THE LECTURE SEASON.

On China.—By Professor Loomis.

A lecture was delivered on Monday, the 8th inst., by Professor Loomis, late missionary, on China. The lecturer said there lay a question whether national character was the result of a Divine plan, or of circumstances. Had each nation an individuality peculiar to itself? Could, for instance, the Arab be transformed into the Turk? The language and government of each nation were modified by other nations of higher civilization, as was the case in the European nations. China had a civilization peculiarly its own, and a government, language, and literature, its own. It maintained its original individualities. There was every variety of country, abounding in rivers and lakes, and rich in mineral wealth; and she was a rich and industrious nation. She adopted an exclusive policy as to all foreign nations. The question might arise, whether any individual nation had a right to abstract itself from all other nations. Our government contemplated to open commerce with Japan by force; and therefore they may consider another question—whether a nation had a right to do this. The origin of China was not definitely known. It existed two thousand five hundred years before Christ. The Emperor Chin then attempted a perpetual dynasty; and that it might be believed that it commenced with him, he collected together all Chinese books and burnt them, and put to death two hundred and sixty learned men. It was to the works of Confucius, which were preserved, that we are in a great measure indebted for our knowledge of the early history of China. It embraced 5,300,000 square miles. China had two millions more square miles than our extensive country, and a population of three or four hundred millions—nearly half the population of the globe; and this fact had been confirmed by their statistics. But they did not recognise females—hence we doubled their estimates, supposing females to equal the males in number. In Chinese history might be found chronology and mythology. The fabulous period embraced forty-five thousand years. It was believed that two brooding powers hatched over Chaos, the founder of the empire, and that he labored for eighteen thousand years in forming it, and that when he died, his head became mountains—his breath clouds and waters—his veins rivers—his beard stars—his sweat rain—and the insects that stuck to his body became people. (Laughter.) The Chinese writings have lead to the conclusion that Yu founded a colony on the borders of the Yellow River, and that he commenced his reign coeval with the Babylonian monarchy. This was not altogether reliable, because Confucius commenced his history in 740 B. C., and the writings being found not altogether in a perfect state, the Chinese attempted an entire correction, and, therefore, they cannot be relied on. The government was an absolute monarchy; but there were certain peculiar restrictions—ancient usage had become a law, and was more absolute than the monarchy itself, and was inviolable by the Emperor. The present was a Tartar dynasty. In 1644, China was taken possession of by the Tartars, and one remarkable fact was that the conquered people were decreed to wear a badge of servitude. At the time the Tartar chief conquered China, he required all the Chinese to shave their heads, except a small part of the back, which was made up into a cue. This was indicative of submission to the Tartar yoke. He passed an edict that all criminals should let their hair grow long, so as to make the wearing of hair disreputable; and at the present day the custom exists. The Emperor was said to be the vicegerent of Heaven. The succession was hereditary; yet the Emperor could appoint his successor. All the provinces were ruled by a governor, who exercised the same power as the emperor, and power was so distributed among the Chinese and Tartar governors as to act as a check on each other. The government was well adapted to the genius of the people, but the penal code was most severe. He had seen in Canton, on the execution grounds, piles of heads; and in some cases the executioner commenced with the extremities. Some were burnt and flayed alive. This severity indicated barbarism; yet there was a high degree of civilization in China—as a nation, they were noted for their urbanity and politeness. They had schools and colleges, and conferred degrees. The highest offices were in the gift of the Emperor, and were attainable by any of his subjects. There was no aristocracy in China, but an aristocracy of learning, and also of beggars. Their language was not an alphabetical but a symbolical one. There were 214 distinct elements, and from these an extensive combination was formed. The spoken language varied in the different provinces; there were eighteen different sounds given to the same character. Their literature comprised history, philosophy, poetry, romance, and dramatic productions. There was much that was valuable in their philosophy; but of science they had little knowledge, either of that of medicine, or of any other. The Chinese discovered the magnetic needle more than 1,000 B. C., while the western nations had not discovered it until the fourteenth century. The art of printing was known to the Chinese in the tenth century, and gunpowder was also known by them at an early date. The great wall employed one-third of all the male population, and they say it cost one generation, and saved many generations—it was 1,500 miles long. It now served simply as a boundary, though it had been constructed for the defence of the nation from the Tartars. The roads in China were bad. Tea was known in China as early as the year A. D. 350. There were two tea districts—the green tea, and the black tea district. Small feet existed 950 B. C.; the origin of the fashion was not definitely known. Although the Chinese were idolatrous, no human sacrifices, as far as was known, were introduced. Rites and ceremonies, which the Emperor and officers of the government were obliged to pass through, constituted the national religion. The principal religion was the Budhist religion, which was founded in India, and had been introduced into China in the year A. D. 65. The Budhists believed that everything came from nothing, and was tending to nothing; and they believed in the transmigration of souls. He had remarked the strong resemblance between the ceremonies of the Bubhist religion and the Catholic religion. This had been remarked by all travellers. They had monasteries and convents, altars, holy water, and a holy virgin; and their service was in Sanscrit, as the Catholic service was in Latin. There was also a large number of "Confucists," who worshipped Confucius and had several temples. The Chinese had not made any advance in civilization for some years, and never would until the introduction of Christianity. There was no strong religious element in the Chinese character. When he had been in their temples, the priests had stopped to look at him. Their jealousy of foreigners resulted in a great degree from the cruelties they had experienced from them. Opium was doing its fearful work, which was introduced by a Christian nation. It was a great obstacle to the introduction of Christianity, because that great evil came from a Christian country. There were 80 male and 50 female missionaries, laboring to introduce Christianity, and their efforts were not altogether in vain.

