NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT.
PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery—Uncle Tom's Cabin.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—Domestic Economy—A Midsummer Night's Dream.

BURTON'S THEATRE, Chambers street—A Midsummer Night's Dream—Our Best Society.

NATIONAL THEATRE, Chatham street—Afternoon—The Gambler—Evening—Uncle Tom's Cabin.

WALLICK'S THEATRE, Broadway—Soldier's Court Ship Game of Life.

AMERICAN MUSEUM Afternoon—Cool as a Cucumber—Happy Man—Evening Old Folks at Home.

BROADWAY MENAGERIE—Siamese Twins and Wild Beasts.

CHRISTY'S AMERICAN OPERA HOUSE, 472 Broadway—Ethiopian Melodies by Christy's Minstrels.

WOOD'S MINSTRELS, Wood's Minstrel Hall, 444 Broadway—Ethiopian Minstrelsy.

BUCKLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, 539 Broadway—Buckley's Ethiopian Opera Troupe.

BANVARD'S GEORAMA, 596 Broadway, Panorama of the Holy Land.

RHENISH GALLERY, 563 Broadway—Day and Night.

SIGNOR BLITZ—Stuyvesant Institute, 559 Broadway.

ACADEMY HALL, 663 Broadway Perham's Gift Ex Mirifions of the Seven Mile Mirror.

BRYAN GALLERY OF CHRISTIAN ART 843 Broadway.

New York, Friday, Feb. 24, 1854.

The News.

The steamship Northern Light came up to the city yesterday afternoon, bringing us dates from San Francisco to the 1st inst. This trip has been performed in the unprecedented short space of time of twenty-two days, being the quickest by nearly half a day that has yet been accomplished. The shortest previous passage was the arrival of the Northern Light at this port on the 23d of August last, which landed passengers in this city in twenty-two days and nine hours from San Francisco. It will be seen that the steamship Golden Gate went ashore in a tremendous gale on the 18th ult., near the harbor of San Diego, where she remained until the 25th. In the interim her passengers and mails were all safely landed, and taken to San Francisco by a steamer which went to her assistance. The vessel was reported to have sustained considerable injury, and was leaking badly, but was hourly expected at San Francisco. Some disturbances had occurred between the whites and Indians, and a number of the latter had been killed. The Indians complain that some of their number had been shot down by their more civilized neighbors without provocation, and that the treaties had not been observed, while the whites contend that the savages are constantly stealing and running off their stock. Another steamboat explosion had occurred, being the fourth within a few months, by which two or three persons were killed and a number of others injured. The wet season had set in, and the miners were anticipating a rich yield of the golden treasure. The mountains were represented as being covered with snow, and the streams were nearly all swollen to a flood. The news is unusually interesting.

No further battles have taken place between the filibustering republicans of Lower California and the deposed Mexican authorities. The forces despatched by Santa Anna to crush out the expeditionists and re-annex the country to Mexico had not made their appearance in the vicinity of Fort McKibben, the seat of government and headquarters of President Walker. Sonora had been formally annexed to Lower California by proclamation of the President, and the name of the confederated States is hereafter to be the Republic of Sonora. Although the latter country was thus declared absolved from Mexico, the troops of the new republic had not as yet proceeded to occupy it. At last accounts they were busily engaged in making surveys, laying out roads, &c. The filibustering feeling seems to have nearly died out in most parts of California. A meeting had, however, been held in Sonora, but the room in which it was called not being large enough to accommodate those present, it was resolved to adjourn to meet at the Court House at a future day. The U. S. sloop-of-war Portsmouth, accompanied by a mail steamer, had been sent out to intercept any filibustering parties that might be found on the coast, but it is hardly probable that these vessels would succeed in accomplishing anything.

The letter from our Nicaragua correspondent contains a great variety of interesting and instructive information relative to Central American affairs. One of its leading features is the announcement that the people of Nicaragua, despairing of a settlement of the difficulties among the five sister States and their re-formation under one government, are about changing their national name to that of the Republic of Nicaragua. The executive power will be vested in a President, to be elected for a term of four years, instead of a Supreme Ruler, who, under the present system, serves for two years.

Our advices from the Sandwich Islands are of a very gratifying character. A flattering reception had been given to our new Commissioner, Mr. Gregg. Through Mr. Wylie, the Minister of Foreign Relations, the King reiterates the sentiments of admiration for our country he had personally expressed on the occasion of his first interview with Mr. G. He acknowledges that the United States have largely contributed to the civilization of his kingdom, and believes that they will continue to manifest a deep interest in what has been chiefly their own work. That dreadful pest, the small pox, was rapidly diminishing, and the general condition of the inhabitants was cheering and prosperous.

We have files of Bermuda papers to the 14th inst, but they contain no intelligence of interest. The departure of Governor Elliott from the island had been delayed, by slight illness and unfavorable weather, until the 13th, when he left in the Daphne for Trinidad. Col. Williams was sworn in as Acting Governor on the same afternoon. The members of her Majesty's Council and the Municipal government had presented a flattering address to Governor Elliott.

