VISIT OF THE LEGISLATURE

TO THE

CITY OF NEW YORK.

DINNER AT BLACKWELL'S ISLAND.

SPEECHES,

&c., &c., &c.

On Saturday the members of both houses of the Legislature, by invitation of the Board of Ten Governors, visited the various charitable institutions on Blackwell's and Randall's Islands. At 10 o'clock, the company, to the number of two hundred, assembled at the pier foot of Bellevue Hospital, among whom we noticed the President *pro tem* of the Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly, his Honor Recorder Tillou, the different members of the Legislature, the greater portion of the members of the Board of Aldermen and Common Councilmen, and several ex-aldermen, together with many of the most eminent members of the bar. Some delay having been occasioned, the steamboat did not arrive as soon as was announced, and the company were kept waiting for nearly an hour; but the day being a beautiful one, the time was spent pleasantly in surveying the grounds attached to Bellevue Hospital, and in discussing the merits and demerits of the Maine law.

THE SCENE AT RANDALL'S ISLAND.

At 11 o'clock the loud ringing of a bell announced that the steamboat was coming alongside, and all hastened down to the water's edge and proceeded on board the steamboat Independence, chartered for the occasion by the Governors of the Almshouse. Dodworth's Band having struck up a national air, the steamboat got under way, and sailed up the East river as far as Eighty-sixth street, where a number of the invited guests had by a mistake gathered on the end of the pier. Here about one hundred and fifty persons were taken on board, among whom were several ladies and children. Leaving this point of Manhattan island, the boat without delay steered for Randall's Island, where the company were met by the Randall's Island boys, all dressed in uniform, who, with hearty cheering, a display of handsome banners, and the music of the fife and drum, welcomed the distinguished visiters to the happy homes provided for them by the benevolence of the good people of Gotham.

All having disembarked, the company marched to the delightful strains of the music, along a well laid plank road, to the nursery, which was the first building on this island they visited. Here were assembled about one hundred little children, varying in age from three to six years, all neatly dressed, delighted with the music of the band in attendance, and evidently happy with their situation in life.

After examining the nursery and primary schools, the boys belonging to the island drew up in front of the assemblage, with their banners streaming in the wind, and their little band playing favorite airs in very creditable style.

SIMEON DRAPER, one of the Ten Governors, thus addressed the boys as soon as the music had ceased:—

BOYS—We came here to-day along with the Legislature to show them the condition of poor friendless boys on this island, and how they are taken care of in the great city of New York. I am sure that you have something to say when such an important and distinguished body have come here to see you to-day.

JOHN HUGHES, one of the boys, about seven years of age, then got up on a stool, and delivered the following reply *extempore*, which made some of the rural members open their eyes:—

We are happy to see you, gentlemen. We are grateful that so distinguished a body of men as the Legislature of the State of New York are here to-day honoring us with their presence; and we should be ungrateful not to welcome you on this occasion. We feel grateful for the benefits conferred on us, so conducive to our welfare, in the shape of institutions, founded as they are by the bountiful liberality of the city of New York. Once we were poor, ragged and friendless, but now, by the agency of these institutions, we are quite changed—we are clothed and fed, and comfortably provided for. Once we were paupers and destitute; but now we are the children of New York, and the Board of Ten Governors are our fathers, friends and relations. We are provided with good teachers, to prepare us for any situation which we may hereafter be called upon to fill in after life. We are grateful for the gifts we have received. On our right are the stars and stripes, and on the left a banner, finely made. These emblems of our condition were presented to us by a noble body of firemen, Neptune Company, of Albany. Gentlemen, we shall not detain you any longer, but bid you welcome to our island. Grateful for the blessings which we enjoy, we conclude by saying, let us give three hearty cheers for the Legislature of the Empire State. (Loud cheering.)

ROBERT H. PRUYN, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, then addressed the boys as follows:—

BOYS—I am desired by my fellow members to say that we are happy to see so many boys congregated here, looking so happy, appearing to be so well cared for, giving such a high promise, one of these days, of being useful and distinguished men. We wish you to remember that you live in a country where all stand on the same broad platform, where all are free, and where we have none of those distinctions which elevate one class above another, but where the poor are sustained at the expense of the wealthy. All may aspire to fame—all may aspire to the highest position in the gift of the people—only remember that you should avail yourselves of the opportunity afforded you by the people of New York, and that you should listen to your kind teachers—that you should qualify yourselves for the situations you may be hereafter called upon to fill. It is not impossible that there is in your company a boy who may aspire to be Governor of the State—yes, even the President of the United States—and it may be possible that some of you may yet be one of the Ten Governors of this institution. I will not say anything more. You said you had good instruction, but I will teach you one thing. Whenever you have said all that you have had to say, stop. (Loud cheering by the boys.)

The children then went through their various exercises and sung two or three songs. The next thing that attracted the attention of the Legislature was a large number of little girls, who, with smiling faces and clapping of hands and the singing of pretty songs, welcomed the distinguished guests to their happy homes.