The lecturer concluded his discourse by remarking upon the importance of the missionary cause.

On Italy—By the Rev. Dr. Baird.

The Rev. Dr. Baird delivered the eighth of a course of historical lectures, on Monday evening, the 8th inst., at the Brooklyn Female Academy, to a large and attentive audience. The subject was Italy. The lecturer commenced with the early history of Italy, and described its geography. With regard to the first occupation of Rome we know nothing further than that it was peopled by different families, the descendants of Noah, and was founded about eighteen hundred and fifty-two years before the advent of our Saviour. It was governed by seven kings in succession; after which arose the the republic, which, however, was very oppressive on the masses, who, at last, arose and compelled the nobles to grant tribunes of the people. This body had vast power. They exercised the power of veto on any acts of the Senate. They were not a branch of the legislature, and did not meet with the Senate, but sat at the door like watch dogs. The republic lasted, through its various gradations from a civil to a military government, for hundreds of years; during which period the Romans conquered the south of Italy and the Greek colonies, and extending their conquests, became, in process of time, the mistress of all Italy, and its power became very great, and ultimately extended its boundaries in all directions. The conquest of Greece was a fortunate thing for the Romans. It was there they borrowed all their learning. Cicero himself had studied in Greece, although that country had been conquered a good while before his day. Modern Rome, continued the reverend lecturer, covers some of the hills on which ancient Rome stood; but not all. The ancient city extended several miles south of the walls of the present city; but we do not really know how large ever Rome became. It may have contained four or five millions of people. The buildings of the city were principally of brick; stone and even marble were scarce—the latter being procured from Greece. The material arts of the Romans were architecture, sculpture, and painting; but there is no proof that they attained great eminence in the arts, except in fresco painting, in which they showed great skill. They attained some distinction in music, poetry, and eloquence; but their poets were not equal to those that Greece produced. Still, the Romans did well, although they did not come up to the Greeks, who far excelled them in all these things. Rome governed the civilised world for six hundred years; but after a while, the empire began to go down. She governed too much as a city. There was too much centralization, and the number of people who had a share in the government was consequently very insignificant. Passing, in review, from the founding of Rome, by Romulus, to the time of Augustus, the founder of the republic, and coming down to the period when Constantine removed the government to Constantinople, the lecturer traced the decline of the Roman empire. This transfer forced them to withdraw her armies from England and other portions of Europe; and the western portion of this mighty empire went down. From that day to this, Italy has had separate governments. The Germans then took possession of northern Italy; after whom, the Lombards broke in, and named that portion now known as Lombardy. The Saracens overrunning the southern part of Italy, the Roman empire was divided, and in the twelfth century the Normans took possession. In that and the succeeding century, a great many free cities grew up; and, in process of time, a dozen or more small republics rose up in that country. In the course of time these were also overthrown, in consequence of the conferring of too much power upon a few families. Coming down to the present time, the lecturer stated that there now exists in the Appenines, a small republic, called San Marino. It boasts of an existence of fourteen centuries. It contains five small villages, and about seven thousand inhabitants. Their government consists of two Consuls, called Captains, who are elected every three months, and a legislature of 300 members. Their standing army, some years since, consisted of forty men, but it has since been reduced to one man. The security of this republic lies in its insignificance. Both Charlemagne and Napoleon passed them by as unworthy of conquest. In regard to the Italians of the present day, the lecturer contended that incorrect opinions had been formed of them by Americans. They were not a lazy people. They might be idle, because they have nothing to do, being so miserably governed. They are a bright and quick witted people, and possess as much intelligence as any other people in Europe. If they had a training like our New England people, in two centuries they would be the first people in Europe. The lecturer attributed their present condition to the Catholic church, which tells them, "all you have got to do is to believe;" and to the State, which says, "all you have got to do is to obey." He then referred to the fine arts, for which Italy is celebrated. Architecture and sculpture had flourished beyond measure. They had also fine paintings, and the country was full of good musicians. The music of the finest churches in our largest cities is not to be compared with the music in many of their parish churches. Eloquence, however, had not flourished in that country, in consequence of the strictness of the government. The reverend lecturer concluded his lecture amidst a round of applause.

On Loafers—By Professor Patton.