Much of our space is to-day occupied by a mass of curious and highly interesting political intelligence, among which will be found letters from Albany and Concord relative to the peculiar antecedents of President Pierce and his friends in New Hampshire; a reply from Judge Douglas to the attacks on the Nebraska bill; proceedings of meetings in opposition to said bill in Detroit, Boston, Concord, Rome, &c. At the Boston gathering, which took place in Faneuil Hall last evening, Messrs. Winthrop and Abbott Lawrence were among the principal speakers. The meeting at Concord, judging from the tenor of our despatch, was almost exclusively composed of whigs, and may be set down as a failure. Few prominent New Hampshire politicians were present, and most of even the democrats who figured in the call failed to attend, as did also the whig candidate for Governor. The leading members of the democratic party deny that the Nebraska bill is an issue in the coming election in that State. Attention is directed to the editorial on this subject in another column.

The proceedings in Congress yesterday were of a varied and very interesting character, but we have only room to refer to two or three of the principal points. Gen. Cass made a short speech on the occasion of presenting a petition to the Senate, with regard to the religious freedom of Americans in foreign countries, in the course of which he observed that his previous policy with regard to this subject had been severely animadverted upon by Archbishop Hughes and others, and that it was therefore important to himself that he should be thoroughly understood. Senator Toombs made a long speech in support of the Nebraska bill. The bill appropriating three millions of dollars for the construction of six steam frigates, was taken up and passed instanter. Various petitions in opposition to this measure were presented in both houses. In the House quite a spirited debate sprung up on a bill granting two and a half million acres of land to Wisconsin for railroad purposes. Some of the gentlemen advocated the propriety of bringing forward all the land schemes together, and others took the ground that the system of dispensing land by the wholesale was unjust to all the old States and many of the new. An attempt was made to go into Committee of the Whole, but on coming to a vote no quorum was found present, and after an ineffectual effort to procure one, the body adjourned.

Little was done in our State Legislature yesterday. The bill to suppress intemperance was reported in the Senate, and made the special order for to-day. It is also probable that a similar report will engage the attention of the Assembly to-day. Various bills relating to this city and Brooklyn were reported, but none of any importance were finally disposed of.

A despatch from Washington states that a rumor is current that Minister Buchanan has become tired of wearing Secretary Marcy's diplomatic costume and will shortly return home.

Our telegraphic columns contain some additional particulars relative to the awful effects of the late storm among the vessels in the Delaware Bay, the severity of the cold weather in differents parts of the country yesterday, &c.

Great excitement has been produced at Cincinnati by the re-arrest of Kissare and the other Martha Washington conspirators, on a requisition from the Governor of Arkansas. It is understood that they will be tried near where the boat was burned.

Both branches of our city legislature were in session last evening, and transacted a variety of routine business. In the upper Board, Alderman Herrick accused the committee which drafted the Crighton resolutions of having copied them from certain resolutions passed, under similar circumstances, in favor of Frederick Jerome, of the Ocean Monarch, in 1848. The Alderman seemed distressed at this piece of literary plagiarism, and regarded it in the light of an indignity offered to the Board. He moved to appoint a committee to draft new resolutions, but the Chair decided that the motion was out of order, and the subject was dropped. The chief theme of debate among the Councilmen was a resolution rescinding so much of a previous resolution as authorized the Receiver of Taxes to occupy the room of the Grand Jury. An amendment was offered making it imperative for the Commissioner of Repairs and Supplies to ascertain where the Tax Receiver can be accommodated; after which the resolution was adopted.

Lieutenant George Colvocoresses of the United States Navy delivered a lecture last evening at the Hope Chapel, for the benefit of the widows and orphans of the soldiers lost by the wreck of the San Francisco. He took for his subject "The Military Resources of Russia and Turkey," and had evidently grouped many historical facts relating to the rise, progress, population, and means of attack and defence of both empires together with great accuracy. There were only about twenty persons present. The lecturer was decidedly anti-Mahommedan in deductions, and hopes for the civilization of Asia through the triumph of the Cross of the Czar over the Crescent of the Sultan, an event which he appears to think will result from the present war.

The steamship Europa is about due at this port with three days later news from Europe.

Anti-Nebraska Movements—The Meeting at Boston.