The company next visited the new building in progress of erection called the "Asylum for the Reformation of Juvenile Delinquents," the corner stone of which was laid nearly a year ago. This is a capacious edifice, five hundred and seventy feet long by one hundred feet wide, and, being built in highly artistic style, was the subject of great admiration. On each end and in the centre are cupolas constructed in the Oriental style of architecture, from the top of which a splendid view of New York and the surrounding scenery is obtained.

VISIT TO BLACKWELL'S ISLAND.

No building being left uninspected on Randall's Island the company re-embarked on board the steamboat and took their departure for Blackwell's Island, passing by Ward's Island on their way down the river. The boat made a landing at the north end of Blackwell's Island, and all having safely got ashore, the handsome edifice called the "Lunatic Asylum" was closely inspected from the basement to the fourth story. Everything presented a cleanly appearance, and many were the glances of pity bestowed on the unfortunate insane by the distinguished visiters as they departed from this invaluable institution.

From the Lunatic Asylum they next resorted to the Madhouse, where the patients were in the greatest state of excitement at the large number of visiters and noise of the band, and it was deemed advisable by the Rectors not to admit any one except merely the members of the Legislature, consequently the members of the Common Council, the heads of departments, and all others invited, refrained from examining the building and its occupants until a more favorable opportunity presents itself.

The new Workhouse was next visited. This building is equal in size to the Asylum for the Reformation of Juvenile Delinquents, on Randall's Island, and is a somewhat handsomer and more substantial edifice, being constructed of stone. One wing yet remains to be finished, and a few days ago an appropriation of $40,000 was made for its completion, and when finished it will be one of the brightest ornaments of the Empire City.

The Almshouse was the next object that attracted their attention. Here some five or six hundred emigrant paupers, of all nations and climes, met the eye of the visiter, and their seemingly comfortable condition impressed upon the minds of the Legislature the usefulness with which money raised by tax for charitable purposes was expended in the city of New York.

The Hospital was next inspected, where hundreds lay on beds of sickness, pining to breathe the fresh air once more in good health and spirits. Their wants were, however, well attended to; and nearly all of them, except those infirm with age, were in a fair way of recovery. The visiters had no hesitation whatever in passing through the wards of sickness, being too deeply impressed with the solemnity of the scene to heed the infection that hovered around them.

Arriving at the extreme end of the island, the gloomy Penitentiary came in sight, and on entering the main door the words—

"The way of the transgressor is hard,"

met their view, painted on a white board above the first tier of cells. All the various apartments, storerooms, kitchens and mess-rooms, were alike duly inspected, and were the subject of encomium on the part of the honorable visiters, who viewed with evident satisfaction and delight the county prison of the city of New York.

THE DINNER SPEECHES.

Having examined all the institutions on Blackwell's Island, the entire company repaired to the new Workhouse, where an excellent dinner was provided by the authorities on this island. At 4 o'clock, the dining room doors being thrown open, the guests entered, greeted by the band playing "Hail Columbia," and, taking their seats at three long tables, all the delicacies that the season could afford were quickly disposed of, as their appetites were sharpened by the long walk they had taken over the island. Champagne flowed in abundance, and from what we saw we should think that very few members of the Legislature who voted for the Maine law were strictly temperate men, for everybody seemed to enjoy themselves heartily, and no cold water was placed on the festive board.

At the head of the table sat the presiding officer on the occasion, Simeon Draper, one of the Ten Governors, the President *pro tem* of the Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly, the President of the Board of Aldermen, the Recorder, Senator Dickinson, Senator Whitney, the President of the Board of Councilmen, and other distinguished men. At the foot of the table were seated the wives and daughters of those present, who, by their presence, added still greater eclat to the occasion.

The dinner having been disposed of, the President on the occasion called the assemblage to order, and addressed them as follows:—

Gentlemen of the Senate and Assembly—It is with great pleasure we welcome you to the city of New York. We desired that you should see, as the representatives of the people, the value of our institutions on these islands, reared by the benevolence of the inhabitants of the great city of New York—institutions which are in our eyes, and we hope in yours, invaluable, institutions where the poor and friendless can alone find plenty and comfort. We bid you welcome, not that we want to get any appropriation, but that you may see and judge of the utility and value of these institutions, which I know every American citizen is willing to support. We did not call you here for the purpose of exciting your sympathies in our behalf, for the city of New York is the mother and protector of all destitute people who come to these islands, and to her alone they look for kindness. We seek nothing from the State. We seek nothing from the Legislature, except that which all citizens are willing to pay for the support of those who are fastened on us by misfortune or otherwise. I can show you thousands on this and Randall's Island, including nearly a thousand children, who look to the Ten Governors of the Almshouse for their maintenance and their position in life, and who would be entirely destitute were it not for these excellent institutions. You come to the Lunatic Asylum, and we point out to you five or six hundred lunatics who are supported by us, and God knows they have want of it. Now, gentlemen, we are honored on this occasion by those who are distinguished for their eloquence and their knowledge of the affairs of the State, while we are simply members of the government of the city of New York only. However, we hope we can occupy your time more pleasantly on some other occasion. I see on my right and left the President of the Board of Aldermen and Councilmen, and a large number of the members of the Common Council. I thank you all, gentlemen, and especially the ladies, for your presence here on this occasion. In conclusion, let me offer you this sentiment—

"The Senate and the House of Representatives of the Empire State."

