THE CITY PIERS AND SLIPS.

Important Communication from the Comptroller.

At a meeting of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, at the Finance Department, January 28, 1853—present, Jacob A. Westervelt, Mayor; F. R. Tillou, Recorder; A. C. Flagg, Comptroller; E. W. Edmonds, City Treasurer; James M. Bard, Chairman of Finance Committee of Board of Aldermen—the Comptroller presented the following communication to the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund:—

FINANCE DEPARTMENT,
COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE,
CITY OF NEW YORK, Jan. 27, 1853.

TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE SINKING FUND—

The leases for the following piers, the property of the Corporation of New York, and constituting a portion of the means set apart and pledged for the payment of the city debt, expire on the first of May next. The name of the present lessee, the number of pier, and the rent in each case, are given in this statement, viz:—

John R. Brown, pier foot of Thirtieth street	$824 40
Jacob Robinson, south side Castle Garden bridge	360 00
Hugh Kelly bulkhead, Twenty-third street	100 00
Charles H. Marshal, berth for ship at Beekman st.	1,500 00
Philip Mabee, east half of pier No. 7 and west half of No. 8	5,550 00
Teft & Catlin, east half of 6 and west half of 7	5,000 00
Griffith & Monteath, east half of 5 and west half of 6	5,050 00
L. W. Brainard, east half of 4 and west half of 5	5,000 00
E. E. Sherman, pier 32, and south half of 33, Jay st.	3,000 00
D. R. Martin, pier 25, Franklin street	2,346 00
John Cowles, small boat district	50 00
L. H. Edwards, pier foot of Bank street	385 00
John McKenna, Eighteenth street, North river	700 00
E. E. Sherman, pier 32 and south half of 33, North river	3,000 00
Courtney & McMullen, pier, Twenty-sixth street, North river	575 00
James Leroy, one-ninth of pier 42, East river	510 00
Edward Talcy, pier 48, East river	2,400 00
M. G. Smith, pier foot of Stanton street	1,250 00
Edward Talcy, pier foot of Third st., East river	425 00
Do. do. Fifth street, East river	450 00
George Brown, do. Twenty-third street, ex. of ferry, East river	550 00
Co. bulkhead, from Twenty-third to Twenty-fourth street, ex. of ferry	225 00
James Lewey, pier foot of Twenty-fifth st., do	575 00
Edward Conway, do. Twenty-sixth street, do	450 00
George Brown, do. Twenty-eighth street do	350 00
James Dewey, pier and bulkhead, Harlem, do	240 00
Edward Conway, pier foot of Fifty-third st., do	47 00
Stephen Clark, do. 100th street do	35 50
E. S. Mott, do. Thirty-eighth street, do	250 00
Wm. Mengies, do. Twenty-first street, North river	130 00

Those who desire the occupancy of these piers will be anxious to ascertain whether they can obtain leases for them, as early as practicable, in order to make their arrangements for the business of the ensuing season.

The ordinance passed in 1844, respecting the sinking fund and the management of it, provides two modes for renting the piers beloging to said fund. These provisions are set forth in the two following sections of that ordinance, viz:—

Sec. 9. Whenever any property belonging to the Corporation is unproductive, or the term for which it may have been leased or let shall have expired, or be about expiring, it shall be the duty of the said Comptroller, with the sanction of the Finance Committees, to let the same for a term not exceeding one year, if in his judgment it will be beneficial to the public interest to do so.

Sec. 10. Whenever, in the judgment of the said Comptroller, it shall be more advisable to lease property belonging to the Corporation for a term exceeding one year, it shall be his duty to communicate the same, with his reasons therefor, to the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, and if they concur with him, they are hereby authorized and empowered to lease the same in such manner as they may deem most fit for the interest of the city, and upon the production of a certificate signed by a majority of said Commissioners, of whom the Comptroller shall be one, it shall be the duty of the said Mayor and Clerk of the Common Council to execute such leases under their hands and seal of the city; said lease to be submitted to the Common Council for their sanction before being executed; but no lease so made by the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund shall be for a longer term than five years.

In the present condition of the affairs of the city, I consider it an imperative duty to recommend to the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, under the tenth section of the ordinance above given, to fix the amount of annual rent to be paid on the several piers where the leases expire on the first of May, 1853, by public auction, after full notice, and for a term of five years. My reasons are:—

First. That this is the best method of producing a fair competition among those who desire the use of the piers for the accommodation of their business, and of securing to the city treasury a just equivalent for the use of its property.

Second. That by giving leases for a term of years, we secure to those who desire accommodations for ocean vessels or for canal boats, the advantages of having a fixed place of business for the period of the lease.