The solid men of Boston had a meeting yesterday afternoon to testify their approval of the abolitionist opposition to the Nebraska bill. A report of the proceedings will be found in another column. We caution our readers against commencing its perusal in the hope of finding any novel views or pertinent arguments. The ground taken by the ex-mayors and other solid men was simply that of the old couplet which commemorates the name of Dr. Fell: they did not like the bill, they did not understand the bill, they would not endure the bill. Occasionally, indeed, in a fit of inadvertence, one or two of the speakers seem to have relapsed into a sort of reasoning. Thus Hon. J. Thomas Stevenson tells us that "when Missouri was purchased, all the territory north of 36 deg. 30 min. was to be dedicated to freedom." This will be news to most students of history in this meridian. We have lived under the impression that Missouri was purchased from France as part of Louisiana and that the only promise given by the United States was that new States, to be afterwards formed out of the purchased territory, would be admitted to the Union provided their constitution was republican. There was not a word said about Congressional interference or systems of free labor in 1803. On the contrary, the history of the first twenty years of this century beautifully demonstrates how well our forefathers understood and carried out the constitution. Ohio was admitted in 1803, without slavery, and no argument arose. Louisiana was admitted in 1812 with slavery, and no fanatics protested. Indiana was admitted in 1816, and abolished slavery within her borders by her constitution, providing charitably and equitably for the slaves then held in the State—the ordinance of 1787 having been as every one knows a dead letter, but free labor having been found more suitable than involuntary servitude to her climate; and all parties were satisfied. The two following years witnessed the admission of two other States, both slave States, viz., Mississippi and Alabama. It was clearly understood by Congress that slavery would be one of their permanent institutions; and yet no voice was raised against their admission. The spirit of sedition was then slumbering in Massachusetts and Connecticut, and the fathers of the speakers at the Boston meeting of yesterday were nursing the treason their sons were to execute. During the whole of these twenty years, no one had ever conceived the unconstitutional notion of inviting Congress to interfere with the domestic institutions or territories. Three States in the North, having chosen free labor, and a like number in the South having chosen slave labor, were admitted on equal terms and with equal welcome to the bosom of the Union. It was left for after years to witness the disturbance of the constitution of which the Missouri compromise was the first example.

We cannot follow Mr. Stevenson or any of the other speakers through the whole of their harangues. One more extract must suffice for the present. Mr. Stevenson says:—"Let the Southern men remember that when we of the North object to the interference of the general government with slavery in the slave States, it is by reason of a compact between our fathers and theirs; and if they now wish to throw aside a compact which we regard as of binding force, may not we on our part have reason to disregard the old compact and throw the South into a position which they would force upon us?"

We pass over the slight disingenuousness there is in a Boston man talking of "objecting to the interference of the general government with slavery in the slave States;" and proceed to the main point of this sentence. In plain English it says: "If you of the South try to repeal an act of Congress which you believe unconstitutional we will repeal the constitution itself." This is Mr. Stevenson's position: it is that of many men of the North. They are like the children who if they cannot have exactly what their greediness desires at dinner, refuse to eat at all, and frighten their parents with threats of starving themselves. We deny that the Missouri compromise as it is called was a compact. The constitution was, for several independent republics then met and agreed to an association on certain stipulated terms. But the Missouri compromise was no compact. Who were the parties to the compact? Did Congress contract with itself? Did the members from the North and the South so far overstep their powers as to make a private bargain with each other about laws which they were sworn to pass for the benefit of the whole? Did the Northern States contract with the Southern, in violation of the constitution which says: "No State shall, without the consent of Congress, enter into any agreement or compact with any other State?" If there were no parties, how could there be a compact, which necessarily implies parties clothed with authority to contract, and acting freely and openly?

But had the Missouri compromise been a compact, would a movement for its repeal warrant a rebellion against the constitution? It is a new thing to hear the staid law-loving men of Boston threaten insurrection when they cannot obtain all they wish from Congress. We have heard of such things from fire-eaters at the South; but it is quite a novelty coming from the old loyal State of Massachusetts. Still, without reference to the character of those who utter the threat, is it justified? Is it logical Is it wise? Is it prudent? We, who defend the policy of non-intervention by Congress say that the Missouri compromise was unconstitutional, and ought therefore to be abolished. Is it reasonable to tell us, in reply, that you, who oppose the bill, will secede if it be carried? Instead of meeting us on our own ground, and trying to show us that the Missouri compromise is consistent and compatible with the constitution, you fly off at a tangent and threaten rebellion. Is this logical? Instead of following the course of the great statesman of Massachusetts, and eschewing sectional differences for the sake of the whole country, the people of Boston or at least that portion of them in whose name Mr. Stevenson speaks, tell us that they had rather repeal the Union than act up to the constitution. They had rather ruin their own trade, destroy their manufacturing interest, reduce their condition to that of a seaport in a third rate Power, sow the seeds of actual war between North and South, and give the death-blow to all those agents of wealth which have raised Massachusetts to its present greatness, than consent to live under the constitution for which their fathers fought, and swore for themselves and their children to uphold for ever. Is this wise? Is this prudent? Is this worthy of Boston?

After all, this meeting is perhaps a mere party movement—an attempt to reconstruct the Northern whig party on a new platform. Mr. Everett's speech in the Senate, Mr. Crittenden's announced speech in Kentucky, the movements of such men as Abbott Lawrence, Stevenson, Eliot, and other leading whigs of Boston, and other signs go very far to indicate some such result.