ROBERT H. PRUYN, the Speaker of the House, responded as follows:—

Gentlemen of the Board of Ten Governors—I congratulate you, and through you the city of New York, upon the admirable condition of the institutions in your charge. No one can go through them without seeing that economy and liberality is combined. The stranger that visits you can form but a poor idea of the priceless value of these institutions, except he go through, as we have to-day. The millions of dollars expended tend more to uphold the character of the city of New York, as it shows by evidence, by these institutions, that her benevolence and humanity is not exceeded by any other city in the State. In fact, the whole State is full of benevolent institutions, and her commerce and traffic is not exceeded by any other State. On one side it is washed by the Atlantic Ocean, on the other side by a large lake, which may well be termed an inland sea. Her centre is adorned by one of the noblest monuments that has ever been erected by the hands of man—I mean the great Erie Canal (loud and prolonged cheering)—that magnificent artery that runs through the entire State. Gentlemen, I will not detain you on this occasion by extended remarks. I can only say that one of the best acts ever performed by me was when I voted in favor of the bill creating the office of the Ten Governors, and placing these institutions under their management. I have only one word more to say. The members of the Legislature have been only here for one day, and I think if the Ten Governors treated them as well the next time they visited you, some of the members would like to be sent here for six months. (Laughter.)

A. B. DICKINSON, President *pro tem.* of the Senate, then addressed the assembly. He said:—

The people and governments who take care of the poor are always entitled to the best thanks. We have seen six hundred boys as well cared for as the most opulent gentleman's children in the State—boys who may be your representatives and your senators. We have had eloquence from a child that might well be expected from a man of twenty-one. He spoke not as if he were reading from a book, but that he felt that he was an object of charity and that it was becoming to say something to us on the occasion. Ladies and gentlemen, you saw these boys, who yet may be the teachers and masters of our children, for we cannot count upon success always in this life. The people of New York city may well be proud of her institutions, and the city itself, for it is the first in population on this continent, and in point of commerce excels all other cities. Where is there a New Yorker who is not proud of her commerce? There is no more important situation than the office of the Ten Governors, which provides for the poor, the sick, the fatherless, and friendless. These institutions demand our sympathies and our time. I will not detain you, as there are many members here who wish to be heard, therefore I will draw my remarks to a close. (Applause.)

Mr. ELY, President of the Board of Aldermen, then made a few remarks complimentary to the Board of Ten Governors and to the President, Mr. Draper, and assuring that body that the Common Council, so far as he was concerned, looked upon the institutions of those islands with pride, and it would at all times be great pleasure to them to decrease the wants of the sufferers conveyed there. In conclusion, he said that not two weeks ago their Board had adopted a resolution appropriating $40,000 for the completion of the south wing of the builing they were then sitting in.

MOSES H. GRINNELL next spoke substantially as follows:—

Ladies and Gentlemen—I wish to say a few words, as I could not well do so before the President of the Common Council. I am here as a private citizen of New York city, of which I feel as proud as any other citizen. We are here to meet with the representatives of the State of New York—we are here as a band of brothers in the house of charity. I trust that many hearts will ever be open to the wants of the poor of the city of New York. It is duly necessary for you of the State of New York to come here to look at the wretched, the lame, the infirm, the blind, and the insane, to feel that the institutions are invaluable and well conducted. Can you look around and not believe it? I was not with you to-day when you visited these institutions, but when the gentleman before me spoke of the 700 children on Randall's Island tears came on my cheek—I could not help it. And why does all this come? Is it not from the liberality of the Legislature of the State and those who make bequests for the benefit of those institutions? Is it not right, then, for the Legislature to bequeath when they have the means? For my part, to place my hands in my pockets and say, "Take this contribution, only let it be for the benefit of the poor. We desire nothing for it in return, only take care of the unfortunate, educate them, and if possible make them distinguished citizens of this glorious country." (Cheers.) The Senate has not spoken as much as it ought, consequently I call upon Senator Dickinson to say something.

Senator DICKINSON then rose and said:—

Ladies and Gentlemen—I am in no condition to address you this afternoon. (Laughter.) This day carries me back twenty-two years ago, when I was left fatherless upon the Atlantic ocean. I recollect very well turning to my mother, and I can remember that I had but one friend in the world. And when I saw hundreds of children this day who were fatherless I thanked God that there was one institution in the State that had Ten Governors to act the part of fathers and friends to the orphans. I felt proud of my native State; I felt proud of its humanity. These institutions are free, they are the institutions of the poor, the maimed and the wretched, who are taken care of, educated, and made useful members of society. They are educated so as to fill the different positions in life. It has been well said, that "one of these boys may find himself to be the President of the United States, and perhaps some one of them might become one of the Ten Governors of the Almshouse." Gentlemen, I shall not detain you with any lengthened remarks. To the Ten Governors, in the name of the Senate of the State of New York, I may say with great confidence that this will be a day long remembered by us—the Legislature of the State of New York. We will remember this day for years and years—we will remember the cordial manner in which we were received by you—we will remember the excellent institutions that we have seen on this island; and I trust when we are called upon to legislate for the city of New York we will remember the stand taken by her citizens, and act by them as brothers. (Loud applause.)