Third. As the trustees for the Corporation and the creditors of the city, we have the custody of property estimated at from fifteen to twenty millions of dollars, which is pledged for the payment of an annual interest of some $600,000, and a principal debt of fourteen and a half millions of dollars; and for the ultimate payment of which, not only this property and its revenues are pledged, but if it is not sufficient, the faith of the State is pledged to authorize the levy of taxes for the payment of the interest on the debt. Invested with such important trusts, involving great pecuniary interests of the public creditors, as well as the city, in leasing and selling some of the most desirable property within the bounds of the corporation, it is desirable that the official agents of such a trust should, in managing and disposing of this property, protect themselves against the possibility of suspicion that they were influenced by a desire to grant favors to political or personal friends, or actuated by any influence, save that which springs from an honest desire to discharge the trust with the strictest fidelity to the public creditors, on the one hand, and our confiding constituents on the other.

Above all things, we should fortify our official acts with such a degree of openness and fair dealing as to keep ourselves at an immeasurable distance from even a suspicion that we could be tempted by any earthly consideration, through "middle men" or brokers, to secure to ourselves an interest in this property, or to put a dollar into our own pockets, which faithfulness to our trusts would have secured to the city treasury. Next in importance to an honest and faithful discharge of a pecuniary trust, is the conviction on the public mind, of the fact, produced by open and fair dealing in every transaction which concerns the trust, or those interested in it. We should not only be honest in all our acts, but we should, as far as practicable, prove to the people that we are so; in disposing of their property, we should adopt the course sanctioned by the practice of intelligent and judicious business men. In pursuing such a course, we may hope to be sustained by a moral force, which is essential to the beneficial and successful administration of the city government. The priceless value of a good private character needs no illustration. The influence and value of character in a public agent, entrusted with the credit and property of the city, and personally pledged to faithfulness by oaths and bonds, cannot be computed by dollars and cents. It is essential to all the great interests confided to such an agent, that his character should "not only be pure, but unsuspected."

The corporation owns eighty-seven piers, wharves, and bulkheads, estimated in the Comptroller's report of 1852 to be worth $3,258,000. On the 28th day of November last the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund passed a resolution to sell ten whole piers, with half of bulkhead in the case of six of them, and the half of fourteen piers, with half of bulkhead in nine cases. Some of these were among the most valuable and desirable of the pier and wharf property belonging to the city. The valuation placed upon the property by the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, under section 1, title 5, of the ordinance of 1844, was $565,000. The sale was to have taken place on and after the 21st of December last, but was stopped by an injunction issued by Judge Emmet. The late Counsel to the Corporation, and a majority of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, although they stopped the sale, did not concur in the opinion of the Judge, and proceedings were taken to carry up the case. Although our agency in regard to this trust fund may be regarded in one sense as a mere financial question, confined to the management of the fund, and in getting the greatest amount of revenue for the holders of the city debt, and for the relief of the tax-payers; yet in the disposition of that peculiar portion of the property which consists of wharves, piers and bulkheads, we should not lose sight of the importance of controlling this property, and the land under water connected with it, for the purpose of accommodating the commerce, interior and exterior, of this great and growing city. The estimates in regard to the future growth of the city, lead to the belief that it is destined to have concentrated in the bay which connects it with the ocean, and the rivers which surround it, a more extensive internal and external commerce than any city of ancient or modern times. Making every allowance which the most cautious would recommend, there are unmistakable indications that the demands of trade will give a value to the city property fronting on the water, altogether beyond any price which could be obtained for it now. If, therefore, the renting of this property can be kept out of the hands of jobbers, and its fair value be paid into the city treasury directly, by those who wish to use the piers in carrying on their business, it would not be advisable, in my judgment, to litigate the question whether the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund have power to sell or not. The money is not at present wanted for any of the purposes of the trust. The interest on the outstanding stock is abundantly provided for by the water rents and the revenues on the pledged property. There is at this time standing to the credit of the commissioners, $561,705 50, for the payment of interest and principal; and there is in the hands of the Comptroller over three millions of stock, readily convertible into cash for the payment of principal; enough to cancel the large amount of three millions of dollars falling due in 1858. The ordinance of 1844, which organizes the sinking fund, has the following provision respecting sales of real estate:—"The Commissioners of the Sinking Fund are hereby authorized to sell and dispose of all real estate belonging to the Corporation, and not in use or reserved for public purposes."

The whole history of the pledged fund, from 1812 to the present time, as given in a subsequent part of this report, proves that care was taken to guard against the sale of the productive property of the city, unless it was indispensable for the ultimate payment of the debt. The act of 1812 pledged all the revenues of the city until the final redemption of the stock. The ordinance of August 9, 1813, establishing a sinking fund, only pledged certain revenues, and twenty-five per cent of the net proceeds of all sales of real estate belonging to the Corporation. But no power was specially given in either case to sell property by the commissioners of the fund. This was varied in the ordinance of 1844, as before given.