Progress of Col. Walker's Republic—Gen. Gadsden Nowhere.—Different men have different ways for doing the same thing. For example: Gen. Gadsden goes down to Mexico, and after a great deal of palavering, with the aid of Hargous & Co. and others, he succeeds in making a bargain for a small slice of the deserts of Northern Mexico, for which we are to pay fifteen millions of dollars to Santa Anna and five millions to certain claimants upon Mexico. That is to say, by Gen. Gadsden's policy of annexation we get a small strip of the Mexican deserts for twenty millions; and this is called a masterpiece of South Carolina diplomacy. That is Gen. Gadsden's way of doing the work of manifest destiny.

Col. Walker's way is quite another thing. "Without money and without price" he walks into Lower California with forty-seven men—sets up a republic, including all the executive departments, army and navy, out of forty-seven men and a small merchant vessel!—makes good his footing; and, with the arrival of a reinforcement of two hundred, feels strong enough to annex the department of Sonora to his republic of Lower California, and makes a proclamation accordingly to that effect. Read the news by the Northern Light. The Mexican army and navy sent to capture him appear to keep at a respectful distance; and if Col. Walker continues much longer progressing at this rate he will be thundering at the gates of Mexico before Santa Anna is apprised of his danger.

This last sweep of Col. Walker, of the incorporation into his republic of the Department of Sonora, comprehends nearly every vestige of the Gadsden country, and about twice as much more, not of the deserts of the inhabited districts, but full of towns and villages, and haciendas, and gold and silver mines in the more southerly districts of Sonora. And there is every probability that even here he will make good his proclamations and his republic.

In the face of this astonishing news, what do the Senate say of the Gadsden treaty? What can they think of it, except that it is very expensive, old fogy like way of doing business, contrasted with the dashing Napoleonic Sam Houston plan of operations of Col. Walker? Had not the Senate better pause in the ratification of the treaty, or put in an amendment allowing so much for the ground that may have been appropriated by Col. Walker on the ratification of the compact? Or would it not be as well to drop the Gadsden treaty altogether, and leave the matter entirely in the hands of Capt Walker, with a bonus of a few millions for contingent expenses? We turn over the news from Col. Walker to the attention of the Senate.

John Mitchel's Plan for the Liberation of Ireland.—Our witty cotemporary, the *Pick*, the *Punch* of America, which, as every body knows, is conducted by the private secretary of the late Mr. Calhoun, discloses the real plan by which John Mitchel intends to effect the liberation of Ireland. The plan is as follows:—The immense surplus profits of the newspaper which John Mitchel has started are to be invested in Alabama plantations, well stocked with fat negroes. These negroes on these plantations are expected to produce an incredible number of bales of cotton, which John Mitchel will sell to the blood-thirsty Saxons, in Liverpool, at the very highest price he can get. The fund derived from the sales is to be allowed to accumulate at compound interest for five or ten years, when it is expected that it will at least equal the amount which now remains in the treasury of the Irish Directory. Both these sums are then to be invested in muskets and vitriol bottles, for the use of the expedition that is to liberate Ireland, under the leadership of John Mitchel, and the spiritual guidance of Henry Ward Beecher, who is to be reconciled to John for the occasion. Thus provided, the invading host cannot fail to bestow freedom on Ireland and drive the "base English" from its shores.

We have no information on the progress of the Alabama plantation and the fat negroes; and can say nothing as yet of this branch of the fund. The other—that of the Irish Directory—is we are happy to say safe and snug. It was originally if we recollect right, some forty-five thousand dollars; but the expense of sending agents to Australia, and using other means for the liberation of illustrious Irish patriots from their imprisonment there on parole, has reduced it to some $25 000. This sum we understand is invested in United States stocks, and held in the name or under the control of two trustees, Judge Emmet, and Mr. McKeon. The interest is each year added to the principal, and it seems probable that the fund will soon amount to a sum sufficiently considerable to enable the first effort to be made for the liberation of Ireland. Smith O'Brien, as our readers are aware, being a foolish man with queer old-fashioned notions of honor and integrity, refuses to break his parole, even for the accomplishment of so high a purpose as the liberation of his country by means of Alabama plantations and fat negroes. But, whatever he may think, we are sure that a discriminating public will applaud this scheme of John Mitchel's Every body must see now that all the solutions which have been offered to explain that very remarkable confession of faith of his on the slavery question, are wide of the truth, and that it was his excess of patriotism which induced him to wish for Alabama plantations and fat negroes, and nothing more.

We acknowledge our indebtedness to that immortal Punch of ours, the *Pick*, for this discovery. The *Pick* deserves even a higher position than the *Courrier des Etats Unis*, which has recently astonished the world with the secret plans and projects of the Emperor of all the Russias in the dockyards of New York.

