the way to arrive at the truth, and we said so. We also knew, from the puff of Governor Hunt in his message, from what point the wind blew; and for any practical good that will be effected, we very much fear the whole thing is labor in vain, and great expense upon the State, without any compensating return.

The committee tell us that they informed themselves by personal observation, as well as by witnesses, of the facts upon which they have reported. We trust they did not send the officials word when they were coming, or that dust was not thrown in their eyes by sundry ingenious devices. In the commencement of the document they state that there has been an extraordinary increase in emigration for the last four years, the numbers arriving in each year at this port being as follows:—

In the year 1848	189,176
" 1849	220,603
" 1850	212,793
" 1851	289,601

This vast increase, they justly remark, renders it the more necessary that attention should be paid to the proper management of the emigrant institution. The act, constituting the Commissioners of Emigration, was passed in 1847, and sprung from the public indignation expressed at the frauds practised upon emigrants for a length of time. The committee say that there has been a great improvement under the *regime* of the Commissioners. Whether the public, however, will believe them is another question.

It has been charged by the newspapers and the public, that the commission has failed to effect the proper object for which it was instituted—that the Commissioners have not used proper economy in the exercise of their functions, and are largely in debt—that persons entitled to proper relief have been improperly refused such relief by the Commissioners—that other such persons have been wrongly treated in their institutions—that the Commissioners do not afford proper diet and accommodations, and that their buildings are poorly adapted to their purpose—that the medical organization at Ward's Island, under the charge of the Commissioners, is detrimental to the interests and dangerous to the lives of the emigrants—that some of the Commissioners have made their official position a place of pecuniary profit to themselves, contrary to the oath required of them by section 10 of chapter 319 of the laws of 1848—that they have exercised unfairness and partiality in the discharge of their duties towards runners, forwarders, boarding house keepers, and contractors—that the Commission is too much open to influence by shipowners, who have been appointed Commissioners, and whose interest is to make the cost of the care of those entitled to relief as small as possible, even at the expense of their comfort and right, to the end of preventing an increase of the commutation money, or of the expense of passengers arriving in their ships—that the Commissioners have not caused proper care to be taken of the property of persons dying in their establishment, or of minor children required to be taken charge of by them—that their subordinates, employed to advise emigrants on their arrival, and others in the employ of the Commissioners, have been in collusion with and under pay of those against whose imposition, they had been appointed to guard emigrants.

These are heavy and serious charges, and the question is, whether they are true or false. The committee acquit of part, find guilty of part, gloss over others, and, in reference to some, they return a Scotch verdict, "not proven," indicating neither positive guilt nor innocence, but leaving room for grave suspicion. For the different points on which they pronounce, or are silent, we refer the reader to the report itself.

With the exception of the clause prohibiting shipowners from being Commissioners, the remedies proposed in their annexed act are "lame and impotent;" and one which would have been worth them all together was pressed by a member of the committee, but not inserted in the bill, namely, the abolition of the present Board and the appointment of three Commissioners, to be elected by the people, and paid salaries, which would be found by experience to be a saving upon the present system of gratuitous services. We may soon take another opportunity of adverting to this important subject. Meantime the report, miserable as it is, affords food for reflection, and will suggest to the sagacious reader far more than it contains.

Marine Affairs.

DEPARTURE OF STEAMERS TO DAY.—Three more steamers leave to-day, namely, the Merlin, for Bermuda and St. Thomas; and the Empire City and City of New York, for California. The City of New York was to have sailed on Saturday; but owing to a large number of persons crowding aboard beyond her capacity for accommodation, and without tickets, as the agent had stopped selling them when the vessel was full, her departure was necessarily deferred till to-day to regulate matters. The Empire City will also be crowded. Such is the rage for emigration to California, that persons wishing to go there have to purchase tickets weeks before the departure of the vessel, to prevent disappointment. Indeed, we understand the tickets on all the lines have already been purchased up to April.

TRIAL TRIP OF THE STEAMER SIERRA NEVADA.—We were invited, on Saturday morning last, to witness the trial trip of the new and splendid steamer Sierra Nevada, 1,800 tons burthen. Her hull was built by W. Collyer, and the engines by Morgan & Co. She was originally the Texas, and was intended to run between New Orleans and Galveston; but on account of the great increase of travel between this and Chagres, she has been bought for that route, and will sail in a few days. She is commanded by Capt. J. D. Wilson, (formerly of the Empire City, and late of the Hermann,) whose reputation as a commander is too well known to need any panegyric. She made the run from the Battery to Sandy Hook, (distance eighteen miles,) in one hour and seven minutes, with all her coal (500 tons) for outward and homeward trip. Her engines worked admirably. Her accommodations are most excellent, and no doubt she will be one of the favorite boats. She can accommodate about six hundred passengers.