Mr. MATHER, Councilman of the Fifty-seventh district, being deputed to speak on behalf of the Board of Councilmen, then made a short speech, as follows:—

Senators and Assemblymen—I have been appointed on this occasion as a substitute for our President, who is unfortunately indisposed. I wish to say a few words to the members of the Senate and Assembly. The Common Councilmen are happy to see you, and bid you a hearty welcome to this place. As a member of the committee appointed to wait upon you, I am delegated to address you. Inasmuch as you may not remain here longer than Monday, I now, on the part of the Board, tender you our heartfelt thanks for your visit here. I understand that you intend to leave here on Monday morning, but we would look upon it as a special favor if you would defer your departure until Monday evening, so that we would be enabled to show you some of the sights on Manhattan Island. And now, gentlemen, we desire that you would do us the favor of remaining in New York until Monday evening. That the citizens of the Empire State have by their votes committed to you all their interest—so far as that interest can be affected by legislation—we all know; and I claim he who comes from the rural districts as well as those from the cities as our representatives, and you have in your custody our rights and interests. He regretted that the Legislature did not come to New York earlier and oftener than they did, and concluded by inviting the members of both houses to meet them at the Astor House, at 9 o'clock on Monday morning, from whence they would proceed in carriages to the different public buildings and structures on Manhattan Island.

His Honor Recorder TILLOU then addressed those assembled, saying there was nothing that should demand the attention of our representatives and senators more than the wants of charitable institutions. Much had been said, and justly, too, of the institutions of the city of New York. After praising the various charitable institutions, he said that New York was the great loadstone that drew to its asylums the exiles from all parts of the earth—the great city of benevolence and humanity! It was true the institutions they visited that day were only a small portion of the various institutions of New York. Examine its schools. There are hundreds and thousands who go to these schools just as they do all through the State. Take its voluntary institutions—no one that is not in good circumstances but what is met by some one of these societies. Look, said he, at the building we are sitting in, and then the members of the Legislature can form some idea of the importance of her institutions.

Senator MALLORY, of Ontario county, then addressed the meeting as follows:—

I am now convinced that New York is a great city, and I am satisfied that it is the great emporium of the United States. The number of the insane and poor supported by this great city is astonishing; and although I cannot say that I stand six inches higher than ever I did before, as one of the gentlemen said before me, yet I think I feel better now than ever I did in my life. I am not one of those who voted for the Maine law. (Laughter.) I can only say that either between me or Gov. Seymour the Maine law is defunct. Although I voted against it, I am not opposed to a temperance law, and I would go for it where it provided that we should drink moderately, as we are now partaking of champagne to-day. (Loud cheers.)

The PRESIDENT then said that he had received a sentiment from James A. Titus, which he read, as follows:—

"Ignorance and poverty being the most faithful sources of crime, it becomes the duty of society to provide that no child shall go uneducated—no poor man unrelieved—no rogue unpunished."

Dr. GEO. BURR, of Binghamton, N. Y., responded in an appropriate manner, and thanked the Board of Ten Governors for the honor conferred upon the members of the Legislature.

Senator WHITNEY then made some remarks, which were cut short by the lateness of the hour, for by this time it was after 6 o'clock P. M.

The company then broke up, and took their departure for New-York, arriving safe, about 7 o'clock, at the pier foot of Bellevue street. Carriages were in attendance, and they all hastened to their various hotels, no doubt well fatigued from their perambulations on Randall's and Blackwell's Islands.

DOINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE YESTERDAY.

Our Albany visiters did not rise very early yesterday morning, on account of the fatigue of the previous day. Those who have their wives with them, rose, however, at a reasonable hour, and went to church in the forenoon and evening. The rest lounged about their various hotels, talked politics and about the sights of Saturday on Randall's and Blackwell's Islands. This morning, at 8 o'clock, they leave the Astor House in carriages, and pay a visit to the various benevolent institutions in the city and up to the High Bridge, after which they will ride to the railroad depot and take the afternoon train for Albany. They are all highly pleased with what they have seen so far, and will no doubt go back to their legislative duties with a higher opinion of "Gotham and the Gothamites" than they had when they came here.

Coroners' Inquests.