The Bank Superintendent and His Doings.—Whatever may be said of Mr. St. John's conduct in winding up the Merchants' and Mechanics' Bank of Oswego, it is very clear that after this instance of rigorous severity, the public will not be satisfied with a prolongation of the impunity which other similar institutions have enjoyed. There are many banking associations in this State whose circulation is more than half covered by bonds and mortgages instead of State or United States securities, and whose affairs are quite as loosely conducted as those of the Merchants' and Mechanics' Bank were. To select out of a score or two of banks one only, and wind it up with a very slender regard for the interests of the stockholders, is not the way to put an end to similar frauds on the public. Such a proceeding looks more like an attempt to blind the public by a sudden affectation of severity than the commencement of a crusade against sham banks. Many people will think that the sacrifice of the Merchants' and Mechanics' Bank may possibly be intended as a cloak to the tolerance of other institutions even more unsound and more disorderly in the management of their business. This suspicion would gain ground if the rumor were generally received that the Superintendent of the Banking Department of the Comptroller's office is himself concerned with several of the parties who get up these sham banks.

THE BALTIMORE FIREMEN.

Their Movements Yesterday—Dinner at the Astor House—Toasts, Speeches, Singing, &c., &c

The Baltimore firemen were yesterday feted and feasted by Engine Co. No. 14 to their hearts content. In the morning they were escorted to the menagerie in Broadway, where they spent some hours in stirring up the lions, and talking to the Siamese twins. Thence they proceeded to the Tombs, and examining all the secrets and private retreats of that place, they were escorted to the City Hall, and rested in the Governor's room. Their next visit was to the room of the Ten Governors, where they partook of an excellent collation prepared for them. The committee who had the Baltimoreans in charge then proceeded to the "Shades," No. 42 Vesey street, the headquarters of Engine Company No. 14, where refreshments were in waiting for them, but for which they had but little appetite, having lost it at the feast in the Park. These visits used up the day, and in the evening, at 8 o'clock, a fine display of fireworks was made at the engine house of the entertainers, on the corner of Vesey and Church streets. It is sufficient to say of the fireworks, that they were worthy of those who got them up

The General Committee of Engine Company No. 14, who have in charge the welfare of these visiters, are Messrs Owen Brennan, Henry B. Venn, Enoch Smith, A J. McCarty, John H. Deyo, Augustus Tyler, Seaman Slesentine, John Flander, Benjamin McGuin, W. McGraw, James Forsyth, Capt. Hopkins, Charles Murray, Robert Forsyth, and M. A Williams. This committee have been assiduous in their labors, and regardless of expense, in making agreeable the visit of their Baltimore brethren, and their efforts have been crowned with honor and success.

The Banquet at the Astor House.

The members of the Baltimore fire company were escorted by Columbian Engine Company No. 14 to the Astor House, last evening, where a supper, got up in Coleman & Stetson's admirable style, awaited their discussion. The company sat down to table at nine o'clock. Theodore F Tomlinson, Esq, acted as President, and Messrs O Brennan, H B Venn and J. A. P. Hopkins, discharged the duties of Vice Presidents. The entertainment was given by Columbian Engine Company to Vigilant Engine Company of Baltimore, as a part return of the graceful hospitalities extended by the latter company to the former, during a visit to Baltimore last summer. Upon entering the dining room Mr. Tomlinson addressed a few appropriate remarks to the assembled guests, adverting with much feeling to the kindness experienced by Columbian Engine Company, at the hands of Vigilant Company of Baltimore, on the occasion of their visit to that city

Mr. Creamer on behalf of the Baltimore company, replied. He said that Vigilant Engine Company of Baltimore could ever feel it a pride as well as a duty to maintain the reputation of the Baltimore firemen. That was the feeling which animated them on the occasion referred to, and happy they were to have Columbian Engine Company as their guests, little expecting that they should in so short a time receive such a pressing invitation to have he was almost going to say, the debt repaid, and not only that, but here receive a welcome in such a manner as would put them in the debt of Columbian Company No. 14 tenfold more than they can hope ever to repay But (said Mr C.) we are all firemen. We boast of being connected with the fire department of the Monumental City; and though we have not hose enough to connect at times of conflagrations with New York firemen, yet we are in the line We will cheerfully receive at your hands this expression of feeling; and gladly do we hope and trust that while a company remains in existence, No. 14, of New York, may be one (Applause)

The company then sat down to an elegant supper, including many varieties of game and other delicacies of the season.

The table was handsomely decorated with ornamental pastry amongst others we noticed representations in sugar of Columbian Engine, temple of liberty, fire men, fire tower, the Hydrant Guard, bouquet of flowers.

After ample justice had been done to the various good things so profusely spread before them, the President for the evening, (T F Tomlinson, Esq.) proceeded to give out the regular toasts for the occasion:—

1. The President of the United States Music—President's March
2. The Governor of the State of Maryland. Music—Governor's March
3. The Governor of the State of New York Music—March
4. Our guests. Their well established character for honor and integrity, and their wide spread generosity, proceed them, brothers we are, bone of our bone may we always be worthy of their friendship and regard Music—"We're a Band of Brothers."