LOSS OF THE SHIP COLUMBUS.—The following are the particulars of the loss of this vessel, together with thirteen of her crew and passengers, brief notices of which we have already published:—

DUNCANNON, (County Waterford,) Jan. 7, 1852.

A shipwreck, attended with loss of life, occurred last night at Doornoge Bay, in this county, eight miles below this town, and a quarter of a mile within the entrance of Waterford harbor.

Between 8 and 9 o'clock, during a storm that blew from between the south and western points of the compass, a large ship came in close to the westward (county Waterford) shore; she was driven in with fearful speed, although under close reefed topsails. Abreast of Dunmore, and very near to its cliffs, she hove to; she then went a little further up the harbor. Getting no assistance, possessing no local knowledge, the master was naturally unwilling in such a night, with a sea mountains high, and Creden Head looming black in at two miles distance, to face his vessel up a strange river. He then got more canvas on the ship, and put her across the river towards the county Waterford side. His intention was to get out of the harbor again, but the vessel was not able to weather Hook Tower, the terminus of Waxford peninsula. He then wore the ship round again, with her head up the river—but there was no room for this manœuvre to succeed, and she struck on a ledge full of pointed rocks. Her masts were carried out by the violence of the breakers that overwhelmed her, and her fate was fixed beyond remedy. In that spot, on such a night, the vessel's doom could only be destruction—the wonder is, that one of her people survived the accident.

Immediately after she struck, one of the pilots came near, and remained for some hours—without the possibility of rendering assistance to the vessel, that might have been saved, had it been possible to put a local pilot on board half an hour previously, when she was in comparatively still water at the Waterford side.

The ill fated vessel was the Columbus, Captain Robert M'Cerren, with a 1,400 tons cargo of cotton and Indian corn from New Orleans, whence she sailed on the 4th of last December for Liverpool. Shortly after striking, a boat with four men put off from the vessel, contrary to the earnest remonstrance of the people on shore, several of whom lined the beach, attracted to the place by the lights exhibited, and other signals made by the ship in progress from the Waterford side. Of these four seamen three survived—the fourth reached the shore alive, but perished immediately after being rescued from the raging surf. The vessel struck about nine o'clock. The sea raged throughout the night most frightfully; between that and five o'clock, nineteen others of the crew were rescued (total saved twenty-two). But eight others of the crew perished, with three female passengers and one male passenger; total lost, thirteen. Most of the persons saved owed their deliverance to floating in on bales of cotton. The people exerted themselves during the night to save life—and when life (or death) was decided, they began to save property. About 1,000 bales of cotton were picked up during this day, and taken charge of by Lloyd's agent. Two of the females were cabin passengers—the third is stated to be a county Wexford woman returning to her native land, and meeting a frightful death on its threshold.

JAN. 8.—The master and crew of the unfortunate Columbus are this day gone to Waterford, to proceed by to-morrow's steamer to Liverpool. Some more of the cotton has been saved, but the grain is washed away. The hull held together, but the deck rose from the side as the cover of a box might do. Five bodies have been washed ashore.

The names of the unfortunates who lost their lives in the vain attempt to reach the shore, were published in yesterday's HERALD.

CARAVAJAL IN MATAMORAS.—The *Rio Bravo*, published at Brownsville, Texas, on the 14th of January, says:—It is well known that for several nights past the long roll has been beaten in Matamoras, the guards called in from the Garita, and a general apprehension sought to be created, that Caravajal, with a great army, was just on the point of making an assault upon the town. This pretence was so ridiculous, that intelligent men were led to inquire into the true reason for this extraordinary conduct. At length the shrewd ones have let the "cat out of the bag." They assert, with the utmost probability, that this is done to facilitate the nocturnal smuggling operations of Gen. Avalos' foreign friends and moneyed patrons. Names are given, and vast amounts of goods are believed to have been smuggled across the river, at this and other neighboring points. Here is the secret out; and this is the manner in which the new collector and people of Matamoras are duped and humbugged. Such is Mexican officers' honor, and Mexican official integrity. And yet this is the honest Government which the American toadies, of the foreign monopolists, are so averse to seeing reformed.

Highly Important Notices, or Puffs Extraordinary.

We publish the following notes and notices, exactly as they have been sent to us—*verbatim et literatim*. In every matter of public interest, we notice what we deem important, in our own way. Our terms for all extraordinary advertisements, puffs, notices, &c., sent to us, as the following have been, are *twenty cents per line for the whole matter printed*. The Alleghanians, and Thompson & Son will please make out their own bills by that rule, and send the money to the HERALD office to-day. Printers and paper makers require cash payments—so do we.

[PUFF No. 1.]

TO THE EDIOR HERALD

Enclosed I send you the following for your Sunday paper and please send to mr Thompson—200 copies of the HERALD—or to me 386 Broadway.