Last Tuesday evening, Rev. William Patton, of Hartford, Conn., delivered one of the series of the peoples lectures, in Broadway Tabernacle. Subject—"The natural history of that numerous class of bipeds 'yclept loafers."

He premised his discourse by saying that, after the lectures delivered before lyceums and institutes for the last twenty years, numerous as the leaves of the forest in autumn, and sometimes as dry, it is somewhat difficult to find a novel subject. History, geography, astronomy, geology, Shakespeare, the Crusades, Oliver Cromwell, Bonaparte, and all other subjects are exhausted in lectures. Genius has been described and philosophised on; the Anglo-Saxons have been traced back to a nude pair who lived a long time ago, in a garden in Asia; revolutions have been descanted on, and our own country lauded and glorified. Our Union, too, has been saved from total destruction, in five hundred speeches and lectures; and the age has been historically and phrenologically examined. Where, then, should he find a topic? Natural history opens wide its portals, giving a great variety of subjects to the lecturer: instead of wandering with poets and transcendentalists, youth proceeds now on a tour of observation in astronomy or geology; but what subject in natural history should he adopt? He would select something as close to ourselves as possible. He would select the *genus homo*, in the class of Mammalia. He had a higher duty to perform than the classification of races and families by skulls, hair, or skin; but he would investigate the distinct habits of the species. He proposed, therefore, to discuss a very remarkable and extensive species of the *genus homo*, called ordinarily "loafer"—a term which has the merit of being pure Anglo-Saxon—it was supposed to be derived from the German *laufen* (to run). If the statement of peculiarities common to this genus be rightly apprehended, there would be no difficulty of recognizing the species in any country. The raiment has in reality nothing to do with loaferism, more than a brass collar round a dog's neck signifies what breed he is. The two reliable marks are in disposition and in life. A feature of the loafer's character is unwillingness to work; he loves idleness, and would vastly prefer that others should support him; he would wonderfully enjoy Eden, where fruits grew without cultivation, and he would have nothing to do but enjoy himself. The probability is, if he could have directed his own creation, he would have had himself made a vegetable, not an animal, and that he should be planted in a deep soil. It is thought, indeed, that laziness is the true original sin or depravity of the human race. It is said that there is a caudated race in Africa, who have a rudimental tail a few inches long, but they must not on that account be brought down to the level of the monkey. The second peculiarity of the loafer is his life—he is a poetical, transcendental philosopher, believing in the beauty of life *per se*. It suffices that he lives, that he has in himself the sublime fact of existence. These two traits will identify the species wherever you meet it. As wherever through the world you would see the upstretched ears and the descending tail, and hear the bray, you would recognise the donkey, no matter whether starved or well fed, so can the loafer be recognized either in rags or broadcloth. He adapts himself to the most contradictory circumstances of wealth and poverty, ignorance and education. It is through ignorance of this that natural philosophers do not always categorize in the species those who have a perfect right to a place in the class. The lecturer then proceeded to analyze and exhibit very wittily the various characters of loafers—the youthful and adult vulgar loafer; the musical loafer, who is generally a brawny Swiss or Italian; the fashionable loafer, a very exquisite and highly finished variety; the wealthy and retired loafer; the military and naval loafer, who may be termed the loafer in uniform, (the army and navy were nurseries of loaferism, and the greatest blessing would result from the general and contemporaneous disarmament of the armies and navies of all nations;) the political loafer, a great variety in this favored land—not the statesman, but the adventurer on the sea of politics—Congress is the Paradise of such loafers; the aristocratic loafer, a variety principally found in the old world, and existing not by the grace but the patience of God and the sufferance of the people. In this country there is no perfect specimen of this variety, though there were some approaches to it in the South, where society is composed of workers, and those who own them. The latter are the aristocratic loafers, somewhat resembling the European species. (Sustained applause, commingled with hisses from all parts of the house.) The last species of loafers, which he could not pass by, were the "ecclesiastical loafer"—a variety peculiar to the church. Their numbers increased in proportion to the poverty of the people, till in Italy they numbered one tenth of the population. In bringing his lecture to a close, he would warn his hearers against the fundamental principle of loaferism—unwillingness to work. Labor is never vile; its evils are only in its prostitution for base purposes. The great end of life can be secured only by taxing our energies, manual or intellectual. Be a street sweeper, be a scavenger, if need be, but do not be a loafer, vulgar or musical, fashionable or wealthy, ecclesiastical or military. God never made an idler; that was the creation of the devil.

"Life is not an idle ore,
Not iron dug from central gloom,
And heated hot with burning tears,
And battered with the shocks of doom,
To shape and use."

Marine Affairs.

RAPID TRIP.—The N. B. Palmer, Captain Law, of this port, is said to have made the run from Shanghae to Hong Kong in seventy hours. She was built by Messrs. Westervelt & Mackay.