Mr. Means, of the Baltimore company, responded to this latter toast. He said:—The kind partiality of my friends impose upon me the duty, at once grateful and imperative, of acknowledging and reciprocating the kindly sentiments just now expressed I have cheerfully undertaken the task, so agreeable to my feelings—so flattering to an honest pride—because I felt sure that any short comings in matter or manner would be leniently passed over, so you learned, through the medium of a simple, unconstrained, and truthful phrase, all that our hearts feel. I hope that I have sense enough to know this. And further, that any attempt at rhetorical flourish or refined declamation, in lieu of the simple, solid, grateful truth, would fall far short of repaying your signal kindness in our deep-seated gratitude. We knew of you, and said we would go to you. We had no reserved thoughts about our reception. We expected to be received as we felt we would at any time receive you. But, indeed, this outburst—I had almost said reckless hospitality—these outstretched arms—which they bewilder us with pleasure, leave but one alloy, in the feeling of utter despair, that we shall ever be able adequately to reciprocate. Well, you care not for that. I see it in your generous faces—you see not the heart which are likely to calculate the amount of gratitude due for benefits received. Perhaps I ought to stop here. I shall, however, crave the indulgence of your attention for a few minutes longer. Passing by all that I might say of yourselves, as the denizens of this great State, the wealth and power of which surpasses, or is in a fair way shortly to surpass, that of some ancient kingdoms; of the position of your fathers during that struggle which unrolled a charter of freedom to our Western world; of your commerce which spreads its arms to the uttermost bounds of the earth; of that, too which most of all fraternizes you with ourselves—your ready acceptance and faithful rendering of that honest and fair bill of rights and bond of union—the great compromise act—let me speak of ourselves—of the firemen of America Of late these alternating visits of the firemen of our cities have become frequent By some they are approved—by some disapproved. Among the latter are persons who, regarding them with no unfriendly eye, think that they may become serious interruptions to business and business habits. Others, again, look upon them as only opportunities for dissipation, and imagine that most of us hail their advent as protracted orgies. Pleasures of that kind—if pleasures they can be called—are not our object. While we proudly feel that ours is a noble guild, we feel that we have all much to learn, much to perfect. The knowledge we wish to attain is of the loftiest stamp—to govern ourselves. Like all other bodies, we have among us bad men; but, even when we can single them out, we prefer to raise and improve rather than cast them from us. Allusion is unwillingly made to this greatest blot upon our name—this greatest cause of shame to all good firemen—because my aim is to point out what I think will mainly tend to its cure—such I take to lie in these very visits. Those that are of them know what their object and conduct is; those that are not can and do easily learn the same. Proud to make and proud to receive such visits, we hope thereby to elevate the character of firemen. Report flies fast and far; and since it is certain that none will be welcome to the visiters and visited save men of character, those who go forth will seek to produce such certificates of standing as will make them acceptable to both. Unrewarded by any public treasury, unstimulated by the renown which follows the success of the soldier, our duties must and will still be fulfilled and our proud recompense must be in the thanks and approbation of the public To obtain and preserve these are matters of such paramount importance that I anticipate your indulgence for having made these grave remarks instead of these more likely merely to amuse. (Cheers)

The next toast was

The Fire Department of the city of New York. Music—March.

Z. Phar Mills, Esq., was called upon to respond He remarked that he was looking for the President of the Fire Department to reply, but he did not see him in the room. Having however, been himself twenty years connected with the department, he would say a few words He might dwell upon the many branches of the department—of the charitable feature of the department—but that he would leave to others to expatiate upon. The Fire Department was composed of substantial men, of that fact he need only refer his Baltimore friends to Company No 14, whose guests they were, by way of corroboration; they are a fair sample of the Fire Department of our city. They had had an opportunity of judging of their courtesy when they accompanied them to visit our institutions yesterday; of their hospitality the banquet of that evening afforded ample proof. This social intercourse between the firemen of the North and those of the South tended, in his opinion, to preserve and strengthen the chain which bound this great confederacy together, and he hoped to live long enough to see these social gatherings of firemen extended throughout all parts of the country. He concluded by giving as a volunteer toast:—

That the friendship now subsisting between Columbian Engine Co. No. 14 of New York, and Vigilant Engine Co. No 7 of Baltimore, may continue as long as the oldest member lives.

The Memory of Washington

Was then drank standing. Music—Dirge.

Mr. Hickman replied to the following toast, but his remarks were not distinctly audible where the members of the press were seated:—

The Monumental City—The abode of gallant men and lovely women—the birthplace of American poetry. May the star spangled banner forever wave o'er her. Music—Star Spangled Banner.

Ex-Alderman James Kelly was called up by the next toast.

The City of New York.

He said—There was many things in New York which they might boast of Of their benevolent institutions, New Yorkers were justly proud, and were always willing to be taxed to build, not monuments, but things that redound back to the benefit of the people; things such as schoolhouses (Applause) They were willing, too, that they should be taxed for the support of such institutions as the Blind Asylum, and exempt it from taxation, and give them the ground on which it stands for nothing. Then, too, they were proud of their fire companies; and he took much pleasure in seeing one of them so prompt in coming forward to reciprocate the kindness extended to them on their visit to Baltimore.