It is a vital principle of a sinking fund, so far as the public creditor is concerned, to keep the principal of the pledged fund unbroken and productive; and hence provision was made for separating the fund for the payment of principal, from that which was pledged for the payment of interest; and if the latter is insufficient to meet the accruing interest, resort must be had, not to a sale of the piers, or of the three millions of stocks in our hands, pledged for the principal, but it must be made up by taxation.

The sale of the vacant and unproductive lots is a very different matter. It is consistent with the ordinance, and beneficial to the public creditor, to sell the vacant lots and convert them into securities paying a fair interest.

In the proceedings before Judge Emmet, in the case before referred to, one of the points taken is, that the ordinance of 22d February, 1844, organizing the sinking fund, and designating the property pledged, and the commissioners to manage it, was abrogated by the amendment to the city charter in 1849, in the powers given to the finance department; and this position is sustained by Judge Emmet.

This is a matter of too much importance, in my judgment, to be yielded, until the question is settled by the Court of Appeals. In the meantime, it is proper to review the history of the debt from its commencement, to satisfy ourselves that it is incumbent on us to discharge our obligations under the ordinance of 1844, until released from them by the court of last resort.

In the year 1812, the Mayor, Aldermen, and commonalty of the city of New York presented a memorial to the Legislature, in which it was stated that they had incurred large expenses in erecting public buildings, and must incur other large expenses in carrying into effect the plans of the commissioners for opening streets and avenues; that they had raised money on their corporate bonds, and had issued other bonds as security for balances against them, and that the necessary sum for opening the avenues they "despair of being able to raise, without legislative interference in their behalf." On this memorial the Legislature passed an act (chap. 99 of 1812) authorizing the Corporation to create a public stock of $900,000, called "The New York City Stock," and authorized the Comptroller to issue certificates of stock, and keep the transfers thereof, under the direction of the Common Council. This act pledged the faith of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty, and the Legislature also "pledged and appropriated" the revenues of the city, until the final redemption of the stock, in the following form, viz:—

Sec. 19. And be it further enacted, That the faith of the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the city of New York, shall be pledged for the final redemption and payment of the stock which shall or may be created pursuant to the provisions of this act, and that all and singular the revenues of said Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty, shall be and they are hereby pledged and appropriated for the payment of the interest which shall become due on the said stock, and shall continue so pledged until the final redemption of the said stock; and that in case the said revenues be not sufficient to satisfy and pay the whole of the said interest, then, and in that case, the faith of the State shall be, and the same is hereby pledged to pass such act and acts as shall, from time to time, be necessary, authorizing the Mayor, Recorder, and Aldermen of the said city, to raise by tax, on the estates real and personal of the freeholders and inhabitants of and situate within the said city, such sum and sums of money as shall and may be requisite to supply any and every such deficiency.

This provision, recognizing the power of the Legislature "to pledge and appropriate" the revenues of the city for the payment of interest on its debt, was not only acted on and acquiesced in at that time, in relation to the debt of $900,000, but the same act has been referred to and made a part of all the laws for borrowing money for the construction or the Croton Aqueduct, and for all other purposes, for a period of forty years.

In 1820 the Corporation had occasion for a loan of $400,000, and an act was passed authorizing it under the law of 1812. In authorizing this additional loan, care was taken to insert a section, that "this act should not deprive the holders of the stock issued under the former act of any lien which they are entitled to by said act, upon the revenues of the said mayor, aldermen, and commonalty."

In 1826 another law was passed (chap 93) for borrowing $700,000, to reimburse the money borrowed under the act of June 8, 1812, and to be applied "to no other purpose whatever." This act repeated the provision, that nothing in it should be so construed as to affect the lien on the city property, of the holders of stock previously issued.

The next law authorizing a loan was in 1834, (chap. 256,) for commencing the construction of the Croton Aqueduct. The amount was two and a half millions of dollars, at five per cent. The provisions of the act of 1812 were made applicable to this loan.

In 1836, an act was passed, (chap. 255,) authorizing a loan of $500,000 to be made, called "Public Building Stock." The act of 1812 was made applicable to this loan; and the 5th section pledged the almshouse property at Bellevue for the payment of the debt.

In 1838 an act was passed, (chap. 127,) authorizing a loan of three millions of dollars for the Croton Aqueduct. The 5th section declares that all the laws heretofore passed, pledging the faith of the city, and providing a sinking fund for the redemption of the debt, are made applicable to this stock.

In 1840 an act was passed (chap. 175) authorizing another loan of three millions of dollars for the Croton Aqueduct, and the provisions of the act of 1838 were made applicable to this loan. In the same year an act (chap. 527) was passed for funding a floating debt of $400,000. This loan was to be paid in seven years, by taxation.

In 1841 another act was passed (chap. 306,) for borrowing $3,500,000 for the Croton Aqueduct. All laws pledging funds for the payment of the debt were made applicable to this stock, with an additional section authorizing the supervisors to levy by tax such an amount as may be necessary to defray the interest on the water stock.