LAUNCHED, at Rockland, (Me.,) on the 6th inst., a superior white oak three-deck ship, of 1,700 tons, called the Defiance. She was built by the owner, George Thomas, Esq., who has the reputation of being one of the best ship builders in the State. She is thoroughly copper fastened, and built of the very best materials. Her model was made by Mr. Pook, naval architect, of East Boston, and combines the clipper, with good capacity for cargo. This is the largest ship ever built in Maine, her length being 208 feet, beam 42 feet, and 29 feet hold. We understand the builder intends to send her to this city in a few days.

LAUNCHED—At Somerset, 7th inst., by James M. Hood, Esq., a clipper bark of 400 tons, called the Pathfinder, built after the model of the clipper ships Governor Morton and Raven, to be commanded by Captain J. N. Reed, late of the ship Caroline Reed. She will sail from New York about the 20th inst., for San Francisco.

Naval Intelligence.

U. S. sloop of war Saratoga, Comm'r W. S. Walker, sailed from Macao, Dec. 26, for Manilla.

Commodore Francis H. Gregory, is ordered to relieve Commodore John Downs in the command of the United States navy yard at Boston, in May next.

Commodore Downs, it is said, is to be Chief of the Bureau of Navy Yards and Docks, vice Commodore Joseph Smith.

The following officers have been detailed for the board to select a site for a navy yard and dry dock in California, viz:—Commodore John D. Sloat; Commander William S. Ogden; Lieutenants Simon F. Blunt, and Daniel Ammon, and Passed Midshipman Alonzo C. Jackson.

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

NEW YORK LEGISLATURE.

Senate.

ALBANY, March 9, 1852.

BROOKLYN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

A remonstrance was presented from the trustees of the Brooklyn Benevolent Society against the law for the sale of a portion of their property.

THE INSURANCE LAWS.

Mr. COOLEY, (dem.) reported favorably on the bill amending the Insurance law of 1849.

THE WORLD'S FAIR IN NEW YORK.

Mr. VANDERBILT, (dem.) reported a bill for incorporating the Association for the Exhibition of the Industry of all nations. Referred, to be reported in a complete form.

PUBLIC PRINTER.

The bill for the appointment of a Public Printer was reported.

Mr. COOLEY, (dem.) dissented.

The bill was then referred to the Committee of the Whole.

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

Mr. SNOW, (dem.) reported favorably the bill authorizing an appropriation to the College of Pharmacy of the city of New York. Referred to Committee of the Whole, and made the special order for Wednesday.

FREE EDUCATION IN THE ALBANY UNIVERSITY.

Mr. BEERMAN, (whig) reported, in behalf of Literature Committee, a bill to provide for the free education of a certain number of students from each Senate and Assembly district, in the Albany University. Referred to Committee of the Whole.

THE BILL TO INCORPORATE THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

Mr. MORGAN, (whig) from the Select Committee consisting of Senators from First judicial district, reported complete the New York World's Exhibition bill. Ordered to be engrossed for the third reading.

THE IRISH STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

Mr. PLATT (whig), from the minority of Committee on Commerce, reported a special act for the incorporation of the Irish and American Steamship Company.

After the transaction of much unimportant business, the Senate then went into Executive session.

Assembly.

ALBANY, March 9, 1852.

MANSION FOR THE GOVERNOR.

The House went into committee on the bill for constructing a residence for the Governor.

The original bill appointed the Trustees of the Capitol and the Mayor and Recorder of Albany trustees for the erection of a Governor's House, and appropriates $25,000 towards completing it.

Mr. LAKE, (whig) of Livingston, moved to limit the amount to be expended to $25,000.

Mr. MOSS, (whig) of Niagara, was in favor of going as high as $100,000 to build, furnish, &c.

Mr. BULL, (whig) of Orange, proposed an amendment, limiting the amount to $80,000.

Mr. HOLT, (dem.) of Clinton, moved that the Trustees build a four walled house. Carried.

Mr. WALSH, (dem.) of N. Y., opposed what he called peanut economy in these matters.

An amendment limiting the amount to $50,000, moved by Mr. WEBB, (whig) of Madison, was carried.

The bill was then laid aside, to be reported.

STATE LIBRARY—CAPITOL EXTENSION.

The bill making further appropriations for the State library, and for the extension of the capitol, to connect therewith, was taken up. This bill appropriates $22,000 for the library, and $7,000 for the extension of the capitol.

The bill was reported to the House, and ordered to be engrossed.

THE EXCISE LAW.

Ten thousand copies of the majority and minority reports, on the excise law, were ordered.

THE ELECTION OF WRECKMASTERS.

Mr. S. S. SMITH reported favorably on the bill to provide for the election of wreckmasters in Kings, Queens, Suffolk, and Westchester counties.

THIRD READING OF BILLS.

An act making appropriations in part of the support of government.

An act to make the provisions of an act in relation to bridges over the Erie canals applicable to all canals in the State. Passed.

Mr. VAN SANTVOORD moved to lay this order of business on the table. Agreed to.

NEW YORK SAVINGS BANKS.

Mr. BRADLEY, (whig) of Cayuga, offered a resolution that the Attorney General report to the House what proceedings have been taken to recover tax against savings banks in the city of New York. Laid over.