BODY FOUND FLOATING IN THE WATER—SUSPICIONS OF VIOLENCE.—Coroner Gamble yesterday held an inquest upon the body of an unknown woman, which was found floating in the river at the foot of Broome street. The body had been in the water several weeks. Dr. O'Hanlon made an examination of the body, the flesh of which was so much decomposed that the bones of the arms and of the skull, above the eyes, was laid bare. A linen bandage was tied firmly around the head, completely covering the eyes. There was no visible fracture discovered. The body was so much decomposed as to have removed all traces of violence, if any had been perpetrated. The jury returned a verdict of death by drowning, and appended the following to the verdict:—"We further are of opinion that violence was used in causing the death of deceased." Deceased had on a French drab merino dress, neatly made, but no underclothes except a canton flannel petticoat. On one foot was a fashionable prunelle gaiter, with a patent leather tie.

FOUND DROWNED.—Yesterday afternoon Coroner Gamble held an inquest at the Bellevue Hospital, upon the body of Thomas O'Neil, which was found floating in the water at the foot of Twenty-third street, East river. He was a longshoreman, and has been missing about three months. His was of intemperate habits, and it is supposed while under the influence of liquor he fell into the water. A verdict of death by drowning was rendered. Deceased was about thirty years of age, and a native of Ireland.

Coroner O'Donnell on Saturday held an inquest upon the body of William Colvil, formerly a sailor on board the schooner Samuel Gilman, lying at pier No. 9 East river. Deceased had been ashore but was not seen on board again. His body was found floating alongside. Verdict—Death by drowning. Deceased was a native of Ireland, 25 years of age.

ANOTHER BODY FOUND IN THE WATER.—The body of an unknown man was found floating in the water at the foot of Twenty-second street. Coroner Gamble held an inquest upon the body, when the jury returned a verdict of death by drowning. No marks of violence were found on his person. He appeared to have been in the water about eight weeks. It is supposed he was a sailor. In the pockets of deceased were found $3 17, two keys, and a jackknife.

FATAL FALL.—Coroner Gamble held an inquest upon the body of William Donaldson, at the New York Hospital. Deceased was a sailor on board the ship Edwin Forrest; and fell from the mainyard when he went aloft to reeve the signal halyards. He fell into the water, and his leg was broken. He was taken to the New York Hospital. Upon the post mortem examination it was found he had in his fall ruptured his liver. Verdict—Accidental death.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—Coroner Gamble also, at the New York Hospital, held an inquest upon the body of Charles Boyle, who became entangled, on the 28th of March, in the machinery, by means of which his foot was severed. He was taken to the New York Hospital, where the stump was amputated. He died from exhaustion. Verdict—Accidental death. Deceased worked at the Morgan Iron Works, at the foot of Ninth street, East river.

Brooklyn City Intelligence.

CHURCH DEDICATION IN NORTH BROOKLYN.—A chapel, recently erected for the congregation under the charge of Rev. Wm. W. Halloway, of the Protestant Reformed Dutch Church, situated on Lee avenue, near Hews street, North Brooklyn, was dedicated yesterday afternoon. The sermon was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Bethune, who took for his text the 11th verse of the 61st chapter of Isaiah. The building, which is in accordance with the Gothic style of architecture, is designed for present use, or until there is a sufficient accession to erect a more commodious edifice. It is of brick, with a brown stone front, and is 35 feet front by 70 feet deep. It is two stories in height, and the lower floor is fitted up for the congregation and the upper floor for the Sunday school. Both rooms are well fitted up with every necessary convenience, and are lighted, in addition to the front and rear windows, with a skylight in the centre. The ground belonging to the church extends 75 feet on Hewes street and 137 feet on Lee avenue, and was granted to the congregation by the heirs of the late Jeremiah Johnson. The building cost $11,000, and at the close of the ceremonies a collection was taken up to liquidate what remained of the debt. The pastor urged a liberal contribution, and stated, in addition, that the Sunday school, which had been organized about a year ago with eight scholars, now embraced seventy, with a library of 800 volumes. A benediction closed the proceedings.

STABBING AFFRAY.—On Saturday night a young man, named Thomas McInteer, was seriously stabbed with a knife, at a party at the house of Michael Dalton, in Bond street, between Douglass and Degraw streets. It seems a difficulty originated between those assembled, during which one of them drew a knife and stabbed McInteer in the left side, inflicting a wound about an inch and a half in length and one inch deep. The police of the Third district, under the lead of Assistant Captain Oswald, arrested all the men found in the house, and they were all committed for a hearing. It is not known who inflicted the wound. The injured man was taken to his boarding house, on the opposite side of the street, and attended to by two physicians, who were called in. It is not likely that his wounds will prove fatal.

FIRE.—On Saturday morning a fire broke out in a frame two story house on Navy street, near Tillary, owned by Michael Brown, and occupied on the lower floor by John Grady, as a liquor store. Mr. Brown occupied the upper part. The flames soon communicated to the houses adjoining on either side, one of which was owned and occupied by Daniel Gillen as a porter house, and the other by William Deagan, William Grange, and Edward Scully. Mr. Deagan was the proprietor. His loss is about $1,500; insured for $800 on the house, and $200 on the furniture—the latter in the Long Island Insurance Company. Mr. Grady lost about $600. Mr. Brown about $1,000; insured for $500. Mr. Gillen's loss is about $2,500; insured for $1,000 in the New York City Insurance Company. The families lost probably about $1,000 more. The fire is presumed to have been occasioned by accident.