In 1843 the supervisors were authorized to levy a tax for the payment of interest on the "water district, extending to Twenty-third street as far as Lexington avenue, and from thence to the East river, as high as Twenty-eighth street."

In 1845 a loan of $150,000 was authorized, reimbursable by taxation. This was public building stock No. 2. At the same session a memorial from the Common Council was presented to the Legislature with a bill for borrowing $500,000 for the Croton Aqueduct. This act, in all its details, had the sanction of the Common Council. The Committee on Finance, in January, 1845, made a report on the communication of the Comptroller, for borrowing $500,000, to make up the sum required for the Croton Aqueduct on account of the expenses of the High bridge.

In this report the committee recommended that a section be added to the law applied for, "by which the provisions of the ordinance of the Common Council, passed August 9, 1813, and re-enacted by the Common Council, 22d February, 1844, providing for the redemption of the city debt, and the payment of the interest thereon, and which have been recognized in all the acts in relation to supplying the city of New York with pure and wholesome water, may be fully recognized by the State in the act to be applied for; and that authority may in the same act be granted to the Common Council to establish the same more permanently by the appointment of the executive officer having in charge all the real estate, stock and bonds, belonging to the sinking fund, for a term of years." The Counsel to the Corporation was directed to prepare a memorial and bill conforming to this resolution.

In February of the preceding year the Common Council had passed the ordinance establishing the sinking fund, and declaring that the Mayor, Recorder, Comptroller, City Treasurer, and the chairmen of the Finance Committees of the Board of Aldermen and Assistants, should be commissioners of said fund. And, in order to make a favorable impression on the minds of money lenders in regard to the sufficiency of the pledged fund, and the good faith in which it was to be administered, the fifth section of chapter 225 was added, declaring that the ordinance of 1844 should not be altered, except to add to the fund for the redemption of the debt, "without the consent of the Legislature first had and obtained;" and that the said ordinance should remain in "full force until the whole of the debt created for the introduction of the Croton water into the city of New York shall be fully redeemed."

On the 12th of March, 1849, an act was passed, (chap. 40,) authorizing a loan of $600,000 for the purchase of land for an additional reservoir, and for laying new mains. This act declares that all previous enactments, pledging the faith of the State, and providing a sinking fund, shall apply to this loan. On the 26th of April of the same session, the amendments to the charter were passed, defining the powers of the Finance Department, which, in the opinion of Judge Emmet, supersedes the ordinance of 1844, and the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund.

The charter of 1849 makes no allusion to the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, and it is not to be inferred that the Legislature designed to break up and disorganize a commission for a fund which had existed for forty years, and on the faith of which fourteen millions had been drawn from the public creditors, and expended in valuable improvements for the use of the city. The ordinance of 1813 names as trustees the same officers who are named in the ordinance of 1844.

The whole history of the debt and the pledged fund, or forty years, exhibits a bright and unbroken chain of good faith, and, so far as the ordinances of the Common Council and the acts of the Legislature are concerned, a commendable regard to the credit of the city. The declaration made in the ordinance for establishing the sinking fund, that it should be under the management of the Mayor, Recorder, &c., and the assurance given by the sovereign power of the State that this arrangement should not be altered by the Common Council, was a pledge in the nature of a contract, so far as money was borrowed under it, which, in good faith, could not be changed or destroyed, either by the Common Council or the Legislature of the State. But we have conclusive proof that the Legislature did not intend to disorganize and abolish the ordinance of 1844 and the Sinking Fund Commissioners from the fact that, subsequent to the act of 1849, to wit, in 1851, when a loan of another half million of dollars was required, that body re-enacted the fifth section of the act before referred to, and which is in the following words:—

Sec. 5. The ordinance now in force, and approved of by the Mayor of said city, on the 22d day of February, 1844, and any ordinance that may hereafter be passed by the said Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the city of New York, in conformity with the provisions of this law, and relative to the sinking fund, shall not be amended without the consent of the Legislature first had and obtained, except by setting apart and appropriating to, and for the purpose of the said sinking fund, additional revenue, whenever the said Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the city of New York shall deem proper; and the said ordinance shall remain in full force until the whole of the debt created by virtue of the act entitled "An act creating a public fund, or stock, in the city of New York, to be called the 'Croton Water Stock,' and in relation to the sinking fund of said city, passed May 18, 1845," and by virtue of this act, shall be fully redeemed.

In the proceedings before Judge Emmet, and in his decision, no allusion is made to this section of the act of 1851, which, by declaring the ordinance of 1844 to be "now in force," and that it should "remain in full force until the whole of the debt created" for the construction of the Croton Aqueduct "shall be fully redeemed," leaves no room for an inference that the amendments to the charter in 1849, were intended to substitute other trustees of the sinking fund for those in whose custody it had been kept, by numerous acts of the Legislature and the City Council, for forty years. All of which is respectfully submitted.