CREDITORS OF DECEASED PERSONS.

Mr. HEDGES, (whig) of Suffolk, gave notice of a bill to amend the Revised Statutes in relation to remedies of judgment creditors against estates of deceased intestates.

CLOSING THE CANALS ON SUNDAYS.

Mr. UNDERWOOD, (whig) of Cayuga, called for the consideration of the resolution offered by him yesterday, directing the Canal Board to cause the locks and public offices on the canals of this State to be closed at twelve on Saturday night, to twelve o'clock on Sunday night.

Upon this he called the ayes and noes; which being taken, were—ayes 32, noes 40.

THE CANAL INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE.

Mr. HATCH, (dem.) of Erie, called up the resolution offered by Mr. Wright some days since, in relation to the fraud investigating committee. Mr. Hatch offered an amendment, instructing the committee to report the testimony forthwith. Adopted.

MANORIAL TITLES.

Mr. MILLS, (dem) of Delaware, called up the joint Senate resolutions for the appointment of the Senators and members of Assembly, a select committee on manorial titles. After some debate, the resolution was adopted, by ayes 48, nays 22.

PROPOSED ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. BABCOCK, (whig) of Niagara, offered a resolution that, if the Senate concur, this Legislature will adjourn *sine die* on the first April. Laid over.

A proposition to adjourn till to-morrow morning was lost, and a recess was taken.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

CLAIMS AGAINST SUPERVISORS.

The bill relative to the claims against the Board of Supervisors was taken up in committee. It requires all accounts to be presented during the first week of the annual session.

Motions were made to except Kings from the bill, and other counties; and the bill was ultimately amended so as to include only Monroe, Cayuga, Columbia, and Allegany, and in that shape was reported.

The Assembly then adjourned.

Meteorological Observations.

BY MORSE'S MAGNETIC LINE, OFFICE CORNER OF WALL STREET AND BROADWAY.

TUESDAY, March 9, 1852.

BUFFALO, 9 A. M.—It rained considerable during the night, accompanied with lightning and very heavy thunder. It is still raining. Wind south. Thermometer 50. Barometer 28.70.

8 P. M.—Barometer 28.98. Thermometer 40. Wind west. It is a rainy, disagreeable day.

ROCHESTER, 9 A. M.—We had a heavy thunder storm about 10 o'clock last night, accompanied with sharp lightning. Wind southeast. It is warm and mild. Thermometer 55.

8 P. M.—It is a very dark, but pleasant evening. We have occasional showers. Wind northwest. Thermometer 55.

AUBURN, 9 A. M.—We had a heavy thunder storm last night. It is now cloudy, but clearing off. Wind southwest. Thermometer 55.

8. P. M.—It is a dull, cloudy night, and raining. Thermometer 38. Wind southeast.

SYRACUSE, 9 A. M.—It is a very warm morning. Wind south. Thermometer 52.

8 P. M.—It has been raining all day. Thermometer 36. Wind west.

UTICA, 9 A. M.—It is a rainy morning. It rained hard during the night. Wind east. Thermometer 42.

8 P. M.—It has rained nearly constantly most of the day. Wind south. Thermometer 34.

ALBANY, 9 A. M.—It is rather unpleasant, and the sky is cloudy. It rained some during the night. Wind south. Thermometer 44. Barometer 29.420. Mercury 73.

8 P. M.—It is a cloudy, mild night. Wind south. Thermometer 51. Barometer 29.300. Mercury 76.

TROY, 9 A. M.—It is a warm, mild, and cloudy morning. Thermometer 45. Wind southeast.

8 P. M.—Wind southwest. Slight drizzling showers fell all day. Thermometer 49.

The Black Swan.

PHILADELPHIA, March 5, 1852.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, Esq.—

DEAR SIR—Did you ever hear of Mrs. Greenfield? No. Well, I am rather surprised at that, for I did think that you knew everything and everybody. But let me enlighten you. Mrs. Greenfield was the widow of a very wealthy planter of Mississippi, and was rated at from $500,000 to $700,000. As she advanced in life, she conceived sundry strange ideas; among which one was, the giving of a musical education to a favorite female slave. She died before the project was accomplished, having first emancipated the slave; and the result is before you, in the so called "Black Swan." If the word swan was at all suggestive of music, I would move to substitute crow, for certainly there is no music in the black Greenfield. I have often heard her squall, and certainly never attempted to compare her to Jenny Lind, Catherine Hayes, or anybody else of musical eminence. But there—I have said enough for you to found a paragraph on.

That Mrs. Greenfield, with all her whims, was a good woman, is evidenced by the fact that she once gave a reverend gentleman in this city $30,000. Oh, these reverends!

Excuse me, but I am too confoundedly poor to pay postage. Suppress my name, if you use any portion of this.

Did it ever strike you that the HERALD was the best paper in the United States? It is, beyond all doubt; and is looked for by its Philadelphia readers with as much anxiety as if it were the only paper in the country.