Personal Intelligence.

General Gadsden arrived in Charleston on the 3d inst. He will spend a month at his residence, and then return to Mexico as resident minister. Gov. Gorman, of Minnesota, is in Washington city.

Hon. John A. Collier, Binghamton; Hon. L. Williams, Worcester; Chas. W. Cook, San Francisco; R. H. Elam, San Francisco; Col. A. Thompson, Tennessee; Geo. B. Leverson, England; W. E. Massie, Mexico; and V. Wittegensten, Berlin, were among the arrivals yesterday at the Metropolitan.

ARRIVALS.

From Aspinwall, in the steamship George Law—Hon Delos Lake, T J Henly, G C Johnson and lady, Mrs Eaton Miss Eaton, P Teworskey, Mrs Green, two children and servant; Hon C Lancaster, lady and three children; S Caro, B Diamond, J Scheick, L Davidson, J Marks, F Harris, S Friedman, J Mayer, A M Dibble, C E Hitchcock, J C Tonny, P Winston, S B Colby (Adams & Co's Express,) C Patterson, Mrs Strout, J Carrere, P Carrere, J Worth, Mrs Shurber, Mrs Brunt, D Peckham, H Sparks, Z W Sparks, S R King, C O Root, G W Woods, P R Ringstrow, W G Sherwood, Mr Rutti, S Conchi, lady and child; P Canfield, D Cronin, Mrs Smith, J Pfeiffer, N B Davis, T Churchill, J S Dunlap, W F Blanchard, A Crane, J Althoise, A Monteith, J C Althouse, J Grant, J C Deyerle, J Fitzjames, C S Plattman, G F Vanderberger and lady, C S Ricks, W F Hamilton, Lt S Mowzy, U S A; N B Stone, S Bean, Mrs Stevenson and daughter, C Downer, J Drennan and lady, E W Harelson, J H Rochester (Wells, Fargo & Co's Express,) J Baldwin, I Folsom, J N Carlsoder, L Parkinson, F G Gifford, F Lehman, M K Avery, L Walker, J Font, D C Pesher, G B Ironside, J C Burgoyne, J C Bilott, C Snidar, C G Crandall, B J Bond, J Keiser, J W Boner, E Mayhew, P Cazette, J Clark, G W Sands, P Bickhausen, G McKay, D Thompson, A H Eddy, T Kent, J Libby, Edward Dow, J B French, A C Edwards, Wm Rippey, E A Thorndike, J Whitmore, J Melfe, J W Newby, J A Morris, Jno Rupert, Chas Gray, J Melfe, H Melfe, Jas Boudeman, Geo Hoffman, L Hoffman, A Erway, J Nickerson, J F Marsh, Chas Kelley, P Potter, J Strokes, W W Brainard, A C Salt, Jas Taylor, A B Harvey, T Herris, W D Fuller, W H Thomas, J H Shutts, J E Pollard, L F Benton, T J Tindell, W H Hammond, M Kresger, S B Crowningshield, W A Quarles, L Vincent, G W Robinson, N L Clark Esq and child, W C Johnson, E W Halleck Esq, S Andrews, S K Rose Esq, Wm W Warren, W G Bullion, C B Swain and lady, W Miller, Wm Robertson, lady and daughter, H B Tritz, J W Coop, S C Smith, L Rosenthal, B Clinton, Capt J S Barton, B S Lawrence, Capt J L Chipman, Sr J M Tirado (minister from Peru to the United States), lady, two sisters and two children, G Albertini, lady and son, Mrs W H Fairchild, Mrs J Hobson and servant, Mrs Geo Hobson, two daughters, two sons and servant, Wm Foster and lady, J W Byrnes, Wm Steel, S Boucher, Thos Smith, Jno M Jones, E A Drury, Mrs Mathy, D N Seaman, Hiram Hale, A Warbock, J W Owens, Geo Kummit, S Tompkins, Jno Stokely, Jno Murray, Jno Morrison, P K Birch, Jas Noble, J Conrville, Geo Buster, Jas McGowen, Alexr Travers, Isaac Harmon, J H Scott (mail agent), and 297 in steerage.