The next toast was—

Vigilant Company VII, of Baltimore.—We hail them as brave men and gentlemen—Columbia has no truer friends music—"Yankee Doodle"

Mr. Carson, of Baltimore was called upon to reply. He complimented the New York firemen upon the manly honesty which they displayed in some resolutions which he read a few days since, as having been passed at a meeting of the firemen, relative to a certain imputation which had been cast upon them as a body He felt when he read those resolutions that their brethren of New York were every inch of them true and worthy firemen (Applause.) He then referred in terms of admiration to the wonderful enterprise of New Yorkers, and alluded to the fact that it was owing to the enterprising investment of New York capital that Baltimore owed the development of the resources of her surrounding country. In all that New Yorkers were doing to build up, by their unparalleled enterprise, their city and their State, and thereby do honor to the Union, they of Baltimore could share in it as American citizens, for that honor surrounded them and was reflected upon them, and they could turn to New York and point to her greatness, and to the Empire State as a most perfect illustration of the unexampled growth and prosperity of the country. The success of the experiment of self-government did honor to every American citizen. The influence of New York was immense. Whether in political struggles or intestine commotion among ourselves, it is to New York that we look for an example. As it moves, so in a great measure do all the papers throughout the Union and thus was the public opinion of the country influenced by that of New York. After some farther remarks relative to the influence which this city and its people are destined to exert in the dissemination of republican ideas, Mr C. resumed his seat amid much applause, first, however, giving as a sentiment:—

No. 14 is twice No. 7 (Laughter and cheers.)

The Ten Governors.—The fathers of the fatherless—Our best thanks are one them for their kind and gentlemanly conduct towards our guests. Music—"Home, sweet home."

Gov. Duke, in the absence of Simeon Draper, Esq., President of the Board of Governors, and who was expected to have been present, responded in a few brief and appropriate remarks.

The next toasts were—

The City of New York.

The Fire Department of the City of Baltimore.—Their vigilance and manly bearing are as "household words." Music—"Fireman's March."

The Fire Department of the City of New York. Music—March.

The "Fire Department Fund of the City of New York" was responded to by J G. Giles, Esq, the treasurer of the fund. In the course of his remarks, which were of a character explanatory of the nature of the fund stated amid much applause that the fund at present amounted to over ninety thousand dollars.

Mr. Theodore F. Tomlinson, having vacated the chair, (which was taken by Tophar Mills, Esq.,) was called upon to respond to the next regular toast, which was as follows:—

Our country—"Our whole country, and nothing but our country"—"The home of the brave and the land of the free"—may each moment more firmly and strongly unite the all powerful band which cements us—may the ever ready hand of freemen crush from existence any traitor who may attempt to weaken or destroy our happy home. Music—"Hail, Columbia."

Mr. T said that "our country" was an idea which gave but a mind moulded to the form of our government could full realise. He expatiated at much length and with considerable eloquence upon the necessity of the friendly intercourse between the North and South, as a means of obviating the machinations of sectional demagogues. The people should tell their representatives in Congress and elsewhere, to drive the coach of state as they thought fit. Our republic was not the creature of a day; it was not the offspring of the stamp act alone. The tree of liberty was fastened deep down in a rock, and extend its branches even to the South; it flourished apace, and he was confident would yet overshadow with its protecting branches two hemispheres, thus vieing with the orb of day in the extent of its influence over the world.

The next sentiment was "Woman," which was received amid loud applause, the band playing a stirring air.

This being the end of the regular toasts loud calls were made for "a song!" "a song!" This call was responded to by Messrs. Benson of the Baltimoreans McGraw of the New York company, and others. The singing was excellent, and was vociferously cheered.

The "Press" was then toasted, and received with great enthusiasm

At this time Mr Stetson entered the banquetting hall, and was immediately called upon for a speech. He responded in a very happy manner, and many good humored and happy sayings, called down the house.

The merchants of New York

Was the next sentiment.

Julius T. Stagg, Esq, who sat at the table of the invited guests, responded, and was eloquent in just praise of the Fire Department.

It being then after 12 o'clock, it was moved to join hands and round sing "Auld Lang Syne," and adjourn to the hall of the Young Bachelors, at Niblo's, to which the company had been invited.

All were in the greatest good humor when they broke up, being highly delighted with the sumptuous entertainment at which they had participated In closing, we must express our acknowledgments to John H. Deyo, Esq and others of the general committee, for their especial kindness and attention during the evening. The visiters and visited must long remember, with feelings of satisfaction, the banquet at the Astor House.

Marine Affairs.

The Steamship Africa left at three o'clock yesterday afternoon for Liverpool, with twenty one passengers.

Good Passage.—The clipper ship Dreadnought, Captain Samuels, arrived at the bar yesterday, from Liverpool in the short space of nineteen days.