United States Circuit Court.

Before Hon. Judge Judson.

MARCH 8.—The Court was opened *pro forma* and adjourned to this day fortnight.

Police Intelligence.

The False Pretence Case against Townsend and Metcalf.—The alleged charge of false pretenses against Daniel W. Townsend and A. W. Metcalf, on the complaint of Mr. Chester Driggs, and others, for obtaining various sums of money from them by false pretences, in inducing them to take stock in the New York Steam Croton Faucit Manufacturing Company. The evidence was continued yesterday before Justice Osborne. The cross-examination of Wm. H. Buckly was continued, but nothing very material elicited from the direct testimony. The case stands adjourned until Friday afternoon.

VALUABLE MEMBER OF SOCIETY.—Senor Louis Durand, of this city, late resident on Santa Anna Plaza, outside the city walls, died last night, aged ninety years. He had a family of over one hundred children. They are actually his own children, of the first generation.—*Panama Echo, Feb. 14.*

Letter on African Commerce—By Mr. Thomas H. Carr, Late Consul to Morocco.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK HERALD.

SIR:—The subject of a more enlarged trade with Africa than the United States now possesses, has, within the last few months, been drawing the attention of our mercantile community and of the press in general.

There is no subject, at this moment, more entitled to examination by the American public than the one above alluded to. Our knowledge of that part of the world is surprisingly limited; and the indifference of our government, hitherto, to avail itself of the official and other information in its possession, to increase our relations with that part of the world, has had a tendency to check, if not absolutely to discourage a trade, the amount of which would excite wonder if placed, even by the most limited estimate, before the American people. In truth, we now have no trade, comparatively speaking, with that wonderful and abounding country—not even as much as we possessed at the early period of 1815; whereas, the British commerce, or direct trade with Africa, has increased to an amount far beyond that indicated by the printed reports of the British government, which, I know, are, from matters of interest, made to appear as small as possible. Such is English policy, and it is pursued in all parts of the world where she drives a thriving trade; and it is worthy of notice that while she, by her peculiar system of government, enhances her revenue, and never fails to sustain and protect her merchants and mercantile marine, our own government is becoming more and more, in each succeeding year, indifferent to the performance of the duties of the mission for which it was created and is sustained. Commerce pays all, or nearly all, our revenue, and yet the government grudges encouragement to the power that sustains it, and looks coldly upon the mercantile efforts that would give dignity to her commerce, elevation to its successes, and pride and honor to our enterprises.

My object in writing this communication is not to enlarge upon the manifest and criminal neglect of our government in the matters above referred to, nor upon the losses which our merchants and other American citizens experienced from its inaction; but simply to notice the fact that there is no country, which we know anything of, that offers such great commercial inducements and advantages as Africa. All that is required is to know what to do, and where to do it, and to have the protecting arm of the government extended over the effort.

My experience of some fifteen years, both in official and private capacities, has given me, probably, a more extended knowledge of that country than is possessed by any other American. I propose to turn this experience to good account, and it will afford me great pleasure to give the results of my experience, in aid of any legitimate mercantile adventure that may carry with it the elements of success, founded upon the knowledge which is necessary to insure it.

A single, but momentous fact now occurs to me, by which it will be rendered apparent to you and your readers how ready the British government is to take hold of the valuable suggestions of other people, and to carry them out successfully, be the cost what it may. The movement made last winter at Washington, in order to establish a line of steamers to Liberia, attracted, at once, the attention of that government, and a contract has been entered into, by which, in October next, a line of powerful British steamers will be established, to run regularly upon the western coast of Africa. If our own government would give a like aid to the efforts of our merchant traders, where great objects like this are to be carried out, no nation would thus get the advantage of us, and anticipate our projected enterprises.

In this connection, and generally upon the mercantile resources of Africa, my name has of late been mentioned by a part of the public press, and I have been called upon to deliver a series of lectures upon that interesting subject. I would, therefore, beg to observe that I am prepared to give to the mercantile community a paper on the resources and value of the trade of that country, and in regard to the advantages to be derived by American enterprise in its active prosecution.

I am, respectfully, yours,
THOMAS N. CARR.

Our New Orleans Correspondence.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 25, 1852.

End of the Carnival in New Orleans—Celebration of Mardi Gras—Description of the Procession—Masked Balls—Late News from Mexico—Loss of a French Brig and all on Board—Wreck of the Brig Edwards—Catherine Hayes.