A. C. FLAGG, Comptroller.

On motion of Mr. Tillou, it was

Resolved, That the report of the Comptroller be accepted.

Our Naval Correspondence.

NORFOLK, Jan. 29, 1853.

Vigilance Committee in the Navy—Laxity of Discipline—Steam Frigates Powhattan and Princeton, &c.

The United States frigate Raritan is here, of which you are aware. I have learned from one of her officers that since the abolition of flogging in the navy, the men who were disposed to do their duty, seeing they were compelled to do more than their own, in consequence of a large portion of the men being confined as punishment for neglect of duty, and various other offences, took it into their heads that something must be done to prevent the continuance of such a state of things. They therefore formed themselves into vigilance committees, and took upon themselves the punishment of all offenders, by tucking them up and giving them half a dozen or a dozen with the cat, as the case required, the officer of the deck being always particularly oblivious just about the time the operation was performed.

I have learned also from an officer of the Powhattan that Mr. Kimball, the Master-at-Arms of the ship, was pitched into, a day or two since, by some of the men on the berth deck, and beaten badly before he could be rescued. Mr. Kimball is a very respectable man, having been one of our city constables for a long time. I am of opinion that the cat-o'-nine-tail is the best mode of government for the sailors and other men on board ship, if it were possible to enact some law to prevent its abuse.

The steam frigate Powhattan, which has been fitting out for the Japan expedition for some time, is nearly ready for sea, and will sail in about a week or ten days, unless the filibustering or some other excitement should alter her destination. I was on board of her this morning, and to my astonishment I discovered the carpenters and other mechanics engaged in putting up the hinged bulwark around the bows. It is never too late to do good, but if the Navy department had given the order some month or six weeks ago, the job would have been finished; but now the ship will in all probability have to wait for it. She will look, however, fifty per cent better, and be twenty per cent safer than with the old canvass arrangement with which she was fitted. It is expected that she will get up steam in three or four days, and drop down to the Naval Hospital.

The repairs of the steamer Princeton are progressing rapidly, all the Isherwood flues having been taken out of the boilers, and the new work being put in.

The weather here has been very cold for the last four days, making ice from an inch to an inch and a half thick in the gutters and other places.

We have at present two broad pennants flying in our harbor, which is something unusual. Commodore Newton, commanding the home squadron, has the frigate Columbia for his flag ship, and Commodore McCauley, just returned from the Pacific, has his flag on board the frigate Raritan. The former, being the senior, displays the blue pennant, the latter the red.

The frigate Savannah is lying here, waiting for officers and crew.

Stockton's bill for naval reform is waking up all the old fogies and the supernannuated old drones, rendered unfit for duty by dissipation and debauchery. More anon.

Arrival of the Isabel from Havana.

[From the Savannah Republican, Jan 26.]

The steamship Isabel, Captain Rollins, from Havana via Key West, arrived at Tybee yesterday morning at an early hour. She left Havana the 22d inst. at 8. P. M.

There has been some discussion between the British Consul at Havana and the Captain General of Cuba, in relation to the maltreatment of British subjects by the Governor of St. Jago de Cuba, which, it is thought, will have an injurious influence upon the present relations of the two powers. It is reported, also, that frequent violations of the treaty between England and Spain, for the suppression of the slave trade, have been made with high official sanction. It is said that six hundred negroes were landed near Cabaicas, in December, and placed on the plantation of one of the oldest and most wealthy citizens of the island, where sales have been made in parcels to suit purchasers. The vessel was sunk after the cargo was discharged, and the captain and the slaver traveled into the interior with a party of the negroes, making part of the escort. These violations of the treaty, the English contend, could not take place without the collusion of the Spanish authorities.

The Royal Audiencia could find no cause for the detention of Captain Gray, the American officer who had been kept in Havana for some time, for his supposed connection with a slave vessel, and consequently he was permitted to leave the island. It will be seen that he is one of the passengers by the Isabel.

Te Deum has been sung in Havana and elsewhere in Cuba on the cessation of the cholera. Great preparations were making for the enjoyment of the carnival. Masked balls are to be given by several private citizens. The city has been visited of late by frequent and grateful northers.

The Leon regiment of infantry and the Fourth squadron of lancers have been making two excursions into the interior, making the country people happy with the martial airs of their bands, and their gallant deportment. Several of these military visits that were projected, have been suspended on account of the cholera.

Under the religious head, the *Gazette* mentions the presiding saint of the Calendar for the 19th inst. The Saint for that day, it appears, was "Saint Canute, King of Denmark," who was transfixed by a lance in 1077, while praying for his enemies. We were not aware before that any one of this name had ever been canonized.

The *Diario* of the 20th inst., has an article on the political history of the United States, so far as it relates to the elevation of Gen. Jackson to the Presidency. The editor regards Jackson as the true impersonation of the Anglo-American character.