From San Juan and California, in the Star of the West.—Mr L F Fuller, Mr Wallack, lady and three children, A B Maim, H Riley, H R Haydock, Dr Stokes, C W Cook, lady and three children, Mrs J Jones, Mrs T C Olmstead and child, J Luff, Eli Wentworth, G W Vancourt, Dr Broadders, B Williams, J Murphy, E Murphy, H D Cushenbury, J S Keller, T Schooley, R Lang, A Cook, T H Emery, W A Estey, H R Halpen, T E Massie, J D Holliday, E D Cleary, J Fredman, John G Prenn, L Meyer, L D Pollock, S Marcy, S B Hopkins, S Vansickle, L D Pillsbury, J L Whiting, Mrs O Barney and infant, S K Spear, G Sharp, S Inskins, J Bailey, R Bailey, A R Mason, T B Moore, J H Wyncoop, F C Parker, M A F A, D Robinson, H P Thomas, L Gans, J W McCullough, Capt A J Averill and lady, Mrs S H Becker, L W Rosenstock, S Rosentree, L Cleve, Capt Famittery, Capt Hall and lady, Mrs Gallenay and child, Silas Rhoades, Dr Egery, Miles Roly, M Elam and mother, Mrs J P Banson, S S Phillips, S Gregory, M Murphy, T Murphy, J Loreaux, J Butterfield, J McNally, W Watson, M G Gray, Jas Connor, W Roe, J Jones, R Ridwell, Mrs Little and servant, Mrs Perly and infant, Mrs Fanich and niece, W H Russell, Col Babbitt, Dr Wharfield, J A Haucy, J Clark, G W Beckler, V Hardin, Mrs G H Gates and infant, Dr G B Tarks, J W Crooks, Master Riley, J Banks, Mrs M Talcott, Mrs A Marshall, Madame Geolet, Mrs Walton, Mrs Mary Smith, J S Conrad, J Kerr, and 310 in the steerage.

From Richmond, Petersburg and Norfolk, in the steamship Roanoke—Miss R L Austin, Henry Beers, Miss Emily Montague, Miss Catherine Bruman, G Valentine, Sr, M G Valentine, Jr, Lewis F Betts, Charles M Carter, James G Nevins, James L Myers, Matthew Duval, George M Snider, Henry C Proctor, Thomas M Smith, Alfred Sherrard, Capt P Metagers, James R McCauly, Col R E De Russy, Lewis G Joynes, John W Thomas, Henry B Joy, James C Harvey, J Disturnell, Mrs Eliza C Clarke and three children, Mrs E Chamberlaine, Mrs C L Howard, George M Frankenstein, and sixteen in the steerage.

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

The Clergy vs. the Nebraska Bill.

LETTER FROM JUDGE DOUGLAS IN REPLY TO TWENTY-FIVE CLERGYMEN OF CHICAGO, ON THE NEBRASKA BILL.

WASHINGTON, April 9, 1854.

Judge Douglas has written a long letter, of eight columns of the *Sentinel*, in reply to the resolutions of a meeting of twenty-five clergymen at Chicago, and in defence of his course in debate in the Senate on the protest of the New England clergymen against the repeal of the Missouri compromise.

Mr. Douglas retraverses the ground pursued by him in debate at the time the protest was presented in the Senate, and renews the charge that the protest was an outrage upon the privileges of a large body of citizens. He quotes a portion of his remarks made in opposition to the protest, and contends that the principle in the Nebraska bill is identical with the resolutions of the meeting at Chicago, and involves only the right of the people in the States to frame their own government. He also contends that the transfer of slaves from Kentucky to Nebraska would be a benefit to the slaves, and not alter the political complexion—that it would be simply reducing it in one State, where the land is exhausted, and increasing it in others where it is rich. Denies that clergymen, as such, have a right to interfere in all matters embracing moral and religious truth, and intimates that a recognition of such a power would prove subversive of the principles of free government, and destructive of all the guaranties of civil and religious liberty. The sovereign right of the people to manage their own affairs, in conformity with the constitution of their own making, recedes and disappears, he says, when placed in subordination to the authority of a body of men claiming, by virtue of their office as ministers, to be a divinely-appointed institution for the declaration and enforcement of God's will on earth.

The Judge further argues, that it is necessary to annul the eighth section of the Missouri compromise as inimical to free government, and denies that the proposal to do so is a breach of faith. The principle of the Nebraska bill, he says, is purely a question of self government, involving the right and capacity of the people to manage their own local and domestic concerns. This is the only controverted principle involved in the bill. He says:—"I am unwilling to believe that upon mature reflection, and with all the advantages which your Christian character and experience may enable you to summon to your assistance, you will sanction the declaration that a proposition to carry this principle into effect is a great moral wrong—exposing us to the righteous judgments of the Almighty."

The letter is argumentative rather than denunciatory, and is milder than might have been expected from its source; but still, upon some points, it is tart and sarcastic. The letter is clearly designed as a full vindication of his character, and covers all of his positions in regard to his opposition to the protest of the New England clergymen. It shows much care in its preparation, and when published, as it will be on Tuesday, it will be read with much interest by the foes as well as by the friends of Judge Douglas and his Nebraska bill.

Rumored Resignation of Senator James.

PROVIDENCE, April 9, 1854.

A rumor is current in this city that Gen. James, one of the United States Senators from this State, is about to resign his seat.

Ex-President Fillmore at Mobile.

NEW ORLEANS, April 8, 1854.

Ex-President Fillmore received an enthusiastic welcome at Mobile yesterday.

Indian Depredations in Mexico, &c.