A very successful attempt was made yesterday to revive the old custom of celebrating *Mardi Gras*, the last day of the carnival. In 1836, before the city was divided into separate municipalities, it used to be a regular holiday with the creole population, and was celebrated with great splendor. Of late years, however, the spirit of knighthood has been on the wane among us, and *Mardi Gras* had ceased to become a gala day. The consolidation of the municipalties, and the admission of Lafayette into the City Union, seemed to call up reminiscences of the prosperity and glorious times of the old city, and a general desire prevailed to celebrate the occasion by restoring the gaieties of a custom which had been more honored in the breach than in the observance. It was accordingly arranged among the Creole and American young gentlemen of the city that a grand masque parade should take place in the afternoon. The ragged and barefooted association of juveniles commenced their fun, however, in the morning, by covering their dirty faces with masks, and throwing flour at the darkies on the streets, much to the merriment of the wayfarers. At noon frolicksome parties on horseback and in cabs, dressed in the most grotesque manner, began to appear in the streets, and soon became quite numerous. On coming in contact with the "Ragged and Barefooted Association" flour became freely distributed on both sides, and the streets rang with the wild shouts and laughter of the boys, especially when they would get the better of the flour contest. A strapping black mask on horseback, representing a wench in Bloomer costume, had her complection suddenly changed to snowy white by a handful of flour, as she came dashing down Royal street, while roars of laughter and hurras greeted her from the bystanders. An immense concourse of people assembled at the corners of Royal, Canal and St. Charles streets, as the maskers increased, to witness the fun of the day. By half-past three o'clock, Royal street, from Canal to Esplanade street, was densely crowded with promenaders, and the balconies of the hotels and private houses swarmed with beautiful and elegantly dressed ladies, to witness the procession which was forming in Orleans street, opposite the Opera House. The maskers moved about four o'clock, headed by a large band of music, in a large open wagon, the performers being disguised as monks in gowns and cowls. Next came the grand attraction of the day, a company of some two hundred wild Arabs on horseback, dressed in robes of white and red, with gold and silver tinsel, and sabres. Their huge moustaches and beards gave them quite a warlike appearance, but the only weapons they used were packages of sugar plums, which were freely thrown to the ladies on the galleries.

Next followed a large open carriage, beautifully festooned with flowers, drawn by four horses decorated with ribbonds, and ridden by two postillions. It contained four gallant knights, dressed in the costume of the days of Louis XIV. Another carriage, gaily decorated, contained five persons magnificently attired—two in the costume of Charles II.; one knight in armor, with pike and helmet; a Turk, with a cimeter, and a gentlemen dressed as a young lady, in a beautiful white robe, trimmed with pink, displaying a fair white neck and shoulders, and a pair of well-rounded arms, that would have graced the belle of a ball room. A long train of all kinds of vehicles followed, displaying pretty much such a show as the fantasticals used to in your city, on evacuation day.

At night a number of the maskers appeared on the stage at the French Opera House, and joined in the polka dances of the evening.

Some dozen fancy and mask balls were given, and all were well attended. It was a regular benefit to our Creole ladies, who took advantage of the festivities of the evening, well knowing that to-day commenced the penance of Lent. Thus ended one of the gayest carnivals that New Orleans has witnessed for a long time.

The bark Joshua Braydon arrived yesterday, from Vera Cruz, bringing dates from the city of Mexico to the 12th inst. A bill had been introduced into the Chamber of Deputies for the better security of vessels from danger in the harbor of Vera Cruz.

At Tuspan, on the 11th ult., a violent storm occurred, and a French brig was wrecked, and all on board, 11 persons, perished. The Edwards, from Campeachy was also lost on the 18th ult.

A large amount of counterfeit coin is in circulation in Mexico—so well executed as almost to defy detection—and the attention of the government is called to the fact.

The post office of Guadalagara had been robbed of $6,342.

The interior was quiet, and nothing of importance had occurred.

Catherine Hayes's fourth grand concert, on Monday evening last, was the gem of the season. "Auld Robin Grey," her "Happy Birdling," and "The Last Rose of Summer," electrified the house to an extent never surpassed by the wildest applause given to Jenny Lind. She was magnificently dressed in a white robe, with a wreath of roses from her waist to the skirt, and looked as lovely and as bewitching as a bride.
ORPHEUS.

Obituary Notices.

In Solon, Ohio, on the 21st instant, Capt. JASON ROBBINS, Esq., aged 90, father of Capt. Archibald Robbins, Esq., who was cast away with Capt. John Riley, on the Desert of Sahara. Capt. Robbins was born in Pittsfield, Mass., was raised a farmer, but for many years followed the seas, after which he settled in the township of Rockyhill, Hartford county, Conn., where he lived until about the year 1820, when he moved on to the farm where he died. Capt. Robbins was a man of strong constitution, and very industrious, and had accumulated a fine property, and was respected by all who knew him. He has children settled in Connecticut, Kentucky, Iowa, and Ohio. He died as he had lived for several years, a Christian.

AFFAIRS IN THE CITY.

The Fulton Building Society.

A public meeting of this association was held on Tuesday evening, at Chatham Hall.