The cholera continues to exist in some parts of Cuba, but the accounts from the interior are more and more favorable. Though its aspect is mitigated in most quarters, yet it is quite malignant here and there. By late advices from Manzanillo, the victims were from fifteen to eighteen daily in that place.

Accounts from Cardenas state that that port presented a very animated appearance since the decline in prices of articles of fruit, &c., shipped there. Some fifty vessels of various descriptions were in port on the 16th inst.

Marine Affairs.

GOOD PASSAGE.—The clipper ship Surprise, Capt. Ranlett, from London, arrived last night, having left Portsmouth Dec. 20th. Under the circumstances, this is an excellent passage. The S. was compelled to beat all the way across the Atlantic. She continually encountered heavy westerly gales, some of them of the most terrific violence. Capt. R. did not lay his ship to during the entire passage, and saw but two vessels after leaving Portsmouth.

THE STEAMSHIP CITY OF GLASGOW, Capt. Wylie, arrived yesterday at Philadelphia, having sailed from Liverpool on the 9th December, after repairing the damage done to her in the Mersey, on the 5th ult, by the steamer Earl of Lonsdale. In consequence of this detention, her day of sailing from Philadelphia is postponed to Saturday, the 5th February, instead of the 3d, as before advertised.

THE CLIPPER SHIP CORNELIA, lately arrived here from Hong Kong, and now loading in Mailler & Lord's line for San Francisco, made the run here from the Cape of Good Hope in 38 days, said to be the shortest passage on record. She made the round voyage from Boston to San Francisco, thence to Hong Kong and home, in eleven months and twenty days, of which 103 days were spent in port. The greatest number of miles she ran in one day was 330.

LARGE NUMBER OF WRECKS AT KEY WEST.—During the twenty days previous to the 22d instant, (the correspondent of the Charleston *Mercury* states,) there were a larger number of vessels wrecked on the Florida Reef than during the whole of 1852. Ten vessels were lost or partially wrecked during those few days, namely:—

The brig Lucy Watts, ashore at Sand Key; the bark George Thomas, ashore at Tortugas; the ship Woodside, lost on Triumph Reef; the schooner Eliza, ashore on French Reef; the bark Everett, lost on American Shoal; the British brig Canabysea, ashore on Washerwoman Shoal; the ship Nathaniel Kimball, lost on Sand Key; the British ship Lucy, ashore on Loo Key; the schooner Elizabeth, in distress; the bark James Smith, in distress, leaking.

The value of these vessels and their cargoes were estimated to be worth $550,000 before the accidents. All their cargoes, it is stated, will be saved by the wreckers, more or less damaged.

SUICIDE OF A NEW YORKER.—We learn by a telegraph despatch from Elmira, this morning, that a man giving his name as J. H. Bartlett, residing in New York, committed suicide this morning at the Brainard House, by cutting his throat with a razor. He died at half-past eight this morning.—*Albany Journal, Jan. 29.*

Intelligence from South America.

The Rio de Janeiro *Jornal do Commercio* of Dec. 7th, gives the following:—

By the English steamer of war Centaur, arrived to-day, we have received our letters from Montevideo up to the 28th ultimo.

An important success has occurred in Rio da Prata. The authorities of Buenos Ayres have lately sent into the province of Entre Rios an expedition of about 2,000 men, under the command of Generals Madariaga and Hornos. This expedition left the port of Buenos Ayres in the night of the 10th, and arrived on the coast of Qualeguaychu on the 15th. Hornos disembarked on the heaths with nine hundred horsemen, and travelled so rapidly that he reached Qualeguaychu without encountering the slightest resistance, and, what is still more, without the opposition of a small guard, which was stationed a short distance from the point at which he landed.

From Qualeguaychu he followed the direction of Cala, to oppose himself to the garrison of Caseros, and to effect a junction with the forces which he expected from Corrientes.

At Gena a battle occurred between the troops of Hornos and those of Urquiza, commanded by Crispin Velasquez. According to the intelligence from Buenos Ayres, the latter were defeated. At the same time that this part of the expedition was fighting and triumphed, General Madariaga was defeated, near the city of Conceicao, in Uruguay, which he tried to take, to make it the seat of his operations.

General Paz marched on the 18th, from St. Nicolas to Santa Fe. It is said that he has under his command between three and four thousand men.

These facts and their consequences have attracted general attention in Rio da Prata.

Governor Price, of Mo., has vetoed two bills for railroads in that State, the Lexington and Daviess county, and Platte county roads.

In the Delaware Legislature, a few days ago, a petition was presented from the Catholic Bishop of Philadelphia, asking the passage of a law to enable him to hold in trust the real estate owned by the Roman Catholic Church in Delaware.