BALTIMORE, April 9, 1854.

New Orleans papers of Monday were received here today. They contain Texan advices to March 31, confirming the report that Fort Belknap was surrounded by Indians. The papers, however, do not apprehend any danger to the garrison. Indians were still committing depredations along the Rio Grande.

News from El Paso to the 18th ult. is received. It contains nothing important.

Late from Havana.

ARRIVAL OF THE CRESCENT CITY AT NEW ORLEANS.

NEW ORLEANS, April 8, 1854.

The steamship Crescent City, from Havana, arrived here to-day. Affairs at Havana were quiet. The frigate Columbia arrived on the 1st inst. Freights were declining, owing to the large number of vessels arriving.

From Philadelphia.

AERIVAL OF THE CITY OF MANCHESTER—DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.

PHILADELPHIA, April 9, 1854.

The steamship City of Manchester arrived at the Breakwater last night. In coming up this afternoon, she grounded on the flats below Reedy Island, but will probably be got off at the next high tide.

Early this morning, the omnibus stable of Moore & Co., near Fairmount, was destroyed by fire, together with fourteen omnibuses, two sleighs, and other stock. Thirty-two horses also perished in the flames. Loss $10,000.

While going to the fire, a fireman named Neil O'Connor was run over by an engine, and killed instantly.

Markets.

NEW ORLEANS, April 8, 1854.

Cotton is quiet, buyers having withdrawn from the market, awaiting the Europa's news.

PROVIDENCE, April 8, 1854.

Cotton is quiet, with moderate sales. The prices of better grades are unchanged. The market for wool continues dull, and rather in favor of the buyer. Sales, 62,000 pounds. Printing cloths are quiet, and prices without change. Sales of 22,700 pieces.

Public Dinner to Judge Edmonds.

NEW YORK, Jan. —, 1854.

Hon. JOHN W. EDMONDS:—

DEAR SIR—You having retired from the bench of the Supreme Court of our State, which has been so long adorned by your eminent legal talents, untiring industry, and stern, incorruptible integrity, and being about entering once more upon the active duties of the profession, the undersigned, in welcoming you in their midst, would respectfully tender to you a public dinner, as a testimonial of their high esteem, confidence and friendship. Hoping that you will see fit to accept this slight mark of our regard, and name such a time as your engagements will permit, we remain, very respectfully,

H. F. Clark, Edgar S. Van Winkle, Charles P. Kirkland, Benj. D. Silliman, John McKeon, Chas. W. Sandford, J. Van Buren, Theo. Ramsey, David E. Hall, J. E. Burrill, Jr., O. A. Davidson, E. L. Fancher, Edward Sandford, J. W. Gerard, R. Emmet, Chas. O'Conor, N. Bowditch Blunt, G. Wood, Samuel Beardsley, Aug. F. Smith, Isaac P. Martin, Lucien Birdseye, John D. Sherwood, Edward J. Porter, A. W. Clason, Wm. C. English, Wm. Dodge, Wm. R. Martin, John J. Latting, Robert M. Kissam, Wm. Fowler, John Cochrane, Isaac O. Barker, Chauncey Shaffer, Garrit H. Striker, Jr., Peter Starr, Jer. Laroque, A. Oakey Hall, Jonathan Miller, Henry Hilton, Charles Henry Smith, Richard Busteed, John T. Emmet, P. Y. Cutler, U. D. French, D. B. Taylor, E. R. L'Amourenx, John Anderson, Jr., A. D. Russel, Alfred Waite, John B. Haskin, H. Smales, S. D. Lewis, Benj. T. Kissam, J. W. Gilbert, Geo. H. Halsey, Geo. G. Sickler, L. B. Shephard, Jas. Moncrief, John H. McCann, Henry D. Lapaugh, Albert Matthews, Chas. A. Rapello, Chas. Donohu, W. V. M. Daniel, F. Byrne, Alanson Nash, A. H. Wallis, Horatio P. Carr, E. Stewart, John T. Smidt, W. H. Stoddit, J. B. Stevens, John H. White, E. Lewis, A. Benedict, M. S. Bidwell, Henry H. Morange, M. G. Harrington.

JUDGE EDMONDS' REPLY.

NO. 85 CHAMBERS STREET, April 7, 1854.

GENTLEMEN—Owing to my absence from town your note of January last, tendering me a public dinner, has only just reached me.

I fear that, in declining the compliment which you proffer me, I may seem to be ungrateful for it, but I beg to assure you that I fully appreciate your kindness.

I shall ever look upon this testimonial of the regard of my brethren of the profession as an ample reward for my efforts on the bench, and cherish, as of inexpressive value, your cordial welcome back to the pursuits of the bar. My health being restored, my purpose now is to return to its quiet and unobtrusive occupations, and devote my time uninterruptedly to the performance of its duties. The acceptance of your kind invitation would not comport with this purpose, and would add nothing to the force of your approbation or my appreciation of it.

Allow me, then, respectfully to decline it, and to repeat to you the assurance that I