The U S Revenue Cutter Morris Com. Whitcomb, arrives at Newport, via New London, on Wednesday, from Bermuda, from a cruise in search of the wrecked steamer San Francisco Officers and crew all well. She cruised several days in and about the latitude and longitude in which the unfortunate S. F. was last reported, without making any discovery, seeing nothing but a floating bale of cotton, (probably thrown overboard by the Kilby) Experienced very rough weather during the first eighteen days of the cruise. The Morris is bound for Boston.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

Stated Session of the Board of Aldermen.

OFFICIAL.

THURSDAY, Feb. 23, 1854.

Present—Nathan C. Ely, President, Aldermen Brown, Williamson, Blunt, Baker, Hoffmire, Howard, Woodward, Wm Tucker, Voorhis, Trowbridge, Boardman, Wakeman, Covert, Kelly, Chauncey, Christy, Lord, Herrick, C. H. Tucker, Mott, Drake

The minutes of the last meeting were read, and, after a slight amendment, approved.

PETITIONS.

By Alderman Wm Tucker—Petition of James F. Birdsall and others for a repeal of ordinance for the construction of a sewer on Charlton street. To Committee on Sewers.

By Alderman Boardman—Remonstrance of Nathan L. and George Griswold against granting exclusive use of pier 18 East River To Committee on Wharves, &c.

By Alderman Voorhis—Petition of James W. Farr, to be relieved from tax To Committee on Finance.

By Alderman Lord—Petition of Richard H. Douglass, to be appointed Commissioner of Deeds. To Committee on Salaries and Offices.

By the same—Petition of Wm Callender, to be appointed Commissioner of Deeds To Committee on Salaries and Offices.

By Alderman Mott—Petition and complaint of John Redman against Hose Company 45. To Committee on Fire Department

By Alderman Voorhis—Remonstrance of Wm. Cooper and others, against building a station house on lot No. 96 Charles street. To Committee on Repairs and Supplies.

By the President—Petition of A D Baldwin, to be appointed a Commissioner of Deeds. To Committee on Salaries and Offices.

By Alderman Chauncey—Petition of Isaac Walker, for remission of tax. To Committee on Finance.

By Alderman Mott—Petition of G. S. Bibby, to be relieved from assessment. To Committee on Assessments.

By the President—Petition of John Randel, Jr., relative to ventilating sewer and water and gas pipe chambers. To Committee on Sewers

By Alderman Kelly—Petition of Frederick Lockwood, for remission of tax To Committee on Finance.

By Alderman Wm Tucker—Petition of Robert Henry and others, trustees of the Scotch Presbyterian Church in Fourteenth street, for permission to remove their dead from their burying ground in Twenty eighth street. To the City Inspector with power.

By Alderman Boardman—Petition of the Reformed Dutch Church of Manhattan for relief from tax. To Committee on Finance

By Alderman Chauncey—Petition of Elias J. Beach for reduction of tax To Committee on Finance.

By Alderman Voorhis—Petition of Amherst Wright to be appointed a Commissioner of Deeds. To Committee on Salaries and Offices.

By the President—Petition of Andreas and Son and others to have the Eighth Avenue Railroad Company to run their cars to Fifty-ninth street. To Committee on Railroads.

INVITATION

An invitation was received to attend the exhibition of animals by Herr Driesbach in Broadway. Accepted.

RESOLUTIONS.

By Alderman Blunt—Whereas, a resolution was offered January, 1854, to this Board, calling upon the Commissioner of Streets and Lamp to report forthwith to this Board a full and particular exhibit of all accounts and business of his department, and of its several bureaux, from January 1, 1851, to January 2, 1854, stating in detail what appropriations are yet unexpended, what contracts unperformed, with whom such contracts are made and the nature of the contracts, and how much money would be required to complete them; and whether any, and, if any, what appropriations have been made for any and what work or works not yet contracted for; and whereas, the above resolution has not been complied with, and said Commissioner has sent in his resignation, which has been accepted—therefore,

Resolved, That a special committee of this Board shall call on the Commissioner of Streets and Lamps and examine all books, accounts, contracts, and everything in his department relative to the public affairs—which was adopted, and the President appointed Aldermen Williamson, Blunt, Covert, Chauncey, and Mott, such committee.

By the same—Whereas, a contract has been made for cleaning the streets, and the same has not been done, and they are now in a very dirty condition, and the citizens are complaining and calling for the same to be cleaned, and no one had a right to take any dirt or rubbish from the streets under the existing ordinance under penalty of fine, and—Whereas, every day in the week there are from four hundred to five hundred wagons coming to Washington market from the neighboring country and would be very willing to take home with them a load of manure and give something for said privilege if they were allowed to do it, and there is no doubt if such permission was given that the streets of the Third ward, and indeed of all wards, would be cleaned in less than one week, and persons would cause boats to be placed at slips and pay so much a load or basket for all street manure delivered to them, giving employment to all street beggars and children now engaged in sweeping crosswalks, and many dirt cartmen now engaged in carting, and the streets would