Married,

By the Rev. Silas Fitch, SPENCER HRACOCK, of New York, to Miss LYDIA A., youngest daughter of Gamaliel Rose, Esq., of English Neighborhood, New Jersey.

At the Jane street Methodist church, on January 15, by the Rev. Dr. Dusenbury, WM. M. THORP to Miss JOSEPHINE EARL, all of this city.

On Sunday, January 30, by the Rev. James Brownlee, Mr. ALEXANDER H. BRINLEY to Miss CATHARINE DRAKE, all of Staten Island.

On Sunday, January 31, at St. Ann's church, by the Rev. Titus Josline, RICHD. BOYLE, Esq., to Miss GRACE BOYLE, daughter of John Boyle, Esq., of New York.

In Hartford, January 31, by the Rev. Walter Clark, EDWARD TODD, of New York, to LYDIA ALDEN, only daughter of J. W. Geddings, of Hartford.

In Brooklyn, on January 27, at the residence of the bride's mother, by the Rev. Samuel Taylor, Mr. JAMES H. ROGERS to Miss THEBE A. HULL, both of New York.

Died,

On Saturday morning, January 29, WILLIAM SHANNON, son of the late John Shannon, aged 43 years.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, on Wednesday altern on, at 2 o'clock, from his late residence, No. 56 Monroe street.

On Monday, January 31, FREDERICK, son of Diederich and the late Catrine Muller, aged 3 years, 11 months and 5 days.

Alas! that earth's brightest and beautiful things,
Are always the soonest to perish;
That the angel of death should so early take wings,
And destroy all hopes that we cherish.

The brothers-in-law and relatives and friends, also the members of B. Troop, New York Hussars, are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, to-morrow (Wednesday) afternoon, at 1 o'clock, from his late residence, corner of Roosevelt and Cherry streets, without further invitation.

On Monday, January 31, ARCHIBALD, eldest son of Dennis and Elizabeth McLaughlin, aged 2 years and 7 months.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, from the residence of his parents, No. 22 Madison street, to-morrow, (Wednesday) afternoon, at 2 o'clock.

On Sunday, January 30, Mr. NATHAN WHITEHEAD, in the 65th year of his age.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, this, (Tuesday) afternoon, at 3 o'clock, from his late residence, Yonkers. Cars leave Chambers street depot at 10½ A. M. and 2 o'clock P. M.

On Sunday, January 30, RANDAL SMITH, in the 59th year of his age.

The relatives and friends of the family, also those of his son Isaac, and son-in-law, Jesse G. Reator, are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, this, (Tuesday) afternoon, at 1 o'clock, from his late residence, 1 Eldridge, corner of Division street.

On Sunday, January 30, HENRY F., Jr., son of Henry F. and Catharine Ketcham, aged 1 year and 22 days.

His spirit was too pure to be
Chained to this world of misery;
The pure in heart are Christ's alone—
Bright gems to deck his Heavenly throne.

On Monday, January 31, Mr. VALENTINE BAKER, aged 43 years.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, from his late residence, 252 Fulton street, this, (Tuesday) afternoon, at 2 o'clock.

Philadelphia papers please copy.

On Monday, January 31, CYRUS AUSTIN, infant son of Isaac F. and Ellen Chapin, aged 1 year 11 months and 25 days.

The connexions and friends of the family are invited to attend his funeral, this, (Tuesday) at 1 o'clock, P. M., from 188 Water street, Brooklyn, without further invitation.

On Monday morning, January 31, in the 49th year of her age, Mrs. CATHARINE REILLY, of Ballyhaise, County of Cavan, Ireland.

Her friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend her funeral, from her late residence, 358 Second avenue, this, (Tuesday) afternoon, at 1½ o'clock.

On Monday, January 31, JOHN PAINE, stonecutter, a native of Scotland, in the 40th year of his age.

The friends of the family, and those of his brother-in-law, Robert Yeaman, are invited to attend his funeral, from his late residence, No. 23 Columbia street, South Brooklyn, to-morrow afternoon, at 3 o'clock, without further invitation. His remains will be taken to Greenwood Cemetery for interment.

On Monday morning, January 31, at 8 o'clock, of whooping cough, ISABELLA ELIZABETH, second daughter of George and Margaret Jack, aged 1 year and 12 days.

Her remains will be conveyed to Greenwood Cemetery for interment, this (Tuesday) afternoon, at 3 o'clock, from the residence of her father, 55 Greenwich street.

On Monday, January 31, in Brooklyn, ELIJAH MORGAN, after a lingering illness, aged 83 years 3 months and 3 days.

His friends are requested to meet at his residence, on the corner of Myrtle avenue and Bridge street, to-morrow, (Wednesday) morning, at 8 o'clock. His remains will be taken to Peekskill, Westchester county, for interment.

On Monday, January 31, suddenly, MARY ANN, wife of Wm. Ingleby, and eldest daughter of Joseph Jenkins, Esq., aged 24 years.