Mr. Potter, the attorney to the society, said that it was not then the intention to enter into an explanation of the objects of the society, but he would simply state that it was a collection of individuals who agreed to pay small sums of money, until they should amount to $600. They paid an entrance fee of half a dollar, and a monthly payment of $2 50, and divided among the members of the association the sum of $600. Should not the association have occasion to lend the money to any of its members, it was authorised to lend it on good security. The institution would continue until the payments and the interest amounted to $600, and it had eight hundred members. Each member was entitled, by contract, to receive, at the termination of the association, $600. Now, instead of taking that sum then, a member could take a sum at any time before; that was called the redemption of a share; and what the member would receive would depend upon what it would fetch by an auction, and upon receiving the amount he agreed to discharge the association and pay over the $600. He was liable to pay his two and a half dollars till the end of the association, and must give security by way of mortgage to the society to conduct himself as a member of the association, and to pay the charges in relation to such membership. At the termination of the association, he did not receive the $600, but received back the mortgage cancelled. That was the substance of the whole arrangement. These societies had since been made saving institutions, by persons paying over money, and being allowed seven per cent interest. Members might withdraw six months after entrance and receive back the moneys paid, together with interest, but not any portion of the profits, nor any fines paid for misconduct. Members could transfer their shares, at all times, upon payment of $1 per share. To the security of the funds in the event of the secretary at any time decamping, he said they would be lent out on mortgage and bond, and, therefore, he had only the documents in his possession, which, if purloined, the only inconvenience and expense which would result would be this procuring attested copies. Due and cautious provision was made as to the valuation of property, and the affairs and officers of the society were under the control of its members, who met monthly.

Some new members were then admitted, and the meeting adjourned.

The New Industrial Savings Movement.

THE IRVING BUILDING AND MUTUAL LOAN ASSOCIATION.

Pursuant to advertisement, a meeting of this association was held on Monday evening at Chatham Hall, Chatham square. The assemblage consisted, for the most part, of a respectable class of intelligent mechanics and storekeepers—the great majority of them being young men. There were two or three females present. This association is chiefly got up by Odd Fellows.

Mr. ELIAS COOMBES was appointed Secretary pro tem., when the minutes of the last meeting were read, from which it appeared that, at the last meeting, three shares, of $800 each, were purchased at a premium of $431, $435, and $426, respectively.

Mr. COOMBS then proceeded to address the meeting. He said he was not in the habit of addressing public meetings, and did not belong to the speech-making family, as Mr. Harper used to say; but, as they were disappointed in speakers, he would endeavor to show by figures—which could not lie—the operations of this association, and other associations of the same character. He had made the calculation he was about to lay before them for his own use. It was for ten years, which was three or four years longer than he believed it would take to wind up the affairs of this association. Five shares, value $800 each, amounts to $4,000. Allow a premium of $300 each, which will give $2,500—say the property is worth and will yield a yearly rent of $250—the total amount for ten years will be $2,500. The actual amount of cash paid to the association in ten years, including interest and dues, is $4,200; cash paid for insurance, ten years, $187 50—total, $4,387 50. The total amount paid more than receipts is $1,887 50. He had made a calculation for twelve years, and one thousand shares, at $3 per month per share—being $36,000—would amount in that time, with compound interest, to $625,537 38—thus giving $1,625 on each share on which was paid $382. This calculation is without any profit from loans on the shares, or fines, &c. Now, if associations of this character make loans on the shares, profits will be produced which will wind up the redemption of the shares in a much shorter time—say in eight years. He was a business man, and not able to talk to them except as he would in his store, but he would answer them any question, or give any explanation.

The President of the association, Mr. MORRIS FRANKLIN, then said savings banks were very good in their way for the laboring classes, but building associations were far better. The first question was whether they were satisfied with the officers; and the next was, whether they were satisfied with the correctness of the calculations. If they were satisfied with both, then they must come to the conclusion that there never was such an investment, in this or any other country in the world. There were thousands of such societies in England, and whole blocks and villages were built up by them. This society was only in operation for three weeks, and it had 448 subscribers—a degree of success which was probably unexampled.

Shares were then taken by several persons present, which brought the number up to 478; after which the association adjourned, to meet in Masonic Hall, in Grand street, on Friday evening next, the regular monthly night of meeting, when, as was stated, a gentleman would address the meeting, who would give a lucid account of the nature and operation of building associations.

General Committee of the Democratic Whig Young Men.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

NEW YORK, March 8, 1852.

SIR:—Some one has furnished you with a report of the last meeting of the Young Men's Whig General Committee, which I desire corrected in one particular. Your reporter notes that my particular friend, W. F. Jackson, moved a series of resolutions for my expulsion, which is correct, so far as it goes; but the report does not state Alderman Jackson's reasons. The Alderman moved these resolutions because he had been informed that I had been guilty of reporting the proceedings of the committee; and they were ruled out by my friends, who were opposed to such a summary process of cutting off reporting as this. As your reporter states, Alderman Jackson is sick and tired of the eternal wrangling about reporting every night the committee meets, and has announced his intention of ceasing hostilities, to me especially, as to my connection with the aforesaid reports. The Alderman is quite a clever fellow, and was one of the seventeen honorable men who refused to pledge themselves to adhere to the ridiculous resolution adopted at the last meeting, pledging the honor of the deleg