The relatives and friends and acquaintances of the family, and the members of Pilgrim Lodge, No. 243, I. O. of O. F., also the members of Company F, Washington Greys, are respectfully invited to attend her funeral, this, (Tuesday) afternoon, at 1 o'clock, from the residence of her father, No. 130 Franklin street. Her remains will be conveyed to Cypress Hill Cemetery.

On Monday, January 31, suddenly, of disease of the heart, EMILY, wife of John Fowler, and daughter of the late Samuel Marks, of Peekskill, in the 39th year of her age.

Her remains will be taken to Peekskill this morning.

At Elmira, on the 29th January, suddenly, Mr. JOHN H. BARTLETT, of this city, aged 33 years.

His remains will be taken direct from that place to Lee, Massachusetts, for interment.

At Albany, January 29, after a severe illness, which she bore with exemplary patience and sweet submission to her Savior's will, ANNA MARY, wife of Lansing Pruyn, and daughter of Francis Saltus.

At San Juan, Porto Rico, January 13, of yellow fever, ALEXANDER BRYAN, of New York, aged 22 years.

Philadelphia and California papers please copy.

Lately, in this city, THOMAS BOARDMAN WILLIAMS, of Liverpool, England, but late of New York.

MARITIME INTELLIGENCE.

Movements of Ocean Steamers.

NAMES.	LEAVES	FOR	DATE.
Canada	Liverpool	Boston	Jan 22
Atlantic	Liverpool	New York	Jan 26
Europa	Boston	Liverpool	Feb 2
United States	New York	Aspinwall	Feb 4
Baltic	New York	Liverpool	Feb 5
Georgia	New York	Aspinwall	Feb 5
Star of the West	New York	San Juan	Feb 5
Andes	New York	Liverpool	Feb 7
Merlin	New York	St. Th. & Berm.	Feb 7
Wm Penn	New York	New Orleans	Feb 8
Empire City	New York	New Orleans	Feb 12
Franklin	New York	Havre	Feb 12
Uncle Sam	New York	Aspinwall	Feb 19
Golden Age	New York	Australia	abt Apr 15

ALMANAC FOR NEW YORK—THIS DAY.

SUN RISES	7 12	MOON RISES	morn 00 42
SUN SETS	5 16	HIGH WATER	even 01 33

Port of New York, January 31, 1853.

CLEARED.

Ships—George Canning, Paulsen, Hamburg, Schmidt & Belchen.

Barks—Envoy, Nixen, Glasgow R Irvin; Montezuma, Hanson, Demarara, Smith & Tuttle; Lucia Field, Byrne, Australia, J Atkins & Co.

Brigs—Linden, Rowe, Mobile, Sturges, Clearman & Co; Gipsey, Boyd, Ponce, Gumbs & Baker; Callenler (Br), Foreman, Barbadoes, J B Gager & Co; Nenuphar, Marschalk, Vera Cruz, Hargous Bros.

Schr—Wake, Briggs, Wilmington, NC, E S Powell; Wm H Mailler, Price, Baltimore, Mailler & Lord; Empire, Smith, Alexandria, Sturges, Clearman & Co; Alonzo, Field, Newbern, Travis & Holmes; Isabella, Arbecan, Boston, Dayton & Sprague; Oriana, Dodge, Richmond, C H Tarrson, Ira Brewster, Williams, Wilmington, NC, N L McCready & Co; Arctic, Wilson, Savannah, Sturges, Clearman & Co; Emma, Hafford, New Orleans, Eagle & Hazard; Empire, Barker, Apalachicola, Eagle & Hazard.

Steamer—Delaware, Seymour, Philadelphia, C B Sanford.

ARRIVED.

Ship Surprise (clipper), Ranlett, London and Portsmouth, Dec 20, to A A Low & Brother. On the 26th ult, saw a ship with main topgallantmast and fore topgallant yard gone; 12th inst, lat 42 29, lon 35 01, passed a ship bound E, with fore and mizzen topgallant yards down, showing a white flag, with red border.

Bark Oregon (of Nantucket), Hinckley, Malaga, Dec 13, passed Gibraltar the same night, to Francis, Gomez & Co. Experienced very severe weather in the vicinity of Bermuda; split sails, &c.

Bark Clara Windsor, Button, Port au Prince, Jan 13, to Potter & Graves. No date, lat 19 20, lon 73 40, spoke spoke brig Clara, from Rio Hache for New York.

Bark Gambia, Radcliffe, New Orleans, 15 days, to Smallwood, Anderson & Co.

Bark Dudley, Morrison, New Orleans, 15 days, to Roberts & Williams.

Brig Amesbury (of Gardiner), Colburn, Sierra Leone, 37 days, to J W Elwell & Co. Has been 16 days west of Bermuda; has sprung mainmast, foreyard, and